



A COMPLETE ACCOUNT, &c.

CHAPTER I.

A Retrospect of the State of the Colony of Penn-Jackson, on the Date of my former Narrative, in July, 1788.

PREFACE to continuing my further account of the subject, which I am about to treat, such a retrospective of the circumstances and situation of the settlement, at the conclusion of my former Narrative, as shall lay its state before the reader, more accurately, in order to connect the present with the past.

The departure of the first fleet of ships for Europe, on the 14th of July, 1786, has been long impatiently expected; and had filled us with anxiety, to communicate to our friends an account of our situation; describing the progress of improvement, and the probability of success, or failure, in our enterprise. That men will judg very oppositely on so doubtful and precarious an event, will hardly surprise.

1918. Such statistics could contain little besides the straightforward logic, and the enumeration of fundings and disbursements, which former accounts had not fail us to expect. Since our observations, in the preceding volume, the effects of every one had been unceasingly exerted, to depopulate the public states in a state of disorder and insecurity, and to erect habitation for cannibals, we are eager to escape from these, where a hill of caravans, only, surprised us at night the verte brachia of the sun in summer, and the cutting blazes of the south in winter. A chapter packed, in our

First edition. Quarto (275 by 215mm), xvi, folding engraved map, 212pp., nineteenth century half tan calf, maroon cloth, gilt, worn.

**“AT ONCE THE MOST PERCEPTIVE AND THE MOST LITERARY”
(FITZHARDINGE)**

A Complete Account of the Settlement at Port Jackson, in New South Wales, including an Accurate Description of the Situation of the Colony; of the Natives; and of its Natural Productions: Taken on the Spot, by Captain Watkin Tench, of the Marines.

Author

TENCH, Watkin

Publication date

1793.

Publisher

Sold by G Nicol, Pall-Mall; and J. Sewell, Cornhill,

Publication place

London,

Physical description

First edition. Quarto (275 by 215mm), xvi, folding engraved map, 212pp., nineteenth century half tan calf, maroon cloth, gilt, worn.

Dimensions

Notes

In 1786, the young Wtakin Tench (c1758-1833) volunteered for three years' service in the colony of

Botany Bay. In two books, of which this is the second, he described the “voyage to and the early years of the settlement in New South Wales, at once the most perceptive and the most literary of the contemporary accounts. Less detailed than David Collins, less matter of fact than Arthur Phillip or John White, Watkin Tench was the first to mould Australian experience into a work of conscious art. To a sound eighteenth-century style—he had read Voltaire and Gibbon—he added an interest in the novel, the picturesque and the primitive which foreshadows romanticism. His eye ranged over the convicts and the Aboriginals with a mixture of shrewd common sense and sympathetic tolerance, and his reaction to the country itself shows the same qualities. His notes, made while the events were fresh, were no doubt polished at leisure and were then selected and arranged to bring out the main themes, and his writing combines the freshness of immediately recorded experience with more elaborate set pieces and reflections” (Fitzhardinge for ADB online).

Bibliography

Provenance

Price:

Inventory reference: 23352