

VICTORIAN YEAR-BOOK, 1883-4.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

1. Victoria occupies the south-eastern portion of, and is the southern-
most colony* on, the Australian continent. It lies between the 34th and
39th parallels of south latitude and the 141st and 150th meridians of
east longitude. Its extreme length from east to west is about 420, its
greatest breadth about 250, and its extent of coast-line nearly 600,
geographical miles. Position of
Victoria.

2. From the period of the expedition into India of Alexander the
Great (B.C. 330 to 325), allusions to a Great South Land begin to be
met with in the cotemporary writings, and, later on, Strabo (B.C. 50),
Pliny (A.D. 77), and Ptolemy (A.D. 150) distinctly mention such a land,
although the accounts they give of it and its inhabitants are wide of
the truth. It seems clear at least that the existence of Australia was
known to the Greeks and Romans, although its position and extent
remained uncertain long after their times; and it scarcely admits of a
doubt that in the seven or eight centuries during which the Mahomedan
power dominated in the Malay Peninsula and Indian Archipelago the
northern coasts of Australia were often visited by their navigators, the
results of these visits being plainly perceptible both in the persons and
languages of the Aborigines. The Chinese trepang fishery on the
northern shores of Australia dates from a very remote period, and traces
of Chinese intercourse with the Aboriginal inhabitants about Cape
York and the Gulf of Carpentaria are said to be yet perceptible in the
features of the latter. Marco Polo, the celebrated navigator (A.D. 1293),
makes allusions to the Great South Land, and there is no doubt its
existence was known to him, although it is not probable he ever visited
its shores. For the next two hundred years nothing is heard about
Australia, except in the writings of a Christian missionary, who visited
Java in the fourteenth century. He mentions accounts he had heard
of a great country which stretched so far to the south that its extreme
regions were enveloped in darkness for several months of the year.
Fernandes de Quiros, a Spanish navigator, started from Lima with
three ships about the end of 1605 to try and discover the Great South

* In consequence of its position at the extreme south of the Australian continent, Victoria is often mistaken, by English writers and others not well acquainted with Australian geography, for an adjacent colony, which has been misnamed South Australia, the truth being that only a very small part of South Australia is situated further south than even the most northern portion of Victoria.

Land ; and on the 26th April of the following year he sighted land he believed to be the continent of which he was in search, which he named "Tierra Austral del Espiritu Santo." It is generally thought, however, that this was not Australia, but one of the islands of the New Hebrides. His crew shortly afterwards mutinied and would proceed no further ; but two of the ships of the expedition, under the command of Torres, continued their course, and passed through the straits dividing Australia from New Guinea. In March, 1606, a few days before this, the Dutch landed on the shores of Australia in a small vessel called the *Duyffken*.* She proceeded as far as Cape Turnagain (lat. $13\frac{3}{4}^{\circ}$ S.), situated in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Here some of the crew landed, and several were killed by the Aborigines. The statements brought to Holland by the survivors awakened a desire for further information, and an expedition was sent out to found a colony. It is uncertain where the landing was effected, but the territory was soon abandoned in consequence of the hostility of the natives. On their return, the members of the expedition reported that the land was rich with gold, but this was not generally believed. After this, repeated attempts to obtain particulars of the land were made by the Dutch. Dirk Hartog, in 1616, fell in with the north-west coast, and examined it from lat. 19° to lat. 25° S. Jan Edels, in 1619, coasted along the shore as far as 29° S., and on the old maps his name is to be found on that portion of the present colony of Western Australia. In 1622 the south-western extremity of Australia was discovered by a Dutch ship named the *Leeuwin* ; † and in the same year Francis Pelsart, in a ship called the *Batavia*, was wrecked on a reef of rocks about 200 miles north of Swan River. In 1642 Abel Jansen Tasman discovered Van Diemen's Land, now called Tasmania, which for a long time afterwards was believed to be part of the Australian main land. In 1688, and again in 1699, Dampier, a noted English buccaneer, visited and examined a considerable portion of the north-western coast of Australia ; Dampier Bay, Roebuck Bay, and the Buccaneer Islands being named by him. Other English and Dutch navigators followed. They seem, however, to have confined their examinations to the western and northern coasts, and it was not until 1770 that the south-eastern and eastern shores were visited, the discoverer of these portions being the celebrated English navigator, Captain Cook. He made the land at that part of Australia now called Victoria, the point first sighted being apparently identical with the present Cape Everard, in Gippsland, situated between Cape Howe and the mouth of the Snowy River. He then sailed along the east coast,

* Or "Small pigeon." The word would now be spelt *Duifken*.

† Or "Lioness."

and carefully examined portions of it, especially Botany Bay, near which Sydney, the capital of the present colony of New South Wales, is situated.

