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VICTORIA AND  
TASMANIA

BY

ANTHONY TROLLOPE

BEING A PORTION OF THE WORK ENTITLED "AUSTRALIA  
AND NEW ZEALAND," BY THE SAME AUTHOR

LONDON

CHAPMAN AND HALL, 193, PICCADILLY

1874

# CONTENTS.

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## VICTORIA.

CHAP.	PAGE
I. SEPARATION . . . . .	3
II. EARLY HISTORY OF PORT PHILLIP . . . . .	12
III. MELBOURNE . . . . .	29
IV. BALLAARAT . . . . .	43
V. BENDIGO OR SANDHURST . . . . .	52
VI. GIPPSLRND, WALHALLA, AND WOODS POINT . . . . .	62
VII. LAND . . . . .	73
VIII. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN . . . . .	89
IX. NEWSPAPERS, BOOKS, RAILWAYS, ROADS, TOWNS, AND WINES . . . . .	105
X. LEGISLATURE, GOVERNMENT, AND COMMERCE . . . . .	116

---

## TASMANIA.

I. EARLY HISTORY . . . . .	127
II. PORT ARTHUR . . . . .	142
III. HER PRESENT CONDITION . . . . .	154
IV. FUTURE PROSPECTS . . . . .	169

---

APPENDIX . . . . .	181
INDEX . . . . .	194

## CHAPTER III.

### MELBOURNE.

MELBOURNE has certainly made a great name for itself, and is the undoubted capital, not only of Victoria but of all Australia. It contains, together with her suburbs, 206,000 souls, and of these so-called suburbs the most populous are as much a part of Melbourne as Southwark is of London;—or were I to say as Marylebone is of London, my description would be true, as there is no line of demarcation traceable by any eyes but those of town-councillors and the collectors of borough rates. There are very many cities in the world with larger populations,—so many that the number does not strike one with surprise. But I believe that no city has ever attained so great a size with such rapidity. Forty years ago from the present date (1873), the foot of no white man had trodden the ground on which Melbourne now stands, unless it was the foot of Buckley the escaped convict, who lived for thirty years with a tribe of native savages.

Melbourne is not a city beautiful to the eye from the charms of the landscape surrounding it, as are Edinburgh and Bath with us, and as are Sydney and Hobart Town in Australia, and Dunedin in New Zealand. Though it stands on a river which has in itself many qualities of prettiness in streams,—a tortuous, rapid little river with varied banks,—the Yarra Yarra by name, it seems to have but little to do with the city. It furnishes the means of rowing to young men, and waters the Botanical Gardens. But it is not “a joy for ever” to the Melbournites, as the Seine is to the

## CHAPTER IX.

### NEWSPAPERS, BOOKS, RAILWAYS, ROADS, TOWNS, AND WINES.

I DISLIKE the use of superlatives, especially when they are applied in eulogy; nevertheless, I feel myself bound to say that I doubt whether any country in the world has made quicker strides towards material comforts and well-being than have been effected by Victoria. She is not forty years old, all told,—going back even to the date at which Mr. Henty landed at Portland,—and she has already at her command most of the enjoyments of civilised life. Of her great city, Melbourne, I have spoken,—and of her gold-fields and that wonderful gold-town, Ballarat; also of the country life of her country gentlemen. But there are other matters in which she has advanced as quickly: and I must say a word of her newspapers, her general produce, her railways, her roads and coaches, her country towns, and her native wines.

With all the prejudice of a genuine Briton, I think that no country has ever yet produced newspapers equal to those of England. This fact—if it be a fact—I attribute partly to her wealth, partly to her general energy, partly to her love of fair play, but chiefly to her determination that the press shall be free. In France many of the writers of newspapers are at any rate equal in talent to their brethren among us, and, as a rule, they stand higher in public estimation. They are known by name, and they have a wider reputation. But they do not produce the same sort of article. The French newspaper is more confined than the English, and either more vapid in its obedience to authority, or more violent in its opposition. There is no catering for informa-

# TASMANIA.

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## CHAPTER I.

