My dear William

A residence of some months in New South Wales has afforded me opportunities of becoming partially acquainted with its leading features, and knowing the interest this country excites in England, I shall do myself the pleasure in my future correspondence with so esteemed a friend, to give you every information respecting the colony. Many conjectures interesting and amusing.

Fortune has now placed me in a foreign clime, oceans separate me from relatives and friends; the Companions of my Youth are absent, and new acquaintance must be formed; but believe me, though the world itself divides us, though some may claim respect, never can he be found to substitute my esteem — in my affection — nor diminish the sanction of my ancient friendship: the days we passed together in our Youth, free from anxiety and
every care can never be obliterated from my memory; the retrospect excites ideas, melancholy and pleasing; the remembrance of happiness then presented is the production of the latter feeling; and the knowledge that it is fled for ever, cannot but excite the former, for, as Ossian says, "often does the memory of former times come, like the evening seen upon my soul;" but to our subject.

On our voyage hither we visited St. Vincent; from thence I addressed you an epistle, and as it gave you a description of that Brazilian Island with a detail of circumstances connected with the voyage, I shall not trouble you with a recital of those subsequent to our leaving the coast of South America, as they would afford little or no variety; I shall therefore enable you see the south Atlantic, guide you through the southern ocean, and lead you into Baja California, which divide the island of Vancouver's land from that of New South Wales. These Straits abound with islands and
numerous barren rocks, rendering it a dangerous
passage; succeeded them safely with a good breeze
and delighted at the idea that our voyage would
quickly terminate.

The eastern coast of New South Wales has
nothing in its appearance to interest the stranger.
Moderately elevated hills form this boundary; they
are thickly wooded, but variety is wanting to render
them pleasing to the spectator. As approaching
the heads of Sydney Harbour, the light-house, erected
on an eminence three hundred feet above the sea has
an imposing appearance, and imparts the first idea
of the country's being the abode of civilized man. The
weather was delightful, the sun shone brilliantly, and
as we floated on, we were occasionally cheered by parties
of ladies and gentlemen from the hills; shortly was
the ocean hidden from our view by the lofty rocks forming
the heads of Sydney Harbour, when Port Jackson engaged
our attention. The beauty of the scene amply repaid
us for the dull monotony we had experienced along the coast, and the numerous coves of the harbour, varying their size and shape, together with the jutting lands and fertile isles formed a pleasing contrast to the inconsiderable we had left behind us. A gentle breeze swept our bark lightly through the waves, and we anchored safely in Sydney Cove after a voyage of one and twenty weeks. I enclose you a sketch of the Harbour from the head of which to Sydney the distance is about six miles.

Unfortunately the most part of Sydney faces the Harbour, and previously to landing, a person would not be impressed in its favor. The borough of the Town rises on an eminence from whence the prospect is delightful, but the buildings are small, and tenanted by the poorest of the inhabitants. The small forts justify the Town, but they are more adapted for ornament than use. Sydney is of considerable extent, more than a mile in length, and its breadth varies from
one-fourth to one-half that distance. Upon looking
around one is surprised upon reflecting, that forty
years have not yet elapsed, since this spot was
nothing but a desert. The religious edifices are
ten Protestant Churches, one of the Scottish Church,
which is nearly completed; two Methodist Meetings,
and a Roman Catholic Chapel, which has been commenced
upon too grand a scale to allow of its being finished, at
least for the present. The Barracks for the Military
are extensive buildings. The public hospitals are
handsome structures, and the Barracks containing the
new hospitals are capacious and command a fine
situation. A new Courthouse is in progress, but its
construction, (in which no taste is evidenced by the architect)
gives little satisfaction to the Inhabitants. The Jail
which is situated in the heart of the Town, I consider to
be an affair of the same kind. A new has been commenced about a mile from
the Bethphage (Sydney), but the outward Wall is alone
completed. The small wooden houses, which the first
tiblets erected are giving way to longer edifices of
stone, and houses are rising daily upon newly
afforested ground. Merchants of considerable
magnitude are seen about the Wharf, indicating the
prosperity of the Merchants and a rapid increase of
population. The houses have good accommodations
and luxuries are no less scarce in Sydney than in a
country town in England.

We are generally destitute of amusements,
but during the last Winter, a few concerts have afforded
done entertainment; neither the Instrumental nor
vocal performers would be tolerated in England, but
where nothing better could be obtained, the whole shaped
of entertainment here, though the number of vacant
seats considerably increased towards the conclusion
of the season. The inhabitants are eager for a
Theatre, but they cannot procure sufficient funds
to erect one, although a house has actually been
commenced for the representation of Dramatic Spectacles.
Government house and the Domain proper, nothing attractive, excepting the stables, which have much the appearance of a castle; they were erected during the residence here of Governor __________. Commissioners ________ in his report express against them as a piece of extravagance and folly; his observations I consider perfectly correct.

Government Gardens, to which the inhabitants have access, are surely evidence of a visit; most of the European and Tropical Vegetables, fruits and plants are cultivated there. — The oak, the pride of the English Forest makes a poor figure in the vegetable frame down in New South Wales; the soil is not adapted to it, and with much difficulty is it preserved alive.

The Military force at present in Australia consists of from 500 to 1000 Men; the greater part being stationed here, whilst small parties have been marched more into the Interior of the country.
The object of War too is generally upon this station, and
although both military and civil officers are here,
their affections are divided either amongst them or the
inhabitants.

Of society, little can be advanced in the form;
but in small societies, Sydney is divided into parties.
This feeling is carried to great extent between
individuals who have come free to the Colony, and
others who were unfortunately sent here. Many
who have been convicts, but who, since their emancipation
have acquired considerable wealth, endeavour to place
themselves upon an equal footing with free settlers; the
latter oppose their inclinations, and these continued
strife and jealousies, carried on by a Mormon war, have
rendered the inhabitants a very dissatisfied people, much
to their own detriment, and the benefit of law
practitioners.

Three newspapers are printed here: The Gazette,
The Australian, and the Monitor; the two former twice.
and the latter once a week. The Sydney Gazette is an old established paper and supports the Government. The Australian has not been edited beyond three years; it commenced in opposition to the Gazette and in defense of the people's liberties, but it is suspected that the editor is now in favor with the Governor. The Monitor, which came out only a few weeks since, is edited by a second Cobbett and already has been threatened with an indictment for a libel upon the Government.

The habits of many families being involuntary serfs, little can be expected in the moral world; it is nearly shocking to see the depravity and vice which exist here. Religion seems known but as a shade, and morality appears nothing but a name amongst the greater part of the inhabitants. The lower people drink to an excess, which is the offspring of every other vice and crime, and even in the higher circles, things are tolerated which in England would
...subject the Individuals to approach and punishment from Society.

Convicts are much better treated now than in former years. Their hours of labour are the same as free mechanics, and I believe they have sufficient food. Some years since these unfortunate Men were treated with the utmost rigour, and frequently half-starved, their daily allowance of Rations being insufficient to support nature. It is a fact that Convicts have been known to murder each other merely for the sake of preventing their ration, of a few pounds of flour or bread.

Stage Coaches run between this place, Furness, and Liverpool, their towns more in the interior, and when travelling from hence to the former place, the Vehicle, the Turnpike, the Inn upon the Road where the Coach stops to change Horses, and where the Coachman takes his Glass forcibly reminds one of a Turnpike road in England, and even the Country...
around, and the several gentlemen's residences upon the road increase the deception.

Strange and horrible tales of them, known by the name of Bushrangers, have frequently appeared in the English newspapers. When attending to these Colonies, these no doubt you have seen, and I am sorry to say, they have not been exaggerated. Bushrangers are runaway convicts, who live in the woods, defrauding life by robbery and murder. In New South Wales from one to two hundred of these then are seen at large, and in Van Diemen's Land, these footsteps are the terror of the inland settlers. Murder and every crime is committed by them with aggravating circumstances; and the confessions of fourteen who were hung at Hobart Town (Tasmania) a few months since are truly horrifying. When I inform you that these then have murdered their own companions and have existed upon their flesh for days, carrying parts of the body about them, you may imagine the remainder.
From the above description, I think you will be enabled to form some idea of "Men and Manners" in New South Wales and Van Dieman's Land; and I hope for the present, leave you to your reflections
when you have digested the contents of the foregoing.
I shall with much pleasure continue my narrative;
and thank and ever believe me

Your sincere friend
I shall now, my dear —— draw your attention to the different camps or towns which have been erected in this country.

The principal inland towns are Parramatta, Liverpool and Windsor, the first is situated about fifteen miles to the North West of Sydney, and is remarkable for the Factory in which the female convicts reside. These women are employed in the manufacture of cloth, and the inhabitants of New South Wales are furnished with female convicts from amongst them upon application; for the want of others housekeepers are necessitated to admit them into their families.

The Governor usually resides at Parramatta some part of the year. —— Windsor, which is a small town, lies about twenty miles beyond Parramatta. — The situation of Liverpool from Sydney is nearly West, bearing a point or two to the South: its distance twenty
Windsor, it is the smallest Town of the Three, and the only thing worthy of notice there is a fine Hospital which is nearly completed.

Newcastle, which is at present a small but rapidly increasing settlement, situated seventy miles to the North of Sydney (by water) has a good Harbour, and a regular weekly Packet is established between the places. Newcastle takes its name from Newcastle upon Tyne; some extensive coal mines have been discovered there, and worked with success to the depth of two hundred and fifty feet.

The numerous gangs of convicts working in iron upon the rocks, produce feelings of compassion to one unaccustomed to such scenes, but I am informed that time and custom will effectually produce such feelings, and that I shall bear the look with a patience and unconcern upon these miserable and unfortunate beings but I trust this assertion may prove incorrect, and that I shall never become callous to scenes of misery and
distress, nor look with contempt upon the poverty and wretchedness of any fellow creature.

