

JOURNAL OF MAJOR * LOCKYER

Commandent
of the

EXPEDITION SENT FROM SYDNEY IN 1826

to

FOUND A SETTLEMENT AT KING GEORGE'S SOUND
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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of

New South Wales

by

Nicholas Lockyer Esq.

1826

November 8th Wednesday : Embarked on board the "Amity" Colonial Brig in command of the expedition for King George's Sound, having Captain Wakefield and a detachment of the 39th Regt. Colonial, Assist. Surgeon Nind, with Mr Amd Lockyer Storekeeper, and twenty four convicts.

Thursday 9th : At four o'clock at daylight the "Fly" got under weight with the "Amity" and "Dragon" Brigs and proceeded down the Harbour. On clearing the Heads Lieut. Festing, RM of HM Brig "Fly" came on board the "Amity". Made little progress this day the wind being against us.

Friday 10th : Wind more favourable and blowing fresh.

Saturday 11th : Blowing fresh. Heavy sea. Wind not so favorable and out of sight of land.

Sunday 12th : Weather the same. The water put on board for our use extremely bad.

Monday 13th : Much the same, with great motion.

Tuesday 14th : Blowing hard. Still unfavorable wind.

Wednesday 15th : Fine weather. No wind. Towards evening a gentle breeze, more favorable and steering for Bass's Straits. Ordered the prisoners to be paraded once a day for inspection during the voyage, and cautioned them to keep their hair cut close and persons clean.

Thursday 16th : Fine weather. Good breeze.

Friday 17th : Same.

Saturday 18th : Same. Capt. Weatherall came on board from the "Fly."

Sunday 19th : Same.

Monday 20th : Being off Port Dalrymple with a foul wind and our water declining and not having three weeks left it was determined by Lieut. Festing and myself to put into Port Dalrymple to get a supply and accordingly anchored there at nine o'clock since which it has blown a dreadful gale of wind all day. Therm. 59 at 5 p.m. Waited on the Senior Officer Capt. D'Arcy. Ordered Mr Hansen to get a supply of fresh beef. Received on board 186lbs. Lieut. Festing and Capt. Wakefield went up the river in the boat and returned next morning bringing 13 kangaroos.

Tuesday 21st : At anchor at Georgetown. Blowing a gale from WNW. Could not yet go to sea. Filling the water.

Wednesday 22nd : The wind in the same quarter but more moderate. All ready to proceed with the first change.

Thursday 23rd : This morning light airs from the NE. Left at daylight and proceeded to sea.

Friday 24th : During the night the wind shifted to the old quarter and blew a hurricane. Continued all day and night.

Saturday 25th : The gale still continuing, the weather very thick and heavy. Lieut Festing considered it very dangerous to beat about amongst the numerous rocks and islands with which the Straits abound, and finding the vessel could not hold her ground, thought it advisable, seeing no chance of a change of wind to run out by Kent Group to the eastward and round Van Dieman's Land to the southward.

Sunday 26th : The gale still continuing violent, one of the sheep - a ewe - died from the weather. At noon began to moderate. Evening fine. Saw the east coast of Van Dieman's Land.

Monday 27th : Weather moderate with a southerly breeze. Going to the southward along the coast. Off Maria Island eight o'clock p.m. A fine ewe broke her shoulder by the roll of the vessel. Obligated to kill her.

Tuesday 28th : Reached Storm Bay. Wind shifted to its old quarter. Towards evening blew tremendous hard in the heavy squalls. Carried away the main boom, stove the bulwarks in and shipped an immense heavy sea which nearly filled the after cabin.

Wednesday 29th : This morning moderate. Lieut. Festing reports the necessity of going to Hobart Town to repair damage received last night, which is unavoidable however much to be regretted the delay it may occasion. Made for Storm Bay.

Thursday 30th : In Storm Bay. Little or no wind to get up the Derwent. In the morning the wind blew fresh. Pilot came on board at 6 p.m. Anchored for the night. Wind against us.

Friday December 1st : Weighed anchor and at two o'clock anchored at Hobart Town. Reported arrival to Colonel Arthur the Lt. Governor, who immediately ordered all our wants to be supplied.

Saturday 2nd : At anchor at Hobart Town, refitting, reported our arrival here to the Governor at Sydney by the ship "Leda" which sails tomorrow morning.

Sunday 3rd : Ship "Leda" sails.

Monday 4th : Getting supplies on board.

Tuesday 5th : Nearly completed the damage as well as supplies.

Wednesday 6th : At twelve o'clock everything being ready and having taken leave of the Lieut. Governor the boats were hoisted in and preparations for departure and four o'clock we left Hobart Town and proceeded to sea.

Thursday 7th : Off South Cape. Weather moderate, though the wind rather light and not very favourable.

Friday 8th : Weather unpleasant with much motion. Wind more favourable.

Saturday 9th : Blowing fresh and unpleasant weather.

Sunday 10th : Same.

Monday 11th : Weather still very boisterous and wind not very favourable.

Tuesday 12th : Pretty much the same.

Wednesday 13th : Blowing very hard. Great deal of water shipped on deck.

Thursday 14th : Still bad weather. Towards evening nearly a calm.

Friday 15th : Wind shifted to the NE during the night, which was most joyfully hailed by everyone. In the afternoon a whale kept playing close to the Brig for several hours. Several shots from a rifle were fired at it without doing it apparently the slightest hurt, though we saw the balls strike. About dusk the wind again falls and we scarcely make a west course from NW during the day.

Saturday 16th : During the night fell calm. The vessel rolled exceedingly. At four in the morning a light breeze and steering NW. At eight wind came contrary. At eleven the course was N by W blowing fresh. Two of the sheep very ill.

Sunday 17th : Blowing fresh. Course N. One of the sheep died and no chance of the other recovering, and fear from the small accommodation for live stock and the bad weather we shall not arrive with many alive. Divine service could not be performed. 6 p.m. wind SW - NW.

Monday 18th : Last evening the wind veered more to SW from W which enabled the vessel to steer NW. Towards morning little wind though still favourable. The sick sheep as was expected, died. Weather fine and a pleasant change from what we have so long experience, which had produced symptoms of dysentery. Course altered to WNN.

Tuesday 19th : The wind had come round during the night to east. Light breeze but delightful weather and from present appearance a likelihood of the wind continuing as it gradually increased towards three p.m. when we were going seven miles an hour.

Wednesday 20th : Blowing fresh. Wind NE going 8 and half an hour. Weather cloudy and thick but going fast we did not mind it being a little unpleasant. Made at twelve o'clock a run of 176 miles. Therm. 62 now. Going eight all afternoon. Another sheep died and was thrown overboard. At 8 p.m. wind shifted and we lay SW and shortly came up to W.

Thursday 21st : Little wind during the night. Made little progress. At 12 a.m. 70 miles. Fine weather. Therm. 63.

Friday 22nd : Snall breeze during the night. Going seven knots direct for K.G. Sound. Fine weather. Therm. 63.

Saturday 23rd : Fine weather. Fair wind. Therm. 64.

Sunday 24th : The wind fair and going about 6. Much motion. Therm. 67.

