a copper coin was issued by the government. The colony was at this time governed by general orders issued by the government. Captain King does not seem to have been adequate to the magnitude of the trust committed to him. He quitted the colony in August 1806, and was succeeded by Captain Bligh, who was even less qualified than his pre­decessor. He had given ominous proofs of his incapacity when he acted as commander of the Bounty, where by his tyrannical conduct he provoked the men to a mutiny ; and his selection for the delicate task of rearing up this infant colony, by providing for its various interests, fostering the industrious, repressing the unruly, and discouraging and reclaiming the profligate, evinced a marked indifference to its welfare, which merits decided condemnation. His ad­ministration produced exactly the consequences which might have been expected. So unwarrantable was his tyranny, and especially his persecution of one influential person, not­ed alike for his public spirit and for his private virtues, that the colonists, with all the honest indignation of freemen, de­clared against his authority ; and being aided by the officers and men of the New South Wales corps, they deposed him, and marching up to the government-house, they dragged him from his concealment behind a bed, and carefully pro­tecting his person and property, sent him on board a sloop of war, in which he set sail for Europe, after he had been governor for eighteen months. He was succeeded by Ge­neral Macquarrie, on the 1st January 1810 ; the government having in the mean time, from 1808 to December 1809, been successively administered by Lieutenant-colonels John­stone, Foveaux, and Colonel W. Patterson. During the government of General Macquarrie, which lasted for twelve years, the settlement made great progress in wealth and improvement. The population was increased by the influx of numerous convicts, and some new settlers ; though it was not till a later period that the full tide of emigration began to set in towards New Holland. By aid from the British treasury, many public buildings were erected, roads were constructed, and the colonists, compelled by a season of drought in 1813, and animated by the spirit of discovery, made their way over the barrier of the Blue Mountains, hi­therto deemed impassable. It was in search of new pastur­age, and by following the course of the Grose river, that a pass was at last found, and a road commenced in the follow­ing year, over this mountain range, whose summits were considered by the aborigines to be inaccessible, and who often declared that there was no pass into the interior.@@1 One great principle of Governor Macquarrie’s administration was to encourage and bring forward the convict population. It was his maxim to consider the European life of every con­vict as past and forgotten ; their arrival on the shores of Australasia as a new era in their existence, in which the er­rors of the past might be entirely redeemed. It was a most enlightened and benevolent policy; and if he erred in carry­ing it into effect with too little discretion, as was alleged, it was the error of a generous mind. Under his rule the convicts were patronised ; some were chosen to be magis­trates ; he conferred on others colonial situations of trust, along with liberal grants of land. But his further endea­vours to introduce into respectable society those who had been branded as felons, were opposed by the invincible an­tipathies of the European settlers, who, though they agreed in countenancing and rewarding good conduct in the con­vict population, could not be persuaded that any after-purity of life could thoroughly efface their original disgrace. To force them into the society of men of honour and character, was therefore a vain and useless attempt. Such an intermixture of classes could only be effected by the debasement of Euro­pean manners, and by lowering the moral tone of society in the colony. Those who have been transported for felony

can hardly ever aspire to the distinction that belongs only to moral worth. They may and ought to be treated kindly and indulgently ; but a certain degree of disgrace attaches to their crimes, from which they cannot be freed ; and it could hardly be expected that the new settlers would lay aside all at once their European prejudices in New Hol­land, and associate on familiar terms with men whose so­ciety they would have abhorred in Britain.

Sir Thomas Brisbane, a man of science and talent, suc­ceeded General Macquarrie in 1821. His successor, Ge­neral Darling, also possessed ability, but he was too jea­lous of the comments of the press, and involved himself in disputes and difficulties, some arising from his own indis­cretion, others from the intemperate violence of his op­ponents. The present governor, General Bourke, has en­deavoured to steer a middle course between these extremes, and has encountered opposition from both parties.

The British settlements in New South Wales were at first along Port Jackson and the Hawkesbury river. They have since extended backward into the country, and across the Blue Mountains, long deemed the barrier of the colony. They are divided into the following nineteen counties, name­ly, Cumberland, Camden, St Vincent, Northumberland, Gloucester, on the sea-coast ; Durham, Hunter, Cook, West­moreland, Argyle, Murray, farther into the interior; and still farther westward, Brisbane, Bligh, Philip, Wellington, Rox­burgh, Bathurst, Georgiana, King. These nineteen comprise all the counties that have already been settled. They ex­tend along the coast about 250 miles, and into the interior 180 miles. These nineteen counties, with the exception of Cumberland, Argyle, and Bathurst, have been but very im­perfectly explored.

On the sea-coast, along which the great Southern Ocean rolls its tremendous surge, the country is bold and rugged, and for five or six miles from the coast it wears in some parts a bleak and barren aspect ; the soil is poor and swampy, and clothed with stinted trees. In other parts, however, the country on the coast, as at Illawarra in Camden, a mari­time county to the north of Cumberland, has a different aspect ; being, as described by Martin, romantic and beau­tiful, adorned with tall ferns, umbrageous cedars, graceful palm trees, with numerous creeping vines, throwing around in wild luxuriance their flowery tassels, here and there interspersed with flights of red-crested black cockatoos and purple couries, which present to the spectator the appearance of some tropical region, with the opposite pro­perty of a temperate climate. Beyond the girdle of the coast the country begins everywhere to improve, extend­ing in gentle undulations for ten miles, clothed with stately forests, which, where cultivation has made progress, are diversified with farms and tenements, and intersected by broad and excellent turnpike roads. The forest is extremely thick, but there is little or no underwood. A poor kind of grass, which is too effectually sheltered from the rays of the sun to be possessed of any nutritive qualities, shoots up at intervals. This description of country, with few exceptions, forms another girdle of about ten miles in breadth, so that, generally speaking, the colony, for about sixteen miles into the interior, possesses a soil by no means fertile, but requir­ing both skill and industry to render it productive. At the distance however of twenty or twenty-five miles from the coast, the country begins greatly to improve.

To the northward, in about 28° south latitude, and se­venty-seven miles from the settlement on Brisbane river, the country stretches out into vast plains, with rising downs, at an elevation of about 1800 feet above the level of the sea. They consist of a rich black and dry soil, timbered, and covered with the most luxuriant herbage, interspersed here and there with valleys, open woodlands, and forests. The

@@@, See History of Australasia, by R. Montgomery Martin, F. S. S.