This country differs in some respects from any idea of it formed from representations made in England. It is not in general that picturesque and romantic scenery is much boasted of at home. A very small portion of land has hitherto been cleared, comparatively speaking, and a traveller has to ride many miles on a road, even in the localed districts without seeing any traces of a human habitation. When he approaches a settled place, he sees a house composed of logs of wood, and a few straggling buildings in the centre of fifty or one hundred acres of cleared or more generally of partially cleared land surrounded by an interminable wood, where the settler is bond to the mould. Occasionally houses of a more important consideration are met with, encompassed by farm and other buildings as at home but few of these are to be found more than twenty miles
from Sydney. Bush forest is seldom to be seen. 

When the soil is good, the land is lightly timbered, resembling a Gentleman’s park occasionally, but the traveller is too obstinately to lose his mind by fixing in Ramsay at the end of the scene. He journeys on, as it were, from Park to Park all day, and lies down at night with his horse tethered beside him, near some pool of water. He then strikes a light, kindles a fire, boils his kettle and fries his bacon. If he can afford a Tent with a Pack horse, he will of course have one; if not, a blanket and the hard ground are his bed and covering: if it rains, he strips off a sheet of bark from the nearest tree, and lies securely under it; should he get wet, he scarcely ever takes cold or experiences any other than a momentary inconvenience on awaking in the morning.

Could we get rid of two annoyances and introduce two European enjoyments on their plan, this would be the most agreeable climate in the World.
The expectation would be the Musquitoes and the
Scouts; the latter infect the trees in droves, and
make the most disagreeable ringing noise to a
stranger, imaginable during summer. The
imputation would be your singing birds and
scurrying streams. Birds are numerous here,
but few are songsters, and the great deficiency of
rivers and lesser streams in the interior, are the greatest
drawbacks to Australia.

I have seen a description of the scenes in the
country, and in drawing a comparison between them
and those in England, the climate of New South Wales
for want of that of my native country in most
respects.

The summer is a little too warm, but the
heat is not so oppressive as in England; it continues
longer in this country certainly, but you are sooner
cool after exertion, and not liable to take cold.

In autumn the Temperature of the Atmosphere
is delightful, but the Winter is sometimes sufficiently cold to remind you that a fire is necessary for your comfort. The sun rises and sets two days out of three upon a cloudy sky, the atmosphere being generally clear. The last Winter was more severe than any preceding it for some years, and ice, a very uncommon thing, was seen in Sydney. The Spring too, as in England, is a most delightful season, and although the Winters are so mild, still verdure seems to revive as in colder regions. Animals lose their long coats; flowers in the fields and gardens spring up. Birds begin to sing more generally, and the trees, although evergreen, change their somewhat faded hue for the more refreshing green of Spring.

In the summer months hot winds blow from the Northward and Westward, and frequently after a continuation of warm weather, the atmosphere is cooled by heavy falls of rain accompanied by rolls of thunder.
The indigenous fruits of New South Wales are few: I have heard of only one, this is a kind of Cherry, which grows with its stone outside the fruit, and is consequently esteemed a Curiosity.

The forests present trees more lofty than are found in England, but the foliage will bear no comparison. The great superiority in point of beauty which the spreading oak with its thick foliage, comprehends over the Straight Iron Bark or Blue Gum of this country must be acknowledged. Had Virgil flourished in Australia, he must have travelled many a dreary mile, in Tityrus, could he have been so situated for him to exclaim in the words of Melibaeus

"Tityre, tu sola recubavi et tegmine fagi."

Few trees are to be found here whose branches throw around them an extended shade, and the poor cattle grazing upon the half parched land scarcely find shelter beneath their foliage from the scorching heat of a meridian sun.
The climate of the country is enlivened by the abundance of violets and other flowers, with which the ochres are bespangled, and the wreaths everywhere abound with delicate flowers, though generally destitute of smell.

The soil and climate of this country are capable of producing most of the European, as well as tropical fruit and vegetables, in amazing extent, presenting such variety of each.

Our summer months are January, February, and March, the other seasons follow in succession.

Our relative situation on the globe, with regard to England, produces a difference in our time of ten hours and a quarter. During our voyage to this country, I required a tedious hour in forming an universal Clock, which enables one to ascertain the time in all quarters of the globe at the same moment. Not the coolness of a present but the esteem for the donor constitutes its value, and flattering myself, I proceed some portion.
of your regard I shall conclude it with this Epistle.

The researches of Geologists have hitherto been attended with little success; but there is no doubt that this extensive country contains valuable Mines, the future discoveries of which will be sources of wealth to after generations.

You are probably longing to receive some account of the Aboriginal Nations of this country: the wish from the subject of a future letter, when I have made myself acquainted with such particulars respecting them, interesting to an Aborigine, and I suspect shortly to be enabled to gratify this objection; for a few Weeks only will elapse, and I shall be resident amongst their Tribes.

Few Nations are seen in Sydney. King barangaroo, the Chief of the Eboroffs about this HarbNone is frequently here; he, his two Wives and about the attendants are permitted to row about the Cove unundulated, and a Trip in the hoar anchor, than she is visited by his able Majesty, who forgets the
dignity of Royalty, by knowing obsequiously to all on board, and soliciting either for an Art. Service, or other articles of drop, and always concludes his speech by begging permission to have the honor of drinking the captain’s health.” — But I am exceeding the limits of a letter. I shall therefore grant you a visit, and an ride.

Yours sincerely,

Friend.
My last treated principally of the climates,
climate and vegetable productions of the Country.
This epistle will furnish you with some account
of animated nature. There are perhaps few
countries possessing so few quadrupeds as this.
The Wild Dog, which is a kind of small
Wolf, is the largest carniverous animal known in
Australia; it is however more of the Dog than the Wolf,
this has been ascertained by the breed becoming intermixed
in some instances with the European Dogs that generally
accompany the Rabbits in the Woods. Here a great
enemy to sheep, sucking the blood of old ones and
carrying away Lambs whenever opportunity offers.

The Kangaroo, Opossum, Bandicoot, and other
Species of those Animals from the remainder of known
Quadrupeds. — The hunting of the Kangaroo is a
favorite diversion among the Settlers.
Birds are innumerable, but we cannot produce such songsters as the Nightingale and Blackbird. We have the Thrush, the Magpie and the Crow very similar to those at home. The Magpie is the most constant singer, or rather whistler of an agreeable nature. Parrots, parakeets, black and white canaries, Red Hills, Macquaries, and Blue Mountains. Birds are very numerous and of beautiful plumage.

The game amongst the feathered tribe consist of Kangaroos in abundance and the Emu. Wild fowl, such as Duck, Seabirds, are found in parts of the Colony, and the Black Swan is by no means a "rara avis" in this quarter of the globe.

Venomous Reptiles are also numerous. The black, the yellow and the diamond snake are common. Adders are generated here whose bite is certain death; some species of the snake generally retreat when the approach of Man, but others more venous always attack him.
A variety of insects are produced here, a detail of which cannot be interesting.

The harbours abound with fish, including sharks, eels, and octopuses. The River furnishes perch, bream, and other fish, both delicate and tasty.

As my future correspondence will be more of a personal nature, I shall now enter upon another subject as a prelude to it. You are aware that previously to my leaving England I joined the Australian Agricultural Company. Their object is the cultivation of Fine Wool, the Olive, Tobacco, etc.

The vine is in this country where they have a grant from Government of One Million Acres of Land. Their operations commenced by sending hither some hundreds of Merino sheep, a few blood horses, different breeds of cattle, and from twenty to thirty families in their service. The settlers behold the company with a jealous eye, fearing a monopoly, and they are by no
means popular amongst the inhabitants generally. Mr. Dawson, the agent, has selected part of the grant at Port Phillip, about 90 miles north from here by water, and by the present track about 200 by land. Here we entertained that a shorter road may be discovered, but I think the distance cannot be diminished above thirty or forty miles. This near (PortPhillip), where the Company's Establishment rests and where effective measures are being taken for the erection of a new town, or village; some time must necessarily elapse before much progress can be made. The Harbour, I understand, is very beautiful and spacious: there is sufficient Water to admit vessels of the largest tonnage. From the entrance to the spot where the settlement is formed, the distance is about eleven miles. Two Rivers flow into the Harbour, the Warneen and the Myall, neither of which are navigable by vessels beyond a few miles, but boats can proceed considerably farther.
I hope every person to believe that this undertaking will be a flourishing one, for there are no individuals in the Colony who have not succeeded in the same line, where their affairs have been conducted with common prudence. It is useless for settlers whose grants are situated far on the interior to look to cultivation for independence. The great expense incurred by clearing land exhaust their capital. This with a market overstocked, and the competition with other settlers who are enabled to undersell them, their farms being on the vicinity of Sydney, and the expenses of land carriage consequently trifling, reduce them by degrees. The settler must look to export all commodities from his domain, and these will not be found either in timber or grain. Fine Most must engage his attention and his settled situation will bring him riches without expense.

In my opinion, the settler is never free from care, sometimes he is threatened by the Natives, at others his convict servants cause alarms. He is debauched the
pleasures of society; is thus reduced a solitary being, and is frequently without the comfort, conveniences, it indeed necessaries of life. Many a dull and dreary day does he experience, and probably often wishes the name of New South Wales had never sounded in his ear. — In my opinion asked, I should certainly recommend a friend to stay at home, independent of its climate, Australia has little or nothing to recommend it, and that most adversely cannot be an object of sufficient importance to induce an Englishman to resign the comforts and delights of his native Country.

There are opportunities for Merchants of some capital and good connections at home to make a rapid fortune in this country, but I believe a person must not be too punctilious if he wishes to succeed here, he will have many rogues to deal with, and I have heard it oft remarked that a man may come to New South Wales with honorable and honest principles, but
but if he enters into business as a Merchant, he must become a rogue.