Monday 25th : During the night the breeze increased rapidly and set us going at 9 p.m. 8 miles. Continued all night and this day and at half past five anchored in Princess Royal Harbour, King George's Sound. Therm. 68. Distance off shore $\frac{1}{2}$ mile. At 12 o'clock noon made Bald Island. Weather very hazy. Well it may be called Bald Island. Not the least sign of verdure on it or vegetation or anything. It is a tolerable size about six or seven miles long and full 250 or 300 feet high. We then saw Cape Many Peak, Mount Gardner, the Islands of the Sound,

and Bald Head. On Michaelmas Island as we passed in, a fire was made as if by some persons who required assistance.

Tuesday 26th : At daylight this morning we went on shore accompanied by Lieut. Festing RN to examine the ground (for) a site for the new settlement. Walked about until nine o'clock and though the situation was very good was quite disappointed. No appearance of the soil being good, the country being stoney and sandy that it would be almost impossible. As far as I could see from the highest hill opposite the anchorage as described by Captain Flinders, the whole country presents a most unfavourable aspect. On landing two natives presented themselves with a little boy. On being called to they approached without the slightest hesitation. One of them solicited to be allowed to go off to the Brig, which I complied with. The other an old man, with the child walked off. Lt. Festing myself and his servant proceeded with us on our excursion. We returned on board at nine o'clock to breakfast and at half past ten we again went on shore, proceeding along the northern shore, crossing the hills to the bay facing the Sound separating Princess Royal and Oyster Harbour, walking nearly half way to the latter, then crossing the country at the head of a fresh waterlake back to the brig, where we arrived at half past four in the afternoon quite disappointed with the miserable appearance of the soil and was much fatigued with my companions. Did not meet any natives. I had settled with Lieut. Festing to send a boat to Michaelmas Island at daylight tomorrow to ascertain what people were on it, as from their keeping a fire at the end opposite to the harbour it was evident they were persons in distress. Therm. at 12 a.m. 68. Wind easterly.

Wednesday 27th : At daylight the boat left as was settled. After breakfast I again proceeded on shore with Lt. Festing. One of the ships boats having suffered damage and required repair, as also some water was wanting to replace what we had left, which was so nauseous that I ordered two bottles of it to be preserved to send back to Sydney. A party of ten prisoners, with an overseer, was ordered on shore to assist in filling the water casks and repairing the boat. Lt. Festing, Capt. Wakefield and Mr Nind being armed with double barrel guns, a musquet was also sent with the party, which from the contiguity of the vessel I should have deemed unnecessary. Lt. Festing in company as above proceeded along the beach. When about two miles, the Dr and Capt. Wakefield being abreast of us on the rising ground, four natives met us, and on calling out to them they came and exchanged the usual salutation of shaking hands. Two of them remained to show us kangaroos, the other two made signification that they would go to the vessel and left us. We, Lt Festing and self, accompanied by these two natives who showed great good nature and tractability, carrying birds, that we shot, going up trees, satisfied us and particularly myself that these people were frindly, and satisfied that we were equally so, I flattered myself that matters would go well as regarded our intercourse with them. Seeing the boat from the island return, I was anxious to know the result and had taken to the shore to return to the watering place to go off. Lt Festing being about half a mile distant on a projecting point. Above him I saw six or seven natives coming towards me. He, Lt. Festing, being between us and the watering place I was under no apprehension of any rapture, the native with me laughing and appearing quite delighted on meeting his friends, who were four of them strangers I had not seen before, very tall men. A conversation ensued and from the looks of the strangers who would not stop, I was apprehensive something was wrong. My friend joined them without saying a word, and pressed on and I proceeded to

where Lt Festing was standing watching the natives as they passed me, and on my joining him I expressed my doubts that these people were meditating mischief. He then told me that the boat had returned and brought back four natives from Michaelmas Island, who had been cruelly left there, no doubt by some villains or others who had visited the Sound.

The natives here have no canoe, consequently could have not got out there of themselves. I regretted these persons had been dismissed without having it made known to them that we were glad to have released them and have made them a present and used such means as would probably have reconciled them to us. However the predominant passion of the savage overcame them - that of revenge for the injuries they had sustained by being left on a desert island where little or no water is to be found and no animals, save seals, for subsistence. I passed with Lt Festing the watering party and we proceeded about 100 and fifty yards further where the boat were repairing and had fired two shots as a signal for a boat from the ship. We were sitting down when one of the prisoners came running up and said the natives were spearing the people at the watering party. On looking round I saw a man standing in the water with three spears sticking in him not sixty yards from us. The wounded man was Dennis Deneen and the spears were taken out by Dr Nind, though I previously had to cut them on his being taken into the boat. The natives after throwing their spears ran off as fast as possible. Dr Nind with great difficulty drew out the spears from the wounded man who bore the operation with great resolution. Though this circumstance is to be much regretted, it will prevent the people attempting to stray from the settlement. As it is not certain these people have received injury from some person, but I can affirm not the slightest from us, being present myself at the whole transaction, I did not see any cause for so treacherous an attack, consequently

we shall now be doubly on our guard and I only regret that circumstances did not present to immediately resent it. Should it again occur it will be met in such a manner as will fully prove to these people that it will be by no means their interest to attack us. Therm. 70.

Thursday 28th : At 6 o'clock this morning I proceeded to Oyster Harbour with Lt Festing to examine its shores and to endeavour if possible to find a more eligible site for the settlement but in vain. On landing on Green Island we discovered the dead body of a native, a raft made fastened together with the rushes or grass made into a rope, from which circumstance I consider it probable he made it for the purpose of leaving the island but could not get it into the water and there perished from want. His head, the skin was quite dried on it. The ribs of the right side appeared broken, his legs the skin was also dried like a parchment. Therefore it is to be feared this unfortunate was the victim of cruelty practised by some sealing gang at Oyster Harbour, and were the same who had probably put on shore the four natives on Michaelmas Island.

Having examined both harbours I am compelled from not being able to find a more eligible situation to fix on the one immediately opposite where the brig is at anchor, and where Captain Flinders had his tents pitched at the watering place when he was here in MM survey vessel the "Investigator". Therm. 72 at noon.

NB: Mr A.Y. Hassell notes this was at the back of the present jail at the foot of Parade Street. For many years a small fresh water stream used to run into the sea rising in a swamp to the west of the present Parade Street Recreation Ground.

Friday 29th : Went on shore accompanied by Lt Festing and Captain Wakefield, and chose the site of the new settlement and commenced pitching the tents. Placed a guard on them. Sent ashore the sheep to graze. Ordered the stores to commence landing tomorrow morning at daylight and the detachment of the 39th Regt. and the convicts to land at 10 o'clock. Therm. at noon 68. Wind light SW.

Saturday 30th : At four o'clock commenced sending stores ashore, landing myself to superintend the disembarkation and arrangements of our encampment. Therm. 67 noon. Wind blowing in squalls from the SW. Accompanied by showers. Parties employed cutting the necessary material for erecting huts and slept on shore.

Sunday 31st : Blew very heavy during the night in squalls. All employed landing baggage and erecting huts. Therm. 66 noon. Wind SW. One of the sheep - a ewe- died.

