

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE  
AND GRAZING IN NEW SOUTH WALES, AND  
OF SOME OF ITS MOST USEFUL  
NATURAL PRODUCTIONS, WITH OTHER  
INFORMATION, IMPORTANT TO THOSE WHO  
ARE ABOUT TO EMIGRATE TO THAT COUNTRY**

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An Account of the State of Agriculture and Grazing in New South Wales, and of Some of Its Most Useful Natural Productions, with Other Information, Important to Those Who Are About to Emigrate to That Country by James Atkinson

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**JAMES ATKINSON**

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NEW SOUTH WALES,

AND OF SOME OF  
ITS MOST USEFUL NATURAL PRODUCTIONS,  
WITH OTHER INFORMATION,  
IMPORTANT TO THOSE WHO ARE ABOUT TO EMIGRATE TO  
THAT COUNTRY,

THE RESULT OF SEVERAL YEARS' RESIDENCE AND  
PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE.

BY THE LATE  
JAMES ATKINSON, Esq.

SECOND EDITION,  
REVISED AND CORRECTED.

TO WHICH HAVE BEEN ADDED  
SOME USEFUL DATA AND REMARKS DERIVED FROM OTHER  
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## EDITOR'S PREFACE.

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WE believe that in re-publishing a part of the late Mr. ATKINSON'S Account of Agriculture and Grazing in New South Wales, we render an acceptable service to those who contemplate becoming colonists in that country. The work, when published in 1826, was deemed one of the most useful essays that had then appeared. Much, however, related to a state of things which no longer exists, and is now therefore omitted, and its place supplied by a graphic outline of the colony, from the pen of the present Governor, to be found in a despatch to the Secretary of State, and also by particulars obtained from other authentic sources. Not only has Agriculture made considerable progress in New South Wales since Mr. ATKINSON wrote on the subject, but the social condition of the Colonists has improved in other and no less important respects. At that period the number of European inhabitants of every age and class had not attained to 35,000;

it is believed now to exceed 155,000, of which, fully 80,000 have emigrated from the United Kingdom. So that in about seventeen years it has augmented more than four-fold. But, notwithstanding this extraordinary increase, perhaps unparalleled in the progress of any country, all the institutions of the colony, civil and religious, are keeping pace with the general advance of society.\* During the first twenty years from its foundation, the inhabitants had to struggle for a bare subsistence, and were greatly dependent on the mother country—but now, the mere necessaries of life far exceed in abundance the wants of the Colonists. They have bread, animal food, poultry, vegetables and fruits, for twice their present population, so that if means could be found for conveying to New South Wales the hard-working, but ill-requited, poor of the mother country, in numbers proportioned to the demand in the colony for their labour, they would find ample provision. It has been observed, that the population in the towns in New South Wales increases more rapidly than in other parts of the colony, particularly on the coast, owing in some degree, no doubt, to

\* See Appendix, page 178.

the introduction of steam navigation, which has afforded so much assistance to the internal trade of the country. The population resident in towns, at the census of 1841, was 125 per cent. more numerous than in 1833, which illustrates a principle in the economy of Australia but imperfectly understood, namely, that dispersion leads in that country to very rapid concentration. "As population spreads into the remote interior—the true mine of colonial wealth—new townships spring up spontaneously; these again, as their inhabitants increase, contribute to a still wider penetration into 'the regions beyond;' and thus, by an easy, but vigorous system of action and reaction, diffusion and centralization are simultaneously promoted, so that by their combined operation, this splendid wilderness will be transformed into a series of domestic circles, to become hereafter large and flourishing communities. This seems to be the order in which it is designed by Providence that civilized man in this new world of spontaneous pasturage, shall 'be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it.' "\*

The sea coast of New South Wales is almost

\* Mansfield's Census of New South Wales.