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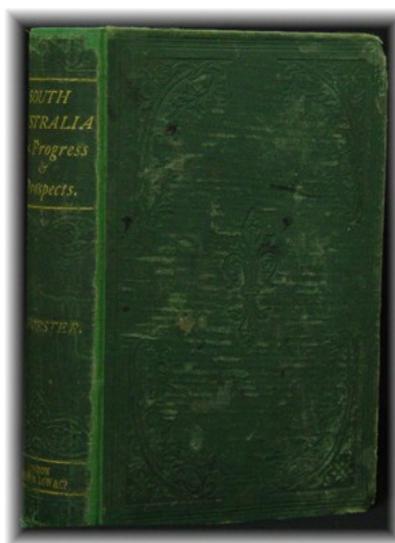
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# SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## ITS PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY

BY

ANTHONY FORSTER,

LATE MEMBER OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AT ADELAIDE.

WITH A MAP

“What a land is this to which you have sent me! The loveliness and glory of its plains and woods, its glens and hills! But of these you will hear from others. I cannot, however, leave it out of my estimate of God’s goodness to me, that He has placed me in so fair and sweet a portion of his earth.”—*Rev. T. Q. Stow to the Colonial Missionary Society.*

LONDON:  
SAMPSON LOW, SON, AND MARSTON,  
MILTON HOUSE, LUDGATE HILL.

1866.

# PREFACE.



THE present work has been written simply from a desire to supply the fullest and most recent information respecting a colony which is likely soon to become one of the most important under the British Crown. Little more has been attempted than a mere record of facts and statistics, and of these it has only been possible to give, in many cases, the barest outline. Each chapter might have been easily expanded into a volume. The sources from whence assistance has been derived have been acknowledged in the body of the work.

Readers intimately acquainted with the more recent events in South Australia will doubtless find the book defective in many particulars. It has been prepared under circumstances which excluded the possibility of unlimited reference to local documents. Such as it is, however, it is respectfully commended to the attention of the public, and especially to that portion who take an interest in the welfare and prosperity of our Colonial Possessions.

GRASMERE, WESTMORLAND.

*4th June, 1866.*

# CONTENTS.



## CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
COLONIZATION.—The British Government and Colonization—Importance of emigration—The Australian colonies and transportation—Success of colonization by British Government—Colonial Ministers—Policy of the Home Government—Lord Grey's work on Lord Russell's administration—Colonization of South Australia—Correct views of early founders—Meeting at Exeter Hall—Colonel Torrens' speech—Mr. Sidney and the Wakefield system—Mr. Sinnett and the Wakefield system—Supply of labour to colonies—Tendency of the views of Professor Goldwin Smith—Relations between the colony and the mother country—The Federation of the Australian colonies—Shall a British prince rule in Australia? . . . . .	1

## CHAPTER II.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The great south land—History of discovery—Establishment of New South Wales—Captains Flinders and Sutherland—Kangaroo Island—Erroneous notions respecting the country—Settled and abandoned by South Australian Company—Loss of Mr. Pennington—Extent of New Holland—The South Australian territory—No-Man's Land—Northern Australia—Voyage from England to Adelaide—Approach to Port Adelaide—Description of country—Valley of the Murray—The south-eastern district—South Australian ports—Navigable rivers—Mountain ranges—Rainfall—Atmospheric temperature—Mr. Boothby's statistics—Climate healthy—Captain Sturt's discoveries . . . . .	24
---	----

## CHAPTER III.

PAGE

FOUNDATION AND EARLY DIFFICULTIES OF THE COLONY.—First committee for founding colony—Failure of negotiations—Formation of South Australian Association—Act obtained—Its provisions—First South Australian Commissioners—Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield—Commissioners' difficulties—Mr. George Fife Angas—The South Australian Company—First land regulations—Money required for starting the colony—Interposition of South Australian Company—Preliminary Sections—Land regulations modified—Special surveys—Land orders—Arrival of Sir John Hindmarsh—Resident Commissioner—First Surveyor-General—Loss of Sir John Jeffcott and Captain Blenkinsopp—Selection of capital—High price of labour—Sale of town lands—Early dissensions—Colonel Gawler and his administration—Financial embarrassments—Colonel Gawler's recall—Romance of South Australia	41
---	----