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Monday January 1st : Every person exerting themselves to get the stores up. The soldiers being under cover, everyone employed as most useful. The weather squally and cold. No appearance of the natives since their attack on the watering party.

Tuesday 2nd : Every one employed as yesterday with the addition of turning up ground for a garden today. The soil appears much better than was at first considered it to be. A deep dark vegetable mould with a mixture of sand about two feet in depth covering a bed of fine white sand. The store hut nearly completed. The weather today has been squally with showers and cold. The wind being from SE to SSE. Whenever it comes from the south it feels sharp, which makes me think that the winter

here is severe. The wounded man reported to be in fair way and doing well though by no means out of danger.

Wednesday 3rd : Wind blew fresh all night from SE accompanied with heavy showers that did not penetrate the roof of the store house which appears perfectly dry and will answer every purpose until a more suitable erection for a store house can be made. Having given every consideration as to the eligibility of the site at present fixed on to commence the establishment, I consider it fully capable of it being found to completely answer as it abounds with excellent fresh water good timber for buildings at a convenient distance plenty of excellent fish to be had with little or no trouble, as also oysters, sand-cockles etc. and wild celery. Cattle will do well and hogs and poultry. Sheep probably may not at first until some better grazing ground is discovered which is a matter of course a back country to be seen that look well.

On the south Princess Royal Harbour from Point Possession at the east to the west side a ridge of hills run along as a boundary or barrier which breaks the violence of the south and south west winds, which slope gradually down to the shores of the Harbour, and though presenting a green appearance with a few stunted gums and honeysuckle trees is a very sterile barren shore with here and there granite blocks and patches of white sand, except one projecting point on the south side in the centre where there is some good wood and no doubt the soil is better, from its providing such sizable timber. The north side running up from the point opposite Point Possession is a slope to a high hill which then slopes off to another about three miles apart. In the centre at the bottom I have fixed on as the site for the settlement. At the top of the slope opens into a large

plain clear of timber, but all round on the rising ground there is no lack of good size timber. A most useful and necessary article required here, a strong timber carriage with draft bullocks. Immense quantities of good stone for building and plenty of shells at hand to make lime. It is to be wondered that a place affording so fine a harbour as this is should so long have remained unnoticed, from its being so short a distance from Cape Lewen it affords great facilities to ships either returning from there to England, Europe, India or China. Should the Government determine on making this a penal settlement or sending prisoners direct from England to this place, a considerable saving would be made in the hiring of transports - at least I should think one third if not more in difference in the chartering vessels to this and Sydney.

The wounded man getting on well. The weather rather unpleasant squally and cold.

Thursday 4th : This day getting stores from the brig and placing them in the store house on shore which was this day finished. The weather squally with showers. Wind SE.

Friday 5th : This morning one of the natives who first made his appearance and went off to the brig, who was also sitting down with Lt Festing and myself when the watering party was attacked came into camp and was brought to my tent. As he evidently was not one of the aggressors I gave him a tomahawk, after explaining the best way I could that I was angry at his people having thrown spears and wounded one of the white men, at which he was much frightened and fearful some retaliation was intended to be done on him. Having satisfied him the contrary, gave him something to eat, and on his making signs that he wished to go, I dismissed him not a little pleased with

his present. Cutting wood and rushes for the pig house and other conveniences. Captain Wakefield with Lt Festing about a mile in rear of the camp killed a kangaroo weighing 75lbs. after the inside had been taken out.

Saturday 6th : Making all possible exertion to cover the people, stock etc. I need not say how irksome it is to hear everyone give an opinion where such a building should be, how it should be done etc. and though it is reasonable to give each a fair consideration, in the end tends much to puzzle him who is to decide how it is to be done and who is in fact responsible for all.

Sunday 7th : Last night blew very hard from the eastward accompanied with heavy rain and hard squalls. Intended to have had prayers, the weather would not admit. Inspected and mustered the prisoners. The bale of slops said to contain 30 suits, deficient of the following articles:

The wind during the night has blown very fresh from eastward and ESE very cold. It is very satisfactory to find every individual in good health as it was reasonable to expect from a very boisterous passage and the vessel being very wet that we should have had some cases of sickness which fortunately has proved otherwise. The wounded is recovering beyond all expectations and the surgeon reports he will be able to move about in a few days and I may calculate on his assistance. He being the blacksmith amongst the prisoners, his being disabled is a serious loss.

There can be no doubt that the four natives we took off Michaelmas Island were the cause of their attacking our people. We certainly had no reason to expect it for having saved their

lives. With them in their minds it was white men who had ill used them and on white men they would seek their revenge. Our friend Jack has not been near us since his visit on Friday, probably from my explaining to him that his countrymen had speared one of our men, at which he was alarmed. We have not seen any others of them since.

Monday 8th : This morning at 5 o'clock recommenced operations. Gave the sawyers their implements that they require for immediate use and the carpenters a portion of such tools as they will want. A party collecting materials for the Military Barracks. Got the pigs on shore in their new dwelling and all in excellent order. Nine sows and a fine boar, one of the former likely to litter in a few days. Observed this morning at 5 p.m. the water on the shores of the harbour to have considerably receded and left the shallow bank quite dry to the edge. The tide here only flows and ebbs once in the twenty four hours, and what is very singular it flows all day and ebbs all night. The wind has blown very fresh all day and from the eastward and North east. A tun of bread landed from the brig marked 198 lbs. was reported by the mate Mr West to have been opened on board in the place allotted to the prisoners on the passage hither. Ordered a board of survey. Found sixty four lbs deficient on its being weighed, and as there cannot be the slightest doubt of the depredators I have ordered that a stoppage shall be made weekly from each until the quantity so taken shall be accounted for.

Tuesday 9th : The sieve was hauled by the people of the brig and a pretty fair quantity of excellent fish taken, consisting of the fish called salmon, whiting, mullet and a variety of others, which all proved good, and there is every probability of always having a plentiful supply of good fish for the use of every one in the settlement. This evening two natives made

their appearance but did not come into camp. Much thunder, lightning and heavy showers during the evening and continued all night. One of the sheep - a ewe - died last night.

Wednesday 10th : This morning at five the weather cleared and became fine. This afternoon a boat was perceived pulling into the harbour. Proved to be a part of the crew of the schooners 'Brisbane' and 'Govr. Hunter', sealers, starving for want of provisions. Ordered them to be supplied. Getting stores landed from the boat.

Thursday 11th : Sent for some of these sealers from the brig and ascertained that some of them had been privy to the murder of the native on Oyster Island on information of Wm. Hook, native of New Zealand.

Found amongst them a Sydney native, Pidgen from the Five Islands. Considering he might prove extremely useful in bringing about a communication and also a reconciliation with the natives, ordered him to be rationed, sent on shore, and placed on the establishment, and to attend on me, having ascertained that he is in no way concerned in this business. Requested Lt Festing will detain them all for the present until Samuel Bailey, who is at Eclipse Island, is apprehended and the others concerned who are daily expected from the eastward to arrive here on the way down to Chatham Island.

This day the whole of the stores were landed from the brig.

