

There may be objections to measures such as the one Mr. Binns advocates, but if it is introduced with a true desire to see young Natives grow up into steady and useful men and women, and not merely as a means whereby farmers and others may be supplied with Native labour, we can see no objection to it. Far better, at any rate, would it be to see juvenile offenders apprenticed to responsible persons for a term of years, than to see them becoming more and more the slaves of sin as they most assuredly do when sent to Gaol. The law has been found to work well in the Cape Colony, and in all probability the Government might feel disposed to try a similar measure in this, but they contend that the success of the Juvenile Offenders Act is owing to its connection with the Reformatories Act, and that offenders are not apprenticed out until they have given proof in the Reformatories of their desire to do right. The establishment of Reformatories would entail a cost upon the Colony which it is, perhaps, not prepared to sanction, and therefore this recommendation of the Commission will not be acted on at present; of this we may rest assured. But is there no way of obtaining some sort of substitute in place of these Reformatories, at a much lower cost, and where many, if not all, of our juvenile offenders, might be placed? There are Institutions in the Colony established for the training of Native boys and girls, which would surely receive, at any rate, young offenders who have only made a false start, two, who would otherwise be sent to Gaol. Would it not be wiser to see what could be done in this way before dismissing the suggestion of Mr. Binns as impracticable? We think it would. And if the Government is at all anxious to assist in saving young Native offenders, it will consider our suggestion. If the Cape Colony ever take measures to improve the condition of the Natives, there is no reason why Natal should not do likewise, especially as