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THE

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA

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SEVENTH EDITION

GEORGE ROBERTSON
MELBOURNE, SYDNEY, ADELAIDE, AND BRISBANE
MDCCCLXXXIII

Walker, May, and Co , Printers, 9 Mackillop-street, Melbourne.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

As this little work now passes into a second edition, we take the opportunity of correcting such errors as have been pointed out by others or noticed by ourselves. They are few, and, with one exception, unimportant, involving the change of only a word or two in three or four places. Our thanks are due to Sir Alfred Stephen for his kindness in pointing out the true source of the name Port Jackson, and in privately forwarding various suggestions for our use.

As the incidents related in these pages have in no case been described from personal observation, but have been entirely gathered from the accounts of others, we have thought it only just to acknowledge our indebtedness. We therefore append the names of our authorities for each chapter, and hope that the list may prove of use to teachers and others who may desire more detailed information than our space permitted us to give.

THE AUTHORS.

MELBOURNE, *May*, 1878.

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THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA.

CHAPTER I.

THE EARLY DISCOVERERS.

1. To the people who lived four centuries ago in Europe only a very small portion of the Earth's surface was known. Their geography was confined to the small circle lying immediately around the Mediterranean, and including Europe, the north of Africa, and the west of Asia. Round this again there was a margin, obscurely and imperfectly described in the reports of merchants; but by far the greater part of the world was utterly unknown. It seemed as if great regions of darkness stretched all beyond, and closely hemmed in the little circle of light. In these unknown lands our ancestors loved to picture all that was strange and mysterious. They believed that the man who could penetrate far enough, would find countries where inexhaustible riches were to be gathered without toil from the gem-covered shores, or from the gold-teeming valleys. It is true that marvellous stories were related of the appalling dangers supposed to fill these regions; but, to the more daring and adventurous, such tales of peril only made the stories of boundless wealth and enchanting loveliness seem more fascinating.

Thus, as the art of navigation improved, and long voyages became possible, courageous seamen were tempted

to venture out into the great unknown expanse. Vasco di Gama penetrated far to the south, and rounded the Cape of Good Hope; Columbus carried his trembling sailors over great tracts of unknown ocean, and discovered the two continents of America; Magellan, passing through the straits now called by his name, was the first to enter the Pacific Ocean; and so in the case of a hundred others, courage and skill carried the hardy seaman over many seas and into many lands that had lain unknown for ages.

Australia was the last part of the world to be thus visited and explored. In the year 1600, during the times of Shakespeare, the region to the south of the East Indies was still as little known as ever; the rude maps of those ages had nothing but a great blank where the islands of Australasia ought to be. Most people thought there was nothing but the ocean in that part of the world; and as the voyage was dangerous and very long—requiring several years for its completion—scarcely any one cared to run the risk of exploring it.

2. De Quiros.—There was, however, an enthusiastic seaman who firmly believed that a great continent existed there, and longed to go in search of it. This was De Quiros, a Spaniard, who had already sailed with a famous voyager, and now desired to set out on an expedition of his own. He spent many years in beseeching the King of Spain to furnish him with ships and men with which to seek this southern continent. King Philip for a long time paid little attention to his entreaties, but was at last overcome by his perseverance, and told De Quiros that, though he himself had no money for such purposes, he would order the Governor of Peru to provide the necessary vessels. De Quiros carried the king's instructions to Peru, and two ships were soon prepared and filled with suitable crews. But, after all his labour, he was not appointed to command them. A noble-

man named Torres was placed at the head of the expedition, and De Quiros was made the second in command, to act as pilot or sailing captain. They set sail from Peru, and had a prosperous voyage across the Pacific, discovering many small islands, and being the first Europeans who ever saw or described the Coral Islands of the South Seas. At length (1606), they reached a shore which stretched as far as they could see both north and south, and De Quiros thought he had discovered the Great Southern Continent. He called the place, "Terra Australis del Espiritu Santo," that is, the "Southern Land of the Holy Spirit." It is now known that this was not really a continent, but merely one of the New Hebrides Islands, and more than a thousand miles away from the mainland. De Quiros was unfortunate; for, after an agreement had been made that he should take one of the vessels and Torres the other, so that each might go to make discoveries for himself, the sailors of his ship mutinied and forced him to sail for home again, without examining the shores he had discovered.

3. **Torres.**—The other ship, however, sailed westward, and Torres was able to show that what they had thought to be a continent was only an island. He passed the south-west point of New Guinea, and was the first European to sail through the great straits between Australia and New Guinea, which, long after, were called by his name, "Torres Straits." He saw Cape York rising from the sea in the distance, but thought it only another of the many small islands he had seen, thus narrowly missing the honour of being the first to discover Australia. Poor De Quiros spent the rest of his life in petitioning the King for new ships. He had failed in his first attempt, but was sure that a continent, nevertheless, existed. He sent constant memorials to the Royal Court; but, as Torres asserted that there could not possibly be a continent in that part of the world, the

King refused to grant his request. De Quiros died in poverty and disappointment, but he is to be honoured as the first of the long line of Australian discoverers. In after years, the name he had invented was divided into two parts; the island he had really discovered being called Espiritu Santo, while the continent he thought he had discovered was called Terra Australis. This last name was shortened by another discoverer—Flinders—to the present term Australia.

4. The Duyfhen.—De Quiros and Torres were Spaniards, but at this time the Dutch also displayed much anxiety to reach the great South Continent. From their colony at Java they sent out a small vessel, the *Duyfhen*, or *Dove*, which sailed into the Gulf of Carpentaria, and passed half-way down along its eastern side. Some sailors landed, but so many of them were killed by the natives that the captain was glad to embark again and sail for home, after calling the place of their disaster Cape Keer-weer, or Turnagain. These Dutch sailors were the first Europeans, as far as can now be known, who landed on Australian soil; but as they never published any account of their voyage, it is only by the merest chance that we know anything of it.

5. Other Dutch Discoverers.—During the next twenty years various Dutch vessels, while sailing to the settlements in the East Indies, met with the coast of Australia. In 1616, Dirk Hartog landed on the island in Shark's Bay, which is now called after him. Two years later Captain Zaacherr sailed along the north coast, which he called after one of his vessels, the "Arnheim." Next year (1619), another captain, called Edel, surveyed the western shores, which for a long time bore his name. In 1622 a Dutch ship, the *Leeuwin* or *Lioness*, sailed along the southern coast, and its name was given to the south-west Cape of Australia. In 1627, Peter Nuyts entered the Great Australian Bight; and in 1628 General Carpenter sailed completely round the large Gulf to the north,

which has taken its name from this circumstance. Thus by degrees all the northern and western, together with part of the southern shores, came to be roughly explored, and the Dutch formed the idea of colonizing this continent.

6. **Pelsart.**—Accordingly they prepared a fleet of ten ships, and Captain Pelsart was sent with the expedition in a large war-ship to protect the other vessels. They safely rounded the Cape of Good Hope; but, shortly after, a storm scattered the ships and destroyed most of them. The man-of-war, with Captain Pelsart, was driven to the east, and one night struck on the Houtman's Abrolhos, a group of rocks about thirty miles off the west coast of Australia. The people on board endeavoured to reach some islands they saw not far off, and many succeeded. But the weather was so stormy, that it was nearly a week before they could all leave the wreck, and great numbers were drowned before they could reach the shore. Those who escaped from the sea seemed to be but little less miserable than they had been before, for the islands were quite bare, and afforded them neither shelter nor fresh water. Pelsart, therefore, saw no course open but to take one of their small boats, and in it try to reach the Dutch settlements, two thousand miles away, in order to obtain a vessel for the rescue of his people. During his absence of several months, those who were on the islands made rafts, and, by frequent trips to the wreck, succeeded in procuring the necessaries of life, whilst they waited for the coming aid; but about sixty of the sailors formed a conspiracy to seize the ship as soon as the captain should return, murder him and his crew, and sail away in order to become pirates. As a beginning, they fell upon their companions in the dead of night, and murdered over one hundred and twenty of them; then they attacked those on another island, fortunately without success; and when Pelsart returned, he was warned in time. He captured all the murderers, and executed them on the shore. Out of the

great concourse of people who had set sail with him from Holland, very few ever regained their homes. None of the other vessels reached Australia ; and the Dutch never again attempted to colonize that continent.

7. Tasman.—During the next fourteen years, we hear no more of voyages to Australia ; but in 1642 Antony Van Diemen, the Governor of the Dutch possessions in the East Indies, sent out his friend Abel Jansen Tasman, with two ships, to make new discoveries in the South Seas. Tasman first went to the Island of Bourbon, from which he sailed due south for a time ; but finding no signs of land, he turned to the east, and three months after setting out he saw a rocky shore in the distance. Stormy weather coming on, he was driven out to sea, and it was not till a week later that he was able to reach the coast again. He called the place Van Diemen's Land, and sent some sailors on shore to examine the country. These men heard strange noises in the woods, and saw trees of enormous height, in which notches were cut seven feet apart. These they believed to be the steps used by the natives in climbing the trees, and they, therefore, returned to report that the land was exceedingly beautiful, but inhabited by men of gigantic size. Tasman, next day, allowed the carpenter to swim ashore and set up the Dutch flag ; but having himself seen, from his ship, what he thought to be men of extraordinary stature moving about on the shore, he lost no time in taking up his anchor and setting sail. Further to the east he discovered the islands of New Zealand, and after having made a partial survey of their coasts, he returned to Batavia. Two years after, he was sent on a second voyage of discovery, and explored the northern and western shores of Australia itself, but the results do not seem to have been important, and are not now known. His chief service in the exploration of Australia was the discovery of Tasmania, as it is now called after his

name. This he did not know to be an island; he drew it on his maps as if it were a peninsula belonging to the main land of Australia.

8. Dampier.—The discoveries that had so far been made were very imperfect, for the sailors, generally, contented themselves with looking at the land from a safe distance. They made no surveys such as would have enabled them to draw correct charts of the coasts; they seldom landed, and even when they did, they never sought to become acquainted with the natives, or to learn anything as to the nature of the interior country. The first who took the trouble to obtain information of this more accurate kind was the Englishman, William Dampier.

When a young man, Dampier had gone out to Jamaica to manage a large estate; but not liking the slave-driving business, he crossed over to Campeachy, and lived for a while in the woods, cutting the more valuable kinds of timber. Here he became acquainted with the buccaneers who made the lonely coves of Campeachy their head-quarters; and being persuaded to join them, he entered upon a life of lawless daring, constantly fighting and plundering, meeting with the wildest adventures; often captured by the American natives, still more often by the Spaniards, but always escaping to enter upon exploits of fresh danger. In 1688 he joined a company of buccaneers, who proposed to make a voyage round the world and plunder on their way. It took them more than a year to reach the East Indies, where they spent a long time, sometimes attacking Spanish ships or Dutch fortresses, sometimes leading an easy and luxurious life among the natives, often quarrelling among themselves, and even going so far as to leave their captain with forty men on the island of Mindanao. But at length the time came when it was necessary to seek some quiet spot where they should be able to clean and repair the bottoms

of their ships. Accordingly, they landed on the north-west coast of Australia, and lived for twelve days at the place now called "Buccaneers' Archipelago." They were the first Europeans who held any communication with the natives of Australia, and the first to publish a detailed account of their voyage thither. Growing tired of a lawless life, and having become wealthy, Dampier bought an estate in England, where he lived some years in retirement, till his love of adventure led him forth again. This time he was determined that his trip should be more honest; and, his thoughts reverting to the great unexplored land, he asked permission from the English Government to go on a voyage of discovery. In 1699 a small vessel—the *Roebuck*—was given to him, and with this he explored the west coast, from Shark Bay to Dampier's Archipelago; thence along the north-west coast as far as Roebuck Bay, in all about nine hundred miles; of which he published a full and fairly accurate account. He was a man of keen observation, and delighted to describe the habits and manners of the natives, as well as peculiarities in the plants and animals, of the various places he visited. During the time he was in Australia he frequently met with the blacks and became well acquainted with them. He gives this description of their appearance :—

"The inhabitants are the most miserable wretches in the universe, having no houses nor garments. They feed upon a few fish, cockles, mussels, and periwinkles. They are without religion and without government. In figure they are tall, straight-bodied, and thin, with small, long limbs."

The country itself, he says, is low and sandy, with no fresh water and scarcely any animals, except one which looks like a racoon, and jumps about on its long hind legs. Altogether, his description is not prepossessing; and he says that the only pleasure he had had in his voyage was the

satisfaction of having discovered the most barren spot on the face of the earth.

This account is, in most respects, correct, so far as regards the portion of Australia visited by Dampier. But, unfortunately, he saw only the most inhospitable part of the whole continent. There are many parts whose beauty would have enchanted him, but as he had sailed along nearly a thousand miles without seeing any part that was not miserably barren, it is not to be wondered at that he reported the whole land to be worthless. He was subsequently engaged in other voyages of discovery, in one of which he rescued the famous Alexander Selkirk from his lonely island; but, amid all his subsequent adventures, he never entertained the idea of returning to Australia.

Dampier published a most interesting account of all his travels in different parts of the world, and his book was for a long time exceedingly popular. Defoe used the materials it contained for his celebrated novel, "Robinson Crusoe;" and the work was for a long time the standard book of travels. But it turned away the tide of discovery from Australia; for those who read of the beautiful islands and rich countries he had elsewhere visited, would never dream of incurring the labour and expense of a voyage to so dull and barren a spot as Australia seems to be in Dampier's book. Thus we hear of no further explorations in this part of the world until nearly a century after; and, even then, no one thought of sending out ships specially for the purpose.

9. **Captain Cook.**—But in the year 1770 a series of important discoveries were indirectly brought about. The Royal Society of London, calculating that the planet Venus would cross the disc of the sun in 1769, persuaded the English Government to send out an expedition to the Pacific Ocean for the purpose of making observations. A small vessel,

the *Endeavour*, was chosen; astronomers with their instruments embarked; and the whole placed under the charge of James Cook, a sailor whose admirable character fully merited this distinction. At thirteen he had been a shopkeeper's assistant, but, preferring the sea, he had become an apprentice in a coal vessel. After many years of rude life in this trade, during which he contrived to carry on his education in mathematics and navigation, he entered the Royal Navy, and by diligence and honesty rose to the rank of master. He had completed so many excellent surveys in North America, and, besides, had made himself so well acquainted with astronomy, that the Government had no hesitation in making their choice. That it was a wise one, the care and success of Cook fully showed. He carried the expedition safely to Otaheite, built fortifications, and erected the instruments for the observations, which were admirably made. Having finished this part of his task, he set sail for the purpose of making discoveries; and after visiting New Zealand, he reached the coast of Australia, a little south of Cape Howe. Standing to the north-east, he sailed along the coast till he reached a fine bay, where he anchored for about ten days. On his first landing, he was opposed by two of the natives, who seemed quite ready to encounter more than forty armed men. Cook endeavoured to gain their goodwill, but without success. A musket fired between them startled, but did not dismay them, and when some small shot was fired into the legs of one of them, though he turned and ran into his hut, it was only for the purpose of putting on a shield and again facing the white men. Cook made many subsequent attempts to be friendly with the natives, but always without success. He examined the country for a few miles inland, and two of his scientific friends made splendid collections of botanical specimens. From this circumstance the place was called Botany Bay, and its two

headlands received their names from Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander, the two naturalists. It was here that Captain Cook, amid the firing of cannons and volleys of musketry, took possession of the country on behalf of His Britannic Majesty, giving it the name, "New South Wales," on account of the resemblance of its coasts to the southern shores of Wales.

Shortly after they had set sail from Botany Bay they observed a small opening in the land, but Cook did not stay to examine it, merely marking it on his chart as "Port Jackson," in honour of his friend Sir George Jackson. The vessel still continued her course northward along the coast, till they anchored in Moreton Bay. After a short stay, they again set out towards the north, making a rough chart of the shores they saw. In this way they had sailed along thirteen hundred miles without serious mishap, when one night, at about eleven o'clock, they found the sea grow very shallow ; all hands were quickly on deck, but before the ship could be turned she struck heavily on a sunken rock. No land was to be seen, and they, therefore, concluded that it was upon a bank of coral they had struck. The vessel seemed to rest upon the ridge ; but, as the swell of the ocean rolled past, she bumped very heavily. Most of the cannons and other heavy articles were thrown overboard, and, the ship being thus lightened, they tried to float her off at daybreak. This they were unable to do ; but, by working hard all next day, they prepared everything for a great effort at the evening tide, and had the satisfaction of seeing the rising waters float the vessel off. But now the sea was found to be pouring in through the leaks so rapidly that, even with four pumps constantly going, they could scarcely keep her afloat. They worked hard day and night, but the ship was slowly sinking, when, by the ingenious device of passing a sail below her and pulling it tightly, it was found that

the leakage was sufficiently decreased to keep her from foundering. Shortly after they saw land, which Captain Cook called "Cape Tribulation." He took the vessel into the mouth of a small river, which they called the Endeavour, and there careened her. On examining the bottom, it was found that a great sharp rock had pierced a hole in her timbers, such as must inevitably have sent her to the bottom in spite of pumps and sails, had it not been that the piece of coral had broken off and remained firmly fixed in the vessel's side, thus itself filling up the greater part of the hole it had caused. The ship was fully repaired ; and, after a delay of two months, they proceeded northward along the coast to Cape York. They then sailed through Torres Straits, and made it clear that New Guinea and Australia are not joined.

10. Subsequent Visits.—Several ships visited Australia during the next few years, but their commanders contented themselves with merely viewing the coasts which had already been discovered, and returned without adding anything new. In 1772, Marion, a Frenchman, and next year Furneaux, an Englishman, sailed along the coasts of Van Diemen's Land. In 1777, Captain Cook, shortly before his death, anchored for a few days in Adventure Bay, on the east coast of Van Diemen's Land. La Perouse, Vancouver, and D'Entrecasteaux also visited Australia, and, though they added nothing of importance, they assisted in filling in the details. By this time nearly all the coasts had been explored, and the only great point left unsettled was, whether Van Diemen's Land was an island or not.

Abstract of Chapter I.

(1)—Australia the last continent to be discovered.

(2)—1606—De Quiros sailed from Peru ; reached Espiritu Santo, which he supposed to be the south continent, and called "Terra Australis." This name changed by Flinders to "Australia."

(3)—1606—Torres passed through Torres Straits ; saw Cape York in the distance.

(4)—1606—The Duyfhen, a Dutch ship, sailed into Gulf of Carpentaria ; turned back at Cape Keer-weer.

(5)—1616-1628—*Other Dutch Discoverers.* Hartog examined West Coast, Zaachen the North-West, Edel the West, Nuyts the South, Carpenter the Gulf of Carpentaria.

(6)—1628—Pelsart led a colony of the Dutch to the Western Coast, but was shipwrecked.

(7)—1642—Tasman, sent out by Van Diemen, discovered Tasmania and New Zealand.

(8)—1699—Dampier, an Englishman, visited Australia as a buccaneer ; afterwards, in the *Roebuck*, examined the North-West Coast and found it barren.

(9)—1770—Cook sailed along Eastern Coast ; discovered Botany Bay ; sailed through Torres Straits.

(10)—Subsequent Visits by Marion, Furneaux, La Perouse, Vancouver, and D'Entrecasteaux.

CHAPTER II.

The Convict Settlement at Sydney, 1788—1800.

1. Botany Bay.—The reports brought home by Captain Cook completely changed the beliefs current in those days with regard to Australia. From the time of Dampier it had been supposed that the whole of this continent must be the same flat and miserable desert as the part he described. Cook's account, on the other hand, represented the eastern coast as a country full of beauty and promise. Now, it so happened that, shortly after Cook's return, the English nation had to deal with a great difficulty in regard to its criminal population. In 1776 the United States declared their independence, and the English then found they could no longer send their convicts over to Virginia, as they had formerly done. In a short time the gaols of England were crowded

with felons : it became necessary to select a new place of transportation ; and just as this difficulty arose, Captain Cook's voyages called attention to a land in every way suited for such a purpose, both by reason of its fertility and of its great distance. Viscount Sydney, therefore, determined to send out a party to Botany Bay, in order to found a convict settlement there ; and in May, 1787, a fleet was ready to sail. It consisted of the *Sirius* war-ship, its tender the *Supply*, together with six transports for the convicts, and three ships for carrying the stores. Of the convicts, six hundred were men, and two hundred and fifty were women. To guard these, there were on board two hundred soldiers. Captain Phillip was appointed Governor of the colony, Captain Hunter was second in command, and Mr. Collins went out as judge-advocate, to preside in the military courts, which it was intended to establish for the administration of justice. On the 18th, 19th, and 20th of February, 1788, the vessels arrived, one after another, in Botany Bay, after a voyage of eight months, during which many of the convicts had died from diseases brought on by so long a confinement.

2. **Port Jackson.**—As soon as the ships had anchored in Botany Bay, convicts were landed and commenced to clear the timber from a portion of land ; but a day or two was sufficient to show the unsuitability of Botany Bay for such a settlement. Its waters were so shallow that the ships could not enter it properly, and had to lie near the Heads, where the great waves of the Pacific rolled in on them by night and day. Governor Phillip, therefore, took three boats, and sailed out to search for some more convenient harbour. As he passed along the coast he turned to examine the opening which Captain Cook had called Port Jackson, and soon found himself in a winding channel of water, with great cliffs frowning overhead. All at once a magnificent prospect opened on his eyes. A harbour, which is, perhaps, the most

beautiful and perfect in the world, stretched before him far to the west, till it was lost on the distant horizon. It seemed a vast maze of winding waters, dotted here and there with lovely islets ; its shores thickly wooded down to the strips of golden sand which lined the most charming little bays ; and its broad sheets of rippling waters bordered by lines of dusky foliage. The scene has always been one of surpassing loveliness ; but to those who filled the first boats that ever threw the foam from its surface, who felt themselves the objects of breathless attention to groups of natives who stood gazing here and there from the projecting rocks, it must have had an enchanting effect. To Captain Phillip himself, whose mind had been filled with anxiety and despondency as to the future prospects of his charge, it opened out like the vision of a world of new hope and promise.

Three days were spent in examining portions of this spacious harbour, and in exploring a few of its innumerable bays. Captain Phillip selected, as the place most suitable for the settlement, a small inlet, which, in honour of the Minister of State, he called Sydney Cove. It was so deep as to allow vessels to approach to within a yard or two of the shore, thus avoiding the necessity of spending time and money in building wharves or piers. After a few days the fleet was brought round and lay at anchor in this little cove. The convicts were landed, and commenced to clear away the trees on the banks of a small stream which stole silently through a very dense wood. When an open space had been obtained, a flag-staff was erected, the soldiers fired three volleys, and the Governor read his commission to the assembled company. Then began a scene of noise and bustle. From dawn to sunset, nothing could be heard but the sounds of axes, hammers, and saws, with the crash of trees and the shouts of the convict overseers. They lost no time in preparing their habitations on shore ; for the con-

finement of the overcrowded ships had become intolerably hateful.

3. Early Sufferings.—More than a third of their number were ill with scurvy and other diseases—sixty-six lay in the little hospital which had been set up, and many of them never recovered. Those who were well enough to work began to clear the land for cultivation; but as soon as everything was ready for the ploughing to begin, the amazing fact was discovered that no one knew anything of farming; and had it not been that Governor Phillip had with him a servant who had once learnt something of agriculture, their labour would have been of little avail. As it was, the farming was of the rudest kind; one man, even if he had been a highly experienced person, could do very little to instruct so many. The officers and soldiers were smart enough on parade, but they were useless on a farm; the convicts, instead of trying to learn, expended all their ingenuity in picking each other's pockets, or in robbing the stores. They would do no work unless an armed soldier was standing behind them, and if he turned away for a moment, they would deliberately destroy the farm implements in their charge, or do whatever damage the most stupid and purposeless malice could suggest. Thus, only a trifling amount of food was obtained from the soil; the provisions they had brought with them were nearly finished, and when the news came that the *Guardian* transport, on which they were depending for fresh supplies, had struck on an iceberg and had been lost, the little community was filled with the deepest dismay. Soon after, a ship arrived with a number of fresh convicts, but no provisions; in great haste the *Sirius* was sent to the Cape of Good Hope, and the *Supply* to Batavia; these vessels brought back as much as they could get, but it was all used in a month or two. Starvation now lay before the settlement; every one, including the officers and the Governor himself, was put on

the lowest rations which could keep the life in a man's body, and yet there was not enough of food, even at this miserable rate, to last for any length of time. Numbers died of starvation; the Governor stopped all the works, as the men were too weak to continue them. The cattle and sheep which they had brought with so much trouble to become the origin of herds and flocks were all killed for food, with the exception of two or three which escaped to the woods, and were lost from sight.

4. Norfolk Island.—Under these circumstances, Governor Phillip sent two hundred convicts, with about seventy soldiers, to Norfolk Island, where there was a moderate chance of their being able to support themselves; for, immediately after his arrival in New South Wales, he had sent Lieutenant King to take possession of that island, of whose beauty and fertility Captain Cook had spoken very highly. Twenty-seven convicts and soldiers had gone along with King, and had cleared away the timber from the rich brown soil. They had little trouble in raising ample crops, and were now in the midst of plenty, which their less fortunate companions came to share. But the *Sirius*, in which they had been carried over, was wrecked on a coral reef near the island before she could return, and with her was lost a considerable quantity of provisions.

5. The Second Fleet.—The prospects of the colony at Sydney had grown very black, when a store-ship suddenly appeared off the Heads. Great was the rejoicing at first; but when a storm arose and drove the vessel northward among the reefs of Broken Bay, their exultation was changed to a painful suspense. For some hours her fate was doubtful; but, to the intense relief of the expectant people on shore, she managed to make the port and land her supplies. Shortly after, two other store-ships arrived, and the community was never again so severely in want of

provisions. Matters were growing cheerful, when a fresh gloom was caused by the arrival of a fleet filled to overflowing with sick and dying convicts. Seventeen hundred had been embarked, but of these, two hundred had died on the way, and their bodies had been thrown overboard. Several hundreds were in the last stage of emaciation and exhaustion ; scarcely one of the whole fifteen hundred who landed was fit for a day's work. This brought fresh misery and trouble, and the deaths were of appalling frequency.

6. **Escape of Prisoners.**—Many of the convicts sought to escape from their sufferings by running away ; some seized the boats in the harbour and tried to sail for the Dutch colony in Java ; others hid themselves in the woods, and either perished or else returned, after weeks of starvation, to give themselves up to the authorities. In 1791, a band of between forty and fifty set out to walk to China, and penetrated a few miles into the bush, where their bleached and whitened skeletons told their fate some years after.

7. **Departure of Governor Phillip.**—Amid these cares and trials the health of Governor Phillip fairly broke down, and, in 1792, forced him to resign. He was a man of energy and decision ; prompt and skilful, yet humane and just in his character : no better man could have been selected to fill the difficult position he held with so much credit to himself. He received a handsome pension from the British Government, and retired to spend his life in English society. Major Grose and Captain Patterson took charge of the colony for the next three years; but in 1795 Captain Hunter, who, after the loss of his ship the *Sirius*, had returned to England, arrived in Sydney to occupy the position of Governor.

8. **Governor Hunter.**—By this time affairs had passed their crisis, and were beginning to be favourable. About sixty convicts, whose sentences had expired, had received grants of land, and, now that they were working for them-

selves, had become successful farmers. Governor Hunter brought out a number of free settlers, to whom he gave land near the Hawkesbury ; and, after a time, more than six thousand acres were covered with crops of wheat and maize. There was now no fear of famine, and the settlement grew to be comfortable in most respects. Unfortunately, the more recent attempts to import cattle with which to stock the farms had proved, more or less, unsuccessful ; so that the discovery of a fine herd of sixty wandering through the meadows of the Hawkesbury was hailed with great delight. These were the descendants of the cattle which had been lost from Governor Phillip's herd some years before.

9. **State of the Settlement.**—Twelve years after the foundation of the colony, its population amounted to between six and seven thousand persons. These were all settled near Sydney, but attempts had been made to penetrate to the west, though without success. The rugged chain of the Blue Mountains was an impassable barrier. Seventy miles north of Sydney a fine river—the Hunter—had been discovered by Lieutenant Shortlands while in pursuit of some runaway convicts who had stolen a boat. Signs of coal having been seen near its mouth, convicts were sent up to open mines, and, these proving successful, the town of Newcastle rapidly formed. In 1800, Governor Hunter returned to England on business, intending to come out again ; but he was appointed to the command of a war-ship, and Lieutenant King was sent out to take his place.

Abstract of Chapter II.

(1)—1788—Botany Bay was found unsuitable for a convict settlement.

(2)—Port Jackson was examined by Governor Phillip, and Sydney founded on it.

(3)—Early Sufferings were caused by ignorance of farming, starvation, and disease.

(4)—NORFOLK ISLAND became a branch settlement under King.

(5)—THE SECOND FLEET brought 1,500 convicts, nearly all sick.

(6)—PRISONERS ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE to Java, China, and to the interior.

(7)—1792—GOVERNOR PHILLIP departed and received a pension for his services.

(8)—1795—GOVERNOR HUNTER arrived and formed settlements on the Hawkesbury.

(9)—1800—THE SETTLEMENT contained 6,000 or 7,000 persons. The Blue Mountains had not been crossed. The River Hunter had been discovered.

CHAPTER III.

THE DISCOVERIES OF BASS AND FLINDERS.

1. No community has ever been more completely isolated than the first inhabitants of Sydney They were three thousand miles away from the nearest white men ; before them, a great ocean, visited only at rare intervals, and, for the greater part, unexplored ; behind them, an unknown continent, a vast, untrodden waste, in which they formed but a speck. They were almost completely shut out from intercourse with the civilized world, and few of them could have any hope of returning to their native land. This made the colony all the more suitable as a place of punishment ; for people shrank with horror at the idea of being banished to what seemed like a tomb for living men and women. But for all that, it was not desirable that Australia should remain always as unknown and unexplored as it then was ; and, seven years after the first settlement was made, two men arrived who were determined not to suffer it so to remain.

When Governor Hunter arrived, in 1795, he brought with him, on board his ship the *Reliance,* a young surgeon,

George Bass, and a midshipman called Matthew Flinders. They were young men of the most admirable character, modest and amiable, filled with a generous and manly affection for one another, and fired by a lofty enthusiasm which rejoiced in the wide field for discovery and fame that spread all around them. Within a month after their arrival they purchased a small boat about eight feet in length, which they christened the *Tom Thumb*. Its crew consisted of themselves and a boy to assist, truly a poor equipment with which to face a great and stormy ocean like the Pacific. They sailed out, and after tossing for some time like a toy on the huge waves, they succeeded in entering Botany Bay, which they thoroughly explored, making a chart of its shores and rivers. On their return, Governor Hunter was highly pleased with this chart, and, shortly after, he gave them a holiday, which they spent in making a longer expedition to the south. It was said that a very large river fell into the sea south of Botany Bay, and they went out to search for its mouth.

2. Boat Excursion.—In this trip they met with some adventures which will serve to illustrate the dangers of such a voyage. On one occasion, when their boat had been upset on the shore, and their powder wet by the sea-water, about fifty natives gathered round them, evidently with no friendly intention. Bass spread the powder out on the rocks to dry, and procured a supply of fresh water from a neighbouring pond. But they were in expectation every moment of being attacked and speared, and there was no hope of defending themselves till the powder was ready. Flinders, knowing the fondness of the natives for the luxury of a shave, persuaded them to sit down one after another on a rock, and amused them by clipping their beards with a pair of scissors. As soon as the powder was dry the explorers loaded their muskets and cautiously

retreated to their boat, which they set right, and pushed off without mishap.

Once more on the Pacific, new dangers awaited them. They had been carried far to the south by the strong currents, and the wind was unfavourable. There was therefore no course open to them but to row as far as they could during the day, and at night throw out the stone which served as an anchor, and lie as sheltered as they could, in order to snatch a little sleep. On one of these nights, while they lay thus asleep, the wind suddenly burst in a gale, and they were roughly wakened by the splashing of the waves over their boat. They pulled up their stone anchor and ran before the tempest—Bass holding the sail and Flinders steering with an oar. As Flinders says—"It required the utmost care to prevent broaching to; a single wrong movement or a moment's inattention would have sent us to the bottom. The task of the boy was to bale out the water, which, in spite of every care, the sea threw in upon us. The night was perfectly dark, and we knew of no place of shelter, and the only direction by which we could steer was the roar of the waves upon the neighbouring cliffs." After an hour spent in this manner, they found themselves running straight for the breakers. They pulled down their mast and got out the oars, though without much hope of escape. They rowed desperately, however, and had the satisfaction of rounding the long line of boiling surf. Three minutes after, they were in smooth water, under the lee of the rocks, and soon they discovered a well sheltered cove, where they anchored for the rest of the night.

It was not till two days later that they found the place they were seeking. It turned out not to be a river at all, but only the little bay of Port Hacking, which they examined and minutely described. When they reached Sydney they gave information which enabled accurate

maps to be constructed of between thirty and forty miles of coast.

3. Clarke.—On arriving at Port Jackson, they found that an accident had indirectly assisted in exploring that very coast on which they had landed. A vessel called the *Sydney Cove*, on its way to Port Jackson, had been wrecked on Furneaux Island, to the north of Van Diemen's Land. A large party, headed by Mr. Clarke, the supercargo, had started in boats, intending to sail along the coasts and obtain help from Sydney. They were thrown ashore by a storm at Cape Howe, and had to begin a dreary walk of three hundred miles through dense and unknown country. Their small store of provisions was soon used, and they could find neither food nor fresh water on their path. Many dropped down, exhausted by hunger and fatigue, and had to be abandoned to their fate. Of those who contrived to approach within thirty miles of Sydney, the greater part were murdered by the same tribe of blacks from whom Bass and Flinders had apprehended danger. Clarke and one or two others reached Port Jackson; their clothes in tatters, their bodies wasted almost to the bones, and in such a state that, when a boat was brought to carry them over the bay to Sydney, they had to be lifted on board like infants. Mr. Clarke, on his recovery, was able to give a very useful account of a great tract of land not previously explored. The crew of the *Sydney Cove* were meanwhile living on one of the Furneaux Group, and several small ships were sent down from Sydney to rescue the crew and cargo: these also served to make the coast better known. Flinders was very anxious to go in one of them, in order to make a chart of the places he might pass; but his ship, the *Reliance*, sailed for Norfolk Island, and he had to be a long time absent.

4. Discovery of Bass Straits.—His friend Bass was more fortunate; for Governor Hunter gave him an open whale-

boat, together with provisions for six weeks, and six seamen to manage the boat. With these he discovered the harbour and river of Shoalhaven ; entered and mapped out Jervis Bay ; discovered Twofold Bay, then rounded Cape Howe, and discovered the country now called Victoria. After sailing along the Ninety-mile Beach, he saw high land to the south-west ; and, standing out towards it, he discovered the bold headland which was afterwards named Wilson's Promontory. Bad weather drove him to seek for shelter, and this led to the discovery of Western Port, where he remained thirteen days. But as his provisions were running short, he was forced, with a heavy heart, to turn homeward. He had again to seek shelter, however, from strong head winds, and in doing so he discovered what he called Corner Inlet. In all, he prolonged his voyage to eleven weeks, before he again reached Sydney ; during that time, he had explored six hundred miles of coast, and had discovered four important bays, as well as what is perhaps the most important cape in Australia. His greatest service, however, was the proof that Van Diemen's Land is not joined to Australia, but is divided from it by the wide strait to which Bass's name is now so justly given. All this, effected in an open whale boat on the open ocean, may well fill us with admiration for the courage and skill of the young surgeon, as well as of the British seamen who had volunteered to accompany him.

5. Flinders.—When Flinders returned from Norfolk Island, he obtained leave to join the next vessel that should start for the wreck of the *Sydney Cove*. Having arrived at Furneaux Island, during the time that the wreckage and remaining cargo were being gathered, he obtained the loan of a small boat for five days, and in it made careful surveys of the islands and straits to the north of Van Diemen's Land. It was in this trip that he made the first discovery of that peculiar Australian animal, the wombat.

6. Circumnavigation of Van Diemen's Land.—Next year (1798), Governor Hunter gave to the two ardent young men a small sloop—the *Norfolk*—in which to prosecute their discoveries. They received three months' leave of absence, in which time they proposed to sail round Van Diemen's Land. This they did, and discovered during their voyage the river Tamar and its estuary, Port Dalrymple. It was not in discovery alone that they were successful. Flinders made the most beautiful and exact charts of all the coasts; he sometimes spent whole days in careful and laborious observations and measurements, in order to have the latitude and longitude of a single place correctly marked.

