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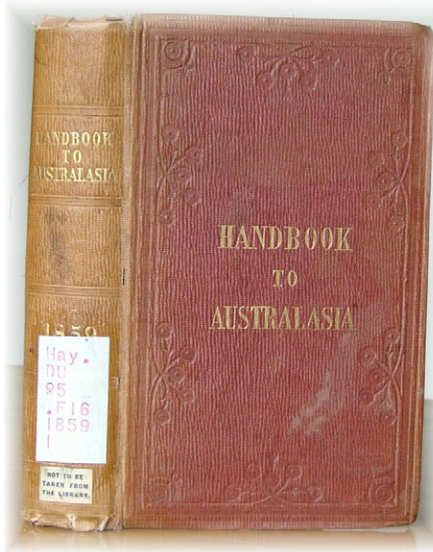
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HANDBOOK
TO
AUSTRALASIA;

BEING A BRIEF

Historical and Descriptive Account

OF

VICTORIA, TASMANIA, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, NEW SOUTH WALES,
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, AND NEW ZEALAND:

EDITED

BY WILLIAM FAIRFAX.

WITH A MAP OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

Melbourne :

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM FAIRFAX AND CO.,
NEXT "ARGUS" OFFICE, COLLINS STREET,

1859.

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ERRATUM.

Page xliii, line sixteen from the bottom. *for* Sir R. Nickle *read* Mr. J. V. F. L. Foster.

VICTORIA (PORT PHILLIP).



POSITION AND BOUNDARIES.

Victoria, the most southern settlement of Australia, is situate between the parallels of 141° and 150° east longitude, and 34° and 39° south latitude. Beginning at the extreme north-western point on the River Murray, 34° south latitude, and 141° east longitude, it is separated from South Australia by a divisional line which passes down to the sea-coast near the mouth of the River Glenelg, approaching 38° south latitude, so that its south-westernmost point is 38° south latitude, and 141° east longitude. Its southern boundary is traced by a very sinuous coast line, which separates it from Tasmania by Bass's Straits, its extreme southernmost point being Wilson's Promontory, in $39^{\circ} 17'$ south latitude, $146^{\circ} 25'$ east longitude. From Wilson's Promontory, the south-east side is bounded by the Southern Ocean as far as Cape Howe, 150° east longitude, $37^{\circ} 30'$ south latitude. On its northern side it is limited by a straight line drawn from Cape Howe to the head of the River Murray, near Mount Kosciusko, from which point that river constitutes its divisional line from New South Wales.

HISTORY.

Lieutenant Murray, R.N., of the brig *Lady Nelson*, in February 1802, first discovered the waters of Port Phillip, and after a cursory survey, named the point at the entrance "Nepean," and the hill seen from the Heads, "Arthur's Seat," names which they still bear. On the 27th of April, 1802, Lieut. Flinders, having entered Port Phillip Bay, and supposing he was the first to have discovered it, made an accurate survey of its waters. Visiting the hills near Geelong, he named them Station Peaks, and the peninsula, Indented Head. Early in 1803, the Lieut. Governor of New South Wales, Philip Gidleigh King, Capt. R.N., despatched the Surveyor-General, Mr. Grimes, to examine and report on the capabilities of the bay, when he found the river at its head, now called the Yarra. Thirty-two years afterwards, in 1835,

ZOOLOGY AND ENTOMOLOGY.

Of the wild animals of Tasmania little need be said. Of the carnivora the largest is an animal known as the hyæna, or, native tiger, which grows to the size of a large dog. There is another quadruped held in great horror by the flockmaster; much smaller than the hyæna, it is far more ferocious, and this peculiarity of character has obtained for it the name of "devil." The only other carnivorous animal is a species of cat, not unlike the polecat, either in its size or habits. The kangaroo feeds on grass, and is a timid, inoffensive creature. Opossums abound in prodigious numbers, sleeping in holes of trees during the day, and emerging at night to feed on the young foliage or grass. The wombat, or badger, which bears a kind of resemblance to both a pig and a bear, burrows in the earth, and feeds on roots; its flesh is said to resemble pork. Rats and mice are very numerous.

