On Sunday last Lieutenant Kent of His Majesty's ship Buffalo came in over-land from Botany Bay, where he left the Ann cutter, having returned from examining the coast about Shoals Haven, upon which service he was five weeks employed. The weather was so excessively unfavorable, as frequently to render the situation of Lieutenant Kent and his people perilous; which obliged them to land at Jarvis's Bay, from whence Lieutenant Kent went by land to examine the opening and country about Shoals Haven. After walking 18 miles, they were so fortunate as to find a small boat they loft in a gale of wind, hauled up by the natives, and covered with bark, exactly at the place where they wanted to make use of it; they traced the River eighteen miles up, when it became navigable. The banks of this river bear a great resemblance to those of the River Hawkebury, but the portions of ground much less than at the latter place. Unfortunately, the entrance of the river is closed by a bar, on which there is a constant surf.

On Monday arrived the brig Harrington, Captain Campbell, belonging to Muscat, who left the ship, in pursuit of a native ship, having been on the coast of Peru. In the course of her voyage she touched at Otahite, from whence she has brought upwards of Twenty tons of salt pork; and on her way here touched also at Norfolk Island, from whence she brought a part of the Military and Cevives who were to be removed from the island.

The Investigator had arrived at Norfolk Island on the 11th ultimo, after encountering much bad weather, in which she suffered some damage in her masts and yards. Lieutenant Kent had left the island about the 1st instant, and the remainder of these to be removed from thence.

The conjecture stated in the Gazette of the 5th of January last, respecting the ships laid to be taken off King's Island and Kent's Group, is confirmed by their appearance off Norfolk Island on the 7th of November. The appearance of nine large ships standing in regular order for the Island, and some delay occurring from the circumstance of Calente Bay being on the lee side of the Island, where there was no boat to send off, occasioned some doubts respecting what nation the ships were of, or their errand. However, every possible preparation was made by the Commandant, Captain Piper, to defend the island by every means in his power, which became unnecessary, as a boat was sent from the ships, by which Lieutenant LITTLE of the Royal Navy landed, and informed Captain Piper that the ships were the China Fleet, under convoy of L'Athénien, commanded by Captain Fayerman, who had sailed from England in June last, and touched at Rio Janeiro, where they learnt the Calentta had been about a month before their arrival; that they came through Bad Strains, were ordered to touch at Norfolk Island, and proceed to the Philippine Isles.

That the Officers and some of the crew of the L'Athénien were very sickly; but those of the Indiamen were generally healthy;—that notwithstanding they lived much in want of refreshments; Captain Fayerman was determined to proceed on his voyage that evening, the principal object of his voyage being to ascertain whether the Tawton Castle, one of the convoy that parted company from them six weeks before, had made the island.

The Commandant sent a supply of such wood belonging to the Crown, limes, and other necessaries as he could procure on that side of the island, as he supposed would be beneficial.

Three days after the Fleet sailed, the Tawton Castle touched at the Island, and remained two days, having laid in every refreshment the place afforded. Capt. Pierce, informed, that the day after the L'Athénien and her convoy left St. Paul's, Rear Admiral Pellet touched there with a squadron, on his way to India.

The crops of wheat belonging to individuals have turned out very well, and ensured plenty of that grain for the consumption of the inhabitants. The maize, from the prevailing droughts, promises but an indifferent season, which will in a great measure prevent the numerous vine being fattened; it is calculated, however, that upwards of twenty tons of pork will be salted at Norfolk Island from Government's stock, to feed here, exclusive of the quantity necessary to return for the use of the inhabitants.

We are happy to hear that Vaccination has successfully succeeded at the Island.

Mr. Zachariah Clarke, Deputy Commissioner, departed this place on the 5th of December, after a short illness.

By accounts from Otahite we learn, that the island is has continued in peace since the death of Pomari; that Oto's family is still on the decline, having lately lost his uncle Pacini, and other family; that the supply of flour is good, and the Inhabitants of Otaheite are not likely to want for any of the necessaries of life. The island is a belted state, as there seems to be no other means of authority to supply their wants. The king has in building a vessel of about 60 or 70 tons, and has some thoughts of sending her to Port Jackson when finished.

The Experiment touched, and procured sufficient flock for her voyage at a trifling expense. A prisoner found means to get on board her, and was carried out; but his escape was brought against him. Holland, for aiding and assisting therein, he was sentenced to hard labour.

Capt. Campbell touched also at Tonga; but did not hear of any vessels; he lay there four days, and conjectures that he observed a strong inclination for attack from the natives. Two of his Otaheites were invited, or rather decoyed on shore; but Capt. C. had doubts of their designs, he adopted such precautions as appeared necessary to the safety of the ship and crew. The Otaheites, after detention and tribulations, were permitted to return; and as they informed that the chief had that morning arrived, in all probability a plan of treachery on the part of the inhabitants might have been entered upon, had the vessel not left the place.

On Monday arrived His Majesty's armed colonial cutter Integrity from Port Dalrymple, which place the left the 22d ultimo, where every person enjoyed a good state of health.

Much good land for cultivation and pasture had been found between Western Arm and the opening to the westward of Port Dalrymple, was named Supply River, where it is intended to fix the fifth settlers. Several of the inhabitants of the surrounding districts, and abundance of fresh water has been found in different parts of the surrounding country; which confirms the former accounts of the eligibility of that place for a productive settlement, both in cultivation and grazing.

Much exertion had been used in getting comfortable dwellings erected, at the place intended for the principle settlement, which Lieutenant Governor Paterson has named Yorktown. The accommodations at that place were expected to be completed on the course of the present month.

Most kinds of vegetables have come to great perfection; in fact, of that the 1st of February (ten weeks after the landing) the Lieutenant Governor, and those who cultivated small pieces of ground, had peas, French beans, potatoes, turnips, greens, &c., since when vegetables have continued in great abundance; and there is every reason to believe that the cultivation of grain will answer equally well.

A King Lieutenant Symonds, Commander of the Lady Nelson, went in the Integrity while his vessel was under repair, to examine Supply River, to the westward of Port Dalrymple, which has a bar entrance, with only ten feet at low water: it is not safe for a vessel to attempt going in, that draws more than eight feet water; but small vessels may lay in great safety.

A small Bay and Creek were also found, to the southward of Cape Diamanté: This Bay is reported to afford good shelter from s. round to n. w. The entrance into the creek is too narrow a shalow for any vessel to attempt.

On her way from hence the Integrity fell in with a ship at Kent's Group, which proved to be the Ceres, of London, fitted out for the southern fisheries, six months out of the port of London, and having come round the South Cape, Captain John Sharpe, the Commander, reported the likelihood of a rupture, not only with Spain, but also with Portugal, but did not lay upon what principle the conjecture was founded. He had on board 20 ton of salt, for the purpose of curing skins, as those so cured bring a good price on the London market.

She afterwards fell in with the Honduras Packet off Cape Barren, and received from Capt. Buncker the packets he had on board from England.

On Monday arrived the Myrtle, Captain Barber, left from Hobart, at which settlement the Sophia arrived safely the 5th of February.