

## AN UNFIT SUPERINTENDENT A FITTING COMMANDANT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MERCURY.

SIR,—After a few years' absence from Tasmania, I returned some weeks since to enjoy for a time the luxury of its delicious climate, and to renew, so far as busy death and great changes in the circumstances of the colony permit, the old associations of my younger years. Even when absent I have always taken a deep interest in all that concerns the material and political welfare of Tasmania, and I hope you will acquit me, on this account, of any wish to interfere impertinently with your local affairs when I appeal to you for information upon a subject which I perceive you are now most ably bringing in review before the colonists.

When I visited Tasmania, some six or seven years ago, the Press and Parliament appeared to be occupied in discussing the fitness of a Mr. Boyd (not the Mr. Boyd then Commandant at Port Arthur) to occupy the position of Superintendent of the Queen's Asylum; the result being that he was peremptorily superseded, and his place given to another. If I recollect aright, there was a Commission appointed by the Executive to enquire into, and to report upon the general conduct and management of the Asylum, and as well as I can remember there was afterwards a Parliamentary enquiry into his conduct as Superintendent, but what the reports furnished were I cannot state, the result as above indicated is all I judge by.

Since my arrival in the colony I have been informed that the Mr. Boyd, now Commandant at Port Arthur, is the same person who had been dismissed, when I was last here, from the office of Superintendent of the Queen's Asylum. Is this the case? If so, why was he dismissed, and why has he been re-appointed? Perhaps it may be that he is under closer and more strict supervision by the Executive at Port Arthur than he was at New Town? Or it may be that there is less responsibility and danger in controlling some hundreds of desperate criminals than in superintending 300 or 400 infants and children. The case puzzles me, I confess. I am unable to explain the mystery, which it certainly is, should the Mr. Boyd, the Port Arthur Commandant, turn out to be the Mr. Boyd who was dismissed from the post of Superintendent of the Queen's Asylum.

As *The Mercury* is now the only organ of public opinion in Hobart Town, I feel I may confidently appeal to your sense of justice and fair play to furnish

opinion in Hobart Town, I feel I may confidently appeal to your sense of justice and fair play to furnish the necessary explanations of a problem, which I can assure you not only perplexes me, but every one with whom I have conversed ; and I may add that without such explanations your past criticisms on the management of the charitable institutions of this colony will be incomplete.

I remain yours,  
AN OLD TASMANIAN.

New Town,  
11th July, 1871.

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