7. Fate of Bass.—On their return to Sydney, Bass met some friends, who persuaded him to join them in making their fortune by carrying contraband goods into South America, in spite of the Spaniards. They were unfortunate; their vessel was captured, and Bass was sent to the silver mines, where he was completely lost from sight. He who entered these dreary mines was obliterated for ever from human knowledge; and what became of Bass no one now can tell. After all his hardships and adventures, his enthusiasm and his self-devotion, he passed away from men's eyes, and no one was curious to know whither he had gone; but Australians of these days have learnt to honour the memory of the man who first, in company with his friend, laid the foundation of so much of our geography.

8. The Publication of Flinders' Charts. — Flinders remained in His Majesty's service, and in the following year he was raised to the rank of Lieutenant. With his little ship, the *Norfolk*, he examined the coasts of New South Wales, from Sydney northward as far as Hervey Bay. Next year (1800) he went to London, where his charts were published, containing the first exact accounts of the geography of Australia. They were greatly praised, and the

English Government admired them so much that it determined to send out an expedition to survey all the coasts of Australia in like manner. Flinders was placed at the head of it; a vessel was given to him, which he called the *Investigator*; a passport was obtained for him from the French Government, so that, though England and France were then at war, he might not be obstructed by French war-ships. He sailed to the south coast of Australia, where he discovered Kangaroo Island and Spencer's Gulf. He entered Port Phillip under the impression that he was the discoverer of that inlet, but he afterwards learnt that Lieut. Murray had discovered it ten weeks before, in his ship the *Lady Nelson.* Murray called it Port King, after the Governor in Sydney; but Governor King insisted that this tribute should be paid to the memory of Governor Phillip, whose name it now bears.

9. **Baudin.**—As Flinders sailed down towards Bass Strait, he met with a French expedition, under M. Baudin, who had been sent out by Napoleon to make discoveries in Australia. He had loitered so long on the coast of Tasmania, that Flinders had been able to complete the examination of the southern coast before he even approached it. Yet Baudin sailed into the very bays which had already been mapped out, gave them French names, and took to himself the honour of their discovery. Some months later the two expeditions met one another again in Port Jackson. Flinders showed his charts, and the French officers allowed that he had carried off the honour of nearly all the discoveries on the south coast; but, in spite of that, Baudin sent home to France a report in which Flinders' claims were quite ignored, and he himself represented as the hero of Australian discovery. The colonists at Port Jackson, however, treated the French sailors with much kindness. Many of them were suffering from scurvy, and these were

carried to the Sydney hospital and carefully tended, and though the colonists had themselves eaten only salt meat for months before, in order to preserve their cattle, yet they killed these very cattle in order to provide fresh meat for the sick sailors. Baudin and his officers were feasted, and everything was done, both by Flinders and the people of Sydney, in order to make his stay agreeable. How he recompensed this kindness we shall afterwards see.

10. Imprisonment of Flinders.—Flinders continued his voyage northwards, rounded Cape York, and examined the northern coasts, making an excellent chart of Torres Straits; but his vessel becoming too rotten to be longer used, he was forced to return to Sydney. Desiring to carry his charts and journals to England, he took his passage in an old store-ship, but she had not sailed far before she struck on a coral reef; the crew with difficulty reached a small sandbank, from which they were not released till two months after. Flinders saved his papers, and brought them back to Sydney. A small schooner, the *Cumberland*, was given him in which to sail for England; but she was too leaky, and altogether too miserable a vessel for so long a voyage: so that, to avoid foundering, he was forced to put into the Mauritius, which then belonged to France. He fancied that his passport from Napoleon would be his protection; but the governor, De Caen, a low and ignorant fellow, seized him, took his papers from him, and cast him into prison.

Some time afterwards, Baudin called at the Mauritius; but, instead of procuring the release of Flinders, he persuaded the governor to confine him more rigorously. Then, having taken copies of Flinders' charts, he sailed for France, where he published a book, and received great applause from the French nation, who called him the greatest discoverer of the present century; while Flinders, the real discoverer, was spending the weary hours

of confinement on a small island in one of the lakes of the Mauritius.

11. Death of Flinders.—Nearly seven years passed away before he was released; and when he went to England, he found that people knew all about those very places of which he thought he was bringing the first tidings. He commenced, however, to write his great book, and worked with the utmost pains to make all his maps scrupulously accurate. After about six years of incessant labour, the three volumes were ready for the press; but he was doomed never to see them. So many years of toil, so many nights passed in open boats or on the wet sands, so many shipwrecks and weeks of semi-starvation, together with his long and unjust imprisonment, had utterly destroyed his constitution; and on the very day when his book was being published, the wife and daughter of Flinders were tending his last painful hours. He was, perhaps, our greatest maritime discoverer: a man who worked because his heart was in his work; who sought no reward, and obtained none; who lived laboriously, and did honourable service to mankind; yet died, like his friend, Bass, almost unknown to those of his own day, but leaving a name which the world is every year more and more disposed to honour.

ABSTRACT OF CHAPTER III.

(1)—BASS AND FLINDERS arrived with Governor Hunter; made a chart of Botany Bay.

(2)—FIRST TRIP was made in an open boat to the South.

(3)—CLARKE, a shipwrecked sailor, walked from Cape Howe to Sydney and described the country he had seen.

(4)—BASS STRAITS and the coast of Victoria were examined by Bass in a whale-boat.

(5)—FLINDERS surveyed the Northern Coast of Van Diemen's Land.

(6)—1798—In the sloop NORFOLK he sailed round the island.

(7)—The FATE OF BASS is unknown ; he was captured by the Spaniards and sent to the silver mines.

(8)—FLINDERS' CHART was published in England ; in the *Investigator* he made fresh discoveries.

(9)—BAUDIN, a French captain, closely followed him round the coast.

(10)—FLINDERS WAS IMPRISONED by the French in Mauritius, and Baudin took the credit of his discoveries.

(11)—FLINDERS DIED in England, after having written an account of his voyages.

CHAPTER IV.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1800 TO 1808.

1. Governor King.—Governor Hunter, who left Sydney in the year 1800, was succeeded by Captain King, the young officer who has been already mentioned as the founder of the settlement at Norfolk Island. He was a man of much ability, and was both active and industrious, yet so overwhelming at this time were the difficulties of governorship in New South Wales, that his term of office was little more than a distressing failure. The colony consisted chiefly of convicts, who were, many of them, the most depraved and hardened villains to be met with in the history of crime. To keep these in check, and to maintain order, was no easy task ; but to make them work, to convert them into industrious and well-behaved members of the community, was far beyond any governor's power. King made an effort and did his very best ; but after a time he grew disheartened, and in his disappointment he complained of the folly which expected him to make farmers out of pickpockets. His chances of success would have been much increased, had he been properly seconded by his subordinates. But, unfortunately, circumstances had arisen which caused the officers and soldiers, not

only to render him no assistance whatever, but even to thwart and frustrate his most careful plans.

2. **The New South Wales Corps.**—In 1790, a special corps had been organized in the British army for service in the colony; it was called the New South Wales Corps, and was intended to be permanently settled in Sydney. Very few high-class officers cared to enter this service, so far from home and in the midst of the lowest criminals. Those who joined it generally came out with the idea of quickly gathering a small fortune, then resigning their commissions and returning to England. The favourite method of making money was to import goods into the settlement and sell them at high rates of profit; and in their haste to become rich, many resorted to the most unscrupulous devices for obtaining profits. A trade in which those who commanded were the sellers, whilst the convicts and settlers under their charge were the purchasers, could hardly fail to ruin discipline and introduce grave evils, more especially when ardent spirits began to be the chief article of traffic. It was found that nothing sold so well among the convicts as rum, their favourite liquor; and rather than not make money, the officers began to import large quantities of that spirit, thus deliberately assisting to demoralize still further the degraded population which they had been sent to reform. So enormous were the profits made in this debasing trade, that very few of the officers could refrain from joining in it. Soon the New South Wales Corps became like one great firm of spirit merchants engaged in the importing and retailing of rum. The most enterprising went so far as to introduce stills and commence the manufacture of spirits in the colony. By an order of the Governor-in-Council this was forbidden, but many continued to work their stills in secret. This system of traffic, demoralizing to every one engaged in it, was shared even by the highest officials of the colony. In the year

1800, the chief-constable was a publican, and the head gaoler sold rum and brandy opposite the prison gates.

3. State of the Colony.—Under these circumstances, drunkenness became fearfully prevalent : the freed convicts gave themselves up to unrestrained riot, and, when intoxicated, committed the most brutal atrocities ; the soldiers also sank into the wildest dissipation ; many of the officers themselves led lives of open and shameless debauchery. This was the community Governor King had to rule ; he made an effort to effect some change, but failed ; and we can hardly wonder at the feeling of intense disgust which he entertained and freely expressed.

4. Mutiny of Convicts.—Most of the convicts, on their arrival in the colony, were "assigned"—that is, sent to work as shepherds or farm-labourers for the free settlers in the country ; but prisoners of the worst class were chained in gangs and employed on the roads, or on the government farms. One of these gangs, consisting of three or four hundred convicts, was stationed at Castlehill, a few miles north of Parramatta. The prisoners, emboldened by their numbers and inflamed by the oratory of a number of political exiles, broke out into open insurrection. They flung away their hoes and spades, removed their irons, seized about two hundred and fifty muskets, and marched towards the Hawkesbury, expecting to be there reinforced by so many additional convicts, that they would be able to overpower the military. Major Johnston, with twenty-four soldiers of the New South Wales Corps, pursued them ; they halted and turned round to fight, but he charged with so much determination into their midst that they were quickly routed, and fled in all directions, leaving several of their number dead on the spot. Three or four of the ringleaders were caught and hanged ; the remainder returned quietly to their duty.

5. Origin of Wool-growing.—During Governor King's term of office, a beginning was made in what is now an industry of momentous importance to Australia. In the New South Wales Corps there had been an officer named Macarthur, who had become so disgusted with the service that, shortly after his arrival in Sydney, he resigned his commission, and having obtained a grant of land, became a settler in the country. He quickly perceived that wool-growing, if properly carried on, would be a source of much wealth, and obtained a number of sheep from the Dutch colony, at the Cape of Good Hope, with which to make a commencement. These were not of a suitable kind, and his first attempt failed; but in 1803, when he was in England on a visit, he spoke so highly of New South Wales as a country adapted for wool-growing, that King George III. was interested in the proposal, and offered his assistance. Now, the sheep most suitable for Macarthur's purpose were the merino sheep of Spain; but these were not to be obtained, as the Spaniards, desirous of keeping the lucrative trade of wool-growing to themselves, had made it a capital crime to export sheep of this kind from Spain. But it so happened that, as a special favour, a few had been given to King George, who was an enthusiastic farmer; and when he heard of Macarthur's idea, he sent him one or two from his own flock to be carried out to New South Wales. They were safely landed at Sydney, Governor King made a grant of ten thousand acres to Mr. Macarthur, at Camden, and the experiment was begun. It was not long before the most marked success crowned the effort, and in the course of a few years the meadows at Camden were covered with great flocks of sheep, whose wool yielded annually a handsome fortune to their enterprising owner.

6. Governor Bligh.—In 1806, Governor King was succeeded by Captain Bligh, whose previous adventures have

made his name so well known. In his ship, the *Bounty*, he had been sent by the British Government to the South Sea Islands for a cargo of bread-fruit trees. But his conduct to his sailors was so tyrannical that they mutinied, put him, along with eighteen others, into an open boat, then sailed away, and left him in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Bligh was a skilful sailor, and the voyage he thereupon undertook is one of the most remarkable on record. In an open boat he carried his little party over 3,500 miles of unknown ocean to the island of Timor, where they found a vessel that took them home.

In appointing Captain Bligh to rule the colony, the English Government spoiled an excellent seaman to make a very inefficient Governor. It was true that New South Wales contained a large convict population, who required to be ruled with despotic rigour; yet there were many free settlers who declined to be treated like slaves and felons, and who soon came to have a thorough dislike to the new Governor. Not that he was without kindly feeling; his generous treatment of the Hawkesbury farmers, who were ruined by a flood in 1806, showed him to have been warm-hearted in his way; he exerted himself to the utmost, both with time and money, to alleviate their distress, and he received the special thanks of the English Government for his humanity. And yet his arbitrary, and unamiable manners, and his frequent cruelties, completely obscured all these better qualities. He caused the convicts to be flogged without mercy for faults which existed only in his own imagination; he bullied his officers, and, throughout the colony, repeated the same mistakes, which had led to the mutiny of the *Bounty*. At the same time, he was anxious to do what he conceived to be his duty to his superiors in England. He had been ordered to put a stop to the traffic in spirits, and, in spite of the most unscrupulous opposition on the part of those whose greed

was interested, he set himself to effect this reform by prompt and summary measures, and with a contemptuous disregard of the hatred he was causing. But, in the end, the officers were too strong for him, and, in the quarrel that ensued, the Governor was completely defeated.

7. **Expulsion of Bligh.**—Month after month, Bligh grew more and more unpopular ; those whom he did not alienate in the course of his duty he offended by his rudeness and tyranny, until, at last, there was scarcely anyone in the colony who was his friend. Many were inflamed by so bitter a hatred that they were ready to do anything for revenge, and affairs seemed to be in that critical state in which a trifling incident may bring about serious results.

This determining cause was supplied by a quarrel which took place between Mr. Macarthur and Mr. Atkin, the new judge-advocate of the colony. Mr. Macarthur was condemned to pay a heavy fine for neglect, in having permitted a convict to escape in a vessel of which he was partly the owner. He refused to pay, and was summoned before the court, of which Atkin was the president. He declined to appear, on the ground that Atkin was his personal enemy. Thereupon, Atkin caused him to be seized and put in gaol. Bligh appointed a special court to try him, consisting of six officers, together with Atkin himself. Macarthur was brought before it, but protested against being judged by his enemy, stating his willingness, however, to abide by the decision of the six officers. The officers supported his protest, and the trial was discontinued. Bligh was exceedingly angry, and by declaring he would put the six officers in gaol, brought matters to a crisis ; the officers of the New South Wales Corps all took part with their comrades ; they assisted Mr. Macarthur to get up a petition, asking Major Johnston, the military commander, to depose Governor Bligh, and himself take charge of the colony. Major Johnston was only

too glad of the opportunity. He held a council of officers, at which Mr. Macarthur and several others were present. Their course of action was decided upon, and next morning the soldiers marched, with colours flying and drums beating, to the gate of the Governor's house. Here they were met by Bligh's daughter, who endeavoured to persuade them to retire ; but they made her stand aside and marched up the avenue. Meantime the Governor had hidden himself in the house ; the soldiers entered and searched everywhere for him, till at length they discovered him behind a bed, where, as Bligh asserted, he was seeking to hide important papers. He was arrested, and sentinels were posted to prevent his escape ; while Major Johnston assumed the Governor's position, and appointed his friends to the most important offices in the Government service. He continued to direct affairs for some time, until Colonel Foveaux superseded him. Foveaux, in his turn, was superseded by Colonel Paterson, who came over from Tasmania to take charge of the colony until a new Governor should be sent out from home. Paterson offered Bligh his liberty if he would promise to go straight to England, and not seek to raise a disturbance in the colony. This promise was given by Bligh, and yet no sooner was he free than he began to stir up the Hawkesbury settlers in his behalf. They declined to assist him, however, and Bligh went over to Tasmania, where the settlement to be described in the next chapter had been formed. Here he was received with great good-will, until the news arrived from Sydney that, according to the solemn promise he had given, he ought at that time to have been on his way to England. An attempt was made to capture him, but he escaped to England, where his adventures in New South Wales were soon forgotten, and he rose to be an Admiral in the English navy. When the news of the rebellion reached the authorities in England, Major Johnston was dismissed from the

service, and Major-General Lachlan Macquarie was sent out as Governor of the colony. Major Johnston retired to a farm in New South Wales, where he lived and prospered till his death in 1817.

ABSTRACT OF CHAPTER IV.

(1)—1800—GOVERNOR KING, formerly of Norfolk Island, found the colony disorganized, and was unable to rectify abuses.

(2)—THE NEW SOUTH WALES CORPS was enlisted specially for the colony: many of the officers became spirit-merchants.

(3)—STATE OF THE COLONY. Most of the settlers, officers, and privates gave themselves up to drunkenness and dissipation.

(4)—MUTINY OF THE CONVICTS broke out at Castlehill; it was quelled by the New South Wales Corps, under Major Johnston.

(5)—1803—ORIGIN OF WOOL-GROWING. Macarthur, formerly an officer in the Corps, obtained a few merino sheep from King George.

(6)—1806—GOVERNOR BLIGH had been Captain of the *Bounty*; he offended some by stopping the liquor traffic, and others by his overbearing conduct.

(7)—1808—BLIGH WAS EXPELLED, owing to a quarrel with Macarthur, and Johnston assumed the governorship.

CHAPTER V.

TASMANIA, 1803 TO 1836.

1. First Settlement.—When the colony, at Sydney, had emerged from its early state of suffering and privation, it found, even in this very prosperity, a new source of difficulty and danger. It had been established as a place of punishment, but was now becoming a country in which free settlers were glad to dwell, and this made it difficult to deal with those convicts who were determined to continue in criminal

courses similar to those for which they had been transported. At first, such men were flogged or hanged ; but on the more hardened criminals flogging had little effect, while the numbers who had to be hanged, increased so rapidly as to cause a very serious difficulty. It was now resolved that men of this class should not be left to disturb and contaminate the rest of the community, but should be a second time transported to some lonely spot, where they would have no one to steal from, and no one to corrupt. Tasmania (then called Van Diemen's Land), was the place chosen for this purpose ; and, in 1803, Lieutenant Bowen was sent with his vessel, the *Lady Nelson*, to form a small colony there. He carried with him a number of the very lowest convicts, together with a powerful guard of soldiers, and landed at Risdon, on the estuary of the Derwent river. Whilst the ground was being cleared, a band of several hundred natives pulled down the most advanced hut and provoked an attack ; the soldiers killed about thirty, thus commencing a slaughter which has terminated only with the complete destruction of all the aborigines of Tasmania.

2. **Collins**—In the same year, 1803, the English Government decided on forming a settlement at Port Phillip ; and, Collins, who had been the judge-advocate in the first expedition to Sydney, was appointed to take charge of it. Collins, however, thinking the place unsuitable, asked permission from Governor King, in Sydney, to alter the destination of his party, and was directed to cross over to Tasmania, and join his expedition with that of Lieutenant Bowen. Accordingly, he sailed with his two vessels, containing about 400 prisoners, and superseded Lieutenant Bowen, at Risdon. He found the party almost starving, and in danger every night of being surprised and destroyed by the natives. He, therefore, removed the whole settlement to a place on the

opposite side of the Derwent, where it would be more secure, and, also, more easily visited by store ships. Here, at the mouth of a little creek, with Sullivan's Bay for its harbour, the broad waters of the Derwent stretching before it, Mount Wellington and the adjacent hills circling it behind, Governor Collins selected the site of what was, till lately, the southernmost city of the world. Houses were quickly erected; posts stuck in the ground, interwoven with wattle twigs, and daubed over with mud, formed the walls; a few stones with turf, rudely built together, formed the chimneys; and roofs of grass completed the structures. In honour of Lord Hobart, who was then Secretary of State for the colonies, the infant city was called "Hobart Town."

3. **Paterson.**—Next year, 1804, the Sydney Government sent another party of convicts, under Colonel Paterson, to found a colony in the north of Tasmania. The position selected was near the entrance to Port Dalrymple; and here, for eight years, a small settlement continued to exist in an independent state, until, in 1812, it was placed under the charge of the Governor at Hobart Town.

4. **Death of Collins.**—The colony, at the latter place, was meanwhile slowly establishing itself, and in 1808, when Bligh visited it after his expulsion from Sydney, he found the little township with quite a settled and comfortable appearance. In 1810, it lost its amiable and warm-hearted Governor. While calmly and cheerfully conversing with a friend, Mr. Collins fell back dead in his chair. He was a man of a good and kindly nature, a little vain, and self-important, but earnest and upright, and possessed of very fair abilities. The distinguished part he played in the early colonization of Australia will always render him a prominent person in our history.

5. **Governor Davey.**—It took some time for the news of the Governor's death to reach England, and during the three

years that elapsed before his successor could be sent out, the place was filled in turn by three gentlemen, named Lord, Murray, and Gills, till, in 1813, the new Governor, Davey, arrived. He had been a Colonel of Marines, and had shown himself a good soldier, but he had few of the qualities of a Governor. He was rough and excessively coarse in his manners, and utterly regardless of all decorum. He showed his defiance of all conventional rules by the manner of his entry. The day being warm, he took off his coat and waistcoat, and marched into the town in a costume more easy than dignified; he listened to the address of welcome with careless indifference, and throughout showed little respect either for himself or for the people he had come to govern. Yet, under his rule, the colony made progress. In his first year he opened the port to ordinary merchant ships; for, previously, as the town was a convict settlement of the most severe type, no free person was allowed to land without special permission. From this time commerce began to spring up; free settlers spread over the country, and cultivated it with such success that, in 1816, besides supplying all the necessities of their own community, they were able to export grain to Sydney.

6. **New Norfolk.**—In 1807, the settlement at Norfolk Island had been abandoned by the British Government, and the convicts, of whom many had there grown to be decent, orderly farmers, were brought to Tasmania. They formed a new settlement on the Derwent, about fifteen miles above Hobart Town, at a place which they called "New Norfolk," in affectionate memory of their former island home.

7. **Bushranging.**—About this time the colony began to be greatly annoyed by bushrangers. From twenty to forty convicts generally escaped every year and betook themselves to the wild country around the central lakes of Tasmania. There, among the fastnesses of the Western mountains, they

led a desperate and daring life, sometimes living with the natives, to whom they quickly taught all the wickedness they themselves knew. Their ordinary lives were wretchedly debased; and, in search of booty, or in revenge for fancied injuries, they often committed the most savage crimes. They treated their native companions like beasts, to be used for a while, and then shot or mangled when no longer wanted; and it is not surprising that the blacks soon became filled with the most intense hatred of all the white invaders of their land. Frequently, the aboriginal tribes united to attack the lonely farm-house and murder all its inhabitants. Hence, every settler in the country districts was well supplied with arms, and taught all his household to use them; the walls were pierced here and there with holes, through which a musket might be directed in safety against an advancing enemy. The fear of bushrangers who might attack them for the sake of plunder, and of natives who might massacre them in revenge, kept the scattered settlers in constant terror and trouble.

8. **Governor Sorrell.**—But in 1817, when Governor Davey grew tired of his position and resigned it, choosing rather to live an easy-going life on his estate, near Hobart Town, than be troubled with the cares of office, Colonel Sorrell, the new Governor, set himself with vigour to suppress these ruthless marauders. He was to some extent successful, and the young colony enjoyed an interval of peace. Farming was profitable, and the exports of wheat began to assume large dimensions. The best breeds of sheep were brought into the island, and Van Diemen's Land wool, which at first had been despised in England, and used only for stuffing mattresses, grew into favour, and was bought by the manufacturers at high prices. Thus many of the settlers became wealthy, and the estates from which their wealth was derived began to have a correspondingly high value, so as to

give the colony an assured prosperity which was certainly remarkable in the sixteenth year from its foundation. Another industry was added, which indirectly contributed to the wealth of Tasmania. The captain of a merchant vessel, on his way to Sydney, had seen a great shoal of whales off the south coast of Tasmania, and, along with the Governor of New South Wales, secretly formed a scheme to fit out a whaling expedition. But his crew also had seen the whales, and soon made the fact widely known; so that by the time the captain's party was ready to sail, there were several other whaling vessels on the point of starting. They were all successful, and very soon a large number of ships were engaged in whale fishing. Now, as Hobart Town was the nearest port, the whalers found that it saved time to go thither with their oil, and to buy their provisions, and refit their ships there; so that the trade and importance of the little city received a very material impetus in this way.

Much of the progress was due to the sensible management of Governor Sorrell, who spared no effort to reform the convicts, as well as to elevate and refine the free settlers. Hence, it was with great regret that the colonists saw his term of office expire in 1824. They petitioned the English Government to allow him to stay for other six years, and when the reply was given that this could not be done, as Col. Sorrell was required elsewhere, they presented him with a handsome testimonial, and settled on him an income of £500 a year from their own revenue.

9. Governor Arthur.—But when Col. Sorrell had left, bushranging became as troublesome as ever. Governor Arthur arrived in 1824, and found the colony fast relapsing into its former unsettled state. He learnt that, shortly before, some thirteen or fourteen convicts had succeeded in escaping from the penal settlement in an open boat, and had landed on a lonely part of the coast. They were joined by

a great crowd of concealed convicts, and, under the leadership of Crawford and Brady, they formed a dangerous horde of robbers, which, for years kept the whole colony in terror. For a while, they plundered without hindrance, till a party of about a dozen attacked the house of an old gentleman named Taylor, who had the courage to fight and defeat them. With his three sons, his carpenter, and his servant, he fired upon the advancing ruffians, whilst his daughters rapidly re-loaded the muskets. The robbers retreated, leaving their leader, Crawford, and two or three others, who had been wounded, to be captured by Mr. Taylor and sent to Hobart Town, where they were executed. Brady then became chief leader of the band, and though his encounter with Mr. Taylor had taken away all his ardour for fighting, he contrived to plunder and annoy for a long time. Deep in the woods, along the silent banks of the Shannon, the outlaws lived securely ; for, even when the soldiers ventured to penetrate these lonely regions, the outlaws could easily escape to the rugged mountain sides, where they could hide or defend themselves. Governor Arthur's task was not an easy one, for Brady could command a powerful force, and his was not the only one of the kind; the result was that, for a long time, the country was unsettled, and trade was paralyzed. Seeing no other course open, Governor Arthur offered a pardon and a free passage home to those who surrendered. So many were thus induced to submit peaceably that, at length, Brady was almost alone ; and whilst he wandered in a secluded valley, without followers, he was surprised by John Batman, who, several years after, assisted in the settlement of Victoria. Brady surrendered, and was executed ; the bushrangers, by degrees, disappeared, and the colonists once more breathed freely.

10. Separation.—Hitherto Tasmania had been only a dependency of New South Wales, but in 1825 it was made a

separate colony, with a Supreme Court of its own. In 1829 it received its first legislative body, fifteen gentlemen being appointed to consult with the Governor, and make laws for the colony. For some years after, the history of Tasmania is simply an account of quiet industry, and steady progress. Hobart Town, by degrees, grew to be a fine city, with handsome buildings and well-kept streets. The country districts were fenced in, and well tilled ; good roads and bridges were made ; and everything looked smiling and prosperous. The only serious difficulty was the want of coins for the ordinary purposes of trade. So great was the scarcity of gold and silver money, that pieces of paper, with promises to pay a certain sum, perhaps a sixpence or a shilling, were largely used in the colony, in place of the money itself. At the request of Governor Arthur, coins to the value of a hundred thousand pounds were sent out from England for the use of the colonists.

Governor Arthur's period of office expired in 1836, and he left the colony, greatly to the regret of the colonists, who subscribed £1,500 to present him with a testimonial. He was succeeded by Sir John Franklin, the famous voyager, whose history will be related in a subsequent chapter.

Abstract of Chapter V.

(1)—1803—First Settlement was made by Lieutenant Bowen, who conveyed the worst of the New South Wales convicts to the mouth of the Derwent.

(2)—1803—Collins (formerly Judge-Advocate of New South Wales), after visiting Port Phillip, also landed convicts on the Derwent ; he founded Hobart Town.

(3)—1804—Paterson made a convict settlement at Port Dalrymple.

(4)—1810—Collins died very suddenly.

(5)—1813—Governor Davey, very careless ; but under him the colony prospered, the ports being opened to ordinary ships.

(6)—1807—NEW NORFOLK, on the Derwent, was founded by the convicts brought from Norfolk Island.

(7)—BUSHRANGERS were very numerous, owing to the frequency of escapes from convict stations.

(8)—1817—GOVERNOR SORRELL repressed bushranging. On account of this, and from the visits of whaling vessels, the prosperity of the colony increased.

(9)—1824—GOVERNOR ARTHUR found the bushrangers very dangerous, especially the gang under Crawford and Brady ; he reduced their numbers by offering pardons.

(10)—1825—SEPARATION from New South Wales was followed, in 1829, by the appointment of a Legislative Council.

CHAPTER VI.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1808 TO 1837.

1. Governor Macquarie.—In 1808, the English Government held an inquiry as to the circumstances which had caused the expulsion of Governor Bligh, and though they cashiered Major Johnston, and indeed ordered the whole of the New South Wales Corps to be disbanded, yet as they could not but allow that Bligh had been himself very much to blame, they yielded to the wishes of the settlers in so far as to appoint a new Governor in his place, and despatched Major General Macquarie to take the position. He was directed to re-instate Bligh for a period of twenty-four hours, in order to indicate that the authorities in England would not suffer the colonists to dictate to them in these matters ; but that they reserved completely to themselves the right to appoint and dismiss the Governors. However, as Bligh had by this time gone to Tasmania, Macquarie was forced to content himself, on his arrival, with merely proclaiming what had been his intentions.

In the early days of the colonies their destinies were, to a great extent, moulded by the governors who had charge of

them. Whether for good or for evil, the influence of the governor was decisive; and it was, therefore, a matter of great good fortune to Sydney that, during the long administration of Governor Lachlan Macquarie, this influence was almost wholly on the side of good. Not but that Macquarie had his faults. He was a man absurdly filled with vanity and self-conceit; a man who, instead of sober despatches to his superiors in England, wrote flowery accounts of himself and his wonderful doings; a man who, in his egoism, affixed the names of himself and of his family to nearly every place discovered in the colony during his term of office. Yet, apart from this weakness, Macquarie may be characterized as an exemplary man and an admirable Governor. He devoted himself heartily to his work; his chief thought for twelve years was how to improve the state of the little colony, and how to raise the degraded men who had been sent thither. An ardent feeling of philanthropy gave a kindly tone to his restless activity. Once every year he made a complete tour of the settled portions of the colony to observe their condition and discover what improvements were needed. He taught the farmers to build for themselves neat houses, in place of the rude huts they had previously been content with; he encouraged them to improve their system of farming, sometimes with advice, sometimes with money, but more often with loans from the Government stores. He built churches and schools; he took the warmest interest in the progress of religion and of education; and, indeed, neglected nothing that could serve to elevate the moral tone of the little community; and, certainly, no community has ever been in greater need of elevation. The fact that the British Government thought it necessary to send out 1,100 soldiers to keep order among a population of only 10,000 indicates very plainly what was the character of these people, and almost justifies the sweeping assertion of Macquarie, that

the colony consisted of those "who had been transported, and those who ought to have been." Yet Macquarie uniformly showed a kindly disposition towards the convicts; he settled great numbers of them as free men on little farms of their own; and if they did not succeed as well as they might have done, it was not for want of advice and assistance from the Governor.

2. Road over the Blue Mountains.—The most important result of Macquarie's activity was the opening up of new country. He had quite a passion for road-making; and though, on his arrival in the colony, he found only forty-five miles of what were little better than bush tracks, yet, when he left, there were over three hundred miles of excellent and substantial roads spreading in all directions from Sydney. He marked out towns—such as Windsor, Richmond, and Castlereagh—in suitable places; then, by making roads to them, he encouraged the freed convicts to leave Sydney and form little communities inland. But his greatest achievement in the way of road-making was the highway across the Blue Mountains. It will be remembered that this range had for years presented an insurmountable barrier. Many persons—including the intrepid Bass—had attempted to cross it, but in vain; the only one who succeeded even in penetrating far into that wild and rugged country was a gentleman called Cayley, who stopped at the edge of an enormous precipice, where he could see no way of descending. He erected a pile of stones at this place, which is now called Cayley's Repulse. But in 1813 three gentlemen—named Wentworth, Lawson, and Blaxland—succeeded in crossing. After laboriously piercing through the dense timber which covers some of the ranges, they traversed a wild and desolate country, sometimes crawling along naked precipices, and sometimes lost in stern and bleak ravines, but at length emerging on the beautiful plains to the west. On their return Governor Macquarie

sent Surveyor Evans to examine the pass, and the report being favourable he lost no time in commencing to construct a road over the mountains. The difficulties in his way were immense; for fifty miles the road lay through the most rugged country, where yawning chasms had to be bridged, and oftentimes the solid rock had to be cut away. Yet, in less than fifteen months, a good carriage highway stretched from Sydney across the mountains; and the Governor was able to take Mrs. Macquarie on a trip to the fine pasture lands beyond, where he founded a town and named it Bathurst, after Lord Bathurst the Secretary of State. This was a measure of great importance to the colony, for the country between the mountains and the sea was too limited and too much subject to droughts to maintain the two hundred and fifty thousand sheep which the prosperous colony now possessed. Many squatters took their flocks along the road to Bathurst, and settled down in the spacious pasture lands of the Macquarie and Lachlan Rivers.

3. **Governor Brisbane.**—In 1821 Governor Macquarie left for England, much regretted by the colonists. The only serious mistake of his policy had been that he had quietly discouraged the introduction of free settlers, "because," as he said, "the colony is intended for convicts, and free settlers have no business here." His successor—Sir Thomas Brisbane—and, afterwards, Sir Ralph Darling—adopted a more prudent policy, and offered every inducement to free immigrants to make their homes in the colony. It was never found possible, however, to obtain many of that class which has been so successful in America, consisting of men who, having with difficulty gathered sufficient money for their passages, landed in their adopted country without means and with no resources beyond the cheerful labour of themselves and of their families, yet settled down in the deep, untrodden forests, and there made for themselves happy and prosperous homes.

This was not the class of immigrants who arrived in New South Wales during the times of Brisbane and Darling. For in 1818 free passages to Australia had been abolished, and the voyage was so long and so expensive that a poor man could scarcely hope to accomplish it. Hence, those who arrived in Sydney were generally young men of good education, who brought with them a few hundred pounds, and not only were willing to labour themselves, but were able to employ the labour of others. In America, the "squatter" was a man who farmed a small piece of land. In Australia, he was one who bought a flock of sheep and carried them out to the pasture lands, where, as they increased from year to year, he grew rich with the annual produce of their wool. Sir Thomas Brisbane was pleased with the advent of men of this class : he gave them grants of land, and assigned to them as many convicts as they were able to employ. Very speedily the fine lands of the colony were covered with flocks and herds ; and the applications for convicts became so numerous that, at one time, two thousand more were demanded than could be supplied. Hence began an important change in the colony. The costly Government farms were, one after another, broken up, and the convicts assigned to the squatters. Then the unremunerative public works were abandoned ; for many of these had been begun only for the purpose of occupying the prisoners. All this tended for good ; as the convicts, when thus scattered, were much more manageable, and much more likely to reform, than when gathered in large and corrupting crowds. In Macquarie's time, not one convict in ten could be usefully employed ; seven or eight years after, there was not a convict in the colony whose services would not be eagerly sought and well paid for by the squatters.

This important change took place under Governors Brisbane and Darling, and was, in a great measure, due to

these Governors : yet, strange to say, neither of them was ever popular. Brisbane, who entered on office in 1821, was a fine old soldier, a thorough gentleman, honourable and upright in all his ways. Yet it could not be doubted that he was out of his sphere when conducting the affairs of a young colony, and in 1825 the British Government found it necessary to recall him.

4. **Governor Darling.**—He was succeeded by Sir Ralph Darling, who was also a soldier, but was, at the same time, a man well adapted for business. Yet he, too, failed to give satisfaction. He was precise and methodical, and his habits were painfully careful, exhibiting that sort of diligence which takes infinite trouble and anxiety over details, to the neglect of larger and more important matters. His administration lasted six years, from 1825 to 1831. During this period an association was formed in England, consisting of merchants and members of Parliament, who subscribed a capital of one million pounds, and received from Government a grant of one million acres in New South Wales. They called themselves the Australian Agricultural Company, and proposed to improve and cultivate the waste lands of Australia, to import sheep and cattle for squatting purposes, to open up mines for coal and metals, and, in general, to avail themselves of the vast resources of the colony. Sir Edward Parry, the famous Polar navigator, was sent out as manager. The servants and *employés* of the Association formed quite a flourishing colony on the Liverpool Plains, at the head of the Darling River ; and though, at first, it caused some confusion in the financial state of New South Wales, yet, in the end, it proved of great benefit to the whole colony.

