

tember, 1787, he was made Lieutenant in the 73rd Foot. In June, 1789, he was chosen a lieutenant to recruit and command the New South Wales corps, which was called the "condemned regiment," as it was transported to Botany Bay to protect the settlement there. On 5th June, 1789, he was appointed a captain of the corps, and having become a benedict, he brought his wife to the colony in October, 1791. He was introduced to this enterprise by Sir Joseph Banks, to whom he dedicated his famous work on *Casuarina*. He was stationed at Norfolk Island until 1793. Early in that year he explored the Hawkesbury, and ascending the rapids in small boats, he discovered the Grose River. The expedition lasted 10 days, and during its continuance he discovered many new plants. On 8th December, 1794, by the departure of Acting-Governor Grose, he succeeded to the command of the corps and the administration of the government. In February, 1795, he caused Surveyor Grimes to survey Fort Stephens, and would have had the north coast thoroughly surveyed if his rule had not ended on 16th September, 1795, by the arrival of Governor Hunter. Hereafter it will be seen that he was always alive to the rising interests of Newcastle and the colony.

#### PIRATE POINT PIRATES AND THE NATIVES.

Although the elements of romance enter somewhat largely into the early history of Newcastle, the episode of the piratical seizure of the Norfolk may be designated a romance, as it is full of trials and hardships of a most pathetic character. Having detailed at considerable length the early events that characterised the early march of the district, which by far form the most interesting era of its history, the writer desires to record some strange events attached to Pirate Point and the islands of the harbour. Speaking of the vicinity of the islands opposite to Stockton, Lieut. Grant writes: "Nearly abreast of the vessel (*Lady Nelson*) was a creek (presumably Throsby Creek) which Colonel Paterson and I penetrated for a considerable way

into. On its banks we found part of a net made of string grass, apparently the work of an European. We likewise found marks of fires lighted there, and in the stream the remains of a weir, the work of the native inhabitants, this being one of their principal devices for taking fish. We concluded the net belonged to the unfortunate men who ran away with the Norfolk sloop. It therefore became necessary to caution our outposts against a surprise either from them or from the New Hollanders." It will be remembered that in November, 1800, the Government sloop *Norfolk*, of 25 tons, was piratically seized by 13 convicts with the intention of proceeding to some Dutch settlement among the Moluccas, and that from the want of ability to navigate her they ran her ashore somewhere near Pirate Point, saving their lives with difficulty. Subsequently these desperadoes seized a small vessel (belonging to a Sydney trader) lying in the Coal River, and an armed boat sent after them recaptured the boat with nine of the pirates in it. Two of the pirates were executed at Sydney, and the other seven were transported to Norfolk Island. The whereabouts of the six pirates at large was unknown, until early in 1801, when it was discovered they were wandering about the neighbourhood of the river. It was believed that at least three of the survivors of the piratical crew were associated with the natives of the river, and this intelligence was made known to the party by some of the natives who frequented Sydney. In one part of his diary, Lieutenant Grant writes:—"Our several works went on vigorously, and now (June 18th) it was that a party was sent to work on Ash Island in felling and sawing that timber. These took with them a week's provisions, with arms and ammunition. Their orders were to be on the watch against any surprise either from the Norfolk crew or the natives, and in their intercourse with the latter to conduct themselves with prudence and moderation, and by no means to provoke an attack from them." During the first week the surveyors were in the harbour several

parties of natives and their fires were seen on the side of the harbour opposite Ash Island, but as soon as a boat approached them they disappeared. Colonel Paterson writes: "I saw some natives at a distance but could not get near them, nor have we yet had any connection with the inhabitants of this neighbourhood." Later on he wrote about a bush native being brought from the woods to the vessel, and adds:—"Where they found this native, Whittaker the soldier observed a person about 50yds off, with a jacket and trousers, which he believed to be a European. There is no doubt of Grace being in this neighbourhood, and from what we could learn (from a native that came on board at the bay I mentioned to the southward of this) he is the only one left of the party. Grace was one of the pirates of the Norfolk, and the native was Budgeroe Dick, of Lake Macquarie, who, with King Bungaree, disappeared into the woods the same day the survey party landed at Newcastle.

#### HARBORING ADVENTURES OF THE NORFOLK PIRATES.

As pleasure and instruction is afforded in the perusal of the scenes and actors in the eventual seizure of the Norfolk, the writer may be pardoned for noticing in detail what the published records have left us so comparatively ignorant of. It appears that Garden Island, Port Jackson, was set apart as a vegetable garden for the use of the *Lady Nelson*, and the shell of a hut thereon was placed in charge of Dr. Brandt, an eminent naturalist, who lived in it with a dog and a baboon. The doctor was frequently robbed by the convicts, who paid the island a visit on marauding expeditions. At last the doctor's boat was stolen, and Lieutenant Grant, with two soldiers and some natives, proceeded overland to Broken Bay, while Ensign Barrallier and the mate of the vessel volunteered going in the boat along the coast to try and find the missing boat. The path the lieutenant took was intricate but romantic. They halted near a gable-gunnie or native house of the rock, where they saw two kraddies or doctors treat their native guides who were sick.

Amount

For a little bread the natives exchanged fish. A little further on they found two huts built from the timber of a wrecked vessel stranded on the shore. One hut contained three men and four women, while in the other was a man and his wife. The native gave the explorers some fine schnapper and salmon they had caught. As it was raining hard a camp was formed. The natives wondered much at the tinkling of the lieutenant's watch, which they mimicked when they held it to their ears. They all went to sleep, but during the night one of the natives woke up one of the soldiers and asked him to go with him for some water, saying, "You know me murrey-jarrin," that is, much afraid. When asked what he was afraid of the native said "of the bogie," the term for the evil spirit, or devil, which showed that superstition is very predominant with the northern blacks. Water was then brought in a vessel shaped like a canoe (called a bang-alle) made of bark. Next day their hospitable friends took them to Narrowbine Lagoon, where they saw one of the Norfolk pirates trying to cross towards Sydney. When asked where he was going, he said kangarooing, as he was half starved. The explorers, carrying their clothes on their head, waded across the lagoon to the poor creature who gave himself up without condition, confessing he was one of the pirates. He presented a most pitiable sight, being literally almost a skeleton from starvation, and could never have reached Sydney alive. When told that some of his comrades had been executed, he burst into tears, and said he was sure nothing could save him. He had a wound on his leg, which he got from a stingray while attempting to take it, when the fish threw out its sting (which was 8 or 9 inches long, and indented like a saw), thrusting it through the calf of his leg. The fatigue of walking and the scratches of the bushes had inflamed it to a great degree. His feet were also wounded and ulcerated from rocks and stumps of trees. In short, he was so wretched and helpless that he had by two soldiers to be supported between them to Pitt

Water, where English Cavalier met the party in the boat. Eating bread with avidity and a little spirits soon recruited his strength. Upon being asked where were his comrades, he said that he and two others of his party had left the remainder, five persons, in a bay near Port Stephens, now known as Newcastle harbour. That the pirates had some intentions of forming a settlement at the harbour they were in, in the hope that some passing vessel might rescue them, or something should turn up favourable to them was evident. He gave a harrowing account of the misery and distress he and his comrades had endured from hunger and fatigue. They had all been seriously ill from intermittent fevers, which prevented their gaining much food, and except for the kindness of the natives they would have died.