## CHAPTER IV.

PROSPERITY AND PROGRESS.—Captain Grey's administration—Economy insisted on—Restoration of public confidence—Death of Colonel Light—Colonel Robe's administration—Endowment of religious bodies—Imposition of royalty on mines—Sir Henry Young's administration—Establishment of district councils—The gold discoveries—Effect upon South Australia—Off to the diggings—Abstraction of specie—The gold escort—The Bullion Act—South Australian tokens—Return of prosperity—Testimonial to Mr. Tinline—Opening of the River Murray—Port Elliot—Sir Henry Young opposed by the Legislature—Supported by the Home Government—The Goolwa tramway—First river steamer—The Governor's trip up the Murray—The Murray River Navigation Company—Captain Cadell—Grand banquet in council chamber—Mr. Randall and the "Mary Ann"—Navigation of the Darling—Victor Harbour—The Murray trade—The Strathalbyn and Goolwa tramway—Sir Richard MacDonnell's administration—Constitutional government—The Northern railway—The Governor's despatches—Sir Dominick Daly's administration—Population of the colony—Statistics—The city of Adelaide—Improvements—The River Torrens—The park lands—Suburban villages—Glennelg—Port Adelaide—The harbour—The North Arm—Condition of the port—Corporate towns—Inland townships—The Port railway—Byron's "Iantke"—The Kapunda railway—Public revenue and expenditure—The waste lands—Victoria and the land question—The roads—Federal union—Telegraphic communication—Social aspects of the colony—Literature—The press—Individual success—Public works—Criminal statistics—Friendly societies—Post
--

	PAGE
Office department—Defence of the colony—The Agent-General—	
Impressions regarding the colony . . . . .	55

## CHAPTER V.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS.—An example to the mother country—  
 Early form of government—Changes—Imperial Commission on  
 Constitution Bill—A new Constitution Act—Responsible govern-  
 ment—Universal suffrage and vote by ballot—The Electoral Act  
 The Estimates Committee—Sir Richard MacDonnell and his  
 ministry—Proclamation of new constitution—Meeting of the  
 Houses—Privilege question—Opinion of the president—Conference  
 to settle disputes—Compromise—Relations of the two Houses—  
 Dead-lock in Victoria—The civil list—Mr. Baker's ministry—  
 Mr. Torrens's ministry—Mr. Hanson's ministry—Mr. Reynolds's  
 ministry—Mr. Waterhouse's ministry—Mr. Dutton's ministry—  
 Mr. Ayers's ministry—Mr. Blyth's ministry—Mr. Hart's ministry  
 Numerical majorities—Influence of the Council—Operation of the  
 ballot—Registration of electors—Constitution of ministries—  
 Public service pensions—Amendment of Constitution—Effects  
 of self-government—The Parliament and the Supreme Court—  
 Invalidation of the laws—Bill for removing doubts—Local courts  
 —The Court of Appeals . . . . . 148

## CHAPTER VI.

THE REAL PROPERTY ACT.—Law reform—Mr. Robert Richard Torrens—  
 Registration of title—Opposition to the new measure—Success—  
 Establishment of Real Property Office—Simplicity and economy  
 of dealings with land—Commission of Inquiry—Favourable report  
 —Extent of business—Mr. Torrens in England—Real Property Act  
 adopted in Ireland—Registration of title in England . . . . . 219

## CHAPTER VII.

EXPLORATION.—Progress of discovery—Captain Sturt—The Darling—  
 The Murray—Interesting incident—South Australian territory—  
 Captain Barker—Melancholy death—Major Mitchell's expedition—  
 The Gold Region of Victoria—Captain Grey and North-western  
 Australia—Singular paintings—Great hardships—Dr. Leichhardt  
 —Expedition to Port Essington—Second expedition—Third and  
 last expedition—Search for Leichhardt—Belief in existence revived  
 after eighteen years—Renewed search—Mr. Edward John Eyre—  
 Lake Torrens—Expedition to King George's Sound—Great suf-  
 ferings—Murder of Overseer—Perseverance—Reaches the Sound