5. **The Legislative Council.**—In 1824 a small Executive Council had been formed to consult with Governor Brisbane on colonial matters. In 1829 this was enlarged and became

the Legislative Council, consisting of fifteen members, who had power to make laws for the colony. But as their proceedings were strictly secret, and could be completely reversed by the Governor whenever he chose, they formed but a very imperfect substitute for a truly legislative body. Yet it was of some service to the colony : one of its first acts was to introduce the English jury system, in place of arbitrary trials by Government officials.

6. The Newspaper War.—Governor Darling was never popular. During the greater part of his period of office intrigues were continually on foot to obtain his recall ; and from this state of feeling there arose what has been called the newspaper war, which lasted for four years with great violence. The first Australian newspaper had been established in 1803 by a convict named Howe. It was in a great measure supported by the patronage of the Government, and the Governors always exercised the right of forbidding the insertion of what they disliked. Hence this paper, the *Sydney Gazette*, was considered to be the Government organ, and, accordingly, its opinions of the Governors and their acts were greatly mistrusted. But, during the time of Brisbane, an independent newspaper, the *Australian*, was established by Mr. Wentworth and Dr. Wardell. A second of the same kind soon followed, and was called the *Monitor*. These papers found it to their advantage, during the unpopularity of Darling, to criticise severely the acts of that Governor, who was defended by the *Gazette* with intemperate zeal ; this altercation had lasted for some time, when, in the third year of Darling's administration, a very small event was sufficient to set the whole colony in an uproar.

A dissipated soldier named Sudds persuaded his companion, Thompson, that their prospects were not hopeful so long as they remained soldiers ; but that, if they became convicts, they had a very fair chance of becoming rich and

prosperous. Accordingly, they entered a shop and stole a piece of cloth; they were tried, convicted, and sentenced to be transported to Tasmania for seven years. This was what they wished; but Governor Darling, having heard of the scheme they were so successfully carrying out, took it upon himself to alter the course of the law, and directed them to be chained together with heavy-spiked collars of iron about their necks, and to be set to labour on the roads. Sudds was suffering from liver disease; he sank beneath the severity of his punishment, and in a few days he died—while Thompson, about the same time, became insane. This was an excellent opportunity for the opposition papers, which immediately attacked the Governor for what they called his illegal interference and his brutality. The *Gazette* filled its columns with the most fulsome flattery in his defence, and Darling himself was so imprudent as to mingle in the dispute, and do what he could to annoy the editors of the two hostile papers. Very soon the whole colony was divided into two great classes; the one needlessly extolling the Governor, the other denouncing him as the most cowardly and brutal of men. For four years this abusive warfare lasted, till at length the opponents of Darling won the day; and in 1831 he was recalled by the English Government.

7. Governor Bourke.—Sir Richard Bourke, who succeeded him, was the most able and the most popular of all the Sydney Governors. He had the talent and energy of Macquarie; but he had, in addition, a frank and hearty manner, which insensibly won the hearts of the colonists, who, for years after his departure, used to talk affectionately of him as the "good old Governor Bourke." During his term of office, the colony continued in a sober way to make steady progress. In 1833, its population numbered 60,000, of whom 36,000 were free persons. Every year there arrived three thousand fresh convicts; but as an equal number of

free immigrants also arrived, the colony was benefited by its annual increase of population.

8. **The Land Question.**—Governor Bourke, on his landing, found that much discontentment existed with reference to what was called the Land Question. It was understood that any one who applied for land to the Government, and showed that he could make a good use of it, would receive a suitable area as a free grant. But many abuses crept in under this system. In theory, all men had an equal right to obtain the land they required; but, in practice, it was seldom possible for one who had no friends among the officials at Sydney to obtain a grant. An immigrant had often to wait for months, and see his application unheeded; while, meantime, a few favoured individuals were calling day by day at the Land Office, and receiving grant after grant of the choicest parts of the colony. Governor Bourke made a new arrangement. There were to be no more free grants. In the settled districts all land was to be put up for auction; if less than five shillings an acre was offered, it was not to be sold; when the offers rose above that price, it was to be given to the highest bidder. This was regarded as a very fair arrangement; and, as a large sum of money was annually received from the sale of land, the Government was able to resume the practice, discontinued in 1818, of assisting poor people in Europe to emigrate to the colony.

9. **The Squatters.**—Beyond the surveyed districts the land was occupied by squatters, who settled down where they pleased, but had no legal right to their "runs," as they were called. With regard to these lands new regulations were urgently required, for the squatters, who were liable to be turned off at a moment's notice, felt themselves in a very precarious position. Besides, as their sheep increased rapidly, and the flocks of neighbouring squatters interfered

with one another, violent feuds sprang up, and were carried on with much bitterness. To put an end to these evils, Governor Bourke ordered the squatters to apply for the land they required. He promised to have boundaries marked out; but gave notice that he would, in future, charge a small rent, proportional to the number of sheep the land could support. In return, he would secure to each squatter the peaceable occupation of his run, until the time came when it should be required for sale. This regulation did much to secure the stability of squatting interests in New South Wales.

After ruling well and wisely for six years, Governor Bourke retired in the year 1837, amid the sincere regrets of the whole colony.

Abstract of Chapter VI.

(1)—Governor Macquarie sent out in 1808—New South Wales Corps disbanded—Macquarie active in promoting welfare of colony.

(2)—Road over Blue Mountains—Pass discovered in 1813 by Wentworth, Lawson, and Blaxland—Road constructed in 1815 by Macquarie—Bathurst founded—Squatters drive their sheep across the mountains.

(3)—Governor Brisbane arrived in 1821—He encouraged the introduction of free settlers—The squatters prosper—Great demand for convict shepherds—The Government farms, in consequence, broken up.

(4)—Governor Darling arrived in 1825—Formation of Australian Agricultural Company—It proves of service to the colony.

(5)—Legislative Council established in 1829—Consisted of fifteen members, who made laws for the colony—Its first act was to introduce the Jury System.

(6)—Newspaper War—*Sydney Gazette* had been established in 1803—During Government of Brisbane, two Opposition papers were started—These criticise Governor Darling—Make the most of the case of Sudds and Thompson, two soldiers whose sentences Darling had altered—Violent altercation—Darling recalled in 1831.

(7)—GOVERNOR BOURKE—The most talented of the Sydney Governors—Extremely popular.

(8)—LAND QUESTION—Governor Bourke put up all surveyed lands to auction, not to be sold for less than five shillings an acre—Proceeds employed to assist immigration.

(9)—SQUATTERS—Unsurveyed lands leased to squatters—This gives the squatting interest more stability—Bourke retires in 1837.

CHAPTER VII.

DISCOVERIES IN THE INTERIOR, 1817-1836.

1. Oxley.—After the passage over the Blue Mountains had been discovered in 1813, and the beautiful pasture land round Bathurst had been opened up to the enterprise of the squatters, it was natural that the colonists should desire to know something of the nature and capabilities of the land which stretched still further to the west. In 1817 they sent Mr. Oxley, the Surveyor-General, to explore the country towards the interior, directing him to follow the course of the Lachlan, and discover the ultimate "fate," as they called it, of its waters. Taking with him a small party, he set out from the settled districts on the Macquarie, and for many days walked along the banks of the Lachlan, through undulating districts of woodland and rich meadow. But, after a time, the explorers could perceive that they were gradually entering upon a region of totally different aspect; the ground was growing less and less hilly; the tall mountain trees were giving place to stunted shrubs; and the fresh green of the grassy slopes was disappearing. At length they emerged on a great plain, filled with dreary swamps, which stretched as far as the eye could reach, like one vast dismal sea of waving reeds. Into this forbidding region they penetrated, forcing their way through the tangled reeds, and over weary miles of

oozy mud, into which they sank almost to the knees at every step. Ere long they had to abandon the effort to follow the Lachlan throughout its course ; they therefore retraced their steps, and, striking to the south, succeeded in going round this great swamp which had opposed their progress. Again they followed the course of the river for some distance, entering, as they journeyed, into regions of still greater desolation ; but again they were forced to desist by a second swamp of the same kind. The Lachlan here seemed to lose itself in interminable marshes, and as no trace could be found of its further course, Oxley concluded that he had reached the end of the river. As he looked around on the dreary expanse, he pronounced the country to be "for ever uninhabitable ;" and, on his return to Bathurst, he reported that, in this direction at least, there was no opening for enterprise. The Lachlan, he said, flows into an extensive region of swamps, which are perhaps only the margin of a great inland sea.

Oxley was afterwards sent to explore the course of the Macquarie river, but was as little successful in this as in his former effort. The river flowed into a wide marsh, some thirty or forty miles long, and he was forced to abandon his purpose ; he started for the eastern coast, crossed the New England Range, and descended the long woodland slopes to the sea, discovering on his way the river Hastings.

2. Allan Cunningham. — Several important discoveries were effected by an enthusiastic botanist named Allan Cunningham, who, in his search for new plants, succeeded in opening up country which had been previously unknown. In 1825 he found a passage over the Liverpool Range, through a wild and picturesque gap, which he called the Pandora Pass ; and on the other side of the mountains he discovered the fine pastoral lands of the Liverpool Plains and the Darling Downs, which are watered by three branches of the Upper

Darling, the Peel, the Gwydir, and the Dumaresq. It was not long before the squatters took advantage of these discoveries; and this district, after a year or two, was covered with great flocks of sheep.

3. **Hume and Hovell.**—The southern coasts of the district now called Victoria had been carefully explored by Flinders and other sailors, but the country which lay behind these coasts was quite unknown. In 1824, Governor Brisbane suggested a novel plan of exploration; he proposed to land a party of convicts at Wilson's Promontory, with instructions to work their way through the interior to Sydney, where they would receive their freedom. The charge of the party was offered to Hamilton Hume, a young native of the colony, and a most expert and intrepid bushman. He was of an energetic and determined, though somewhat domineering disposition, and was anxious to distinguish himself in the work of exploration. He declined to undertake the expedition in the manner proposed by Governor Brisbane, but offered to conduct a party of convicts from Sydney to the southern coasts. A gentleman named Hovell asked permission to accompany him. With these two as leaders, and six convict servants to make up the party, they set out from Lake George, carrying their provisions in two carts, drawn by teams of oxen. As soon as they met the Murrumbidgee their troubles commenced; the river was so broad and swift that it was difficult to see how they could carry their goods across. Hume covered the carts with tarpaulin, so as to make them serve as punts. Then he swam across the river carrying the end of a rope between his teeth; and with this he pulled over the loaded punts. The men and oxen then swam across, and they once more pushed forward. But the country through which they had now to pass was so rough and woody, that they were obliged to abandon their carts and load the oxen with their provisions. They journeyed on, through hilly

country, beneath the shades of deep and far-spreading forests; to their left they sometimes caught a glimpse of the snow-capped peaks of the Australian Alps, and at length they reached the banks of a clear and rapid stream, which they called the Hume, but which is now known as the Murray. Their carts being no longer available, they had to construct boats of wickerwork and cover them with tarpaulin. Having crossed the river, they entered the lightly-timbered slopes to the north of Victoria, and holding their course south-west, they discovered first, the river Ovens, and then a splendid stream which they called the Hovell, now known as the Goulburn. Their great object, however, was to reach the ocean, and every morning when they left their camping-place they were sustained by the hope of coming, before evening, in view of the open sea. But day passed after day, without any prospect of a termination to their journey. Hume and Hovell, seeing a high peak at some little distance, left the rest of the party to themselves for a few days, and with incredible labour, ascended the mountain, in the expectation of beholding from its summit the great Southern Ocean in the distance. Nothing was to be seen, however, but the waving tops of blue-gums, rising ridge after ridge away to the south; and wearily, they retraced their steps to the place where the others were encamped. They called this peak Mount Disappointment. Having altered the direction of their course a little, in a few days they were rejoiced by the sight of a great expanse of water. Passing through country which they declared to resemble, in its freshness and beauty, the well-kept park of an English nobleman, they reached a bay, which the natives called Geelong. Here a dispute took place between the leaders, Hovell asserting that the sheet of water before them was Western Port, Hume that it was Port Phillip. Hume expressed the utmost contempt for Hovell's ignorance; Hovell retorted with sarcasms on Hume's

dogmatism and conceit; and the rest of the journey was embittered by so great an amount of ill-feeling that the two explorers were never again on friendly terms. Hume's careful and sagacious observations of the route by which they had come, enabled him to lead them rapidly and safely back to Sydney, where the leaders were rewarded with grants of land and the convicts with tickets-of-leave. Mr. Hovell, who still maintained that the bay they had seen was Western Port, was sent to found a convict settlement there. On arriving at the real Western Port, however, he was unwillingly convinced of his mistake; and as the land on its shores was not to be compared with what he had seen round Geelong he abandoned the enterprise.

4. Captain Sturt.—The long drought which occurred between 1826 and 1828 suggested to Governor Darling the idea that, as the swamps which had impeded Oxley's progress would be then dried up, the exploration of the river Macquarie would not present the same difficulties as formerly. The charge of organizing an expedition was given to Captain Sturt, who was to be accompanied by Hume, with a party of two soldiers and eight convicts. They carried with them portable boats; but when they reached the Macquarie they found its waters so low as to be incapable of floating them properly. Trudging on foot along the banks of the river they reached the place where Oxley had turned back. It was no longer a marsh; but, with the intense heat, the clay beneath their feet was baked, and hard: there was the same dreary stretch of reeds, now withered and yellow under the glare of the sun. Sturt endeavoured to penetrate this solitude, but the physical exertion of pushing their way through the reeds was too great for them. If they paused to rest, they were almost suffocated in the hot and pestilent air; the only sound they could hear was the distant booming of the bittern, and a feeling of the most lonely wretchedness pervaded the

scene. At length they were glad to leave this dismal region and strike to the west, through a flat and monotonous district, where the shells and claws of cray fish told of frequent inundations. Through this plain there flowed a river which Sturt called the Darling, in honour of the Governor. They followed this river for about ninety miles, and then took their way back to Sydney, Sturt being now able to prove that the belief in the existence of a great inland sea was erroneous.

5. The Murray.—In 1829, along with a naturalist named Macleay, he was again sent out to explore the interior, and on this occasion he carried his portable boats to the Murrumbidgee, on which he embarked his party of eight convicts. They rowed with a will, and soon took the boat down the river beyond its junction with the Lachlan. The stream then became narrow; a thick growth of overhanging trees shut out the light from above, while, beneath, the rushing waters bore them swiftly over dangerous snags and through whirling rapids, until they were suddenly shot out into the broad surface of a noble stream which flowed gently over its smooth bed of sand and pebbles. This river they called the Murray; but it was afterwards found to be only the lower portion of the stream which had been crossed by Hume and Hovell several years before.

Sturt's manner of journeying was to row from sunrise to sunset, then land on the banks of the river and encamp for the night. This exposed the party to some dangers from the suspicious natives, who often mustered in crowds of several hundreds; but Sturt's kindly manner and pleasant smile always converted them into friends, so that the worst mishap he had to record was the loss of his frying pan and other utensils, together with some provisions, which were stolen by the blacks in the dead of night. After twilight the little encampment was often swarming with dark figures, but Sturt

joined in their sports, and Macleay especially became a great favourite with them by singing comic songs, at which the dusky crowds roared with laughter. The natives are generally good-humoured, if properly managed; and, throughout Sturt's trip, the white men and the blacks contrived to spend a very friendly and sociable time together.

After following the Murray for about two hundred miles below the Lachlan they reached a place where a large river flowed from the north into the Murray. This was the mouth of the river Darling, which Sturt himself had previously discovered and named. He now turned his boat into it in order to examine it for a short distance; but after they had rowed a mile or two they came to a fence of stakes, which the natives had stretched across the river for the purpose of catching fish. Rather than break the fence, and so destroy the labours of the blacks, Sturt turned to sail back. The natives had been concealed on the shore to watch the motions of the white men, and, seeing their considerate conduct, they came forth upon the bank and gave a loud shout of satisfaction. The party in the boat unfurled the British flag, and answered with three hearty cheers, as they slowly drifted down with the current. This humane disposition was characteristic of Captain Sturt, who, in after life, was able to say that he had never—either directly or indirectly—caused the death of a blackfellow.

When they again entered on the Murray they were carried gently by the current—first to the west, then to the south; and, as they went onward, they found the river grow deeper and wider, until it spread into a broad sheet of water, which they called Lake Alexandrina, after the name of our present Queen, who was then the Princess Alexandrina-Victoria. On crossing this lake they found the passage to the ocean blocked up by a great bar of sand, and were forced to turn their boat round and face the current, with the prospect of a

toilsome journey of a thousand miles, before they could reach home. They had to work hard at their oars, Sturt taking his turn like the rest. At length they entered the Murrumbidgee; but their food was now failing, and the labour of pulling against the stream was proving too great for the men, whose limbs began to grow feeble and emaciated. Day by day they struggled on, swinging more and more wearily at their oars, their eyes glassy and sunken with hunger and toil, and their minds beginning to wander as the intense heat of the midsummer sun struck on their heads. One man became insane; the others frequently lay down, declaring that they could not row another stroke, and were quite willing to die. Sturt animated them, and, with enormous exertions, he succeeded in bringing the party to the settled districts, where they were safe. They had made known the greatest river of Australia, and traversed one thousand miles of unknown country, so that this expedition was by far the most important that had yet been made into the interior; and Sturt, by land, with Flinders, by sea, stands first on the roll of Australian discoverers.

6. **Mitchell.**—The next traveller who sought to fill up the blank map of Australia was Major Mitchell. Having offered, in 1831, to conduct an expedition to the north-west, he set out with fifteen convicts and reached the Upper Darling; but two of his men, who had been left behind to bring up provisions, were speared by the blacks, and the stores plundered. This disaster forced the company, soon after, to return. In 1835, when the Major renewed his search, he was again unfortunate. The botanist of the party, Richard Cunningham, brother of the Allan Cunningham already mentioned, was treacherously killed by the natives; and, finally, the determined hostility of the blacks brought the expedition to an ignominious close.

In 1836 Major Mitchell undertook an expedition to the

south, and in this he was much more successful. Taking with him a party of twenty-five convicts, he followed the Lachlan to its junction with the Murrumbidgee. Here he stayed for a short time to explore the neighbouring country; but the party was attacked by hordes of natives, of whom a great number were shot. The Major then crossed the Murray; and, from a mountain top in the Loddon district, he looked forth on a land which he declared to be like the garden of Eden. On all sides rich expanses of woodland and grassy plains stretched away to the horizon, watered by abundant streams. They then passed along the slopes of the Grampians and discovered the river Glenelg, on which they embarked in the boats which they had carried with them. The scenery along this stream was magnificent; luxurious festoons of creepers hung from the banks, trailing downwards in the eddying current, and partly concealing the most lovely grottos which the current had wrought out of the pure white banks of limestone. The river wound round abrupt hills and through verdant valleys, which made the latter part of their journey to the sea most agreeable and refreshing. Being stopped by the bar at the mouth of the Glenelg, they followed the shore for a short distance eastward, and then turned towards home. Portland Bay now lay on their right, and Mitchell made an excursion to explore it. What was his surprise to see a neat cottage on the shore, with a small schooner in front of it at anchor in the bay. This was the lonely dwelling of the brothers Henty, who had crossed from Tasmania and founded a whaling station at Portland Bay. On Mitchell's return he had a glorious view from the summit of Mount Macedon, and what he saw induced him, on his return to Sydney, to give to the country the name "Australia Felix." As a reward for his important services, he received a vote of one thousand pounds from the Council at Sydney, and he was

shortly afterwards knighted ; so that he is now known as Sir Thomas Mitchell.

Abstract of Chapter VII.

(1)—Oxley sent to follow the course of the Lachlan—Traces it till it is lost in extensive marshes—In a subsequent expedition he has a like experience in following the Macquarie—The interior of Australia believed to be a great inland sea.

(2)—Cunningham crossed the Pandora Pass—Opened up the country on the Peel, Gwydir, and Dumaresq.

(3)—Hume and Hovell—Cross from Lake George to Port Phillip—On their way discover the Murray, the Ovens, and the Goulburn—Dispute between the leaders—They return to Sydney.

(4)—Captain Sturt sent to explore the Macquarie—Unable to pierce the region of dense reeds, turns to the west and discovers the River Darling.

(5)—The Murray—In 1829, Sturt and Macleay embark on the Murrumbidgee—Enter the Murray—Intercourse with the natives—Discover Lake Alexandrina—Reach the mouth of the Murray—Difficult journey back to Sydney.

(6)—Mitchell—First expedition to the north-west fails—Again, in 1835, he is forced to return without result—In 1836, he undertakes an expedition to the south—Crosses Murray—Traverses the west of Victoria—Discovers the Glenelg—Finds the Brothers Henty settled at Portland Bay.

CHAPTER VIII.

Port Phillip, 1800-1840.

1. Discovery of Port Phillip.—The discovery of Bass Straits in 1798 had rendered it possible for the captains of ships bound for Sydney to shorten somewhat their voyage thither ; and in 1800 Lieutenant Grant, for the first time, made use of this advantage. On his way from England, he took his little brig—the *Lady Nelson*—through the Straits ;

and as he passed along the northern shores, he gave names to the principal bays and inlets. When he arrived in Sydney, he called the attention of Governor King to a small inlet which he had not examined, although it seemed to him of importance. In 1802 the Governor sent the *Lady Nelson*, now under the command of Lieutenant Murray, to explore this inlet. Lieutenant Murray entered it, and found that a narrow passage led to a broad sheet of water, thoroughly land-locked, though of very considerable extent. He reported favourably of the beauty and fertility of its shores, and desired to name it Port King, in honour of the Governor; but, as we have before mentioned, Governor King requested that this tribute should be paid to the memory of his old commander, the first Australian Governor, and thus the bay received its present name, Port Phillip. Only sixty days later Flinders also entered the bay; but when he arrived some time afterwards in Sydney, he was surprised to find he was not the first discoverer.

In 1803 Governor King sent Charles Grimes, the Surveyor-General of New South Wales, together with two gentlemen named Meehan and Robbins, to walk round the shores of Port Phillip. This adventurous feat they accomplished, and discovered several rivers falling into the bay, but to these they gave no names; and beyond the compilation of a rough chart of Port Phillip, this expedition produced no results.

2. Governor Collins.—The first attempt to colonize Port Phillip was made in 1803 under Governor Collins, who landed near the present site of Sorrento, with about four hundred convicts; they began to clear the land of its timber and form their settlement, but the want of water, as well as the barren nature of the soil, made the prospects of the little township seem very miserable. Collins, therefore, sent Lieutenant Tuckey, with a couple of boats, to explore the shores of the bay, and select some place in which fresh water

might be more abundant. Tuckey examined all that part of the bay which stretches from Point Nepean to Mornington, but could find no spot suitable for the proposed colony. Having reached the little creek on which Frankston now stands, he was attacked by a great crowd of blacks, and had a conflict with them sufficiently severe to prevent his landing again. He was thus debarred from exploration by land, and the stormy weather prevented him from remaining long on the open bay. He therefore returned with a very gloomy report, and increased the despondency of the little community. Every one was dull and dispirited, except the two or three children who had been allowed to accompany their convict parents; among these, the leader of all their childish sports was a little lad named John Pascoe Fawkner, who was destined to be afterwards of note in the history of Port Phillip. But even the children soon sank under the heat, the want of fresh water, and the general wretchedness of the situation; very soon all voices were unanimous in urging the Governor to remove. Collins then sent a ship with letters to Sydney, and Governor King gave him permission to cross over to Tasmania. Collins lost not a moment in doing so, and founded the settlement at the Derwent, to which reference has already been made.

Before he left, there were four convicts who took advantage of the confusion to escape into the bush, hoping to make their way to Sydney. One returned, footsore and weary, just in time to be taken on board; the other three were not again seen; two are believed to have perished of hunger, and thirty-two years passed away before the fate of the third was discovered.

3. Fawkner.—Whilst these years were passing, we have seen how the new colony at Hobart Town rapidly rose and prospered, and the boy Fawkner, who had been only about eleven years of age when he landed in Port Phillip, had

passed through the period of youth and early manhood—at first working as a sawyer, but, by his industry and careful study, making up to some extent for the deficiencies of his early education. Subsequently, he became an innkeeper in Launceston, and there he owned and conducted a small newspaper. But in his forty-second year he read the report of Hume and Hovell's travels, which were being published in the Sydney journals ; and learning that, on the other side of that very Port Phillip from which he had been so glad to escape about thirty years before, there were beautiful forests and well-watered meadows, he formed a small association for the purpose of crossing the straits. His arrangements, however, took some time to mature ; and whilst he was planning, a second adventurer was rapidly executing the same designs.

4. **Batman.**—John Batman was a native of Parramatta, but had crossed in early life into Tasmania, where he had prospered through care and honesty. He was an experienced bushman. It was he who had captured Brady the bushranger, and he had been of great use to Tasmania in inducing the blacks to submit themselves to the colonists. For these services he had received large grants of land, and had stocked them with great flocks of sheep. He married and settled down with a numerous family to enjoy his wealth in peace and comfort. But a picnic party which he gave to some friends one Christmas day was the means of changing the course of his life; for as they ascended the mountain on which they were to lunch, the talk of his friends was all about the glorious new country discovered around Port Phillip ; and so enchanting a picture was drawn that, in their enthusiasm, a small association was formed for the purpose of colonizing Port Phillip.

Batman was not the man to relinquish anything to which he had pledged himself, and before long he had increased the

association to fourteen members, and purchased a little vessel in which to cross, for the purpose of personally examining the country in which he proposed to settle. In this little sloop—the *Rebecca*—after tossing about for nineteen days in Bass Straits, he succeeded in entering the port, and landed at Indented Head on May 29th, 1835. On that day he walked twelve miles inland, through the same country which had so charmed the hearts of Hume and Hovell, and which Batman declared to be better suited for sheep than any land he had ever seen. Next day he took his vessel to Geelong, and on the third he landed at the mouth of the Werribee and proceeded on a walking tour round the bay. He found an encampment of about forty native women and children, with whom he was soon on very friendly terms, and the report they gave to the other natives of his kindness and generosity was of service to Batman afterwards.

The *Rebecca* sailed into Hobson's Bay, and anchored off the lonely point where the busy docks of Williamstown now are. Batman again started on foot to explore the country, taking with him, as interpreters, one or two Sydney natives, whom he had in his employment. He followed the Saltwater for some distance, then across the Keilor Plains to Jackson's Creek, and so up to Sunbury, keeping a good look-out for the natives, whom he did not fear, but rather wished to find. From the hill at Sunbury he could see fires about twenty miles south-east, and making towards them till he reached the Merri Creek, he met a native man with his wife and three children. By these he was informed that, on account of his kindness to the native women at the Werribee, all the aborigines of Port Phillip were his friends ; and being conducted by them nine miles down the creek, to their encampment, he was received by the whole tribe with great favour. He stayed with them all night, sleeping on the banks of the Merri Creek, close to the spot where the

Northcote bridge now stands. In the morning he offered to buy a portion of their land, and gave them a large quantity of goods, consisting of scissors, knives, blankets, looking-glasses, and articles of this description. In return, they granted him all the land stretching from the Merri Creek to Geelong. Batman had the documents drawn up, and on the Northcote hill, overlooking the grass-covered flats of Collingwood and the sombre forests of Carlton and Fitzroy, the natives affixed their marks to the deeds, by which Batman fancied he was legally put in possession of 600,000 acres. Trees were cut with notches, in order to fix the boundaries, and in the afternoon Batman took leave of his black friends. He had not gone far before he was stopped by a large swamp; and he slept for the night under the great gum trees which then spread their shade over the ground now covered by the populous streets of West Melbourne. In the morning he found his way round the swamp, and in trying to reach the Saltwater he came upon a noble stream, which was afterwards called the Yarra. In the evening he reached his vessel on the bay. Next day he ascended the Yarra in a boat; and when he came to the Yarra Falls, he wrote in his diary, "This will be the place for a village," unconscious that he was gazing upon the site of a great and busy city. Returning to Indented Head, he left three white men and his Sydney natives to cultivate the soil, and retain possession of the land he supposed himself to have purchased. Then he set sail for Tasmania, where he and his associates began to prepare for transporting their households, their sheep and their cattle, to the new country.

5. Melbourne.—Meantime the rival association, consisting of Fawkner and five friends, had been making their preparations likewise. They bought a small vessel, the *Enterprise*, and set sail in her. But the winds proving contrary, and the waves running high, Fawkner became so sea-sick

that he asked to be put on shore again, and allowed Captain Lancey and the rest of the association to sail without him. They safely arrived in Hobson's Bay, bringing with them horses and ploughs, grain, fruit trees, materials for a house, boats, provisions, and, indeed, everything that a small settlement could want. Getting out their boat, they entered upon the stream which they saw before them ; but, unfortunately, they turned up the wrong arm, and, after rowing many miles, were forced to turn back, the water all the way being salt and unfit for drinking. For this reason they called this stream the Saltwater ; but next morning they started again and tried the other branch. After pulling for about an hour and a half they reached a basin in the river, whose beauty filled them with exultation and delight. A rocky ledge over which the river flowed kept the waters above it fresh ; the soil was rich, and covered with splendid grass, and they instantly came to the conclusion to settle in this favoured spot. Next day they towed the vessel up, and landed where the Custom House now is. At night they slept beside the Falls, where the air was odoriferous with the sweet scent of the wattle trees just bursting into bloom.

6. **The Dispute**.—They had not been on the river many days before Mr. Wedge—one of Batman's party—in crossing the country from Indented Head to the Yarra, was surprised to see the masts of a vessel rising amid the gum trees. On reaching the river bank, what was his surprise to find, in that lonely spot, a vessel almost embedded in the woods, and the rocks and glades echoing to the sound of hammer and saw and the encouraging shouts of the ploughmen ! Mr. Wedge informed Mr. Fawkner's party that they were trespassers on land belonging to John Batman and Company. Captain Lancey, having heard the story of the purchase, declared that such a transaction could have no value, and a quarrel arose which took a long time to settle. A month or

two afterwards, Mr. Fawkner crossed over, and at once began to build his house upon the side of the gully which was afterwards turned into Elizabeth-street. Great crowds of black and white cockatoos raised their incessant clamour at the first strokes of the axe; but soon the hillside was clear, and man had taken permanent possession of the spot.

7. William Buckley.—Meanwhile a circumstance had happened which favoured Batman's party in no small degree. The men left at Indented Head were surprised one morning to see an extremely tall figure advancing towards them. His hair was thickly matted; his skin was brown, but not black, like that of the natives; he was almost naked, and he carried the ordinary arms of the aborigines. This was William Buckley, the only survivor of the three convicts who had escaped from Governor Collins' expedition. He had dwelt for thirty-two years among the natives, sometimes joining them in their encampments, but more frequently living by himself in a cave near Queenscliff. He had many strange adventures during this long time, but had not the smallest influence for good upon the natives. He was content to sink at once to their level, and lead the purely animal life they led. But when he heard from them that there was a party of whites on Indented Head whom the Geelong tribes proposed to murder, he crossed to warn them of their danger. Batman's party clothed him and treated him well, and for a time he acted as interpreter, smoothing over many of the difficulties that arose with the natives, and rendering the formation of the settlement much less difficult than it might have been.

8. Excitement in Tasmania.—The news taken over by Batman caused a commotion in Tasmania. Many settlers crossed in search of the new country, and, before a year had passed, nearly two hundred persons, with more than 15,000

sheep, had landed on the shores of Port Phillip. But they soon spread over a great extent of country—from Geelong to Sunbury. They were in the midst of numerous black tribes, who now, too late, began to perceive the nature of Batman's visit, and commenced to seek revenge. Frequent attacks were made, in one of which a squatter and his servant were killed beside the Werribee. Their bodies lie buried in the Flagstaff Gardens. Many of the settlers were ten or twenty miles apart; and, for their safety, they fixed heavy bells on posts near their houses. When anyone was attacked by natives, he rang his bell; his nearest neighbour then rang the bell on his station, to warn the settler next to him; and so, in an hour or two, all the squatters of the district would gather to deliver the family besieged by the infuriated natives.

9. **Governor Bourke.**—These were not the only troubles of the settlers; for the Sydney Government declared that all purchases of land from ignorant natives were invalid, and Governor Bourke issued a proclamation, warning the people at Port Phillip against fixing their homes there, as the land did not legally belong to them.

Still new settlers flocked over, and a township began to be formed on the banks of the Yarra. Batman's Association found that their claims to the land granted them by the natives would not be allowed; and, after some correspondence on the subject with the Home Government, they had to be content with 28,000 acres, as compensation for the money they had expended.

10. **Lonsdale.**—Towards the close of 1836 Governor Bourke found himself compelled to recognize the new settlement, and sent Captain Lonsdale to act as a magistrate; thirty soldiers accompanied him to maintain order and protect the settlers. Next year (1837) the Governor himself arrived at Port Phillip, where he found the settlers now

numbering 500. He planned out the little town, giving names to its streets, and finally settling that it should be called Melbourne, after Lord Melbourne, who was then the Prime Minister of England.

11. **Latrobe.**—In 1838, Geelong began to grow into a township, and the settlers spread west, as far as Colac. Next year, Mr. Latrobe was sent to take charge of the whole district of Port Phillip, under the title of Superintendent, but with almost all the powers of a governor. The settlers held a public meeting, in an auction-room at Market-square, for the purpose of according a hearty welcome to their new Governor, whose kindliness and upright conduct soon made him a great favourite.

A wattle-and-daub building was put up as a police office, on the site of the Western Markets, where it did duty for some time, until one night it fell: some say because it was undermined by a party of imprisoned natives; but others, because a bull belonging to Mr. Batman had rushed against it. A court-house was erected, and four policemen appointed. A post-office next followed, and, one by one, the various institutions of a civilized community arose in miniature form. Numerous ships began to enter the Bay, and a lucrative trade sprang up with Tasmania. In 1838, the first newspaper appeared. Every Monday morning, sheets containing four pages of writing were distributed to the subscribers, under the title of *The Advertiser*. After nine issues of this kind had been published, a parcel of old refuse type was sent over from Tasmania; and a young man being found in the town who had, in his boyhood, spent a few months in a printing office, he was pressed into the service, and thenceforward *The Advertiser* appeared in a printed form—the pioneer of the powerful press of Victoria. Mr. Batman had fixed his residence not far from the place now occupied by the Government Railway Station. Here,

in the year 1839, he was seized by a violent cold ; and, after being carefully nursed by one of his daughters, died without seeing more than the beginning of that settlement he had laboured so hard to found. Mr. Fawkner lived at Emerald Hill, and saw the city—whose first house he had built—rapidly growing in prosperity.

The year 1839 brought further increase to the population, and before the beginning of 1840, there were 3,000 persons, with 500 houses and 70 shops, in Melbourne. In 1841 it contained 11,000 persons and 1,500 houses.

Abstract of Chapter VIII.

(1.)—Discovery of Port Phillip, 1802, by Lieutenant Murray, in the *Lady Nelson*—Visited by Flinders—Next year Charles Grimes, and two friends, walk round the bay.

(2.)—Governor Collins, 1803, brings a party of convicts to found a settlement on Port Phillip—Lands at Sorrento—Sends Tuckey to seek more favourable place—Report discouraging—Collins takes his party over to Tasmania.

(3.)—Fawkner had been a boy in this expedition—He prospers in Tasmania—Thirty years later he forms a project to colonize Port Phillip.

(4.)—Batman — Also a Tasmanian colonist — Forms an association for settling in Port Phillip—Starts (1835) in the *Rebecca* to examine the country—Lands at Geelong—Sails up to Hobson's Bay—Explores region along the Saltwater—Purchases from natives all the land stretching from Merri Creek to Geelong—Sees the Yarra.

(5.)—Melbourne founded by Fawkner (1835), who sends over men to clear and prepare the land.

(6.)—Dispute takes place between Batman's men and the new-comers—Mr. Wedge orders Captain Lancey off the land.

(7.)—Buckley presents himself to Batman's party, after having been thirty-two years with the natives—Acts as interpreter.

(8.)—Excitement caused in Tasmania by news of fine lands round Port Phillip.

(9.)—GOVERNOR BOURKE declares Batman's purchase invalid.
(10.)—LONSDALE sent to act as magistrate.
(11.)—LATROBE, 1838, sent as superintendent of the settlement.

CHAPTER IX.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1836 TO 1841.

