GOVERNMENT OF INDIA—HOME DEPARTMENT, JUDICIAL CONSULTATION.

12TH NOVEMBER 1858.

No. 6. — From Doctor J. P. Walker, Superintendent of the Penal Settlement of Port Blair, to C. Beadon, Esquire, Secretary to the Government of India, No. 305, dated the 4th September 1858.

THE last communication I had the honor to address to you on the state of this Settlement, was letter No. 268, dated 14th ultimo, despatched by the Hon'ble Company's Steamer Fire Queen to Moulmein.

The Fire Queen returned to Port Blair on the 29th ultimo, from Moulmein and Tavoy, with stores and thatching materials, and having discharged and coaled, left for Penang on the 31st idem.

- 3. On the 31st ultimo, the Barque A lma arrived here from Moulmein, with coals, building materials, plants, &c. &c. Her cargo is now about half discharged. She has brought over the materials of a barrack for European soldiers erected about three years ago at Moulmein. It is 160'x 25' with 10 feet verandah all round. I am about to have it erected on the North Hill, on Ross Island, for the Naval Guard.
- 4. The Alma will leave for Moulmein in a few days, and by her the Moulmein workmen, with the exception of the blacksmith, and one or two carpenters, will be returned.
- 5. The Hon'ble Company's Steamer Australian arrived here on the 1st instant from Calcutta, bringing 282 convicts, 30 carpenters, six sweepers for the Hospital, two Native Doctors, 10 men for the Naval Guard, stores and a Mail. She leaves on the morning of the 6th instant for Mergui, Tavoy, and Moulmein, for thatching materials, and for the four Elephants sanctioned for the settlement. There is difficulty in getting thatching beams at this season. Captain Man writing from Moulmein, informs me "with regard to leaves they cannot be supplied from this station. I have been paying more than double the usual rates, and could only obtain a scanty supply." From Tavoy I only received 50,000 in good condition, but I trust that the Australian may be able to bring back from Mergui and Tavoy 250,000. Supplies of such materials will only be required at the formation of the settlements. When the main land is occupied abundance of materials will be available, and the convicts who are learning all building trades, will soon be expert in working them into the required shapes and applying them.

- 6. I have requested the Commander of the Australian not to remain at Mergui in the event of the materials not being ready for shipment, but to proceed on to Tavoy and Moulmein, and having shipped the Elephants to return to Mergui on his way back to Port Blair, an arrangement which will render her available to the Commissioner of the Tenasserim and Martaban Provinces, for towing out the Tubal Cain, and communicating with Tavoy and Mergui.
- of my letter No. 213 of the 20th July, is being thatched; I apprehend, however, that my present stock of material is insufficient. The range of huts on Ross Island for the accommodation of 1,000 convicts, will be ready to be thatched long before the Australian returns with the materials. There will be 40 huts, each 60 feet in length by 10 in breadth, placed at intervals of 10 feet apart, along the upper side of the principal road (20 feet wide) which extends due north and south the whole length of the Island, in a perfectly straight line. The huts are 25 feet from the road side, and will all be floored five feet from the ground, a height which it is hoped will be sufficient to keep the convicts above the level of the damp malarious exhalations at night. The ground floor will be used as a kitchen and tool shed, the upper as a sleeping place. Arrangements for supplying the same description of buildings to the convicts, when they occupy the main land, are being made.
- 8. The quantity of thatching materials required may appear large, but when stores, offices, and Overseer's bungalows shall have been erected, the quantities indented for, will (supposing it to be received, which is very doubtful) be found barely adequate.
- 9. The cost of buildings constructed like the large Hospital of the wood growing here, will be very little when the the convict carpenters can execute the work, as nearly everything required will be available.
- 10. Bamboos of inferior quality (their walls being very thin) exist in great abundance on the main land. A party of convicts proceeds daily to the main land, to cut and raft bamboos, being protected while at work by a detachment of the Naval Guard. The nature of the work and the place does not admit of their being guarded from escape, yet no escape has yet been attempted by a convict so detached, or by a convict boatman, although they have it in their power to do so at all times, except at night, when the boats are made fast to the Sesostris guard hip.
- 10. Now that the rainy season is terminating, I am arranging for the occupation of the main land at the upper end of Port Blair. In the course

