

**THE STATES OF THE RIVER  
PLATE: THEIR INDUSTRIES  
AND COMMERCE**

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The States of the River Plate: Their Industries and Commerce by Wilfrid Latham

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**WILFRID LATHAM**

**THE STATES OF THE RIVER  
PLATE: THEIR INDUSTRIES  
AND COMMERCE**



THE STATES  
OF  
THE RIVER PLATE:

THEIR  
INDUSTRIES AND COMMERCE.

SHEEP-FARMING, SHEEP-BREEDING, CATTLE-FEEDING, AND MEAT-PRESERVING;  
EMPLOYMENT OF CAPITAL; LAND AND STOCK, AND THEIR VALUES;  
LABOUR AND ITS REMUNERATION.

BY  
WILFRID LATHAM.

LONDON:  
LONGMANS, GREEN, AND CO.  
1866.

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## PREFACE.

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THE AUTHOR of this work presents it to the public, not as the production of a traveller, or with any pretension to the detail, interesting or amusing, which usually makes up works descriptive of foreign countries.

He presents himself as a plain thinker on subjects of material interest connected with the country in which he has resided or been in relation with for, more or less, twenty-four years, and in which there are settled a very large number of British subjects and their families, towards which there is a continuous stream of emigrants from Europe, a large portion of whom—especially those possessing small or moderate capitals—entertain most erroneous ideas of the country, its industries, and the work that is before

*Hynd gift 1938*

them ; between which and Great Britain there are very important commercial relations, and in which there is a very large British capital invested.

His object in writing this work has been truthfully and intelligibly to describe the country, its resources, and climate, with a view to its industries—pointing out various channels for the advantageous employment of capital, fields for labour, and its remuneration, and to usher in the dawn of a more advanced and more sound system of working those industries, by explaining the principles which should regulate the practice of parties engaged, or about to engage, in them ; and he claims from the ‘ lettered ’ public that consideration which they may fairly accord to a writer, whose daily avocations are the practice of the industries of which he treats.

BUENOS AYRES, 1866.

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# THE STATES OF THE RIVER PLATE.

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## PART I.

### GENERAL.

THE COUNTRIES of the River Plate or Rio de la Plata are those of the Banda Oriental or Republic of the Uruguay, a small state on the northern bank of the Estuary or Rio de la Plata, whose chief city and port is Montevideo; and the Argentine Republic, on the southern bank, extending south, west, and north, and comprising fourteen provinces, viz. Buenos Ayres, Santa Fé, Cordoba, Mendoza, San Juan, Santiago, Tucuman, Salta, Rioja, Catamarca, San Luis, Jujuy, Entre-Rios, and Corrientes; its chief city and port being Buenos Ayres.

The Banda Oriental lies on the southern limits of, and is bounded by, the Brazilian Empire; its eastern coast is washed by the Southern Atlantic, its southern shores by the River Plate, and its western by the magnificent river Uruguay—a semicircle of sea-board and navigable rivers.

The Argentine Republic extends south to the Indian territory and Patagonia, north to Bolivia and Paraguay;

and is bounded to the west, in its whole length, by the Cordillera; the Ocean, the River Plate, and the magnificent rivers Paraná and Uruguay constituting its other boundaries; the Paraná separating two of its provinces—Entre-Rios and Corrientes—from the rest; the River Uruguay separating the Argentine province of Entre-Rios from the Banda Oriental. These territories comprise a range of temperate climate, from that bordering on cold to the south, to the tropical to the north; with an extensive sea-board, and an internal and arterial system of rivers counted among the finest in the world.

A very extensive commerce is carried on between these countries and the various nations of Europe, North America, and the Brazils; and a very large and important interior or coasting trade, extending over hundreds of miles of river coast in the La Plata, Paraná, and Uruguay, where the great depth of water admits of vessels of considerable burthen and draft, the Paraná being navigable for over a thousand miles. Numerous vessels course these rivers, carrying passengers and goods; and their number is constantly augmented by steamers built here or brought from England or the United States.

The foreign commerce consists in imports of the staple productions of the various countries of Europe and America; England, France, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Italy, United States, Canada, and Brazil; cotton, woollen and silk goods, hardware, iron, wines, spirits, oils and fruits, lumber, tar, naval stores, sugar, rice, flour, furniture, jewellery, &c. &c.

The exports are chiefly of animal products, on which, in due course, I propose specially to treat. Minerals and vegetable products are also exported.

The delicious and salubrious climate, the extreme fertility of the soil, the wide range and capabilities of