

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF HUNTER'S RIVER

Exerpts from *Historical Records of New South Wales. Vol. IV. Hunter and King. 1800, 1801, 1802. Edited by F.M. Bladen. Sydney: Charles Potter, 1896.*

(pps. 620-621)

GOVERNOR KING TO THE DUKE OF PORTLAND

Sydney, New South Wales,

14th November, 1801

My Lord,

By the Albion, whaler, I had the honor of addressing your Grace. Duplicates will be sent by the first direct conveyance, which will be by a whaler that sails about next March.

Since my last I have formed a small settlement at the Coal Harbour, where coals are obtained in the greatest abundance without sinking a pit. This settlement consists at present of a magistrate, corporal, and five privates, with sixteen convicts, who are employed getting coals for such Government vessels as are sent for them. The Cornwallis and Hunter have each taken 100 tons to Bengal, and a brig belonging to an individual is loaded with 100 tons, bound to the Cape of Good Hope. A great quantity of excellent fustick has been found in Hunter's River, and I have no doubt of that settlement being of great use to this colony. The engineer and surveyor [Messrs. Barrallier and Grimes] are now there, compleating the survey of that harbour, Hunter's River, and the interior. Coals being now used for all public purposes greatly assists the public labour. Any quantities might be sent to the Cape, but as the Porpoise has been, and will be, more advantageously employed, I have no vessel to send there belonging to the Crown.....

I have, &c.,

PHILIP GIDLEY KING