3. On his return to England, Cook reported Botany Bay to be a History. suitable place for colonization, and this led to a party of convicts being despatched there in 1788, under Captain Arthur Phillip, R.N. On the shores of Port Jackson, a few miles to the north of Botany Bay, Phillip established a permanent settlement, but for nearly ten years afterwards nothing was done towards the exploration of the southern shores of Australia. At length George Bass, a surgeon in the Royal Navy, started in a whaleboat, manned by six seamen, and, passing Cape Howe, coasted along that part of Victoria now called Gippsland, and, rounding Wilson's Promontory—the southernmost point on the Australian continent—entered Western Port on the 4th June, 1798. He, however, returned to Sydney without discovering Port Phillip Bay, which was first entered on the 5th January, 1802, by Acting Lieutenant John Murray, in command of the armed brig *Lady Nelson*. In the month of October, in the following year, an attempt was made to colonize the territory by Lieutenant-Colonel David Collins, of the Royal Marines, in command of a party of convicts. Collins, however, after the expiration of three months, abandoned Port Phillip as unfit for settlement, and for the next twenty years the district attracted but little attention; when two explorers—Hume and Hovell—made their way overland from Sydney, and, on their return, gave a satisfactory report of the country, the result being that a convict establishment was soon afterwards founded on Western Port Bay, which, however, was in a short time abandoned, apparently on economic grounds. The first permanent settlement in Victoria was formed at Portland Bay, by Mr. Edward Henty, from Van Diemen's Land—as Tasmania was then called—who landed on the 19th November, 1834, and soon commenced to till the soil, run and breed stock, and carry on whaling operations. Others followed, but the absence of good land in the immediate vicinity of the port, and the openness of the bay, which rendered it unsafe for shipping during the prevalence of certain winds, caused it to be considered an unsuitable site for a capital, which was eventually founded at the northern end of Port Phillip Bay by two parties—one led by John Batman, who landed on the 29th May, 1835, and the other by John Pascoe Fawkner, whose party arrived at the site of Melbourne on the 28th August of the same year. Both these were from Van Diemen's Land, and they were soon followed by others from the same island and from Sydney, who brought stock with them, and commenced

to push their way into the interior. These were met by Major (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Sir) Thomas Livingstone Mitchell, who, entering from New South Wales on the north, and traversing a considerable portion of the, as yet, unknown territory, was so struck with its wondrous capabilities that he named it *Australia Felix*—a title the aptness of which a subsequent knowledge of the geniality of its climate, the excellence of its soil, and the then unsuspected richness of its mineral treasures, has proved to be fully justified. The reports of Major Mitchell, and the success of the first settlers, caused great excitement, not only in the Australian settlements but in the mother-country. Herds of sheep and cattle, driven overland from New South Wales, speedily occupied the best parts of the new territory. Every available craft capable of floating was put into requisition to bring passengers and stock from Van Diemen's Land, and after a time shiploads of emigrants began to arrive from the United Kingdom. Regular government was first established under Captain William Lonsdale, who, having been sent from Sydney to take charge of the district, landed on the 29th September, 1836; and on the 2nd March of the following year Sir Richard Bourke, the Governor of New South Wales, visited it, and named the metropolis Melbourne. Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived on the 30th September, 1839, having been appointed to the principal official position in the settlement under the title of Superintendent, which was changed to that of Lieutenant-Governor when, on the 1st July, 1851, it was separated from New South Wales, and erected into a separate colony under the name of Victoria. Shortly afterwards rich deposits of gold were discovered, the fame of which soon spread throughout the world, and led to a great influx of population. After a time some discontent arose amongst the diggers, in consequence of the oppressive character of the mining regulations, which culminated in riots, which occurred on the Ballarat gold-field towards the end of 1854. The disturbance was soon quelled, with some bloodshed on both sides, and the grievances complained of were afterwards redressed. A new constitution giving responsible government to the colony was proclaimed on the 23rd November, 1855, and since then, although political struggles have been frequent, and party feeling has at times run high, this has had no permanent effect in setting class against class, or in any way lessening the good feeling which exists between all sections of the community. At times commerce has been depressed; but this has soon revived, and the material prosperity the colony has, upon the whole, enjoyed, is, perhaps, without a parallel in the history of any country.

4. The following are the dates of some of the principal events connected with the discovery and history of Victoria:—

Principal
events.

1770. April 19th.—Victorian land first discovered by Capt. James Cook, R.N.— (“Point Hicks,” believed to be the present Cape Everard in Gippsland.)
1798. June 4th.—Western Port discovered and entered by Surgeon George Bass, R.N.
- „ Nov. and Dec.—The existence of a strait between Australia and Tasmania proved by Flinders and Bass, who sailed round the latter island in the sloop *Norfolk*.
1800. Dec. 4th to 9th.—Bass’s Straits first sailed through from the westward by Lieutenant James Grant, R.N., in H.M.S. *Lady Nelson*, of sixty tons burthen, bound from England to Port Jackson. On this occasion Grant discovered and gave the present names to Capes Bridgewater, Nelson, and Sir William Grant, Portland Bay, the Lawrence and Lady Julia Percy Islands, Capes Otway, Patton, Liptrap, &c.
1802. January 5th.—Port Phillip Bay discovered by Acting Lieutenant John Murray, R.N., in the *Lady Nelson*. Heads entered by the launch on February 2nd, and by the vessel on February 15th.
- „ April 26th.—Port Phillip Bay entered and examined by Commander Matthew Flinders, R.N., who was not aware it had been previously discovered by Murray.
1803. Jan. and Feb.—Port Phillip Bay surveyed and the Yarra and Saltwater Rivers discovered by Charles Grimes, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, and party.
- „ October 7th.—Attempt to colonize Port Phillip by Colonel David Collins, in charge of a party of convicts.
1804. January 27th.—Port Phillip abandoned by Collins as unfit for settlement.
1824. Dec. 16th.—Hume and Hovell arrived at Corio Bay, having travelled overland from Sydney.
1834. Nov. 19th.—Permanent settlement founded at Portland Bay by Edward Henty.
1835. May 29th.—John Batman arrived in Port Phillip and made a treaty with the natives for a grant of 600,000 acres of land. This treaty was afterwards disallowed by the Imperial Government.
- „ August 28th.—John Pascoe Fawkner’s party sailed up the Yarra in the *Enterprise* and founded Melbourne. (Fawkner followed shortly after, and landed on the 18th October.)
1836. April to Oct.—Major (afterwards Lieutenant-Colonel Sir) Thomas Livingstone Mitchell made extensive explorations in the Port Phillip District, the western portion of which he named Australia Felix.
- „ Sept. 29th.—Regular Government established under Captain William Lonsdale, who was sent from Sydney to act as Resident Magistrate.
1837. March 2nd.—Governor Sir Richard Bourke arrived from Sydney and gave the name of Melbourne to the metropolis of the new settlement.
- „ June 1st.—First sale of Crown lands took place in Melbourne. Average price of half-acre town lots, £35.