Friday January 12th : Sent for Wm. Hook on shore and read his statement which he made to me yesterday, and he again declared the whole to be true in every respect, to which he was sworn

for the knowledge he says he is indebted to Rev. Mr Marsden of Sydney, who has been a great friend of his country men. I wrote a letter to Lt Festing requesting his assistance in the apprehension and securing this Samual Bailey who is now on Eclipse Island.

Had all the stores secured and lodged in the store hut by twelve o'clock this day, after which I made an excursion into the country to look for some fit timber for the sawyers to work on, and found some fit immediate purposes two miles off, and the ground the timber is on excellent soil, in extent from 700 to 1000 acres, which will make an excellent farm for the settlement. Shall immediately see about making a bush road to it as the sawyers must have a guard to protect them at their work. The sheep will also have a good feed there.

(Mr A. Y. Hassell notes the old farm was afterwards taken up by Sir Richard Spencer where he built the present house).

The sieve was hauled this day by the crew of the brig, and a plentiful supply procured for every one, about 500 beside what was kept on board for the sailors.

Saturday 13th : This morning some natives were discovered by Pidgen the Sydney native, on the side of the hill to the eastward of the camp. I sent him to speak to them and they came, at first three, and afterwards two making five. Made them a present of tomahawk and blankets and desired Pidgen to explain to them that a boat had gone out to bring back one of the women that had been taken away and that she would return about sundown, which they perfectly understood and expressed great satisfaction and pointed to the ground making signs that they would sit down and wait. One of the five was our friend Jack who answered to

the native name of Monga, Captain King having given a list of native names in his book. Another man also answered to the name of Monga. About two o'clock three natives made signs that they would go away and return again shortly. In about one hour and half they came back and waited very patiently, keeping their eyes fixed on the Point at the entrance of the Harbour. About five o'clock the boat made her appearance, which they discovered as soon as anyone, and about six o'clock Lt Festing sent the prisoner Samual Bailey with the native women that was with him on Eclipse Island, one of those who had been taken from Oyster Harbour, and a little native girl that was said to be taken off the main land opposite Middle Island. I went down to meet the boat and ordered an escort to march the prisoner up from the beach to where the prisoners were at my tent. On our approach they shouted out and appeared much gratified on recognising their countrywoman who was not at all the better for the treatment she had undergone. Her right arm was much injured by a blow and on meeting her friends she cried much. The little girl on finding she was a stranger to them, one pointed to Pidgen and then to the child, meaning he must take care of her. I ordered a blanket to be given to this poor woman and Mr examined her arm and fresh bandaged it and made signs to the natives to bring her tomorrow and that it would be again dressed. I think I never saw such a miserable an object as this poor woman in shape of a female which probably might be the effect of the treatment she had experienced. One of the natives Monga, either was her father or some relation. After making her a present of a little biscuit and explaining to the natives that the prisoner Bailey was to be kept in confinement and then seeing him handcuffed, it is to be hoped they will be convinced and understand the persons who have acted so outrageously towards them will meet due punishment. After a short time they

left us and went off with the women across the hill towards the Oyster Harbour.

Bailey protests he was not at the murder of the native at Green Island but admits he drew cuts as he terms it, with the others for the woman.

This day an increase of a litter of pigs, eight in number and all alive. A ninth died shortly after birth.

Sunday 14th : At eleven o'clock ordered the prisoners to be assembled for muster and inspection. In general they were very decent and clean.

Ryan, one of the sawyers, a most incorrigible fellow, no doing anything with him except the cat, and having a scourger it is not easily to punish him in this manner. I have therefore ordered his indulgence of tea, sugar and tobacco to be stopped until he mends his manners.

The natives have not visited us today but from the hill was counted 12 smokes of fire about three miles apart forming a complete semi-circle at the back of our encampment, in extent from 25 to 30 miles.

Monday 15th : Party at work at the garden and others collecting wood for additional huts for the officers etc. of the establishment.

The wind has been from the eastward all day blowing very fresh.

Tuesday 16th : People employed as yesterday at the garden and collecting materials for huts and clearing ground for those of the officers.

The stores being landed and having no cause for further detention of the brig than will be necessary to get the necessary information required by the Government regarding the progress made in forming the establishment Lt Festing proposes quitting this for Sydney calling at Western Port in about a week.

The necessity that exists of having an able boats crew here to go off and bring a vessel into the harbour, as well as to visit Oyster Harbour and the Sound occasionally as also to enable the seive to be made use of it would extremely desirable that two free seamen should remain here to be employed in the boat, and also could become acquainted with the harbour and pilot vessels in, and to make known the orders and instructions that it may be necessary to issue on vessels visiting the Sound and these harbours for refreshments, in which Lt Festing agrees with me of the propriety to engage two men who have offered themselves to remain for the usual rations that are given in the Government vessels, and to receive also the same wages that is given to seamen serving on board them. I have therefore consented to employ them until the pleasure of His Excellency the Governor shall be made known respecting them.

It appears a French frigate or ship of war was here in October or November last and left this to proceed to Sydney.

From the lawless manner in which these sealing gang are ranging about requires some immediate measures to control them. From what I have learnt and witnessed they are a complete set of pirates going from Island to Island along the southern coast of New Holland from Rottnest Island to Bass's Strait having their chief resort of den at Kangaroo Island making occasional descents on the Main and carry off by force females and no doubt when resisted carry their point by the superior effect of the

fire arms with which they are armed, besides which each man has a large knife and a steal along by his side. Being left by vessels on these Islands with sometimes a month or two provisions at most, and do not call for them again for eight, ten, fourteen months and sometimes longer. From the nauseous food these people make use of, and the miserable life they lead, it is no wonder that they become actually savages. The great sense of villany where to use the term of one of them, a great number of graves are to be seen and where some desperate characters are many of them runaways from Sydney and Van Dieman's Land.

I should think it would be the means greatly to put a check to these atrocities to farm out the sea fishing on these Islands on this coast, the merchants engaging that they should be answerable that their people should not go on the Main or Middle Island. Quantities of salt is procured in the season. A smart Government vessel of 150 tons, a cutter with eight or ten guns to visit these Islands every now and then would effectually check all these infamous proceedings. Therm. 76.

Wednesday January 17th : Fixed on the spot for the guns and Flag Staff. Not being able to procure a spar that would answer the purpose here, I have taken one from the brig which was purchased at Hobart Town for her use. Therm. at noon 65. Gave two tomahawks and a double blanket.

(Mr A. Y. Hassell notes this on what is now called Residency Point. For many years this was called Point Fredric).

Thursday 18th : Settled with Lt Festing that the brig should leave this on Tuesday next and that as the boat that was expected here has not arrived that for the purpose of securing the persons named as being concerned in the murder of the native on

Green Island which I have heard since was a runaway prisoner from Hobart Town, who actually shot the unfortunate man, and as all these persons, or at least the principal ones are to be met with on Middle Island to the eastward, I have requested Lt Festing to call there and if possible to secure them and take them to Sydney to answer to this offence. The natives begin to visit us again, one yesterday, and one came again today bringing with him two strangers who I have not seen before. Two tomahawks and one blanket. Therm. at noon 74.