In conclusion, I consider, Comfort in England to be preferable to London in New South Wales.

I beg to entreat myself with every sentiment of regard and affection

Yours truly,

P.S. I have just received a rough pencilled sketch, or rather Bird's eye view of Port Stephen's Harbour, and have taken you a speedy copy, which I enclose: You must not consider it as an exact representation of the Harbour, for I have had information to the contrary; in the absence of means to take a more correct view, it was speedily forwarded to Sydney to give us some idea of its appearance, and the nature of the surrounding
accidents. I expect shortly to obtain a perfect sketch, should it not be disappointed, my leisure hours shall be devoted to the execution of a copy for my esteemed friend and former companion.
My dear

A short time since I dedicated you an Epistle, in which I gave a concise statement of the intentions and proceedings of the Australian Agricultural Company, with other general information respecting the colony and settlers; the present one will be more of a personal nature. Self is a theme upon which all are more or less eloquent; I trust however to avoid the errors of some, whilst penning such a subject, and that this Epistle may not be totally destitute of interest to my esteemed friend.

Had any one told me a twelvemonth since, that another year would not elapse, the Home-steaders, Pack-horsemen, Home-steaders, and other villainous Characters would be my companions, and that I should deem it sound policy to make myself familiar with them, I should probably have been, not only astonished, but indignant at such an innovation;
This has however actually been the case, to the particulars of which, I now draw your attention.

Having delivered over charge of the Company's concerns in Sydney to the Secretary, I awaited a conveyance to this place, Batsteppens, where my own accounts were getting into arrear, and whether my duties called me. Mr. Dawson had been settled here with the establishment above two months, and was anxiously expecting me.

As I observed in a former letter, a packets sails from Sydney to Newcastle weekly; had I gone by her, I must have travelled about forty miles over a sandy beach, and through a thick wood from thence to my destination, accompanied only by a black, as a guide. One might must have been passed upon the dreary tracts and melancholy accounts at that time reaching Sydney of the murder of some white people by the natives in the interior, it is not wonderful, that I should not have been particularly anxious to place myself in their power.
in a deed, far from any human being who could render me assistance; I therefore trusted till a canoe should sail direct to this Fort.

Convicts are consigned to the settlers as servants, who supply them with clothes and provisions for their labour; the A.A. Company of course have a considerable number; unexpectedly eleven were apportioned to Mr. Dawson, and as quickly a small vessel of about twenty tons was hired to convey them to the settlement. Without consideration I prepared to accompany them; but a few hours previously to sailing, a gentleman to whom I mentioned my hasty departure, expressed much astonishment that I should trust myself with the prisoners without a guard, adding that ten to one they would seize the vessel, which had often occurred in similar instances, probably destroy the captain, myself, his two men and a boy, their numbers being so greatly superior to ours; and advised me to remain.
behind; this information was by no means pleasing. It was, however, too late; the men had left the Paraná, and my trunks being on board, I determined to run the hazards. The captain and myself kept our pistols loaded and we sailed from the harbour, not without serious apprehensions. The voyage with a fair wind, can be performed in one day, and the idea that 24 hours would probably land me here proved a further inducement to risk it. Unfortunately the wind blew directly against us; we were blown out to sea, and I had the misfortune to keep a whole deck, one might accept in this miserable manner. During this time, I distributed sugar and tobacco amongst the convicts, and conducted myself towards them, as existing circumstances alone compelled me. They attempted no violence, and on my arrival here I did not forget to speak highly in their favour to Mr. Dawson. This coast is remarkable for boisterous weather, and during this voyage, we experienced a heavy gale. You may
imagine my situation was none of the most enviable; imprisoned in a vessel not much larger than a good long boat; bed and cabin heinously dirty; spiders, cockroaches, and other vermin crawling about at night; the bottom of the vessel covered with barnacles an inch thick; and with nothing I could eat but biscuit, my previous having been expended, expended the second day, the captain having imparted one with me. The cannibals luckily had motions for a week. On the seventh day we entered Port Stephens; the beauty of the scenery and solemnity of the water were delightful after the toiling and rolling I had so lately experienced. The Heads are formed by two Rocks, rising majestically from the sea. The Southern shores of the Harbour presented a variety of conical hills, thickly wooded, and which produced a pleasing contrast to the flat country on the opposite coast. Before us rose extensive and highly elevated hills, rendered more beautiful by the different tints.
of green and brown, with which they were decorated to their uniforms. Just as we entered the inner harbour it became dark; and the wind falling, we were obliged to anchor about two miles from land. The fires on the shore conducted us, and fire entered the boat to go ashore, which leaked so fast, that we could scarcely keep her above water, and to conclude this eventful voyage we struck upon the rocks; our people with their torches guided us to the landing place, and much delighted, I once again placed my foot upon terra firma.

The scene which now presented itself was new and engaged my attention for some minutes. We advanced about two hundred yards into a thick wood, when suddenly I observed a group of savages who were standing round a blazing fire. Two bank huts were erected with a shed near to the fire; and the whole excited feelings not easily described. One of our men was habited in a Cap and Waistcoat, made from
the skin of a Kangaroo, and his carrying a feather on
his shoulder forcibly reminded me of Alexander Selkirk, 
otherwise, Robinson Crusoe; and one of the blacks could
easily be substituted for his Man Friday. At first
the appearance of the Notions was rather terrifying
but their great good humour soon expelled every
impatient idea, and I entered into conversation with
one of them. Mr. Dawson's tents were pitched about
two miles through the Wood. "Maga," says one,
"I've come to (stay) Fort Stephens." "Yes," said I. "Put
'merry budgeere, (that's very good) he replied. "You go
'the (see) Doctor Maiga for manger?" (You go to see the
Doctor, meaning Mr. Dawson, before you go to bed), "Yes, and
you must light me through the Wood with a torch." I
answered. "O merry good, I soon ready you know, I
get it barks, I make torch, I go. Farewell, said you."
which may be thus longised. Very good, I shall soon
be ready, you know, I will get some barks, make a torch
and accompany you to Farlee, where the Tents are pitched.
he then continued: "You came in Carson (great) Ship."

"Wapà, you bring plenty Ceremonial, Tobacco (Tabac) and
many thousand scrip (many thousand things) for black" "Red?" "Yes," I replied, "plenty for all black fellow."

He and his companions set up without of pleasure,
and I entered the hut in which one of our Women had
prepared the same tea, whilst a little black girl was
preparing one a fish upon the fire.

Whilst enjoying this refreshment, the Surgeon
of the establishment, who came to visit a patient, entered,
and as he would return to the Tents, I of course settled
to accompany him, and dispatched with the services of
the Blacks. He would not carry a torch, saying
it dazzled more than assisted, and we started in the
dark as we pressed along, winding through the
trees, a black would occasionally dart across our way
with a lighted torch, inspecting to the whole a dreary,
wild and savage appearance: several fires surrounded
by troops of natives lay along our path. We lost our
may, and wandered around, now stumbling over
rugged stones, then wading through reeds and long
grape above our heads, again groping through thick
plantations; quite exhausted, we at length distinguished
fires through the forest, which guided us to the Village
consisting of a few Rack Huts. From thence we
proceeded towards Tarlee, and arrived without further
accident, much to the satisfaction of myself, and surprize
of Mr. A. at seeing me in proper persona.

The fleeting hours passed on when we departed
for the Night, and each retired to his Mansion or his
tent. All around me being lighted in the lamps of
Phosphores, and the midnight hour adding to the gloom,
I surveyed the scene around me. The lofty trees,
rising in thick clusters, nearly shut the heavens from
one view, and prevented the eye from penetrating
far into the dark perspective. The dying embers
of three large fires threw their feeble light into the
distant shade. Yet a breeze murmured amongst
the trees and all was calm. The tents, the bade sticks, and the appearance of ten or a dozen Natives, who, although around a fire, intermingled with our Dogs form a curious and interesting scene. If practicable, I will enclose you a sketch of the spot taken after the trees had been cleared, which has dispelled the gloominess of the scene, and opened a fine prospect of land and water.

Reflecting upon the different objects with which I was surrounded, I retired to my tent, but the melancholy howl of the Native Dog which then commenced, and the remembrance of my situation kept me on the watch; at length, however, fatigue overpowered me, and sleep relieved me from every care and doubt.
Port Stephens — 1820

The following morning I rode about the Wood with McDougal who pointed out the various alterations and improvements he had effected during the preceding two months. A good Storehouse of Saps of Wood and thatched with reeds was erected on the Shore, and the village, called Carribean, consisted of two rows of Huts tenanted by the free People; more in the exterior were a group of Huts occupied by the convicts. These are erected until more permanent buildings can be constructed; they are very comfortable in this climate and no one ever complains of a good bark Hut. A large Stalled Stable, and a large Dog Kennel were completed, and the Convict Servants were busy engaged felling trees, burning off, and clearing the land. Two large Kilns were burning to which about Thirty Natives, Men and Women, were conveying
Oyster shells, and chiefly of white men were founding on a portion of ground for a garden. Three miles distant a farm had been established, where the like proceedings were going on.

The Indians were very pleased when inclination prompts them, receive Tobacco and Corn Meal for their labours, they are extravagantly fond of the former; they are very partial to biscuit, bread or flour, with the latter they knead and bake Oats in the ashes after the manner of our White People. Their favourite food is boiled Meal, made of ground Indian Corn, and mixed to it the Corn roasted in the ashes as Chestnuts; they are also inordinately fond of Sugar; it is a great treat to give them an Indian bag in which Sugar has been packed, but they cut into pieces and boil in water; they sometimes drink this liquor till they become intoxicated, are fairly blown out like an ox in clover and are unable longer to enjoy this delightful beverage.
Some of their customs and manners will form the subject of a future epistle, at present I shall confine myself to the circumstances which have given rise to the warfare that has existed in many parts between the Aborigines and Europeans.

