

most populous part of Australia is the southeast. Here are low mountains in which large quantities of gold are found ; and a broad, rich plain, with a fine river, called the *Murray*, flowing through it.

5. There are some things very curious about Australia. What would you think of seeing animals like the kangaroo, which, instead of walking squarely on four feet, as others do, goes hopping about on the tail and the two long hind legs? And what would you think of seeing a forest of trees whose tough bark splits and falls off every year, instead of the leaves; and of others, covered with leaves, yet making not much more shadow than if they had none, because the edge of the leaf is toward the light?

6. When white people first went to this continent, they found hardly any plants which they could use for food. But seeds have been taken there from other countries ; and now fields of wheat and corn and other grains, with orchards of peaches, pears, apples, and other fruits, grow in many parts. There are also plantations of cotton ; but there are not enough farmers to plow and plant all the rich plain, and therefore much of it is used for the pasturage of sheep and cattle.



Kangaroo and Lyre Bird.