1839. Sept. 30th.—Mr. Charles Joseph La Trobe arrived from Sydney and took charge of the Port Phillip District under the title of Superintendent. The territory over which he exercised jurisdiction was much smaller than the present colony of Victoria, being bounded on the east and west by the 146th and 141st meridians and on the north by the 36th parallel. (For boundaries of Victoria see next paragraph.)
1842. August 12th.—Melbourne incorporated as a Town by Act of the Legislature of New South Wales 6 Vict. No. 7.
1847. June 26th.—Royal Letters Patent erecting the Town of Melbourne into a City signed at this date; gazetted in Sydney on the 5th February, 1848.
1849. October 12th.—Geelong incorporated as a Town by Act of the Legislature of New South Wales 13 Vict. No. 40.
1851. July 1st.—Port Phillip separated from New South Wales and erected into an independent colony under the name of Victoria.
- „ July and Aug.—Discovery of gold in Victoria.
1853. February 8th.—Road districts (the origin of the present shires) established by Act 16 Vict. No. 40.
1854. November. —Riots on Ballarat gold-field. (Eureka Stockade taken on the 3rd December.)
- „ Dec. 29th.—Municipal institutions (the origin of the present cities, towns, and boroughs) established by Act 18 Vict. No. 15.
1855. Nov. 23rd.—Constitution proclaimed in Victoria.
1856. March 19th.—The ballot as a means of electing members of both Houses of Parliament prescribed by Act 19 Vict. No. 12.
1857. August 27th.—Property qualification of members of the Legislative Assembly abolished by Act 21 Vict. No. 12.
- „ Nov. 24th.—Universal suffrage for electors of the Legislative Assembly made law by Act 21 Vict. No. 33.
1869. January 1st.—Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council reduced by Act 32 Vict. No. 334.
1880. February 6th.—Fortnightly mail service between Victoria and England commenced.
- „ October 1st.—First Victorian International Exhibition opened. It was closed on the 30th April, 1881.
1881. Nov. 28th.—Property qualification of members and electors of the Legislative Council further reduced, number of provinces and members increased, and tenure of seats shortened by Act 45 Vict. No. 702.

Boundaries.

5. On the north and east Victoria is bounded by the River Murray, and by a right line running in a south-easterly direction from a place near the head waters of that stream, called The Springs, on Forest Hill, to Cape Howe. On the west it is bounded by South Australia, the dividing line being about 242 geographical miles in length, approximating to the position of the 141st meridian of east longitude, and extending from the River Murray to the sea. The southern boundary is formed by the Southern Ocean, Bass's Straits, and the Pacific Ocean.

Area of Victoria.

6. According to the latest computation, the area of Victoria is 87,884 square miles, or 56,245,760 acres. The whole continent of Australia is estimated to contain 2,944,628 square miles, and therefore

Victoria occupies about a thirty-fourth part of its surface. Great Britain contains 88,006 square miles, and is therefore slightly larger than Victoria.

7. The southernmost point in Victoria, and consequently in the whole of Australia, is Wilson's Promontory, which lies in latitude $39^{\circ} 8' S.$, longitude $146^{\circ} 26' E.$; the northernmost point is the place where the western boundary of the colony meets the Murray, latitude $34^{\circ} 2' S.$, longitude $140^{\circ} 58' E.$; the point furthest east is Cape Howe, situated in latitude $37^{\circ} 31' S.$, longitude $149^{\circ} 59' E.$; the most westerly point is the line of the whole western frontier, which, according to the latest correction, lies upon the meridian $140^{\circ} 58' E.$, and extends from latitude $34^{\circ} 2' S.$ to latitude $38^{\circ} 4' S.$, or 242 geographical miles.

Extreme points of Victoria.

8. The Melbourne Observatory is a building specially erected for observatory purposes in the Government reserve on the south side of the River Yarra. According to the latest computation, its latitude is $37^{\circ} 49' 53''$ south, and its longitude $144^{\circ} 58' 30''$ east.

Position of Melbourne.

9. Subjoined is a statement of the latitudes and longitudes of the principal towns in, and most prominent points on, the coast of the colony of Victoria, according to the latest information available :—

Latitudes and longitudes.

LATITUDES AND LONGITUDES OF PLACES IN VICTORIA.