A residence among the natives for some time has afforded me opportunities of forming some idea of their character in this part of the Colony. They are naturally a wild and benighted race of savages, and whenever any mischief has been done by them, I believe the cause has generally arisen from the ill treatment of their White neighbours.

We have always endeavored to give them an interest in cultivating our friendship by every kindness on our part. They have commonly been treated in different parts of the country as though they had been dogs, and that indiscriminately by convict settlers. More of this has perhaps occurred here, and on the Banks of the Rivers running...
into this Harbours, than in any other parts of the colony, and it has arisen from these circumstances. Speculators in timber formerly obtained licences from the Governor to cut Cedar and Blue Gum for exportation upon land not located; these valuable species of timber generally grow upon the Banks of Rivers, and a large quantity having been discovered in this quarter, parties of Seagers and Fallers were employed to procure it. These are generally deplorable specimens as they are called, and not infrequently秉nioc accompany them, the whole debarred intended by an overseer, who is generally selected as a fit leader for this kind of banditti. These people were the first who came in contact with the Natives; they continued to conciliate them whilst they could make them useful as guides, or in procuring them Kangaroo and other game; but they were not to give the Natives some cause for offence, even long either by shooting, striking them, or taking away their firs
Mines, and the consequences were what would naturally have been expected. These wild Monday in ambush, and destroyed their oppressors whenever they could, and in return the savages were obliged, for their own protection, to shoot them on all occasions that presented themselves. Till at length the blacks obliged them in many instances to abandon their stations; they then went in search of others, where they again created the same kind of evils, which were followed by similar results.

But Stephens was nearly cleared of all its cedar and magnificent wood by these devastating practices. When the settlement was first formed, the natives showed our people many orphans whose parents, they said, had been shot by white men, and on one occasion, they pointed out a white man, who came to big provisions for his party who were employed up the River Barrier, who they said, had shot ten. The British did not do as it, but inflicted, that he
would kill them whenever he could; for his brutality he obtained no provisions from us.

It is possible, although I think improbable, that circumstances may over to interrupt the good understanding which at present exists between us and the natives. For the latter are savages in the common acceptation of the term, although they exhibit stronger traits of natural good feeling towards each other than people under that denomination are generally found to do.

A few days after my arrival here, the Blacks informed us that they intended to corroboree in the evening, and invited us all to the entertainment. A corroboree is the native dance; it was held about a mile from our station at the native camp. Shortly after we arrived at the place of rendezvous the dancers appeared: they had painted different parts of their bodies with black clay in a very curious and even handsome manner. They had chalked
straight lines from the double of the outside of
the leg which made them appear by fine light
as though they had 4-6 ear pantaloons on;
Their faces had been rubbed with red earth like
other, and their breasts chalked with sinistrene;
tinges interspersed with dots &c. and they began
shortly to cooingly or dance.

A Man and a Woman act as Musicians
by stricking two sticks together, and designing a song
which I cannot describe; it is chiefly in
half tones, extending sometimes very high and
loud, and then alternately descending to low or
almost to sink to nothing. Should you have
read Baron Tied's narrative of New South'
Wales, you have of course seen the song set to music;
I shall however enclose you a copy of it in case
his publication may not have been honored by
your persual.

The dance is exceedingly pretty and ornamental.
but the kind of motion with their hands is such
that no European could perform. It is more
like the antics of a Harlequin with a string, which
is told at fairs to children, than any thing else I
can think of. The number of dancers were
about twenty; they sometimes change places from
apparently indiscriminate positions, then file off in
pairs, returning with increased ardour in a
phalanx of four or five deep, keeping up the kind of
Harlequin-like motion together in the best time possible,
and making a noise with their lips like horn, horn,
which changes successively to grunting like the Kangaroo,
of which it is an imitation, and not unlike the
grunting of pigs. They are fond of praise, and their
eyes were all turned towards us, and when we laughed,
their faces shone, and clapped our hands in time of
applause, they quickened their motion in phalanx,
and raised the grunting in proportion; till they were
tired, and in an instant they turned their backs, and
discerned with a loud shout, gradually subsiding into a hearty laugh. One of theabor in then addressed us: "Dat very good, you like it, Mafsa?" dat belonging to hang ooo. You like him black "fellow Mafsa, You got (give) him corn meal, thotah "tobacco, meaning to braze. Tomahawk, and merry "tacand tongue you know. Dat I bring Mafsa "pick (fish) when Brokasha jump up. (when the sun "rise). Dat belonging to Mafsa now, all blacka fellow "belonging Mafsa, now you know."

During the Corrobey we observed the jins, (Women or Wives) standing in a circle by themselves, practicing a curious dance peculiar to the female portion of the Tribe. On enquiring why they did not corrobey with the men, we could get no answer further than that they never did. On these occasions, their painted bodies, white teeth, shocke heads of hair, their mild and savage appearance, with the reflection of the fire in a dark night, would
would form a terrific spectacle to a person coming
suddenly and unawares upon them.

The Corsober being concluded, we returned
home, and although we had not experienced the
graces of an Italian Opera, we left the
entertainment satisfied and pleased with the eating
of our stable friends, who had earnestly endeavored
to amuse us.
Song of the Aborigines of New South Wales

to which they corrobore or dance.

A-bang, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang, jumper, jah

Jumper veke, jumper jah, jumper veke, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang, a-bang.
Port Stephens 1828

My dear—

I fear my long detail of a feature

account has been tedious, but should it prove otherwise

you are not acquainted to perceive the whole; my

intention is to amuse, not to tire you; but probably

whilst I endeavour to excite your interest, I may

 weary you with my dull footsteps, I shall now

enter upon a new subject.

The country around Port Stephens is

bold and interesting. Numerous islands diversify

the inner harbour, and the Hawkesbury providing

its course are a alternately Hills and Dales, present

a constant change of scenery at every turn.

The hills are everywhere. Clothed with

wood, with constant verdure beneath it, unaccompanied

by any Brush or Underwood, so that one is often

tenderly reminded of Gentleman’s pleasure grounds

in the distance, on the Banks of a River, in England.
but are both in vain for the Sector's Lodge as we approach the solitary domain; Ah! there is the sad deficiency! What is fine scenery, what are all the beauties, do I sometimes exclaim with a sigh, which the lovely forests present, when banished from society, when deprived of relations and friends? of those who are so dear to me?

Rapid advances are being made in preparing materials for our permanent residences; large quantities of lime have been prepared for building and agricultural purposes; many thousand bricks are made, a stone quarry is opened, one stone house commenced, and plans for a Village are laid out.

To give you some idea of the kind of buildings we intend to erect of brick and stone, I enclose you a ground plan and the outline of a front elevation of a house to be inhabited by overseers, the principal mechanics and others of the Establishment.

A hundred acres of forest have been converted
int arable land; our settlers have prepared sufficient boards to erect several houses, which are roofed in this country with strips of wood called shingles; they have much the appearance of slate. Many thousand of these are ready. A boat has been converted into a meat chopper, and great progress has been made in other departments connected with the Establishment. To effect all this, many hands were requisite. There are at present about 250 souls upon the settlement, composed of free People, Emancipists, Men with Tickets of leave, and Convicts. Emancipists, free Men, who were formerly Convicts, but who have served their term of transportation; Ticket of leave Men, are those who are still convicts, but allowed by Government, from good conduct to be at large within the Colony, and to work on their own account; should they abuse themselves or ill, their ticket is cancelled, and they are again sent to the prison or barracks.
Amongst this multitude, of course many villainous characters are found, and Mr. Toad often becomes a court of justice. The Magistrate has power to punish the minor offences of a convicts by a flogging, but an Emancipist must be committed to the nearest prison to have his trial before a jury. On one occasion, three men were examined on a charge of murder committed on the body of a black boy on the River Nepean; they were committed to take their trial for the offence.

The Tailor of the Company is an Irish convict and the Shoemaker a Ticket of Leave Man; both of whom are settled in their work shops, constant in their task and temper.

My situation here gives me perhaps an opportunity of becoming more acquainted with my own species, than any other. Surrounded by the very civilized society from the most civilized quarter of the globe, with a race of beings, not civilized at all.
together with the respectable portion of mankind who accompanied me from England give ample scope for reflections upon human nature, and whilst drawing comparisons between the actions of the natives and those of my own countrymen, I am often obliged to form decisions prejudicial to the latter, and at the same time illustration of the nature of good feelings and gentleness of the former.

This spot, which at present is little more than a Desert, will be converted shortly into a pretty village named to a Town, and hereafter it must form one of the most important harbours of Australia.

An establishment like this, is not like the private letter, liable to variations; a stock of every necessary being always kept in store. Shops must shortly be established, for it is a laborious task to supply even 20 persons weekly with every thing they may require, in food, liquors, habiliments, &c. and as the population will rapidly increase, this
duty must devolve upon different persons.

At a distance from the World, the
Establishment forms a society amongst themselves.
We have not our roots, our balls or play, we
find a variety of entertainment. An excursion
up the Parramatta River, winding its course through a
picturesque and romantic country, or a walk around
the Bays and Islands of the Harbour is delightful.
The Black Swan, the Pelican, the Curlew and other
birds float upon the unrippled surface, whilst Dack
and other wild fowl abound, affording amusement to
the Sportsman; hunting the Kangaroo is an
excellent diversion; Fishing serves to be an
hour, and the Corroborees and smoke fights between the
Natives engage us frequently of an evening; whilst
the early chattering of the feathered tribe, reminds us
of the dawn of day; and call us to our daily occupations.
Amidst all these employments and amusements
we are not unmindful of our trust interests. The
Sabbath is remembered. The Village Bell calls the Establishment together at an appointed place, and the duties of the day are exercised in the open air. A delightful spot has been selected for the erection of a Church, but until that be accomplished, we must be content to offer our devotions under the boughs of Heaven; knowing that the disposition of the heart, and not the place where render our prayers acceptable to the Deity.

