

From Governor King to Governor Bligh, originally in  
Chief Secretary's Department, dated 1807.

Information to His Excellency, Mr. Bligh.

Respecting Natives.

You will find the Natives of this as of all other similar Countries, very capricious, and impossible to be fixed to any situation or pursuit, No securing or other means could induce them to attempt cultivation, altho they do not fail to profit of the White ~~of-the~~ White man's labour with great avidity and hitherto with much treachery -

Some few make themselves usefull by rowing Boats, going in colonial vessells, and attaching themselves to Sealing gangs in which they have been much encouraged.

They have yearly plundered the isolated Settler of his all, and attacked the ripening corn of all descriptions, which has occasioned some violent acts on both sides, and I believe that were there a possibility of investigating how these quarrels arose, that much blame would attach to the White Man in the first instance not so much wickedness as from Fear and mistrust, and the Native once roused, looses no opportunity present or distant of avenging himself. Their barbarities has in many instances been very great and apparently unprovoked, but I never can think this has always been the case ----

For the last two years they have been generally in-offensive, owing to the great effect that my sending two of their Numbers to Norfolk Island in 1804 had on them - since when no disturbance has occurred or any theft been committed.

Most of them keep about Broken and Botany Bay making frequent visit in the Summer to fight their Battles which are often sanguinary and cruel to each other -- It would seem almost necessary on human principles to check these acts, but being an interference with their customs and prejudices none has been offered.

Much has been said about the propriety of their being compelled to work as Slaves, but as I have ever considered them the real Proprietors of the Soil, I have never suffered any restraint whatever on these lines, or suffered any injury to be done to their persons or property - and I should apprehend the best mode of punishment that could be inflicted on them would be expatriating them to some of the other settlements where they might be made to labour as in the case of the two sent to Norfolk in 1804.

(Sgd.) Philip Gidley King.

Mr. Gullick, Government Printer, gave this photograph and typescript to the Mitchell Library. The document is in the Chief Secretary's Office. It was found by Mr. Young, officer in charge of records. Mr. Gullick thought he had better take a photograph of it for preservation in the Mitchell Library.