

**ENGLAND'S EXILES, OR, A VIEW OF  
A SYSTEM OF INSTRUCTION AND  
DISCIPLINE: AS CARRIED INTO EFFECT  
DURING THE VOYAGE TO THE PENAL  
COLONIES OF AUSTRALIA**

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England's exiles, or, A view of a system of instruction and discipline: as carried into effect during the voyage to the penal colonies of Australia by Colin Arrott Browning

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# ENGLAND'S EXILES ;

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AS CARRIED INTO EFFECT DURING THE VOYAGE

TO THE

## PENAL COLONIES OF AUSTRALIA.

BY

COLIN ARROTT BROWNING, M.D.,  
SURGEON, ROYAL NAVY.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."—Hosea, iv. 6.

"The great God, even our Saviour Jesus Christ, gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."—Tit. ii. 13, 14.

"I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."—Luke, xv.

Prov. xiv. 34; Ezek. xviii. 27; Matt. ix. 13; Luke, xix. 10.

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## P R E F A C E .

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WHEN, in the year 1831, on being appointed to the *Surry*, the duties and responsibilities involved in the surgeon-superintendency of a convict ship, were, for the first time, imposed upon me, I felt myself greatly at a loss from the want of anything like a plan or system of management and instruction ; and my consciousness of unacquaintance with the nature of the service on which I had entered, and with the manner in which I ought to proceed with the details of the duties of my new appointment, caused me no small degree of perplexity and painful anxiety. I had, it is true, a copy of the printed instructions ; but these, although they afforded me a general view of the duties of my station, supplied me with nothing like a scheme of education



and discipline, and necessarily left much of the *minutiae* of duty to discretion, and to the suggestion of circumstances.

The whole of my first voyage was, I may say, expended in observation and experiment; and a considerable portion of our invaluable time, particularly during the first third of the passage, was in some measure lost to a great proportion of the prisoners, as it respected their advancement in knowledge and moral improvement.

On my second charge—and which was in the ship *Arab*, in the year 1834—I entered in possession of the system of instruction and government which the experience of my first appointment had enabled me to form; and, during our progress to the Colonies, made such additions thereunto as circumstances suggested, and as seemed necessary to its perfection. As my third voyage advanced, my plan received farther additions and improvements, and was finally brought to the state in which it is exhibited in the following pages. It has now received the approval of my own mind; and I am not aware that it contains anything to which objection can reasonably be offered. An *outline* of my system appears in the journal which has been submitted to the

inspection of my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty; and I have not heard of any objections having been taken to any of its details.

My present conviction is, that the system followed out in the *Elphinstone* might possibly receive, in some of its minor points, slight modifications, but that its grand principles admit not of change, and its framework of little alteration.

My chief object in printing these pages is, to put those officers who may, in future, engage in the service to which they refer, in possession of a plan of management, which they may adopt, either wholly or in part, as their judgment and sense of responsibility may lead them to determine. When I entered upon my *first* appointment, I should have been exceedingly glad to have been furnished with such a system; and to those who may be placed in similar circumstances, it may, at least, supply some useful hints. That *any* scheme of education and discipline followed out in transports has been given to the public, I am not aware. That which is developed in the following pages may be considered as deserving of regard until it is superseded by a better.

To several enlightened and pious persons who are experienced in the instruction, with a view to their moral

improvement, of the hitherto neglected portion of our population, it has appeared that the scheme now submitted to the consideration of the public, might be turned to good account, not only in transports, but on board emigrant ships; and likewise in all our country prisons, and in houses of correction, and, perhaps, also in large factories.

It will readily be perceived that I regard sound views of the Divine Character and Government; of man's nature and relation to his Maker; and of all that is involved in that relation, as lying at the foundation of all useful instruction and efficient discipline: and therefore it was that a special object contemplated in the system I was led to adopt, was the impartation to the people of scriptural perceptions of God and of themselves, and of the principles of sound and acceptable obedience.

We hear much in our days of the *separate*, and *solitary*, and *silent* systems of prison discipline; but, unless the CHRISTIAN SYSTEM be brought to bear with Divine power on the understandings and consciences of criminals, every other system which professedly contemplates their reformation, must, to the shame and confusion of its projectors, prove an utter failure. If we would see