

POLITICAL DIVISIONS.

THE first settlement in New South Wales, the oldest of the seven colonies of Australasia, was effected by an expedition under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip, who landed at Botany Bay on the 19th January, 1788, and formally took possession of the whole continent. Botany Bay being found unsuitable, the fleet was brought round to Port Jackson, and the city of Sydney founded on the 26th January of the same year. New South Wales was proclaimed a colony on the 7th of the following month, and its boundaries were defined as extending from Cape York, the northern extremity of Queensland, $10^{\circ} 37'$ south latitude, to South East Cape, the most southerly point of Tasmania, $43^{\circ} 39'$ south latitude, and from the 135th degree of east longitude to the east coast, including the adjacent islands. The boundaries thus defined include the whole of the territories now known as New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and Tasmania, and about half of the area of South Australia. Although the colony was originally a penal settlement, yet there was an influx of free immigrants from the first, and after the abolition of transportation in 1840 all traces of the penal element were rapidly lost. The Constitution Act of New South Wales was assented to on the 16th July, 1855, and proclaimed on the 24th November of the same year; and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 22nd May, 1856. The boundaries of the colony at the date of proclamation included that portion of the continent now known as Queensland, but did not take in Victoria, which had been made a separate colony in 1851.

Tasmania, formerly known as Van Diemen's Land, was colonised from New South Wales, and was intended to serve the purpose of a subsidiary penal settlement. Lieutenant Bowen, in charge of an expedition despatched from Sydney, took possession of the island on the 12th September, 1803, and formed a settlement on the east bank of the Derwent River, at Risdon; but the actual commencement of colonisation dates from February, 1804, when Lieutenant-Colonel Collins established himself at Sullivan's Cove, and laid the foundations of the present city of Hobart. The government was administered from Sydney until the year 1825, when, in

the month of December, Van Diemen's Land was duly constituted an independent province. In May, 1853, it was officially announced that transportation had ceased, and in the following year the name of the colony was changed from Van Diemen's Land to Tasmania. The Royal assent to the existing Constitution Act was proclaimed on the 24th October, 1855, and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 2nd December, 1856.

The foundation of the colony of Western Australia dates from the year 1826, when Major Lockyer landed at Albany in charge of an expedition from Sydney, consisting of a detachment of the 39th Regiment and a number of prisoners. In 1827 Captain Stirling arrived in H.M.S. *Success*, and explored the Swan River, with a view to establishing a permanent settlement on its banks; in June, 1829, Captain Fremantle landed near its mouth; and in the same year the town of Perth was founded. The Swan River Settlement, as it was known originally, was made a separate colony, under the name of Western Australia, on the 1st June, 1829, Captain Stirling being appointed the first Governor; and it remained a Crown colony under the direct control of the British Government until the 20th October, 1890. The present Constitution Act was assented to on the 15th August, 1890; it was proclaimed on the 21st October; and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 30th December in the same year.

The first attempt to settle Victoria was made in 1803. On the 7th October of that year Lieutenant-Colonel Collins arrived from England with the intention of founding in Port Phillip a convict settlement similar to that which had been established at Sydney. The expedition landed on the shores of Port Phillip, near Sorrento, and several explorations of the country were made, but in the course of a few months the attempt at colonisation was abandoned, as the place was believed to be unsuitable for settlement. For twenty years thereafter the District of Port Phillip continued to be neglected. In 1824 Hume and Hovell undertook an exploration of the territory to the south and west of the land then known to the settlers, reaching, it is believed, the western arm of Port Phillip, not far from the present town of Geelong. In 1826 another expedition, under Captain Wright, was sent from Sydney to form a settlement at Western Port, but returned by order of Governor Darling after one year's trial, although the reports of Hume and Hovell and of the officers of the military were favourable to a continuation of the occupation. The first permanent settlement was made in 1834, at Portland Bay, by Edward Henty. In May, 1835, John Batman arrived at Port Phillip from Launceston, Tasmania, and obtained from the aborigines tracts of land covering an area of 600,000 acres on the shores of Port Phillip and the banks of the Yarra, but these grants were afterwards disallowed by the Imperial Government. In August of the same year another party, under the leadership of J. P. Fawkner, also from Launceston, arrived in the Yarra, and formed a settlement on the site now occupied by the city of Melbourne. In 1836 Captain Lonsdale

was despatched from Sydney by Sir Richard Bourke, Governor of New South Wales. He bore the title of Resident Magistrate of the district of Port Phillip, and was accompanied by a party of soldiers and the civil officials necessary for the purpose of establishing regular government. In 1837 the Governor himself arrived from Sydney, and gave the name of Melbourne to the new settlement. Port Phillip was separated from the mother colony on the 1st July, 1851, and became an independent province under the name of Victoria. The Constitution Act was proclaimed on the 23rd November, 1855, and the first representative Parliament was opened on the 21st November, 1856.

