

Colonization of Australia (1829-42) - the Wakefield experiment in empire building.

Dawsons - Wakefield, Edward Gibbon (1796)



Description: -

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Colonial history seriescolonization of Australia (1829-42) - the Wakefield experiment in empire building.

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The Colonization of Australia (1829)

As a visitor to this country I think it only right to record my appreciation of the courteous treatment which I have uniformly received from officials in the various libraries which I have had occasion to use, especially those of the British Museum, the Public Record Office, the Colonial Office, the Royal Colonial Institute, and the British Library of Political Science at the London School of Economics.

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Up to the beginning of the nineteenth century, Britain had, in dealing with the colonies, almost invariably followed one consistent line of policy in regard to government. Manuscript notes for letters to the people of Spain, entitled. But he had left office in 1828, with others of Huskisson's followers and, after some discussion, mainly by opponents, the Bill did not reach a second reading.

The Colonization of Australia (1829)

Wakefield declared in 1831, and repeated in 1833, and in 1836, that the colonists had asked for convicts, and he treated the request as an admission of the want of labour. The governor took another 100,000 acres, another person took 80,000 acres; and the dispersion was so great that, at last, the settlers did not know where they were; that is, each settler knew that he was where he was, but he could not tell where anyone else was; and, therefore, he did not know his own position. These paupers were settled in Canada on the same terms as those of 1823, but at the slightly less cost of £20 per head.

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It will show, too, the easy style and deftness of touch which, at the time, created such an impression, and which makes his book even now a delight to read.

Wakefield, Edward Gibbon (1796)

In this respect pauper-location was as much a deterrent as transportation. In support of his proposal, he urged their value as agriculturists and the difference between them and the ordinary convicts. After touching at Cape Town the *Parmelia*, with

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Stirling's ship, the *Parmelia*, went ashore, and several others became wrecks. One feels, however, that Wakefield wrote under incomparably better intellectual conditions than Mill. Indeed, they expressed their opinion of him in no measured terms.

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