Friday 19th : This morning after breakfast.....
Sent to Sydney up to the 21st.

January 22nd Monday : Keeping all hands busily employed in forwarding the necessary erections. Dispatches closed for Sydney and delivered to Lt Festing of HM "Fly" who intends sailing the first change of wind. The natives visit us daily, though their increasing familiarity is attended with no small degree of inconvenience from the disagreeable smell produced by their rubbing their hair with fish and seal oil of a rancid quality, and from their never using water to wash with at their toilette. Therm. 78.

Tuesday 23rd : This morning the wind still being easterly and blowing fresh prevented the brig from going out this day. Therm. 76.

Wednesday 24th : This morning at eight o'clock the "Amity" got under weigh and left the harbour on her return to Sydney. The loss to our society here is very great in the departure of Lt Festing whose gentlemanly pleasant demeanour on all occasions will long be recollected and never forgotten by anyone here, and we trust that the chances of service may bring

us together and speedy voyage to Sydney. The natives soon ascertained that the brig was gone and eight or ten visited us, amongst them three strangers to whom we made present of a tomahawk and blanket to each. Therm. 80 at noon.

Thursday 25th : Getting ground ready for maize for green food for cattle and others employed in felling and bringing material for the buildings. At half past nine o'clock a number of natives were reported to be seen on Mount Melville to the westward, immediately over the settlement and on looking with the glass I saw Woods, one of the invalid overseers with three of the prisoners apparently in an affray. One of the prisoners I saw with a bundle of spears in his hand and some of the natives ran off and three detained by our people who appeared to be compelling them to come down the hill, when they pushed through those they were in contact with and ran off, at the same instant I saw a gun levelled by the other Woods, the invalid overseer and fired. There was immediate alarm and a party sent to endeavour to secure some of the natives, and I repaired to the hill as quick as possible. On my arrival I learnt that thirteen natives were observed by Woods who was with a party cutting wood, to be creeping down the side of the hill with their spears shipped in their throwing sticks, to the spot where the sawyers were at work when he instantly gave the alarm to the other, Woods, who is with the sawyers, at which they instantly threw their spears aside and pretended they were merely looking, and at the same time another was observed carrying a large bundle of spears on his back, therefore there could be little doubt of their intentions and the overseer very properly secured their spears and throwing sticks, and a scuffle took place in which one or two spears were thrown which did no harm,

and the musquet discharged was also without effect, which I regretted, as it may give them a contemptible opinion of our firearms. As their intentions were decidedly mischievous it is a pity one of them was not shot as it would be the probable means of preventing any future attack as also an act of humanity, as on the next occasion it is impossible to foresee how many may forfeit their lives.

(Mr A.Y. Hassell notes the first tents were pitched on the site of the present Parade Street Recreation Ground and the first garden was made where the Bowling Green is and part of the street near it).

Friday 26th : This day at five o'clock went on Mount Melville and examined the bushes on it with Fidgen the Sydney native, and found two more spears and a womera, making in all thirteen spears and six womerars. The native who carried a large bundle was observed to keep a considerable distance in the rear of the attacking party, and on the alarm being given he made off, depositing his store in the bush. Pidgen tracked them upwards of three miles and brought Capt. Wakefield on three of them within 15 yards, who instantly on seeing themselves pursued set up a hideous scream and scampered off. This probably may deter them from making another attack. I was very glad after breakfast to find that it was not a general plan but the act of one tribe who live in the neighbourhood of the lakes to the westward of Mount Melville. At half past nine six natives from Oyster Harbour came in as usual, and on the matter being explained to them they pointed to the lakes and shook their heads and disclaimed all knowledge of the fact. Two old men were of the

party today. One of them was certainly upwards of sixty, I should say nearer seventy. Presents were made to them and they left apparently pleased. As it appears that each tribe acts independent of the others it will require great caution when it is found necessary to punish them for any act of aggression. The building going on. Therm. at noon....

Saturday 27th : Overseer reported the convicts refused to rise at six agreeable to orders. A disposition to disobey and set at defiance all authority on the part of the prisoners having manifested itself on many occasions lately from an idea they could not be punished for want of a scourger. It was reported to me that their beef which was issued to them yesterday for the week ensuing was lying by the scales in the square, having been brought back by them and left there, and which I saw on going to the spot. I instantly ordered that it should be removed by them, when not the slightest inclination or attempt was made to do it, when John Ryan a sawyer was passing and I asked him what the meaning of all this was, when he said that was not their allowance and they would not take it. I then ordered that he would instantly take it up and carry it off, when he replied in a most insolent manner that he would not, nothing should make him. I ordered the guard to turn out and seize him, and he accused one, W.Gee, also a convict with having given short allowance in weight. I was satisfied of the contrary as this man never weighs or serves out any ration from the stores but under the immediate inspection of the storekeeper. As it was now absolutely necessary to make immediate example of this John Ryan I ordered him to be punished on the spot, and after he was tied up I ordered the overseers to inflict the punishment, which they both refused to do, and then a prisoner who said he could not, that I saw not the slightest chance of

enforcing my authority but by the most summary act. I determined to inflict the punishment on him myself rather than submit to allow a ruffian to get the upper hand, and after he had received sixteen lashes he promised to obey and remove the beef, and I then ordered him to be released, and this appeared to have the effect of putting down this spirit.

I made an excursion after this to Seal Island and the Sound. On Seal Island would be an excellent place for solitary confinement if fresh water was to be had on it, as at times it is very difficult landing excepting on calm days or the wind is from the westward. On it were the remains of the habitations of some sealers and probably on it is fresh water though we did not find it. No seal on it, and a few birds are the only present residents of this rock. The natives keep up large smoke in the country round us from Mount Gardner to West Cape Howe, and from the number of fires, if we may be allowed to judge from that, the country must be very numerously peopled. Therm.

Monday 29th : The wind after eight o'clock came from the eastward which was a considerable relief from the suffocating stillness of the morning and was quite refreshing. No visit from the natives who appear now to be quite doubtful of us and of our intention, which time alone can convince them of their mistake. Therm. at noon

Tuesday 30th : Went this morning at five o'clock to look for shells to burn for lime. Returned at half past eight with a boat load. After breakfast sent for another boat load. These with the oyster shells I have collected from what has been taken for eating I calculate that I shall not have short of a hundred bushels. Shell in any quantity can be collected on the south west shore of Princess Royal Harbour. Therm at noon. Sheep died.

Wednesday 31st : Thatching the two officers quarter and burning the lime. Cloudy weather and easterly. The gardens require rain.

Thursday February 1st : People employed as yesterday. Towards evening a little rain.

Friday 2nd : As yesterday. The potatoes first planted are up and only require rain to make them shoot out.

Saturday 3rd : All employed in forwarding the buildings, garden etc. until one o'clock.