The tribe of natives belonging to Fort St. John amount to nearly two hundred men, women & children. On the first arrival of Mr. Dawson, they were found particularly useful in procuring Birch for the erection of tents, and without their assistance, I know not what would have been done. When treated well, nothing is to be feared from them, but cruelty and oppression on the part of Europeans meet with its reward from them. I have sometimes been detained at the Village till late at night, and in
the way to my abode. I had to pass the Black Lamps.
On these occasions I generally walked into the midst of them; conversed sometimes, shook hands with many, and then proceeded on. Were they inclined to injure one another, nothing could have prevented them, for had I called no person was within the distance of half a mile.

The Aboriginal Camp has a strange appearance during night; you are encompassed by twenty or thirty fires, each of which is attended by four or more natives, according to the number of the family. The blaze of some, reflecting upon the savages within, their influence present a wild and terrific sight, whilst others, by the feeble light emitted by their dying embers, partially illumine the surrounding objects; and the midnight intruder steals cautiously along, fearing at each step, he may stumble upon the extended body of a block, either mistaking it for a decayed tree, or prevented by the deep shade from distinguishing it on the ground.
Several natives attend us regularly; one
Boat’s Crew consist of six most excellent fellows,
who handle the oar with the coolness of experienced
seamen; others are employed as messengers; some
attend at table; in short we find them useful in
every department. One little black girl is an
excellent washer, and our laundress is a great
gainer by her services. The Natives who are
constantly about us are clothed. the females in plaid
gowns, the men and boys with plaid jackets and
pantaloons, some have caps of the same material, which
imparts quite a martime appearance to the Natives.

One of the highest honors that can be conferred
on them, is to make them constables, provided they
have a staff. That the honor may not be too
cheap, these only have been advanced to this station.
This ridiculous beyond measure. to see the consequence
they assume over their own people, and they never
appear but with their staff of office under their arm.
I shall conclude my epistle by relating a conversation which took place some time since between Mr. Dawson and one of the Stable Constables: 'Mr. Shaw (the beggar) gave black fellows crammers (stap). 'Don't catch it (him) you know, keep dot go in East. 'Slow.' I look out, I find it, bringing it back, I

'murry cooler (very angry) I gib it Waddy (Club),

'I put it in Watch house, you know; I make it know

'What be 'bout? Dat no crammers gain the feds, Back

'I (I don't) like another black fellow; I hit (sent) down

'here always; this my place, you my Mafya, you

'Ah, I make black fellow work; I make it work,

'he a yammon me, Mafya."

As Constables they are very vigilant: shall

after the above, one of our Gentlemen was going from

our Camp to the Village, which is distant about a

mile and a half. It was nearly dark, and Mafya

the Black Constable, called out in a thundering

tone of voice. "Who go dere (there)? I "A friend."
was the reply. "O marry gout," says Methuselah, "Poor devil, black fellow, I said. Table, what he do here? Why he leave (leave) black camp when dark hot (sit) down? Benn I put it in Watch-house you know, and take it to Molla when Rookat jump up." "That's very right, Chippie," was the reply, with a hearty laugh at the end of it.

You may probably wonder at our making constables of the Natives, but we are guided by policy. Here our own people to exercise authority over the Natives. They would probably desert us, and then we should be deprived of their valuable services. But by investing one of their own Tribe with a little authority, they become Task masters over their black brethren, who will attend to their commands, whilst they would not more severely by the promised aid, intrusted by an European.

Here I to relate all the anecdotes connected with the Natives, they would fill a column, but I have
excused the limits of a letter. I am about to take a journey into the Bush, in my next I intend giving you a description of it, like this.

Farewell.

And believe me,

Your attached friend.
Travelling in the Bush is exceedingly pleasant and interesting in fine weather, provided you carry a Tent to sleep under during nights; but my dear — your company had enlivened my journey: on these occasions when an expedition of some importance is undertaken, and difficulties are anticipated from Rivers, Creeks and Rocky Mountains, the Retinue of the Company consists of six or eight pack—an equal number of saddle horses, eight or ten men, and a few natives as guides and interpreters. In my late excursion I was accompanied by Mr. Dawson, Mr. Armstrong, the Surgeon. Three pack and three taking Horses, the former loaded with a Tent and carriages were dispatched to a point of the Barque River, called Buirbrou, whilst Ralph D.B. and myself attended by two native boys, called Korribat Morimurna.
as guides, were rowed up the River by our native crew. Our route lay upon the opposite side of the river, our horses were unloaded, driven across, and then reloaded. We were here joined by two white servants, who led the pack-horses, and everything being ready, about ten o'clock A.M. we commenced our journey. The first day we travelled through a flat, uninteresting country, thickly studded with trees; and we occasionally entered thick bushes through which, with difficulty we forced our way. Passing a large swamp, we disturbed a solitary black woman, who started up with visible terror and astonishment at seeing us: our Guides spoke to her, she piloted her place and she approached near; after inviting her to Port Stephens, we presented her with some Tobacco, and pursued our course. At the approach of night we encamped near a pool of Water, tethered our horses to the neighbouring trees, pitched our Tent and prepared for dinner.
Trees were quickly planted, and the Tea Rabbit built a dish of herbs quaffed in the Sun. The Tea was made — a sack spread upon the ground formed our Cloth and table, and the hunger of our appetites contributed to our enjoyment of the 'pudding meal.' Our Horses then received their turn; work was heaped upon the floor (it being the Winter season) and wrapping ourselves in our blankets slept soundly during the night. The following morning we rose, breakfasted, struck our tent, reloaded our Horses and proceeded on. The country gradually became more interesting; Hills and Valleys formed a pleasing change; bands of Kangaroos were bounding on before, and intense interest was excited in the expectation of discovering something new at every turn. As our Caravans slowly descended the steep declivity, around along the deep ravines beneath and advanced towards the
diminuities of the adjoining heights, I was forcibly reminded of those described in romantic Writings, but no monastic portal grated upon its hinges, as the fatal porter drew back the croaking bell; no living appeared in which we could be sheltered for the night, but buried in extensive forests, far from human habitations, we reclined upon the ground; and invoking the protection of that being who beheld us amidst the dreary waste, we sought a temporary relief from care and toil in refreshing slumbers beneath the canopy of our Tent.

The second evening we encamped upon the Banks of Williams’s River, a branch of the Parramatta, which runs into the Harbour of Newcastle. Several settlers have obtained grants in this direction for the convenience of water carriage, and on the opposite shore stood two Houses, with the inhabitants of whom we had no communication. The following morning we directed our course towards there
heads of the River, but after entangling ourselves in the masses of thick bushes, we were obliged to return, and we continued our route in the opposite direction. On the evening we pitched our tent in a delightful valley. The beautiful plumage of the Birds, and the various Notes of the different Species imparted the idea of their being a second paradise; had there been an Eve we should have lingered on the spot, for even without that attraction we left it with regret.

The termination of the fourth day brought us to the confluence of the Rivers Hunter and Bellmore. A settler had selected his grant upon the spot, and during the excursion we saw nothing equal to it in beauty. His land had the appearance of a gentleman's estate and park in England, a winding road lead in a gentle ascent to the mansion, at the sight of which all pleasing ideas immediately disappeared. A miserable log hut, with a few out-houses of the same construction were the only buildings. The Master...
and suitably of the estate were left for home. We
rested here one night, and leaving the surveyor, who
proceeded on to Vancouer, Mr. D. and myself turned
towards home.

I shall detain you a moment to give you
some idea how wretchedly many of the settlers live in
this country. In a subsequent journey I made in the
Bush attended only by a Black and a White servant.
I called upon this settler, who had often visited us at
Port Stephens. He apologized for not having any
thing to offer me but a Cup of Tea. Of course of my
self perfectly satisfied. I had a small quantity
of Hollands, a tongue, and part of a loaf of Bread
with me. He offered me some bread made of
Indian Corn, which in my opinion, ate much like
the best. We however regaled ourselves with my
provisions, and the evening flew swiftly past, lost in
the tales of other days, of what our youth had witnessed
how fortune had smiled and frowned alternately upon
our younger days, and whilst the midnight hour was
sneaking by, concluded our ride, by contracting
the happiness of other times with our present melancholy,
and dreary aspect. My host had been unfortunate;
his mind was stored with general knowledge, and he
still possessed the requirments requisite to form an agreeable
companion. He spread a sheet in front of me before
the fire, on which I passed the night. His wife was
in a suit to his son-in-law. The following day after
I had departed, my white companion asked me how
I fared the preceding evening. I thought the question
rather strange, and requested to know the reason of
the inquiry. When he informed me that he had supplied
the latter, whom we had just left, with tea and sugar
The fact was, this poor man with those at his side,
had nothing to eat but bread of Indian corn, and their
only beverage was water, thus was he actually starving
in the possession of fifteen hundred acres of excellent
land. Generosity, I believe, was his characteristic.
but he acquired the means to gratify it, and whilst my heart felt for his misfortune, the sympathy too
plighted in my eye, and mentally did I express my
inability to deplore the severity of his lot!

But to return to my journey. We proceeded
towards Port Stephens; but had not advanced many
miles before we were stopped by a range of mountains,
at the foot of which a denamp extended to a considerable
distance; We turned our course along the ridge for some
hours, when we headed and crossed the denamp; we
reached the plat beyond the Hills by a defile of the Mountain,
from whence to our journey's end the country assumed an
uninteresting and monotonous appearance.