Name of Place.	Latitude S.	Longitude E.	Name of Place.	Latitude S.	Longitude E.
	° /	° /		° /	° /
Alexandra ...	37 12	145 43	Hamilton ...	37 45	142 1
Amherst ...	37 8	143 40	Horsham ...	36 43	142 1
Ararat ...	37 17	142 57	Inglewood ...	36 35	143 53
Avoca ...	37 6	143 29	Jamieson ...	37 18	146 9
Ballarat ...	37 33	143 52	Kilmore ...	37 18	144 57
Beechworth ...	36 22	146 41	Lakes' Entrance	37 53	148 2
Belfast... ..	38 23	142 14	Maldon ...	37 0	144 5
Benalla ...	36 33	145 59	Maryborough ...	37 3	143 44
Buninyong ...	37 39	143 53	Melbourne ...	37 50	144 59
Cape Bridgewater	38 24	141 25	Point Lonsdale	38 18	144 37
„ Everard ...	37 49	149 17	Point Nepean ...	38 18	144 40
„ Howe ...	37 31	149 59	Portland ...	38 21	141 37
„ Liptrap ...	38 55	145 55	Pyramid Point...	38 32	145 14
„ Nelson ...	38 26	141 32	Queenscliff ...	38 16	144 40
„ Otway ...	38 52	143 41	Sale ...	38 6	147 4
„ Paterson ...	38 41	145 37	Sandhurst ...	36 46	144 17
„ Schanck ...	38 30	144 54	Seymour ...	37 2	145 6
„ Woolamai...	38 54	145 22	Smythesdale ...	37 39	143 41
Castlemaine ...	37 4	144 14	St. Arnaud ...	36 37	143 16
Clunes ...	37 18	143 47	Stawell ...	37 3	142 47
Colac ...	38 20	143 35	Talbot ...	37 10	143 42
Creswick ...	37 25	143 54	Wangaratta ...	36 21	146 19
Daylesford ...	37 21	144 8	Warrnambool ...	38 23	142 30
Dunolly ...	36 52	143 44	Williamstown ...	37 52	144 55
Echuca ...	36 8	144 46	Wilson's Promontory	39 8	146 26
Geelong ...	38 9	144 22			

Latitudes
and longi-
tudes of
Austral-
asian
capitals.

10. The following are the latitudes and longitudes of the capital cities of the different Australasian colonies:—

LATITUDES AND LONGITUDES OF CAPITALS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

Colony.	Capital City.						
	Name.	Latitude S.			Longitude E.		
		°	'	"	°	'	"
Victoria... ..	Melbourne ...	37	49	53	144	58	30
New South Wales ...	Sydney ...	33	51	41	151	12	42
Queensland ...	Brisbane ...	27	28	3	153	1	47
South Australia ...	Adelaide ...	34	57	0	138	35	6
Western Australia ...	Perth ...	31	20	0	115	6	43
Tasmania ...	Hobart ...	42	53	25	147	20	7
New Zealand ...	Wellington ...	41	16	25	174	47	25

Physical fea-
tures.

11. Victoria is traversed, with more or less regularity, throughout its entire length from east to west by a chain of mountains and lesser hills, completely dividing it into two parts, and known as the Dividing Range. The summit of this range runs generally at a distance of 60 or 70 miles from the coast. The streams to the north of it flow towards the River Murray, and those to the south of it towards the sea. The eastern part of the range, which divides the Gippsland district from that of the Murray, is named the Australian Alps; and that part which separates the county of Ripon from that of Borung, and extends into the county of Kara Kara, is named the Pyrenees. The higher peaks of the Dividing Range are covered with snow for several months in the year. The mountainous country is, for the most part, densely wooded to the very summits with fine timber, but the peaks above the winter snow-line are quite bare, or only partially covered with dwarfed trees or shrubs. From near Kilmore eastward, a distance of 200 miles, the mountains are generally so steep and inaccessible as to present a considerable barrier between the parts of the colony north and south of them, and they can only be traversed with great labour by the few passes that exist. From Kilmore westward the range rapidly dwindles, so that, although presenting in places points of considerable height—such as Mount William and Mount Macedon—it is easily crossed. From Mount Macedon it becomes, as it stretches away to the Western district, a chain of hills, in parts only of considerable altitude, and offering no serious obstructions to crossing in very many places. That portion of the Murray basin commencing at Wodonga on the east as a point, and extending in the form of a regular triangle to a width of 200

miles along the western boundary of Victoria, has almost a flat surface, with a very slight inclination towards the Murray. The remaining country north and south of the Dividing Range and its spurs is moderately undulating; it is in some parts destitute of timber, but closely wooded in others.

12. Besides the main Dividing Range, there are also other ranges Mountains. extending in different parts of the country, many of them being spurs of the main chain; the highest peaks, however, are found in the Dividing Range and its offshoots between St. Clair and the eastern boundary of Victoria. The chief of these are:—The Bogong Range, 6,508 feet; Mount Feathertop, 6,303 feet; Mount Hotham, 6,100 feet; Mount Cobberas, 6,025 feet; Mount Cope, 6,015 feet; Mount Buller, 5,934 feet; Gibbo Range, 5,764 feet; Mount Wills, 5,758 feet; Mount Howitt, 5,715 feet; Mount Buffalo, 5,645 feet; The Twins, 5,575 feet; Mount Tamboritha, 5,381 feet; Mount Wellington, 5,363 feet; Mount Cobbler, 5,342 feet; Mount Kent, 5,129 feet; and Mount Torbreck, 5,001 feet. So far as is at present known by observation, there are at least sixteen peaks over 5,000 feet high, and fifteen between 4,000 and 5,000 feet. There are, however, many peaks above 4,000 feet whose actual heights have not yet been determined.*

13. The rivers in Victoria are, for the most part, inconsiderable; Rivers. many of them are liable to be partially dried up during the summer months, so as to be reduced at that season to mere chains of pools or waterholes. With the exception of the Yarra, on the banks of which the metropolis is situated; the Goulburn, which empties itself into the Murray about eight miles to the eastward of Echuca; the La Trobe and the Mitchell, with, perhaps, a few other of the Gippsland streams; and the Murray itself, not one of them is navigable except by boats. As, however, they drain the watershed of large areas of country, some have already been, and others will ultimately be, made feeders to permanent reservoirs for the purposes of irrigation, gold washing, and manufactures. The Murray, which forms the northern boundary of the colony, is the largest river in Australia. Its total length is 1,300 miles, for 980 of which it flows along the Victorian border.† The names and lengths of the other principal Victorian rivers are as follow:—The Goulburn, 345 miles; the Snowy, 300 miles, 180 of which are in New South Wales; the Glenelg, 281 miles; the Wimmera, 228 miles; the Loddon, 225 miles; the Mitta Mitta, 175 miles; the Avoca, 163 miles;

* For a complete list of the mountains and hills in Victoria, with the approximate heights of the most important peaks, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1882-3, paragraph 12.

