gate and an armed tender, and having on board 565 male and 192 female convicts, with 200 troops, and several of their wives and children, set sail from Portsmouth in May ; and after a voyage of eight months, in the course of which they touched at Teneriffe, Rio Janeiro, and the Cape of Good Hope, where they spent a month, they arrived at their destination on the 18th, 19th, and 20th of January 1788. Captain Arthur Philip of the royal navy was appointed the first governor of the colony. Botany Bay, where it was pro­posed to fix the settlement, was found ill adapted for that pur­pose, being exposed to the fury of the east winds, which roll a tremendous sea on the beach. In seeking for a more eli­gible situation, Captain Philip entered the inlet to which Cook had given the name of Port Jackson, which he found one of the most capacious and safe harbours in the world, navigable for vessels of any burden fifteen miles from its en­trance, indented with numerous coves, sheltered from every wind, and possessing the finest anchorage. Within this harbour, on the shores of Sydney Cove, thinly wooded, and the haunt of the kangaroo, but now marked out as the ca­pital of the future empire, the British ensign was hoisted on the 26th of January 1788. They immediately proceed­ed to clear the ground, to land the live stock and the stores, and to establish the colony, amounting to 1030 souls. In its early progress the settlers encountered numerous obstacles, which it required extraordinary courage, and perseverance, and untiring industry to overcome. These arose from va­rious causes, from the extremely sterile soil around Sydney Cove, from which no industry could extract a sufficient supply of grain for the wants of the people ; from the profligate habits of the convicts, which occasioned continual disorders among themselves ; from their outrages on the natives, and the retaliation which these produced. It was some years before an adequate supply of provisions for the maintenance of the colony could be derived from the un­grateful soil. The settlers consequently depended on fo­reign supplies, which did not arrive, and they experienced the severest privations. The loss of the store-ship the Guardian, under the command of Captain Riou, when pro­ceeding to their relief with a large supply of provisions and stores, was a severe blow to the prosperity of the colony ; and the general distress was greatly aggravated by the unseason­able arrival of a convict ship with 222 female convicts on board, thus increasing the number of consumers without any addition to the stock of provisions. The consequence was a severe scarcity, during which the weekly rations were, in April 1790, two and a half pounds of flour, two pounds of rice, and two pounds of pork ; the governor sharing equally with others in the common calamity. Even this allowance, barely sufficient for the wants of nature, could not have been afforded if the governor had not sent off upwards of 200 convicts and troops to Norfolk Island, which is about twenty- one miles in circumference, with a fertile soil. Here the set­tlers, with even smaller allowance than at Sydney, would pro­bably have perished, but for an unlooked-for supply from a flight of aquatic birds alighting on the island to lay their eggs. Owing to the length of their pinions, they take wing with difficulty ; and they were so numerous that from 2000 to 3000 were taken every night, besides an incalcul­able quantity of eggs, which was a seasonable supply, and saved the lives of this detachment from the main body. Every effort was made to obtain supplies from China, India, and the Cape of Good Hope. There were not at one pe­riod four months’ provisions in the store on the most re­duced scale, and several pcrsons had already perished. Shortly after, three other vessels arrived with convicts, a large number of whom perished of the scurvy during the voyage. For about three years the settlers were in danger of starvation, and it was not till June 1790 that relief was afforded, by the arrival of three transports from the Cape ; and in the follow­ing year a ship of war arrived at Sydney, conveying ten ves­sels, with 1695 male and 68 female convicts, after losing 198 on the passage. The arrival of this fleet changed the as­pect of affairs, and gave the necessary stimulus to the in­dustry of this rising community. Amid the difficulties with which the colony had to struggle, its improvement was not altogether neglected. Cultivation was begun, farms were established at Rose Hill (Paramatta), at other places two towns were commenced, and a few convicts were emanci­pated, and obtained grants of land as settlers.

Governor Philip embarked for England in December 1792, when Lieutenant-governor Grose succeeded to the government. He was succeeded, on the 15th December 1794, by Captain Paterson ; and on the 7th September 1795 Governor Hunter arrived, and immediately entered on his important office. From the year 1792 the improve­ment of the colony was decisive and rapid. It was in 1789 that the first harvest was reaped at Paramatta ; and in 1793 the settlers were enabled to sell corn to the public stores, which was purchased at a given price. Trade began to make its appearance ; passage-boats were established between the towns of Sydney and Paramatta, and the settlers visibly increased. The bulls and cows that had been originally- brought to the new settlement had, by the carelessness of the keeper, been suffered to stray into the woods, and every subsequent search had proved ineffectual, when a fine and numerous herd of wild cattle was at length dis­covered in the interior of the country, evidently the pro­geny of the animals which had been so long lost to the settlers. At the close of the year 1795, the public and private stock of the colony consisted of 57 horses, 227 head of cattle, 1531 sheep, 1427 goats, 1869 hogs, be­sides a numerous breed of poultry. The total quantity of land in cultivation amounted to 5419 acres. At this period the storehouses were so completely exhausted that, on the arrival of Governor Hunter, there were no salt pro­visions in store ; and the settlement was, as before, reduced to rations. The colony was in danger of falling back; and it was only the speedy arrival of a store-snip at this critical and distressing moment that saved it from destruction in the eighth year of its establishment.@@1 At the commence­ment of the year 1800, the inhabitants had increased to 6000. The stock consisted of 203 horses and mares, 1044 cattle, 1024 sheep, 2182 goats, and 4017 hogs. The quan­tity of land sown with wheat was 4665 acres, with Indian corn 2930 acres, and with barley 82 acres.

Governor Hunter quitted the colony in the year 1800, and was succeeded by Captain King, who had effected the settlement on Norfolk Island. His administration lasted six years, and was distinguished by what is termed the “ Irish rebellion,” which broke out about the year 1804. Several hundred convicts attached to the government esta­blishment at Castlehill, about twenty miles from Sydney, struck work and demanded their liberty ; having armed themselves with pikes, they prepared for resistance. They were however overthrown after a brief contest by the troops at Vinegar Hill, a few miles from Paramatta, on the Hawkes­bury road ; a few were shot by the troops; the leaders were apprehended ; three of them were led to instant death ; two others were executed the following day at Sydney, three others at Castlehill, and the remainder returned quietly to their labour. There is no other instance of any insurrec­tion in the colony by the convict population.

A printing-press bad been established in the colony about the year 1795, by Governor Hunter, and in March 1803 the Sydney Gazette was published by authority. In 1800

@@@1 Mann's Present Picture of New South Wales, p. 6.