This day afforded us an opportunity of
ascertaining the speed of the steam; We saw dozens of, whilst
traversing this flat, and following them at a full gallop
we could scarcely keep pace with them surprising birds.

During this excursion we saw no blacks, except
the old woman till the last day, when we passed a group
of their women and two children; they appeared such wretched objects, and jumping on an old tree, to see us more advantageously; they had much the resemblance of the Fathom Species. They were eating fern root, which they call Bungroati, they cook it in the ashes and pound it between two stones; this forms a paste of which they are exceedingly fond. The woman accompanied us many miles, and remained all night with us; we regaled her with comestible and tobacco, with which she was much delighted.

We arrived safely on the Banks of the Karua River, where we found a Boat waiting to convey us home. Delivering our horses to the care of our attendants, we embarked, and after a pleasant row down the River, we landed near our Tent. This was my first expedition in the Bush, which afforded me a field of pleasure and amusement. The weather was delightful throughout. In rainy weather these journeys would be extremely disagreeable.
To be confined in the middle of a crowd within a tent, with every thing wet, and no prospect of a cessation to the rain: The idea is quite sufficiant.

Having seen me through my journey safely, and heard my arrival home, you must allow me to give you farewell for the present, upon a promise that the long I will send you an account of the customs of the Indians whatever around this station, and with this assurance, believe me to be,

Your best wishes.
To become acquainted with the manners and the customs of a barbarous and savage people, a residence of some duration amongst their tribes is requisite. It affords opportunities of forming correct notions of their character, and prevents our entertaining the erroneous ideas which a more cursory acquaintance is liable to impart. Since my residence here I have had constant intercourse with some of the native tribes, and this epistle will give you an idea of their peculiarities and customs, but this must not be considered as the character of all the tribes of so extensive a Territory as New Holland: for I understand they vary greatly and that in the more northern parts, they assume a more ferocious and barbarous aspect.

The conduct of our own tribes has
convinced us, that when well used, they will become faithful and attached to their European masters, but that on the contrary, injuries will not be endured by them, with impunity.

The natives about this Harbour have two peculiar customs: shortly after the birth of a female child, if the parents intend it for a fisherman, one joint of the left hand little finger is amputated, and when grown up it ever follows that occupation. When boys approach to manhood, they are admitted as one of the tribe of Warriors; on these occasions a kind of Job is held amongst them, and the new member undergoes the operation of having a front tooth knocked out.

They are excellent Scarborough, and we often hear them a Musikal to about Kangaroo, this they always return in good order, and generally present with it one of those animals, or a Wallaby, which is a smaller species of Kangaroo.
When away from this establishment they appear to have no settled place of residence, although they have a certain district of country they call their own, and in some parts of which they are always to be found; they have ceremonies common to all the tribes, and meet in large bodies to inflict punishment on members who offend against established rules, but I cannot discover the authority by what they are convened to determine the measure of punishment, nor who is the regulator of the ceremonies. I have heard of one punishment and that I believe is inflicted for all offences, that of the culprit standing for a certain period to defend himself against the spear which any of the assembled multitude thinks proper to hurl at him. He has a rude shield of an oval form, about two feet and a half in length and fifteen inches in breadth. The offender protects himself so dangerously by it, as seldom to receive any injury;
Instances have occurred of persons being killed, but very rarely; their limbs and muscles are so pliable that they perfectly cover themselves with this shield.

When one tribe of natives receive any injury from another, hostilities are commenced immediately: a challenge is conveyed to the tribe from whom the insult has been received; and they meet on an appointed day to decide their differences by a battle. Much feuding takes place in times of stern defiance; they menace each other by brandishing their spears, flourishing their clubs, stamping with their feet, and using every aggravating sound to cause the anger of their opponents. At length they approach, pushing each other violently about; times of defiance becoming more vehement. Yet at length, they are worked up to a state of fury, and look more like demons than like men: bawling out roar, roar, roar, slugging and dealing upon the r. They then fall to with their...
hitting Maddris Clad) upon each others heads, dealing out blows, that would fell an ox, tell some fall and are disabled, which occasions a terrific shout or yell from the conqueror in token of the victory; this they continue until quite exhausted, when they disperse with their heads broken and bleeding. They seldom hit each other, which must be attributed to the thickness of their shields. Their spears are not used on these occasions, although they carry them to the fight, and manœuvre with them. Their shields are found to be much thicker than European ones, were not this the case, they should be crushed in by the first blow from such a weapon as their Maddy; the Iron Bark, wood of which they are generally made is exceedingly hard and nearly the weight of Iron.

The knives of the blacks are called Ginye. When a poor Ginye makes his table Lord, he takes them over the head with this weapon in no very
gentle manner. On our first coming to the settlement
this was a common practice amongst them, but
being given to understand that this treatment of
their guns was displeasing to white men, and
would not be permitted, I am happy to say, the
practice has become nearly obsolete amongst them.
One blow from this Weapon as they give it, would
lay an European low never to rise again. When
the Woman perceives the blow descending, she holds
her head to receive it, much the same as his Wife in the
Suffit shows; in this Manner the
fight and he who has the hardest and thickest
shovel of course holds out the longest, and becomes
the victor.

The quickness of the shot is truly
astonishing; they throw their spears at the distance
of forty yards with the greatest precision, and
commonly hit birds by throwing stones from the hand.
They run up the tallest and largest trees with glee.
rapacity, with a tomahawk on one hand, they cut
notches as they ascended; this they do to cut oysters,
a male animal, the size of a rabbit, out of them,
and also to procure wild honey, which is deposited
there by a minute bee, not larger than a common
fly.

The women are very ingenious; they form
fish-hooks from the oyster shell, and make string
from both with great facility, equally as good as
can be purchased in England; they twist and roll
the bark in a curious manner with the palm of
the hand upon the leg; with this string they form
nets of curious workmanship. In some the meshes
are very small and neat, and the whole is tied
without a knot, excepting at its completion; then
nets are slung by a string round their forehead and
hang behind them. They are used like portmanteau
reticules, containing all the articles they convey
with them from place to place, such as their
Walking, baking, preparing food for strong men for glazing their spears, and sometimes eating or fish; when they move from the shore to the interior, in addition to this act, they generally have a child across their shoulders, and thus burdened, they march off with the men.

As amongst all rude and savage people, the women are considered by the men as inferior beings, and made to do all the drudgery: to carry the wood for fires, and convey from place to place every thing with which they move about, the implements of war alone excepted, which are always carried by the men.

Their food consists of fish when near the coast, but in the lands of the gum trees. Kangaroos, as any other animal they may spear or catch, also of a kind of grub, found in decayed wood. Should they perchance spear a Kangaroo, they have a regular feast: they are by no means particular in their diet, for they devour, when half roasted on the ashes,
the whole of an animal, fish, or bird, the bones alone excepted.

The Nations are remarkably fond of their children; and Orphans are adopted by unmarried Men and Women, who take equally as much care of them, as though they were their own offspring. They are generally kind to each other, although their ymus are used as slaves, at the will of their Husband. If any thing be given to a native, he divides it with his ymu, and those around him. They sleep before their fires frequently in a circle with their heads upon each other’s hips, without any covering during summer, but in winter or rainy weather they cut large sheets of bark, cross-cedar them, and thus are sheltered from the cold and wind. So long as the Nations continue wandering from place to place, this is the most simple plan they could adopt; they are very sparing of their labour, and appear to have no idea of exciting any thing.
as a permanent residence. Their boats are of the roughest Workmanship, being nothing but a sheet of Bark pressed and tied together at either end; yet they venture miles from land when fishing and manage them with great dexterity.

When any of their relations die, the Women show respect to their memories by plastering their heads and faces with a substance resembling pitch, which remains till it casually falls off. They also wear the thigh severely and bind a portion of their back round the wound; this operation renders them lame for many weeks, and this is putting themselves in mourning: we put on black, they white, so that it is black and white in either case. When any near and dear connection dies, they plaster themselves over the body as far as the hip bones, which renders them most hideous and satcheted looking beings; whenever a black dies, we know it speedily for the whole tribe commence howling most pitifully, which may be heard...
two miles distant from their camp.

Should any one, who is unwell, be asked
What ails him. The answer is invariably, "O Del.
Deth Deth." which means that the death of some
evil spirit had visited them.

I cannot learn whether they worship any
god, nor what. They think highly of the Moon, for at
its changes they always hold their dances or dances,
they fancy the woods are inhabited by an evil spirit
who appears to them occasionally, and is always seen
upon the death of one of the tribe; this of course is
imagination. They appear to have some confused
notions of a resurrection, but they are not sufficiently
acquainted with our language to illustrate them;

They have no idea of numbers beyond five,
which are reckoned by the fingers; when they
wish to express a number not exceeding five, they
hold up as many fingers, but more are expressed
by "many tens and" many thousands.
The Aborigines are exceedingly fond of white men's clothes, and dressing themselves in any old thing they may have given them; they render themselves such grotesque looking objects, as often limit our visible faculties.

I think it would be an arduous task to civilize them; they are so partial to a wandering life, that were any restraint placed upon them, they would disappear, and seek amongst the fruits their usual course of existence.

I conclude, the Natives about us are a good natured sort of people; especially, in my opinion, many excellent traits of character; generosity to each other; apparently grateful and attached to their benefactors; and if they entertain some serious inclinations, allowances must be made from the consideration that they are savages; let us look around the civilized portion of the globe, and rather wonder that vile propensities should exist.
amongst men bearing the names of Christians, than permit ourselves to feel surpriz'd, that the preposterous habits of the uneducated nation of so nearly a discovered country should sometimes lead him into errors and errors, probably daily practiced amongst his civilized brethren!
My esteemed

You may probably remember my mentioning in a former letter the circumstance of the crime being examined before McDavid on a charge of murder; the crime was committed on the banks of the Poyall, about fifty miles from the mouth of the River. At this spot, a settler had established a cedar cutting party, three of whom were the culprits; and the overseer having informed Mr. Davidson, that a man was stationed there whose evidence would be important. Mr. D. decided upon visiting the place, not only to take the examination, but also to ascertain the nature of the country along the Poyall, and he selected me to accompany him.