BIRDS.—There is a great variety, many being of fine plumage, and most of them fit for food. Of the rapacious order there are several species, the largest of which exceeds in size and strength the Golden Eagle of northern Europe, and is very destructive to lambs. There are at least six varieties of hawk, besides three or four species of owl. Cockatoos, both white and black, are common, and parrots, wood pigeons, snipe and quail, wild ducks and teal, are abundant. Black swans, formerly very common, have now retreated to the unsettled districts, where they are undisturbed by man. Pelicans, cormorants, penguins, gulls and cranes, line the sea-shore and margins of lakes and rivers.

FISH.—Freshwater fish are limited to very few species; of these the most in favor is the so-called herring, a small fish weighing four or five ounces, which appears to be migratory. Eels of an immense size, a sort of bream, barracouta, flatheads, king-fish, trumpeter, flounders, gurnet, cod, salmon-trout, mullet, gar-fish, plaice, perch, silver-fish, pike, blue-heads, and skates, are the principal at present known and eaten. Large sharks, porpoises, whales, &c., abound in all the Australian waters. Of shell-fish may be mentioned—oysters, muscles, cockles, periwinkles, wilks, mutton-fish, crabs, prawns, and cray-fish. Corals and sponges are also abundant.

INSECTS.—Amongst insects are—moths (some as large as a wren), bottle flies, gnats, mosquitoes, great variety of beetles, ants (some very large—a purple sort an inch long), grasshoppers, tree locusts, crickets, tarantula, spider, mantis, common flies, and other insects well-known in England. The bee has been introduced with great success, and a considerable quantity of wild honey is now obtained in all parts of the country, produced by bees that originally escaped and are now rapidly increasing in numbers.

REPTILES.—There are several species of snake,—the black

HISTORY.

The actual founder of the colony, so far at least as relates to the fundamental principle upon which it is constituted, was Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield, the cardinal point of whose theory was, that land without labor is valueless, and that to ensure a constant supply of labor, the land must be sold at a "sufficient price," the proceeds of the land sales being applied to the introduction of laborers. On this principle South Australia was founded, this being the first of Her Majesty's colonies to which the Wakefield principle was applied.

The discovery of Australia has been effected by numerous instalments, reckoning from the visits of the Dutch in the early part of the 17th century, down to the survey of St. Vincent's and Spencer's Gulfs in the beginning of the present century. The explorations of Sturt, who in the year 1830 descended the River Murray, gave a new impulse to the vague dreams of emigration which for some time previously had been rife in England. At length the South Australian Association obtained an Act authorising the settlement of the colony, but prohibiting the occupation of the land as a dependency of the British Crown until after £35,000 worth of land had been sold, and £20,000 had been invested in Government securities. The Commissioners appointed under the Act adopted the expedient of issuing preliminary land orders, 437 of which were issued at £81 each, the holder of each order being entitled to select 80 acres of country land and one acre of town land. So little faith, however, was reposed in the scheme, that the whole project would have failed had not two or three gentlemen agreed to take up the unsold shares at the reduced price of 12s. per acre. The diminution of price was effected by increasing the area of the preliminary sections from 80 acres to 134. In consequence of this increased inducement, the requisite amount of money was raised, and the Commissioners sent out Colonel Light to suggest the site for the capital. He arrived in August, 1836, and after examining Nepean Bay, Port Lincoln, and Encounter Bay, decided upon establishing the capital where it now stands. Captain Hindmarsh, the first Governor, arrived at the close of the same year, and proclaimed the colony on the 28th of December. On his departure he was succeeded by George Milner Stephen Esq. (colonial secretary), as acting-governor. His successor, Colonel Gawler, arrived on the 12th of October, 1838. Captain George Grey, the third Governor, arrived in the colony on the 10th of May, 1841; Major Robe on the 14th October, 1845; Sir Henry Young on the 1st of August, 1848; who was succeeded by B. T. Finniss, Esq., as acting-governor; and Sir Richard MacDonnell, the present Governor, on the 7th of June, 1855.

During the twenty-one years that have elapsed since the

This return exhibits for June 1858, compared with June 1857,—an increase of paid-up capital of £2,100; an increase of dividend of £9,200; an increase of reserve of £61,400; a decrease of liabilities of £567,600; a decrease of assets of £255,300; an increase of working capital of £289,500; an increase of discounts of £268,000; a decrease of notes and deposits of £441,000; a decrease of coin of £131,000.

