

**LEAVES FROM A  
SQUATTER'S  
NOTE BOOK**

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Leaves from a squatter's note book by Thomas Major

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**THOMAS MAJOR**

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NOTE BOOK**



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Leaves from a Squatter's  
Note Book

BY

Thomas Major

LATE INSPECTOR OF RANGERS FOR THE N.S.W. GOVERNMENT



LONDON

SANDS & COMPANY

12 BURLEIGH STREET, STRAND

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TO THE  
AUSTRALIAN SQUATTER OF THE OLD SCHOOL

THIS BOOK IS DEDICATED.

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"HE WAS A MAN, TAKE HIM FOR ALL IN ALL,  
WE SHALL NOT LOOK UPON HIS LIKE AGAIN."

\* 133 3





## PREFACE.



WITHOUT the aid of fiction I have endeavoured to portray scenes and events which are vividly pictured in my memory. Often have I been tempted to throw down my pen in disgust, feeling my utter inability to form at its point words conveying even a shadow of the occurrence. Truth being often stranger than fiction, I rely on the *truth*, however inadequately expressed, and with anxiety await the verdict my chapters may receive.\*

THE AUTHOR.

\* Unfortunately the Author's death occurred before his work was in the press.



## INTRODUCTION.

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AUSTRALIAN squatting is sick unto death. For forty years I have followed its fortunes. It is nearly forty years since many of the events happened which I am about to relate. In years I was only a boy when, having arranged with a squatter to acquire colonial experience on his cattle station near Twofold Bay, the steamer *Waratah*, on her way to Melbourne, landed me and my trunk on the beach at Eden, my intention being to wait at Falconer's Hotel until the bullock dray from the station should fetch me. I have, therefore, known squatting in its highest vigour, in its decline, and in its death struggles.

Had I, like Rip Van Winkle, fallen asleep in the early fifties, and remained unconscious until this year of grace 1894, the Australian bush would now appear a *terra incognita* to me, so changed is it in every respect.