of next week the sinking of two or three wells at the landing place will be commenced, as the first essential. On the arrival of the guard from Madras, one division of convicts (421) will be sent as settlers for 16 villages on the Port Blair side, and another division for 16 villages on the Port Mouat side of the neck of land connecting the two ports. Each village will be 660 feet in breath. Those on the Port Blair side will extend due West towards Port Mouat, and the villages from the latter will extend due East towards the former port. It may be found necessary to establish two intermediate lines of villages to strengthen the frontier against attacks from the savages by making it as populous as possible; there would then be 1,684 convicts cultivating 64 villages, and residing in four localities, for at first it would not be safe to allow the convict settlers to reside on their respective villages, lest being in detached parties they might be early overcome at night. It is my intention, however, that the convict settlers be distributed to their respective villages as soon as the arrangement can be safely carried out.

- 11. There is a probability of a large number of the convicts sending for their families. I have now two hundred applications. The letters, as before, have been written in duplicate, and will be transmitted to Moulmein by the Alma, and will likely reach Calcutta at the same time as this letter. I have heard privately that there is no chance of either of the natives whom I appointed in April last, Convict Family Emigration Agents for Bengal and the North Western-Provinces, accepting the appointments. I dare say they are afraid of being deputed on some occasion to see their charges to their destination here, and no amount of salary would tempt them to run that risk. On considering the matter again, I think it will be necessary to communicate with the families of convicts through the Judicial or Revenue Officers of the districts in which they reside. I am about to communicate with the Officiating Emigration Agent on the subject, with a request that he will submit my communication with his remarks to you. The circumstance of so many convicts having applied for their families I regard as a very favorable indication. As the success of this settlement depends, in a great measure, upon the emigration of families, I have done my utmost to obtain the confidence of the convicts to induce them to make the necessary application, and the numbers who have already applied, show that I have all things considered, been wonderfully successful. If I could only get down a few convict families to enable me to show the convicts generally how they are to be treated, I think I shall be able to get the majority of the life and long term convicts to apply for their families. Some convicts state that they have no families to send for, otherwise they would do so, and that they are anxiously looking out for the arrival of convict families in the hope of obtaining a wife.
- 12. In spite of increased precautions, on the night of the 16th ultimo, the undermentioned 13 convicts escaped from Ross Island to the main land,

eight had fetters on. On the following morning traces of them in the shape of clothing, bedding, fetters, and posts used by them for rafting, were found on the beach and in the jungle.

- No. 672.—Gunnoo Suwat, life convict, sentenced for mutiny, and received ex Sesostris, 12th June, from Bombay, viá Singapore.
- No. 690.—Gun Suwat, life convict, sentenced for mutiny, and received ex Sesostris, on the 12th June, from Bombay, viá Singapore.
- No. 698.—Moortuza Khan, life convict, sentenced for desertion, and received ex Sesostris, on the 12th June, from Bombay, viá Penang.
- No. 699.—Sheikh Musood, life convict, sentenced for desertion, and received ex Sesostris, on the 12th June, from Bombay, viá Penang.
- No. 898.—Muttra, life convict, sentenced for plundering the Treasury with the mutineers, and received ex *Coromandel*, on the 20th July, from Calcutta.
- No. 941.—Meeheewah, alias Muheen, life convict, sentenced for highway robbery of Nukooah, being concerned in dacoitee committed upon one Dhunee, habitually plundering travellers at Chundun Taloo, &c., and received ex *Coromandel*, on the 20th July, from Calcutta.
- No. 942.—Lulla, life convict, sentenced for "escape from Jail," and received ex Coromandel, on the 20th July 1858, from Calcutta.
- No. 945.—Gyadeen, life convict, sentenced for making use of highly seditious language, and received ex *Coromandel*, on the 20th July, from Calcutta.
- No. 958—Kalkawa, life convict, sentenced for "escape from Jail," and received ex Coromandel, on the 20th July, from Calcutta.
- No. 959.—Bisheswar Misser, life convict, sentenced for instigating others in rebellion, and received ex *Coromandel*, on the 20th July, from Calcutta.
- No. 976.—Motee Dosad, life convict, sentenced for rebellion and dacoitee with plunder, and received ex *Coromandel*, on the 20th July, from Calcutta.

- No. 980.—Shoolal alias Jeeoolal, life convict, sentenced for treachery, and received ex Coromandel, on the 20th July 1858, from Calcutta.
- No. 995.—Neelah Rajwar, life convict, sentenced for dacoitee attended with murder, and received ex *Coromandel*, on the 20th July 1858, from Calcutta.