—Reflections—Captain Sturt again—Moorundee—Laidley's Ponds—Depôt Creek—Shut up there—Death of Mr. Poole—Discovery of Cooper's Creek—The Stony Desert—Baffled efforts—Various explorations undertaken by South Australian Government—Mr. Babbage—Mr. Charles Gregory—Major Warburton—The northern lakes—Mr. Goyder—Mr. Stephen Hack—Fate of Coulthard—Mr. Stuart's first expedition to the Northern Interior—Second ditto—Third ditto—Fourth ditto—Fifth and successful ditto—Reaches northern coast—Description of country across the continent—Importance of Stuart's discoveries—Reward to Stuart—Great Victorian expedition—Burke and Wills—Cooper's Creek—Gulf of Carpentaria and back—Melancholy results—The burial-place of Burke and Wills—Research parties—Mr. Alfred Howitt—Removal of remains to Melbourne—Landsborough—Walker—MacKinlay—The Diamond of the Desert.	236
---	-----

## CHAPTER VIII.

TRADE AND FINANCE.—Effect of gold discoveries upon commerce—Position of South Australia—Staple exports—Murray trade—Shipping—Port Adelaide a free port—Port regulations—Bonded stores—Chamber of Commerce—Mercantile charges—South Australian tariff—Banking arrangements—Trade relations between the Colonies	309
--	-----

## CHAPTER IX.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.—Early prices—First attempts at cultivation—Success—Exports of wheat and flour—Want of labour—Ridley's reaping machine—Land statistics—Extent of land under crop—The hills and plains—Farming pursuits—Average produce—Management of the land—Quality of South Australian wheat—Colonial stock—Prices of farm produce—Prospects of farming—Rents—Horticulture—Cultivation of the vine—Wine manufacture—Horticultural shows	328
---	-----

## CHAPTER X.

THE PASTORAL INTEREST.—Squatters the pioneers of civilization—The pastoral runs—Waste lands regulations—The Government and the squatters—Extent of land under pastoral occupation—Number of stock in the colony—Breed of sheep—Cost of sheep stations—The scab Act—Sheep on agricultural farms—Average clip of wool—Prices of stock—The northern stations—Introduction of camels	340
--	-----

## CHAPTER XI.

	PAGE
MINING.—Extent of mineral wealth—The mines—Kapunda—Burra Burra—Wallaroo—Moonta—Yorke's Peninsula—The northern mines—Mineral regulations—Bismuth—Gold—Echunga—Search by Mr. Hargreaves—The gold theory—Iron—Coal—Petroleum— Mining prospects . . . . .	348

## CHAPTER XII.

RELIGION AND EDUCATION.—Religious energy—Colonial chaplaincy— The Church of England—Endowment of Bishopric—Ecclesiastical law—Incorporation of the church—Opposition—The Roman Catho- lics—The Wesleyans—The Congregationalists—Episode in church history—The Presbyterians—The Baptists—The Bible Christians The Methodist New Connexion—The Primitive Methodists—The Christian Brethren—The Disciples of Christ—The Society of Friends—The German Evangelical Lutheran Congregations—The New Church—The Moravians—The Unitarians—The Hebrew Con- gregation—Characteristics of the religious communities—Eccle- siastical precedence—The Bible Society and the Chief Justice— Educational Institutions: St. Peter's Collegiate School—The Ade- laide Educational Institution—Other leading schools—The Govern- ment system of education—Government schools—Objections of Roman Catholics—The Education Act—Committee of Inquiry— Educational Statistics—Central Board of Education—South Aus- tralian Institute . . . . .	379
--	-----

## CHAPTER XIII.

IMMIGRATION.—Australia as a field of enterprise—Advantage of Emigra- tion to the working man—Government expenditure in Immigra- tion—Description of immigrants—Statistics—Immigration Re- gulations—The government and the labour market—Frauds on Emigration Agents—Elderly young women—Certain De- tection . . . . .	408
---	-----

