

**Correspondence from Governor Arthur to R. W. Hay Esquire,  
Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, London, 8 February 1834**

Van Diemen's Land,  
Government House,  
8<sup>th</sup> February 1834.

R. W. Hay Esq.,  
&c. &c. &c.[Private Secretary to the Secretary of State, London]

Dear Sir,

You are aware that by the last two or three vessels a most unusual number of Boys were sent out: it is utterly impossible to imagine a more corrupt fraternity of depraved little Felons - on their landing, I examined them personally, and collected much of their history from themselves - some, it appeared, had been trained to vicious course from having been thrown upon the world totally destitute, others have become so, from the tutorage of dissolute Parents, and others, have been the Agents of dexterous old thieves about London - but all are objects of compassion: - to assign them is impossible, and I, therefore, caused about one Hundred to be removed to Tasman's Peninsula but there to be kept apart and quite distinct from the Convicts under sentence. To have formed altogether another Establishment would have been attended with additional expense, and I hope, therefore, the Secretary of State will be disposed to approve of the measure.

I desired my Private Secretary write to the Commandant last week, and enquire how they were going- and his answer you will perceive is satisfactory – most fortunately the Commandant is a most admirable person for such a situation. He is kind and humane - active and most determined. You cannot imagine the relief it is to me to have had it in my power to abandon Macquarie Harbour – it was so difficult of access and so entirely out of my immediate control as to be always a source of anxiety – whereas Tasman's Peninsula I have quite “at hand”.

I beg you will believe me to remain

Dear Sir,

Your most faithful  
obedient Servant

Geo. Arthur

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[Booth's reply]

**Correspondence from Charles O'Hara Booth to Adam Turnbull Esquire,  
Private Secretary to Lieutenant Governor. Van Diemen's Land, 6 February 1834**

Port Arthur  
6<sup>th</sup> February 1834

Adam Turnbull Esq.  
Private Secretary [to Lt. Gov. VDL]

Sir

In reply to your letter dated the 30<sup>th</sup> ult., I have much pleasure in stating to you for the information of His Excellency the Lieut. Governor, that the Boys are going on very satisfactorily indeed – and already I think I may confidently state, evince beneficial results from their present mode of Government and total seclusion from bad example and Company. I have had occasion to “try” two of them and awarded each “Solitary Confinement on Bread and Water”.

I feel fully confident that the plan adopted by His Excellency of sending these misguided little creatures down here with proper care and attention (which is fully performed by all whose duties call for it) cannot fail to eventually bring into the right path the majority, if not the whole of them. They commence and close their day with Public Prayer – attend School Morning and Evening – and are also employed for certain hours clearing the ground in the vicinity of their new abode, until they become a little more organised - after which I propose having them instructed in trades of different kinds. His Excellency may rely on every possible attention being paid to their Moral, Religious and Industrious habits. I look forward with great anxiety to His Excellency's intended visit to this Settlement – and I only hope that the System adopted both towards the Boys and Adults, may be approved of by him – but I almost fear that the improvements will not be so great [*here the copy held at PAHS ends*]

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