

at hand; after which, and about ten days before our arrival, she had sailed for the United States.

Our arrival was duly announced by an officer, and through him I was informed that the governor, Sir George Gipps, would be happy to receive me at eleven o'clock. In compliance with this intimation, I had the honour of waiting upon his Excellency at that hour, in company with Captain Hudson, and our consul. I made my apologies for having entered the harbour in so unceremonious a manner, and stated the reasons why I could not tender the customary salutes.

The reception I met with was truly kind: every assistance which lay in his power was cordially offered; and I was assured that I had only to make my wants known to have them supplied. The use of Fort Macquarie was immediately granted me for an observatory, a position which, being within hail of my ship, gave me great facilities for conducting my experiments, and at the same time superintending my other duties.

Fort Macquarie is situated on Bennilong's Point, which forms the eastern side of Sydney Cove; it covers about half an acre of ground, and is twenty feet above high-water mark; it has a few guns mounted, but they are in no condition for service.*

A few days before our arrival, it had been debated in council, whether more effectual means of fortification were not necessary for the harbour. The idea of this being wanted was ridiculed by the majority; but the entrance of our ships by night seems to have changed this opinion. Had war existed, we might, after firing the shipping, and reducing a great part of the town to ashes, have effected a retreat before daybreak, in perfect safety.†

I may in this place acknowledge the open-hearted welcome we met with from all the government officers, military and civil, as well as from the citizens. Our reception was gratifying in the extreme, and cannot be too highly appreciated. The Australian Club‡ was thrown open to us by its committee, and parties, balls, &c., were given in our honour; in short, all our leisure time was fully occupied in the receipt of these hospitable attentions.

The day after we anchored at Sydney, the brig Camden also arrived. By her we learned the melancholy intelligence of the death of the Rev. Mr. Williams, from whom we had parted so short a time before at the Samoan Group. He was then, as will be recollected,

* I understand that since our visit to Sydney, Fort Macquarie has been demolished.

† Since our visit, however, several new fortifications have been erected.

‡ At the Australian Club, I had the pleasure of seeing Count Strezleski, well known in the United States, who was travelling in New South Wales.