

to an extraordinary pitch. I have known people to gain three, four and five hundred, and sometimes one thousand pounds per cent upon articles of commerce. Books of every description bear a very high price. Bibles are very dear. Spelling Books, will sell for five shillings each, and a decent prayer Book such as is sold in England for four or five shillings is charged from fifteen shillings to one Guinea. Books of Prayers & Hymns are very much enquired after and wanted & would sell well. Bibles are not so dear, owing I believe to the supplies sent out by the British and Foreign Bible Society; yet even for these people in general wish to pay something.

Great attention is paid to the instruction of the rising generation in some of the schools. The school Houses are generally spacious & in appearance very respectable.

From what I can learn, the quantity of Spirits used in the Colony is not near so great as formerly. The Governor's engagement with the gentlemen who are building the Hospital at Sydney has tended greatly to advance the price of Rum &c. The price for a Bottle of Rum is now ten shillings Sterling.

The Governor has signified his pleasure to give me a grant of four thousand acres of Land, but I have not as yet made application for it; I wish in the first place to visit New Zealand.

On Monday the 20th Day of December last I had the honor to witness the formation of the first Benevolent Society in the Colony under the Patronage of Governor Macquarie. It is instituted for the purpose of affording protection to the Natives of the South Sea Islands, and promoting their civilization.