

As it had been supposed that many of the natives had left this part of the coast on account of the great scarcity of fish, the different parts of the harbour were examined in one day, and the canoes counted; not more than sixty-seven canoes and one hundred and thirty-three people were seen; but it was the season in which they make their new canoes, and large parties were known to be in the woods for that purpose. I went a few days after to examine the coast between this harbour and Botany Bay, in which journey few of the natives were seen; but a young whale being driven on the coast, all we met had large pieces, which appeared to have been lain on the fire until the outside was scorched, in which state they eat it. These people last summer would neither eat shark nor stingray; but the scarcity of fish in the winter, I believe, obliges them to eat anything that affords the smallest nourishment. They have two kinds of root which they chew after roasting; one is the fern-root; they eat together, that is, in families, and seldom broil their fish (the only way they ever dress it) for more than a few minutes. I am sorry to have been so long without knowing more of these people, but I am unwilling to use any force, and hope this summer to persuade a family to live with us, unless they attempt to burn our crops, of which I am apprehensive, for they certainly are not pleased with our remaining amongst them, as they see we deprive them of fish, which is almost their only support; but if they set fire to the corn, necessity will oblige me to drive them to a greater distance, though I can assure your Lordship that I shall never do it but with the greatest reluctance, and from absolute necessity.

1788.
28 Sept.

Observations
on the natives.

As there are paths which are much frequented between this harbour and Broken Bay, I apprehend they frequently change their situation; but have no reason to suppose they go to the northward in the winter, and return in the summer.

The kangaroo is the only animal of any size that we have yet seen, and they are frequently killed; they are of two sorts, one seldom weighing more than sixty pounds; these live chiefly on the high grounds; the hair is of a reddish cast, and the head shorter than the large sort, some of which have been killed that weighed one hundred and fifty pounds; both are of the opossum kind, and the young ones, several of which have been taken, grow very tame in a few days, but none have ever lived more than two or three weeks.

Kangaroos.

I have now given up all hopes of recovering the two bulls and four cows that were lost,* and one sheep only remains of upwards of seventy which I had purchased at the Cape on my own account and on Government's account. It is the rank grass

Live stock.

* Note 51.