The Inspector-General of Police has published a report of the state of crime during the year 1857, which shows a considerable decrease compared with that of 1856. During the year 1857 the number of prisoners (male and female) summarily dealt with was 5,695; committed for trial, 202; and 1,309 discharged. The amount of stolen property, in the Metropolitan district only, recovered during 1857, was £1,469 13s. 3½d., out of £10,038 18s. 9½d. stolen.

The number of schools connected with the Denominational Board, during the year 1857, was as follows:—Church of England, 104; Presbyterian, 18; Wesleyan, 11; Roman Catholic, 69. The number of children was 8,066 boys, and 6,947 girls; total, 15,013. In connexion with the National Board there were 62 schools, and the number of scholars was 3,181 boys, and 2,795 girls; total, 5,976.

The letters and newspapers received from Europe by the E. and A. R. M. Company's steamships, during the first seven months of 1858, were:—Letters, 111,260; newspapers, 181,783. The number despatched from Sydney, per the same medium was:—Letters, 128,503; newspapers, 143,073.

SYDNEY.

The city of Sydney, the capital of New South Wales, is situated in 33° 52' S. lat., 151° 17' E. long. It was so named, in honor of Viscount Sydney, Secretary of State for the colonies in 1788, the year of the foundation of the colony. The early progress of the city was not very marked, as for nearly a quarter of a century after its original establishment, this now important city was little more than an insignificant village of bark huts and frail wooden buildings, scattered here and there among fields and gardens. Shortly after the arrival of Governor Macquarie in 1809, a survey of the locality was made, and the plan formed of the present town.

Sydney is built partly on a small promontory, and partly in a narrow valley, about seven miles from the heads of Port Jackson. The formation on which it stands is a freestone rock, which passes inland in undulating and nearly parallel ridges, and affords a beautiful and durable building material. The greater part of the city is enclosed on three sides by those portions of the harbor known as the Stream on the north, Woolloomooloo Bay on the east, and Darling Harbor on the west. At the entrance to Sydney Cove, on the eastern side,

ships of all nations, with moderate harbor and pilotage dues; imported articles are subject to custom duties. The imports from 1st October, 1856, to 30th September, 1857, were £108,703 14s. 11d. Duty free, £16,734 0s. 7d. The exports, £44,193 18s. King George's Sound is not included in this return. The receipts and expenditure of Government were as follow:—Receipts, £89,079 19s. 3d.; expenditure, £90,190 12s. 10d. The number of births and deaths during the same period were:—Births, 507; deaths, 153. The tariff, with rates of agency, tonnage, &c., are published in the *Western Australian Almanac* for 1858.

GOVERNMENT, LAW, &c.

GOVERNMENT.—Governor and Commander-in-Chief: His Excellency Arthur Edward Kennedy. Private Secretary: H. Wakeford.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL. His Excellency the Governor, the Hon. the Commandant, Colonial Secretary, Comptroller-General, Surveyor-General, Advocate-General, Collector of Revenue.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.—The members of the Executive Council, the Hon. W. H. Mackie, M. W. Clifton, J. W. Hardey, S. P. Phillips, E. Hamersley. Clerk of Councils: H. Wakeford.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT.—Colonial Secretary, Hon. F. P. Barlee; Chief Clerk, Charles Sholl; Surveyor General, Hon. J. S. Roe, Lieut. R. N.; Assistant Surveyors, A. Hillman, F. Gregory, and R. Austin; Treasurer and Collector of Revenue, Hon. A. O'G. Lefroy; Deputy-Treasurer, Albany, H. Carrfield; Collector of Customs, R. M'B. Broun; 1st Clerk and Shipping Master, W. Gale; Auditor-General, W. Knight; Clerk, E. L. Courthope

LAW.—Commissioner of Civil Court and Chairman of Quarter Sessions, His Honor A. MacFarland; Advocate-General, Hon. Richard Birnie; Crown Solicitor, G. F. Stone; Clerk to ditto, J. Stone; Sheriff, F. D. Wittencoom; Bailiff, John Chipper; Clerk of the Peace, Commissioner of Court of Requests, and Official Assignee of Insolvent Estates, A. H. Stone. **RESIDENT MAGISTRATES:**—Albany, H. Carrfield; Vasse, Captain J. Molloy; York, R. G. Meares; Bunbury, G. Eliot; Swan, S. W. Viveash; Toodyay, J. Harris; Champion Bay, W. Burges; Murray, D. S. Murray; Canning, Thomas Hester. **Police Magistrates:**—At Perth, T. N. Yule; at Fremantle, T. Brown; and at York, W. Cowan.