### EARLY HISTORY.

It seems hard to say of a colony, not yet seventy years old, that it has seen the best of its days, and that it is falling into decay, that its short period of importance in the world is already gone, and that for the future it must exist,—as many an old town and old country do exist,—not exactly on the memory of the past, but on the relics which the past has left behind it. England has towns of her own at home and colonies of her own abroad,—it would be invidious to name them,—of which this may truly be said. On visiting them the stranger feels assured that the salt of life has gone out of them. Trade dwells in them no longer, and prosperous men do not move about their streets. Their inhabitants are contented to be obscure, and generally have neither fears nor hopes. Society is mild and dull, and the remnant of the people who are left are for the most part satisfied to sit and wait. But a young colony should have young, sparkling, eager life. She should be hopeful, impetuous, and loud, with a belief in her destiny; and if she be given somewhat to boasting, she will not, indeed, thereby show herself to be possessed of an actual virtue, but will give evidence even by that vice of the strength of youth which makes a community at first buoyant and then prosperous. Such essentially are Queensland and Victoria, which force even upon unwilling ears a conviction of their strength by

## CHAPTER II.

### PORT ARTHUR.

WHEN it had been decided between the mother country and the colony that transportation to Van Diemen's Land should be at an end, the colonial Houses of Parliament petitioned the Queen that the name might be changed,—so that the convict flavour and the convict odour attached to the old sound might be banished; and the Queen of course assented. Hence has sprung in the catalogue of our colonies the name of Tasmania, as pretty as any that we have, but to my ears somewhat fantastic. In New South Wales, with its enormous area, and in the absence of any sea barriers by which convicts could be hemmed in, the traveller does not at present hear much about convicts. They have wandered away whither they would. Now and then good-natured reference is made, in regard to some lady or gentleman, to the fact that her or his father was "lagged," and occasionally up in the bush a shepherd may be found who will own to the soft impeachment of having been lagged himself,—though always for some offence which is supposed to have in it more of nobility than depravity. But in Tasmania the records are recent, fresh, and ever present. There is still felt the necessity of adhering to a social rule that no convict, whatever may have been his success, shall be received into society. "But if he should be a member of the Assembly?" I asked. Well, yes, my informant acknowledged that there would be a difficulty. There are occasions on which a member of the Assembly may almost demand to be entertained,—as a member of the House of

Commons has, I imagine, almost a right to dine with the Speaker. It is not only that men and women in Tasmania do not choose to herd with convicts, but that they are on their guard lest it might be supposed that their own existence in the island might be traced back to the career of some criminal relative.

In the meantime, though a new name sweet as a rose has been invented, the odour and the flavour have not as yet quite passed away. A certain number of convicts are at work on the public domain in Hobart Town, but they are always the convicts of the island,—men who have received their sentences for deeds done in Tasmania. At the extreme south-west of the island,—in a peninsula called by the name of Tasman, which is all but an island,—is maintained a station called Port Arthur, and there are at present kept as many as remain of the old English exiles. With them are a portion of the convicts of the island. For those who were sent out from England, England still pays the cost of maintenance, amounting to £36 19s. 8d. per annum for each man under sentence, and something less for lunatics and paupers. Of these the great majority are now either paupers or lunatics, who would be free were they able to earn their own bread. England also pays, and will, by agreement, continue to pay for some further term of eight or nine years, a lump sum of £6,000 per annum towards the general police expenses, which were commenced on behalf of the mother country. When an English convict, who has had a conditional pardon, is reconvicted, he is maintained at the expense of the colony if reconvicted after a period of six months of freedom;—but at the expense of England if within that period. And so the convict system is dying out in Tasmania, and will soon be extinct, and at last the odour and the flavour will be gone.

I visited Port Arthur, and was troubled by many reflections as to the future destiny of so remarkable a place. It is in a direct line not, I believe, above sixty miles from Hobart Town, but it can hardly be reached directly. The way to it is by water, and as there is no traffic to or from the place other than what is carried on by the government