Sunday 4th : Went to Oyster Harbour. The land on the north side of the river which runs into the north west side is very good. Plenty of timber fit for any purpose and the soil fit for any cultivation. Six miles byland from the settlement, about seven by water. Bricks can also be made there. Took the seive with me. Caught some excellent mullet at the mouth of Oyster Harbour. Saw a great number of wild duck and a pair of geese on Green Island. The remains of the native that was shot by the sealers was much altered from my first visit. The head with the flesh and skin which was nearly perfect, was now bleached nearly white, though the legs are nearly the same from the thick cover of the skin, and the sinues appear quite dried up.

Monday 5th : Recommenced operations at the settlement in making all able employed variously.

Tuesday 6th : We now begin to think of expecting a vessel from Sydney. Sent the sawyers to the opposite side of the harbour.

Wednesday 7th : Rain much wanted. Everything in the gardens promising well and only require moisture.

Thursday 8th : Visited the sawyers at the wood on the opposite shore. Most excellent clear spring water to be had there. On my return found that two natives had been at the settlement, are the first since the 25 th of last month. Therm. at noon 73. Big Grove and Lime bound Creek. A.Y.H.

Friday 9th : The weather unpleasant, very cold with showers, Therm. at noon 57. Some rain.

Saturday 10th : The weather still unpleasant though the barometer continued rising. Making preparation to make an excursion into the interior. Therm. at noon 74.

Sunday 11th : This morning the wind shifted to east and became pleasant. A vessel reported to be in sight. All in expectation that she must be from Sydney. At last it is reported that she has passed Bald Head and is a schooner, consequently cannot be coming here. Intending to quit this tomorrow morning at daylight.

Servant to Mr Nind complained that he had been ill used and beaten by Smith, Prisoner of the Crown without provocation, and his face bleeding from the blows he had received, and that this Smith had before taken his rations and eaten them whilst employed on his master's duty. The repeated squabbling and bad language used amongst the prisoners called for example. I assembled them and the detachment 39th Regt. and the prisoners having refused to punish the offenders when necessary I considered it important to order the first soldier for duty to do so, when Private Liggins, 39th Regt. though repeatedly ordered by me and exhorted by his captain to obey, peremptorily refused and said he would not - it was not his duty. The next, by name Fernand, did with great reluctance. No alternative was left

but to call to my aid the military to enforce my authority, and though it may be an unpleasant duty to the soldier, the necessity I am satisfied justifies the proceeding. In consequence of his refusal I have ordered him to be kept prisoner until the matter is fully reported to His Excellency the Lt. Governor.

Monday 12th : At 5 o'clock this morning, having left the settlement in charge of Captain Wakefield I proceeded on my excursion, passing the Sound to Oyster Harbour and landed on Green Island to breakfast and to allow the men to catch Mutton birds. Caught as many as they could eat and after breakfast proceeded to the French River, and on going up several reaches for about six miles, a ridge of rocks which lay across prevents boats going further without being hauled over, and then it is only navigable for half a mile, when it meets the fresh water which is a continuation of long still lagoons, the water running out the end of one to the other. From the very level appearance of the country this river might easily be made navigable for boats to a great distance.

(Mr A.Y. Hassel notes this is the Kalgan River, Candeup Hills).

Encamped on the left bank of the river for the night, having previously walked about four miles above the ridge of rocks on the right side. Found excellent timber. The ground varies, some tolerable and would do well for grazing cattle and even sheep in many places, though a great deal of it near the banks is covered with ironstone gravel, which would defy all attempt to plough. But for the purpose of raising grain plenty of good land to be found. The timber chiefly is iron bark and a tree I have not seen before, of the ash kind, but on its branches it had lines like a fir. Fine running streams of excellent

water were met with, and from the very little or no rain we have had since, our arrival, and this being the driest time of the year, is a pretty good proof that there is no scarcity of that most useful article of life. On entering the river three of our acquaintances of the Oyster Bay tribe called to us and we put ashore to them and pointed to them where we were going to prevent them having any suspicion that we intended them harm, showing how many days we should be away, all which they understood, and we parted. Black swans, wild ducks, widgeon, geese, pelicans, curlew, redbills and a variety of water fowl were to be seen on the wing and floating about this river. The scenery at its entrance is beautiful and the ground on its right side the best for commencing a Government farming establishment that I have as yet seen.

Tuesday 13th : Set out at eight o'clock having had breakfast, leaving a soldier and one man in charge of the boat, having her anchored in the middle of the river. Made a course due north through the country which I found chiefly forest of ironbark and the blood tree. A great deal of the surface was covered with ironstone gravel except between the hills where it is boggy or sandy, with running streams of water on every hill. Plenty of feed for cattle. Continued this course until 1 o'clock, when having halted to rest the party. I think we must have walked ten miles. Having rested for about an hour, I set out to return. Made a slight deviation to the east, therefore going nearly parallel to the line we came. Saw nothing new and very few marks of the natives having been lately there, consequently they must be at this season all on the sea shore. From the place we reached had a fine view of the ridge of hills distant about twenty miles due north of us. Having ascertained that walking is not at all difficult through the country, tomorrow I intend

to again set out taking provisions with us. A road would be easily made from the settlement to where I am now, about twenty five miles. Arrived at the boat at five o'clock quite ready for dinner which was soon cooked, and made arrangements for our excursion to the hills, intending to set out the next day.

Wednesday 14th : Early this morning set out with four days provisions, making nearly the same course as yesterday, which we continued to twelve o'clock, when the sky having been overcast, down came the rain in torrents. Having reached a spot in case it continued, to encamp, and a hollow tree to secure our arms from wet, a fire was lighted and some sheets of bark procured. Before, however, they could be of use, we were all wet to the skin. Our hopes of it ceasing were soon abandoned. It came down very heavy, with much thunder and lightning. We were completely caught and obliged to fix ourselves for the night which we did as well as our means would permit. One of the soldiers unfortunately was seized with a violent fit of ague which he informed me he was subject to on getting wet. This was unlucky as it was certain that if it continued or weakened him I could not proceed. The rain poured in torrents until 9 o'clock, when it ceased, to our no small comfort. The next morning, finding that Deane looked very ill from his ague fit, and two other with lame feet, I gave up the idea of proceeding, as the weather threatened more wet.

Thursday 15th : Having decided that it would not be prudent for the reasons stated to attempt to proceed further, we set out after breakfast to return about six o'clock, and reached the boat at half past eleven. Every appearance of more rain. I considered it advisable to keep the men in exercise and to proceed to the settlement where they could get dry, and

assistance to the man should he require it. On entering the harbour observed the "Isabella" schooner, laying at anchor off the settlement, which I reached at six o'clock, having come a distance by march and boat not less than thirty six miles. Received numerous letters from Sydney and learnt that this vessel was going with supplies to Melville Island, and on her return to call here with Mr Tollemache, Storekeeper appointed to succeed my son who is now doing duty as assistant storekeeper, he being appointed to the Ensigncy in the 39th Regt., and received directions from His Excellency the Governor for my return to Sydney by a vessel which is coming here with HM Ship "Success". Learnt that the sealers had been alongside the schooner, and having been informed by some person that a look-out was kept for them they immediately got off, at which I was very vexed as they had the woman in the boat with them that they had taken from Oyster Harbour. Also found that George Thomas Holsen, the two seamen, had returned from Middle Island.