1. Edward Gibbon Wakefield.—In 1829 a small book was published in London which attracted a great deal of attention, not only by reason of its charming style, and the liveliness of its manner, but also on account of the complete originality of the ideas it contained. It purported to be a letter written from Sydney, and described the annoyances to be endured by a man of taste and fortune if he emigrated to Australia. He could have no intellectual society; he could not enjoy the pleasures of his library, or of his picture gallery; he could hope for none of the delights of easy retirement, seeing that he had to go forth on his land, and with his own hands labour for his daily food. For, said Mr. Wakefield, the author of this little book, you cannot long have free servants in this country; if a free man arrives in the colony, though he may for a short time work for you as a servant, yet he is sure to save a little money, and as land is here so excessively cheap, he at once becomes himself a landed proprietor; he settles down on his farm, and, though he may have a year or two of heavy toil, yet he is almost certain to become both happy and prosperous. Thus, the colony is an excellent place for a poor man, but it is a wretched abode for a man of means and of culture. Wakefield, therefore, proposed to found in Australia another colony which should be better adapted to those who had

fortunes sufficient to maintain them, and yet desired to emigrate to a new country. His scheme for effecting this purpose was to charge a high price for the land, and so to prevent the poorer people from purchasing it; the money received from the sale of land he proposed to employ in bringing out young men and women, as servants and farm labourers, for the service of the wealthier colonists. Now, said Wakefield, on account of the immense natural resources of these colonies, their splendid soil, their magnificent pasture lands, their vast wealth in minerals, and their wide-spread forests of valuable timber, which stand ready for the axe, a gentleman possessed of only £20,000 will obtain as large an income from it as could be procured from £100,000 in England; yet he will be able to enjoy his learned and cultured leisure, just as he does at home, because all the work will be done for him by the servants he employs. For three or four years this agreeable fallacy made quite a stir in England; famous authors, distinguished soldiers, learned bishops were deceived by it; noblemen, members of parliament, bankers and merchants all combined to applaud this novel and excellent idea of Mr. Wakefield.

2. South Australian Association.—In 1831 the first effort was made to give a practical turn to these theories, and the southern shores of Australia were selected as a suitable locality for the proposed colony. A company was formed; but when it applied to the British Government for a charter, which would have conceded the complete sovereignty of the whole southern region of Australia, Lord Goderich, the Secretary of State, replied that it was asking a great deal too much, and abruptly closed the negotiation. Two years later the South Australian Association was formed; and as this company asked for nothing beyond the power to sell waste lands and apply the proceeds to assist immigration, the British Government gave its

consent, and an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament to give the Association full power to found a colony. This act directed that commissioners should be appointed to frame laws for the colony, to establish its courts, and to nominate its officers; land was to be thrown open for sale at not less than twelve shillings an acre, and even this comparatively high price was to be raised, after a short time, to £1 per acre, in order to keep the land in the hands of the wealthy. It was expressly stated that no convict would be allowed to land in the new settlement, which, it was hoped, would become in every respect a model community. The British Government declined to incur any expense in establishing or in maintaining the colony, which was to be purely self-supporting. Eleven commissioners were appointed, of whom Colonel Torrens was chairman in England, and Mr. Fisher the representative in Australia, where he was to take charge of the sale of lands and supervise the affairs of the colony. At the same time, Captain Hindmarsh was appointed Governor, and Colonel Light was sent out to survey the waste lands preparatory to their being offered for sale.

In May, 1835, during the very month in which Batman was wandering for the first time on the banks of the Yarra, these appointments for the foundation of a fourth Australian colony were being published in the English *Government Gazette.* Thus Victoria and South Australia took their widely different origins at almost the same time; but while the first actual settlers landed at Port Phillip towards the end of 1835, the pioneers of South Australia did not reach that colony until the middle of 1836.

3. Adelaide.—The first emigrants to South Australia landed on Kangaroo Island, of which Flinders had given a most attractive account; but though the place was beautifully wooded, and of the most picturesque aspect, it was found to be in many respects unsuitable for the founda-

tion of a city, and when Colonel Light shortly afterwards arrived with his staff of surveyors, he at once decided to remove the settlement to St. Vincent's Gulf. Here, about six miles from the shores of the gulf, he selected a broad plain beneath the steep hills of the Mount Lofty Range, and on the banks of a small stream which he called the Torrens he marked out the lines of the infant city. Queen Adelaide was the wife of the reigning king of England, and as she was exceedingly popular, the colonists, with enthusiasm, adopted her name for their capital. A harbour was found seven miles distant from the city, and on it a town was established, to which the name Port Adelaide was given.

4. Governor Hindmarsh.—In December, 1836, Governor Hindmarsh landed, and beneath a spreading gum-tree near the beach he read his commission to a small audience of emigrants and officials; but when he proceeded to examine what had been done, he was filled with disgust and indignation. The only landing place for vessels was in the midst of a mangrove swamp at the mouth of a muddy little creek; and all goods would have to be carried six or seven miles inland to the city. To a sailor's eye, it seemed the most reckless folly to make so unusual a choice, and he at once determined to remove the settlement to Encounter Bay; but neither Colonel Light nor Mr. Fisher would permit any change to be made, and a violent quarrel took place. As resident commissioner, Mr. Fisher had powers equal to those of the governor, and was thus enabled to prolong the contest. Of the settlers, some sided with the Governor; others gave their support to the commissioner, and the colony was quickly divided into two noisy factions. After fourteen months of constant wrangling, the English Government interfered. Mr. Fisher was dismissed, and Governor Hindmarsh recalled; while the offices of both were conferred on Colonel Gawler, who arrived in the colony during the year 1838.

5. Early Failures.—The Wakefield system could not possibly realize the hopeful anticipations which had been formed of it; for the foundation of a new colony, and the reclaiming of the lonely forest wilds, is not to be accomplished by merely looking on at the exertions of hired servants. Ladies and gentlemen who had, in England, paid for land they had never seen, were, on their arrival, greatly disgusted with a sight of the toils before them. They had to pull their luggage through the dismal swamp, for there were neither porters nor cabs in waiting; they had to settle down in canvas tents, on a grassy plain, which was called a city, but where a few painted boards here and there, fastened to the trunks of gum-trees, were the only indications of streets. Then, when they went out to see their estates, and beheld great stretches of rude and unpromising wilderness; when they considered how many years must pass away before there could possibly arise the terraces and gardens, the orchards and grassy lawns, which make an English country-house delightful; their courage failed them, and, instead of going forth upon the land, they clustered together in Adelaide. Every one wished to settle down in the city, and as it was expected that, with the growth of population, the value of town allotments would rapidly increase, the idea became prevalent that, to buy land in the city, and keep it for sale in future years, would be a profitable investment. But there were so many who entertained the same astute design that, when they all came to put it in practice, there was little gain to any one; and the only result was, that Adelaide was turned into a scene of reckless speculation and gambling in land.

6. Governor Gawler.—Meantime poorer emigrants were arriving in expectation of obtaining employment from their wealthier predecessors, who had been able to pay the high price demanded for land. They found that those whom they expected to be their employers had abandoned the

idea of going out into the country to cultivate the soil. There was, therefore, nothing for them to do ; they had no money with which to speculate in town allotments, they had no land on which to commence farming for themselves, and they were in a wretched plight. Provisions had rapidly increased in price, so that flour was raised from £20 to £80 per ton ; no food was being produced from the land, and nothing whatever was being done to develop the resources of the colony, whilst the money which the settlers had brought with them was rapidly being spent in importing shiploads of provisions from other countries.

In order to give employment to those of the settlers who were really destitute, Governor Gawler commenced a series of Government works. He constructed a good road between Adelaide and its port. He formed wharves, and reclaimed the unwholesome swamp ; he built a Custom House, with warehouses and many other costly buildings, the Government House alone costing £20,000. Now, these were all in themselves very desirable things ; but it was difficult to see how they were to be paid for. Colonel Gawler spent nearly the whole of his own private fortune in paying the wages of the unfortunate people he employed, but that could not long support so great a concourse of people. He persuaded merchants in England to send out provisions and clothing for the famished people ; but the only means he had of paying for these goods was by drafts on the British Treasury, which were at first accepted as equivalent to money, for it was believed that, whenever they were presented in London, payment would immediately be given by the British Government. But this was a serious mistake : for, though the first series of drafts were paid readily enough, yet when the authorities in England found that others, for larger and larger amounts, continued to pour in, they refused to pay, and reminded the colony that, by the terms of its charter, it was to be entirely self-

supporting. A series of drafts, to the amount of £69,000, were therefore dishonoured ; and the merchants, finding the drafts to be worth no more than so much paper, demanded their money from the Governor; but he had nothing with which to pay, and the colony had to be declared insolvent, having debts to the amount of about £400,000 which it could not meet.

7. The Collapse.—Matters were now in a very gloomy condition. Most of the colonists became anxious to return to England, and therefore sought to sell their land. But when nearly all wished to sell, and scarcely any wished to buy, the price went down to a trifle, and men who had invested fortunes in town allotments realized no more than enough to pay their passage home. In the meantime the English merchants declined to send out any further supplies, and those who had not the means of leaving Adelaide seemed in great danger of starving. But as land could now be bought very cheaply, many industrious people of the poorer class settled down to clear the country for farming. This was what should have been done at the very beginning, for no colony can be prosperous, or hope for anything but bankruptcy, until it commences to produce grain, or wool, or minerals, or some other commodity with which it can purchase from other lands the goods which they produce. The lands of South Australia are admirably adapted for the growth of wheat ; and, after a time, success attended the efforts of the farmers, who thus laid the foundations of future prosperity.

Another industry was also added about this time. The young squatters of New South Wales, attracted by the high prices given for sheep in the early days of Adelaide, had been daring enough, in spite of the blacks and of the toilsome journey, to drive their flocks overland ; and they soon gave quite a wool-growing tone to the community. These "over-

landers," as they were called, affected a bandit style of dress; in their scarlet shirts and broad-brimmed hats, their belts filled with pistols, and their horses gaily caparisoned, they caused a sensation in the streets of Adelaide, which rang all evening with their merriment and dissipation. But as they brought about fifty thousand sheep into the colony during the course of only a year or two, they were of essential benefit to it. Many of them settled down and taught the new arrivals how to manage flocks and prepare the wool, and thus they assisted in raising Adelaide from the state of despondency and distress to which it had sunk.

8. Recall of Governor Gawler.—The British Government eventually decided to lend the colony a sufficient sum of money to pay its debts; but it was resolved to make certain changes. The eleven commissioners were abolished, Captain George Grey, a young officer, was appointed governor, and one day in May, 1841, he walked into the Government House at Adelaide, presented his commission to Governor Gawler, and at once took the control of affairs into his own hands. This summary mode of dismissing Governor Gawler must now be regarded as somewhat harsh; for he had laboured hard and spent his money freely in trying to benefit the colony, and the mistakes which were made during his administration were not so much due to his incapacity as to the impracticable nature of the theory on which the colony had been founded. In 1841, he sailed for England, deeply regretted by many who had experienced his kindness and generosity in their time of trouble.

Abstract of Chapter IX.

(1)—Wakefield, in 1829, publishes a book in which he proposes to found a colony on the principle of charging a "sufficient" price for the land.

(2)—South Australian Association—Company formed

in 1831—Proves unsuccessful—Second company in 1833—Commissioners appointed—Preparations for colonization.

(3)—ADELAIDE—1836, first landing made on Kangaroo Island—Abandoned—Site chosen for city, to be called Adelaide.

(4)—GOVERNOR HINDMARSH—Displeased with choice—Quarrels with officers already present—Recalled, 1838.

(5)—EARLY FAILURES—Settlers not prepared to encounter the inevitable difficulties—Remain in Adelaide—Speculation in town allotments.

(6)—GOVERNOR GAWLER, 1838, commences costly works to provide poorer immigrants with employment—No means of paying for these—Draws on Imperial Treasury—Drafts dishonoured—Colony bankrupt.

(7)—THE COLLAPSE—Affairs in miserable condition—Many people leave the colony—Others driven by necessity to work on the land—This produces a favourable change—Arrival of the overlanders with sheep.

(8)—RECALL OF GOVERNOR GAWLER, 1841—Captain Grey made Governor.

CHAPTER X.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1838 TO 1850.

1. Gipps.—In 1838 when Governor Bourke left Australia to spend the remainder of his life in the retirement of his native county in Ireland, he was succeeded in the government of New South Wales by Sir George Gipps, an officer who had recently gained distinction by his services in settling the affairs of Canada. The new governor was a man of great ability, generous and well-meaning; but of so arbitrary a nature, and so violent in his temper, that the advantages which his powerful intellect might have secured for the colony were often marred, and sometimes destroyed, by the unfortunate weaknesses of his character. No governor has ever laboured more assiduously for the welfare of his people;

and yet none has ever been more unpopular than Gipps. During his term of office, the colonists were constantly suffering from troubles due, in most instances, to themselves, but always attributed to others, and, as a rule, to the Governor. It is true that the English Government, though actuated by a sincere desire to benefit and assist the rising community, often aggravated these troubles by its crude and ill-informed efforts to alleviate them. And as Sir George Gipps considered it his chief duty to obey literally and exactly all the orders sent out by his superiors in England, however much he privately disapproved of them, it was natural that he should receive much of the odium and derision attendant on these injudicious attempts. But, on the whole, the troubles of the colony were due, not so much to any fault of the Governor or to any error of the English Government, as to the imprudence of the colonists themselves.

2. **Monetary Crisis.**—During twelve years of unalloyed prosperity, so many fortunes had been made that the road to wealth seemed securely opened to all who landed in the colony. Thus it became common for new arrivals to regard themselves on their first landing as already men of fortune, and, presuming on their anticipated wealth, they often lived in an expensive and extravagant style, very different from the prudent and abstemious life which can alone secure to the young colonist the success he hopes for. In Sydney the most profuse habits prevailed, and in Melbourne it seemed as if prosperity had turned the heads of the inhabitants. The most expensive liquors were the ordinary beverages of waggoners and shepherds; and, on his visit to Port Phillip in 1843, Governor Gipps found the suburbs of Melbourne thickly strewed with champagne bottles, which seemed to him to tell a tale of extravagance and dissipation.

3 **Land Laws.**—Whilst many of the younger merchants were thus on their way to ruin, and the great bulk of the com-

munity were kept impoverished by their habits, the English Government brought matters to a crisis by its injudicious interference with the Land Laws. The early years of South Australia, and its period of trouble, have been already described; in 1840, South Australia was on the verge of bankruptcy, and the Wakefield policy of maintaining the land at a high price had not produced the results anticipated. Now, many of the greatest men in England were in favour of the Wakefield theory; and, in particular, the Secretary of State for the Colonies—that is, the member of the British Government, whose duty it is to attend to colonial affairs—was a warm supporter of the views of Wakefield; so that when the people of South Australia complained that their scheme could not be successful so long as the other colonies charged so low a price for their land, he sympathized with them in their trouble. "Who," they asked, "will pay £1 an acre for land in South Australia, when, by crossing to Port Phillip, he can obtain land equally good at five shillings an acre?" To prevent the total destruction of South Australia, the Secretary of State ordered the other colonies to charge a higher price for land. New South Wales was to be divided into three districts. (1.) The Middle District, round Port Jackson, where land was never to be sold for less than twelve shillings an acre. (2.) The Northern District, round Moreton Bay, where the same price was to be charged. (3.) The Southern District, round Port Phillip, where the land was of superior quality, and was never to be sold for less than one pound an acre.

A great amount of discontent was caused throughout New South Wales by this order; but South Australia was saved from absolute ruin, and the Secretary of State declined to recall the edict. In vain it was urged that a great part of the land was not worth more than two or three shillings an acre; the answer was that land was worth whatever people

were willing to pay for it. For a time it seemed as if this view had been sound, and land was eagerly purchased, even at the advanced prices; in 1840, the amounts received from land sales were three times as great as those received in 1838. But this was mostly the result of speculation, and disastrous effects soon followed; for the prices paid by the purchasers were far above the real value of the land. If a man brought a thousand pounds into the colony and paid it to the Government for a thousand acres of land, he reckoned himself to be still worth a thousand pounds, and the banks would be willing to lend him nearly a thousand pounds on the security of his purchase. But, if he endeavoured, after a year or two, to resell it, he would then discover its true value, and find he was in reality possessed of only two or three hundred pounds: every purchaser had found the land to be of less value than he had expected; everyone was anxious to sell; and, there being few buyers, most of it was sold at a ruinous price. Men who had borrowed money were unable to pay their debts, and became insolvent. The banks, who had lent them money, were brought to the verge of ruin; and one of the oldest—the Bank of Australia—became bankrupt in 1843, and increased the confusion in monetary affairs. In order to pay their debts, the squatters were now forced to sell their sheep and cattle; but there was scarcely any one willing to buy, and the market being glutted, the prices went down to such an extent that sheep, which, two years before had been bought for thirty shillings, were gladly sold for eighteen pence. Indeed, a large flock was sold in Sydney at sixpence per head. Fortunately, it was discovered by Mr. O'Brien, a squatter living at Yass, that about six shillings worth of tallow could be obtained from each sheep by boiling it down; and, if this operation had not been extensively begun by many of the sheep-owners, they would, without doubt, have been completely ruined. So great was the

distress that, in 1843, the Governor issued provisions at less than cost price, in order to prevent the starvation of large numbers of the people.

Yet, the Secretary of State in England knew nothing of all this, and, in 1843, he raised the price of land still higher, ordering that, throughout all Australia, no land should be sold for less than one pound an acre.

4. Immigration.—It is not to be imagined, however, that the English Government ever took to itself any of this land revenue. Every penny was used for the purpose of bringing immigrants into the colony. Agents in Europe were appointed to select suitable persons, who received what were called bounty orders. Any one who possessed an order of this kind received a free passage to Sydney, all expenses being paid by the Colonial government with the money received from the sale of land. The Governor had the power of giving these orders to persons in New South Wales who sent them home to their friends or relatives, or to servants and labourers, whom they wished to bring to the colonies. Now, Governor Gipps imagined that the land would continue to bring in as much revenue every year as it did in 1840, and, in the course of that year and the next, gave bounty orders to the extent of nearly one million pounds. But, in 1841, the land revenue fell to about one-twentieth of what it had been in 1840; so that the colony must have become bankrupt had it not been that more than half of those who received bounty orders, hearing of the unsettled state of the colony, never made use of the permission granted. Governor Gipps was blamed by the colonists, and received from the Secretary of State a letter of sharp rebuke.

As for the immigrants who did arrive in New South Wales, their prospects were not bright. For a long time many of them found it impossible to obtain employment.

Great numbers landed friendless and penniless in Sydney, and in a few weeks found themselves obliged to sleep in the parks, or in the streets, and, but for the friendly exertions of a benevolent lady, Mrs. Chisholm, who obtained employment at different times for about two thousand of them, their position would, indeed, have been wretched.

Mrs. Chisholm founded a home for defenceless and friendless girls, of whom nearly six hundred were at one time living in Sydney in destitution, having been sent out from home with bounty orders, under the impression that employment was certain whenever they landed at Port Jackson.

Gradually the return of the colonists to habits of prudence and thrift removed the financial distress which had been the primary cause of all these troubles. Land ceased to be bought at the ruinously high rates, and goods returned again to their former prices.

5. Separation.—But these were not the only cares which pressed upon the mind of Sir George Gipps. He was entrusted with the management of the eastern half of Australia, a region stretching from Cape York to Port Phillip. There were, it is true, but 150,000 inhabitants in the whole territory ; no great number to rule, had they been all moderately compact. But the people were widely scattered, and there were in reality two distinct settlements ; one consisting of 120,000 people round Sydney, the other of 30,000 round Port Phillip. The latter, though small, was vigorous, and inclined to be discontented ; it was six hundred miles distant from the capital, and the delays and inconveniences due to this fact caused it no little annoyance.

There was, indeed, a Superintendent in Melbourne, and to him the control of the Southern district was chiefly entrusted. But Mr. Latrobe was undecided and feeble. Though, personally, a most worthy man, yet, as a ruler, he

was much too timid and irresolute. He seldom ventured to take any step on his own responsibility: no matter how urgent the matter was, he always waited for instructions from his superior, the Governor.

Under these circumstances, it was natural that the people of Melbourne should wish for an independent Governor, who would have full power to settle promptly all local affairs. In 1840, they held a meeting in a room at the top of the hill in Bourke-street, to petition for separation from New South Wales. But, next year, the Sydney people held a meeting in the theatre to protest against it. Here, then, was another source of trouble to Gipps; for, from this time, the colony was divided into two parties, eagerly and bitterly disputing on the Separation question. Governor Gipps and Mr. Latrobe were not in favour of separation, and, by their opposition, they incurred the deep dislike of the people of Port Phillip. The authorities at home, however, were somewhat inclined to favour the idea, and as Gipps was necessarily the medium of announcing their views to the colonists, and carrying them into force, he became unpopular with the Sydney colonists also. No man has ever occupied a more trying position, and an overbearing, angry temperament, was not at all suited for smoothing away its difficulties.

6. Representative Government.—In 1842, a meeting was held in Sydney to petition for representative government. The British Parliament saw its way clear to concede this privilege; and in July, 1843, the first representatives elected by the people assembled in Sydney. The new Council consisted of thirty-six members: of whom twelve were either officials, or persons nominated by the Governor; the other twenty-four were elective—eighteen being chosen by the people of New South Wales Proper, and six by those of Port Phillip. It was the duty of this body to consult with the Governor, and to see that the legitimate wishes of the

people were attended to. Six gentlemen were elected for Port Phillip ; but residents of Melbourne found it impossible to leave their business and go to live in Sydney. The people of Port Phillip were therefore forced to elect Sydney gentlemen to take charge of their interests. However, these did their duty excellently. Dr. Lang was especially active in the interests of his constituents, and in the second session of the Council, during the year 1844, he moved that a petition should be presented to the Queen, praying that the Port Phillip district should be separated from New South Wales, and formed into an independent colony. The Port Phillip representatives, together with the now famous Robert Lowe, gave their support to the motion ; but there were nineteen votes against it, and this effort was supposed to have been completely baffled. But Dr. Lang drew up a petition of his own, which was signed by all the Port Phillip members and sent to England. Nothing further was heard on the subject for some time, until Sir George Gipps received a letter from Lord Stanley, the Secretary of State, directing him to lay the matter before the Executive Council in Sydney ; and stating that, in the opinion of the English Government, the request of Port Phillip was very fair and reasonable. An inquiry was held, the Sydney Council sent to England a report on the subject, and received a reply to the effect that steps would at once be taken to obtain from the Imperial Parliament the required Act.

The people of Port Phillip were overjoyed, and, in 1846, gave a grand banquet to Dr. Lang to celebrate the occasion. But they were not destined to quite so speedy a consummation of their desires. The English Government which had given so favourable an ear to their petition was defeated and succeeded by another Government, to whom the whole question was new. Year after year passed away, and the people of Port Phillip began to grow impatient, and to

complain loudly of their grievances, which had indeed a substantial foundation. First of all, they complained that, although it was a well-recognized principle that the money received by Government for the waste lands of any district should be employed in bringing out emigrants to that district, yet the Sydney Government used much of the money obtained from the sale of land in Port Phillip for the purpose of bringing out new colonists—not to Melbourne or Geelong, but to Sydney itself. And thus, it was said, the people of Sydney were using the money of the Port Phillip district for their own advantage. Upwards of £180,000 are said to have been abstracted in this manner from the Port Phillip district during the first six years of its existence and used for the purpose of promoting emigration to Sydney. And, again, the people of Melbourne complained that, although they were allowed to elect six members of the Legislative Council, yet this was merely a mockery, because none of the Port Phillip residents could afford to live in Sydney for five months every year and to neglect their own private business.

7. Earl Grey.—For a year or two the English Government forgot all about the Separation question ; and, in 1848, the wearied colonists determined to call attention to their discontent. Accordingly, when the elections for that year approached, they determined not to elect any member, so that the English Government might see of how little use to them their supposed privilege really was. It was agreed that no one should come forward for election, and it seemed likely that there would be no election whatever, when a gentleman named Foster offered himself as a candidate. This placed the non-election party in a dilemma ; for if they declined to vote at all, and if Mr. Foster could persuade only two or three of his friends to vote for him, then, since there was no other candidate, he would be legally elected.

Now, at this time Earl Grey was Secretary of State for the colonies; and when some one proposed to nominate him for election, in opposition to Mr. Foster, the idea was hailed as a happy one. The non-election party could then vote for Earl Grey, and he would be returned by a large majority. But Earl Grey, being an English nobleman and a member of the British Government, would certainly never go to Sydney to attend a small Colonial Council, so that there would be in reality no member elected. But the attention of the Secretary of State would be drawn to the desires of the district. Earl Grey was triumphantly elected, and when the news went home it caused some merriment. He was jokingly asked in the House of Lords when would he sail for Sydney, and for several weeks he underwent so much banter on the subject that his attention was fully aroused to the long neglected question. He weighed the matter carefully, and, resolving to do the people of Port Phillip full justice, sent out word that he would at once prepare a Bill for the Imperial Parliament, in order to obtain the necessary powers; and he also intimated that Queen Victoria would be pleased if the new colony should adopt her name. Nothing could give the colonists more satisfaction, and they waited with patience until affairs should be properly arranged in England.

8. **Sir Charles Fitzroy.**—All this agitation, however, had not taken place without much irritation and contention between the people of Port Phillip and their Governor at Sydney, from whose authority they wished to free themselves. Sir George Gipps had much to harass him, and in 1846 he was glad to retire from his troublesome position. He was succeeded by Sir Charles Fitzroy, a gentleman in every respect his opposite. By no means clever, yet good tempered and amiable, he troubled himself very little with the affairs of the colony. The Sydney Council managed everything just as it pleased; Sir Charles was glad to be

rid of the trouble, and the colonists delighted to have their own way. As for the Separation question, he cared very little whether Port Phillip was erected into a colony or not, and very probably his indifference was of use to the cause.

In 1851 the news arrived that Port Phillip was to be separated from New South Wales, and in the middle of that year its independence was declared. Its Superintendent, Latrobe, was raised to the dignity of Governor, and the new colony received its constitution, conferring on it all the legislative and other powers which had previously been possessed only by New South Wales.

ABSTRACT OF CHAPTER X.

(1)—GIPPS, 1838—Unpopular, though assiduous to benefit the colony.

(2)—MONETARY CRISIS—Due to extravagance and change in the land laws.

(3)—LAND LAWS—New South Wales divided into the Sydney district, the Brisbane district, and the Melbourne district—In the two former, land to be sold for not less than twelve shillings per acre ; in the latter, for not less than one pound per acre—Resulting land speculations—These, together with the prevailing extravagance, cause much insolvency—Unsettled state of the colony.

(4) — IMMIGRATION — Money received from the land employed in assisting immigration—Governor Gipps gives too many bounty orders—Miserable condition of the immigrants who arrive.

(5)—SEPARATION—The people of Port Phillip seek to be made a separate colony.

(6)—REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, 1843—First Elective Council appointed—Eighteen chosen by people of New South Wales proper ; six by people of Port Phillip.

(7)—EARL GREY—People of Port Phillip not satisfied with this arrangement—Refuse to send representatives—Elect Earl Grey, in order to show their small appreciation of the privilege—Arrangements made in England for separation.

(8)—Sir Charles Fitzroy, 1846—Troubles himself very little about public matters—In 1851 Port Phillip made into a separate colony, under title Victoria.

CHAPTER XI.

South Australia, 1841 to 1850.

1. Governor Grey.—The colonists of South Australia had, in 1841, received a sharp but salutary lesson, and we have seen that they profited by it. They had discovered that the land was their only source of wealth, and many, who had sufficient means to purchase farms or stations, went out into the country, determined to endure a year or two of hardship in hopes of prosperity to come. Nor had they very long to wait ; in 1844 they were able to export corn to the extent of £40,000, and in that year the colony possessed 355,000 sheep and 22,000 cattle.

The new Governor, Captain George Grey, took every care to assist the colonists in returning to more prudent courses. Many changes were needed ; for, in 1840, while the colony had a revenue of only £30,000, it had spent at the rate of £171,000 per annum. Such imprudence could lead to nothing but ruin, and the first task of the Governor was to reduce all expenses as far as possible. In the first year the expenditure was cut down to £90,000 ; in the next, to £68,000 ; and in 1843, to £34,000.

Instead of employing the poorer labourers on costly and unnecessary public works, he persuaded them to take employment in the country with the farmers and squatters, who were rapidly opening up the interior parts of the colony. He settled many on small farms or stations of their own, but in this he was greatly impeded by the high price of land ; for Wakefield's friends in England were not yet

convinced that their favourite scheme was defective—they attributed every mishap to the incompetence of Governors Hindmarsh and Gawler. "To lower the price," said they, "will be to ruin the colony," and lest such a thing should happen, they raised the price of all lands, whether good or bad, to one pound per acre. But many of those who had bought land in the first days of the settlement had been so anxious to part with it during the crisis, that they had sold it for much less than it cost them; and thus a great number of the poorer people became possessed of land at very moderate prices. In 1839 there were but 440 acres under cultivation; three years afterwards there were 23,000 acres bearing wheat, and 5,000 acres of other crops. So rich and fertile was the soil that, in 1845, the colonists not only raised enough of corn to supply their own wants, but were able to export about 200,000 bushels at cheap rates to the neighbouring colonies, and even then were left with 150,000 bushels, which they could neither sell nor use. So rapid a development of resources, and so sudden an accession of prosperity have probably never occurred in the history of any other country.

2. **Mineral Wealth.**—Such was the success attendant upon careful industry, exercised with prudence, and under favourable circumstances; but the colony was to owe yet more to accidental good-fortune. During the year 1841, a carrier, while driving his team of bullocks over the Mount Lofty range, had been obliged, by the steepness of the road, to fasten a log to the back of his waggon, in order to steady the load and prevent its descending too quickly. As the log dragged roughly behind on the road, it tore great furrows in the soil, and in one of these the carrier noticed a stone which glanced and glittered like a metal. On looking more closely, he saw that there were large quantities of the same substance lying near the surface of the earth in all directions. Having

taken some specimens with him, he made inquiries in Adelaide, and learned that the substance he had discovered was galena, a mineral in which sulphur is combined with lead and small quantities of silver. The land on which this valuable ore had been found was soon purchased, and mines opened upon it. At first there was a large profit obtained from the enterprise ; and though, in after years, the mines became exhausted, yet they served to call the attention of the colonists to the possibility of discovering more permanent and lucrative sources of mineral wealth.

3. Copper.—At the Kapunda Station, about forty miles north-west of Adelaide, there lived a squatter named Captain Bagot. One day, during the year 1842, he sent his overseer—Mr. Dutton—to search for a number of sheep which had strayed into the bush. After spending some time in fruitless efforts, Mr. Dutton ascended a small hill in order to have a more extensive view of the country, but still he saw nothing of the lost sheep. On turning to descend, his attention was attracted by a bright green rock jutting from the earth. It seemed to him peculiar, so he broke a small piece off and carried it down to Captain Bagot's house, where he and the Captain examined the specimen, and came to the conclusion that it consisted of the mineral malachite, containing copper in combination with water and carbonic dioxide. They let no one know of the discovery, but proceeded to apply for the land in the usual manner, without breathing a word as to their purpose. The section of eighty acres was advertised for a month, and then put up to auction ; but as no one was anxious for this barren piece of ground, they had no competitors, and the land fell to them for the price of eighty pounds. As soon as they became possessed of it, they threw off all appearance of mystery, and commenced operations. During the first year the mines yielded £4,000 ; during the next, £10,000 ; and for several years they continued to enrich

the two proprietors, until each had realized a handsome fortune, when the land was bought by an English company.

4. The Burra Mines.—The discovery of copper at Kapunda caused much excitement in the colony. Every one who possessed land, examined it carefully for the trace of any minerals it might contain ; and soon it was rumoured that, at a place about one hundred miles north of Adelaide, a shepherd had found exceedingly rich specimens of copper ore. The land on which these were discovered had not yet been sold by the Government, and, in great haste, a company was formed to purchase it. This company consisted of the merchants, professional men, and officials of Adelaide ; but a rival company was immediately started, consisting of shopkeepers and tradesmen, together with the farmers of the country districts. The former always maintained a haughty air, and soon came to be known throughout the colony as the "nobs ;" while they, in their turn, fixed on their rivals the nick-name of the "snobs." For a week or two the jealousies of the companies ran high, but they were soon forced to make a temporary union ; for, according to the land-laws of the colony, if any one wished to buy a piece of land, he had to apply for it and have it advertised for a month; it was then put up for auction, and he who offered the highest price became the purchaser. But a month was a long time to wait, and it was rumoured that a number of speculators were on their way from Sydney to offer a large sum for the land, as soon as it should be put up at auction. It was, therefore, necessary to take immediate action. There was another regulation in the land-laws, according to which, if a person applied for 20,000 acres, and paid down £20,000 in cash, he became at once the proprietor of the land. The "nobs" determined to avail themselves of this arrangement ; but when they put their money together, they found they had not enough to pay so large a sum. They therefore asked the

"snobs" to join them, on the understanding that, after the land had been purchased, the two companies would make a fair division. By uniting their funds, they raised the required amount, and proceeded with great exultation to lodge the money. But part of it was in the form of bills on the Adelaide banks ; and as the Governor refused to accept anything but cash, the companies were almost in despair, until a few active members hunted up their friends in Adelaide, and succeeded in borrowing the number of sovereigns required to make up the deficiency. The money was paid into the treasury, the two companies were the possessors of the land, and the Sydney speculators arrived a few days too late.

Now came the division of the twenty thousand acres. A line was drawn across the middle ; a coin was tossed up to decide which of the two should have the first choice, and fortune favoured the "snobs," who selected the northern half, called by the natives Burra Burra. To the southern part the "nobs" gave the name of "Princess Royal." The companies soon began operations ; but though the two districts appeared on the surface to be of almost equal riches, yet, on being laid open, the Princess Royal was soon found to be in reality poor, while the Burra Burra mines provided fortunes for each of the fortunate "snobs." During the three years after their discovery, they yielded copper to the value of £700,000. Miners were brought from England, and a town of about 5,000 inhabitants rapidly sprang into existence. The houses of the Cornish miners were of a peculiar kind. A creek runs through the district, with high and precipitous banks of solid rock ; and into the face of these cliffs the miners cut large chambers to serve for dwellings ; holes bored through the rock, and emerging upon the surface of the ground above, formed the chimneys, which were capped by small beer barrels instead of chimney-

pots. The fronts of the houses were of weatherboard, in which doors were left; and for two miles along each side these primitive dwellings looked out upon the almost dry bed of the creek, which formed the main street of the village. Here the miners dwelt for years, until the waters rose one night into a foaming flood, which destroyed the houses and swept away several of their inhabitants.

In 1845 Burra Burra was a lonely moor; in 1850 it was bustling with men, and noisy with the sounds of engines, and pumps, and forges. Acres of land were covered with the company's warehouses and offices, and the handsome residences of its officers; behind these there rose great mounds of blue, green, and dark-red ores of copper, worth enormous sums of money. Along the roads eight hundred teams, each consisting of eight bullocks, passed constantly to and fro, whilst scores of ships were employed in conveying the ore to England. From this great activity the whole community could not but derive the utmost benefit, and for a time South Australia had every prospect of taking the foremost place among the colonies.

5. Governor Robe.—In 1841 Governor Grey had been of the greatest service to the colony in changing the state of its prospects, but he was not permitted to see more than the commencement of its great prosperity; for, in 1845, he was sent to govern New Zealand, and his place was filled by Colonel Robe, a military gentleman, of what is called the old school, honourable and upright, but inclined to think that everything ought always to be as it has been. He disliked all innovation, and did what he could to prevent it, much to the discontent of the young and thriving colony, which was of necessity the scene of constant and rapid changes. He passed a very troublous time for three years, and in 1848 was heartily glad to be re-called.

6. Governor Young.—The colony was then placed under

the care of Sir Henry Young, whose policy was completely the reverse. He sought by every means in his power to encourage the ceaseless activity of the people. His failing was, perhaps, an injudicious zeal for progress. For instance, in his desire to open up the river Murray to navigation, he wasted large sums of money in schemes that proved altogether useless. He made an effort to remove the bar at the mouth of the river, but fresh deposits of sand were constantly being brought down by the current, and lashed up into a new bar by the waves that rolled ceaselessly in from the Southern Ocean. He spent about £20,000 in trying to construct a harbour called Port Elliot, near the entrance to the Murray; but there are now only a few surf-beaten stones to indicate the scene of his fruitless attempt. He offered a bonus of £4,000 to the first person who should ascend the Murray in an iron steamer as far as the River Darling; and a gentleman called Cadell made the effort, and succeeded. He obtained the reward, but it was not enough to pay his heavy expenses; and when he endeavoured afterwards to carry on a trade, by transporting wool to the sea in flat-bottomed steamers, he found that the traffic on the river was not sufficiently great to repay his heavy outlay, and, in a short time, he was almost ruined. The attempt was premature; and though, in after years, the navigation of the Murray was successfully carried on, yet, at this time, it led to nothing but loss.

