

STEPHENS'S HISTORY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

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THE HISTORY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA; including particulars descriptive of its soil, climate, aboriginal inhabitants, natural productions, &c., and proofs of its superiority to the other British Colonies; embracing a full account of the South Australian Company, with hints to the various classes of Emigrants, and numerous letters from settlers concerning wages, provisions, their satisfaction with the Colony, &c., &c. By JOHN STEPHENS.

The following are some of the opinions of the Press:—

[From the *Atlas*.]

A second edition of a work full of valuable practical details, and indispensable to the emigrant who selects South Australia as the scene of his expatriation.

[From *Bell's Weekly Messenger*.]

This is a second edition of a work which is exceedingly useful to that large class of persons to whom it is addressed—the emigrants in search of settlements in other lands. It appears to us one of the best practical works of the kind.

[From the *Birmingham Advertiser*.]

Mr. Stephens appears to have been careful in selecting from the mass of information at his disposal, only that portion for the authenticity of which he could safely vouch.

[From the *Birmingham Journal*.]

The object of Mr. Stephens, as set forth in his title-page, is to give a full, true, and particular account of all that is worth recording, in respect to the rise and condition of the new settlement; and he has fulfilled his task to the letter, passing nothing over which an emigrant could possibly require to know.

[From the *Champion*.]

We observe no attempt at gloss and misrepresentation. The subject is one full of interest, and it appears to be handled by the author in a spirit of good faith.

[From the *Charter*.]

The facts adduced by Mr. Stephens are arranged under twenty-one chapters, comprising every species of information and reasoning that can well be looked for in such a work, expressed in a style of great clearness and precision. The chapter devoted to the natives will be found, it appears to us, as interesting as anything in "Cook's Voyages."

[From the *Christian Advocate*.]

It is undoubtedly the fullest and fairest work on the subject. It contains information on every question which the intending emigrant can desire to be made acquainted with, and that of the most recent date. Adopting a methodical arrangement well calculated to assist the inquirer, Mr. Stephens has explored every public source of knowledge, and digested whatever was essential to his purpose; besides which, he appears to have had access to some sources not open to any other writer. He has steered clear of both parties which have been formed in reference to the colony; neither yielding to the prejudices of the one, nor adopting altogether the prepossessions of the other, but yet, after duly weighing all that can be said for and against, assigning to the favourable evidence a vast preponderance. The facts of the case, however, are so amply given, and so lucidly arranged, that it is open to every reader to form his own independent opinion. Separate chapters are devoted to a description of the colony, its constitution, the disposal of the land, the climate and the seasons, the nature and qualities of the soil, the natural productions of the country, the aboriginal inhabitants, South Australia as compared with other colonies, its foundation, progress, the regulations for its government, its religious institutions, wages, provisions, the testimony of colonists, the South Australian Company, hints to emigrants, and other matters. From this glance at the contents, the comprehensiveness of the work is evident. In short, it is the book which every one ought to see before deciding on going out to South Australia, or whether he has decided on going out or not.

Also, lately published by the same Author, Second Edition, 8vo, stitched, Price 1s. 6d. **AN EXPOSURE OF THE ABSURD, UNFOUNDED AND CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS IN JAMES'S** so-called "SIX MONTHS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA."

[From the *Christian Advocate*.]

Mr. Stephens, author of "The History of South Australia," has published a pamphlet which he entitles "An Exposure of the Absurd, Unfounded, and Contradictory Statements in James's 'Six Months in South Australia.'" Mr. Stephens's method is that of placing in parallel columns those portions of Mr. James's book in which his statements of opinions are at variance with each other; and certainly he has produced numerous instances of irreconcilable contradiction, such as cannot fail to shake the confidence of the reader in the testimony of Mr. James whose object seems to be to disparage the new colony.

[From the *London Dispatch*.]

This is a harsh character to give to any work; yet the errors which Mr. Stephens points out are so uncommon and so extraordinary, that we are forced to allow Mr. James to be a careless and inconsistent writer.

[From the *Western Times*.]

If evidence out of a man's own mouth ever wrought his condemnation, it has done so in the present instance. The sweeps of Mr. Stephens's dissecting knife are many, but they are not too numerous, and have, each one, laid bare some mal-organization or deformity.

