

GOVERNOR MACQUARIE TO EARL BATHURST.

1821.
18 July.

(Despatch marked "No. 17 of 1821," per ship Coromandel.)

Government House, Sydney, New South Wales,

My Lord,

18th July, 1821.

In my dispatch No. 12 of the 21st March, 1821, I did myself the honor to report to Your Lordship the sailing from this Harbor of the Vessels appointed to carry to Port Macquarie an Expedition, consisting of Troops and Convicts, destined to form a New Settlement there under the command of Captn. Fras. Allman of the 48th Regt.

Foundation of
settlement at
Port Macquarie.

No intelligence having been received of the progress of this Expedition for a long period, a very natural alarm was excited for its safety, untill this state of anxious suspense was at length happily relieved by the arrival of a Boat from Port Macquarie bearing dispatches from Captn. Allman.

It then appeared that the Expedition had been much baffled by contrary winds, and did not finally reach its destination untill the 17th and 18th of April, that two of the Vessels had been injured by taking the ground at the entrance, and the third nearly lost in attempting to return.

Proper artificers have been in consequence sent to repair these damages, and two of the Vessels composing the expedition are already returned.

For Your Lordship's further information, I do myself the honor to transmit Copies of all Captn. Allman's dispatches, together with a report from Mr. Oxley, the Surveyor General, who readily volunteered his services for the purpose of Buoying the entrance to Port Macquarie and giving such local directions as will prevent the recurrence of similar disasters.

I have, &c.,

L. MACQUARIE.

[Enclosure No. 1.]

CAPTAIN ALLMAN TO SECRETARY GOULBURN.

Sir,

Port Macquarie, 19th April, 1821.

I beg leave to inform you for the information of His Excellency the Governor that the Detachment under my Command, as well as the Prisoners, arrived here in good health on the Evenings of the 17th and 18th Instant, the Mermaid not having been able to cross the Bar until the Tide after the Prince Regent and Lady Nelson.

Arrival of
expedition at
Port Macquarie.

Our passage was unusually long owing to adverse Winds, having been obliged to put into Port Stephens on the Evening of the 22nd Ulto., where we were detained by North easterly Gales until the 5th Inst.; we arrived off Tacking Point early on the

Voyage from
Port Jackson.

1821.
18 July.

Voyage from
Port Jackson.

Accidents to
cutter Mermaid
and schooner
Prince Regent.

6th, but unfortunately the Sea ran so high on the Bar that it was impossible to attempt going in; and, as it was blowing a heavy Gale of Wind from the South West, we were obliged to run for Shelter to Trial Bay, where we were also detained until the Morning of the 17th.

I am sorry to inform you that the Mermaid and Prince Regent have met with serious accidents; the former got aground in passing the Bar, and remained striking very heavily from one o'Clock in the Afternoon till Eight at Night, with little hopes of saving either the Vessel or People, she being in the midst of breakers; but fortunately at high Water, she floated and came in with the loss of her Rudder and one of her Stern Planks stove in. The Schooner, in coming in the Evening before, struck on a sunken rock at $\frac{1}{2}$ past Seven o'Clock, but soon got off, having unshipped her rudder, the Pintles and Braces having been torn away.

Repairs
to vessels.

I much fear those Vessels will be obliged to await the return of the Lady Nelson with a New Rudder for one, and with Copper work etc., as the Masters have required from the Master attendant of the Dockyard. If it is possible that our means will allow it, the Schooner shall be repaired with as little delay as possible.

Proposed
departure
of brig
Lady Nelson.

I shall not lose a moment in getting the Lady Nelson unloaded and sending her to Sea. I hope at furthest she will sail on the 20th or 21st as her speedy return will be of great consequence.

Stock of
provisions.

Having taken an accurate account of our Bread and Flour, I find, from this day inclusive, our remaining Stock will be out in seventy three days; but we have six Months Beef.

Huts for
soldiers and
convicts.

I have appropriated Two of the Tents for the reception of Provisions and Stores. The Detachment and Prisoners are employed in hutting themselves agreeably to His Excellency the Governor's Orders; and as the Weather is particularly fine, I hope in a day or two to have them well sheltered.