The Overseer's report Nos. 1510 and 1514, with my orders thereon, are enclosed, (enclosure No. 1).

- 13. On the 24th August, two convicts, Pandeea No. 743, and Kaloo No. 745, (noted in paragrah 5 of my letter No. 268, of the 14th ultimo, as having escaped on the 13th idem), returned to the shore opposite Ross Island, and signalled for assistance. The native Overseer and a convict boat's crew brought them back. It appears that they escaped with eight others, all their companions having been killed by the savages. They both returned in a very debilitated state. They were appear to have escaped only with a view to reaching their homes. They were each sentenced to receive 30 lashes, when able to undergo the punishment. My proceedings in the case are herewith submitted. (Enclosure No. 2.) The statements of the convicts give a pretty full account of their sojourn in the jungle. If the men's statements are to be depended upon, it appears that in crossing they passed close (50 paces) to the night guard boat, without attracting attention. Lieutenant Templer, Commanding the Naval Guard, has established, at my suggestion, a signal light on board the Guard Ship, which when quickly responded to by the Guard boat, shows them to be on the alert.
 - 14. On the 3rd September a convict, Moteea No 749, (noted in paragraph 5 of my letter No. 268, of the 14th ultimo, under the name of Mania, as having escaped on the 13th idem) returned to Chatham Island, by swimming from the main land. He stated that two others escaped with him, one of whom was killed by the savages, and the other drowned while swimming in the sea to escape being by the savages. The convict Moteea, alias Mania, seems to have had a shot by the savages. The convict Moteea, alias Mania, seems to have had a shot by the savages from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot. I sentenced him to receive 30 lashes as a punish-narrow escape from being shot.
 - 15. This day they are 930 convicts present in the settlement, distributed as follows; On Ross Island 753; on Chatham Island (including the whole of the sick convicts) 177.

16. Subjoined is a Statement showing the Medical transactions in the Settlement Hospital, from the 9th ultimo to the 3rd instant, being a continuation of that submitted in paragraph 5 of my letter No. 242, dated 8th August last.

From 9th August to 3rd September 1858, both inclusive.		ce.	d.	e 8th August.	ugust.	September 1858.	Strength, including sick, 930.		
CLASSES OF DISEASE.	Received 8th August.	[Admitted since	Total treated	Discharged sinee 8th	Died since 8th August.	Remaining 3rd	REMARKS.		
Fevers	19	8	27	14	1	12	the distance of an behold		
Diseases of the Lungs	1	0	1	0	1	0	* These 48 admissions include 1 landed sick from the Honorable Com		
Diseases of the Stomach and Bowels }	31	*48	79	18	19	42			
Rheumatic Affection	5	1	6	2	0	4	pany's Steamer Australian, on the 1st September.		
Abscesses and Ulcers	8	8	16	6	1	9	in the court of services or the state of the court of the		
Wounds and Injuries	2	4	6	1	0	5			
Diseases of the Brain	0	1	1	0	0	1			
Other Diseases		5	15	5	3	7	+ Besides the deaths in hospital, one casualty has occurred out of hospital has the side of hospital by the side of hospital has the side of hospi		
Total	76	75	151	46	+25	80	pital, by the accidental falling of a tree, causing instantaneous death.		

^{*}Enclosure No. 4. 17. I have the honor to submit the special report* of the Medical Officer in charge called for in paragraph 5 of your letter No. 1155. The health of the convicts has received my constant attention, and will continue to do so. The cessation of the rainy season, improved dwellings, habituation to the new climate, a healthier state of mind expected by habituation to their vastly altered circumstances, by the presence of their families, and by their being about to have a permanent interest in the result of their labor, and the improved state of the surrounding air, especially as regards dampness, from clearance and cultivation, these are the events which will bring diminished sickness of a severe and fatal character. I anticipate a great change for the better during the ensuing few months, and by pushing all kinds of work vigorously during the North-east moonsoon, subsequent arrivals will be so much more favorably placed that those who acted as pioneers, that I sincerely trust that they may be spared the sickness which proved so fatal to their predecessors.