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THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE OPINIONS OF THE PRESS:—

[From the *Sun*, Nov. 14.]

We recommend this volume to the attention of all Billiard Players, for it is the completest work of the sort in any language, being, in addition to its rules and regulations, embellished with nearly one hundred Plates illustrative of the different strokes of the Game.

[From the *Court Journal*, Nov. 16.]

In this treatise, the most lucid and comprehensive, we imagine, that has ever appeared on the subject, the noble Game of Billiards is scientifically explained, and practically set forth in a series of novel and extraordinary strokes; and illustrated by numerous appropriate diagrams. We happen to know that Her Majesty, the Queen, has been most graciously pleased to accept a copy presented by Mr. Thurston, the Proprietor. Her Majesty, moreover, has been pleased to order a copy of the Work for the use of the Royal Billiard-room in Windsor Castle. The diagrams are inestimably useful. Not a Billiard-room in the empire ought to be without a copy.

[From the *Literary Gazette*, Nov. 23.]

The ample title-page so fully explains the design of this costly work, that we have little else to do than notice the manner of its execution. To say that it deserves great praise is no more than its merits demand. The letter press is sanctioned by the name of the highest authority on the subject of Billiards, for the player is not to be found who can contend with Edwin Kentfield, or as he is better known, with "Jonathan" of Brighton, who has long been confessed to stand alone in having reduced the game to the greatest mathematical certainty. The illustrations, ninety-five in number, are executed with much spirit and fidelity. The work, as a whole, is highly creditable to the enterprise of the Proprietor, Mr. Thurston; and we have no doubt it will become the standard for reference in every Billiard-room in the kingdom.

[From the *Courier*, Dec. 3.]

This is a beautiful work, got up in a style which reflects great credit on all parties concerned in it. The Proprietor's address, which is prefixed as an additional preface to the work, so well advocates the game, and is so well deserving of perusal as an excellent piece of writing, that we have extracted it entire for the gratification of our readers.

[From the *Morning Post*, Dec. 12.]

This, if not a "book of beauty," is certainly a book of magnificence: "a royal road" to the geometrical Game of Billiards. We have not only a treatise scientific and practical, with the rules and description of twenty two different games, but ninety-three splendid folio diagrams illustrative of all the strokes and hazard coups and canons which can possibly be made in the eighteen different games played in England. The scale of these diagrams appears to us rather exuberant. The instructions are very clear and precise. We have no doubt it will become a standard work for reference. Prefixed to the work is a very well-written Address "on the merits" of Billiards, by Thurston, of Catherine-street, (who it appears is the proprietor of the work, as well as of the improved Slate Tables, and of caoutchouc cushions) in which its preëminence even over chess is asserted, on the score of the opportunities of bodily exercise and sociable converse which it affords.

[From the *Polytechnic Journal*, March, 1840.]

The present treatise on Billiards is the first of modern date, which takes the course in which such a work ought to proceed, while it sufficiently explains the theory of the strokes it describes, to give confidence to players endeavouring to perform them, it still does not build upon theory alone; nor does it attempt to amuse and astonish the reader, by giving directions for the performance of mere tricks or fanciful strokes, of no practical utility in the game. The work explains a great variety of positions of the balls on the Table, and the different hazards and canons which may be most advantageously attempted; it gives directions for the performance of these, illustrated by numerous diagrams of extreme practical utility; and we may almost venture to say that there are few junctures in this fascinating and healthy game, to which some one or other of these diagrams will not be applicable. The work must be seen to be duly appreciated; and we venture to say that few, if any strokes, that are valuable to the player, are omitted in the numerous plates which embellish the volume. Even were we not aware of the fact, there is ample evidence that it comes from a first-rate hand, and will naturally be considered as a requisite *addendum* to all Billiard Tables, and an invaluable book of reference to the aspiring player.

London: SMITH, ELDER, and Co., Cornhill; sold also by the Proprietor, JOHN THURSTON, at his Petrosian Billiard Table Manufactory, 14, Catherine Street, Strand; and may be had of all Booksellers.

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THE MONTHLY LAW MAGAZINE, for JUNE 1840.

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