South Australia was colonised in the year 1836, by immigrants who had arrived from England under the auspices of the South Australian Colonisation Company, and who, until a site for the settlement was chosen, remained at Kangaroo Island. Colonel Light, who was sent out to select a suitable spot for the first operations of the settlers, arrived in August, 1836, and after examining Nepean Bay, Port Lincoln, and Encounter Bay, decided upon establishing the capital where Adelaide now stands. Captain Hindmarsh, the first Governor, arrived at the close of the same year, and proclaimed the colony on the 28th December. At that date the western boundary was fixed at the 132nd meridian of east longitude, and the northern boundary at the 26th parallel of south latitude. The region between the 132nd meridian and the eastern boundary of Western Australia, viz., the 129th meridian of east longitude, although forming part of the territory legally belonging to New South Wales, was added to South Australia in 1861. The 26th parallel remained the limit of the colony until July, 1863, when the boundary was extended northward to the seaboard. The Act granting Responsible Government was proclaimed on the 24th October, 1856, and the first Parliament was opened on the 22nd April, 1857.

In 1831 a settlement was established by the Imperial Government at Port Essington, under Sir Gordon Bremer. It was principally used as a military post and as a harbour of refuge for distressed vessels, but after an occupation of nineteen years it was abandoned. In 1862 John M'Douall Stuart, a South Australian explorer, succeeded in crossing the continent from Adelaide to Adam Bay on the north coast. He represented the country as suitable for settlement, and application was accordingly made to the Imperial Government for permission to annex the whole of the territory lying between the 26° of south latitude and the seaboard, and the meridians of 129° and 138° east longitude. This tract of territory was formally granted to South Australia in July, 1863, and is now known as the Northern Territory of South Australia. In 1864 the first colonising expedition to the Northern Territory was despatched from Adelaide, a settlement being established at Escape Cliffs, Adam Bay; but as the locality was found unsuitable, the colonists, in 1870, removed to Port Darwin, which has since remained the official centre. The territory is represented in the South Australian Parliament,

and is administered by a Government Resident, who is directly responsible to the authorities at Adelaide.

The first attempt at colonisation in New Zealand was made in 1825, by an expedition under the command of Captain Herd, who bought two islands in the Hauraki Gulf and a strip of land at Hokianga ; but the attempt failed, owing to the savage character of the natives. Subsequently, a settlement having grown up at what is now called Russell, in the Bay of Islands, in consequence of the frequent visits of whaling-vessels, Mr. Busby, in 1833, was appointed British Resident there. In 1839 the New Zealand Land Company, which had been promoted in England, despatched a preliminary expedition to New Zealand for the purpose of treating with the natives for the purchase of land. The members of this expedition arrived in September of the same year, and established themselves at Port Nicholson ; and on the 21st January, 1840, the first body of immigrants arrived. Eight days later, Captain Hobson, R.N., arrived at the Bay of Islands, and on the following day the islands were placed under British rule, and became a dependency of New South Wales. On the 21st May of the same year the whole of the islands were declared to be under the sovereignty of Great Britain, and on the 3rd May, 1841, New Zealand was established a separate colony. Five immigrant-ships arrived in 1840, and settlements were made at Wellington and Auckland. By the treaty of Waitangi, which was signed on the 5th February, 1840, the native chiefs ceded the sovereignty of the islands to the British Crown. Disturbances, however, soon occurred between the Maoris and the white settlers, and for about a quarter of a century matters were in a more or less unsettled state. The chief events may be thus summarised :—The Wairau massacres occurred in June, 1843 ; rising headed by Honi Heki in July, 1844 ; rebellion of Wiremu Kingi in March, 1860 ; general war with the Maoris commenced in 1863 ; serious British reverses, including the Gate Pah disaster, in 1864 ; outbreak of the Hau-hau heresy in March, 1865 ; death of the chief, William Thompson, which practically closed the war, in 1867 ; rebellion under Te Kooti in November, 1868, which was not finally quelled until July, 1870 ; submission of the Maori King to the British Government in February, 1875. Constitutional Government was conferred on New Zealand in 1853, and a system by which the local governing power was vested in Provincial Councils, presided over by elective superintendents, continued until November, 1876, when it was abolished by an Act of the General Assembly, and Parliament took over the administration of all affairs other than those of a local character. The Constitution provides for two Houses of Legislature, as in the other Australasian colonies. The first session of the General Assembly was opened on the 27th May, 1854, but the members of the Executive were not responsible to Parliament. The first Ministers under a system of Responsible Government were appointed on the 18th April, 1856. In February, 1865, Wellington was established as the seat of government, and has remained so ever since.

Queensland, like Victoria, is an offshoot of New South Wales. In 1825 the first convict establishment was formed at Eagle Farm, in the Moreton Bay district. The penal settlement came to an end in the year 1842, and the district was proclaimed open to free settlement. From that date to December, 1859, the territory was under the control of the New South Wales Government, the local administration being entrusted to a Government Resident. Its separation from New South Wales took place in 1859, and its Constitution was proclaimed on the 10th December of that year. The first representative Parliament was opened on the 29th May, 1860.