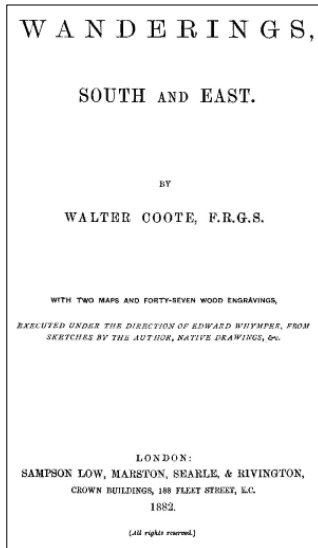


Wandering South and East

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W A N D E R I N G S,

SOUTH AND EAST.

BY

WALTER COOTE, F.R.G.S.

WITH TWO MAPS AND FORTY-SEVEN WOOD ENGRAVINGS,

*EXECUTED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF EDWARD WHYMPER, FROM
SKETCHES BY THE AUTHOR, NATIVE DRAWINGS, &c.*

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CHAPTER II.

NEW SOUTH WALES AND VICTORIA.

“The prosperity of a country depends, not on the abundance of its revenues, nor on the strength of its fortifications, nor on the beauty of its public buildings ; but it consists in the number of its cultivated citizens, in its men of education, enlightenment, and character ; here are to be found its true interest, its chief strength, its real power.”—*Martin Luther*.

I WISH to write a short chapter about Sydney and Melbourne, the two rival capitals of the Australian continent. I do not intend to draw comparisons, or pit the merits of one against those of the other. That is already too much indulged in by the inhabitants themselves who, I fear, have the minimum of neighbourly good-feeling.

Let us take Sydney first, as it is the elder city of the two. To steam into Port Jackson upon a sunny morning is an experience that the most blasé of travellers must enjoy. It is unnecessary for me to compare this land-locked bay with that of Rio de Janeiro or any other world-famed harbour ; it can stand upon its own merits, and is as fair a sight as one may see upon this earth of ours. There are no high mountains, nor is there any magnificent coup d’œil ; it is a simple and beautiful piece of water scenery, which, although it does not, as it were, take you by storm or astonish you with its magnificence, pleases and gratifies every visitor, whatsoever may be his tastes.

The distance from the narrow entrance to the city is five or six miles. It is a beautiful picture from whatever side you regard it. You are land-locked almost immediately

CHAPTER IV.

NORFOLK ISLAND.

“ It was a wild and breaker-beaten coast,
With cliffs above, and a broad sandy shore,
Guarded by shoals and rocks, as by a host,
With here and there a creek, whose aspect wore
A better welcome to the tempest-tossed ;
And rarely ceased the haughty billows’ roar,
Save on the dead long summer days, which make
The outstretch’d ocean glitter like a lake.”—*Byron*.

NORFOLK Island, lying in the Southern Pacific in S. Lat. $29^{\circ} 2'$ and Long. $167^{\circ} 58' E$, of Greenwich, was discovered by Captain Cook in 1774. It is six hundred miles from Auckland in New Zealand, and about nine hundred and fifty miles from Sydney, N.S.W. It appears to have been formed by the eruption of volcanic matter from the bed of the sea, and is estimated to contain about ten thousand acres. Until 1788 the island had remained uninhabited, but in that year a small number of convicts, with a party of marines, was sent from Australia. The convict establishment was finally withdrawn in 1855, and in the following year the inhabitants of Pitcairn’s Island (a mere dot in the Pacific, only four and a half miles in circumference), descendants of the *Bounty* mutineers, who had outgrown their diminutive home, were, at their own request, removed to Norfolk Island. The Melanesian Mission under Bishop Patteson, established its head-quarters on the island in the year 1866.

CHAPTER XV.

LABOUR AND TRADE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

. . . "En sorte que partout où on reconnaît la civilisation et les faits qui l'ont enrichie, on est tenté d'oublier le prix qu'il en a coûté."—*Guizot*.

