

**DISEASED COMMUNITIES;
AUSTRALIA,
NEW ZEALAND AND**

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Diseased communities; Australia, New Zealand and by Thomas J. Diven

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THOMAS J. DIVEN

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AUSTRALIA,
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DISEASED COMMUNITIES.

Australia, New Zealand

AND

BY
THOMAS J. DIVEN

AUTHOR OF

"AZTECS AND MAYAS"

AND

"THE 20TH CENTURY PHILOSOPHER"

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J. M. 10-9-86

CHAPTER I.

Australia—The Country.

Australia is an individual continent lying south of the equator, west of the 180th degree of longitude. Its length east and west is, roughly speaking, about 2,500 miles; its breadth, 2,000. Its northern limits are within ten degrees of latitude south of the equator, its southern limits about forty, so that it covers a range of climate from Chicago to Panama. In area it is about the size of the United States, excluding Alaska, or nearly that of Europe with its more than 300 millions of people. It is all an English colony, under one government, with individual states much like the United States. With the exception of an inconsiderable number of aborigines who cut no figure whatever, a very few Chinese and Hindoos, the inhabitants are all white, Europeans

who speak only English, are Christians, and overwhelmingly Protestant. So that the Australians have no boundaries conterminous with that of another race with different color, language, and largely different religion, as in our case with Mexico; or the same boundary with the outpost of a jealous foreign power, as in our case with Canada, where its chief statescraft lies in fitting canals to our great lakes so that in case of war with England that country could, within two weeks, take possession of and reduce to ashes, or levy tribute, on Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Detroit, Duluth, Milwaukee and Chicago. To digress a little, while the last statement seems big I have never heard it questioned by any politician in the country since the elder Carter H. Harrison, thirty years ago while mayor of Chicago, made the first determined effort to meet that problem by opening the ship canal to New Orleans, which step was then, as it is now, blocked by the jealousy of the railroads. Nor will it be solved so long as the great wealthy state of Illinois elects representatives who are pledged to block the scheme by the well-known political process of "queering" as I was informed was the case

by United States officials several years ago in Washington.

So that, aside from the inevitable problems arising to all the human race, front to front with all the forces and laws of nature, beneficent only when we understand them, the Australians have only social questions to consider. They have no defense problem other than that which occurs to all of Greater Britain. They have no race problem like our negro question, which problem the Australians are so fond of throwing in our faces, which matter, however, the writer, who thinks he is as well informed on that subject as any man in the country, does not even consider a problem, but which, however, he considers a greater question in South Africa than even the Boor question.

The religious question with them is purely academic. That question the chief and most disturbing political problem in British America, the vital and overwhelming and insoluble problem to the European colonies in North Africa, the question which looms up so portentously on our horizon as our people are destined to become overwhelmingly Catholic or infidel, does not cause them, and need not cause them, a moment's reflection. And yet

in no country in the world except Canada is that question, Protestantism vs. Catholicism, fought over so bitterly, as shown in the correspondents' columns of the Australian newspapers.

So that "Down Under", "The Underworld", or "The Colony", as they are fond of calling the great continent of Australia, is a clear field where the people of British blood, language and religion, have a chance untrammelled by adverse circumstances to work out what is best in them, and they think what is in them is the best there is on earth. So that if there be any falling off in any particular they must bear, without modification, palliation or excuse, the full blame for their shortcomings.

Like the Jews of old, they think they are the particular pets of God Almighty who watches over them with more care and affection than the rest of the human race. In fact, they talk and write as though they had a proprietary interest in Him, that they are His only legitimate children, while the rest are bastards who are only allowed to exist at all as a great condescension. Wherein they are deficient, they cannot throw the blame upon the slavery question, the civil war, the negro question, the vot-