MEDICAL.—Colonial Surgeon, J. Ferguson; Ass. Col. Surgeon, Fremantle, and Health Officer, J. Shipton; Medical Attendant at Albany, — Baesjoux; ditto York, Robert Viveash; ditto Bunbury, J. Sampson.

POST OFFICE.—Postmaster-General, A. Helmich. Post Offices also at Fremantle, Guildford, Mandurah, Northam, York, Toodyay, Vasse, Bunbury, Australind, Albany, Upper Swan, Canning, Port Gregory.

HARBOR MASTER, J. Harding; Pilot, Rottnest, W. D. Jackson; Pilot, Albany, W. Pretious.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL, C. Sholl; Acting ditto, and Immigration Officer, A. Durlacher. Gaoler at Perth, T. Farrelly; do. at Albany, W. Burrill. Superintendent of Rottnest Penal Establishment, H. Vincent.

MILITARY.—Commandant Garrison Staff, Lieut. Colonel John Bruce; Staff Surgeon, G. T. Galbraith, M.D.; Captain Palmer, commanding 12th Regiment. Deputy Commissary-General, W. F. Mendis.

CONVICT ESTABLISHMENT.—Comptroller-General, Hon. E. Y. W. Henderson, Capt. R. E.; Chief Clerk, J. E. Henderson; Superintendent of Establishment, T. H. Dixon; Chaplain, Rev. Mr. Alderson; Roman Catholic

pigs in New Zealand is considerable. Sheep farming has prospered greatly of late in the southern provinces, and there is plenty of room yet for its definite increase. The total number of sheep at present in the four provinces of Wellington, Nelson, Canterbury, and Otago, is not less than 1,200,000.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

No very late returns have been published. The total exports from the colony during four years amounted to £1,308,472, the province of Auckland itself having furnished £617,046. This province has as many as seven shipping ports, but almost the entire trade, with the exception of about a fourth of that in exports, centres in Auckland itself. The imports to Wellington during 1856 amounted to £179,028, and the exports to £80,417, of which but a small portion was shipped to or from the second port in the province, Wanganui. Nelson only imported goods to the value of £81,172, and exported produce, and a few other trifling articles to the value of £29,775. In the list of exports from this province, the two principal items are—wool, £15,679; and gold, £40,000. Canterbury had, in 1856, a trade in imports of £90,446, and in exports of £47,831, which was mainly from the Port of Lyttelton. The imports to Otago were valued at £60,310, and the exports at £25,737, of which a small portion was to and from the port of Bluff, the remainder belonging to Otago itself. Into New Plymouth were imported goods worth £27,215, while the exports from there only amounted to £3,868.

The value of the imports at the several ports from various countries during first quarter of 1857, amounted to, £218,439 15s. 8d., while the second quarter ending 30th June, was £238,016 5s. 11d.

The value of the exports from the several ports of New Zealand, during first quarter of 1857, amounted to £120,811 4s. 6d.; while the second quarter ending 30th June was £87,586 5s. 0d.

Much of the wool and other produce of New Zealand is taken to Sydney, and Melbourne for sale or shipment, and in return a large quantity of imported goods is supplied to the various settlements from these ports. A large proportion of the trade of Auckland is done with Sydney, but Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago principally trade with Melbourne. If the proposal of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce to establish direct steam communication with Wellington is carried out, it is said the whole trade of the four Southern Provinces will be directed from Sydney to Melbourne.

The increase in the total amount of exports from Canterbury and Otago is very marked, and is mainly attributable to the development of sheep-farming in these two provinces.

LIST OF WORKS ON AUSTRALIA.

The following Catalogue was prepared at the Public Library, Melbourne, and it is thought its insertion in this HANDBOOK may prove useful.