OF the labour traffic carried on so largely between the islands and Queensland, Fiji and New Caledonia, I may perhaps say a few words now. I do not wish to make invidious comparisons between these three centres of labour importation. I will merely say that in my own opinion the abuses are greatest in New Caledonia, for the reason that the French Government has not taken even so much as the insignificant interest in the subject that our own authorities have indulged in. The labour trade is in a bad state everywhere, whether under French flag or English, and what is said here on the subject applies equally to all the colonies to which natives are taken. The question is a very difficult one to approach, chiefly because the moment any one attempts to point to the abuses that take place, he is put down as belonging to the sentimental and so-called "Exeter Hall" party, with whom truly one cannot have much patience. For my own part, I believe that we, as a civilised nation have no right to hire native men until we have first made them clearly understand what our terms of engagement are. At present the labour trade is merely a disguised slave trade. It is said the islanders are paid. Yes, but what does the pay amount to? Even if the

CHAPTER XVII.

FOOCHOW AND DISTRICT.

“The rocks are of that sort called Primitive by the mineralogists, which always arrange themselves in masses of a rugged, gigantic character, which ruggedness, however, is here tempered by a singular airiness of form and softness of environment. In a climate favourable to vegetation, the gray cliff, itself covered with lichens, shoots up through a garment of foliage or verdure, and bright cottages, tree-shaded, cluster round the everlasting granite. In vicissitude, Beauty alternates with Grandeur; you ride through stony hollows, along straight passes traversed by torrents, overhung by high walls of rock, now winding amid broken shaggy chasms and huge fragments, now suddenly emerging into some emerald valley, where the streamlet collects itself into a lake, and man has again found a fair dwelling, and it seems as if Peace had established herself in the bosom of Strength.”—*Sartor Resartus*.

FOOCHOW is the most delightful of the Chinese settlements; in natural attractions even Hong Kong cannot be compared with it: as a purely characteristic native city it is probably even more representative than Canton; and as a central point from which to make excursions to tea districts or temples or convents, it has no rival. There is also an amount of agreeable social intercourse in Foochow, which would be almost impossible in a larger place, and which is no doubt to a great extent due to the absence of strangers and visitors. People are not driven to exclusiveness by the number and importunity of travellers, and there are, moreover, none of the burning questions, political or otherwise, that so often in other communities give rise to ill feeling.

The entrance to the Min river is magnificently pic-

CHAPTER XXII.

PERU.

“ Nor tree, nor shrub, nor plant, nor flower,
Nor aught of vegetative power,
The weary eye can scan.”

I FEEL more inclined, in writing this chapter on Peru, to launch out into violent invectives against the Spanish nation in general, and Pizarro and the “Conquerors” in particular, than to calmly draw a sketch of the country as I found it on my visit in 1879. The Inca-land, if such an expression may be used, as described by the Spanish conquerors, and more especially by Las Casas, whose life has been recently written most admirably by Señor Fabié,* is such a Utopia, such a model of prosperity and, after its kind, wise government, one can but cry, “Ichabod, Ichabod” over the wreck of to-day, and turn again and vilify those intruders who have brought about such a woeful change. I have stood on a vantage point in the Andes and tried to picture to myself those by-gone days, the royal Inca, King, High Priest, Supreme Judge, “himself the State,” proceeding along the great highway, from palace to palace, with all the pomp of a western Solomon. The three great divisions of land were clearly marked out upon the plain, this for the Sun, that for the Inca, the other for the people, that last, the people’s land, looking like some vast chessboard with its

* ‘Vida de Bartholomé de Las Casas,’ 2 vols., Señor Fabié, Madrid, 1879.

CHAPTER XXIV.

MONTE VIDEO AND THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

“ And one a full-fed river winding slow
By herds upon an endless plain,
The ragged rims of thunder brooding low
With shadow-streaks of rain.”—*Tennyson*.

I HAVE always held that great rivers are a fraud. One thinks of them as majestic, broad-bosomed, imposing, even beautiful; they make a good figure on the map, and we read with awe in our geography books of the great Amazon and the great Mississippi.

I found out the Mississippi some years ago, seeing in it but a muddy “snag”-abounding, uninteresting wilderness of running water, and my faith in great rivers was shaken. The Rio de la Plata, however, has a fair-sounding name, and is more than usually conspicuous on the map—then perhaps it is an exception? I was soon disappointed in any hopes and confirmed in any suspicions I may have had, when coming on deck one most beautiful morning I found our vessel at anchor off Monte Video. We were lying out in the yellow, unlovely stream, five miles from the shore, and a fair city was shining prettily between us and the rising sun. This appeared as a great mass of churches, houses, and uneven structures of all shapes and sizes, indefinite, truly, in the distance, but singularly light and aerial as the morning sun flashed upon it a thousand tints of crimson and orange and gold. To the left of the city is to be seen the

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