

Mar. 25/14

31 Active an also furnished with such books as I deemed it prudent to spare them. I have received money for some of the Bibles & so far which I intend to account when the precious charge with which I have been entrusted is out of my hands.

During the former part of the last year there has been a great drought in New South Wales, such as has not been known for several years. Great numbers of Cattle have perished for want of water and pasture. But it has pleased God to bless us lately with plentiful showers, and there is now abundance of grass for the sheep and cattle. Wheat advanced from four shillings and sixpence to fifteen shillings per bushel last year, but notwithstanding this, I have seen very few instances of real poverty since I arrived amongst my own countrymen. Good Mechanics can obtain very great wages. The Colony is in a state of improvement and this would soon be much more apparent if more attention was paid to Agriculture. Buildings are erecting every where. A genteel and spacious Upper School House is erecting at Parramatta which will be three stories in height. The front of the Building including the two wings will measure one hundred and ninety five feet in length. The walls are of good brick work & the Building will contain 60 windows. The Governor, Lieut Governor, & Mr Marsden frequently visit the premises.

People in general trade; the temptations to luxury are almost irresistible. One hundred pounds per cent upon English prices is thought a fair profit, but as soon as an article becomes scarce it advances
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