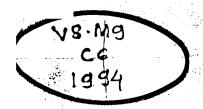
Cambridge Historical Series

THE HISTORY OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES

JENKS



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EDITED BY G. W. PROTHERO, LITT.D.

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AND PROFESSOR OF HISTORY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

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A HISTORY

OF THE

AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES

(FROM THEIR FOUNDATION TO THE YEAR 1893)

BY

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The aim of this series is to sketch the history of Modern Europe, with that of its chief colonies and conquests, from about the end of the fifteenth century down to the present time. In one or two cases the story will commence at an earlier date, but this will only be by way of introduction. In the case of the colonies it will naturally begin later. The histories of the different countries will be described, as a general rule, in separate volumes, for it is believed that, except in epochs like that of the French Revolution and Napoleon, the connection of events will be better understood and the continuity of historical development more clearly displayed by this method, than by any other.

The series is intended for the use of all persons anxious to understand the nature of existing political conditions. "The roots of the present lie deep in the past," and the real significance of contemporary events cannot be grasped unless the historical causes which have led to them are known. The plan of the series will make it possible to treat the history of the last four centuries in considerable detail, and to embody the most important results of modern research. It is hoped therefore that the forthcoming volumes will be useful not only to beginners but to students who have already acquired some general knowledge of European History. For those who wish to carry their studies further, the bibliography appended to each volume will act as a guide to original sources of information and works more detailed and authoritative.

Considerable attention will be paid to geography, and each volume will be furnished with such maps and plans as may be requisite for the illustration of the text.

PREFACE.

No sane person would attempt to write a complete history of Australasia in three hundred pages. Having, therefore, to make a selection, I have fallen back upon the traditions of that school which regards history as past politics, and politics as present history. Even with this limitation, I have had to go lightly over the ground, omitting much that even I know, and, doubtless, much more of which I am ignorant. I can boast no special qualification for the task, save that I have spent three years in Australia, living as an Australian amongst Australians; but I have not spared to search the best sources of information.

Prominent amongst these are the Parliamentary Papers, which contain, for those who know how to use them, materials for not one but many histories of the nineteenth century. And here let me express a word of thanks to the Corporation of the City of Liverpool, which is conferring a priceless boon on all students of modern history within its dominions, by keeping in accessible condition, and under the charge of a most courteous librarian, a complete set of these invaluable records. private library, scarcely any college library, can afford the space for such a treasure. It needs the magnificence of civic hospitality. The Journals of the Royal Geographical Society have been my authority for the chapter on internal exploration; many of the accounts which they contain are written by the explorers themselves. For the early voyages which resulted in the discovery of the coast line of Australasia, I have used the contemporary histories. All these authorities have been supplemented by personal research amongst the Government archives at Sydney, Melbourne, and Wellington.

But it has been my good fortune also to benefit by help from other sources. To my repeated enquiries upon points of colonial history the Agents-General of the respective colonies have returned most courteous and ready replies, and they have laid me under frequent obligation by the loan of valuable documents. Similar help has come from the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office, rendered always with a promptness which has doubled its value. My colleague Professor Gonner, who has himself made a special study of Australian questions. has most kindly read my proof-sheets, and made many valuable suggestions by which I have benefited. If it be not presumptuous for a contributor to refer in print to his editor, I would also acknowledge the great 'advantage I have derived from the friendly criticism and watchfulness of Dr Prothero, who has saved me from the consequences of many a slip, while his general approval has inspired me with a confidence which, standing alone, I should have hardly felt.

Finally, I have to thank Miss M. J. Leather, of University College, Liverpool, for the full and careful index which, even in its condensed form, constitutes not the least valuable part of this book.

E. J.

LIVERPOOL, June, 1895.

NOTE TO SECOND EDITION.

THE following pages are practically a reprint of the first edition. The author's efforts have on this occasion been confined to the correction of clerical errors, one or two of which were discovered by his critics in the Press, and to the addition of the latest available statistics.

Oxford, September, 1896.

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[As explained in the Preface, the author has relied for his material almost exclusively upon original sources of information. It being, however, part of the plan of the series to which this book belongs, to include a reference to works dealing with the subject, for the information of those readers who may wish to pursue their studies further, a short list is here appended. But the author must, at the risk of appearing ungracious, expressly disclaim responsibility for the accuracy of the works cited, some of which are valuable rather as illustrations of Australian character than as records of facts.]

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