Having arranged to proceed on our journey, we were rowed up the River by five Indians, the remainder of our party consisted of Mr. Davidson.
The observer above named, myself and a Corvett servant. We left the settlement about 4 P.M. and steered across the Harbourn, about 10 miles towards the Mouth of the Royale, the entrance of which extended from shore to shore about a mile. The sun was far advanced beneath the horizon ere we reached the river, Still we continued to advance and proceeded about two miles from the Harbourn, the river decreasing in its width, as we glided through its channel. The scene was quite enchanting. The Moon shone faintly upon the distant hills; thousands of glittering stars twinkled in the blue expanse; As we lay upon our oars, nature seemedushed; not a sound struck upon the ear; the breeze was lulled; not a ripple disturbed the unrippled surface of the lake; and delighted with the scene, we determined to encamp upon the neighbouring banks. Whilst looking for a pleasant spot, our blacks observed a distant light.
"Black yellow fire, Wapra," exclaimed one, "let us go there," was the reply. "Boel (I won't) we go dene; they are good, Wapra," he answered.

The Meakte and St Stephen, Indians are generally at variance, and our boats crew concluded they were enemies; the tribes up the river are represented as most savage and ferocious. Spearing Europeans whenever of opportunitities occurs; these accounts were certainly exaggerated; we saw many during the encroachment up the river, none of whom attempted to molest us.

During the above conversation, we approached nearer the fire upon the shore, when our men discovered by the tones of the distant voices that they were friends. "But good trade," they called out, "we go dene, we get it there that (we will get a fire brand) to make fire, when we hungry (dine)." They accordingly rowed towards the shore, and as we approached the sandy beach, we saw a group of men, women and
Children, squatted before a blazing fire, roasting fish, which forms a curious and terrific spectacle by night.

Precipitating our approach they called to us, and recognising the vessels of our crew, the canoe went to the water, and drew the boat adhering. We did not land, but when they discovered who we were, they raised a shout of joy. Some of them had learnt of our corn meal at the settlement, and knew us from this occasion. We greeted them in return, gave them some tobacco, which seemed, as usual to people, an almost supernatural chance with them; they promised to visit our camp the following morning on the opposite Bank, where our crew had been to fish the night; they also promised to bring down fish for our breakfast. We then rowed off, and landing on the opposite side pitched our tent, and having supped, retired to rest. We were awaked at day break by the Chattering of the Natives, who had fulfilled their promise,
and presented us with a quantity of fish. In return we treated them with corn bran for their breakfast. They sat, or rather squatted before our fire and appeared delighted with the attention we bestowed upon them.

After breakfast we exhibited their faces to them in a looking glass. It is impossible to describe the effect this had upon them; they were astonished and at first suddenly drew back their heads; their looks again, till they were satisfied it was themselves, upon which they gave loud scream of laughter, passing it from one to the other, and appeared as much struck at the surprise and grinned of each other, as we were at them. On showing an old Mexican image in the glass upon a former occasion, the bust was tears; but I could not discover the idea that occasioned a feeling so different from all others I had seen.

Having struck our tent we proceeded up the River and were rowed this day about 25 miles by
The country about the River was flat and uninteresting, and our view was bounded by the numerous trees upon the banks. Nothing occurred during the day worth mentioning; our boat's crew were in good spirits, and seemed to enjoy the journey. This evening we spent upon the banks of the River, and the following morning we crossed the course. Emerging from the River, an extensive lake and the distant country opened to our view. Whilst upon the lake, we perceived several causes of danger, issuing from the reeds upon its banks; we rowed towards them, gave them some biscuits and tobacco, and in return they presented us with their fish; hailing them admist, our men hiked well their oars, and we shortly reached the shore on the opposite side. We had not proceeded far, when we observed a native passing through the reeds; we hailed him and as he approached friendly, took him into our boat, and conveyed him to the State of which...
we had come in search. I mention this circumstance and shall have occasion to speak of him hereafter.

On the third day after leaving home we arrived at our destination. Two miserable huts were erected on the banks, in one of which resided the cedar cutters. They appeared dreadfully alarmed, and one presented a horrid spectacle; he was lying on the ground before the fire wrapped in a blanket; his face was pale and ghastly increased probably by the contrast of a long black beard. He had been almost to excess by an ale, and was nearly exhausted through fear and loss of blood. He informed us that a few days previously the uncle of the Thunderer Boy, whose fate had brought us to the spot,演艺ing himself of the absence of the other Whites, attacked him suddenly with an axe, and he lamented that he should suffer for the crimes of others. I will leave you the description of his wounds; we did what little
as could for the unfortunate man; he was however too ill to be removed, and I have since heard that he died shortly afterwards.

The situation of these men was truly pitiable with a cask of Beef and flour, and a small quantity of Tea and Sugar; they were on a miserable and solitary existence. They had just a bit of candle, and I wrote the deposition of Mr. McIntyre, whilst kneeling on one knee before the fire, and supporting my paper on a board upon the other.

We saw the spot where the murderer had been committed and also where the body of the poor black boy was deposed.

I learned that the Indians who had been切割 cedar there for some years previously had slain the natives indiscriminately, and left their bodies to be devoured, and which were actually eaten by their Dogs - they had been accustomed to fire at them from a distance and at one shot had destroyed...
five or six of these poor creatures. Who then could wonder at the revenge which the Nations seek? I believe they have generally been quietly disposed, when well treated, and I know they are proud beyond measure of the friendly notice of European, and consider them as superior beings.

We encamped one night near this station, and the following morning divided our Party, Davison and myself determining to proceed home by land, to ascertain the Character of the Country between that and Fort Strothers. We selected for our party two of the boat's Crew, the strange blacks, whom we had taken into the boat on the Banks of the River, and our Convict servant, which the otherell's overseer who is a respectable, but reduced settler of some years' standing in the Colony proceeded down the River in the boat with their remaining blacks; having no pack horses, we sent home our Tent by the boat, trusting to an Ice, to cut as much bark...
as would shelter us, with the assistance of our blankets from the cold during the night, which at this season of the year, it must be laughable at. Our only friends were our companions with the country, we however trusted to their sagacity (there being no paths) to lead us home in two days, the distance being about forty miles.

The remainder of the journey being of a different description to that related, I shall detach you whilst we are arranging the leads for our several attendants, and shall conclude the expedition in my next, I hope, believe me,

Y. H. L.
Everything being ready, we commenced our journey; our two blankets from the boat carried our blankets and other articles, and the strange black pot change of our provisions; the convex bottom was the basis of some culinary atonement, for Mr. Dawson took charge of a double barrelled powder gun, with which we had shot until both decks of the River and two Horse Pistols were apportioned to see.

We had not proceeded above 5 miles, when, on a sudden, I sensed the strange situation; I stopped our party. Our able gunner crossed and crossed again in their usual form of calling to each other at a distance; but no answer; he was gone and our provisions with him. I looked at Mr. Dawson, and he stared at me with an air of great concern for a moment, but the trick played by the fellow was so neatly done, and our situation so truly ridiculous, that...
we simultaneously burst out a loud laugh at each other. We then dispatched our two faithful guides and the white detective after the runaway but the accounts we had heard of the Natives black, and fearing a party might rush upon and disappear was the strongest, and they returned without success. We then examined the various articles in the charge of our baggage, with a view of ascertaining, whether we had any provisions left. The White Man had two biscuits in his pocket, and fortunately had baked a small cake in the morning in the ashes, which he had in his paragon, he had also a cold tongue, and a small piece of pork, and by accident I had packed a bag with a pint of Hollands with my blankets. Although this was a scanty store we determined to proceed.

Our Blacks frequently expressed great amusement at the crumbling (theory) racials and proposed as a punishment to steal his gin, and bring him to be flayed another time. So had carried off, a
quantity of Potatoes, Flour, Corn Meal, Biscuit, Cork, tea and sugar. Plates, Spoons, Corks, Spoons etc., and no doubt, he regaled himself and friends in style.

About midday we divided a biscuit between the five and each received a slice of tongue, with a minute quantity of Holland and Water. This refreshed us and we travelled on till night. When we stopped to sleep, our black companions lamented the loss of their flour and cornmeal. They liked neither Pork nor tongue, and our bread, of which they were exceedingly fond, was in quantity too scanty to afford much to them or any one share. With two plaining of hunger a crow perched upon a tree; they copied it, though it was nearly dead, and plucking it out, I luckily brought it to the ground. It was instantly on the fire, and when about half cooked, they devoured it all except the bones; they then laid themselves down before the fire and in a few minutes were fast asleep.
"But how shall we sleep," said Mr. D. and myself.

"Our fire has disappeared with our provisions; we can

not cut our backs to shelter us from the cold and heavy

winds; how must we continue?" Replied it in the spirit

of invention. We collected a quantity of dried wood

and kindled two tremendous fires; between them we

placed some sticks supporting each other at different

angles, forming a roof something like that of a

one horse chaise. With our hands we tore some

bark from the nearest trees, with which, and with

long grass, we constructed a floor under which we

crouched, and wrapped ourselves in our blankets during

the night. On awaking in the morning, we had a

hearty laugh, occasioned by my asking Mr. D., whether

on us, we might be taken for the ladies in the wood?

