

**THE WESTERN PACIFIC: BEING A  
DESCRIPTION OF THE GROUPS OF  
ISLANDS TO THE NORTH AND  
EAST OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
CONTINENT**

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The western Pacific: being a description of the groups of islands to the north and east of the Australian continent by Walter Coote

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**WALTER COOTE**

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# THE WESTERN PACIFIC.

BEING

A DESCRIPTION OF THE GROUPS OF ISLANDS TO THE  
NORTH AND EAST OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
CONTINENT.

BY

WALTER COOTE, F.R.G.S.,

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IN THE MEDITERRANEAN," ETC.



WITH A MAP AND TWENTY-THREE ILLUSTRATIONS

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## PREFACE.

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THE attitude taken by the Australian Colonies with reference to the island-continent of New Guinea and the groups of islands in the Western Pacific, has taken England altogether by surprise. I venture also to think that the vast majority of English people find themselves entirely in the dark as regards the islands which it is proposed to annex. The present volume aims at giving some general idea of these islands from my own personal experience, and is mainly a reprint from a portion of a larger book of travel. The interest that has been so suddenly developed regarding this part of the globe has tempted me to add a few pages upon the subject of colonial extension in the Pacific, and I am hopeful that these, taken together with the accounts given of the various groups of islands, and the practices and abuses connected

with the Labour Traffic, will enable my readers to form a clear and accurate opinion upon a series of questions, which—if we may judge from the attitude of the Australian public, and the gradually awakening interest shown by political and philanthropic parties in England—bid fair to become of considerable importance at home as well as in Australia.

WALTER COOTE.

LONDON, *September, 1883.*



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