

gallon jug, in a hackney coach, in order to fill it with the precious liquor, as a sauce for his future Attic entertainments

in Soho square: but unfortunately no pickle was found.

AN ACCOUNT of the STATE and PROSPECTS of the COLONIES in NEW SOUTH WALES and NORFOLK ISLAND, at the Commencement of the Year 1790.

*[In Extracts from Letters from Gov. Phillip to Lord Sydney, laid before the House of Commons.]*

NUMBER I.

Sydney Cove, Feb. 12, 1790.

WHEN the Supply left Norfolk Island, the people were all very healthy, and they had vegetables in the greatest abundance. They get fish, when the weather permits the boat to go without the reef, and, at times, in such quantities, that fish is served out to the people in lieu of salt provisions. They make their lines from the flax plant; but, unfortunately, we have not any person who understands how to dress it.

Half a pod of cotton being found, on the island (supposed to be brought there by a bird) and a cocoa nut which was perfectly found, and appeared to have been a short time in the water, being thrown upon the beach, have given some reason to suppose that both these articles will be found in some island at no great distance.

Lord Howe Island has been examined; but no fresh water, or good anchorage, being found, it can be of no other advantage to this settlement, than occasionally supplying a few turtle.

I had the honour of informing your Lordship, that a settlement was intended at a place I named Rose Hill. At the head of this harbour there is a creek, which, at half flood, has water for large boats to go three miles up; and one mile higher the water is fresh, and the soil is good. A very industrious man whom I brought from England, is employed there at present, and has under his direction one hundred convicts, who are employed in clearing and cultivating the ground. A barn, granary, and other necessary buildings, are erected; and twenty seven acres in corn promise a good crop. The soil is good; and the country for twenty miles to the westward, as far as I have examined it, lies well for cultivation: but then the labour of clearing the ground is very great; and I have seen none that can be cultivated without cutting down the timber, except some few particular spots, which, from their situation (lying at a

distance from either of the harbours) can be no advantage to us at present: and I presume the meadows mentioned in Capt. Cook's Voyage, were seen from the high grounds about Botany-Bay, and from whence they appear well to the eye, but, when examined, are found to be marshes, the draining of which would be waste of time, and not to be attempted by the first settlers.

The captain's guard's, which, until lately did duty at Rose Hill, is now reduced to a lieutenant and twelve privates, and intended merely as a guard to the store which contains the provisions, and which is the redoubt; for I am now sensible there is nothing to be apprehended from the natives; and the little attendance which had been desired of the officers, more than what was immediately garrison duty, when at Rose Hill, is now no longer required.

At Sydney Cove all the officers are in good huts, and the men in Barracks: and, although many unforeseen difficulties have been met with, I believe there is not an individual, from the governor to the private soldier, whose situation is not more eligible at this time, than he had any reason to expect it could be in the course of the three years station; and it is the same with the convicts; and those who have been any ways industrious, have vegetables in plenty. The buildings now carrying on are of brick and stone. The house intended for myself was to consist of only three rooms; but, having a good foundation, has been enlarged, contains six rooms, and is so well built, that I presume it will stand for a great number of years.

The stores have been lately overrun with rats: and they are equally numerous in the gardens, where they do considerable damage: and as the loss in the stores could only be known by removing all the provisions, that was ordered to be done; and many casks of flour and rice were found to be damaged, or totally destroyed. The loss, in those two articles, by the rats,