- 18. The health of the Naval Guard is indifferent. The men without being actually sick, complain of want of appetite, look pale, and manifest a want of cheerfulness. The weather, work, and climate have told upon them. Out of 98 seamen there are 13 on the sick list, of whom five or six will probably be sent upon medical certificate to Calcutta on the return of the Fire Queen. A petty officer, Hollis, was sent for change of air to Penang and Singapore on the Fire Queen.
- 19. Mr. Atkinson, the 3rd officer of the Sesostris, was dangerously ill from fever, he was sent on medical certificate to Singapore, and back in the Fire Queen.
- 20. The crew of the Sesostris has on an average 12 in hospital, out of 83 present, exclusive of officers.
- P. S. dated 5th September 1858—To-day (Sunday) life convicts Gunnoo Sowat, No. 672, and Gun Sowat, No. 690, whose escape from Ross Island was reported in paragraph 12 of this letter, having signalled from near Atalanta Point, were taken to Ross Island. They are both wounded. They state that two others, one of whom Moortuza Khan, No. 698, left them after keeping company eleven days, the other Sheikh Musood, No. 699, having been deeply wounded in the chest and abdomen by the savages, on the 4th instant, near Port Blair, was unable to accompany them. I despatched a detachment of the Naval Guard, with a carrying party of convicts under the guidance of one of the returned convicts, together a supply of cooked food to the spot. The convict No. 699 was found, but he was dead. He was buried where he lay. By the Alma I will forward the proceedings in the case.

No. 7.—Report on the causes of the severe sickness and great mortality which has prevailed amongst the convicts at Port Blair Penal Settlement, in the Andaman Islands, since the formation of the Settlement on the 10th March, up to the 25th August 1858.

On inquiring into the various causes of the severe sickness and great mortality which has prevailed amongst the convicts at Port Blair, Andaman Islands, since the formation of the Penal Settlement on the 10th March 1858, the first that must be noted, is the unhealthy state in which the majority of the convicts were received. The 200 first landed on the Islands were the most healthy, most of them having only been in confinement for a short time before being transported, and their health consequently had not been injured by lengthened confinement in India Jails, under unusually unfavorable circumstances, dependent on the disturbed state of the country: hence, although they have had the most hardships to endure here, the mortality amongst them has not been nearly so great as amongst some of those landed at a later period. About a month after the first formation of the Settlement, two vessels, the Roman Emperor and Edward, arrived with 301 convicts from Kurrachee, these were the most unhealthy that have been received. All were heavily ironed and looked sickly and feeble, many were much emaciated, and had long been suffering from dysentery and scurvy, and several were landed in a

dying state. They stated, that they had been prisoners for a year, had been transferred from jail to jail, till at last they had reached Kurrachee where they were shipped for the Andamans, that they had been about 40 days on the passage, and many of the men of the Roman Emperor complained of not having received sufficient food during the passage. On the Commander of the vessel being asked the reason of their wretched and sickly state, he said that one-half of the men were suffering from dysentry when put on board, and that he did not expect to have landed so many alive as he did. Twenty-eight of those landed from the two vessels were immediately carried off to the hospital, fifteen of whom never left it, the subsequent sickness amongst them has been so great that no less than 70 have died since their arrival. Considering that the owners of the vessels supplied the rations for the convicts, it would have been desirable that some one, on the part of Government, should have accompanied them to see that they received the proper allowance of food and water; and considering the unhealthy state in which the convicts were shipped, it is surprising that no one should have been deputed to afford them medical aid during the voyage. On this point I would suggest that subsequent despatches on board sailing vessels a Native Doctor should accompany the convicts, for the double purpose of preventing sickness by seeing that they get the liberal allowances they are entitled to, and to treating them when sick, instead of leaving them to be treated by unprofessonal persons totally ignorant of their language.

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The next vessel that arrived was the Hon'ble Company's Steamer *Dalhousie*, bringing 140 convicts from Calcutta, many of these also were sickly. Cholera appeared amongst them whilst proceeding down the Hooghly, and many deaths resulted, eleven were admitted into Hospital on arrival here, four of whom died.

On the 12th June, 132 convicts, who had been sent to Singapore and Penang by the Madras and Bombay Governments, were landed from the Hon'ble Company's Ship Sesostris; they were much more healthy than those received direct from Kurrachee, still of 78 originally sent from Bombay to Penang only 69 arrived here, nine having died while there.

On the 1st July, the screw Steamer Italian arrived with 79 convicts from Bombay, those were generally healthy, but as on former occasions, they were sent without any one to see that their rations were duly served out, and were not sufficiently provided with blankets, lotahs, &c., before embarking.