- Aborigines' Protection Society, Reports and Extracts.
 Angas (G. F.), Savage Life and Scenes in Australia. 2 vols.
 ——— Views of the Australian Gold Fields.
 Anley, *The Prisoners of Australia*. A Narrative.
 Aristides, on Britain, Australia and Africa.
 ——— Crisis, a Glance at the Forerunners of.
 Arthur (Col. G.), Defence of Transportation.
 Australia, Impartial Examination of all Authors on.
 ——— Friend of, Plan for Exploring.
 ——— How to Farm and Settle in.
 ——— The Commerce and Finance of.
 ——— The Draper in.
 ——— A Voice from the far Interior of, by a Bushman.
 ——— Its Scenery, Natural History, &c. Religious Tract Society.
 ——— Hints on Emigration to. 1830.
 ——— and her Treasures.
 ——— A Month in the Bush.
 ——— Emigrants' Guide to ; with Memoir of Mrs. Chisholm.
 ——— and the Gold Regions, Guide to. By a Liverpool Merchant.
 ——— Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand. New Liby. U. K.
 ——— New Zealand, and Tasmania, their Rivers, &c. By an Englishman.
 ——— and Canada, Emigrants' Guide to. 1844.
 ——— Western, Journal of Expeditions to. 1829-32.
 ——— and America, Information for Emigrants to.
 Australasia, The.
 Australasia, Journal of.
 Australiad, The. A Poem.
 Australasian League and Conference. Sessional Papers.
 Australasian Quarterly Report.
 Austral-Asiatic Review, The.
 Australian Magazine, The Illustrated.
 Australian Question, The. Letters published in South Australian Register.
 ——— Year Book of Facts.
 ——— Keepsake. Scenery in New South Wales, &c.
 ——— The, Practical Hints to Intending Emigrants.
 ——— Royal Mail Steam Navigation Company. Reports, &c.
 ——— Settler's, An, Diary of Travels. 2 vols.
 B** (M. de), Histoire de l'Expedition de 3 vaisseaux envoyé aux Terres.
 Australes. Hague, 1739.
 Backhouse (J.), Visit to Australia.
 ——— Extracts from the Letters of.
 Bannister (S.), on Abolishing Transportation.
 ——— (Thos.), Britain and her Colonial Dependencies.
 Bartlett (T.), Colonisation and Resources of New Holland,
 Bennet (H. G.), Letter to Lord Sidmouth on the Transportation Laws.
 Bogue (A.), Steam to Australia.
 Bonwick (J.), Geography of Australia and New Zealand.
 ——— Geography for Young Australians.
 Boyd (H. V.), Voice from Australia.
 Bright (J.), History of New Zealand and Australia.
 British Dependencies open to Colonization, Short description of.
 ——— Colonial Electric Telegraph Company, Prospectus, &c.

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Adobe Acrobat Reader 4 or later should be used. Adobe Reader 6 (as it is now named) in fact has considerably better searching options and is recommended.

- **Acrobat Reader v4** has both a "Find" and a "Search" tool. Those tools are two **totally** different things. Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the **FIND** tool
- **Acrobat Reader v5** has only a "Find" tool (not a "search" tool). Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the **FIND** tool.
- **Adobe Reader v6** has only a "Search" tool (not a tool labelled "Find")
HOWEVER — what is called "Search" is the same as the tool that used to be called "Find" Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the **SEARCH** tool

TIPS FOR SEARCHING AND GETTING MORE FROM THE CD BOOKS

- update to Adobe Reader 6 for more versatile searching options, including the ability to bring up a list of all instances of the word you are searching for — across multiple files on a single CD in a single search request.
- enter the MINIMUM number of characters needed to bring up the search results required.
- use Adobe Reader 6 to do some trial searches to try to identify the characters that may be misread. These can show up in the extra text in the search results list (Adobe 6 only). A few minutes trial will help you to avoid using characters that are more prone to being misread, e.g. try entering "rederi" if you want "Frederick", but find that the letters "F" "c" and "k" are sometimes misread.
- use the "Match whole word" option to eliminate unnecessary items in your results list, e.g. to eliminate all the blacksmiths and tinsmiths etc when you only want the name Smith
- use the "Match case" option when you want to eliminate all the occupations "smith" if you only want the name "Smith"
- Don't just search for names. Search the book for other names, places and subjects of interest:
 - look for others of the same name
 - look for others who lived in the same place or street
 - who was the postmaster or police officer in the town?
 - how often and at what time did the coach arrive in town?
 - what churches were there and what time were services held?
 - what other activities were there in the community?
 - look for others who had the same occupation or other interests
- All of this and more may be available in a seemingly mundane book such as a directory. You could learn or write much of the background of life at the time, even if your ancestor is not listed there.

ADOBE ACROBAT SEARCHING IS A WONDERFUL FIRST FINDING AID.
BUT DO NOT RELY ON IT TO PICK UP ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WANT