We finished our provisions at breakfast, and

started once more towards home. We

proceeded over a plentiful and indeed mountainous

track of country, lamenting very much the absence
of our bread and tea, which at that time would have been most acceptable to us. We travelled late in the afternoon through ravins, over high rocky ranges, then descending into plains or valles of long grass above our knees; sometimes forcing our way through thick bushes, at others crossing wide creeks, that obstructed our passage by means of single trees, accidentally fallen headlong across, and which reminded us in the difficulty of balancing the body over them, of tight rope dancing at a village fair. We were at length nearly worn out before our guides could recognize in the distance their native horses at Clark Stephens'. At length they descried them, when they exaspered and roared, and their joy was exceeding; if you may be assured we were by no means sorry they could not.
"come again". We had yet several heights to ascend, and on found a material difference in traversing one hill from sea to eight hundred feet perpendicular, and walking upon a level turnpike road. On the summit of the last hill we lay down perfectly exhausted, and had there been another, we must have remained in the Bush another night, for we were too weak to ascend it; proceeding through an extensive flat, we arrived at a station, where we had established a dancing party, about a mile and a half distant from our farm and four and a half from the Harbour.

These farmers informed us, that two of the wives of our imported servants had deserted during our absence with two Emancipists: their husbands accompanied by a constable had searched in vain for them, and that in returning home with some militia who assisted in the search, the constable had either accidentally or designedly shot the principal black of...
the tribes about this settlement, and one, whom on our first arrival had been called the king, and presented by Mr. D. with a brass plate, as a badge of honor.

The savages were dreadfully alarmed and expecting vengeance would be taken, requested the terms, but which Mr. Dawson refused, believing that no danger need be anticipated, and fearing these men would make an improper use of such weapons.

Our two Natives stood mute on hearing the catastrophe, their features betrayed an unusual emotion and they said nothing till we had taken our departure for the farm, where, as it was so much nearer than Fort Stephens, we resolved to dine, and send for stores to convey us home in the evening.

We first commenced by mentioning the death of Tom, adding that we liked Jonesy and the black fellow, and that we had sent three men to be hanged for killing little Tommy up the Bay-all. They replied by asking, why the constable killed him, observing that...
he was a bad fellow, that Jones had not suffered him, and begged us to send him off handcuffed with the other white men to prevent his hunting or shooting a black fellow again.

We arrived at the farm but the staunchness of our guides had fled; they sat down by the fireside sad and penitent, expressing no desire to eat, although they had previously wished for their dinner, and seemed deeply to lament the death of their friend.

In a short time two other natives who had been made constables entered with sorrowful countenances; they had come by water with a light load of provisions for the farm which they had often done before, and although unaccompanied by any white man had never betrayed their trust, nor touched an atom of the provisions.

Having condoled with them till our horses arrived we proceeded to the settlement. On our arrival we learned all the particulars of the transaction. A warrant was accordingly issued for the constable to be
brought up the following day handcuffed, and in the custody of two armed soldiers, with wishing to make as much display as possible, to show the natives were intended to protect them. He was accordingly conducted in the morning to our Tent and was committed upon the evidence of his white companion to take his trial for shooting a black man; it is difficult to determine, whether he shot the native intentionally, or in a fit of temporary derangement; from his general appearance previously and the incoherency of his manner after the act, I should conclude the latter. — When he was gone, the few natives who were then left upon the settlement, and who had ranged themselves round the Tent, appeared more cheerful and contented, as they soon recovered their usual life and spirits.

Judging you may be interested in the Narrative, I shall add to you once more on the subject, detailing the effects this melancholy occurrence produced amongst the natives, which will for the present conclude.
my remarks upon them, but should I hereafter learn any thing interesting to an adventurer I shall again introduce the Aborigines to your notice — Interior.

I subscribe myself
Yours sincerely

[Signature]
Port Stephens 1828

When the death of Tony was known, the whole multitude of blacks proceeded to the spot. They tied a handkerchief over the mouth of the deceased, which had been shattered to pieces, and carried him off, supported on the shoulders of two blacks, and followed by a train of mourners crying and howling most pitifully. They were moving on in this way in the most regular manner possible, when the surgeon of the Establishment and Black nephew approached in order to examine the body in the absence of a coroner. The natives have a great objection to expose their dead bodies, and would not at first allow an examination to be made; but after some explanation, they placed the body down; but showed some plaintive expressions, whilst the uncertainty that the wound had occasioned the black's death; they left the procession as quickly as possible, not...
wishing to offend their prejudices upon so critical an occasion.

Before Mr. D. and myself had returned from the Chilkoot expedition, the whole fraternity of Koots had left the settlement excepting our native companions. Upon expressing to them our surprise that their friends should leave their camp, they replied, "Pace dat, it's too far. They return again by and by, they go up the other side--the one side. We have put on Cape Flora, den come back."

The value of these poor natives was never so highly esteemed as when absent: our people could get no water carried from the springs; no fish could be obtained; the provision of last ten for erecting tents was at a stand, and their return to the settlement was hailed as a benefit restored to the establishment at large. One native on this occasion was absent from his office of Kootskeeper at one of the financiers, and who had actually filled the situation...
with the greatest fidelity to his employer. In preventing
the Convicts, who consider themselves to greatly
superior to the Natives, from robbing them,
neighbours, a practice of daily occurrence at their
stations.

Our Storekeeper, Bowell, informed us that
two blacks, named Crosby and Ryall Tom, when
returning from the burial of their friend killed
by the Storehouse with a rapid pace towards Byron's
(Constable) hut, with their bodies painted red;
their frizzled hair hanging about their shoulders in
an abnormal manner, and armed with their clubs
and war spears; Bowell, conjecturing they were going
to be revenged on Byron, hastened after them and
brought them back, but not before they had surrounded
the hut. Intensely, the Constable had, a very short
time before gone out to collect the Prisoners on the
settlement, or his life most probably, would have proved
the forfeit of his conduct the previous day. Bowell
reasoned with them upon what they were about to do, and invited them to his house to take corn meal, tobacco and corn tea, all of which they readily refused, saying, "No, we want neither." They gnashed their teeth, their eyes struck fire, and were, and their appearance altogether in their first feelings, as he describes it, must have been wild and savage in the extreme; they paced backwards and forwards for some time, using violent language and gestures, but at length they yielded to the stockkeeper's solicitations, and upon a full understanding that Byron should be sent off to fast, when we returned, they became more calm, accepted of some flour to make a cake, and sat down quietly for the evening. Boswell very prudently sent them in the boat, early the following morning to the farm, where they met us on our return from the interior, as I related in my last letter.

After a week's absence from the settlement, they returned by means of their canoe from the
opposite side of the Harbour. The Women were 
plucked over the head, face and neck with impunity 
and three nearly related to the deceased, had crossed 
their bodies to the ship's bow, and severely lacerated the 
right thigh; their appearance was frightful, and represented the extreme of wretchedness and despair.

The Mother of Tommy, who was, previously to 
the accident, a fine tall stout Woman, appeared a 
truly forlorn spectacle, apparently carried away by 
weeping for her son; tears bedew'd her whitewashed 
Cheeks, and she seemed incapable for the life of a 
declined Child; she was treated by all with kindness. 
A Blanket was presented her, with plenty to eat and a stock of Tobacco with a Pipe. 

The deceased's Wife, with her little Son 
about the year and a half old are still absent from 
the settlement. The Nations inform us that she will 
return by and bye, but not yet,
mourn. Rungwali, which I believe I informed you some time since, to Tsumebot.

In conclusion to my narratives, I will relate one circumstance illustrative of their fidelity and honesty when entrusted with any thing, they are willing to undertake.

When the battle, caused by the death of Toney had subsided, a young man, one of our boat's crew called Waterbi, proposed to us to go in search of the fellow who had run away with our provisions, whilst travelling in the Bush. He said he would undertake to find the stores, plates he, would we lend him a musket and ammunition. His request was instantly complied with, and he started in company with another black who knew the country, and the quarter in which the runaway usually resided.

At the end of four days, they returned with the Colon's spoons to be, and delivered them safely with the Musket. But where is the Thief, Waterbi?
said one of the party; he must be flogged for stealing from white fellow. White fellow is always punished for huring black fellow. "Back dat he never) come near me KraJa," he replied. "Dat murry farrah (he was afraid). I got musket you know, dat run away 'ote about, and I make it leak (leak), flake behind you know. Never mind, KraJa. I look out. I finds (find) it one day, I catch it." I suspect however our noble friend could have brought the thief with him, had he wished it, but it was more than we could expect, for it might have been inconsistent with their laws and policy, except they had been at variance with his tribe.

One ought never to forget that they are the untutored Children of nature, wild from habit and accustomed only to a certain train of ideas peculiar to themselves. Be bear in mind, that they have not been brought up to labour, and that if too much is expected and exacted, their
friendship may now cease for us, and we may be
wholly deprived of their valuable services.

I have been very minute in my narration
of the natives, wishing to redeem them from the
character which many of my countrymen have given
them of stupidity, and a want of the common feelings
belonging to their species. They may be accused
of possessing a revengeful disposition. They are
of course totally unacquainted with law and justice,
and their only remedy in case of injury, is personally to
resent their grievances. They were naturally
indignant upon hearing the tragical death of one of
their most intimate friends and companions; and in
the heat of fury sought summary justice upon his
destroyer, but being assured that he should be punished
for the offence, they were satisfied, and their
revengeful feeling immediately subsided.

The above circumstances will enable you to
form some opinion of the Aboriginal natives on the
South East Coast of New South Wales: I fear I have been tedious, but trust it you gradually for an excuse.

You will find enclosed a Map of Port Stephens, correctly drawn, which I promised you some time since. Having fulfilled my and given you every information connected with the settlement, which is now perfectly tranquil and on equally as good terms with the Natives as ever, I beg you a temporary farewell, and assure yourself, my dear...

Of the firm attachment

Of yours sincerely