Only two other vessels have since arrived with convicts, viz. the Hon'ble Company's Steamer Coromandel and Fire Queen, these brought 195, who had been sometimes resident in the Allipore Jail, where it appears dirrahea and dysentery are very prevalent. Twenty-three were admitted into hospital on arrival, of these six have since died.

The total number of fatal cases in Hospital, since the formation of the Settlement, to the present date (25th August 1858), amounts to 129, of these 29 occurred amongst those who were landed sick, many of the others were amongst those who were sickly on arrival, and only remained out of hospital for a few days.

The following Tabular Statement will show the number of deaths which have occurred amongst the convicts brought by each vessel, place of embarkation, date of arrival here, and deaths amongst those landed sick.

Name of Ship.		Place of embarkation.	Date of arrival at Port Blair.	No. of Convicts landed.	Deaths amongst those landed sick.	Total deaths amongst those brought by each ship.
Semiramis	4	Calcutta	10th Mar. 1858	200	4	23
Roman Emperor	a tie	Kurrachee	6th April ,,	171	11	38
Edward		Ditto	13th April "	130	4	32
Dalhousie		Calcutta	16th April ,,	140	4	11
Sesostries		Singapore and Penang	12th June "	132	0	10
Italian	n Barr	Bombay	lst July "	79	0	5
Coromandel	2/0.5.	Calcutta	20th July "	148	3	7
Fire Queen		Ditto	12th Aug. "	47	3	3
Against Louis South		The second second second	Total	1,047	29	129

II. The convicts were landed at a very unhealthy season of the year, and subjected to a climate quite different from that to which they had been habituated. The first month after the formation of the Settlement was fine, the days hot, and at times felt very oppressive, as if a vapour were rising from the ground; but the Thermometer in the shade never rose above 896. F. The nights were cool, very heavy dews fell, and unless their was wind, dense fogs hung over the lowland. After the first month the weather began to break, and the South-West monsoon set in, which is here accompanied with almost constant rain. (Some days there will be a continued gentle rain, but generally it falls in heavy showers, the wind getting up suddenly and blowing so violently that the rain is dashed with great force against every thing that comes in the way.) On this account tents are quite insufficient protection, as they soon become rotten, and in a few weeks are torn to pieces by the wind. The rain is so constant that it will frequently be a fortnight before any thing that has become wet can be dried, and thus the prisoners being without sufficient protection, are frequently obliged to sleep in damp bedding.

III. The first 200 convicts were landed when there was not so much ground cleared of dense, almost impenetrable jungle, as to admit of even an hospital tent being pitched. The convicts had therefore to sleep in the jungle. As land was cleared, huts were erected, and tents pitched. Proper thatching materials not having been received by reason of an accident, huts capable of keeping out the rain which is driven with great violence, could not be erected. The tents did not admit of the convicts being well raised from the ground, the most that could be effected was to floor them with green wood for sleeping on. The materials at command have been used for the construction of huts, with a sleeping bench sufficiently raised from the ground to allow the lower compartment to be used as kitchen. There is not however accommodation for near the whole of the convicts on the raised benches, and consequently many sleep on the damp ground in the lower compartment, and this no doubt is a great cause of sickness.

IV. Many of the men previous to their being sent here, were unaccustomed to hard labor, but now they are obliged to work nine, and for some time back ten, hours a day, felling

trees, digging the ground, &c., which is very hard labor considering the weakly state of the men. Little sickness has prevailed amongst those convicts who are in any ways placed over others, only two cases have been treated in hospital; this is probably owing to their not having to work themselves, and their being provided with the best huts.

V. The dense jungle having never been cut, or the ground turned over before, the men must constantly be exposed to malaria while at work. From this cause alone I believe the sickness would have been much increased, if the Superintendent had not caused the whole of the jungle to be burned on the ground, and thus in a great measure disperse the malaria.

VI. The state of the mind has a very great influence on the health of the body, and most of the convicts being life prisoners are quite reckless and desponding, all are fatalists and care little what happens to them, and would give themselves no trouble, though it were to save their lives. This is well shown by the effect it had on the fifty-seven Burmese convicts who were here during April, May, and June, and were subjected to the same inconveniences as the other convicts as regards shelter and accommodation; they however came over as volunteers on purpose to get their term of imprisonment shortened, although there was a good deal of sickness amongst them, there were only two bad cases of dysentery, and no fatal case. This is probably another of the reasons: there has been so little sickness amongst the Gangsmen; they have some responsibility, and consequently have something to occupy their thought and prevent them desponding.

