



BEN LOMOND, TASMANIA.

TASMANIA.

Tasmania, or Van Diemen's Land (115,700), is an island lying to the south-east of Australia, from which it is separated by Bass's Strait. It is nearly as large as New Brunswick. The surface is hilly, and the coast indented with fine bays and harbors. The climate is mild and healthy, and the soil fruitful. Area, 26,215 square miles.

Hobart Town (21,000), the capital, is on the River Derwent, which flows into Storm Bay, on the south-east of the island. It is beautifully situated, being surrounded by hills.

Launceston is on the north side of the island, on the River Tamar, which flows into Bass's Strait.

NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand consists of two large islands and several smaller ones, lying about 1,100 miles south-east of Australia. The larger islands are called *North Island* and *South Island*, and are separated by Cook's Strait. *Stewart Island* is small, and is separated from South Island by Poveaux Strait. The area, 106,260 square miles, is about the same as that of Great Britain and Ireland. Along the west coast of both of the large islands extends an elevated chain of mountains, many of their peaks being covered with perpetual snow. *Mount Egmont*, in North Island, is over 8,000 feet high; other peaks rise to a higher elevation, culminating in *Mount Cook* (13,200), in the South Island. There are a number of small rivers, some of them navigable. The climate is mild and healthy, and the soil fertile, producing most of the grains and fruits of Southern Europe. The taro, sweet

potato, and flax are cultivated, and sheep are extensively raised for their wool.

The population is about 490,000, of which 55,000 are natives. These are called Maories, and are of the Malay race—a tall, well-formed, intelligent race, brave and determined in war, in which they have been often engaged with the British colonists.

New Zealand is divided into nine provinces. In North Island are *Auckland*, with a capital of the same name; *Taranaki*, with *New Plymouth*, the chief city; *Hawke's Bay*, capital, *Napier*; and *Wellington* (about 22,000), with *Wellington* for its capital. In South Island are *Marlborough*, with *Blenheim* and *Picton*; *Nelson*, with *Nelson*, the chief place; *Canterbury*, with *Christchurch*; *Otago*, with *Dunedin*, near which are valuable gold fields, *Riverton*, *Intercargill*, and *Westland*.

Norfolk Island, to the north of New Zealand, was formerly a penal settlement, but it now belongs to the Pitcairn Islanders.

Chatham, *Antipodes* (so called from being the land most nearly opposite to Great Britain in the southern hemisphere), *Auckland*, and other islands to the south-east of New Zealand, are stations for the South Sea whale and seal fishery.

PAPUA, or NEW GUINEA.

Papua, or New Guinea, next to Australia and Greenland the largest island on the globe, is situated to the north of Australia, from which it is separated by Torres Strait. It lies directly under the equator.