

A further interesting item in the Banks papers is a letter from Banks, dated 22 July 1793, to Mr Nicholl who published Watkin Tench's books, criticising those publications, saying that he

. . . misrepresented the circumstances in which the new colony at Port Jackson then was and it was for that reason that I was sorry that you are the Publisher of his present work lest the representations contained in it should be in direct opposition to those of Governor Philip on whom the Government place a full reliance and whose perfect veracity I never had the smallest opportunity of calling in question. . . .

The next group of items can best be thought of as travellers' tales and first impressions of Australia. The problems faced in the early years of settlement in New South Wales are eloquently outlined by Richard Burke in a letter to the Hon. George Byng in 1835. He says

. . . Here we are thank god *very prosperous*. The wools of this fine country and the kindness of the whales in furnishing a large quantity of oil at no great distance to our Coasts have raised the condition of the Farmer and Merchant in a degree which I believe no new country ever before witnessed. . . . We want more many more mechanics and labourers to assist in the many works both public and private which the general opulence of the Colony demands, . . . I have not given the forgoing detail to induce you to weild the trowel or hammer—but if you want 10 per cent for your money you may offer it here at present on indubitable security.

A letter from an unknown writer received by J. G. Grieve in 1841 a detailed description of Adelaide and its aboriginal inhabitants:

The Australian natives are a miserable set. They have no huts but live entirely in the open air. Most of them go about naked. In colour they are entirely black. The young children are all grown over with hair. . . .

. . . they are exceedingly indolent with the exception of occasionally felling a tree, they will do no work, in the neighbourhood of Adelaide they are harmless but in the interior they are beginning to be troublesome. Both males and females are horrid gluttons. If they see a dog picking a bone they will chase him until he drops the bone, they will instantly take it up, pick all the flesh and break the bone for the marrow I have seen the young ladies frequently do this.

The writer also describes the physical features of the countryside and the town itself: