SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE: WITH REMARKS
ON THE PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE
PROSPECTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES, AND
PRACTICAL ADVICE TO EMIGRANTS OF
VARIOUS CLASSES: TO WHICH
IS ADDED A SUMMARY OF THE ROUTE HOME
BY INDIA, EGYPT, &C.

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Sydney and Melbourne: With Remarks on the Present State and Future Prospects of New South Wales, and Practical Advice to Emigrants of Various Classes: To Which is Added a Summary of the Route Home by India, Egypt, &c. by Charles John Baker

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CHARLES JOHN BAKER

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CHARLES JOHN BAKER, Esq.

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PREFACE.

THE Author of the following pages, when contemplating emigration to one of the Australasian colonies, experienced some difficulty in deciding between them; and he believes that other persons have felt greater hesitation, whilst many have been so perplexed by the rival pretensions of these distant Settlements, and so distrustful of the puffs which have been put forward in favour of each, and so fearful of making a wrong decision, that they have altogether abandoned their intention of emigrating, or have deferred its execution until the opportunity has been lost. In acting upon the decision to which he himself came in favour of Port Phillip, the Author sought in vain for useful and practical information on many subjects connected with the colony, the voyage, and the outfit, the want of which exposed him to great trouble and expense.

To relieve the future emigrant from much embarrassment, arising from the same causes, the Author has ventured to publish the result of his experience. This involved the necessity of giving some account of his own doings and journeyings in the colony, which, though it may carry with it some interest to a large circle of friends, yet would not otherwise have been committed to writing, much less to print. He has, however, confined the relation of his own proceedings to circumstances either necessary to give connection to the work, or calculated to impart information not contained in other publications.

The Author would deeply regret being the means of inducing any individual to emigrate under erroneous impressions gathered from the following pages; and he, therefore, cautions his readers not to allow their judgments to be influenced, without a careful perusal of the whole work, and weighing one passage with another.

The names of private individuals will be found occasionally mentioned; but every expression which might possibly give offence, or hurt the feclings of any one, has been carefully avoided; and for the harmless introduction of particular names, it is hoped that a general apology will be readily accepted.

In conclusion, the reader is forewarned that he

must not look here for any general or detailed account of New South Wales as a whole; the Author's residence in the colony was too clouded by domestic misfortune, and too limited, to enable him to enter upon such a work, even had he entertained the wish to do so, or had the field not been already fully occupied. He trusts, however, that the following pages will not be altogether valueless in the practical advice they contain to emigrants-in their plain unvarnished description of life in Australia, so far as the Author's own experience has enabled him to give; and in the remarks and suggestions with which they are interspersed. It is right, however, to add, that a much more complete work would have been published, had the intention to write been originally entertained. Notes might then have been made upon various subjects, which are now too faintly remembered to commit to print with any assured accuracy.

CHARLES JOHN BAKER.

 Verezam Buildings, Gray's Lee, April, 1845.

Note.—Besides directing attention to the Map, it may be well to mention, that the title of "Port Phillip" has been in common use extended from the harbour of that name to the whole province of Australia Felix—that Port Phillip, or Australia Felix, is the most southern district of the colony of New South Wales; whilst New South Wales itself is a portion of the Island of Australia, or as it is called by some, from its vast extent, and its containing various other colonies or settlements, the Continent of Australia; and that Australia is the principal member of Australasia, or the Australasian group, which comprises also Van Diemen's Land, New Zealand, and the other adjacent Islands.

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