Abstract of Chapter XI.

(1)—1841–1845—Governor Grey assisted the colonists to retrieve their fortunes; reduced the expenditure, and encouraged agricultural settlement.

(2)—1841—The Mineral Wealth of the colony began to be developed when ores of lead were discovered on the Mount Lofty Range.

(3)—1842—Copper was first found at Kapunda, where Messrs. Bagot and Dutton opened very valuable mines.

4)—1845—THE BURRA MINES were bought by the combination of two rival companies. The "snobs," or tradesmen gained the valuable portion called Burra.

(5)—1845–1848—GOVERNOR ROBE was conservative, and not so popular as Grey.

(6)—1848–1854—GOVERNOR YOUNG exerted himself to aid the progress of the colony; but failed in his premature attempts to open up the navigation of the Murray, by removing the bar, by founding Port Elliot, and by giving a reward to Captain Cadell for sailing up the river.

CHAPTER XII.

THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD.

1. Importance of the Year 1851.—The year 1851 was, in many ways, an eventful one to Australia. In that year the colonies received from the Imperial Parliament the amended constitutions they had so long expected. Tasmania, South Australia, Port Phillip, and Western Australia were now no longer under the absolute control of Governors sent out by the colonial authorities in England; they could, henceforth, boast the dignity of being self-governed communities, for, in 1851, they were invested with political powers which had previously been possessed by New South Wales alone. They now had the privilege of electing two-thirds of the members of a Council, whose duty it was to make for them their laws, and advise with the Governor on all matters of public interest. And, again, it was on the first of July in the same year that Port Phillip gained its independence; from that date onward its prosperous career must be related under its new title—VICTORIA.

But the event which made the year 1851 especially memorable in the annals of Australia was the discovery, near Bathurst, of the first of those rich gold-fields which, for so

long a time, changed the prospects and the whole appearance of the colonies. For several years after the date of this occurrence the history of Australia is little more than the story of the feverish search for gold, with its vast hopes, its labour, its turmoil, and its madness, its scenes of exultation and splendid triumph, and its still more frequent scenes of bitter and gloomy disappointment.

2. Early Rumours of Gold.—For many years there had been rumours that the Blue Mountains were auriferous. It was said that gold had been seen by convicts in the days of Macquarie, and, indeed, still earlier; but to the stories of prisoners, who claimed rewards for alleged discoveries, the authorities in Sydney always listened with extreme suspicion, more especially as no pretended discoverer could ever find more than his first small specimens.

In 1840, a Polish nobleman named Strzelecki, who had been travelling among the ranges round Mount Kosciusko, stated that, from indications he had observed, he was firmly persuaded of the existence of gold in these mountains; but the Governor asked him, as a favour, to make no mention of a theory which might, perhaps, unsettle the colony, and fill the easily-excited convicts with hopes which, he feared, would prove delusive. Strzelecki agreed not to publish his belief; but there was another man of science, who was not so easily to be silenced. The Rev. W. B. Clarke, a clergyman devoted to science, and the father of Australian geology, exhibited specimens in Sydney, on which he based an opinion that the Blue Mountains would, eventually, be found to possess gold-fields of great extent and value. Specimens had been taken to London by Strzelecki; and in 1844 a great English scientist, Sir Roderick Murchison, read a paper before the Royal Geographical Society, in which he expressed a theory similar to that of Mr. Clarke. In 1846 he again called attention to this subject, and

showed that, from the great similarity which existed between the rocks of the Blue Mountains and those of the Urals, there was every probability that the one would be found to be as rich as the other was known to be in the precious metals. So far as theory could go, the matter had been well discussed before the year 1851, but no one had ventured to spend his time and money in making a practical effort to settle the question.

3. **Edward Hargraves.**—About that time, however, the rich mines of California attracted a Bathurst settler, named Edward Hargraves, to seek his fortune on the banks of the Sacramento; and though, among the great crowds of struggling and jostling diggers, he met with but little success, yet he learnt the methods by which gold is discovered and secured, and laid the foundation for adventures in Australia which were afterwards to bring him both wealth and renown. Whilst he toiled with increasing disappointment on one of those famous gold-fields, the scenery around him, and the appearance of the rocks, recalled to his memory a certain secluded valley beyond the Blue Mountains, which he had visited fifteen years before: the notion floated vaguely through his mind that, perhaps, in that silent spot, there might lie great treasures, such as he saw his more fortunate companions from time to time draw forth from the rocks and soil around him. Day after day the image of that winding creek among the hills near Bathurst, recurred with increasing vividness, to stimulate his imagination and awaken his hopes; and, at length, this feeling impelled him to seek once more the shores of Australia, in order to examine the spot which had so often been present to his day-dreams. He lost no time in sailing, and scarcely had he arrived in Sydney ere he set out on horseback to cross the Blue Mountains. On the 11th of February, 1851, he spent the night at a little inn a few miles

from the object of his journey, and shortly after dawn he sallied forth on his walk through the forest, carrying with him a spade, a trowel, and a little tin dish. In the cool air of the morning the scent of the spreading gum-trees braced up his frame as he plunged deeper and deeper among those lonely hollows and wood-clad hills. His quickened step in an hour or two brought him to the well-remembered spot—the dry course of a mountain torrent which, in rainy seasons, finds its way into the Summerhill Creek. He lost no time in placing a little of the grey-coloured soil into his tin dish, and at once carried it to the nearest pool, where he dipped the whole beneath the water. By moving the dish rapidly, as he had learned to do in California, he washed away the sand and earth ; but the particles of gold, which are more than seven and a half times heavier than sand, were not so easily to be carried off. They sank to the corner of the dish, where they lay secure : a few small specks, themselves of little value, yet telling of hidden treasures that lay scattered in all the soil around.

A few days were spent in a careful examination of the neighbouring valleys, and when he was absolutely certain that the hopes he had so warmly indulged would not prove empty, he set out for Sydney ; taking care, however, to breathe no word of what he thought, or of what he had proven. On the 3rd of April he wrote a letter to the Colonial Secretary, in which he stated that, if the Government were willing to give him five hundred pounds, he would point out localities in New South Wales where gold was abundantly to be found. In reply, the Colonial Secretary announced that no preliminary reward could be given ; but that, if he chose first of all to point out the localities, he would afterwards be recompensed in proportion to the results. He accepted these conditions, and Mr. Stutchbury, the Colonial Geologist, was sent to accompany him to the

Summerhill Creek. On the 8th of May they set to work, and soon obtained several ounces of grain gold ; on the 13th, they discovered a single piece worth £30, and next day Mr. Stutchbury reported to the Government that he had seen enough to convince him that the district was rich in the precious metal. Five days afterwards, the little valley of the Summerhill contained four hundred persons, all stooping over the creek in a row about a mile long, each with a dish in his hand, scarcely ever raising his head, but busily engaged in washing the sand for gold. Lumps were frequently found of value varying from five to two hundred pounds. A week later, there were a thousand persons at work on the creek near the formerly lonely gully.

4. **Rush to the Gold-field.**—The excitement throughout the colony now became intense : workmen quitted their employments, shepherds deserted their flocks, shopkeepers closed their stores, and a great tide of fortune-seekers pressed onward, day by day, to the west. Most of these had sold everything they possessed, in order to make up a little bundle of necessary articles. Yet there were very many but ill-provided for a lengthened stay; they hurried along the road with the fallacious idea that gold was simply to be shovelled into bags and carted to Sydney. But when they came upon the scene, and saw that in the case of most of them it would only be after weeks and months of severe and constant toil that they could be rich, they grew faint-hearted, lounged for a week or two on the diggings, and then started for home again ; so that, for some time, there was a counter-current of grumbling and discontented men passing back to Sydney by the road. These men thought themselves befooled by Hargreaves, and it might, perhaps, have cost him his life had he fallen into their hands. On his trip to Sydney he was careful to disguise himself, to avoid their threatened revenge. He received from Government, however, his preliminary

reward of £500, and, in after years, New South Wales voted him the sum of £10,000, which was supplemented by a present of £2,381 from Victoria. Other profits also accrued to Hargraves ; so that he was, in the end, recompensed for his toil and trouble with a handsome competency.

The gloomy reports of returning diggers checked for a time the flow of people to the west ; but in the month of July an aboriginal shepherd on a station near Bathurst discovered a solid mass of gold, weighing nearly a hundredweight, and worth about £4,000. So splendid a prize, obtained in so easy a manner, was a temptation too dazzling to be resisted ; and the stream of people along the Bathurst road was now tenfold denser than before.

5. Government Regulations.—When the population on the gold-fields began to grow numerous the Government found it necessary to make arrangements for the preservation of law and order. A commissioner was appointed, who was to act as a magistrate ; he was to be assisted by a small body of police, and was to take charge of the gold escorts. As the lands on which the gold was being found were the public property of the colony, it was thought to be but just that the community, as a whole, should participate, to some small extent, in the wealth raised from them ; and the order was, therefore, issued that diggers should, in all cases, take out licenses before seeking for gold, and should pay for them at the rate of thirty shillings per month.

New diggings were, from time to time, opened up, and fresh crowds of eager men constantly pressed towards them, leaving the towns deserted and the neighbouring colonies greatly reduced in population. For some months the Turon River was the favourite ; at one time it had no less than ten thousand men upon its banks. At Ophir, and Braidwood, and Maroo the most industrious and sagacious miners were generally rewarded by the discovery of fine pieces of gold,

for which the Californian name of "nuggets" now began to be extensively used.

6. Gold in Victoria.—When Latrobe was sworn in to fill the office of Governor of Victoria on the 16th July, 1851, it appeared probable that he would soon have but a small community to rule over. So great were the numbers of those who were daily packing up their effects and setting off for the gold-fields of New South Wales, that Victoria seemed likely to sink into a very insignificant place on the list of Australian colonies. In alarm at this prospect, a number of the leading citizens of Melbourne had, on the 9th of June, united to form what was called the Gold Discovery Committee, and had offered a reward of £200 to the person who should give the first intimation of a payable gold-field within two hundred miles of Melbourne. Many persons set out, each in hopes of being the fortunate discoverer; and a report having been circulated that signs of gold had been seen on the Plenty Ranges, there were soon no less than two hundred persons scouring those hills, though for a long time without success. The first useful discovery in Victoria seems to have been made on July 1st, by a Californian digger named Esmond, who, like Hargraves, had entered on the search with a practical knowledge of the work. His experience had taught him the general characteristics of country in which gold is likely to be found, and he selected Clunes as a favourable spot. He found the quartz rock of the district richly sprinkled with gold; and his discovery having been made known, several hundred people were quickly on the scene. Almost on the same day, gold was discovered by a party of six men, at Anderson's Creek, only a few miles up the Yarra from Melbourne. It is thus difficult to determine with certainty whether or not Esmond was in reality the first discoverer; but, at any rate, he received honours and emoluments as such; and in after years the Victorian

Parliament presented him with one thousand pounds for his services.

7. Ballarat.—On the 10th of August, the Geelong newspapers announced that deposits of auriferous earth had been discovered at Buninyong, and very soon the sunny slopes of that peaceful and pastoral district were swarming with prospecting parties ; the quietly browsing sheep were startled from their favourite solitudes by crowds of men, who hastened with pick and spade to break up the soil in every direction, each eager to outstrip the other in the race for wealth. This region, however, did not realize the expectations that had been formed of it, and many of the diggers began to move northwards in the direction of Clunes. But at Clunes, also, there had been disappointment, for the gold was all embedded in the quartz rock, and these early miners were not prepared to extract it ; parties from Clunes were therefore moving southward to Buninyong, and the two currents met on the slopes of the Yarrowee, a streamlet whose banks were afterwards famous as the Ballarat diggings. The first comers began to work at a bend in the creek, which they called Golden Point. Here, for a time, each man could easily earn from twenty to forty pounds a day, and crowds of people hurried to the scene. Every one selected a piece of ground, which he called his claim, and set to work to dig a hole in it; but when the bottom of the sandy layer was reached, and there seemed to be nothing but pipe-clay below, the claim was supposed to be worked out, and was straightway abandoned. However, a miner named Cavenagh determined to try an experiment, and having entered one of these deserted claims, he dug through the layer of pipe-clay, when he had the good fortune to come suddenly upon several large deposits of grain gold. He had reached what had been in long past ages the bed of the creek, where, in every little hollow, for century after century, the flowing waters had gently deposited

the gold which they had carried with them from the mountains. In many cases these "pockets," as they were called, were found to contain gold to the value of thousands of pounds, so that very soon all the claims were carried down a few feet further, and with such success that, before a month had passed, Ballarat took rank as the richest gold-field in the world. In October, there were ten thousand men at work on the Yarrowee; acre after acre was covered with circular heaps of red and yellow sand, each with its shaft in the middle, in which men were toiling beneath the ground to excavate the soil and pass it to their companions above, who quickly hurried with it to the banks of the creek, where twelve hundred "cradles," rocked by brawny arms, were washing the sand from the gold.

8. **Mount Alexander.**—In the month of September a party, who had gone about forty miles north-east of Clunes to Mount Alexander, discovered near the present site of Castlemaine a valuable seam of gold-bearing earth. The fame of this place soon spread through all the colony; many left Ballarat to seek it, and crowds of people hastened from Melbourne and Geelong to share in the glittering prizes. In October, eight thousand men had gathered in the district; in November, there were not less than twenty-five thousand diggers at work, and three tons of gold were waiting in the tent of the Commissioner to be carried to Melbourne. The road to Mount Alexander was crowded with men of all ranks and conditions, pressing eagerly onward to be in time.

9. **Sandhurst.**—A few weeks later, the glories both of Ballarat and of Mount Alexander were dimmed for a time by the discovery of gold on the Bendigo Creek, which seemed at first to be the richest of all the gold-fields. In the course of a few months nearly forty thousand persons were scattered along the banks of the Bendigo, where Sandhurst now stands.

In the month of May, 1852, there must have been close upon seventy thousand men in the country between Buninyong and Bendigo, all engaged in the same occupation. Melbourne and Geelong were silent and deserted; for all classes were alike infected with the same excitement; lawyers, doctors, clerks, merchants, labourers, mechanics, all were to be found struggling through the miry ruts that served for a highway to Bendigo. The sailors left the ships in the bay with scarcely a man to take care of them; even the very policemen deserted, and the warders in the gaols resigned in a body. The price of labour now became excessive, for no man was willing to work unless tempted by the offer of four or five times the ordinary wage.

10. Immigration.—Meanwhile the news of these great discoveries had travelled to Europe, so that, after the middle of 1852, ships began to arrive freighted with thousands of men of all nations, who no sooner landed in Melbourne than they started for the diggings. During this year nearly one hundred thousand persons were thus brought into the country, and the population was doubled at a bound. Next year ninety-two thousand fresh arrivals landed, and Victoria thus became the most populous of the colonies. During the two following years it received a further accession of a hundred and fifty thousand; so that, in 1856, it contained four hundred thousand inhabitants, or about five times the number it possessed in 1850. The staple industry was, of course, the mining for gold, of which, in 1852, one hundred and seventy-four tons were raised, valued at £14,000,000. During the next ten years £100,000,000 worth of gold was exported from Victoria.

Some of the nuggets that were found are of historic note. The "Sarah Sands," discovered in 1853, was worth about £6,500. In 1857 the "Blanche Barkly," worth £7,000, was discovered; and the following year produced the "Welcome

Nugget," which was sold for £10,500, and was the greatest on record, until, in 1869, the "Welcome Stranger" was dug out, which proved to be slightly larger.

Abstract of Chapter XII.

(1)—The Year 1851 was notable for the extension of representative Government to all the Australian colonies; and for the discovery of the first gold-field at Bathurst.

(2)—Early Rumours of Gold—Specimens had been found by convicts; Count Strzelecki, Mr. Clarke, and Sir R. Murchison expressed their belief that gold existed in Australia.

(3)—1851—Edward Hargraves, a Bathurst settler, returned from California, discovered a gold-field on Summerhill Creek, near the Macquarie.

(4)—Rush to the Gold-fields was at first checked by the reports of disappointed diggers, but afterwards increased by the finding of a nugget worth £4,000.

(5)—Government Regulations—Commissioners were appointed to superintend the gold-fields at Ophir, Braidwood, Maroo, &c.; and thirty shillings per month were charged for each miner's license.

(6)—1851—Gold was found in Victoria by Esmond, at Clunes; also (through the reward offered by the Gold Discovery Committee), on the Plenty Ranges and Anderson's Creek.

(7)—1851—Ballarat was opened up by prospectors from Clunes and Buninyong; a miner having dug below the clay-beds found "pockets" of gold, and Ballarat became the richest field in the world.

(8)—1851—At Mount Alexander, near Castlemaine, gold was found.

(9)—1852—Sandhurst, on the Bendigo Creek, attracted great numbers of men; Melbourne and Geelong were almost deserted.

(10)—Immigration raised the population from 70,000 (in 1850) to 400,000 (in 1856). Up to 1862 about £120,000,000 worth of gold was exported.

CHAPTER XIII.

VICTORIA, 1851 to 1855.

1. Effects of Gold Excitement. — For the first few months after the discovery of gold in Victoria, many shrewd persons believed that the colony would be ruined by its seeming good fortune. None of the ordinary industries could be carried on whilst workmen were so scarce and wages so high. But, happily, these expectations proved fallacious; for, in 1852, when the great stream of people from Europe began to flow into the colony, every profession and every trade sprang into new and vigorous life. The vast crowds on the gold-fields required to be fed, and the farmers found ample market for their corn, the squatters for their beef and mutton. The miners required to be clothed, and the tailor and shoemaker must be had, whatever might be the prices they charged. Mechanics and artizans of every class found their labours in demand, and handsomely paid for. The merchants, also, found trade both brisk and lucrative; while the imports in 1850 were worth only three-quarters of a million, those of three years later were worth about twenty times that amount. After this enormous increase in population and business, it was found that there was quite as great an opportunity of gaining riches by remaining quietly engaged in one's own occupation as by joining the restless throng upon the gold-fields. The public revenue of the colony was, in 1852 six times, and in 1853 twelve times as great as it had been before the discovery of gold: so that, both as individuals and as a nation, the people of Victoria had reason to be satisfied with the change.

2. Convicts Prevention Act.—There existed, however, one drawback; for the attractions of the gold-fields had drawn from the neighbouring colonies, and more especially from Tasmania, great numbers of that class of convicts who, having served a part of their time, had been liberated on condition of good behaviour. They crossed over by hundreds, and soon gave rise to a serious difficulty; for, in the confused and unsettled state of the colony, they found only too great an opportunity for the display of their criminal propensities and perverted talents. Being by no means charmed with the toilsome life of the gold-miner, many of them became bushrangers. There were, in 1852, several bands of these lawless ruffians sweeping the country, and robbing in all directions. As the gold was being conveyed from the diggings, escorted by bands of armed troopers, the bushrangers lurked upon the road, treacherously shot the troopers, and rifled the chests. On one occasion, their daring rose to such a height that a band of them boarded the ship *Nelson* whilst it lay at anchor in Hobson's Bay, overpowered the crew, and removed gold to the value of £24,000—remarking, as they handed the boxes over the side of the vessel, that this was the best gold-field they had ever seen.

To prevent any further introduction of these undesirable immigrants, the Legislature, in 1852, passed what was called the "Convicts Prevention Act," declaring that no person who had been convicted, and had not received an absolutely free pardon, should be allowed to enter the colony; and that all persons who came from Tasmania should be required to prove that they were free, before being allowed to land. Any ship-captain who brought a convict into the colony was to be fined £100 for the offence.

3. Aspect of Gold-fields.—Meanwhile the gold-fields were growing apace. The discovery of the Eureka, Gravel

Pits, and Canadian Leads, made Ballarat once more the favourite ; and in 1853 there were about forty thousand diggers at work on the Yarrowee. Hotels began to be built, theatres were erected, and here and there a little church rose among the long line of tents which occupied the slopes above the creek.

Below, on the flats, the scene was a busy one. Thousands upon thousands of holes covered the earth, where men emerged and disappeared like ants, each bearing a bag of sand, which he either threw on a wheelbarrow or slung over his shoulder, and then carried forward, running nimbly along the thin paths among a multitude of holes till he reached the little creek, where he delivered the sand to one of the men, who stood shoulder to shoulder, in long rows, for miles on either bank, all washing the sand and clay into the little creek, whose waters were turned to a yellow stream of mud. Such is the scene which presents itself by day ; but at sunset a gun is fired from the Commissioner's tent, and all cease work : then, against the evening sky, ten thousand fires send up their wreaths of thin blue smoke, and the diggers prepare their evening meals. Everything is hushed for a time, except that a dull murmur rises from the little crowds chatting over their pannikins of tea. But, as the darkness draws closer around, the noises begin to assume a merrier tone, and, mingling pleasantly in the evening air, there rise the loud notes of a sailor's song, the merry jingle of a French political chant, or the rich strains of a German chorus.

In some tents the miners sit round boxes or stools, while, by the light of flaming oil-cans, they gamble for match-boxes filled with gold-dust ; in others they gather to drink the liquors illicitly sold by the "sly-grog shops." Many of the diggers betake themselves to the brilliantly-lighted theatres, and make the fragile walls tremble with their rough and

hearty roars of applause: everywhere are heard the sounds of laughter and good humour. Then, at midnight, all to bed except those foolish revellers who have stayed too late at the "grog-shop."

At dawn, again, they are all astir; for the day's supply of water must be drawn from the stream ere its limpid current begins to assume the appearance of a clay-stained gutter. Making the allowances proper to the occasion, the community is both orderly and law-abiding, and the digger, in the midst of all his toil, enjoys a very agreeable existence.

4. The License Fee.—He had but one grievance to trouble his life, and that was the monthly payment of the license fee. This tax had been imposed under the erroneous impression that every one who went upon the gold-fields must of necessity earn a fortune. For a long time this mistake prevailed, because only the most successful diggers were much heard of. But there was an undistinguishable throng of those who earned much less than a labourer's wage.

The average monthly earnings throughout the colony were not more than eight pounds for each man; and out of this sum he had to pay thirty shillings every month for the mere permission to dig. To those who were fortunate this seemed but a trifle; but for those who earned little or nothing there was no resource but to evade payment, and many were the tricks adopted in order to "dodge the Commissioners." As there were more than one-fifth of the total number of diggers who systematically paid no fees, the police were in the habit of stopping any man they met, and demanding to see his license; if he had none, he was at once marched off to the place that served for a gaol, and there chained to a tree.

The police were in the habit of devoting two days a week to what was called "digger hunting"; and as they often

experienced much trouble and vexation in doing what was unfortunately their duty, they were sometimes rough and summary in their proceedings. Hence arose a feeling of hostility among the diggers, not only to the police, but indeed to all the officials on the gold-fields. The first serious ebullition of the prevailing discontent took place on the Ovens, where a commissioner who had been unnecessarily rough to unlicensed diggers was assaulted and severely injured. But as violence was deprecated by the great body of miners, they held large meetings, in order to agitate in a more constitutional manner for the abolition of the fee. At first they sent a petition to Governor Latrobe, who declined to make any change. It was then hinted that, possibly, they might be driven to use force ; and the Governor replied that, if they did, he was determined to do his duty. But in August, 1853, when the agitation was increasing, Latrobe hurriedly reduced the fee to twenty shillings per month. This appeased the miners for a time; but the precipitancy with which the Governor had changed his intention showed too plainly the weakness of the Government; for, indeed, there was at that time scarcely a soldier in Victoria to repress an insurrection, if one should break out. Among the confused crowds on the gold-fields, there were great numbers of troublesome spirits, many of them foreigners, who were only too happy to foment dissension. Thousands of miners had been disappointed in their hopes of wealth, and, being in a discontented frame of mind, they blamed their misfortunes entirely on the Governor.

In spite of the concession that had been made to them, through all the gold-fields a spirit of dissatisfaction prevailed ; mutterings were heard as of a coming storm, and Latrobe, in his alarm, sent to all the neighbouring colonies to ask for troops. As the ninety-ninth Regiment was lying idle in Hobart Town, it was at once despatched to Melbourne.

5. Governor Hotham.—While matters were in this state, Governor Latrobe retired from office; and in June, 1854, Sir Charles Hotham arrived to fill the position. On his first arrival, he showed that his sympathies were, to a great extent, with the diggers. But he could scarcely be expected to make any important change, until he had been a few months in the colony, and had learnt exactly the state of affairs; and, meanwhile, the discontent on the gold-fields was daily increasing. The months of September and October, in 1854, were exceedingly dry; the creeks were greatly shrunk in volume, and in many places the diggers could find no water either for drinking or for gold-washing; and their irritation was not at all soothed by the manners of the commissioners and police. Besides this, the Government had thought it necessary to form a camp on the gold-fields, so that a large body of soldiers dwelt constantly in the midst of the miners. The soldiers and officers, of course, supported the commissioners, and, like them, soon came to be regarded with the greatest disfavour.

The gold-field population was in this irritable state when a trifling incident kindled an extensive revolt.

6. Riot at Ballarat.—A digger named Scobie, late one evening, knocked at the door of Bentley's Hotel, at Ballarat. Finding the place closed for the night, he tried to force an entrance, and continued his clamour so long that Bentley became angry, and sallied forth to chastise him. A crowd gathered to see the fight, and, in the darkness, Scobie's head was split open with a spade. Whose hand it was that aimed the blow no one could tell; but the diggers universally believed that Bentley was himself the murderer. He was therefore arrested and tried, but acquitted by Mr. Dewes, the magistrate, who was said by the diggers to be secretly his partner in business. A great crowd assembled round the hotel, and a digger, named Kennedy, addressed the multitude, in

vigorous Scottish accents, pointing out the spot where their companion's blood had been shed, and asserting that his spirit hovered above and called for revenge. The authorities sent a few police to protect the place, but they were only a handful of men in the midst of a great and seething crowd of over eight thousand powerful diggers. For an hour or two, the mob, though indulging in occasional banter, remained harmless. But a mischievous boy having thrown a stone, and broken the lamp in front of the hotel, the police made a movement as if they were about to seize the offender. This roused the diggers to anger, and in less than a minute every pane of glass was broken ; the police were roughly jostled and cut by showers of stones ; the doors were broken open. The crowd burst tumultuously into the hotel, and the rooms were swarming with men drinking the liquors and searching for Bentley, who, however, had already escaped on a swift horse to the camp. As the noise and disorder increased, a man placed a handful of paper and rags against the wooden walls of the bowling alley, deliberately struck a match, and set fire to the place. The diggers now deserted the hotel and retired to a safe distance, in order to watch the conflagration. Meanwhile a company of soldiers had set out from the camp for the scene of the riot, and on their approach the crowd quietly dispersed ; but by this time the hotel was reduced to a heap of smouldering ruins.

7. Conviction of Rioters.—For this outrage three men were apprehended and taken to Melbourne, where they were tried and sentenced to imprisonment. But Bentley was also re-arrested and tried, and as his friend Dewes could on this occasion be of no assistance to him, he was sentenced to three years of hard labour on the roads. Dewes was dismissed from the magistracy, and Sir Charles Hotham did everything in his power to conciliate the diggers. They were not to be thus satisfied, however, and held a stormy meeting

at Ballarat, in which they appointed a deputation, consisting of Kennedy, Humffray, and Black, to demand from the Governor the release of the three men condemned for burning Bentley's Hotel. Hotham received them kindly, but declined to accept their message, because, he said, the word "demand" was not a suitable term to use in addressing the representative of Her Majesty. As the diggers were haughty, and refused to alter the phrase, the Governor intimated that, under these circumstances, no reply could be given. The delegates having returned to Ballarat, a great meeting was held, and Kennedy, Humffray, Black, Lalor, and Vern made inflammatory speeches, in which they persuaded the diggers to pass a resolution, declaring they would all burn their licenses and pay no more fees.

8. **Insurrection at Ballarat.**—Skirmishes between the soldiers and diggers now became frequent; and, on the 30th of November, when the last "digger-hunt" took place, the police and soldiers were roughly beaten off. The diggers, among their tents, set up a flag-staff, and hoisted a banner of blue, with four silver stars in the corner. Then the leaders knelt beneath it, and, having sworn to defend one another to the death, proceeded to enrol the miners and form them into squads ready for drilling. Meantime the military camp was being rapidly fortified with trusses of hay, bags of corn, and loads of firewood. The soldiers were in hourly expectation of an attack, and, for four successive nights, they slept fully accoutred, and with their loaded muskets beside them. All night long, lights were seen to move busily backwards and forwards among the diggers' tents, and the solid tread of great bodies of men could be heard amid the darkness. Lalor was marshalling his forces on the slopes of Ballarat, and drilling them to use such arms as they possessed—whether rifles, or pistols, or merely spikes fastened at the ends of poles.

9. The Eureka Stockade.—Sir Charles Hotham now sent up the remaining eight hundred soldiers of the Ninety-ninth Regiment, under Sir Robert Nickle, and to these he added all the marines from the men-of-war and nearly all the police of the colony. They were several days on the march, and only arrived when the disturbance was over. The diggers had formed an intrenchment, called the Eureka Stockade, and had enclosed about an acre of ground with a high slab fence. In the midst of this stronghold they proclaimed the "Republic of Victoria;" and here they were able to carry on their drilling unmolested, under the command of the two leaders—Vern, a German, and Peter Lalor, the son of an Irish gentleman. They sent out parties in every direction to gather all the arms and ammunition they could obtain, and made extensive preparations for an assault; but, imagining that the soldiers would never dream of attacking them until the arrival of Sir Robert Nickle, they kept guard but carelessly. Captain Thomas—who commanded the troops in the camp—determined to finish the affair by a sudden attack; and, on Saturday night, whilst the diggers were amusing themselves in fancied security, he was carefully making his preparations. On Sunday morning, just after daybreak, when the Stockade contained only two hundred men, Captain Thomas led the troops quietly forth, and succeeded in approaching within three hundred yards of the Stockade without being observed. The alarm was then given within; the insurgents rushed to their posts, and poured a heavy volley upon the advancing soldiers, of whom about twelve fell. The attacking party wavered a moment, but again became steady, and fired with so calm and correct an aim that, whenever a digger showed himself, even for a moment, he was shot. Peter Lalor rose on a sand heap within the Stockade to direct his men, but immediately he fell, pierced in the shoulder by a musket ball. After the

firing had lasted for twenty minutes there was a lull; and the insurgents could hear the order, "Charge!" ring out clearly. Then there was an ominous rushing sound—the soldiers were for a moment seen above the palisades, and immediately the conflict became hand-to-hand. The diggers took refuge in the empty claims, where some were bayoneted and others captured, whilst the victors set fire to the tents, and soon afterwards retired with 125 prisoners. A number of half-burnt palisades, which had fallen on Lalor, concealed him from view; and, after the departure of the soldiers, he crawled forth, and escaped to the ranges, where a doctor was found, who amputated his arm. The Government subsequently offered a reward of five hundred pounds for his capture; but his friends proved true, and preserved him till the trouble was all past.

The number of those who had been wounded was never exactly known, but it was found that twenty-six of the insurgents had died during the fight, or shortly afterwards, and in the evening the soldiers returned and buried such of the dead bodies as were still lying in the Stockade. On the following day, four soldiers who had been killed in the engagement were buried with military honours. Many of the wounded died during the course of the following month, and in particular the colony had to lament the loss of Captain Wise, of the Fortieth Regiment, who had received his death wound in the conflict.

10. Trial of the Rioters.—When the news of the struggle and its issue was brought to Melbourne, the sympathies of the people were powerfully roused in favour of the diggers. A meeting, attended by about five thousand persons, was held near Prince's Bridge, and a motion proposed by Mr. David Blair, in favour of the diggers, was carried almost unanimously. Similar meetings were held at Geelong and Sandhurst, so that there could be no doubt as to the general

feeling against the Government ; and when, at the beginning of 1855, thirteen of the prisoners were brought up for trial in Melbourne, and each in his turn was acquitted, crowds of people, both within and without the courts, greeted them, one after another, with hearty cheers as they stepped out into the open air, once more free men.

11. Improvements on the Gold-fields.—The commission appointed by Sir Charles Hotham commenced its labours shortly after the conclusion of the riot, and in its report the fact was clearly demonstrated that the miners had suffered certain grievances. Acting upon the advice of this commission, the Legislative Council abolished the monthly fee, and authorized the issue of "Miners' Rights," giving to the holders, on payment of one pound each per annum, permission to dig for gold in any part of the colony. New members were to be elected to the Council, in order to watch over the interests of the miners, two to represent Sandhurst, two for Ballarat, two for Castlemaine, and one each for the Ovens and the Avoca Diggings. Any man who held a "Miner's Right" was thereby qualified to vote in the elections for the Council.

These were very just and desirable reforms, and the Government added to the general satisfaction by appointing the most prominent of the diggers to be justices of the peace on the gold-fields. Thus the colony very rapidly returned to its former state of peaceful progress, and the gold-fields were soon distinguished for their orderly and industrious appearance.

Abstract of Chapter XIII.

(1)—Effects of Gold Excitement—Workmen leave their employment; but trade and revenue become greater.

(2)—1852—Convicts Prevention Act passed to check the influx of convicts who, becoming bushrangers, rob the gold-escorts.

(3)—GOLD-FIELDS thrive and become very populous.

(4)—THE LICENSE FEE, a charge of 30s. per month for permission to dig—The poorer miners evade payment and are imprisoned; they ask Latrobe to abolish the fee; he refuses, but reduces it—He then sends for troops.

(5)—1854—GOVERNOR HOTHAM finds the diggers discontented; sympathizes with them, but forms a camp upon the gold-fields.

(6)—RIOT AT BALLARAT—Scobie, a digger, is believed to have been murdered by Bentley, a hotelkeeper—Miners burn the hotel.

(7)—CONVICTION OF RIOTERS—Three men imprisoned—A deputation demands their release—Hotham refuses—Diggers burn their licenses.

(8)—November, 1854—INSURRECTION AT BALLARAT—Diggers commence to drill for a fight.

(9)—EUREKA STOCKADE—A place surrounded by a high fence is held by the insurgents, under Vern and Lalor—Captain Thomas makes a sudden attack, and carries the stockade—Lalor escapes wounded—Twenty-six miners and four soldiers killed.

(10)—TRIAL OF RIOTERS—Meetings held to sympathize with prisoners; they are acquitted.

(11)—IMPROVEMENTS ON GOLD-FIELDS—A commission makes inquiries and the fee is abolished—"Miners' rights" are issued, and Parliamentary representation allowed.

CHAPTER XIV.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1851 to 1860.

1. Effects of Gold Discovery.—For some years after 1851 the colony of New South Wales passed through a severe ordeal. The separation of Port Phillip had reduced her population by one-fourth, and decreased her wealth by fully a third; the discoveries of gold at Ballarat and Bendigo had deprived her of many of her most desirable colonists. But the resources of the colony were too vast to allow of more

than a merely temporary check, and, after a year or two, her progress was steady and marked. The gloomy anticipations with which the gold discoveries had been regarded by the squatters and employers of labour were by no means realized; for though men were for a time scarce, and wages exceedingly high, yet, when the real nature of a gold-digger's life and the meagreness of the average earnings became apparent, the great majority of the miners returned to their ordinary employments, and the colony resumed its former career of steady success, though, with this difference, that the population was greater, and business consequently brisker than it had ever been before.

Fortune, however, had given to Victoria so great an impetus in 1851, that the firm prosperity of New South Wales was completely lost from sight, in the brilliant success of its younger neighbour. The yield of gold in New South Wales was never great as compared with that of Victoria; for, with the exception of 1852, no year produced more than two million pounds' worth.

2. **Governor Denison.**—Governor Fitzroy, who had been appointed in 1847, remained eight years in office, and thus was present during the events which made so great a change in the prospects of the colonies. In 1855 he returned to England, and his place was taken by Sir William Denison, who had previously been Governor of Tasmania. In 1854 great excitement had been caused in Sydney by the outbreak of the Crimean war, and the people, in their fear lest they might suddenly receive an unwelcome visit from Russian cruisers, hastened to complete a system of fortifications for the harbour. The new Governor, who had in youth been trained as an officer of the Royal Engineers in England, took a warm interest in the operations. He built a small fortress on an islet in the middle of the harbour, and placed batteries of guns at suitable spots along the shores. The

advance of the science of warfare in recent times has left these little fortifications but sorry defences against modern iron-clads ; but they have since been supplemented by some of those improvements in defence which have accompanied the invention of new methods of attack.

