

# **THE STORY OF AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION**

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The Story of Australian Exploration by R. Thynne

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**R. THYNNE**

**THE STORY OF  
AUSTRALIAN  
EXPLORATION**





NEAR KATOOMBA, BLUE MOUNTAINS.

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THE STORY OF  
AUSTRALIAN EXPLORATION.

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CHAPTER I.

*AN EXPLANATION.*

THOUGH brought up to the sea, I have more to say about land than water. My father bound me to a whaler, and away we went, on a three years' trip, to the great Southern Ocean. That is how I come to begin the following story of a boy's adventures in Australia. For, when the year's whaling season was over, it became our custom to put into Sydney to refit, and it was in one of these lying-by spells that I found my true vocation. Because, if ever there was an inveterate old explorer—always in an humble and subordinate way—I do believe I am that man, and no leader of an Australian expedi-

# TO VINU AUSTRALIA

tion ever thought his party complete unless he had Billy Boffin somewhere on his list. And yet it was by the merest accident I found my real bent, as I now proceed to explain.

Of course, you are to understand that I am not a boy now, and the Sydney I am referring to was not the place it is at the present time, for I am carrying myself back a matter of fifty years and more.

Not but the place would surprise you, even then. In fact, only for the blue sky over it, and the lovely orange groves creeping round the grandest bay in the world, you might say you were in a thriving English town. The Governor had a fine brick house to himself. There were gay shops too—"stores" we used to call them. But most of the townspeople had to put up with log huts—"wattle and dab" we used to call *them*. That does not seem very English-looking, you will say. No, I am rather alluding to the bustle and the business of the place. You might hardly believe it, that a lone spot—the only spot within thousands and thousands of miles of it where a white man lived—should have all this "go-a-headism" about it.

Stranger still, it wasn't the sheep and the wool, which came after. And, of course, it wasn't the gold, which, after the sheep and the wool, made

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