

**"GOD'S OWN COUNTRY"
AN APPRECIATION OF
AUSTRALIA**

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"God's own country" an appreciation of Australia by C. E. Jacomb

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C. E. JACOMB

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AN APPRECIATION OF AUSTRALIA

BY

C. E. JACOMB

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TO ALL
ENGLISH PUBLIC SCHOOL
AND UNIVERSITY MEN,
BUT ESPECIALLY TO ALL
HARROVIANS,
PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE,
I DEDICATE THIS BOOK.

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CHAPTER I

REALLY A PREFACE, BUT TOO INTERESTING TO BE
SKIPPED

“ IF the French have as great an aversion for travelling as the English have a propensity for it, both English and French have sufficient reason. Something better than England is everywhere to be found; whereas it is excessively difficult to find the charms of France outside France. Other countries can show admirable scenery, and they frequently offer greater comfort than that of France, which makes but slow progress in that particular. They sometimes display a bewildering magnificence, grandeur, and luxury; they lack neither grace nor noble manners: but the life of the brain, the talent for conversation, the ‘attic salt’ so familiar at Paris, the prompt apprehension of what one is thinking but does not say, the spirit of the unspoken, which is half the French language, is

nowhere else to be met with. Hence, a Frenchman, whose raillery as it is finds so little comprehension, would wither in a foreign land like an uprooted tree.

"Emigration is counter to the instincts of the French nation. Many Frenchmen, of the kind here in question, have owned to pleasure at seeing the Customs House officers of their native land, which may seem the most daring hyperbole of patriotism.

"This preamble is intended to recall to such Frenchmen as have travelled the extreme pleasure they have felt on occasionally finding their native land, like an oasis, in the drawing-room of some diplomat : a pleasure hard to be understood by those who have never left the asphalt of the Boulevard des Italiens, and to whom the Quais of the left bank of the Seine are not really Paris. To find Paris again ! Do you know what that means, O Parisians ? It is to find—not indeed the cookery of the Rocher de Caucale as Borel elaborates it for those who can appreciate it, for that exists only in the Rue Montorgueil—but a meal which reminds you of it ! It is to find the wines of France, which out of France are to be regarded as myths, and as rare as the women of whom I write ! It is to find—not the most fashionable pleasantry, for it loses its aroma between Paris and the frontier—but the witty understanding, the critical atmosphere, in which the French live, from the poet down to the artisan, from the Duchess to the boy in the street."