3. Constitutional Changes.—The Constitutions which had been framed for the colonies by the Imperial Parliament in 1850 were not expected to be more than temporary. The British Government had wisely determined to allow each of the colonies to frame for itself the constitution which it deemed most suitable to its requirements, and had instructed the Legislative Councils which were elected in 1851 to report as to the wishes of their respective colonies. In Sydney the Council entrusted the framing of the new Constitution to a committee, which decided to adopt the English system of Government by two houses ; the one to represent the people as a whole, the other to watch over the interests of those who, by their superior wealth, might be supposed to have more than an ordinary stake in the welfare of the country. It was very quickly arranged that the popular house should consist of not less than fifty-four members, to be elected by men who paid a small rental, or possessed property of a certain annual value. But with regard to the nature of the Upper House, it was much more difficult to come to a decision. Wentworth proposed that the Queen should establish a colonial peerage to form a small House of Lords, holding their seats by hereditary right ; but this idea raised so great an outcry, that he made haste to abandon it. Several of the committee were in favour of the scheme, afterwards adopted in Victoria, of making the Upper House elective, while limiting the choice of members to those who possessed at least £5,000 worth of real property. After much discussion, however, it was decided to give to the Governor the power of nominating the members of this

chamber, which was to consist of not less than twenty-one persons.

The Legislative Council adopted this scheme, and sent it home for the assent of the Queen ; they also requested that their constitution might be still further assimilated to that of Great Britain, by the introduction of responsible government, so that the ministers who controlled the affairs of the colony should be no longer officials appointed or dismissed by the Governor and Secretary of State, but should, in future, be chosen by the Parliament to advise the Governor on all matters of public interest, and should be liable to dismissal from office so soon as the Parliament lost confidence in their ability or prudence. The British Government at once gave its assent to this Constitution, which was accordingly inaugurated in 1856 ; and from that date onward New South Wales has been, in political matters, an imitation, in miniature, of the British Empire. In 1858, two small modifications were introduced ; the Lower House was increased in numbers to sixty-eight members, and the privilege of voting for it was extended to every male person over twenty-one years of age who had dwelt not less than six months in the colony.

4. Floods and Droughts.—From the very commencement of its existence, New South Wales has been subject to the two extremes of heavy floods and dreary periods of drought. The mountains are so near to the coast that the rivers have but short courses ; and the descent is so steep that, during rainy seasons, the rush of waters deluges the plains near the sea, causing floods of fatal suddenness. At the same time, the waters are carried off so rapidly that there are no supplies of moisture left to serve for those seasons in which but little rain falls. The districts along the banks of the Hunter, Hawkesbury, and Shoalhaven rivers have been especially liable to destructive inundations ; and.

from time to time, the people of Sydney have been obliged to send up life boats for the purpose of releasing the unfortunate settlers from the roofs and chimneys of their houses, where they had been forced to seek refuge from the rising waters. The Murrumbidgee also, at times, spreads out into a great sea, carrying off houses and crops, cattle, and, oftentimes, the people themselves. In 1852, a flood of this description completely destroyed the town of Gundagai, and no less than eighty persons perished, either from drowning or from being exposed to the storm as they clung to the branches of trees.

5. **The Dunbar.**—A great gloom was cast over the colony in 1857 by the loss of a fine ship within seven miles of the centre of Sydney. The *Dunbar* sailed from Plymouth in that year, with about a hundred and twenty people on board, many of them well-known colonists who had visited England, and were now on their way homewards. As the vessel approached the coast, a heavy gale came down from the north-east, and, ere they could reach the entrance to Port Jackson, night had closed around them. In the deep and stormy gloom they beat to and fro for some time; but, at length, the captain thought it safer to make for Sydney Heads than to toss about on so wild a sea. He brought the vessel close in to the shore, in order to search for the entrance, and when against the stormy sky he perceived a break in the black cliffs he steered for the opening. This, however, was not the entrance, but only a hollow in the cliffs, called by the Sydney people, "The Gap." The vessel was standing straight in for the rocks, when a mass of boiling surf was observed in the place where they thought the opening was, and ere she could be put about she crashed violently upon the foot of a cliff that frowned ninety feet above; there was a shriek, and then the surf rolled back the fragments and the drowning men. At daybreak the word was given that a ship had been wrecked

at the Gap, and during the day thousands of people poured forth from Sydney to view the scene of the disaster. On the following morning it was discovered that there was a solitary survivor, who, having been washed into a hollow in the face of the rock, lay concealed in his place of refuge throughout that dreadful night and all the succeeding day. A young man was found who volunteered to let himself down by a rope and rescue the half-dead seaman.

To prevent the repetition of so sad an occurrence, light-houses were erected for the guidance of ship-captains entering the harbour.

In 1852, the people of Sydney had the satisfaction of inaugurating the first Australian University — a structure whose noble front, magnificent halls, and splendid appointments for the furtherance of science, will always do credit to the liberality and high aspirations of the colony. In 1857 the "Australian Museum" was opened, and formed the nucleus of the present excellent collection of specimens. During this period several newspapers sprang into existence, railways began to stretch out from the metropolis, and lines of telegraph united Sydney with the leading cities of the other colonies.

Abstract of Chapter XIV.

(1)—Effects of Gold Discoveries—After 1851 the colony passes through an ordeal, owing to the rush to the diggings ; but through its natural resources emerges more prosperous than ever.

(2)—1855—Governor Denison—previously Governor of Tasmania—pays great attention to fortification of the harbour.

(3)—1856—Constitutional Changes—The Council, which was elected in 1851, appoints a committee and agrees to a Constitution—Two Houses—Responsible Government—Manhood suffrage introduced in 1858.

(4)—FLOODS AND DROUGHTS arise from sudden draining of waters on the mountain slopes—Floods occur on the Hunter, Hawkesbury, Shoalhaven, &c.—One on the Murrumbidgee, in 1852, destroyed Gundagai.

(5)—1857—THE DUNBAR wrecked at the Gap, outside of the Heads, and all but one out of 120 perished.

CHAPTER XV.

WEST AUSTRALIA, 1829 TO 1876.

1. King George's Sound.—In 1825, when Sir Ralph Darling was appointed Governor of New South Wales, his commission was supposed to extend over all that part of Australia which lies between the 139th meridian and the eastern coast. Not that the whole of this country, or even the twentieth part of it, was occupied by settlers—the region was merely claimed as British territory. But the remainder of Australia, comprising about two-thirds of the continent, had not, as yet, been annexed by any European nation ; and when, in 1826, a rumour prevailed that the French were about to occupy that region, the Sydney people were alarmed lest so great a territory should thus be lost for ever to the British Empire : they, therefore, in that year, sent a detachment of soldiers to take formal possession of the country, and to found a settlement at King George's Sound. From this early effort, however, no practical result ensued ; and during the few years of its existence, the place continued to be nothing more than a small military station.

2. Swan River.—But, in 1827, an English captain, named Stirling, after having sailed along the western coast, gave a most favourable account of a large river he had seen on his voyage. He was not the first discoverer of this river, which, as early as 1697, had been visited by a Dutch

navigator, named Vlaming, who was sailing in quest of a man-of-war supposed to have been wrecked on these shores. Vlaming had seen this stream, and, astonished by the wonderful sight of thousands of jet black swans on its surface, had given to it the name of Swan River. But it had remained unthought of till Captain Stirling, by his report, awakened a warm and hopeful interest in this district.

Shortly afterwards the British Government resolved to found a colony on the banks of this river, and Captain Freemantle arrived as the pioneer of the intended settlement. When he landed on the shore, he found that a nearer view of the country was far from realizing the expectations formed by those who had viewed it merely from the open sea. He began to have forebodings, but it was now too late —the ships, containing eight hundred of the first settlers, were already close at hand ; and, in the course of a week or two, after narrowly escaping shipwreck on the reefs along the shore, they landed Captain Stirling, the first Governor, with his little band, on the wilderness of Garden Island. Here, in this temporary abode, the colonists remained for several months—sheltering themselves in fragile tents, or in brushwood huts, from the rough blasts and the rains that beat in from the winter storms of the Indian Ocean. Exploring parties set out from time to time to examine the adjoining mainland ; but, however fair it seemed from a distance, they found it to be merely a sandy region, covered with dense and scrubby thickets. The only port was at a place called Freemantle, where there was but little shelter from the storms of the open ocean ; and the only place suitable for a town was several miles up the Swan River, where the waters expand into broad but shallow lagoons. Here the colonists determined to build their city, to which they gave the name of Perth ; but the site was not favour-

able to enterprise, an impassable bar stretched across the mouth of the river, which was, therefore, inaccessible to vessels. The goods of the colonists had to be landed on an exposed beach at Freemantle, and then carried overland through miles of sand and scrub.

In 1830 about a thousand new immigrants arrived ; and, towards the end of this year, the colonists succeeded in settling down in their new homes at Perth.

3. **Land Grants.**—Most of these immigrants were attracted to West Australia by the prospect of obtaining large estates ; they knew how valuable land was in the well-settled countries of Europe, and, when they heard of square miles in Australia to be had for a few pounds, they were captivated by the notion of so easily becoming great landed proprietors. But the value of land depends upon surrounding circumstances, and ten acres in England may be worth more than a whole wilderness in West Australia. At that time foolish notions were in every quarter prevalent as to what could be done by means of land. The British Government thought it possible to make the colony self-supporting by paying for everything with grants which cost it nothing, and yet were readily accepted by others as payment. Thus the Governor, instead of his yearly salary, was to receive a hundred thousand acres, and all the officials were to be paid in the same manner. The land was distributed in great quantities to people who had no intention of using it, but who expected that, by the progress of colonization, it would increase enormously in value, and might then be sold for splendid prices.

To induce emigrants to bring with them useful property, the Government offered a bonus of twenty acres for every three pounds' worth of goods imported ; and the colonists—quite unconscious of the future that lay before them—carried out great numbers of costly, though often unsuitable, articles, by means of which the desired grants were obtained. It was

found difficult to convey this property to the town, and much of it was left to rot on the shore, where carriages, pianos, and articles of rich furniture lay half-buried in sand and exposed to the alternations of sun and rain.

Splendid horses and cattle of the finest breed had been brought out, but they wandered useless in the bush. For, till the country was surveyed, nothing could be done in the way of agriculture ; and, even after the surveys were completed, owing to a regulation that those whose grants exceeded a square mile should be allowed the first choice, all the sections nearest to the town were obtained by officials and wealthy speculators, who had no intention of using them. Many of these persons held a district almost as large as an English county, and, therefore, the lands remaining for selection by farmers and small purchasers were generally far in the interior. The sections were pointed out on the maps, but the places themselves had never been trodden by a white man's foot, and were held by tribes of hostile savages. Some, indeed, tried to settle upon these distant regions, but they were lonely and isolated, and many of them perished, either from disease and hunger or by the spears of the natives. Yet there were very few who made any attempt at agriculture, and the costly ploughs and implements that had been imported lay rusting on the beach. The horses and cattle died off, the sheep that had been introduced at great expense were almost all killed through feeding on a poisonous plant, which grew in patches over the country ; and the men themselves were forced to loiter at Perth, consuming their provisions and chafing at their ruinous inaction.

4. **Mr. Peel.**—There was one gentleman who had spent fifty thousand pounds in bringing with him to the colony everything that could be required for farming and sheep breeding on a magnificent scale. He brought with him three hundred labourers ; but the land was by no means so fertile

as he had imagined, and he had scarcely commenced his farming operations, when he found that his only escape from ruin was to enter, single handed, on the self-dependent life of the ordinary settler.

5. Gloomy Prospects.—Matters grew worse and worse, and those of the disappointed colonists who had sufficient prudence to start before their means were all exhausted either returned to Europe or sought the other colonies, where several achieved success—notably the brothers Henty, who settled at Launceston, and established at Portland Bay the whaling station already mentioned. The gloomy reports of those who reached England prevented any further accession of immigrants, and in 1835 it was rumoured, though erroneously, that the British Government intended to abandon the place.

In the following year (1836), the Colony of South Australia was founded ; and a great extent of territory previously marked as belonging to West Australia was assigned to the new settlement. These two colonies, during their early years, experienced trials and difficulties of the same kind ; but while South Australia, in a short time, emerged to a career of brilliant prosperity, West Australia, for forty years, never enjoyed even a transitory gleam of success.

6. Introduction of Convicts.—Time brought no material change in the prospects of the little colony to the west, until, in 1848, a message was received from Earl Grey, asking the settlers if they were willing to receive convicts in their midst. Opinions were divided as to the reply which ought to be given : while some were averse to the idea, others believed that the money sent out by the British Government to maintain the convicts and soldiers would originate a trade which might give to the colony new life and fresh prospects. These arguments prevailed ; and in 1849 the first shipload of convicts arrived. From time to time new gangs were received, and the place began to be much more populous than

before. The shopkeepers in Perth became rich, and the farmer-squatters of the surrounding districts found a ready market for their produce. Yet this success was only partial; and there was nothing which might be said to constitute general prosperity. In the little town of Freemantle, the few and scattered houses had still a rural aspect, and the streets echoed to the sound of no commercial bustle. In Perth the main street was still a grassy walk, shaded by avenues of trees, and even in the busiest quarter the houses stood, each in the midst of its spacious garden.

7. **Evils of Convictism.**—West Australia had now to suffer the consequences of having become a penal settlement. Many of the convicts, on being liberated, took up their abode in the colony; but their characters were seldom either amiable or virtuous, and from the vices of these men the whole population began to lose character in the eyes of other countries. The prisoners were no sooner liberated than they set off for the gold-fields in the eastern colonies, which thus began to share in the evils of convictism. These colonies were not inclined to suffer long in this manner; and, to defend themselves, they refused admission to any person who came from West Australia, unless he could show that he had never been a convict. Thus the colony at Swan River was branded, and held to be contaminated; no free immigrants sought its shores, and many of its best inhabitants departed.

This stigma continued to rest on West Australia until the year 1868, when the transportation of criminals from Great Britain altogether ceased, and the colony no longer received its periodical supply of convicts. Since that time it has, in a great measure, retrieved its character; it is now doing what it can to attract free immigrants, and offers large tracts of pastoral land at a rental of ten shillings per thousand acres. It has constructed a short railway and several telegraph

lines ; and at Albany, the town on King George's Sound, it has established a coaling depôt for the mail steamers on their way to Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney. But West Australia is still what it was called twelve years ago, "the giant skeleton of a colony," consisting of about thirty thousand people, scattered over a hundred thousand square miles of territory, behind which stretches a vast region of unexplored wilderness.

ABSTRACT OF CHAPTER XV.

(1)—1826—KING GEORGE'S SOUND held by a small detachment of soldiers.

(2)—SWAN RIVER visited by Vlaming, 1697 ; by Stirling, 1827 —Colonized in 1829 and 1830.

(3)—LAND GRANTS eagerly sought by purchasers ; and given by Government in payment of services—Large useless blocks of land held by absentees—Much useless property imported for the sake of obtaining grants.

(4)—MR. PEEL brings in £50,000 and 300 workmen—Obliged to give up his farming operations.

(5)—GLOOMY PROSPECTS—The colony damaged by bad reports in England ; by emigration to other colonies ; by foundation of South Australia.

(6)—CONVICTS introduced in 1849—Partial prosperity follows.

(7)—EVILS OF CONVICTISM—West Australia branded ; receives no free emigrants—Transportation ceases in 1868, and the colony retrieves its character.

CHAPTER XVI.

QUEENSLAND, 1823 TO 1876.

1. **Moreton Bay.**—When Captain Cook, in 1770, sailed into the wide opening of Moreton Bay, several of his friends on board observed the sea to be paler than usual, and formed the opinion that, if a careful search were made along the shores, it would be found that a large river fell into the sea

somewhere in the neighbourhood. Cook attached so little weight to this idea that he did not stay to make any examination; and when, about twenty years later, Captain Flinders surveyed the same bay, he saw no trace of a river.

But the reports of both these travellers were subsequently found to be erroneous; for, in 1823, when Governor Brisbane sent the discoverer Oxley, in the *Mermaid*, to select a place for a new convict station in the northern district of New South Wales, Moreton Bay was found to receive the waters of a large and important river. Oxley left his little vessel in the bay, and with a boat entered upon the broad current of the stream. Before sunset he had ascended about twenty miles, and had been delighted by the richness of the scenery and the magnificence of the timber. On the following day he proceeded thirty miles further up, and throughout the whole distance found the stream to be broad, and of sufficient depth to be navigable for vessels of considerable size. Oxley was justly proud of his discovery, and wished to penetrate still further into the forests that lay beyond; but his boat's crew had been so exhausted by their long row under a burning sun that he could go no further, and found it necessary to turn and glide with the current down to his vessel, which he reached late on the fourth night. To the stream he had thus discovered he gave the name of the Brisbane River.

2. Convict Station.—On his return he recommended this district as a suitable position for the new convict station, and during the following year (1824) he was sent to form the settlement. With a small party, consisting of convicts and their guards, he landed at Redcliff, a peninsula which juts out into Moreton Bay a few miles above the mouth of the Brisbane. Here he stayed for a few months, but afterwards moved twenty miles up the river to the plain now

occupied by the city of Brisbane, where soldiers' barracks were at once erected, and strong buildings of stone prepared for the convicts. Here, for some years, the lonely party dwelt, a handful of people in the midst of a vast and unexplored country.

But, in course of time, the solitude was broken by the approach of neighbours ; for, after the discoveries made by Allan Cunningham, in 1825, the squatters of New South Wales had hastened northwards, in order to depasture their flocks on the fine lands of the Darling Downs. They founded many little towns, such as Ipswich, Drayton, and Toowoomba ; and as, in 1829, a pass leading across the Dividing Range from the Darling Downs to Moreton Bay had been discovered by Cunningham, the squatters on the west of the mountains began to hold frequent communication with the settlement at Moreton Bay, from which they obtained convicts to act as shepherds on their runs.

3. **The Natives.**—In these early years the squatters of the district were scattered, at wide intervals, throughout a great extent of country, and, being in the midst of native tribes who were not only numerous but of a peculiarly hostile disposition, they often found themselves in a very precarious situation. The blacks swarmed on the runs, killing the sheep, and stealing the property of the squatters, who had many annoyances to suffer and injuries to guard against. But their retaliation oftentimes exhibited a ferocity and inhumanity almost incredible in civilized men.

The Government troopers showed little compunction in destroying scores of natives; and, strange to say, the most inhuman atrocities were committed by blacks, who were employed to act as troopers. On one occasion, after the murder of a white man by two blacks, a band of troopers, in the dead of night, stealthily surrounded the tribe to which the murderers belonged, whilst it was holding a corroboree,

and, at a given signal, fired a volley into the midst of the dancing crowd—a blind and ruthless revenge, from which, however, the two murderers escaped.

4. Removal of Convicts.—When the new land regulations were proclaimed by Governor Gipps in 1840, the country around Moreton Bay was entitled the "Northern District of New South Wales," and land was thrown open for sale at twelve shillings per acre. A considerable number of free immigrants shortly afterwards settled on the banks of the Brisbane river, and as they found the soil well adapted for the cultivation of wheat and maize, they made rapid progress, and others soon followed to share their prosperity.

In 1841—after transportation to New South Wales had been discontinued—the remaining convicts were all removed from Moreton Bay; and, two years later, the free settlers of the district began to send representatives to the Legislative Council at Sydney.

5. Separation.—In less than five years from this date the district began to agitate for separation from New South Wales; and, in 1851, a petition was sent to the Queen, urging the right of Moreton Bay to receive the same concession as had, in that year, been made to Port Phillip. On this occasion their request was not granted; but, on being renewed about three years later, it met with a very favourable reception; and, in the following year, an Act was passed by the Imperial Parliament giving to the British Government power to constitute the new colony. Again, as in the case of Port Phillip, delays occurred; and, in 1856, a change of ministry caused the matter to be almost forgotten. It was not until the year 1859 that the territory to the north of the twenty-ninth parallel of latitude was proclaimed a separate colony, under the title of QUEENSLAND.

In the December of that year, Sir George F. Bowen, the first Governor, arrived; and the little town of Brisbane, with

its 7,000 inhabitants, was raised to the dignity of being a capital, the seat of government of a territory containing more than 670,000 square miles, though inhabited by only 25,000 persons. A few months later, Queensland received its constitution, which differed but little from that of New South Wales. There were established two Houses of Legislature, one consisting of members nominated by the Governor, and the other elected by the people.

6. **Gold.**—In 1858 it was reported that gold had been discovered far to the north, on the banks of the Fitzroy River, and in a short time many vessels arrived in Keppel Bay, their holds and decks crowded with men, who eagerly landed and hastened to Canoona, a place about sixty or seventy miles up the river. Ere long there were about fifteen thousand diggers on the scene; but it was soon discovered that the gold was confined to a very small area, and by no means plentiful; and those who had spent all their money in getting to the place were in a wretched plight. A large population had been hurriedly gathered in an isolated region, without provisions, or the possibility of obtaining them; their expectations of the gold-field had been disappointed, and for some time the Fitzroy River was one great scene of misery and starvation, till the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria sent vessels to convey the unfortunate diggers from the place. Some, however, in the extremity of the famine, had selected portions of the fertile land on the banks of the river, and had begun to cultivate them as farms. They were pleased with the district, and, having settled down on their land, they formed the thriving town of Rockhampton.

A greater amount of success, however, attended a subsequent effort in 1867. The Government of Queensland offered rewards, varying from two hundred to a thousand pounds for the discovery of payable gold-fields; and, during the

course of the next two or three years, many districts were opened up to the miner. Towards the end of 1867 a man named Nash, who had been wandering in an idle way over the country, found an auriferous region of great extent at Gympie, about 130 miles from Brisbane. He concealed his discovery for a time, and set to work to collect as much of the gold as possible, before attracting others to the spot. In the course of a day or two, he gathered several hundred pounds' worth of gold, being, however, often disturbed in his operations by the approach of travellers on the adjacent road, when he had to crouch among the bushes, until the footsteps died away and he could again pursue his solitary task. After some time, it seemed impossible to avoid discovery, and lest any one should forestall him in making known the district, he entered Maryborough, announced his discovery, and received the reward. A rush took place to the Gympie, which was found to be exceedingly rich, and it was not long before a nugget worth about four thousand pounds was met with close to the surface.

Far to the north, on the Palmer River, a tributary of the Mitchell, there have been discovered rich gold-fields, where, in spite of the great heat and dangers from the blacks, there are crowds of diggers at work. Many thousands of Chinamen have settled down in the district, and to these the natives seem to have a special antipathy, as they spear them on every possible occasion.

7. Cotton.—Throughout most of its territory, Queensland possesses a climate of tropical warmth, and it is therefore, in its more fertile parts, well suited for the growth of cotton and sugar. About the year 1861, the cultivation of the cotton-plant was commenced on a small scale ; but, although the plantations were found to thrive, yet the high wages of labour in Queensland, and the low price of cotton in Europe, caused these first attempts to be altogether unprofitable.

Matters were changed, however, in 1863, for then the civil war was raging in America; and as the people of the Southern States were prevented, by a long chain of blockading vessels, from sending their cotton to Europe, there was a great scarcity of cotton in England, and its price rose to be exceedingly high. This was a favourable opportunity for Queensland; the plantations were, of course, still as expensive as ever, but the handsome prices obtained for the cotton not only covered the increase of expense, but also left considerable profits. The cultivation of the sugar-cane was introduced in 1865, and, after a few years had passed away, great fields of waving cane were to be seen in various parts of the country, growing ripe and juicy beneath the tropical sun.

8. **Polynesian Labour.**—The prices of cotton and sugar remained high for some years; but when the war was over they fell to their former rates, and the planters of Queensland found it necessary to find some cheaper substitute for their white labourers. At first it was proposed to bring over Hindoos from India, but nothing came of this idea; and afterwards, when Chinese were introduced, they were not found to give the satisfaction expected. But it happened that one of the planters, named Robert Towns, was the owner of a number of ships which traded to the South Sea Islands, and having persuaded a few of the islanders to cross to Queensland, he employed them on his sugar plantation. He took some little trouble in teaching them the work he wished them to do, and found that they soon became expert at it. As the remuneration they required was very small, they served admirably to supply the necessary cheap labour.

The practice of employing these South Sea Islanders, or "Kanakas" as they were called, soon became general, and parts of Queensland had all the appearance of the American plantations, where crowds of dusky figures, decked in the

brightest of colours, plied their labours with laughter and with song, among the tall cane brakes or the bursting pods of cotton. The "Kanakas" generally worked for a year or two in the colony, then having received a bundle of goods—consisting of cloth, knives, hatchets, beads, and so forth, to the value of about £10—they were again conveyed to their palm-clad islands. A system of this kind was apt to give rise to abuses; and, accordingly, it was found that a few of the more unscrupulous planters, not content with the ordinary profits, stooped to the shameful meanness of cheating the poor islander out of his hard-earned reward. They hurried him on board a vessel, and sent after him a parcel containing a few shillings' worth of property; then, when he reached his home, he found that all his toil and his years of absence from his friends had procured him only so much trash.

Happily, this was not of very frequent occurrence; but there was another abuse both common and glaring. As the plantations in Queensland increased, they required more labourers than were willing to leave their homes; and, as the captains of vessels were paid by the planters so much for every "Kanaka" they brought over, there was a strong temptation to carry off the natives by force, when, by other means, a sufficient number could not be obtained. There were frequent conflicts between the crews of labour vessels and the inhabitants of the islands. The white men burnt the native villages, and carried off crowds of men and women; while, in revenge, the islanders often surprised a vessel and massacred its crew; and in such cases the innocent suffered for the guilty. The sailors often had the baseness to disguise themselves as missionaries, in order the more easily to effect their purpose; and when the true missionaries, suspecting nothing, approached the natives on their errand of good will, they were speared or clubbed to death by the

unfortunate islanders. But, as a rule, the "Kanakas" were themselves the sufferers; the English vessels pursued their frail canoes, ran them down, and sank them; then, whilst the men were struggling in the sea, they were seized and thrust into the hold, the hatches were fastened down; and when, in this dastardly manner, a sufficient number had been gathered, and the dark interior of the ship was filled with a steaming mass of human beings densely huddled together, the captains set sail for Queensland, where they landed those of their living cargoes who had escaped the deadly pestilence which filth and confinement always engendered in such cases.

9. Polynesian Labourers' Act.—These were the deeds of a few ruthless and disreputable seamen; but the people of Queensland, as a whole, had no sympathy with such barbarities, and in 1868 they passed a law to regulate the labour traffic. It enacted that no South Sea Islanders were to be brought into the colony, unless the captain of the vessel could show a document, signed by a missionary or British consul, stating that they had left the islands of their own free will; Government agents were to accompany every vessel, in order to see that the "Kanakas" were well treated on the voyage; and, on leaving the colony, no labourer was to receive less than six pounds' worth of goods for every year he had worked.

These regulations were of great use, but they were often evaded; for, by giving a present to the king of an island, the sailors could bribe him to force his people to express their willingness before the missionary. The trembling men were brought forward, and, under the fear of their chief's revenge, they declared their perfect readiness to sail. Sometimes the Government agents on board the vessels were bribed not to report the misdeeds of the sailors; and in the case of the *Jason*, on which the agent was too honest to be so bribed, he

was chained below by the captain, on the pretence that he was mad. When the ship arrived in Queensland, the unfortunate man was found in a most miserable state of filth and starvation. For this offence, the captain was arrested, tried, and imprisoned. The Imperial authorities have recently given their assistance to the Colonial Government to suppress this traffic, and British cruisers now sail among all the islands to prevent the perpetration of such enormities.

10. Present State of the Colony.—In 1868 Sir George Bowen was sent to govern New Zealand, and Governor Blackall took charge of affairs in Queensland. He was a man of fine talents and amiable character, and was greatly respected by the colonists ; but he died not long after his arrival, and was succeeded by the Marquis of Normanby, who, in his turn, was succeeded, in 1874, by Mr. Cairns.

Queensland possesses magnificent resources, which have only recently been made known, and are now in process of development. Her exports of gold exceed one million pounds a year ; she produces enormous quantities of tin, copper, and other minerals. The wool clipped from her sheep exceeds one million three hundred thousand pounds in annual value ; and her total exports, including cotton, sugar, and other tropical productions, amount to about four million pounds per annum. The population is now about two hundred thousand, or eight times the number of inhabitants the colony contained only sixteen years ago ; and immigrants continue to arrive at the rate of about sixteen thousand a year. Though the youngest of the Australian colonies, Queensland now ranks fourth on the list, and appears to have a most promising future before it.

Abstract of Chapter XVI.

(1)—1823—Moreton Bay—Formerly visited by Cook and Flinders ; here Oxley discovers the Brisbane River, and sails up for fifty miles

(2)—1824—CONVICT STATION formed on Brisbane River—Furnishes shepherds to squatters of the Darling Downs.

(3)—NATIVES very dangerous to early settlers; often killed by squatters and troopers.

(4)—1841—CONVICTS REMOVED on account of arrival of free settlers, who are allowed to elect members of Council of New South Wales.

(5)—1859—SEPARATION petitioned for in 1851; also in 1854—Allowed in 1859—Name "Queensland" is adopted, and a Constitution framed, with two Houses of Parliament, one nominated, the other elective.

(6)—GOLD—1858—A rush to the gold-fields at Canoona causes misery, but leads to foundation of Rockhampton—Government offers rewards; gold found at Gympie, 1867; subsequently on the Palmer, &c.

(7)—COTTON begins to be cultivated about 1861; sugar in 1865.

(8)—POLYNESIAN LABOUR introduced by Towns—The Kanakas ill-treated—Sometimes by planters; more often by seamen.

(9)—POLYNESIAN LABOURERS' ACT passed to regulate this labour traffic.

(10)—PRESENT STATE OF COLONY—Population, 200,000—rapidly increasing.

CHAPTER XVII.

EXPLORATIONS IN THE INTERIOR, 1840 TO 1860.

1. Progress of Exploration.—The coasts of Australia had all been examined before the year 1815. From that date, those who wished to make fresh discoveries were obliged to penetrate into the interior; and we have already seen that, previous to the year 1836, explorers were busy in opening up the south-east portion of the continent. Oxley had made known the northern districts of New South Wales, and Allan Cunningham the southern part of what is now the colony of Queensland; Hume and Hovell, Sturt and

Mitchell, had traversed the southern districts of New South Wales and the territory now occupied by Victoria. Following closely in the footsteps of these intrepid discoverers, the squatters had entered all these districts, and, wherever the land was suitable, they had settled down with their flocks; so that, ere long, all that corner of Australia which would be cut off by drawing a straight line from Brisbane to Adelaide was fully surveyed. But there still remained to be explored about seven-eighths of the continent; and from this date onward there was an unbroken succession of adventurous travellers, who entered the vast central territory for the purpose of making known its nature and capacities. But the manner of conducting an expedition was now very different from what it had been. Previous explorers had been provided with parties of convicts, and had traversed lands for the greater part grassy and well watered. These expeditions had their dangers, arising chiefly from the hostility of the blacks; and Allan Cunningham, his brother Richard, with many others, sacrificed their lives in their ardour for discovery. But subsequent travellers had to encounter, in addition, the pangs of hunger and thirst in the arid desert which occupies so great a portion of Central Australia.

2. Eyre.—The first on this roll of gallant discoverers was Edward John Eyre, who, in 1840, offered to conduct an expedition to the interior. He himself provided about half the money required, the South Australian Government—which was then in difficulties—gave a hundred pounds, and a number of Eyre's personal friends made up the remainder. With five Europeans, three natives, and thirteen horses, and with forty sheep to serve as food on the way, he set out from Adelaide and travelled to the head of Spencer's Gulf, where a small vessel lay waiting to supply them with provisions sufficient for three months. Having traversed

forty or fifty miles of desert land, he turned to the west, and came in sight of Lake Torrens. It was now dried up, so that in place of a sheet of water twenty miles broad, he saw only a dreary region covered with glittering salt. When he entered upon it the thin crust of salt broke, and a thick black mud oozed up. The party plunged onward for about six miles, the mud becoming always deeper and deeper, till at length it half covered the saddles of their horses. He was then forced to turn back, and to seek a passage round this lake of mud; but, having followed its shores for many miles, there seemed to be so little prospect of reaching the end of the obstacle, that he was forced again to turn his course to the north. After travelling about two hundred miles through a very desolate country, he was once more arrested by coming upon Lake Eyre, a similar sheet of salt-encrusted mud. Again there appeared no hope of either crossing the lake or going round it ; no water was to be found, and his supplies were fast failing, so that he was forced to hasten back a long distance to the nearest stream. Setting out once more, he twice essayed to penetrate eastward into the interior, but, on each occasion, the salt lakes barred his progress ; as a last effort, he urged his failing party towards the north-east. Here the country was the most barren and desolate that can be imagined. His supplies of water ran short, and frequently the explorers were on the point of perishing. When they approached the Frome River—a creek which flows northward into Lake Eyre—they were inexpressibly delighted to view from afar the winding current; but its waters were found to be as salt as the ocean. After a long and dreary journey, Eyre ascended a hill, in order to see if there was any hope of finding better country ; but the view was only a great and barren level, stretching far away to the horizon on every side. He had now no water, and his only course was to turn back ; so, leaving this place—which

he called Mount Hopeless—he retraced his steps to the head of Spencer's Gulf.

3. **Australian Bight.**—Here he changed the object of his journey, and made efforts to go along the shores of the Great Australian Bight, in order to reach West Australia. Three times he rounded Streaky Bay; but in that bare and desert land the want of water was an insuperable obstacle, and each time he was forced to retreat to less desolate country. Governor Gawler now sent word to return to Adelaide, as it seemed madness to make further efforts; but Eyre replied that, to go back without having accomplished anything, would be a disgrace he could never endure. Seeing that his only chance of reaching West Australia was to push rapidly forward with a simple and light equipment, he sent back the whole of his party except Mr. Baxter, his black servant Wylie, and the other two natives; and, taking with him a few horses, carrying a supply of water and provisions for several weeks, he set out to follow the coast along the Great Australian Bight. His party had to scramble along the tops of rough cliffs, which everywhere frowned from three hundred to six hundred feet above the sea; and, if they left the coast to travel inland, they had to traverse great stretches of moving sand, which filled their eyes and ears, covered them when asleep, and, when they sat at meals, made their food unpleasant. But they suffered most from want of water; for often they were obliged to walk day after day beneath a broiling sun when all their water was gone, and not a drop to be seen on the burning soil beneath them. On one occasion, after they had thus travelled 110 miles, the horses fell down from exhaustion, and could not be induced to move. Eyre and a native hastened forward; but, though they wandered for more than eighteen miles, they saw no sign of water, and, when darkness came on, they lay down, with lips

parched and burning, and tossed in feverish slumber till morning. At early dawn they perceived a ridge of sandhills not far away, and, making for them, they found a number of little wells—places where the natives had dug into the sand for six or eight feet, and so had reached fresh water. Here Eyre and his black companion drank a delicious draught, and hastened back with the precious beverage to revive the horses. The whole party was then able to go forward ; and there, around these little waterholes, Eyre halted for a week to refresh his men and animals before attempting another stretch of similar country. They saw some natives, who told them that there was plenty of water further on, and, when Eyre set out again, he carried very little with him, so as not to overburden the horses. But, after sixty miles of the desert had been traversed without meeting any place in which water was to be found, Eyre became alarmed, and sent back Mr. Baxter with the horses to bring up a better supply, whilst he himself remained to take charge of the baggage. When Baxter returned, they all set forward again, and reached a sandy beach, where they had great difficulty in preventing the horses from drinking the sea-water, which would certainly have made them mad. As it was, two of them lay down to die, and part of the provisions had to be abandoned. Baxter now grew despondent, and wished to return ; but Eyre was determined not yet to give up. Onward they toiled through the dreary wilderness, and two more horses fell exhausted ; 126 miles from the last halting-place, and still no signs of water. Still onward, and the horses continue to drop by the way, Baxter constantly entreating Eyre to return. It was only after a journey of 160 miles that they came to a place where, by digging, they could obtain fresh water in very small quantities. They were now forced to eke out their failing provisions by eating horseflesh. Baxter was altogether disheartened ; and, if to return had

not been as dangerous as to go forward, Eyre would himself have abandoned the attempt. The three natives, however, were still as light-hearted and merry as ever: whilst the food lasted, they were always full of frolic and laughter.

