

From the Courier

The Courier gives the following particulars respecting the escape and recapture of two prisoners at St. Helena: — At noon, on Saturday, the Visiting Justice, Mr. T. H. Barron, Inspector Lewis, and a body of police, with a black tracker, proceeded to St. Helena Penal Establishment to assist in searching for two prisoners who had escaped from the working gangs engaged cutting down the mangrove scrub. On their arrival they found that the Water Police and Customs boats had been guarding the island all night, and had made diligent search during the morning. They had tracked the two runaways to the beach and back, and also found a rudely constructed raft, made of bits of small drift wood, about a quarter of a mile from the beach, to seaward, which led the searchers to believe that the prisoners had either been attacked by sharks or drowned, as the raft was only sufficient to hold on to by the hands, the body bung immersed. Information reached town on Sunday that the two prisoners were recaptured on Saturday night. Had they succeeded in getting away from the island, there is little doubt that they must have been drowned, as the wind and tide would have taken them out to sea by the north passage. The prisoners are both young men, the eldest being William Read, who was convicted of horse-stealing at Roma on the 21st April last, and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. The other, named James English, was convicted at the same place for a less offence in July, 1867, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment.