

which was not immediately wanted; and what the *Sirius* could have brought for the consumption of such a number of people, would have been at best but a small relief. Lord Howe's Island has been tried several times; and only a very few turtle procured.

The goodness of the soil in Norfolk Island, and the industry of those employed there, rendered that Island a resource, and the only one that offered, when, from the time which had passed since my letters might be supposed to have been received in England, there was reason to suppose some accident had happened to the store-ships sent out.

I therefore ordered two companies of marines to be ready to embark with a number of convicts by the 5th of March, if no ship arrived before that time; and a proportion of what provisions and stores remained in this settlement, being put on board the *Supply* and *Sirius*, sixty-five officers and men, with five women and children, from the detachment and civil department, one hundred and sixteen male, and seventy-six female convicts, with twenty-seven children, embarked, and sailed the 6th of March.

The advantage I expected by sending away such a number of people, was from the little garden ground they would leave, and which would assist those who remained, and the fish which might be caught in the winter would go the further. At the same time, those sent to Norfolk Island would have resources in the greatest abundance of vegetables raised there, and in fish and birds, which this settlement could not afford them; and it was my intention to have sent more convicts to that island, if there had not been this necessity.

The provisions sent, with what was on the island, and the wheat and Indian corn raised there, more than would be necessary for seed, was calculated to last full as long as the provisions in this place; and at Norfolk Island, from the richness of the soil, a man may supply himself with little assistance from the store; after the timber is cleared away.

As I wished to send an officer to England, who could give such information as cannot be conveyed by letters, and the detachment was now divided, I replaced the officer who was superintendent and commandant at Norfolk Island, by Major Ross. The officer I have recalled having been there two years on the island, is very capable of pointing out the advantages which may be expected from it; and I think it promises to answer very fully the end proposed by making the settlement. It will be a place of security for the con-

victs, where they will soon support themselves, and where they may be advantageously employed in cultivating the *flax* plant.

Extract from instructions given by Governor Phillips to the Lieutenant Governor, during his command at Norfolk Island, dated March 2, 1790.

'You will cause the convicts to be employed in the cultivation of the land, in such manner as shall appear to you the best calculated to render that settlement independent, as far as respects the necessaries of life, paying such attention to the cultivation of the *flax* plant, as your situation will admit of, and which is to be the principal object, when the necessaries of life are secured to the settlers.

As, from the great increase of corn, and other vegetable food, which may be expected from a common industry, and in so fertile a soil, after a certain quantity of ground is cleared and in cultivation, as well as from the natural increase of swine and other animals, it cannot be expedient that all the convicts should be employed in attending only to the object of provisions; you are to cause the greatest possible number of these people to be employed in cultivating and dressing the *flax* plant, as a means of acquiring clothing for themselves, and other persons, who may become settlers, as well as for a variety of maritime purposes, and for which its superior excellence renders it a desirable object in Europe.

You will, at every opportunity, transmit to me all such remarks, or observations, as you may make, respecting the nature of the soil on the island; and point out such means as may appear to you the most likely to answer the views of government, in the cultivation of the *flax* plant, and in rendering that island independent of the necessaries of life, and for the order and government of the settlers thereon, that such information may from me be transmitted to his Majesty's ministers.'

Copy of a paper delivered by Lieutenant-Governor King, dated the 10th of January, 1790, containing a description of Norfolk Island.

'Norfolk Island is situated in the latitude of 29 degrees, 0 min. south; and in the longitude of 168 degrees, 0 min. east. Its form is nearly oblong, and contains from twelve to fourteen thousand acres.

The face of the country is hilly, and some of the vallies are tolerably large for the size of the island; many of the hills are very steep, and some few so very perpendicular.