

**A SCHOOL
GEOGRAPHY OF
NEW ZEALAND**

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A school geography of New Zealand by D. Petrie

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D. PETRIE

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OF
NEW ZEALAND.

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P R E F A C E .

THE ready sale of the first edition of this little book has given the author the opportunity of placing before the public of New Zealand an improved issue, better adapted for use in Schools. The plan has not been modified, but the amount of matter included has been cut down by the omission of the account of the Australian Colonies. Great pains have been taken to secure accuracy of statement, and to present a full and faithful account of the present condition of the Colony. The author is greatly indebted to Mr. James M'Kerrow, Assistant Surveyor-General, for much valuable information most readily supplied; and also to Messrs. R. J. O'Sullivan, W. Colenso, and R. Lee, Inspectors of Schools in different parts of New Zealand, besides several other gentlemen interested in the subject.

DUNEDIN, 1880.

NEW ZEALAND.

POSITION OF NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND is a Colony of the British Empire, and lies in the south-western region of the Pacific Ocean, about 1,200 miles south-east of Australia, and 12,000 from Great Britain. It comprises the **North Island**, the **South Island**, and **Stewart Island**, with the small islands near their coasts; also the Chatham Islands, the Auckland Islands, Campbell Island, and Bounty and Antipodes Islands—all lying a considerable distance off. The Antipodes group is so named from its being nearly opposite to Great Britain.

The three main islands lie between $34^{\circ} 22'$ and $47^{\circ} 18'$ south latitude, and $166^{\circ} 27'$ and $178^{\circ} 34'$ east longitude.

AREA AND DIMENSIONS.

The area of New Zealand is 106,260 square miles, or somewhat less than that of Great Britain and Ireland, which is 121,878 square miles. The distance between the north and south extremities is about 1,100 miles, and the average breadth about 120, while no part is more than 75 miles from the coast.

The **South Island** is about 550 miles long, with a breadth of from 140 to 180 miles, and an area of 55,244 square miles; being nearly the size of England and Wales.

The **North Island** is about 550 miles long, with a greatest breadth of 280 miles, and an area of 44,736 square miles; being rather less than the area of England, exclusive of Wales.

Stewart Island is 30 miles long by 25 broad, and has an area of 1,300 square miles.

The coast line is about 3,000 miles in length.

Cook Strait—13 miles across at the narrowest part—separates the North and South Islands.

Foveaux Strait—about 15 miles across—separates the South Island from Stewart Island.

THE POLITICAL DIVISIONS.

The **Main Islands** are divided into **Provincial Districts**, which represent the former Provinces, and are subdivided into Counties.

The **South Island** contains five **Provincial Districts**, namely:—

(1.) **Marlborough**, in the North-east, subdivided into three Counties. Its chief town is **Blenheim**.

(2.) **Nelson**, south-west of Marlborough, touching the East, North, and West Coasts, and subdivided into seven Counties. Its chief town is **Nelson**.

(3.) **Canterbury**, south of Nelson, on the East Coast, subdivided into six Counties. Its chief town is **Christchurch**.

(4.) **Otago**, south of Canterbury, and including Stewart Island, subdivided into fourteen Counties. Its chief town is **Dunedin**.

(5.) **Westland**, west of Canterbury, forming a single County. Its chief town is **Hokitika**.

The **North Island** contains four **Provincial Districts**, namely:—

(1.) **Auckland**, occupying the North, subdivided into twenty-one Counties. Its chief town is **Auckland**.

(2.) **Hawke's Bay**, on the East Coast, subdivided into three Counties. Its chief town is **Napier**.

(3.) **Wellington**, occupying the South, subdivided into six Counties. Its chief town is **Wellington**.

(4.) **Taranaki**, on the West Coast, subdivided into two Counties. Its chief town is **New Plymouth**.

New Zealand thus contains 63 Counties, 32 of which lie in the North Island, and 31 in the South Island.

COAST FEATURES.

SOUTH ISLAND.

North of Nelson and Marlborough :—	the mainland, through which steamers can just pass when tide and weather are favourable.
Cape Farewell , from which a sand-bank, called Farewell Spit, extends a long way to the east.	Admiralty Bay.
Golden or Massacre Bay (here some of Tasman's sailors were killed by Natives).	Pelorus Sound , a picturesque branching inlet.
Tasman or Blind Bay . The French Pass, a narrow channel, between D'Urville Island and	Cape Jackson .
	Queen Charlotte Sound , a picturesque branching inlet.
	Tory Channet , the Eastern entrance to Queen Charlotte Sound.