† From the source of its longest tributary, the Darling, to the Murray mouth, the total length of this river is 2,345 miles.

the Hopkins, 155 miles; the Campaspe, the Wannon, and the Yarra Yarra, each 150 miles; the Ovens, 140 miles; the La Trobe, 135 miles; the Tambo, 120 miles; the Mitchell, 80 miles.*

Lakes.

14. Victoria contains numerous salt and fresh water lakes and lagoons; but many of these are nothing more than swamps during dry seasons. Some of them are craters of extinct volcanoes. Lake Corangamite, the largest inland lake in Victoria, covers 57,700 acres, and is quite salt, notwithstanding its augmentation by numerous fresh-water streams. It has no visible outlet. Lake Colac, only a few miles distant from Lake Corangamite, is a beautiful sheet of water, covering 6,650 acres, and quite fresh. Lake Burrumbeet is also a fine sheet of fresh water, embracing 5,200 acres. The Gippsland lakes are situated close to the coast, and are only separated from the sea by a belt of sand through which there is a narrow entrance. Lake Wellington, the largest of all the Gippsland lakes, lies to the westward of Lakes Victoria and King, and is united with the first-named by a narrow channel. South-east of Geelong is Lake Connewarre, connected with the sea at Point Flinders.†

**Bays, inlets,
&c.**

15. The principal inlet on the coast of Victoria is Port Phillip Bay, which is an inland sea of an extreme length of over 30 geographical miles from north to south, and of about 35 from east to west. The entrance is about two miles across, and a short distance within it are sandbanks and islands, which, whilst they act as an excellent breakwater to the shipping, do not, as there are well-buoyed channels between them, seriously obstruct the navigation. In Port Phillip Bay are two minor bays, viz., Hobson's Bay, which is the anchorage of the port of Melbourne, and the point at which the River Yarra, on which Melbourne is situated, empties itself; and Corio Bay, which is the anchorage of the port of Geelong. The next inlet in point of natural importance to Port Phillip is Western Port, in part of which there is anchorage with good shelter in all winds. Corner Inlet, situated to the north of Wilson's Promontory in Gippsland, also possesses considerable capabilities. The other bays and inlets are either roadsteads affording only partial shelter, or are small in extent, or so obstructed by sandbanks as to be suitable for small vessels only. Some of the roadsteads might be much improved by the construction of breakwaters. Towards the eastern part of the coast is a sandy beach, extending for 90 miles without an inlet, except one leading into the Gippsland lakes, which

* For a complete list of the rivers in Victoria, with their approximate lengths, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1882-3, paragraph 13.

† For a complete list of the lakes in Victoria, with their approximate areas, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1882-3, paragraph 14.

is liable to be closed at intervals. Works with the view of making this entrance permanent have been projected, and are being actively proceeded with.*

16. A glance at the map of Victoria will show that the coast line projects considerably to the south in two directions, one being to the west and the other to the east of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay. The extreme point of the western projection is Cape Otway, that of the eastern one Wilson's Promontory, the latter being, as has been already stated, the southernmost point on the continent of Australia. Besides these, there is a projection of less extent to the west of Portland Bay, the southernmost point of which is Cape Nelson. Other important points are Capes Bridgewater and Sir William Grant, situated upon the same promontory as Cape Nelson; Points Lonsdale and Nepean, the first at the western, the second at the eastern, side of the entrance to Port Phillip Bay; Cape Schanck, situated between Port Phillip and Western Port; Cape Liptrap, situated between Western Port and Wilson's Promontory; Cape Everard—the Point Hicks of Captain Cook—situated midway between the mouth of the Snowy River and Cape Howe; and Cape Howe itself, being the point at which the dividing line between Victoria and New South Wales meets the sea.†

17. Victoria exercises jurisdiction over but few islands, and of those, all, except Phillip Island, which is situated in Western Port, and at the last census contained 295 inhabitants, are but scantily peopled. The largest is French Island, also situated in Western Port; but a considerable portion of it is covered with mud flats and swamps, and so it maintains only 46 persons. The only other inhabited islands are Swan Island, near Queenscliff, with a population of 31; Mud Island, in Port Phillip Bay, with 9; Churchill and Sandstone Islands, in Western Port, with 12; Snake, Sunday, and Clonmel Islands, off Corner Inlet and Port Albert, with 128; and Gabo Island, five miles south-west of Cape Howe, with 14. The islands in Bass's Straits, except such as are close to the Victorian coast, are dependencies of Tasmania.‡

18. The rise and fall of tide on the coast of Victoria ranges from nine feet at the Glennie Islands, near Wilson's Promontory, to two feet eight inches at Hobson's Bay and Melbourne. Subjoined is a statement of the times of high water on full and change days, and of the rise and fall of tide, at the principal places on the coast:—

* For a complete list of the bays and inlets on the coast of Victoria, with their positions, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1882-3, paragraph 15.

† For a complete list of the capes, points, &c., along the coast of Victoria, with their positions, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1882-3, paragraph 16.

