

A
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

SEVEN COLONIES OF AUSTRALASIA,

BY

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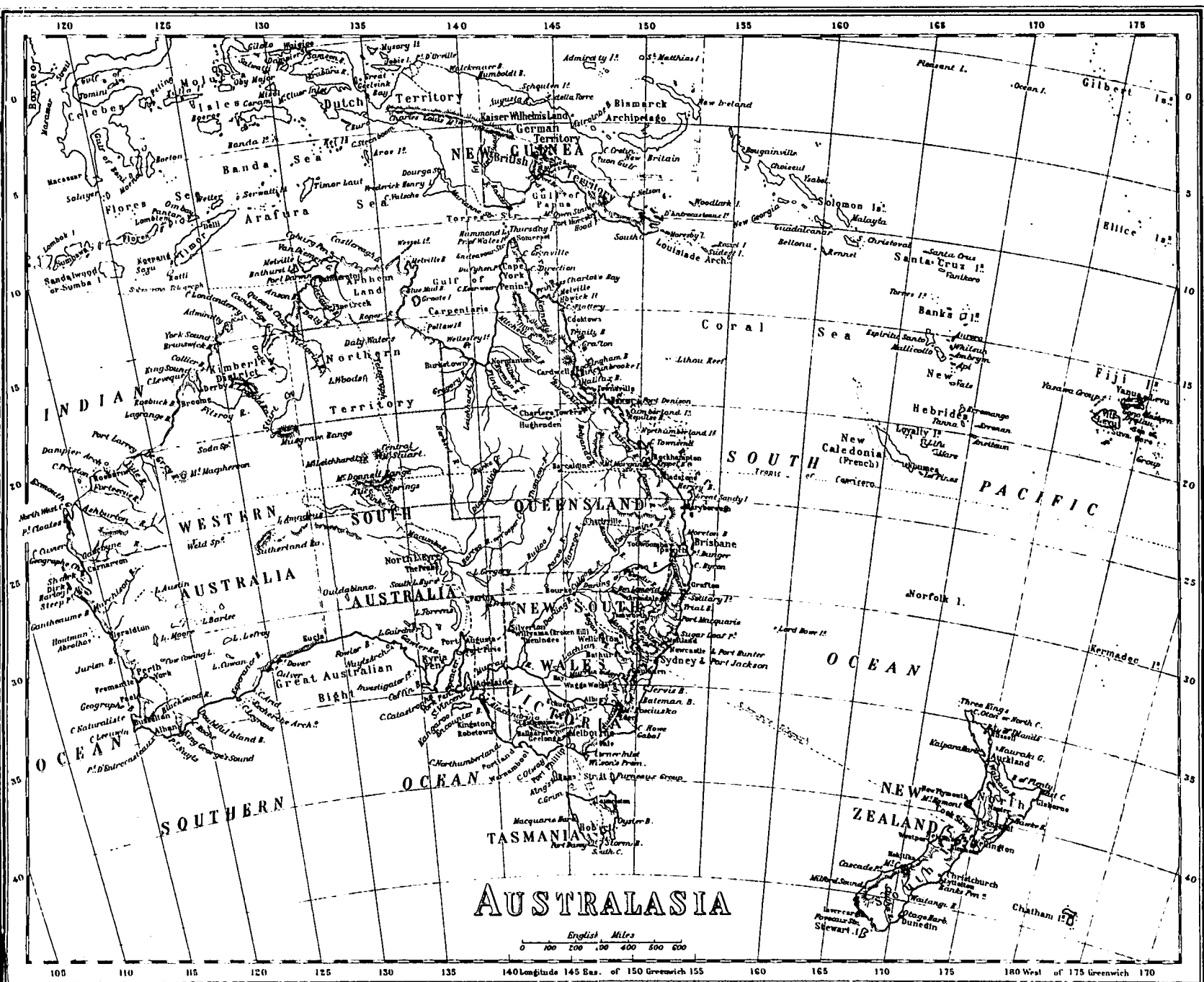
WITH MAP.

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PREFACE.

WHATEVER prevision of its future greatness may have been given to the pioneers of Australian settlement, it is doubtful whether it was anticipated, even by the most sanguine amongst them, that from the humble and apparently unpromising beginnings under Captain Phillip, there would have arisen the prosperous communities which now form the Australasian Group. To afford information by which the progress of these Colonies may be gauged is the object of the present work, which aims to exhibit at a glance the position held by each Colony individually, and by the country as a whole, with regard to all matters connected with its moral and material welfare. Such an account cannot fail to be of interest—so much has been attempted in directions in which old-world experience was of little avail, and so much has been accomplished in the development of the material resources of a new land, and the social well-being of its people. Particulars are given respecting the area, population, commerce, and natural resources—pastoral, agricultural, and mineral—of the various Colonies, together with matters relating to public and private wealth, the social and religious condition of the people; their employment, educational status, form of government, cost of living,

and other subjects of interest. Records of this nature are kept and published by each Colony individually, but this is the first time that any attempt has been made to present such information in a collective form convenient for reference and comparison. Every care has been taken to ensure accuracy, the figures in each instance being extracted from the latest-published official records of the Colony in question. It is hoped that a work of this kind will not be without a special value at the present time, when the question of the Federation of Australasia has been so prominently brought before the public mind by the Conference held in Melbourne a few weeks ago. Those who are unaware of the importance of Australasia, and the substantial basis upon which its claims for recognition amongst the nations are founded, will find much light thrown upon the subject by the figures in this book. Those who study attentively the information here recorded, and note the steady and rapid progress of these vigorous communities, will not fail to see an augury of further prosperous development.

Sydney, 22nd March, 1890.

CONTENTS.

	Page
Political Divisions	1
Population	5
Commerce and Shipping	19
Mineral Resources	38
Food Supply and Cost of Living	69
Defence	78
Finance and Public Wealth	84
Pastoral Resources	105
Agriculture	111
Employment	133
Education	139
Religion	150
Parliaments	155
Railways	159
Telegraphs	162
Social Condition	165
Index	181

Map of Australasia *facing title-page*