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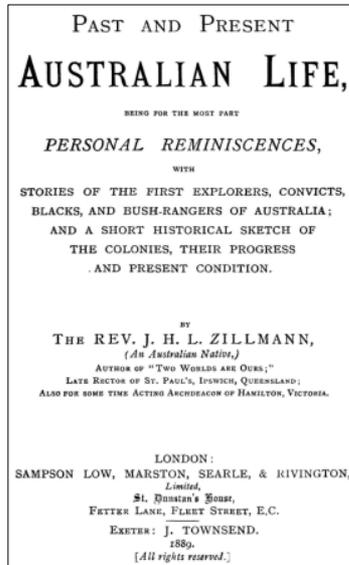
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PAST AND PRESENT
AUSTRALIAN LIFE,

BEING FOR THE MOST PART

PERSONAL REMINISCENCES,

WITH

STORIES OF THE FIRST EXPLORERS, CONVICTS,
BLACKS, AND BUSH-RANGERS OF AUSTRALIA;
AND A SHORT HISTORICAL SKETCH OF
THE COLONIES, THEIR PROGRESS
AND PRESENT CONDITION.

BY

THE REV. J. H. L. ZILLMANN,
(*An Australian Native,*)

AUTHOR OF "TWO WORLDS ARE OURS;"

LATE RECTOR OF ST. PAUL'S, IPSWICH, QUEENSLAND;

ALSO FOR SOME TIME ACTING ARCHDEACON OF HAMILTON, VICTORIA.

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AFTER Sturt had solved the problem as to what became of the western water-courses which took their rise in the Blue Mountains and the snowy ranges of the south-west, a good deal of the poetry and romance of early Australian exploration was done away with, but not altogether, for vast regions of undiscovered country where the foot of white man had never trodden remained to excite the imagination and to call forth the enterprize of adventurous spirits. The old proverb which says that *all beyond is magnificent*, has been verified in connection with explorations into the



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THE magnitude of Australia does not seem to be sufficiently realized by English people. We have here at the Antipodes (taking Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand together, which, though nominally three separate countries are virtually one, New Zealand being about three days' fast steaming from Australia and Tasmania only 12 hours), we have here an area of



OLD WORLD PREJUDICES AND CONVICT TRADITIONS.

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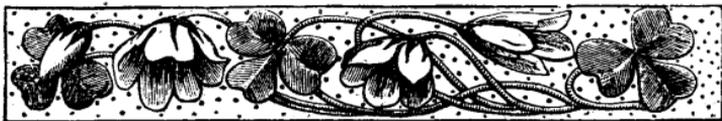
IN the succeeding chapters I will draw to a very large extent upon my own personal recollections, and I trust there need be no impropriety in doing so, or no necessity for apologizing if I should assume somewhat of an autobiographical style. I have already indicated to my readers that I am neither an aboriginal nor yet a descendant of that

class of immigrants by whom the colonies were first populated, and which has been satirized in a well-known couplet:—

“ True patriots be it understood,
They left their country for their country's good.”

On the other hand I have some degree of pride in being able to say that I am one of the oldest free-born white natives of the youngest of the group of our Australian colonies, though at the time of my birth, Queensland, as it is now called, was still a dependency of New South Wales.

The spirit is not yet dead which regards it as a sort of disgrace to say that so and so is a native of the colonies. The Bishops of the English Episcopal Church in the colonies who are, without exception, Englishmen, and have strong English prejudices, appear to regard with great disfavour any native born clerical aspirant; and the leaders amongst the laity who are also for the most part Englishmen have equally strong prejudices of the same kind. The same spirit prevails, perhaps not to the same extent, in the Roman Catholic Church of Australia, but even here the prejudices are in favour of a native-born Irishman. The late Archbishop Vaughan, of Sydney, was an Englishman, and belonged to an old English county family, and though his popularity was unbounded, it is well known that his English nationality was never acceptable to the greater part of his Irish co-religionists, so that when his death took place and an attempt was made to get another Englishman for his successor, the influence brought to bear upon the Vatican was so strong that at last an Irishman in the shape of the present



CONVICTISM AND MODERN BUSH-RANGING.

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SINCE writing the previous chapter I came across an account of how a convict turned bush-ranger in the early days, and before proceeding further, I will repeat the story as nearly as I can remember. In the western part of the colony of New South Wales there resided a young man in the capacity of "an assigned servant"—a position which has already been explained as that of a convict whose good conduct had procured for himself the privilege of being engaged to one of the free settlers in the country as an ordinary help—and whose term of convict life had nearly expired. This young man was in great favour with his master and was entrusted with the responsibility of taking down a loaded waggon and team to the Port of Sydney. He had



SOME ROUGH CONDITIONS OF EARLY DAYS.

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THE object of this chapter will be more particularly to illustrate the rough elements out of which have grown our present advanced condition of things in the Australian colonies. The early settlement of our Australian wilds has developed phases of humanity which I venture to think quite

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