## INDEX.

### VICTORIA.

"Argus," Victorian Newspaper, 107

"Australasian," Victorian Newspaper, 107

Ballaarat, 23, 43

Band of Hope and Albion Consols, 51

Batman, John, applies for Land at Port Phillip, 15

Baudin, Captain, French Explorer, 12

Beechworth, 113

Bendigo or Sandhurst, 52

Benevolent Asylum, Melbourne, 36

Campbell, Mr. William, 74

Clunes Gold-field, 44

Coaches, Victorian, 111

Collingwood, Suburb of Melbourne, 33

Country Gentlemen, 92

Country Houses, 89

Country Life, 95

Cutting out Cattle, 65

Darling, Governor, 14, 19

Diggers' Licenses, 45

Edwards' Reef, 69

Emerald Hill, Suburb of Melbourne, 34

Esmond, Discoverer of Gold in Victoria, 44

Fawkner, early Settler, 20

Fitzroy, Suburb of Melbourne, 33

Flinders, Captain, Explorer, 12, 17

Free-Selectors, Mode of selecting Land, 83, 85

Gambling in Gold-fields, 58

Gipps Land, 62

Government House, Melbourne, 39

Great Extended Hustler's Tribute Mine, 55

Grimes, Mr., Surveyor-General of New South Wales, 13

Hargreaves, Discoverer of Gold in New South Wales, 44

Henty, Mr., first Colonist in Victoria, 16

Hovell, Mr., Explorer, 14

Hume, Mr., Explorer, 14

Imports and Exports, 122

Land Laws in Victoria, 73

La Trobe, Mr., Governor, 75

Legislative Assembly, 116

Legislative Council, 117

Lewes, Mr. R., Mayor of Ballaarat, 49

Literature, Colonial, 107

Long Tunnel Mine, Walkhalla, 68

Lonsdale, Captain, Vice-Governor, 20

Lowe, Mr., his Opinion as to the Land Laws, 80

Lunatic Asylums, Melbourne, 38

Manners of the People, 97

Matlock, Gold Town, 70

- Melbourne, Foundation of, 29  
 Melbourne Banks, Magnificence of, 33  
 Miners' Habits, 59  
 Mining Companies, Number and Names, 56  
 Mueller, Dr. Von, Botanist, 36  
 Murray, Lieutenant, first discovered Port Phillip, 12  
 Newspapers, Australian, 107  
 Oxley, Mr., Surveyor-General in New South Wales, 14  
 Palmer, Mr. Roundell, his Opinion of the Land Laws, 79  
 Patronage, Misuse of, 119  
 Port Phillip, Early History of, 12  
 Railway System, 108  
 Rent, Pastoral, 87  
 Revenue, 121  
 Richmond, Suburb of Melbourne, 33  
 Rusden, Mr. G. W., of Melbourne, 1, 12  
 Sale, Capital of Gipps Land, 111  
 Sandhurst or Bendigo, 52  
 Separation of the Colonies from Great Britain, 1  
 "Sydney Morning Herald," Sydney Newspaper, 107  
 Trinity College, Melbourne, 35  
 University of Melbourne, 34  
 Verandah, The, 38, 53  
 Walhalla, Gold Town, 67  
 Wine, Australian, 113  
 "Winter's Freehold" Gold-mine, 49  
 Women, 99  
 Woods Point Gold-field, 71  
 Wool, Staple of the Colony, 122  
 Yarra Yarra River, 23  
 Yering, Manufacture of Wine, 115  
 Young Men, 101
- TASMANIA.**

- Allport, Mr., as to River Fish, 163  
 Annexation to Victoria, 179  
 Barron, a Convict, 150  
 Brady, a Convict, 137

- Campbelltown, 159  
 Cash, a Convict, 137  
 Change of Name of the Colony, 129  
 Collins, Colonel, Lieutenant-Governor, 132  
 Convict System, 134—144  
 Convicts, Numbers of, 147  
 Customs Duties, International, 174—178  
 Decrease of Trade, 171  
 Denison, Sir William, Governor, 129  
 Dogs used to guard Convicts, 145  
 Doherty, a Convict, 152  
 Eagle Hawk Neck, 145  
 Early History, 127—133  
 Farming, 156  
 Fingal Gold-field, 165  
 Fish in Tasmanian Rivers, 162  
 Fisher, a Convict, 152  
 Fruit in Tasmania, 164  
 Future Prospects of the Colony, 169  
 Gold, 165  
 Government House, Tasmania, 161  
 Hobart Town, Capital of the Colony, 160  
 Hops, 163  
 Howe, a Convict, 137  
 Launceston, Town so named, 155  
 Loyalty in Tasmania, 155  
 Maria Van Diemen, Island so called, 132  
 Markham, a Convict, 137  
 Melton, Town of, so-named, 160  
 Population, 158  
 Port Arthur, 143  
 Rabbits, 142  
 Revenue, 167  
 Tasman, Abel Jan, 132  
 Tasman's Arch, 146  
 Tasman's Peninsula, 145  
 Van Diemen's Land, Island so called, 132  
 Victorian Tariffs, 164  
 Wages of Convicts, 139  
 Wages of Labourers, 156  
 Wool, 171

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