It is with much pleasure I have to report upon the general good Conduct of the Prisoners, and have no doubt, from the cheerful and willing assistance I receive from every one under my Command, but that this infant Settlement will fully answer His Excellency's expectation.

I have, &c.,

F. ALLMAN, Capn. 48th Regt. and Commandant.

[Enclosure No. 2.]

CAPTAIN ALLMAN TO SECRETARY GOULBURN.

Sir,

Port Macquarie, 2nd May, 1821.

Detention
of brig
Lady Nelson.

I have the honor to inform You for the information of His Excellency the Governor that, owing to the extraordinary detention of H.M. Colonial Brig Lady Nelson by Contrary Winds and

the impassable State of the Harbour, which leaves us so very short a Supply of Bread, that I deemed it prudent to send her direct to Sydney.

1821.
18 July.

I trust I shall be justified by His Excellency in not sending her to Newcastle under the above stated peculiar Circumstances.

I take this Opportunity of Stating that, from my experience in attentively viewing the Bar of this Harbour every day since our Arrival, I think a Whale Boat (well Manned) will be absolutely necessary to secure the Safety of Vessels in entering or going Out.

Whaleboat
required for
the port.

I have, &c.,

F. ALLMAN, Capn. 48th Regt. and Commandant.

[Enclosure No. 3.]

CAPTAIN ALLMAN TO SECRETARY GOULBURN.

Sir,

Port Macquarie, 5th May, 1821.

I am sorry to acquaint you, for the information of His Excellency The Governor, that the Lady Nelson, in attempting to go to Sea on the 2d Instant, got on Shore on the South side of the Harbour inside the Bar, and, notwithstanding every possible exertion made to save her (our only Whale Boat having been Swamped in so doing), She got on the Rocks, where she lay until last night. Her Rudder and Stern Post are gone, the Planks of her bottom are in many places Started, and I fear there is but little chance of her being got off, as she fills with Water when the Tide reaches her.

Wreck of brig
Lady Nelson.

Damages
to brig.

Mr. Hansen, the Master, with his Mate and Crew, I have ordered to take a Passage in H.M. Colonial Schooner, Prince Regent, which We have been fortunate enough to render fit for Sea from the wreck of the Brig, all our own means, tho' exerted for the last ten days, not being adequate.

Repairs to
schooner
Prince Regent.

I deem it my Duty further to state for His Excellency's information that the disasters, which have befallen the different vessels, cannot in any way be attributed to the neglect or inattention of the Masters.

Masters not
responsible
for disasters.

To Mr. Kent of the Schooner, I am personally much indebted for his kind treatment to my Family during a long passage of thirty one Days, and should feel very happy in having him employed between Head Quarters and this Settlement, should it meet with His Excellency The Governor's approbation.

Testimony in
favour of Kent.

We have gone on half Rations of Bread from this Day inclusive.

I have, &c.,

F. ALLMAN, Capn. 48th Regt. and Commandant.

16th May. P.S.—Every attempt made by the Schooner to put to Sea has hitherto proved unsuccessful, owing to the heavy Swell on the Bar and want of Westerly winds; the period of her

Inability of
schooner to
put to sea.

1821.
18 July.
Boat to be sent
to Sydney.

leaving this being quite uncertain, I have consented to allow Mr. J. Nieves (mate of the Cutter) with Seven Volunteers from the Vessels here to proceed to Sydney in our largest Boat, having first ascertained from the different Masters her being a safe mode of Conveyance.

I have been induced more readily to consent to this measure from the state of our remaining Provisions, the greater part of the Biscuit being damaged.

F. ALLMAN.

[Enclosure No. 4.]

CAPTAIN ALLMAN TO SECRETARY GOULBURN.

Sir, Port Macquarie, 24th May, 1821.

Arrival of
sloop Betsey.

I have the honor to report to you, for the information of His Excellency the Governor, that the Sloop Betsey, sent here by order of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, arrived this day, and will sail for Newcastle to-morrow.

