

**REMARKS ON TRANSPORTATION,
AND ON A RECENT
DEFENCE OF THE SYSTEM; IN A
SECOND LETTER TO EARL GREY**

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Remarks on Transportation, and on a Recent Defence of the System; In a Second Letter to Earl Grey by Richard Whately

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RICHARD WHATELY

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IN A

SECOND LETTER TO EARL GREY.

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REMARKS ON TRANSPORTATION.

MY LORD,

HAVING lately received from Van Dieman's Land some pamphlets published there, (by Col. Arthur, and others,) containing strictures on my Letter on Secondary Punishments, I am induced to take the liberty of again addressing your Lordship on the same subject.

If indeed the measures recommended by Col. Arthur had been altogether and avowedly unthought of and untried, I should not have deemed any reply from me necessary: since, without any disparagement of that gentleman's character or talents, it may safely be said that there is not the smallest probability of any totally *new* scheme being undertaken by Government (at the present day) on the strength of

such arguments as he adduces. If therefore I had been, in the present instance, the defender and not the assailant, of an existing system, I should have considered that enough had been already said to make good my position.

But I have undertaken the unpleasant office of pointing out—what no one willingly believes of himself,—that we have been for many years proceeding on an erroneous system;—that we have been throwing away much time, toil, and capital, in pursuit of an object which we shall be still the further from obtaining the longer we persevere, and that it is only by retracing our steps, that we can hope even to cease producing positive evil.

Now men are in general so easily satisfied where they earnestly wish to be satisfied, that I cannot but fear a great portion of the public who have not even read, or at least read with close attention, my former Letter to your Lordship, may be inclined to set their minds at rest, on the mere *report*, that, that Letter has been answered by a person on the spot, supposing no reply should appear. They may perhaps be disposed to take for granted, that an attempt

at least has been made (though none in fact has been made) to disprove my statements, and to refute my reasonings; and that a person in the Colony must have a better knowledge of all matters connected with it, than any one in this country, whatever he may adduce in the way of arguments, can pretend to. That the pamphlets in question rest their conclusions almost entirely on conjectures respecting the *future*, (which is the province not of *knowledge* but of reasoning) is indeed apparent on the slightest glance; but even this slight glance is probably more than will be bestowed on them by many, who may yet be disposed to admit those conclusions without inquiry.

Col. Arthur (whose courtesy of language I am bound to acknowledge) transmitted to me, along with the pamphlets, a MS. Letter, in which he gives me to understand, not, that the system hitherto pursued has led to beneficial effects, but that he hopes more favourable results *may, hereafter*, ensue from a material *change* of measures.

My errors therefore, as he is pleased to designate them, appear to consist chiefly in speaking

of things as they have been, and as they are, instead of substituting sanguine anticipations for actual existences.

A pamphlet by Archdeacon Broughton, appended to that by Col. Arthur, coincides with it so far, that both relate principally to expectations of the future, and indulge largely in what Dr. Johnson denominates, "the triumph of hope over experience." But here the coincidence ceases; for unfortunately the measures these two gentlemen recommend with a view to the realizing of their bright anticipations, are in the most important points completely opposed to each other. They agree in both expecting to reach the desired port, though they are for steering in contrary directions. I myself agree with each of them only in condemning the course recommended by the other: but at all events it is impossible to pursue both.

This discrepancy, which I shall presently proceed to point out to your Lordship, is the more remarkable from its occurring in two pamphlets, one of which the *author of the other* appends to