

**LIFE OF JOHN  
MITCHEL. IN TWO  
VOLUMES. VOL. II**

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Life of John Mitchel. In Two Volumes. Vol. II by William Dillon

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**WILLIAM DILLON**

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LIFE OF JOHN MITCHEL

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BY  
WILLIAM DILLON

*IN TWO VOLUMES*  
VOL. II.

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# LIFE OF JOHN MITCHEL.

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## CHAPTER I.

CONVICT LIFE (*continued*)—VAN DIEMEN'S LAND—ESCAPE  
—SAN FRANCISCO—NEW YORK.

1853.

THE first entry made in the "Jail Journal," after the account of the visit to O'Brien, is dated January 1, 1853. There are passages in this entry to the same effect as in the letters quoted at the end of the last chapter. These passages allow us to see very clearly the direction in which Mitchel's thoughts were now tending, and the feelings with which he was coming to regard his Tasmanian life :—

It is long since I have made an entry in my log-book. Of literature I am almost sick, and prefer farming, and making market of my wool. There is somewhat stupefying to the brain, as well as invigorating to the frame in this genial clime and aromatic air. A phenomenon for which I strive to account in various modes.

\* \* \* \* \*

We, also, John Knox and I, have eaten narcotic lotos here ; and if it has not removed, it has surely softened the sting, even of our *nostalgia*. We, too, have quaffed in these gardens the cup of lazy enchantment, mingled for us by the hands of Fata Morgana the Witch ; and if we have not forgotten the outer busy world, at