

Sterling'. That Welbe had been influenced by the success of the exploitation of South America is obvious from the reasons he 'humbly offers for granting him a charter of three millions for carrying on a trade to Terra Australis and settling colonies there'. As well as the petition quoted by Williamson further documentation of Welbe and his activities can be found through his own references to his various approaches in letter and person to Lord Townshend, Robert Walpole, Governor Pitt and South Sea House which may be contrasted with the material in the Sloane Papers (noted by Mander-Jones<sup>5</sup>) and the Townshend Papers. John Masefield, in his 1906 edition of Dampier's voyages, considers correspondence in the latter collection shows that 'Welbe was a man of little truth and evil temper',<sup>6</sup> perhaps an over-reaction to Welbe's undoubted eccentricity.

Charles White, writing on convict life, admonished those who would (by the possession of documents recording a convict's sentence or pardon) 'cast into the face of another a father's shame for the sake of satisfying morbid taste or glutinous curiosity'.<sup>7</sup> We risk this rebuke by mentioning the Convict Lists and Documents collection which contains individual records of conviction and the return to accompany a prisoner on his removal from a Government prison (1848-1861), certificates of transportation (1818-1848), conditional pardons and certificates terminating the transportation sentence (1826-1861) and passenger lists for the ship *Friends* 1811, *Lady East* 1824, *Duchess of Northumberland* 1842, lists of men removed from Newgate prison October 1820 and September 1821, passengers transported from Ireland on the *British Sovereign* 1840 and the *Emily* 1844. There are also miscellaneous documents generated by the transportation system, supplemented with the Engagements of Probation Passholders which give particulars of hiring ticket-of-leave holders 1841-1857 in Van Diemen's Land and the accounts of convicts assigned to Gang 13 Settlement Sawyers which record the type and amount of work done, conduct and rate of pay for each man covering the period roughly 1863-65.

John D. Loch in a study entitled *Van Diemens Land and other Australian Colonies* discusses the selection of that colony as the only penal settlement and the changes made in the management of convicts at that time, the management and state of female convicts, the system of education adopted in day schools supported by the government, regulations fixing minimum price for land, the change from prosperity to deep depression which had recently occurred in all the colonies, emigration in general and the administration of justice. This study was enclosed in a letter of March 1843 to a relative James Loch, asking for his assistance in obtaining an appointment in the colony and presumably was intended to demonstrate the writer's abilities.