‡ For a complete list of the Victorian islands, with their positions, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1882-3, paragraph 17.

TIDES.

Place.	Time of High Water at full and change.		Range of Tide.		Place.	Time of High Water at full and change.		Range of Tide.	
	h.	m.	ft.	in.		h.	m.	ft.	in.
Portland Bay ...	0	30	3	0	Venus Bay ...	11	56	7	0
Port Fairy... ..	0	31	3	0	Waratah Bay ...	12	0	8	0
Warrnambool ...	0	37	3	0	Glennie Islands ...	11	44	9	0
Point Lonsdale ...	9	42	7	0	Refuge Cove ...	12	14	8	0
Point Nepean ...	10	50	3	0	Rabbit Island ...	12	14	8	0
Queenscliff (Port } Phillip Heads) }	10	50	3	1	Port Albert ...	12	14	8	0
Hobson's Bay ...	2	31	2	8	Lakes' Entrance ...	8	30	3	0
Melbourne Quay ...	2	48	2	8	Gabo Island ...	8	50	6	0

Variation and dip of magnetic needle.

19. Between 1858 and 1863, observations for the variation and dip of the magnetic needle were recorded for 168 places* in this colony by Professor George Neumayer, who was then director of the Magnetic Survey of Victoria. Subsequent observations, which have been confined to Melbourne, go to show that the variation and dip are diminishing, the former since 1875 having decreased by 16' and the latter by 2'. At the Melbourne Observatory, it was ascertained in 1882 that the mean declination or variation of the compass was then 8° 6' E., and that the mean inclination or dip was 67° 4' S. The mean daily range of the former has been observed to be, in spring, 13' 39"; in summer, 15' 10"; in autumn, 9' 35"; and in winter, 8'; or in the year, 11' 36". According to the latest observations, the point in the colony at which the variation is greatest is Daylesford, where it is as high as 9° 52' E.; and the point at which it is least is Bochara, where it is as low as 5° 55' E.

Climate.

20. From its geographical position, Victoria enjoys a climate more suitable to the European constitution than any other colony upon the continent of Australia, resembling that of the more favoured portions of Southern Europe. Upon examining a chart showing isothermal lines, it will be found that Melbourne is situated upon or near the line corresponding with that in the Northern Hemisphere on which Marseilles, Bordeaux, Bologna, Nice, Verona, and Madrid are situated. The difference, however, between summer and winter, and the hottest and coldest month, is far less in Melbourne than in any of these places. In the twenty-six years ended with 1883, the maximum temperature in the shade was 111.2° Fahr., viz., on the 14th January, 1862; the minimum was 27°, viz., on the 21st July, 1869; and the mean was 57.4°. Upon the average, on four days during the year the thermometer rises above 100° in the shade; and generally on about three nights

* For a list of these places, with the variation and dip at each, see *Victorian Year-Book*, 1882-3, paragraph 19.

during the year it falls below freezing point. The maximum temperature in the sun in the twenty-six years ended with 1883 was 178·5°, viz., on the 19th January, 1882. The mean atmospheric pressure, noted at an Observatory 91 feet above the sea-level, was, in the eighteen years ended with 1881, 29·93 inches; the average number of days on which rain fell was 131, and the average yearly rainfall was 26 inches.*

21. Subjoined is a list of the Governors and Acting Governors of Victoria, with the dates of their assumption of and retirement from office :—

GOVERNORS OF VICTORIA.

Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
Charles Joseph La Trobe ...	30th September, 1839†	...
John Vesey Fitzgerald Foster (acting)	15th July, 1851 ...	5th May, 1854
Sir Charles Hotham, K.C.B. ...	8th May, 1854 ...	22nd June, 1854
Major-General Edward Macarthur (acting)	22nd June, 1854 ...	31st December, 1855†
Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B. ...	1st January, 1856 ...	26th December, 1856
Sir Charles Henry Darling, K.C.B. ...	26th December, 1856	10th September, 1863
Brigadier-General George Jackson Carey, C.B. (acting)	11th September, 1863	7th May, 1866
The Right Honorable John Henry Thomas, Viscount Canterbury, K.C.B.	7th May, 1866 ...	15th August, 1866
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	15th August, 1866 ...	2nd March, 1873
Sir George Ferguson Bowen, G.C.M.G. §	3rd March, 1873 ...	19th March, 1873
Sir Redmond Barry, Kt. (acting) ...	31st March, 1873 ...	22nd February, 1879
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	3rd January, 1875 ...	10th January, 1875
The Most Honorable George Augustus Constantine, Marquis of Normanby, G.C.M.G., P.C.	11th January, 1875	14th January, 1876
Sir William Foster Stawell, Kt. (acting)	27th February, 1879	18th April, 1884
Sir Henry Brougham Loch, K.C.B.	18th April, 1884 ...	15th July, 1884
	15th July, 1884 ...	Still in office

22. Since Victoria has been an independent colony, the average time during which the Governors of Victoria, prior to Sir Henry Loch, not including the Acting Governors, have held office has been about four years and six months. Duration of Governorships.

23. During the twelve days between the 19th and the 31st March, 1873, the former being the day on which Sir W. F. Stawell left the colony, and the latter that on which Sir G. F. Bowen arrived; also during the five days between the 22nd and 27th February, 1879, the former being the day on which Sir G. F. Bowen left, and the latter Interregna in Victoria.

* For further information respecting the meteorological observations, not only for Melbourne, but also for other parts of the colony, see Part Vital Statistics, *post*. A chapter on Meteorology and Climate was given in the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1874.