4. **Death of Baxter.**—Each evening Eyre formed a little camp, loaded the muskets, and laid them down ready for use in case of an attack by the blacks; the horses were hobbled, and set free to gather the little vegetation they could find. But this forced Eyre and Baxter to keep watch by turns, lest they should stray so far as to be lost. One evening when Eyre had taken the first watch, the horses, in their search for grass, had wandered about a quarter of a mile from the camp. He had followed them, and was sitting on a stone beneath the moonlight, musing on his gloomy prospects, when he was startled by a flash and a report. Hastening to the camp, he was met by Wylie, who was speechless with terror, and could only wring his hands and cry, "Oh, massa." When he entered, he saw Baxter lying on his face, whilst the baggage was broken open, and scattered in all directions. He raised the wounded man in his arms, but only in time to support him as his head fell back in death. Then placing the body on the ground, and, looking around him, he perceived that two of his natives had plundered the provisions, shot Mr. Baxter as he rose to remonstrate with them, and had then escaped. The moon became obscured, and in the deep gloom, beside the dead body of his friend, Eyre passed a fearful night, peering into the darkness lest the miscreants might be lurking near to shoot him also. He says, in his diary:—"Ages can never efface the horrors of that single night, nor would the wealth of the world ever tempt me to go through a similar one." The slowly-spreading dawn revealed the bleeding corpse, the plundered bags, and the crouching form of Wylie, who was still faithful. The ground at this place consisted of a great hard sheet of rock,

and there was no chance of digging a grave; so Eyre could only wrap the body in a blanket, leave it lying on the surface, and thus take farewell of his friend's remains.

5. **Arrival at King George's Sound.**—Then he and Wylie set out together on their mournful journey. They had very little water, and seven days elapsed before they reached a place where more was to be obtained. They could at intervals see the murderers stealthily following their footsteps, and Eyre was afraid to lie down lest his sleep should prove to have no awaking; and thus, with parching thirst by day, and hours of watchfulness by night, he slowly made his way towards King George's Sound. After a time the country became better; he saw and shot two kangaroos, and once more approached the coast. His surprise was great on seeing two boats some distance out at sea. He shouted and fired his rifle, without attracting the attention of the crews. But on rounding a small cape, he found the vessel to which these boats belonged. It was a French whaling ship; and the two men having been taken on board, were hospitably entertained for eleven days. Captain Rossiter gave them new clothes and abundance of food; and when they were thoroughly refreshed, they landed to pursue their journey. The country was not now so inhospitable; and three weeks afterwards they stood on the brow of a hill overlooking the little town of Albany, at King George's Sound. Here they sat down to rest; but the people, hearing who they were, came out to escort them triumphantly into the town, where they were received with the utmost kindness. They remained for eleven days, and then set sail for Adelaide, which they reached after an absence of one year and twenty-six days.

This expedition was, unfortunately, through so barren a country that it had but little practical effect beyond the additions it made to our geography, but the perseverance and skill with which it was conducted are worthy of all

honour; and Eyre is to be remembered as the first explorer who braved the dangers of the Australian desert.

6. **Sturt.**—Two years after the return of Eyre, Captain Sturt, the famous discoverer of the Darling and Murray, wrote to Lord Stanley offering to conduct an expedition into the heart of Australia. His offer was accepted; and in May, 1844, a well-equipped party of sixteen persons was ready to start from the banks of the Darling River. Places which Sturt had explored sixteen years before, when they were a deep and unknown solitude, were now covered with flocks and cattle; and he could use, as the starting place of this expedition, the furthest point he had reached in that of 1828. Mr. Poole went with him as surveyor, Mr. Browne as surgeon, and the draughtsman was Mr. J. M'Douall Stuart, who, in this expedition, received a splendid training for his own great discoveries of subsequent years. Following the Darling, they reached Laidley's Ponds, passed near Lake Cawndilla, and then struck northward for the interior. The country was very bare—one dead level of cheerless desert; and when they reached a few hills which they called Stanley Range, Sturt, who ascended to one of the summits, could see nothing hopeful in the prospect. In this region he had to be very careful how he advanced, for he had with him eleven horses, thirty bullocks, and two hundred sheep, and water for so great a multitude could with difficulty be procured. He had always to ride forward and find a creek or pond of sufficient size, as the next place of encampment, before allowing the expedition to move on; and as water was often very difficult to find, his progress was but slow. Fortunately for the party, it was the winter season, and a few of the little creeks had a moderate supply of water. But after they had reached a chain of hills, which Sturt called the Grey Range, the warm season was already upon them. The summer of 1844 was one of the most intense on record; and, in these

vast interior plains of sand, under the fiery glare of the sun, the earth seemed to burn like plates of metal : it split the hoofs of the horses ; it scorched the shoes and the feet of the men ; it dried up the water from the creeks and pools, and left all the country parched and full of cracks. Sturt spent a time of great anxiety, for the streams around were rapidly disappearing ; and when all the water had been dried up, the prospects of his party would, indeed, be gloomy. His relief was great when Mr. Poole found a creek in a rocky basin, whose waters seemed to have a perennial flow. Sturt moved forward, and formed his depôt beside the stream ; and here he was forced to remain for six months. For it appeared as though he had entered a trap ; the country before him was absolutely without water, so that he could not advance ; while the creeks behind him were now only dry courses, and it was hopeless to think of returning. He made many attempts to escape, and struck out into the country in all directions : in one of his efforts, if he had gone only thirty miles further, he would have found the fine stream of Cooper's Creek, in which there was sufficient water for the party ; but hunger and thirst forced him to return to the depôt. He followed down the creek on which they were encamped, but found that, after a course of twenty-nine miles, it lost itself in the sand.

Meantime the travellers passed a summer such as few men have ever experienced. The heat was sometimes as high as 130 deg. in the shade, and in the sun it was altogether intolerable. They were unable to write, as the ink dried at once on their pens ; their combs split ; their nails became brittle and readily broke, and if they touched a piece of metal, it blistered their fingers. In their extremity they dug an underground room, deep enough to be beyond the dreadful furnace-glow above. Here they passed many a long day, as month after month passed without a shower of rain.

Sometimes they watched the clouds gather, and they could hear the distant roll of thunder, but there fell not a drop to refresh the dry and dusty desert. The party began to grow thin and weak; Mr. Poole became ill with scurvy, and, from day to day, he sank rapidly. At length, when the winter was again approaching, a gentle shower moistened the plain; and, as the only chance of saving the life of Poole, half of the party was sent to carry him quickly back to the Darling. They had been gone only a few hours when a messenger returned with the news that he was already dead. The mournful cavalcade returned, bearing his remains, and a grave was dug in the wilderness. A tree close by, on which his initials were cut, formed the only memorial of the hapless explorer.

7. Journey to the Centre.—Shortly afterwards there came a succession of wet days, and, as there was now an abundance of water, the whole party once more set off; and having travelled north-west for sixty-one miles further, they formed a new depôt, and made excursions to explore the country in the neighbourhood. M'Douall Stuart crossed over to Lake Torrens; while Sturt, with Dr. Browne and three men, pushing to the north, discovered the Strzelecki Creek, a stream which flows through very agreeable country. But as they proceeded further to the north their troubles began again; they came upon a region covered with hill after hill of fiery red sand, amid which lay lagoons of salt and bitter water. They toiled over this weary country in hopes that a change for the better might soon appear; but when they reached the last hill, they had the mortification to see a great plain, barren, monotonous and dreary, stretching with a purple glare as far as the eye could reach on every side. This plain was called by Sturt the "Stony Desert," for, on descending, he found it covered with innumerable pieces of quartz and sandstone, among

which the horses wearily stumbled. Sturt wished to penetrate as far as the tropic of Capricorn ; but summer was again at hand, their water was failing, and they could find neither stream nor pool. When the madness of any further advance became apparent, Sturt, with his head buried in his hands, sat for an hour in bitter disappointment. After toiling so far, and reaching within 150 miles of his destination, to be turned back for the want of a little water was a misfortune very hard to bear, and, but for his companions, he would have still gone forward and perished. As they hastened back their water was exhausted, and they were often in danger of being buried by moving hills of sand ; but at length they reached the depôt, having traversed eight hundred miles during the eight weeks of their absence.

It was not long before Sturt started again, taking with him McDouall Stuart as his companion. On this trip he suffered the same hardships, but had the satisfaction of discovering a magnificent stream, which he called Cooper's Creek. On crossing this creek, he again entered the Stony Desert, and was once more compelled reluctantly to retrace his steps. When he reached the depôt he was utterly worn out. He lay in bed for a long time, tenderly nursed by his companions ; and when the whole party set out for the settled districts, he had to be lifted in and out of the dray in which he was carried. As they neared their homes his sight began to fail. The glare of the burning sands had destroyed his eyes, and he passed the remainder of his days in darkness. His reports of the arid country gave rise to the opinion that the interior of Australia is one vast desert ; but this was afterwards found to be far from correct.

8. Leichardt.—Allan Cunningham's discoveries extended over the northern parts of New South Wales and the southern districts of Queensland. But all the north-eastern

parts of the continent were left unexplored until 1844, when an intrepid young German botanist, named Ludwig Leichardt, made known this rich and fertile country. With five men he started from Sydney, and, passing through splendid forests and magnificent pasture lands, he made his way to the Gulf of Carpentaria, discovering and following up many large rivers—the Fitzroy, with its tributaries—the Dawson, the Isaacs, and the Mackenzie—the Burdekin, with several of its branches ; then the Mitchell ; and, lastly, the Gilbert. He also crossed the Flinders and Albert without knowing that, a short time previously, these rivers had been discovered and named by Captain Stokes. Having rounded the Gulf, he discovered the Roper, and followed the Alligator River down to Van Diemen's Gulf, where a vessel was waiting to receive his party. On his return to Sydney the utmost enthusiasm prevailed ; for Leichardt had made known a wide stretch of most valuable country. The people of Sydney raised a subscription of £1,500, and the Government rewarded his services with £1,000. Leichardt was of too ardent a nature to remain content with what he had already done ; and, in 1847, he again set out to make further explorations in the north of Queensland. On this occasion, however, he was not so successful. He had taken with him great flocks of sheep and goats, and they impeded his progress so much that, after wandering over the Fitzroy Downs for about seven months, he was forced to return. In 1848 he organized a third expedition, to cross the whole country from east to west. He proposed to start from Moreton Bay, and to take two years in traversing the centre of the continent and reaching the Swan River settlement. He started with a large party, and soon reached the Cogoon River—a tributary of the Condamine. From this point he sent to a friend in Sydney a letter, in which he described himself as in good spirits, and full of hope that the expedition would be

a success. He then started into the wilderness, and was lost for ever from men's view. For many years expeditions were, from time to time, sent out to rescue the missing explorers, if, perchance, they might still be wandering with the blacks in the interior; but no traces of the lost expedition have ever been brought to light.

9. **Mitchell.**—Whilst Leichardt was absent on his first journey, Sir Thomas Mitchell—the discoverer of the Glenelg—had prepared an expedition for the exploration of Queensland. Having waited till the return of Leichardt, in order not to go over the same ground, he set out towards the north, and, after discovering the Culgoa and Warego—two important tributaries of the Darling—he turned to the west. He travelled over a great extent of level country, and then came upon a river which somewhat puzzled him. He followed the current for 150 miles, and it seemed to flow steadily towards the heart of the continent. He thought that its waters must eventually find their way to the sea, and would, therefore, after a time, flow north to the Indian Ocean. If that were the case, the river—which the natives called the Barcoo—must be the largest stream on the northern coast, and he concluded that it was identical with the Victoria, whose mouth had been discovered about nine years before by Captain Stokes. He, therefore, provisionally gave it the name of the Victoria River.

10. **Kennedy.**—On the return of Mitchell, the further prosecution of exploration in these districts was left to his assistant-surveyor—Edmund Kennedy—who, having been sent to trace the course of the supposed Victoria River, followed its banks for 150 miles below the place where Mitchell had left it. He was then forced to return from want of provisions. He had gone far enough, however, to show that this stream was only the higher part of Cooper's Creek, discovered not long before by Captain Sturt. This

river has a course of about twelve hundred miles ; and it is, therefore, the largest of Central Australia. But its waters spread out into the broad marshes of Lake Eyre, and are there lost by evaporation.

In 1848 Kennedy was sent to explore Cape York Peninsula. He was landed with a party of twelve men at Rockingham Bay, and, striking inland to the north-west, he travelled towards Cape York, where a small schooner was waiting to receive him. The difficulties met by the explorers were immense ; for, in these tropical regions, dense jungles of prickly shrubs impeded their course and lacerated their flesh, while vast swamps often made their journey tedious and unexpectedly long. Thinking there was no necessity for all to endure these hardships, he had left eight of his companions at Weymouth Bay, intending to call for them with the schooner. He was courageously making his way to the north with three men and his black servant, Jackey, when one of the party accidentally received a severe gunshot wound, which made it impossible for him to proceed. Kennedy was now only a few miles distant from Cape York ; and, leaving the wounded man under the care of the two remaining whites, he started—accompanied by Jackey—to obtain assistance from the schooner. They had not gone far, and were on the banks of the Escape River, when they perceived that their steps were closely followed by a tribe of natives, whose swarthy bodies, from time to time, appeared among the trees. Kennedy now proceeded warily, keeping watch all around ; but a spear, urged by an unseen hand from among the leaves, suddenly pierced his body from behind, and he fell. The blacks rushed forward, but Jackey fired, and at the report they hastily fled. Jackey held up his master's head for a short time, weeping bitterly. Kennedy knew he was dying, and he gave his faithful servant instructions as to the papers he was to carry, and the course

he must follow. Not long after this he breathed his last, and Jackey, with his tomahawk, dug a shallow grave for him in the forest. He spread his coat and shirt in the hollow, laid the body tenderly upon them, and covered it with leaves and branches. Then, packing up the journals, he plunged into the creek, along which he walked, with only his head above the surface, until he neared the shore. Hastily making for the north, he reached the Cape, where he was taken on board the schooner. This expedition was one of the most disastrous of the inland explorations. The wounded man, and the two who had been left with him, were never afterwards heard of; whilst the party of eight, who had been left at Weymouth Bay, after constant struggles with the natives, had been reduced, by starvation and disease, to only two ere the expected relief arrived.

11. **Gregory.**—In 1856, A. C. Gregory went in search of Leichardt, and, thinking he might possibly have reached the north-west coast, took a small party to Cambridge Gulf. Travelling along the banks of the Victoria River, he crossed a low range of hills and discovered a stream, to which he gave the name of "Sturt Creek." By following this, he was led into a region covered with long ridges of glaring red sand, resembling those which had baffled Captain Sturt, except that in this desert there grew the scattered blades of the spinifex grass, which cut like daggers into the hoofs of the horses. The creek was lost in marshes and salt-lakes, and Gregory was forced to retrace his steps till he reached the great bend in the Victoria River; then, striking to the east, he skirted the Gulf of Carpentaria about fifty miles from the shore; and, after a long journey, he arrived at Moreton Bay, but without any news regarding Leichardt and his party. His expedition, however, had explored a great extent of country, and had mapped out the courses of two large rivers—the Victoria and the Roper.

Abstract of Chapter XVII.

(1)—Progress of Exploration before 1840 had opened up the South-Eastern portions.

(2)—1840—Eyre starts from head of Spencer's Gulf; stopped by Lake Torrens, then by Lake Eyre—Goes north-east to Mount Hopeless—He is forced to return.

(3)—Australian Bight rounded by Eyre after many difficulties.

(4)—Death of Baxter—The companion of Eyre is shot by the two native servants.

(5)—Arrival at King George's Sound—Eyre and one native reach the town of Albany.

(6)—1844—Sturt starts from Darling; is detained at his depôt by drought—Mr. Poole dies.

(7)—Journey to the Centre—Sturt, with four men, penetrates to the Stony Desert—Is forced to return—Again starts from the depôt; discovers Cooper's Creek—On his return to Adelaide he becomes blind.

(8)—1844—Leichardt rounds the Gulf of Carpentaria to Van Diemen's Gulf—Discovers many rivers and fine pastoral regions—(1847) Explores part of Queensland—(1848) Starts from Brisbane to cross to West Australia—Never again heard of.

(9)—Mitchell discovers the higher part of Sturt's Cooper's Creek; calls it the Victoria River.

(10)—Kennedy sent to follow up Mitchell's discoveries—In 1848 he explores the Cape York Peninsula—Speared by the natives.

(11)—1856—Gregory follows the Victoria River; enters the Spinifex Desert, then passes eastward to Brisbane.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Discoveries in the Interior, 1860–1876.

1. Burke and Wills.—In the year 1860, a merchant of Melbourne offered £1,000 for the furtherance of discovery in Australia; the Royal Society of Victoria undertook to

organize an expedition for the purpose of crossing the continent, and collected subscriptions to the amount of £3,400 ; the Victorian Government voted £6,000, and spent an additional sum of £3,000 in bringing twenty-six camels from Arabia. Under an energetic committee of the Royal Society, the most complete arrangements were made. Robert O'Hara Burke was chosen as leader ; Landells was second in command, with special charge of the camels, for which three Hindoo drivers were also provided ; W. J. Wills, an accomplished young astronomer, was sent to take charge of the costly instruments and make all the scientific observations. There were two other scientific men, and eleven subordinates, with twenty-eight horses to assist in transporting the baggage. On the 20th of August, 1860, the long train of laden camels and horses set out from the Royal Park of Melbourne, Burke heading the procession on a little grey horse. The Mayor made a short speech, wishing him God-speed ; the explorers shook hands with their friends, and, amid the ringing cheers of thousands of spectators, the long and picturesque line moved forward.

The journey as far as the Murrumbidgee, lay through settled country, and was without incident ; but, on the banks of that river, quarrelling began among the party, and Burke dismissed the foreman ; Landells then resigned, and Wills was promoted to be second in command. Burke committed a great error in his choice of a man to take charge of the camels in place of Landells. On a sheep station, he met with a man named Wright, who made himself very agreeable ; the two were soon great friends, and Burke, whose generosity was unchecked by any prudence, gave to this utterly unqualified person an important charge in the expedition.

On leaving the Murrumbidgee, they ascended the Darling, till they reached Menindie—the place from which Sturt had

set out sixteen years before. Here Burke left Wright with half the expedition, intending himself to push on rapidly, and to be followed up more leisurely by Wright.

Burke and Wills, with six men and half the camels and horses, set off through a very miserable country: not altogether barren, but covered with a kind of pea, which poisoned the horses. A rapid journey brought them to the banks of Cooper's Creek, where they found fine pastures and plenty of water. Here they formed a depôt and lived for some time, waiting for Wright, who, however, did not appear. The horses and camels, by this rest, improved greatly in condition, and the party was in capital quarters. But Burke grew tired of waiting; and as he was now near the centre of Australia, he determined to make a bold dash across to the Gulf of Carpentaria. He left one of his men, called Brahe, and three assistants, with six camels and twelve horses, giving them instructions to remain for three months; and if within that time he did not return, they might consider him lost, and would then be at liberty to return to Menindie. On the 16th December, Burke and Wills, along with two men, named King and Gray, started on their perilous journey, taking with them six camels and one horse, which carried provisions to last for three months.

2. **Rapid Journey to Gulf of Carpentaria.**—They followed the broad current of Cooper's Creek for some distance, and then struck off to the north, till they reached a stream, which they called Eyre Creek. From this they obtained abundant supplies of water, and, therefore, kept along its banks till it turned to the eastward, then, abandoning it, they turned due north, keeping along the 140th meridian through forests of boxwood, alternating with plains well watered and richly covered with grass. Six weeks after leaving Cooper's Creek, they came upon a fine stream flowing north, to which they gave the name "Cloncurry," and, by

following its course, they found that it entered a large river, on whose banks they were delighted to perceive the most luxuriant vegetation and frequent clusters of palm-trees. They felt certain that its waters flowed into the Gulf of Carpentaria, and therefore, by keeping close to it, they had nothing to fear. But they had brought only three months' provisions with them; more than half of that time had now elapsed, and they were still 150 miles from the sea. Burke now lost no time, but hurried on so fast that, one after another, the camels sank exhausted; and, when they had all succumbed, Burke and Wills took their only horse to carry a small quantity of provisions, and, leaving Gray and King behind, set out by themselves on foot. They had to cross several patches of swampy ground; and the horse, becoming inextricably bogged, was unable to go further. But still Burke and Wills hurried on by themselves till they reached a narrow inlet, on the Gulf of Carpentaria, and found that the river they had been following was the Flinders, whose mouth had been discovered by Captain Stokes in 1842. They were very anxious to view the open sea; but this would have required another couple of days, and their provisions were already exhausted; they were, therefore, obliged to hasten back as quickly as possible. The pangs of hunger overtook them before they could reach the place where King and Gray had remained with the provisions. Burke killed a snake, and ate a part of it, but he took ill immediately after; and when, at length, they reached the provisions, he was not able to go forward so quickly as it was necessary to do, if they wished to be safe. However, they recovered the horse and camels, which had been greatly refreshed by their rest; and, by taking easy stages, they managed to move south towards home. But their hurried journey to the north, in which they had traversed, beneath a tropical sun, about 140 miles every week, had told severely

on their constitutions ; Gray became ill, and it was now necessary to be so careful with the provisions that he had little chance of regaining his lost strength. One evening, after they had come to a halt, he was found sitting behind a tree, eating a little mixture he had made for himself of flour and water. Burke said he was stealing the provisions, fell upon him, and gave him a severe thrashing. He seems after this never to have rallied ; whilst the party moved forward he was slowly sinking. Towards the end of March their provisions began to fail ; they killed a camel, dried its flesh, and then went forward. At the beginning of April this was gone, and they killed their horse. Gray now lay down, saying he could not go on ; Burke said he was "shamming," and left him. However, the gentler counsel of Wills prevailed ; they returned and brought him forward. But he could only go a little further ; the poor fellow breathed his last a day or two after, and was buried in the wilderness. Burke now regretted his harshness, all the more as he himself was quickly sinking. Both he and Wills were utterly worn out ; they were thin and meagre, and so weak that they tottered rather than walked along. The last few miles were very, very weary ; but, at last, on the 21st of April, they came in sight of the depôt, four months and a half after leaving it. Great was their alarm on seeing no sign of people about the place ; and, as they dropped down on the spot at sunset, their hearts sank within them when they found a note, stating that Brahe had left only that very morning, and was seven hours' march away. The three men looked at one another in blank dismay ; but they were so worn out that they could not possibly move forward with any hope of overtaking the fresh camels of Brahe's party. On looking round, however, they saw the word "DIG" cut on a neighbouring tree ; and, when they turned up the soil, they found a small supply of provisions.

Brahe had remained a month and a half longer than he had been told to wait; and, as his own provisions were fast diminishing, and there seemed, as yet, to be no signs of Wright with the remainder of the expedition, he thought it unsafe to delay his return any longer. This man Wright was the cause of all the disasters that ensued. Instead of following closely on Burke, he had loitered at Menindie for no less than three months and one week, amusing himself with his friends; and, when he did set out, he took things so leisurely, that Brahe was half-way back to the Darling before they met.

3. **Sufferings.**—On the evening when they entered the depôt, Burke, Wills, and King made a hearty supper; then, for a couple of days, they stretched their stiff and weary limbs at rest. But inaction was dangerous, for, even with the greatest expedition, their provisions would only serve to take them safely to the Darling. They now began to deliberate as to their future course. Burke wished to go to Adelaide, because, at Mount Hopeless—where Eyre had been forced to turn back in 1840—there was now a large sheep station, and he thought it could not be more than 150 miles away. Wills was strongly averse to this proposal. "It is true," he said, "Menindie is 350 miles away, but then we know the road, and are sure of water all the way." But Burke was not to be persuaded, and they set out for Mount Hopeless. Following Cooper's Creek for many miles, they entered a region of frightful barrenness. Here, as one of the camels became too weak to go further, they were forced to kill it and to dry its flesh. Still they followed the creek, till at last it spread itself into marshy thickets and was lost; they then made a halt, and found they had scarcely any provisions left, while their clothes were rotten and falling to pieces. Their only chance was to reach Mount Hopeless speedily; they shot their last camel, and, whilst Burke and King were

drying its flesh, Wills struck out to find Mount Hopeless; but no one knew in which direction to look for it, and Wills, after laboriously traversing the dry and barren wastes in all directions, came back unsuccessful. A short rest was taken, and then the whole party turned southward, determined this time to reach the Mount. But they were too weak to travel fast; day after day over these dreary plains, and still no sign of a hill; till at length, when they were within fifty miles of Mount Hopeless, they gave in. Had they only gone but a little further, they would have seen the summit of the mountain rising upon the horizon; but just at this point they lost hope and turned to go back. Again a weary journey, and they once more reached the fresh water and the grassy banks of Cooper's Creek, but now with provisions for only a day or two. They sat down to consider their position, and Burke said he had heard that the natives of Cooper's Creek lived chiefly on the seed of a plant which they called nardoo; so that, if they could only find a native tribe, they might perhaps learn to find sufficient subsistence from the soil around them. Accordingly, Burke and King set out to seek a native encampment; and, having found one, they were kindly received by the blacks, who very willingly showed them how to gather the little black seeds from a kind of grass which grows close to the ground.

With this information they returned to Wills; and as the nardoo seed was abundant, they began at once to gather it; but they found that, through want of skill, they could scarcely obtain enough for two meals a day, by working from morning till night; and, when evening came, they had to clean, roast, and grind it; and, besides this, whatever it might have been to the blacks, to them it was by no means nutritious—it made them sick, and gave them no strength.

Whilst they were thus dwelling on the lower part of Cooper's Creek, a party visited the depôt, intending to bring

them relief. Brahe, on his way home, had met with Wright coming up, and had hastened back with him to the depôt; but when they reached it they saw no signs of Burke and Wills, although the unfortunate explorers had been there only a few days before. Brahe therefore concluded that they were dead, and once more set out for home. Meanwhile, Burke thought it possible that a relief party might in this way have reached the Creek, and Wills volunteered to go to the depôt to see if anyone were there. He set out by himself, and after journeying three or four days, reached the place; but only to find it still and deserted. He examined it carefully, but could see no trace of its having been recently visited; there could be no advantage in remaining, and he turned back to share the doom of his companions. He now began to endure fearful pangs from hunger; one evening he entered an encampment that had just been abandoned by the natives, and around the fire there were some fish bones, which he greedily picked. Next day he saw two small fish floating dead upon a pool, and they made a delicious feast. But, in spite of these stray morsels, he was rapidly sinking from hunger, when suddenly he was met by a native tribe. The black men were exceedingly kind; one carried his bundle for him, another supported his feeble frame, and gently they led the gaunt and emaciated white man to their camp. They made him sit down, and gave him a little food; whilst he was eating he saw a great quantity of fish on the fire; for a few minutes he wondered if all these could possibly be for him, till at length they were cooked and the plentiful repast was placed before him; the natives then gathered round and clapped their hands with delight when they saw him eat heartily. He stayed with them for four days, and then set out to bring his friends to enjoy likewise this ample hospitality. It took him some days to reach the place where he had left them; but when they heard his good news they

lost no time in seeking their native benefactors. Yet, on account of their weakness, they travelled very slowly, and when they reached the encampment it was deserted. They had no idea whither the natives had gone ; they struggled a short distance further; their feebleness overcame them, and they were forced to sink down in despair. All day they toiled hard to prepare nardoo seed ; but their small strength could not provide enough to support them. Once or twice they shot a crow, but such slight repasts served only to prolong their sufferings. Wills throughout all his journeyings had kept a diary, but now the entries became very short ; in the struggle for life there was no time for such duties, and the grim fight with starvation required all their strength.

At this time Wills records that he cannot understand why his legs are so weak ; he has bathed them in the stream, but finds them no better, and he can hardly crawl out of the hut. His next entry is, that unless relief comes shortly he cannot last more than a fortnight. After that his mind seems to have begun to wander ; he makes frequent and unusual blunders in his diary. The last words he wrote were that he was waiting, like Mr. Micawber, for something to turn up, and that, though starving on nardoo seed was by no means unpleasant, yet he would prefer to have a little fat and sugar mixed with it.

4. Deaths of Burke and Wills.—Burke now thought that their only chance was to find the blacks, and proposed that he and King should set out for that purpose. They were very loth to leave Wills, but, under the circumstances, no other course was possible. They laid him softly within the hut, and placed at his head enough of nardoo to last him for eight days. Wills asked Burke to take his watch, and a letter he had written for his father ; the two men pressed his hands, smoothed his couch tenderly for the last time, and set out. There, in the utter silence of the wilderness, the

dying man lay for a day or two : no ear heard his last sigh, but his end was as gentle as his life had been free from reproach.

Burke and King walked out on their desperate errand. On the first day they traversed a fair distance ; but, on the second, they had not proceeded two miles when Burke lay down, saying he could go no further. King entreated him to make another effort, and he dragged himself to a little clump of bushes, where he stretched his limbs very wearily. An hour or two afterwards he was stiff and unable to move. He asked King to take his watch and pocket-book, and, if possible, to give them to his friends in Melbourne ; then he begged of him not to depart till he was quite dead : he knew he should not live long, and he would like some one to be near him to the last. He spoke with difficulty, but directed King not to bury him, but to let him lie above ground, with a pistol in his right hand. They passed a weary and lonesome night ; and in the morning, at eight o'clock, Burke's restless life was ended. King wandered for some time forlorn, but, by good fortune, he stumbled upon an abandoned encampment, where, by neglect, the blacks had left a bag of nardoo, sufficient to last him a fortnight ; and, with this, he hastened back to the hut where Wills had been laid. All he could do now, however, was to dig a grave for his body in the sand, and, having performed that last sad duty, he set out once more on his search, and found a tribe, differing from that which he had already seen. They were very kind, but not anxious to keep him, until, having shot some birds and cured their chief of a malady, he was found to be of some use, and soon became a great favourite with them. They made a trip to the body of Burke, but, respecting his last wishes, they did not seek to bury it, and merely covered it gently with a layer of leafy boughs.

5. Relief Parties.—When Wright and Brahe returned

to Victoria with the news that, though it was more than five months since Burke and Wills had left Cooper's Creek, there were no signs of them at the depôt, all the colonies showed their solicitude by organizing parties to go to the relief of the explorers, if, perchance, they should be still alive. Victoria was the first in the field, and the Royal Society equipped a small party, under Mr. A. W. Howitt, to examine the banks of Cooper's Creek. Queensland offered five hundred pounds to assist in the search, and with this sum an expedition was sent to examine the Gulf of Carpentaria. Landsborough, its leader, was conveyed in the Victoria steamer to the Gulf, and followed the Albert almost to its source, in hopes that Burke and Wills might be dwelling with the natives on that stream. Walker was sent to cross from Rockhampton to the Gulf of Carpentaria; he succeeded in reaching the Flinders River, where Burke and Wills had been; but, of course, he saw nothing of them. McKinlay was sent by South Australia to advance in the direction of Lake Torrens and reach Cooper's Creek. These various expeditions were all eager in prosecuting the search, but it was to Mr. Howitt's party that success fell. In following the course of Cooper's Creek downward from the depôt he saw the tracks of camels, and by these he was led to the district in which Burke and Wills had died.

Several natives, whom he met, brought him to the place where, beneath a native hut, King was sitting, pale, haggard, and wasted to a shadow. He was so weak that it was with difficulty Howitt could catch the feeble whispers that fell from his lips; but a day or two of European food served slightly to restore his strength. Howitt then proceeded to the spot where the body of Wills was lying partly buried, and, after reading over it a short service, he interred it decently. Then he sought the thicket where the bones of

Burke lay with the rusted pistol beside them, and, having wrapped a union jack around them, he dug a grave for them hard by.

Three days later the blacks were summoned, and their eyes brightened at the sight of knives, tomahawks, necklaces, looking-glasses, and so forth, which were bestowed upon them in return for their kindness to King. Gay pieces of ribbon were fastened round the black heads of the children, and the whole tribe moved away rejoicing in the possession of fifty pounds of sugar, which had been divided among them.

When Howitt and King returned, and the sad story of the expedition was related, the Victorian Government sent a party to bring the remains of Burke and Wills to Melbourne, where they received the melancholy honours of a public funeral amid the general mourning of the whole colony. In after years, a statue was raised to perpetuate their heroism and testify to the esteem with which the nation regarded their memory.

6. M'Douall Stuart.—Burke and Wills were the first who ever crossed the Australian Continent ; but, for several years before they set out, another traveller had, with wonderful perseverance, repeatedly attempted this feat. John M'Douall Stuart had served as draughtsman in Sturt's expedition to the Stony Desert, and he had been well trained in that school of adversity and sufferings. He was employed, in 1859, by a number of squatters, who wished him to explore for them new lands in South Australia, and having found a passage between Lake Eyre and Lake Torrens, he discovered beyond the deserts which had so much disheartened Eyre a broad district of fine pastoral land.

Next year, the South Australian Government offered £2,000 as a reward to the first person who should succeed

in crossing Australia from south to north, and Stuart set out from Adelaide to attempt the exploit. With only two men he travelled to the north, towards Van Diemen's Gulf, and penetrated much further than Sturt had done in 1844. Indeed, he was only 400 miles from the other side of Australia, when the hostility of the blacks forced him to return : he succeeded, however, in planting a flag in the centre of the continent, at a place called by him, Central Mount Stuart. Next year he was again in the field, and following exactly the same course, he approached very near to Van Diemen's Gulf ; being no more than 250 miles distant from its shores, when want of provisions forced him once more to return. The report of this expedition was sent to Burke and Wills, just before they set out from Cooper's Creek on their fatal trip to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

It was not until the following year, 1862, that Stuart succeeded in his purpose. He had the perseverance to start a third time, and follow his former route ; and on this occasion he was successful in reaching Van Diemen's Gulf and returning, after having endured many sufferings and hardships.

His triumphal entry into Adelaide took place on the very day when Howitt's mournful party entered that city, bearing the remains of Burke and Wills, on their way to Melbourne. Stuart then learnt that these brave explorers had anticipated him in crossing the continent, for they had reached the Gulf of Carpentaria in February, 1861 ; whilst he did not arrive at Van Diemen's Gulf until July, 1862. However, Stuart had shown so great a courage, and had been twice before so near the completion of his task, that every one was pleased when the South Australian Government gave him the well-merited reward.

7. Warburton.—In a subsequent chapter, it will be told how a line of telegraph was, in 1872, constructed along the

track followed by Stuart ; and as the stations connected with this line are numerous, it is now an easy matter to cross the continent from south to north. But in recent years a desire has arisen among the adventurous to journey overland from east to west. Warburton, in 1873, made a successful trip of this kind. With his son, two men, and two Afghans to act as drivers of his seventeen camels, he started from Alice Springs, a station on the telegraph line close to the tropic of Capricorn.

The country immediately round Alice Springs was very beautiful, but a journey of only a few days served to bring the expedition into a dry and barren plain, so desolate that Warburton declared it could never be traversed without the assistance of camels. After travelling about four hundred miles, he reached those formidable ridges of fiery red sand in which the waters of Sturt's Creek are lost, and where A. C. Gregory was in 1856 compelled to turn back. In traversing this district, the party suffered many hardships ; only two out of seventeen camels survived, and the men were themselves frequently on the verge of destruction. It was only by exercising the greatest care and prudence that Warburton succeeded in bringing his party to the Oakover River, on the North-West Coast, and when he arrived once more in Adelaide, it was found that he had completely lost the sight of one eye.

8. Giles and Forrest.—Towards the close of the same year, 1873, a young Victorian named Giles started on a similar trip, intending to cross from the middle of the telegraph line to West Australia. He held his course courageously to the west, but the country was of such appalling bareness, that, after penetrating half-way to the western coast, he was forced to abandon the attempt and return. But when three years afterwards he renewed his efforts, he succeeded in crossing from the west coast to the

line of telegraph. In 1874 this region was successfully traversed by Forrest, a Government Surveyor of West Australia, who started from Geraldton to the south of Shark Bay, and, after a journey of twelve hundred miles almost due east, he succeeded in reaching the telegraph line. His entry into Adelaide was like a triumphal march, so great were the crowds that went out to escort him to the city. Forrest is a young man, but a most skilful and sagacious traveller. Lightly equipped, and accompanied by only one or two companions, he has on several occasions performed long journeys through the most formidable country with a celerity and success that are indeed surprising.

