

already mentioned had been forgotten, Cook explored the eastern coast, from Cape Home to Cape York, and called its whole extent New South Wales.

Researches were again suspended until after the establishment of the convict colony, and in 1798 Flinders and Bass discovered the straits which bear the name of the latter, which separate Van Diemen's from the main land, and sailed around that island. To the country adjacent to these straits, the name of Bass's Land was given; and in 1803, Grant explored the coast to the west of it. Flinders, who was for several years engaged in making surveys on the eastern coast, also connected the land discovered by Grant, with that of Van Nuyt, and re-examined the latter. It is to Flinders that we owe our most precise knowledge of the general geographical features of the eastern and southern coast of Australia; and since the close of his labours, Captain P. P. King, of H. B. M. Navy, has been engaged, and other officers are now assiduously employed, in surveying the northern coast. The interior, as has been already stated, has been made the subject of numerous exploring tours by the surveyors of the colony, and other persons employed by the British government.

The territory included under the name of New South Wales is the eastern portion of Australia, and extends from the twenty-third to the thirty-eighth degree of south latitude. The power of its governor, however, extends further, and within his jurisdiction are included the whole eastern coast, from Cape York to Wilson's Promontory, or between latitude $10^{\circ} 37'$ and $39^{\circ} 2' S.$; with the country inland as far as the meridian of $129^{\circ} E.$ Moreton Bay on the northern, and Port Philip on the southern coast, with Norfolk Island, and all others between it and the coast, are also placed under his authority.

The epoch whence the history of the colony dates, is the year 1787, when the eastern coast was chosen by the British government as the site of a penal colony. The convicts hold so prominent a part in the events which have occurred since that period, that their history may be almost considered as that of New South Wales.

Botany Bay, in consequence of extravagant ideas formed of its excellence as a harbour, and the fertility of the country around it, was the portion chosen for the settlement. The first gang of convicts sent out was composed of six hundred male and two hundred and fifty female criminals, who were guarded by a body of troops consisting of two hundred officers and soldiers. About forty of the soldiers were married, and had their wives and children with them. The whole were under the direction of Captain Philips, who held the appointment of governor.