## CHAPTER XIV.

THE ABORIGINES.—Low type—Civilizing influence—Protectorate— Impossibility of dealing successfully with the natives—Native schools—Missionaries—Native attainments—Opposition of the press—Evangelizing institutions—Poonindie—Point M'Leay— Inquiry into condition of aborigines—Deductions of committee— The Bishop of Adelaide and the natives—Native evidence— Affrays in the north—Gradual extinction of the race . . . . .	419
---	-----

## CHAPTER XV.

	PAGE
GEOLOGICAL FEATURES.—Authorities on the geology of the colony—	
The Central Chain—The Adelaide Plains and Eastern Ranges—	
Echunga—Mitcham and Government Farm—Clarendon and Wil-	
lunga—Rapid Bay and Cape Jervis—Houghton and Mount	
Crawford—Mount Remarkable and the north—The south-eastern	
district—Petrified skeleton—Mr. Menge . . . . .	433

## CHAPTER XVI.

NATURAL HISTORY.—Authorities—Native animals—Australian birds—	
Trees—Mr. Waterhouse's observations—First section—Second	
section—Third section—Mr. Waterhouse promises further de-	
tails . . . . .	443

## CHAPTER XVII.

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.—Stuart's discoveries—Proposed new	
colony—Sale of land orders—Government of Northern Territory	
—Escape Cliffs—Complaints against Government Resident—Mr.	
Finniss's recall—His defence—Description of country—Meteor-	
ology . . . . .	454

## CHAPTER XVIII.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.—Transportation to Western Australia—English	
notions of Australian society—Advertisement in the "Times"—	
South Australia as a field of enterprise—Persons who should not	
emigrate . . . . .	460

## APPENDIX.

Manufactories, trades, etc.—Electoral statistics—Education—The	
Currency—Meteorological—Population—Revenue—Public works—	
Immigration—Bread and meat—Prices of labour—Prices of pro-	
visions—Share list . . . . .	463

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA:

## ITS PROGRESS AND PROSPERITY.



### CHAPTER I.

#### COLONIZATION.

ALTHOUGH the British Government have been for many years past largely engaged in the work of colonization, it can scarcely be affirmed that their colonizing tendencies have been of a very extravagant or excessive order. Somehow or other, they have found themselves with colonies on their hands; or they have been constrained, by the obligations of a common nationality, to afford protection and assistance to small offshoots of their people who have migrated to distant parts of the world, and afterwards grown into colonies; but colonization has not been generally cultivated by British statesmen as a great system of social amelioration and human progress. And yet, to the colonial empire of England, the mother country is largely indebted for her commercial prosperity and internal peace. The outflow of population to new and remunerative fields of labour has not only kept down redundancy and preserved a healthy vitality in the various branches of trade, but it has conduced to the prosperity and means of usefulness of tens of thousands of enterprising emigrants, and contributed

immensely to the increase of the imports and exports of the United Kingdom.

The Australian Colonies, the most prosperous of all the dependencies of the British Crown, and destined to a still greater future, were the result of accident rather than design. New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land were originally the mere receptacles of the felony of England, and it was not until after a great fight with the home authorities, that the vast natural advantages of those countries were admitted as a reason why they should be occupied exclusively by free communities. And even after transportation to the eastern colonies had been abolished, a colony upon the western border of the continent was selected as the receptacle of home criminals, and is still being used as such. In the chapter on the relations between the colonies and the mother country, I have referred more particularly to the subject of transportation to Western Australia. I mention it now simply to show, that a strong and enlightened view of the great national advantages of colonization has not always operated with the British Government in the founding of colonies. And I might further strengthen this position, by pointing out the disinclination frequently manifested to assume the sovereignty of large and fertile islands, which afford every natural facility for the settlement of great masses of people, and particularly to the resistance offered to the colonization of so important a country as New Zealand.

Whilst, however, it is clear that British statesmen have not been forward to inaugurate the work of colonization, it must be admitted that the colonies under their care have been, on the whole, well and efficiently governed. The enlightened policy of many of the members of the Government holding the seals of the Colonial office, has tended much to foster and develop the energies

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