These brave men, by their exertions and sufferings, so often terminated by death, have added much to our knowledge of Australia. Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland, have now been completely explored; but there still remain a great part of South Australia, the greater part of the Northern territory, and about a million square miles in West Australia, all lying blank in our maps, and waiting till new explorers arise to traverse and survey them.

Abstract of Chapter XVIII.

(1)—1860—Burke and Wills start from Melbourne; reach the Darling—Changes in the staff of officers—Wright left with half of the expedition—Burke and Wills travel to Cooper's Creek; form a depôt, and leave Brahe in charge of it.

(2)—1861—Gulf of Carpentaria—With King and Gray they set out to make a dash to the North; reach a spot very close to the Gulf of Carpentaria—Disastrous return journey; they find the depôt deserted.

(3)—Sufferings—They determine to go to Adelaide by way of Mount Hopeless—Unable to find the Mount—Food all gone; kill their camels and dry the flesh—This also finished—Seek the natives—Learn how to prepare nardoo—Wills goes back to visit the depôt; Finds no one there—Kindly treated by the blacks—Goes to find Burke and King.

(4)—DEATH OF BURKE AND WILLS—Burke and King go in search of the blacks; leave Wills in a little hut—Wills dies—Burke shortly after lies down and dies—King finds the blacks, and lives with them.

(5)—RELIEF PARTIES—Howitt for Victoria, Landsborough for Queensland, Walker for New South Wales, and McKinlay for South Australia—Howitt discovers King; returns—Sent to bring the bodies of Burke and Wills to Melbourne—Public funeral.

(6)—1862—M'DOUALL STUART made two unsuccessful efforts to cross Australia; third time, following the same route, he reached Van Diemen's Gulf—Received the reward offered by the South Australian Government.

(7)—1873—WARBURTON crossed from Telegraph line to West Australia.

(8)—1873—GILES started on a similar trip, but was forced to return.—1874—FORREST crossed from West Australia to the Telegraph line.

CHAPTER XIX.

TASMANIA, 1837 TO 1876.

1. Governor Franklin.—Sir John Franklin, the great Arctic explorer, arrived in 1837 to assume the Governorship of Tasmania. He had been a midshipman, under Flinders, during the survey of the Australian coasts, and for many years had been engaged in the British Navy, in the cause of science. He now expected to enjoy, as Governor of a small colony, that ease and retirement which he had so laboriously earned. But his hopes were doomed to disappointment. Although his bluff and hearty manner secured to him the goodwill of his people, yet censures on his administration were both frequent and severe; for during his rule commenced that astonishing decline of the colony which has continued, with scarcely any interruption, almost to the present day.

2. Flood of Convicts.—After the cessation of transportation to New South Wales, in 1840, hopes were entertained that Tasmania would likewise cease to be a penal settlement; and, under this impression, great numbers of emigrants arrived in the colony. But, ere long, it became known that Tasmania was not only to continue, as before, a receptacle for British felons; but was, in fact, to be made the *only* convict settlement, and was destined to receive the full stream of criminals, that had formerly been distributed over several colonies. The result was immediately disastrous to the free settlers, for convict labour could be obtained at very little cost, and wages therefore fell to a rate so miserable that free labourers, not being able to earn enough for the support of their families, were forced to leave the island. Thus, in 1844, whilst the arrival of energetic and hard-working immigrants was adding greatly to the prosperity of the other colonies, Tasmania was losing its free population, and was sinking more and more into the degraded position of a convict station.

Lord Stanley, the British Colonial Secretary, in 1842, proposed a new plan for the treatment of convicts, according to which, they were to pass through various stages, from a condition of absolute confinement to one of comparative freedom; and, again, instead of being all collected into one town, it was arranged that they should be scattered throughout the colony in small gangs. By this system, it was intended that the prisoners should pass through several periods of probation before they were set at liberty; and it was, therefore, called the Probation Scheme. The great objection to it was that the men could scarcely be superintended with due precaution when they were scattered in so many separate groups, and many of them escaped, either to the bush or to the adjacent colonies.

3. Franklin's Difficulties.—The feelings of personal

respect with which the people of Van Diemen's Land regarded Sir John Franklin were greatly increased by the amiable and high-spirited character of his wife. Lady Franklin posesssed, in her own right, a large private fortune, which she employed in the most generous and kindly manner; her counsel and her wealth were ever ready to promote prosperity and alleviate sufferings. And yet, in spite of all this personal esteem, the experience of the new Governor among the colonists was far from being agreeable.

Before the arrival of Sir John Franklin, two nephews of Governor Arthur had been raised to very high positions. One of them, Mr. Montagu, was the Chief Secretary; and, during his uncle's government, he had contrived to appropriate to himself so great a share of power that Franklin, on assuming office, was forced to occupy quite a secondary position. By some of the colonists the Governor was blamed for permitting the arbitrary acts of the Chief Secretary; while, on the other hand, he was bitterly denounced as an intermeddler by the numerous friends of the ambitious Montagu, who, himself, lost no opportunity of bringing the Governor's authority into contempt; and, at length, went so far as to write him a letter containing—amid biting sarcasm and mock courtesy—a statement equivalent to a charge of falsehood. In consequence of this he was dismissed; but Sir John Franklin, who considered Montagu to be a man of ability, magnanimously gave him a letter to Lord Stanley, recommending him for employment in some other important position. This letter, being conveyed to Stanley, was adduced by Montagu as a confession from the Governor of the superior ability and special fitness of the Chief Secretary for his post. Lord Stanley ordered his salary to be paid from the date of his dismissal; and Franklin, shortly after this insult to his authority, suddenly found himself superseded by Sir Eardley Wilmot, the next

Governor, without having received the previous notice which, as a matter of courtesy, he might have expected. In 1843 he returned to England, followed by the regrets of nearly all the Tasmanians.

Two years afterwards, he sailed with the ships *Erebus* and *Terror*, to search for a passage into the Pacific Ocean through the Arctic regions of North America. He entered the ice-bound regions of the north, and for many years no intelligence regarding his fate could be obtained. Lady Franklin prosecuted the search with a wife's devotion, long after others had given up hope; and, at last, the discovery of some papers and ruined huts proved that the whole party had perished in those frozen wastes.

4. Governor Wilmot.—Sir Eardley Wilmot had gained distinction as a debater in the British Parliament. Like Governors Bligh and Gipps, in New South Wales, Wilmot found that to govern at the same time a convict population and a colony of free settlers was a most ungrateful task. A large proportion of the convicts, after being liberated, renewed their former courses: police had to be employed to watch them, judges and courts appointed to try them, gaols built to receive them, and provisions supplied to maintain them. If a prisoner was arrested, and again convicted for a crime committed in Tasmania, then the colony was obliged to bear all the expense of supporting him, and amid so large a population of criminals these expenses became intolerably burdensome. It is true that the colonists had to some extent a compensating advantage in receiving, free of charge, a plentiful supply of convict labour for their public works. But when Lord Stanley ordered that they should in future pay for all such labour received, they loudly complained of their grievances. "Was it not enough," they asked, "to send out the felons of Great Britain to become Tasmanian bushrangers, without forcing the free settlers to feed and clothe them throughout

their lives, after the completion of their original sentences?" To all such remonstrances Lord Stanley's answer was that Tasmania had always been a convict colony; and that the free settlers had no right to expect that their interest would be specially consulted in the management of its affairs. Sir Eardley Wilmot found it impossible to obtain the large sums required for the maintenance of the necessary police and gaols, and he proposed to the Legislative Council to borrow money for this purpose. Those of the Council who were Government officials were afraid to vote in opposition to the wishes of the Governor, who, therefore, had a majority at his command. But the other members, six in number, denounced the proposed scheme as injurious to the colony; and when they found that the Governor was determined to carry it out, they all resigned their seats. For this action they were honoured with the title of the "Patriotic Six."

About this time, Mr. Gladstone succeeded Lord Stanley in England as the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and as he had shortly afterwards to complain that, in reporting on these and other important matters, Sir Eardley had sent home vague statements for the purpose of deceiving the Imperial authorities, the Governor was recalled. But he was destined never to leave the scene of his troubles; for, two or three months after his recall, he became ill and died in the colony.

5. Denison and the Transportation Question.—On the arrival of the next Governor, Sir William Denison, in 1847, the Queen re-instated the "Patriotic Six;" and the colonists, encouraged by this concession, vigorously set to work to obtain their two great desires—namely, government by elective parliaments, and the abolition of transportation. It was found that, between the years 1846 and 1850, more than 25,000 convicts had been brought into Tasmania; free immigration had ceased, and

the number of convicts in the colony was nearly double the number of free men. In all parts of the world, if it became known that a man had come from Tasmania, he was looked upon with the utmost distrust and suspicion, and he was shunned as contaminated. On behalf of the colonists, a gentleman named McLachlan went to London for the purpose of laying before Mr. Gladstone the grievances under which they suffered; at the same time, within the colony, Mr. Pitcairn strenuously exerted himself to prepare petitions against transportation, and to forward them to the Imperial authorities. These representations were favourably received, and, in a short time, Sir W. Denison received orders to inquire whether it was the unanimous desire of the people of Tasmania that transportation should cease entirely. The question was put to all the magistrates of the Colony, who submitted it to the people in public meetings. The discussion was warm, and party feeling ran high. There were some who had been benefited by the trade and the English subsidies which convicts brought to the colony, and there were others who desired, at all hazards, to retain the cheap labour of the liberated convicts. These exerted themselves to maintain the system of transportation; but the great body of the people were determined on its abolition, and the answer returned by every meeting expressed the same unhesitating sentiment—Transportation ought to be abolished entirely. Accordingly, it was not long before the Tasmanians were informed by the Governor that transportation should, in a short time, be discontinued. But Earl Grey was now preparing another scheme for the treatment of convicts; he wished to scatter them in small bands over all the British Colonies, instead of concentrating them into one small island. In this way, Tasmania would receive a much smaller number; whilst he expected that the colonies would gladly avail themselves of the proffered convict labour. But the

promise which he had now given to the Tasmanians was made before he had considered whether it was possible to keep it. Ships filled with convicts were sent out to the various colonies, but the prisoners were not allowed to land. In 1849 the *Randolph* appeared at Port Phillip Heads; but the people of Melbourne forbade the captain to enter. He paid no attention to the order, and sailed up the bay to Williamstown. But when he was preparing to land the convicts, he perceived among the colonists signs of a resistance so stern and resolute, that he was glad to take the advice of Mr. Latrobe and sail for Sydney. But, in Sydney also, the arrival of the convicts was viewed with the most intense disgust. The inhabitants held a meeting on the Circular Quay, in which they protested very vigorously against the renewal of transportation to New South Wales. West Australia alone accepted its share of the convicts; and we have seen how the reputation of that colony suffered in consequence.

6. **The Anti-Transportation League.**—The vigorous protest of the other colonies had procured their immunity from this evil in its direct form; but many of the "ticket-of-leave men" found their way to Victoria and New South Wales, which were, therefore, all the more inclined to assist Tasmania in likewise throwing off the burden. A grand Anti-Transportation League was formed in 1851; and the inhabitants of all the colonies banded themselves together to force the Home Government to emancipate Tasmania. Immediately after this, the discovery of gold greatly assisted the efforts of the League, because the British Government perceived that prisoners could never be confined in Tasmania, when, by escaping from the colony, and mixing with the crowds on the gold-fields, they might, in a few days, make their fortunes; and there was now reason to suppose that banishment to Australia would be rather sought than shunned.

7. End of Transportation.—In 1850 Tasmania, like the other colonies, received its Legislative Council ; and when the people proceeded to elect *their* share of the members, no candidate had the slightest hope of success who was not an adherent of the Anti-Transportation League. After this new and unmistakeable expression of opinion, the English authorities no longer hesitated, and the new Secretary of State, the Duke of Newcastle, directed that, from the year 1853, transportation to Tasmania should cease.

Up to this time, the island had been called Van Diemen's Land. But the name was now so intimately associated with ideas of crime and villany, that it was gladly abandoned by the colonists, who adopted, from the name of its discoverer, the present title of the colony.

Sir Henry Young, formerly Governor of South Australia, was appointed to Tasmania in 1855, and held office till 1861; during this period responsible government was introduced. When the Legislative Council undertook the task of drawing up the new constitution, it was arranged that the nominee element, which had now become extremely distasteful, should be entirely abolished, and that both of the legislative bodies should be elected by the people.

After Sir Henry Young, the next three governors were Colonel Brown, Mr. DuCane, and Mr. Weld—all men of ability, and very popular among the Tasmanians. After the initiation of responsible government in 1856, various reforms were introduced. By a very liberal Land Act of 1863, inducements were offered to those who wished to become farmers in the colony. For the purpose of opening up the country by means of railways, great facilities were given to companies who undertook to construct lines through the country districts ; and active search was made for gold and other metals. But, in spite of these reforms, the population was steadily decreasing, owing to the attractions of the gold-

producing colonies. No great amount of land was occupied for farming purposes, and even the squatters on the island were contented with smaller runs than those in the other colonies. They reared stock on the English system, and their domains were rather sheep-farms than stations. Indeed, the whole of Tasmania wore rather the quiet aspect of rural England, than the bustling appearance of an Australian colony. But the efforts to throw off the taint of convictism were crowned with marked success; and, from being a gaol for the worst of criminals, Tasmania has become one of the most moral and respectable countries.

In later years the population (about 105,000) has begun to show a small increase, and now that the fortunes of all the colonies depend more on their general sources and less on the yield of gold, Tasmania, with its wonderfully varied facilities for production, has been able to lay the foundations of solid prosperity.

ABSTRACT OF CHAPTER XIX.

(1)—1837—GOVERNOR FRANKLIN personally esteemed; but unfortunate in his administration.

(2)—FLOOD OF CONVICTS—After cessation of transportation to New South Wales, Tasmania receives all the convicts, under the "Probation System."

(3)—FRANKLIN dismisses Montagu, the Colonial Secretary; is recalled; is lost in the Arctic Regions.

(4)—1843—GOVERNOR WILMOT quarrels with the Legislative Council with regard to the expenditure for gaols, police, &c.; is recalled, but dies in the colony.

(5)—1847—DENISON takes opinion of colonists as to transportation; announces its cessation; on the failure of Earl Grey's plans, it re-commences.

(6)—ANTI-TRANSPORTATION LEAGUE founded by the colonies to abolish transportation.

(7)—END OF TRANSPORTATION—Gold is discovered in Australia—The first Tasmanian Representative Parliament declares against transportation; it is abolished (1853)—Name Tasmania adopted — Next Governors, Young, Brown, DuCane, Weld.

CHAPTER XX.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1850 TO 1876.

1. Temporary Decline.—In 1851 the prosperity of South Australia was somewhat dimmed by the discovery of gold in Victoria; for, before the middle of the following year, the colony was deserted by a very large proportion of its male inhabitants. The copper-mines were with difficulty worked, for want of men; the fields were uncultivated, the sheep untended, and the colony experienced a short period of rapid decline. However, the results obtained on the gold-fields by most of these fortune-seekers were hardly to be compared with the steady yield of the fertile corn-fields and rich copper-mines of South Australia, and most of those who had thus abandoned the colony returned in a short time to their families and their former employments.

Governor Young adroitly turned the discovery of gold to the advantage of his own colony by establishing an escort between Ballarat and Adelaide; and, as this was remarkably well equipped, many of the diggers preferred to send their gold by this route rather than to Melbourne, thus giving to South Australia some of the advantages of a gold-producing country. The crowds of people rushing to the gold-fields had carried with them nearly all the coins of the colony; and the banks, although they had plenty of rough gold, were yet unable, from scarcity of coined money, to meet the demands upon them. In this emergency, Sir Henry Young took the extreme and somewhat illegal step of instituting a new currency, consisting of gold cast into small bars or ingots; and, although afterwards mildly censured by the Home Government for exceeding his powers, yet he could justly assert that this measure had saved the colony from serious disaster.

But South Australia was still more benefited by the great market opened for its flour and wheat among the vast crowds on the gold-fields; and, when the first period of excitement was over, it was found that the colony was, at any rate, not a loser by the success of its neighbours.

2. **The Real Property Act.**—In 1858, South Australia took the lead in a reform which is now being adopted by nearly all the civilized nations of the world. According to English law, each time an estate was transferred from one person to another, a deed had to be made out for the purpose; and if changes in its ownership had been frequent, it would be held by the last purchaser in virtue of a long series of documents. Now, if any one wished to buy a piece of land, he was obliged for safety to examine all the preceding deeds in order to be quite certain that they were valid; even then, if he bought the land, and another person, for any reason whatever, laid claim to it, the owner had to prove the validity of each of a long series of documents, going back, perhaps, for centuries. A flaw in any one of these would give rise to a contest which could be settled only after a very tedious investigation; and thus arose the long and ruinous chancery suits which were the disgrace of English law. When a man's title to his estate was disputed, it often happened that he had to spend a fortune and waste half a lifetime in protracted litigation before all the antecedent deeds could be proved correct.

Mr. R. Torrens had his attention drawn to this very unsatisfactory state of things by the ruin of one of his relatives in a Chancery suit. He thought long and carefully over a scheme to prevent the occurrence of such injustice, and drafted a bill for a new method of transferring property. He proposed to lay this before the South Australian Parliament, but his friends discouraged him by declaring it was impossible to make so sweeping a change; and the lawyers actively

opposed any innovation. But Torrens brought forward the bill ; its simplicity and justice commended themselves to the people and to the House of Assembly, and it was carried by a large majority. According to the new scheme, all transferances of land were to be registered in a public office called the Lands Titles Office, the purchaser's name was to be recorded, and a certificate of title given to him ; after this his right to the property was indisputable. If his possession was challenged, he had simply to go to the Lands Titles Office and produce his certificate to the officer in charge, who could turn to the register and at once decide the question of ownership. After this no dispute was possible. Mr. Torrens was appointed to be registrar of the office, and soon made the new system a great success ; it is now adopted in all the other colonies of Australia. It was recently introduced into Ireland, and a system of a somewhat similar nature is now at work in Great Britain.

3. The Northern Territory.—In 1864 the Northern Territory was added to the dominions of South Australia, and from Adelaide an expedition was despatched by sea to the shores of Van Diemen's Gulf, in order to form a new settlement ; after many difficulties, caused chiefly by the disputes between the first Government Resident, or Superintendent, and the officers under him, a branch colony was successfully founded at Port Darwin, opposite to Melville Island. This settlement bids fair to be a most prosperous one : all the fruits and grains of tropical countries flourish and thrive to perfection ; gold has been discovered; and, it is asserted that there exist in the neighbourhood rich mines of other metals, which will, in the future, yield great wealth.

4. Overland Telegraph.—In a previous chapter, it has been described how M'Douall Stuart, after two unsuccessful efforts, succeeded in crossing the continent from Adelaide to

Van Diemen's Gulf. Along the route which he then took, the people of South Australia have recently constructed a telegraph line. A gentleman named Charles Todd had frequently urged the desirability of such a line, and in 1869 his representations led to the formation of the British Australian Telegraph Company, which engaged to lay a submarine cable from Singapore to Van Diemen's Gulf, whilst the South Australian Government pledged itself to connect Port Darwin with Adelaide by an overland line, and undertook to have the work finished by the 1st of January, 1872. Mr. Todd was appointed superintendent, and divided the whole length into three sections, reserving the central portion for his own immediate direction, and entrusting the sections at the two ends to contractors. It was a daring undertaking for so young a colony. For thirteen hundred miles the line would have to be carried through country which had never before been traversed by any white men but Stuart's party. Great tracts of this land were utterly destitute of trees, and all the posts required for the line had to be carted through rocky deserts and over treacherous sand hills. Todd had, with wonderful skill and energy, completed his difficult portion of the task, and the part nearest to Adelaide had also been finished before the time agreed upon ; but it fared differently with those who had undertaken to construct the northern section. Their horses died, their provisions failed, and the whole attempt proved a miserable collapse. The Government sent a party to the north, in order to make a fresh effort. Wells were dug, at intervals, along the route, and great teams of bullocks were employed to carry the necessary provisions and materials to the stations ; and yet, in spite of every precaution, the result was a failure. Meanwhile the cable had been laid, and the first message sent from Port Darwin to England announced that the overland telegraph was not nearly finished. The

1st of January, 1872, being now close at hand, Mr. Todd was hastily sent to complete the work. But the time agreed upon had expired before he had even made a commencement, and the company threatened to sue the South Australian Government for damages, on account of the losses sustained by its failure to perform its share of the contract. For the next eight months the work was energetically carried forward ; Mr. Todd rode all along the line to see that its construction was satisfactory throughout. He was at Central Mount Stuart in the month of August, when the two ends of the wire were joined, and the first telegraphic message flashed across the Australian Continent. But, meantime, a flaw had occurred in the submarine cable, and it was not until October that communication was established with England. On the second day of that month, the Lord Mayor of London, standing at one end of the line, sent his hearty congratulations through twelve thousand five hundred miles of wire to the Mayor of Adelaide, who conversed with him at the other extremity. The whole work was undertaken and accomplished within two years ; and already not only South Australia, but all the colonies, are reaping the greatest benefits from this enterprising effort. Another undertaking of a similar character has been completed by the efforts of both South and West Australia ; along the barren coast on which Eyre so nearly perished there stretches a long line of posts, which carry a telegraph line from Perth to Adelaide.

Abstract of Chapter XX.

(1)—Temporary Decline, consequent on rush of men to the gold-fields of Victoria—Establishment of gold escort between Adelaide and Ballarat—Does good to the colony—Increased market for corn and flour.

(2)—The Real Property Act, intended to prevent the annoyances and injustices of the old method of transferring

property—Provisions made for the registration of transferences, by which a man's title to his property is rendered more secure.

(3)—THE NORTHERN TERRITORY annexed to South Australia, which forms a settlement at Port Darwin—Hopeful prospects.

(4)—OVERLAND TELEGRAPH carried by Mr. Todd along the track of Stuart—Many difficulties; but completed in 1872.

CHAPTER XXI.

NEW SOUTH WALES, 1860 TO 1876.

1. The Land Act.—Sir John Young became Governor of New South Wales in 1861. He was a man of great talent; but, at this stage of the colony's history, the ability of the Governor made very little difference in the general progress of affairs. The political power was now chiefly in the hands of responsible ministers, and, without their advice, the Governor could do nothing. The ministry of the period—headed by Charles Cowper and John Robertson—prepared a bill to alter the regulations for the sale of land, and to give to the poor man an opportunity of obtaining a small farm on easy terms. Any person who declared his readiness to live on his land, and to cultivate it, was to be allowed to select a portion, not exceeding a certain size, in any part of the colony which he thought most convenient. The land was not to be given gratuitously; but, although the selector was to pay for it at the rate of one pound per acre, yet he was not expected to give more than a quarter of the price on taking possession. Three years afterwards he had the option of either paying at once for the remaining three-quarters, or, if this were beyond his means, of continuing to hold the land at a yearly rental of one shilling an acre.

This was an excellent scheme for the poorer class of farmers; but it was not looked upon with favour by most of the squatters, whose runs were only rented from the State, and were, therefore, liable, under this new Act, to be invaded by selectors, who would pick out all the more fertile portions, break up the runs in an awkward manner, and cause many annoyances.

Hence, though the Legislative Assembly passed the bill, the Upper House, whose members were mostly squatters, very promptly rejected it; and upon this there arose a struggle, the Ministry being determined to carry the bill, and the Council quite as resolute never to pass it. Acting on the advice of his Ministers, Sir John Young entreated the Upper House to give way; but it was deaf to all persuasions, and the Ministers determined to coerce it by adopting extreme measures. Its members had been nominated by a previous Governor for a period of five years, as a preliminary trial before the nominations for life; the term of their appointment was now drawing to a close, and Sir John Young, by waiting some little time, might easily have appointed a new Council of his own way of thinking. But the ministers were impatient to have their measure passed, and, instead of waiting, they advised the Governor to nominate twenty-one new members of Council, who, being all supporters of the bill, would give them a majority in the Upper House; so that, on the very last night of its existence it would be obliged to pass the measure and make it law. But when the opponents of the bill saw the trick which was being played upon them, they rose from their seats and resigned in a body. The President himself vacated his chair; and as no business could then be carried on, the Land Bill was delayed until the Council came to an end, and the ministers thus found themselves outwitted. They were able, somewhat later, to effect their purpose; but this

little episode in responsible government caused no little stir at the time, and Sir John subsequently received a rebuke from the Colonial Secretary for his share in it.

2. **Prince Alfred.**—In 1868, Lord Belmore became Governor of New South Wales, and during his term of office all the colonies passed through a period of mild excitement on the occasion of a visit from the Queen's second son, Prince Alfred. He was the first of the Royal Family who had ever visited Australia, and the people gave to him a hearty and enthusiastic reception. As he entered the cities, flower-decked arches spanned the streets ; crowds of people gathered by day to welcome him, and at night the houses and public buildings were brilliantly illuminated in his honour. But during the height of the festivities at Sydney a circumstance occurred which cast a gloom over the whole of Australia. The Prince had accepted an invitation to a picnic at Clontarf, and was walking quietly on the sands to view the various sports of the holiday-makers, when a young man named O'Farrell rushed forward and discharged at him a pistol. The ball entered his back, and he fell dangerously wounded. For a day or two his life trembled in the balance, and the colonists awaited the result with the greatest excitement, until it was made known that the crisis was past. No reason was alleged for the crime except a blind dislike to the Royal Family ; and O'Farrell was subsequently tried and executed.

3. **Railway Construction.**—New South Wales has three main lines of railway : one starts from Sydney, and passes through Goulburn to Yass ; the second connects Newcastle with Murrurundi ; and the third lies between Sydney and Bathurst. The last of these has been carried over the Blue Mountains. Those rugged heights—which so long opposed the westward progress of the early colonists—have proved no insuperable barrier to the engineer ; and the

locomotive now slowly puffs up the steep inclines, and drags its long line of heavily-laden trucks where Macquarie's-road, with so much trouble, was carried in 1815. The first difficulty which had to be encountered was at a long valley named Knapsack Gully. Here the rails had to be laid on a great viaduct, where the trains run above the tops of the tallest trees. The engineers had next to undertake the formidable task of conducting the line up a steep and rocky incline, seven hundred feet in height. This was effected by cutting a "zig-zag" in the rock; the trains run first to the left, rising upon a slight incline; then, reversing, they go to the right, still mounting slightly upwards; then, again, to the left; and so on till the summit is reached. By these means the short distance is rendered long, but the abrupt steepness of the hill is reduced to a gentle inclination. The trains afterwards run along the top of the ridge, gradually rising, till, at the highest point, they are three thousand five hundred feet above the level of the Sydney station. The passengers look down from the mountain tops on the forest-clad valleys far below; they speed along vast embankments, or dash through passages cut in the solid rock, whose sides tower above them to the height of an ordinary steeple. In some places long tunnels were bored, so that the trains now enter a hill at one side and emerge from the other.

One of these tunnels was thought to be unsafe, the immense mass of rock above it seemed likely to crush downwards upon the passage, and the engineers thought that their best course would be to remove the hill from above it. Three and a half tons of gunpowder were placed at intervals in the tunnel, and connected by wires with a galvanic battery placed a long distance off. The operation of firing the mine was made a public occasion, and Lady Belmore agreed to go up to the mountains and perform the ceremony of removing the hill.

When all was ready, she touched the knob which brought the two ends of the wire together ; a dull and rumbling sound was heard, the solid rock heaved slowly upward, and then settled back to its place, broken in a thousand pieces, and covered with rolling clouds of dust and smoke. All that the workmen had then to do was to carry away the immense pile of stone, and the course was clear for laying the rails.

When the line reached the other side of the Blue Mountains, there were the same difficulties in the descent ; but similar contrivances overcame them, and the trains now run along precipices where the surveyors and first workmen had to be lowered by ropes to commence operations.

By the southern railway to Yass, crowds of people are daily whirled in a few hours to places which, forty years ago, were reached by Sturt, and Hume, and Mitchell, only after weeks of patient toil, through unknown lands that were far removed from civilization.

ABSTRACT OF CHAPTER XXI.

(1)—1861—THE LAND ACT—Proposed by Mr. Cowper's Ministry—Passed by the Lower House—Rejected by the Upper—Struggle ensues—The Governor appoints twenty-one new members to the Council—His scheme defeated by the resignation of the other members.

(2)—1868—PRINCE ALFRED receives enthusiastic reception, but is suddenly shot at Clontarf by an assassin ; his wound, however, is not fatal.

(3)—RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION—Railway now passes over the Blue Mountains—Great difficulties in constructing it ; another runs south towards the Murrumbidgee ; and a third connects Newcastle with Murrurundi.

CHAPTER XXII.

VICTORIA, 1855 TO 1876.

1. Responsible Government.—In 1855, when each of the colonies was engaged in framing for itself its own form of government, Victoria, like all the others, chose the English system of two Houses of Legislature. At first it was resolved that the Lower House, called the Legislative Assembly, should consist of only sixty members; but by subsequent additions, the number has been increased to eighty-six; in 1857 the right of voting was conferred upon every man who had resided a sufficient length of time in the colony. With regard to the Upper House, Victoria found the same difficulty as had been experienced in New South Wales; but, instead of introducing the system of nomination by the Government, it decided that its Legislative Council should be elected by the people. In order, however, that this body might not be identical in form and opinion with the Lower House, it was arranged that no one should be eligible for election to it who did not possess at least five thousand pounds' worth of real property, and that the privilege of voting should be confined to the wealthier part of the community.

Along with this new Constitution responsible government was introduced, and Mr. Haines being sent for by the Governor, formed the first ministry. Before the close of the year, the first contest under the new system took place. Mr. Nicholson, a member of the Assembly, moved that the voting for elections should in future be carried on in secret, by means of the ballot-box, so that every man might be able to give his opinion undeterred by any external pressure, such as the fear of displeasing his employer or of disobliging a friend.

The Government of Mr. Haines refused its assent to this proposal, which was, nevertheless, carried by the Assembly. Now, the system of responsible government required that, in such a case, Mr. Haines and his fellow-ministers, being averse to such a law and declining to carry it out, should resign and leave the government to those who were willing and able to inaugurate the newly-appointed system. Accordingly they gave in their resignations, and the Governor asked Mr. Nicholson to form a new ministry; but, though many members had voted for his proposal, they were not prepared to follow him as their leader. He could obtain very few associates, and was thus unable to form a ministry; so that there appeared some likelihood of a total failure of responsible government before it had been six months in existence. In the midst of this crisis Sir Charles Hotham took ill; he lay for a day or two in great danger, but the crisis seemed past, and he had begun to recover, when news was brought to him of Mr. Nicholson's failure. He lay brooding over these difficulties, which pressed so much upon his mind that he was unable to rally, and on the last day of the year 1855 he died. This was a great shock to the colonists, who had learnt highly to respect him. The vacant position was for a year assumed by Major-General Macarthur, who invited Mr. Haines and his ministry to return. They did so, and the course of responsible government began again from the beginning. At the end of 1856 another Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, arrived; and during the seven years of his stay the new system worked smoothly enough, the only peculiarity being the rapid changes in the Government. Some of the ministries lasted only six weeks, and very few protracted their existence to a year.

2. **The Deadlock.**—Sir Henry Barkly left the colony in 1863, and his place was immediately filled by Sir Charles Darling, nephew of Sir Ralph Darling, who, forty years

before, had been Governor of New South Wales. Sir Charles was destined to troublous times ; for he had not long arrived before another vexatious hitch took place in the working of the Constitution. A large part of the revenue in each colony was raised by means of duties levied upon certain goods on their entrance to the various ports. Now the list of articles subject to such duties was, in 1864, shorter in Victoria than in any of the other colonies ; but the ministry then in power, headed by Mr. M'Culloch, desired to place a duty on many articles previously admitted free. This change was agreed to by the Assembly, but the Council evinced a very decided hostility to the proposal ; the ministers determined to coerce it, and adopted a plan which had several times been successfully employed in England. According to the British Constitution—which was closely followed by Victoria—all bills dealing with money matters must be laid before the Upper House, which may pass them or reject them according as it pleases, but has no power to make any alterations. Now, the money required by the Government each year is voted by the two Houses in an *Appropriation Act*, which is a bill prepared by the Government, discussed and amended by the Lower House, and then sent up to the Upper House for its assent, which is seldom refused. But on this occasion the Government inserted its Tariff Bill as one of the clauses in the *Appropriation Act* for 1865. The whole was agreed to by the Assembly, and passed on to the Council, which now found itself in a difficult position. If it passed the Act, it would thereby give its assent to the obnoxious Tariff Bill ; if it rejected the Act, there would be no money forthcoming for the payment of the public debts ; and any intermediate course was forbidden by the Constitution. It chose the alternative of throwing out the Act, and the affairs of the colony were thrown into confusion ; all the officers of government, clerks, customs officers, gaol officials, policemen, and

seamen, together with all the workmen on the railways or public buildings, could receive no wages, and the contest of the Upper House with the ministry and the Lower House was watched by the people with intense interest.

Matters were becoming serious, when the ministry discovered an ingenious device for obtaining money. According to British law, if a man is unable to obtain from the Government what it owes him, he sues for it in the Supreme Court, and then, if this Court decides in his favour, it orders the money to be paid quite independently of the *Appropriation Act.* In their emergency, the ministry applied to the banks for a loan of money ; five of them refused, but the sixth agreed to lend forty thousand pounds. With this the government servants were paid, and then the bank demanded its money from the Government; but Government had now no money, and the bank then brought its legal action. The Supreme Court gave its order, the money was paid to the bank out of the Treasury ; and thus a means had been discovered of obtaining all the money that was required without asking the consent of Parliament. Throughout the year 1865 the salaries of officers were obtained in this way ; but in 1866 the Upper and Lower Houses agreed to hold a conference. Each made concessions to the other, the Tariff Bill was passed, the Appropriation Bill was then agreed to in the ordinary way, and the "Deadlock" came to an end.

3. The Darling Grant.—But, in its train, other troubles followed ; for the English authorities were displeased with Sir Charles Darling for allowing such a state of things. They showed how he might have prevented it, and, to mark their dissatisfaction, they recalled him in 1866. He bitterly complained of this harsh treatment ; and the Assembly, regarding him as, in some measure, a martyr to the cause of the people, determined to recompense him for his loss of salary. In the *Appropriation Act* of 1867 they, therefore, placed a

grant of £20,000 to Lady Darling, intending it for the use of her husband. The Upper House owed no debt of gratitude to Sir Charles, and, accordingly, it once more threw out the Appropriation Bill. Again there was the same bitter dispute, and again the public creditors were obliged to sue for their money in the Supreme Court. In a short time four thousand five hundred such pretended actions were laid, the Government making no defence, and the order being given in each case that the money should be paid.

In 1866, the new Governor — Viscount Canterbury — arrived; but the struggle was still continued, till, in 1868, Sir Charles Darling renounced his claim to the grant, receiving instead five thousand pounds as arrears of salary and a lucrative position in England. The Upper House then passed the Appropriation Bill, and the contest came to an end.

4. Sir George Bowen.—Viscount Canterbury remained in Victoria till 1873, when he was succeeded by Sir George F. Bowen, who has already been mentioned as the first Governor of Queensland. Since his accession to office the colony has continued to develop its great and varied resources. The land laws have been made much more perfect, so that a poor man may now obtain an extensive farm on the most lenient terms; he merely pays a shilling an acre every six months, complies with certain regulations as to residing on the soil and improving it, and at the end of ten years the land is his property.

Victoria and New South Wales now stand at the head of the colonies, the former with eight hundred thousand inhabitants, while the latter has six hundred thousand. The public revenue of each is about four millions per annum. The yearly imports of Victoria amount to fourteen millions, and of New South Wales to about thirteen millions. Victoria has about six hundred miles of railway in use,

while New South Wales has about four hundred and forty. But while Victoria has about three thousand miles of telegraph lines, New South Wales, on account of the extent of her territory, has had to construct no less than eight thousand miles. South Australia and Queensland come next in the list, each with a population of about two hundred thousand.

ABSTRACT OF CHAPTER XXII.

(1)—RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT introduced in 1855—Two Houses of Legislature—Ministers responsible to Parliament—Trouble arising from the first change of ministry—Sir Charles Hotham dies.

(2)—THE DEADLOCK—The Upper and Lower House disagree about a Tariff Bill—The ministers endeavour to coerce the Upper House—Stagnation of public business.

(3)—THE DARLING GRANT—£20,000 voted to Lady Darling by the Lower House—A new quarrel between the two Houses ; terminated after arrival of Viscount Canterbury.

(4)—SIR GEORGE BOWEN—Governor in 1873—Colony continues to make progress.


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