Friday 16th : Received application to order some repairs to be effected for the "Isabella". Making preparations in collecting materials for an additional store to put the cargo of the vessel expected here. Showers this day and rather cold.

Saturday 17th : Getting on as yesterday. "Isabella" departs tomorrow provided she can get out.

Sunday 18th : Wind from eastward blowing fresh prevents the "Isabella" getting further than entrance to the harbour of the Sound. Prayers read this morning.

Monday 19th : This morning the "Isabella" left the harbour, about ten o'clock it came on to blow a gale SW & W which

continued all day. The pilot not returning conclude that the "Isabella" has anchored in the Sound. Sent the boat for shells and the men collecting wood for building the new store hut. Therm. at noon 75.

Tuesday 20th : The schooner at anchor in the Sound. Blowing very hard from the westward. She was obliged to put back. The prisoners employed as yesterday.

Wednesday 21st : The weather very cold and wet which makes it very unpleasant. The prisoners employed variously as most useful. The carpenters and sawyers at their respective callings, the gardiner with two labourers at their garden, two men assisting the sawyers in falling and getting the logs on the pit, four men with Pidgen the Sydney native, bring shells in the boat, others employed cutting wood to make a kiln and others cutting rafters. The natives again are constant visitors but all that we have seen before - no new faces. The schooner still at anchor outside the pilot George Thomas and Hobson with the other seamen still on board her. Therm. at noon 74.

Thursday 22nd : The prisoners employed as yesterday. This afternoon the pilot boat returned from the schooner. From the boisterous weather could not quit before. She starts as soon as the wind will admit. Therm. at noon 75.

Friday 23rd : This morning went across the harbour at five o'clock to look at the sawyers. Find I shall be obliged to remove them to another spot. The breeze having set in easterly the schooner left the Sound for her destination. The prisoners employed as yesterday and the weather became again fine. Therm. at noon 76.

(Mr A.Y. Hassel notes this was somewhere near Little Cover where there used to be some fine timber).

Saturday 24th : This day the prisoners employed as necessary. A sick hut was erected for a soldier of 39th Regt. who had been gradually declining in health, and was always weakly, and from the nature of his disease it was necessary he should be removed from the Barrack.

Sunday 25th : The vessel being daily expected with the stores and not having a place to deposit the same I deemed it advisable not only that the supply should remain separate from what is now in store, but also as a matter of precaution against accident of fire, to keep it apart in another store hut, and ordered the prisoners to be employed on it today to prevent unnecessary delay in discharging the vessel on her arrival. The hut for the sick soldier finished.

Monday 26th : All busily employed on the new store hut which this evening was completed in frame, 35 feet long and 20 feet broad, and only requires thatching to finish it. The sieve was hauled on Saturday last and an immense quantity of excellent fish taken. Therm. at noon.

Tuesday 27th : Getting thatch for the new store and the boat repaired, being very slightly built. Therm. at noon 75.

Wednesday 28th : This morning the sieve was hauled and a good supply of fish taken. The prisoners employed as yesterday. I would recommend to the Government the propriety of establishing two fish days in the week, when the ration of meat should be withheld and on those days in lieu of the meat to issue half pound of flour extra with suet and raisins, which would be fully equal to fresh provisions. Therm. at noon 68.

Thursday 1st March : The wind being easterly we are looking out for His Majesty's Ship "Success" and the vessel with stores, which must be now very near. The prisoners employed as usual. Therm. at noon 75.

Friday 2nd : The weather being very favourable proceeded to the Sound to visit the Breaksea Island which has the appearance of being quite barren - nothing but a bare rock. I was surprised on landing on it to find on the top and north east side a large spot of good soil which would be excellent for a potato crop. Descending on the south side, on a rock lay basing in the sun a dozen seals of the fur kind. I shot three of them and the rest took to the water, where they kept playing about for a considerable time, and the whole might have been shot but could not be got as they would sink. The marks of sealers having been on it, the ground around a cave in a sand rock exhibited the feathers and pinions of the mutton bird as a proof great slaughter must be committed here occasionally.

Saturday 3rd : The prisoners all employed except those in the sick report, which are only one or two and those of no serious complaint. The medical officer reports a want of medicine etc. The sawyers and their assistants not doing their work I have ordered that their indulgences shall be withheld until they are inclined to do so. Therm. at noon

Monday 5th : Went to the opposite shore to remove the sawyers to another wood, where there is sufficient timber to keep them at work for the next year, chiefly blue gum of good quality and size. for any purpose required at the settlement. Several spots on this side fit for cultivation, and a plain of great extent where cattle could graze in perfect security. Good water and

sand stone fit for building. The shoals run so far off renders it less desirable than the other side. Returned to the settlement at 3 o'clock. Therm. at noon

(Mr A.Y. Hassell notes this is somewhere about Burners Creek and Big Grove. There are still traces of the old saw pits).

Tuesday 6th : Sent the boat to the saw pit to bring such plank and stuff over as might be ready. On the return of the boatmen they reported that a vessel or boat was outside. Sent Pidgen to the hill. He returned without seeing anything. The wind being easterly vessels expected are looked for. Strange native came today. Fine man. Therm. at noon

Wednesday 7th : People employed on the various duties of the settlement.

Thursday 8th : As yesterday. This evening Private Banks of His M.'s 39th Regt. departed this life. He had been a long time ill and was a weakly subject on leaving England. This morning five natives of a tribe we have not seen before, came to the settlement - all stout well made men, measured one of them and he was six feet two inches in height. On looking at him I recognised him as one of the four who had been taken off Michaelmas Island, and there is no doubt he must have been one who speared the prisoner Denis Deneen. I immediately pointed to the island and he was quite astonished at being recognised, and though I tried all I could to quiet his fears, he slunk off evidently afraid that it was intended to retaliate on him. Therm. at noon

Friday 9th : The prisoners employed as yesterday. Therm. at noon

Saturday 10th : The weather this morning indicated a very stormy day and about ten o'clock it commenced blowing very hard from ESE with heavy rain, thunder and lightning, and continued without ceasing until about six o'clock, when it broke up and two boats were reported to be just landed, and that it was the sealers. I immediately ordered the guard down and made them prisoners and secured their arms. Seven fowling pieces: -

John Randall's boat

James Kirby

George McGinnis

John Sigsworth

Two women -

Dinah and Sally

James Everett's

James Leaderhall

John Smidmore

Edward Edwards

Black Boy Harry

Native woman Mooney

ordered them to be placed in the store hut with a sentry over them until tomorrow morning. Therm. at noon