† At the first of these dates Mr. La Trobe assumed the office of Superintendent of Port Phillip; at the second he became Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria.

‡ Sir Charles Hotham died at this date.

§ Sir G. F. Bowen was absent on leave from the 31st December, 1874, to the 14th January, 1876.

that on which Lord Normanby arrived, there was neither Governor nor Acting Governor in Victoria.

Governors of
Australasian
colonies.

24. The following are the names of the present Governors of all the Australasian colonies, and the dates of their assuming office :—

GOVERNORS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

Colony.	Name.	Date of Assumption of Office.
Victoria ...	Sir Henry Brougham Loch, K.C.B. ...	15th July, 1884
New South Wales	The Right Honorable Sir (commonly called Lord) Augustus William Frederick Spencer Loftus, G.C.B.	4th August, 1879
Queensland ...	Sir Anthony Musgrave, K.C.M.G. ...	6th November, 1883
South Australia ...	Sir William Cleaver Francis Robinson, K.C.M.G.	19th February, 1883
Western Australia	Sir Frederick Napier Broome, K.C.M.G.	5th June, 1883
Tasmania ...	Major Sir George Cumine Strahan, K.C.M.G.	7th December, 1881
New Zealand ...	Major-General Sir William Francis Drummond Jervois, R.E., G.C.M.G., C.B.	20th January, 1883

Ministries.

25. Since the inauguration of responsible government, twenty-two Ministries have held office in Victoria. The following are the names of the respective Chief Secretaries or Premiers, and the dates of their assumption of and retirement from office :—

MINISTRIES.*

Name of Premier.	Date of Assumption of Office.	Date of Retirement from Office.
1. William Clark Haines ...	28th November, 1855	11th March, 1857
2. John O'Shanassy ...	11th March, 1857 ...	29th April, 1857
3. William Clark Haines ...	29th April, 1857 ...	10th March, 1858
4. John O'Shanassy ...	10th March, 1858 ...	27th October, 1859
5. William Nicholson ...	27th October, 1859...	26th November, 1860
6. Richard Heales ...	26th November, 1860	14th November, 1861
7. John O'Shanassy ...	14th November, 1861	27th June, 1863
8. James McCulloch ...	27th June, 1863 ...	6th May, 1868
9. Charles Sladen ...	6th May, 1868 ...	11th July, 1868
10. James McCulloch ...	11th July, 1868 ...	20th September, 1869
11. John Alexander MacPherson ...	20th September, 1869	9th April, 1870
12. James McCulloch ...	9th April, 1870 ...	19th June, 1871
13. Charles Gavan Duffy ...	19th June, 1871 ...	10th June, 1872
14. James Goodall Francis ...	10th June, 1872 ...	31st July, 1874
15. George Briscoe Kerferd ...	31st July, 1874 ...	7th August, 1875
16. Graham Berry ...	7th August, 1875 ...	20th October, 1875
17. Sir James McCulloch, K.C.M.G.	20th October, 1875...	21st May, 1877
18. Graham Berry ...	21st May, 1877 ...	5th March, 1880
19. James Service ...	5th March, 1880 ...	3rd August, 1880
20. Graham Berry ...	3rd August, 1880 ...	9th July, 1881
21. Sir Bryan O'Loghlen, Bart. ...	9th July, 1881 ...	8th March, 1883
22. James Service ...	8th March, 1883 ...	Still in office

The names of the individual members of each Ministry are published yearly in Part I. of the *Statistical Register of Victoria*: Ferres, Melbourne.

26. Before the present Government assumed office, the average duration of Ministries had been about one year and three months. Duration of Ministries.

27. The present is the twelfth Parliament since the inauguration of responsible government in Victoria. The following table shows the number of Sessions in each Parliament, the dates of opening and of closing or dissolution :— Parliaments.

PARLIAMENTS.

Number of Parliament.	Number of Session.	Date of Opening.	Date of Closing or of Dissolution.
1	1	21st November, 1856 ...	24th November, 1857
	2	3rd December, 1857 ...	4th June, 1858
	3	7th October, 1858 ...	24th February, 1859
2	1	13th October, 1859 ...	9th August, 1859
	2	20th November, 1860 ...	18th September, 1860
3	1	30th August, 1861 ...	3rd July, 1861
	2	7th November, 1862 ...	11th July, 1861
	3	26th January, 1864 ...	18th June, 1862
4	1	28th November, 1864 ...	11th September, 1863
	2	28th November, 1864 ...	2nd June, 1864
5	1	12th February, 1866 ...	25th August, 1864
	2	11th April, 1866 ...	28th November, 1865
	3	17th January, 1867 ...	11th December, 1865
	4	18th September, 1867 ...	5th April, 1866
	5	25th November, 1867 ...	1st June, 1866
6	1	13th March, 1868... ...	10th September, 1867
	2	11th February, 1869 ...	8th November, 1867
	3	15th February, 1870 ...	25th November, 1867
	4	27th October, 1870 ...	30th December, 1867
7	1	25th April, 1871 ...	29th September, 1868
	2	30th April, 1872 ...	29th December, 1869
	3	13th May, 1873 ...	15th July, 1870
8	1	19th May, 1874 ...	29th December, 1870
	2	25th May, 1875 ...	25th January, 1871
	3	11th July, 1876 ...	23rd November, 1871
9	1	22nd May, 1877 ...	17th December, 1872
	2	9th July, 1878 ...	25th November, 1873
	3	8th July, 1879 ...	9th March, 1874
10	1	11th May, 1880 ...	24th December, 1874
	2	11th May, 1880 ...	7th April, 1876
11	1	22nd July, 1880 ...	22nd December, 1876
	2	4th August, 1881... ...	25th April, 1877
	3	25th April, 1882 ...	9th April, 1878
12	1	27th February, 1883 ...	6th December, 1878
	2	3rd July, 1883 ...	5th February, 1880
	3	10th June, 1884 ...	9th February, 1880

Duration of
Parliaments.