As the Betsey has brought the intelligence of the Boat, which left this on the 16th Instant, having got safe to Port Stephens on Friday last, I have no doubt but you will have received the Letters, I did myself the honor of addressing to you under dates of the nineteenth of April, and second and sixteenth of the present Month, and which detailed every circumstance relative to the settlement up to the latter date, I will not trouble you with a repetition.

Desertion of
a convict.

Nothing particular has occurred since, but the desertion of a Prisoner, named John Baker; he disappeared on the 20th, and has not been heard of.

Detention of
schooner
Prince Regent.

From the present state of the Bar, there being no more than Ten feet at high water, The Schooner is still detained; and it is the opinion of the Masters of the different Vessels here that the Craft, best adapted for this Harbour, should not draw more than six or seven feet Water at most.

Owing to our being so long on half allowance of Biscuit, public work goes on but slowly; but we have no sickness.

I have, &c.,

F. ALLMAN, Capn. 48th Regt. and Commandant.

[Enclosure No. 5.]

CAPTAIN ALLMAN TO SECRETARY GOULBURN.

Sir, Port Macquarie, 29th June, 1821.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the 12th Instant, brought by His Majesty's Colonial Schooner Prince Regent, Mr. Kent, Master.

John Oxley, Esqre., Surveyor General, who arrived in the above vessel, has been since employed in giving such local directions for the Security of Vessels, entering or going Out of the harbour, as will I am confident prevent a recurrence of the very unpleasant accidents that have already taken place.

1821.
18 July.
Shipping
directions by
J. Oxley.

I beg to refer you to this Gentleman for any further intelligence you may require for the information of His Excellency The Governor.

I have, &c.,
F. ALLMAN, Commandant.

[Enclosure No. 6.]

SURVEYOR-GENERAL OXLEY TO SECRETARY GOULBURN.

Sir, Sydney, 18th July, 1821.

In obedience to the commands of His Excellency the Governor to transmit to you a Report of my proceedings during my late visit to Port Macquarie,

I beg leave to inform you that, in compliance with the request of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, I sailed for Port Macquarie in the Prince Regent, Schooner, on the 21st June, and arrived there after a passage of three days. My attention was first directed to the circumstances, which had caused the accidents to the Vessels on their attempting to enter this Port. Those accidents appear to have arisen from an actual ignorance of the Channel, entering at an improper time of the Tide, and, in the case of the Lady Nelson, to a want of sufficient assistance by Boats. The Mermaid and Prince Regent did not sustain the slightest damage, and were got off without any difficulty. The Lady Nelson, from striking on a Rock, was much injured in her Keel, but is now undergoing repair to enable her to return to this Port. No accidents could have happened to the Vessels in entering, had the Commanders been better acquainted with the Channel; but, having experienced very stormy Weather during a passage of 31 days, their anxiety to execute the duty, they were ordered on, induced them to enter under very unfavorable circumstances.

Arrival of
J. Oxley at
Port Macquarie.

Causes of
accidents to
colonial vessels.

Damage to brig
Lady Nelson.

The Bar was repeatedly examined during my stay of Ten days, and never less than 13 feet Water found on it at high Water, the bottom a soft sand. I placed Buoys on those Points necessary to mark the Channel, and established such signals from the shore, as I trust cannot fail to render the access to the port easy and secure for Vessels, drawing not more than Nine feet Water.

Examination
of bar.

Buoying of
channel and
signals for
shipping.

1821.
18 July.

Pilot at
Port Macquarie.

The Mate of the Lady Nelson, at present, sails as Pilot, and has been directed to take all opportunities to render himself Master of the Channel and the set of the Tides. I feel confident that, with proper care and attention to the state of the Winds and Tides, no other difficulty will in future attend the entering this Port than is usually experienced in entering all Bar Harbours on this or any other Coast, with which I am acquainted.

Successful
passages.

The Prince Regent, Schr., Mermaid and Snapper, Cutters, quitted this Port without any difficulty, and arrived on the 4th Inst't after a passage of Three days. I have, &c.,

J. OXLEY, Surveyor-General.