Sunday 11th : This morning Private Banks of the 39th Regt. was interred. Sent for the boats crew individually and informed them that they were charged with murder and would be sent to Sydney to answer for the same. They all protested their innocence of the crime except John Smidmore who acknowledged he shot the native but that it was in self-defence as he did it to save the lives of himself and those in the boat with him. That Edward Edwards was knocked down by a stone or stick and was bleeding in the water, to all appearance dead before he fired. They all admitted being at Oyster Harbour at the time and of taking the woman and placing the four natives on Michaelmas Island, with the exception of John Sigsworth who was at Middle Island at this time consequently has nothing to do with the matter. I cautioned them individually against saying anything that might tend to incriminate themselves, and they said they should be glad to have the matter investigated and had come here

for the purpose of giving themselves up, and also stated that they had been left here by their employers in a most shameful manner, having been here eighteen months on the coast with three month's provisions only, with a promise that a vessel would be sent with supplies and to take them off within eight months of the time of their being left, since which no vessel or supplies have ever reached them, and consequently obliged to live upon anything they could get, even a dog. They have with them one hundred fur seal skins and have about seven hundred on an island near Mondrain Island opposite to the mainland by Thistles Cove and Lucky Bay. From these men's account, coast from Middle Island down round Capt Lewen to Rottneest Island off Swan River, there are boat harbours all the way at convenient distances from fifty to seventy miles and some less and many of them a vessel of good size could find shelter in, good anchorage, mostly islands along shore with deep water between them and the main. They described the weather on the coast as fine in general, with variable winds seldom blowing the same way longer than four or five days at any time of the year; that last winter the weather was particularly fine and mild. About twenty five miles to the southward of the Swan River one of the boats entered a bar river and went up about 20 or more miles and at six miles from the entrance it forms a large sheet or lake as large as Princess Royal Harbour in King George's Sound.

(Mr A. Y. Hassel notes this is Mandurah).

On crossing it you again enter the river which runs eastward into the country. The natives on its banks were in great numbers and appeared extremely hostile as they stood on the banks and held their spears in a menacing attitude and were very clamorous, shouting and making a great noise. At Rottneest Island immense numbers of the small kangaroo called wallaby are to be caught. Their skins make excellent fur jackets or rugs.

Observing in one of the boats a new steer oar made of fir and wondering how they could come by such I asked where they had got it and was answered that on the shore they had picked up the spritsail of some ship.

Fish caught today in abundance. The convicts employed as usual.

Tuesday 13th : The vegetables that were sown in the garden make little or no progress, whether the season is unfavourable or the soil too sour before worked must remain for a time to be ascertained. I judge the latter. The stock thrive, particularly the pigs who keep fat and in excellent order by being turned out and never get anything given to them. The sheep have been very unfortunate. Out of ten the ram and three ewes are only left, but those are doing well. The geese, ducks, and fowls impossible to do better, and will increase rapidly.

Employed some of the seamen to make a sail for the Government boat out of the canvas sent for that purpose. Ordered them four pounds of tobacco for their trouble. Therm. at noon

Wednesday 14th : The prisoners employed as usual, except three in the sick report. Lime juice has been recommended by the surgeon to seven of them. Boat load of shells brought and afterwards went across to the sawyers. Therm. at noon

Thursday 15th : Prisoners all employed. The vessel not arriving with the supply of provisions as was expected will, if any accident has happened to her render it necessary to take precautions accordingly as sufficient time has elapsed and more for arriving, allowing she did not leave Sydney until the 20th or 25th January last and the wind has blown from the eastward these several days past. Therm. at noon

Friday 16th : This day went to the French River accompanied by Captain Wakefield, to examine the ground on its banks. Though by no means good it is better than at the settlement and on the arrival of settlements and an increase to the establishment the farming and agricultural concern must be carried on there. Returned about seven o'clock. Therm. at noon (Mr A.Y. Hassell notes this was the Kalgan River).

Saturday 17th : Ordered two days meat in the week to be substituted by an issue of rice in proportion, which will make the meat hold out much longer, as well as being beneficial to the people. This morning to the westward of the settlement on the beach a great number of natives were discovered busily employed spearing fish, and meeting some of the prisoners at work in the wood near there came up to them and offered them their spears in token that they were only fishing and did not intend to molest any person. There were about fifty or sixty in number, besides women and children. The boat being out fishing with the sieve, it soon attracted their notice and thirty of them came to the settlement and assisted hauling the net, and expressed their satisfaction at the quantity of fish taken by our method by shouting making a great noise, which must have made them think but poorly of their means of catching fish. As there was an abundance I took care that they should have a share, for which they appeared much pleased, cooking some on the spot and carrying the rest off to their women and children. Several within the last few days have brought spears and presents to different individuals looking out for the person whom they intend it for. I am in hopes that the good understanding which now subsists will be continued. I have no doubt but am certain that in a short time they could be useful in a variety of ways.

They can handle the spade and dig as well as European and are very strong. For a small inducement such as a little flour, meat or fish to be given them they might be induced to work, collect shells for lime etc. etc. About six o'clock this evening a most tremendous thunder storm came on, with very vivid flashes of lightning, the rain pouring down in torrents which lasted early during the night. Therm. at noon

Sunday 18th : This morning was calm at first, but about eight o'clock a violent storm came on from the southward and blew a perfect hurricane for nearly two hours, and afterwards a gale until four o'clock in the afternoon, when it began to moderate. No going out this day anywhere, it being very cold and wet. Therm. at noon 59.

Monday 19th : Entered the fair copy.

Tuesday 20th : do

Wednesday 21st : do

Thursday 22nd : Wind east and has been in that quarter these some days past, which makes me anxious for the arrival of the supplies. Therm. at noon

Friday 23rd : The vessel not making her appearance, allowing she did not leave Sydney until the first of February, sufficient time has elapsed for her arrival as my communications intimated that she was to leave in a few days after the "Isabella" which latter vessel left this now a month since for Melville Island. It therefore becomes necessary to guard against the probable chances of any accident which may have befallen the vessel with the supplies. I have in consequence ordered all on the stores

to be placed on short allowance from the 25th instant, instead of 1lb of meat to issue half lb until a supply arrives. If she does not turn up by the first of April I shall give her up and adopt every plan against being run short. With management the stores can hold out four months from this present time. A sow littered five pigs. Therm. at noon

Saturday 24th : The sieve was hauled up and as much fish taken as was required. People employed as usual. Therm. at noon

Sunday 25th : Much rain during the night and until 12 o'clock at noon and blowing hard from the SE. Very cold. Therm. at noon 65.

Monday 26th : The weather more moderate, though cloudy and the air from the wind being south very keen. All employed in various ways. The vessel anxiously looked for. Therm. at noon 65.

Tuesday 27th : The convicts employed variously. The garden does not answer our expectations, as everything sown has come up at first well and afterwards dies off. Therm. at noon 57.

Wednesday 28th : Went out to the Sound and landed on the Breaksea Isle. Returned in the afternoon. Limestone on both island as on the mainland, but of that description would require a proper kiln to be built to burn it in. A sow littered 6 pigs. Therm. at noon 72.

Thursday 29th : Prisoners all employed. Numbers of natives are constantly about us, and though we could dispense with their visits I am cautious not to give them any cause for offence as in case of a rupture, from their numbers the stock keepers could not venture out with the pigs and sheep. Therm. at noon 71.

Friday 30th : All the prisoners employed as usual. Fine pleasant weather and all that is wanting here is good vegetables and a little fresh meat for the people. The climate being as good as any in the world. The natives appear quite free from any sort of disease and their skins are perfectly clean without any eruption or blemish, which is very extraordinary from the hard mode in which they live, and constant exposure to the weather. Therm. at noon