VII. The convicts have had a plentiful supply of food, which they can, from the nature of the arrangements here, cary at pleasure. The qualities of the provisions received from Moulmein was rather inferior, dependent, I understand, upon the very hurried manner in which they had to be procured to meet the urgent requirements of the first detachment of convicts landed at Port Blair. Supplies of vegetables have from time to time been received and supplied, but as green vegetables do not keep long, and communication with Moulmein is not frequent, the supply has not been so plentiful as could have been desired. However, abundant supplies of tamarind and dried mango chips as substitutes have been available.

The water on Chatham Island has always been inferior, several wells have been dug, but the water in all was found more or less brackish, and when the heavy rains commenced the wells fell in, and in a few days there was the greatest scarcity of water, bad though it was, some was brought from Ross Island and the main land; but as the distance was great, and only one boat to bring it, a sufficient supply could not be kept up. A tank was commenced to be dug when the water became so scarce, and has been filled by the rain. The water in it at present is good, but I believe as soon as the rains are over it will again become brackish, and for that reason I object to having the hospital on Chatham Island, unless a sufficient supply of water can be brought from a distance.

VIII. For more than a month no tobacco was allowed to the prisoners, but they afterwards received it, as it was found that they were injuring their health by smoking roots, leaves, &c. Besides tobacco many have been in the custom of indulging in the use of opium, and having been suddenly deprived of its use have become enervated, and peculiarly liable to disease.

The following Statement shows the percentage of men at present in Hospital, who made use of narcotics and stimulants, and although it may not show the exact extent it has been used by the whole of the prisoners, it will be an approximation.

Articles the Convicts were in the habit of using.	Percentage taken from 69 patients now in Hospital.			
Opium or Ganja, or both	10·15			
· '11 / 11-1-11	43•48			
Tionov	8.69			
	14.40			
Tobacco	4.35			
Liquor	14.49			
Tobacco and Liqour	4:35			
	100.00			

Although these substances may not be allowed to prisoners in India, still it is well known that they do obtain them by some means, but here they have no means of procuring them. As opium is the remedy of the greatest benefit in the treatment of the diseases (diarrhea and dysentery) most prevalent here, I would recommend that as a prophylactic, a small quantity should be allowed to those who have been in the constant habit of using it or Ganja.

IX. When unfit for work the prisoners were obliged to come to Hospital, but there the accommodation was little better than what they had in their own huts. At first they were treated in a shed made of branches of trees and roofed with leaves. As soon as there was sufficient space cleared of jungle, tents were pitched on Chathan Island, which in the heavy rains afforded but very indifferent protection, besides owing to the number in each tent, the air within soon became heated, and the tents being wet, such a quantity of aqueous vapour was held in suspension, that the atmosphere became highly injurious.

From the great mortality in Hospital on Chathan Island, it was considered desirable to change its locality to Ross Island, where the water is plentiful, and of good quality. There the sick were treated in tents, until their rotten state, from continued exposure to rain, rendered them unable to resist the storms, and afford shelter when the large upper storied wooden house, erected on Chatham Island, was occupied as an Hospital, and there all the sick have been treated since the 1st August.

X. The diseases most prevalent are diarrhea, dysentery, fever, and ulcers. The two former have been the most fatal, and I consider that the principle exciting cause has been the indifferent protection afforded them during the monsoon. Fever and its sequela arise from the malaria which must prevail when jungle is being cleared in a tropical climate. In regard to ulcers the same peculiarity is observable here, as throughout the whole of Burmah. The slightest irritation causes an ulcer, which is always long of healing, and frequently cannot be got to take on a healthy action by almost any treatment. They arise principally from scratches and bruises received while cutting the jungle, and now the whole of the prisoners being put in irons many will doubtless arise from the rubbing of the fetters.

When it is considered that the convicts were landed unhealthy, the season of the year was unhealthy, the work was hard and unhealthy, their protection from the inclemency of the weather both in health and sickness was insufficient, and the circumstance in which they were placed deprived them of their accustomed stimulants, and rendered them reckless and desponding; the mortality amongst them can scarcely be said to have been greater than might have been expected.

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X. The discuss most previous are discussed privately privately from and altern. The two form the best that the first privately privately executing cause has been the first and the execution affected from damas the contest on the execution affected from damas the contest of the execution of the

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