28. Parliaments in Victoria have existed, on the average, for two years and one month. Sessions have lasted, on the average, for nearly seven months.

Reigning
sovereigns.

29. The names of the reigning sovereigns or other rulers of the principal countries in the world, together with the years of birth and of succession to or assumption of office, are as follow:—

REIGNING SOVEREIGNS, ETC., 1883.

Country.	Name.	Year of Birth.	Office.	
			Title.	Year of Assumption of.
Great Britain & Ireland	Victoria I. ...	1819	Queen of Great Britain and Ireland	1837
Austria-Hungary	" " ... Franz Josef I.	" " 1830	Empress of India ... Emperor of Austria...	1877 1848
Belgium	" " ... Leopold II. ...	" " 1835	King of Hungary ... King of the Belgians	1867 1865
Brazil	... Pedro II. ...	... 1825	Emperor of Brazil ...	1831
Burma	... Theebaw ...	... 1858	King of Burma ...	1878
China	... Quang-Su ...	... 1871	Emperor of China ...	1875
Denmark	... Christian IX. ...	... 1818	King of Denmark ...	1863
Egypt	... Mohamed Tewfik	... 1852	Khedive of Egypt ...	1879
France	... F. P. J. Grévy...	... 1813	President of the French Republic	1879
Germany	... Wilhelm I. ...	... 1797	King of Prussia ... Emperor of Germany	1861 1871
Greece	" " ... Georgios I. ...	" " 1845	King of the Hellenes	1863
Holland	... Willem III. ...	... 1817	King of the Netherlands	1849
Italy	... Umberto I. ...	... 1844	King of Italy ...	1878
"	... Leo XIII. (Giachino Pecci)	... 1810	Supreme Pontiff ...	1878
Japan	... Mutsu Hito ...	... 1852	Mikado of Japan ...	1867
Montenegro	... Nicholas I. ...	... 1841	Hospodar of Montenegro	1860
Morocco	... Muley-Hassan	... 1831	Sultan of Morocco ...	1873
Persia	... Nassr-ed-Din ...	... 1829	Shah of Persia ...	1848
Portugal	... Luis I. ...	... 1838	King of Portugal ...	1861
Roumania	... Carol I. ...	... 1839	{ Domnul of Roumania { King	1866 1881
Russia	... Alexander III.	... 1845	Emperor of Russia ...	1881
Servia	... Milan I. ...	... 1854	{ Prince of Servia ... { King	1868* 1882
Siam	... Chulalonkorn I.	... 1853	King of Siam ...	1868
Spain	... Alfonso XII. ...	... 1857	King of Spain ...	1874
Sweden and Norway	... Oscar II. ...	... 1829	King of Sweden and Norway	1872
Tunis	... Sidi Ali ...	... 1817	Bey of Tunis ...	1882
Turkey	... Abdul-Hamid II.	... 1842	Sultan of Turkey ...	1876
United States	... C. A. Arthur ...	... 1830	President of the United States	1881

* This is the date of the Prince's succession to the throne, but he did not assume the government until 1872.

30. It will be observed that only one ruler—the Emperor of Germany—was born before the commencement of the present century; also that, with the exception of the Emperor of Brazil, who ascended the throne at the early age of 6 years, no monarch has reigned so long as the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland.

Oldest and longest reigning sovereigns.

PART I.—POPULATION.

31. The estimated population of Victoria at the end of 1883* was as follows:—

Population, 1883.

POPULATION, 31ST DECEMBER, 1883.

Males	...	...	...	...	...	...	493,084
Females	...	...	...	...	...	...	438,706
							<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	931,790
							<hr/>

32. This estimate has been made up by means of the numbers returned at the last census, with the addition of the excess of births over deaths and of arrivals over departures known to have occurred since the census was taken. For reasons,† however, which have often been stated in previous issues of this work, absolute reliance cannot be placed upon numbers thus obtained, the experience not only of Victoria but of the neighbouring colonies being that such estimates are usually, although not invariably, too high.‡

Estimates sometimes unreliable.

33. A partial check upon the periodical estimates of population in this colony is afforded by means of returns obtained from the municipal authorities, who at the time of making their valuations ought to ascertain the number of persons living upon each property rated. This is not always done correctly, and, besides, there are persons living upon properties which are not rated of whom the valuers sometimes omit to make an estimate. The aggregate population returned by the municipalities for 1883 was 907,835, which, with an allowance to bring it on to the end of the year and for districts not situated within the limits of any municipality, would give a total of 931,665, or 125 less than the estimate of this department.

Municipal estimate of population.

* The estimated population on the 31st March, 1884, was 938,937, viz., 497,450 males, and 441,487 females.

† These reasons are briefly as follow:—All the births are not registered; no account is kept of the arrivals and departures overland; the departures by sea are not all noted.

‡ When the census of 1881 was taken, it was found that estimates brought on from 1871 in the manner stated gave numbers too high by 67,437 for Victoria; by 29,952 for New South Wales; and by 14,225 for Queensland. On the other hand, in South Australia, the actual exceeded the estimated numbers by 10,354.—See Government Statist's Report on the Census of Victoria, 1881, Parliamentary Paper No. 39, Session 1883, paragraph 60 *et seq.*