

be derived from the sale of the unappropriated areas of the new country. He succeeded in interesting not only some philanthropists and capitalists in this project, as well as several leading members of parliament, but also secured the favorable consideration of the British government, for his scheme of founding a model colony. A colonization committee known as the South Australian Association, was formed in 1834, and promoted a bill in the House of Commons for the colonization of that territory, and, as the proposal enjoyed the support of the Colonial Secretary, it readily commanded parliamentary assent.¹ This act which constituted the charter² under which South Australia was organized, empowered the Crown to erect one or more provinces in that portion of South Australia lying between the 132nd and 141st meridian of east longitude, and between the 26th parallel of south latitude and the Southern Ocean. The act further provided for the freedom of all classes of the population, for the application of the Wakefield system of immigration, and for the grant of a free and liberal constitution as soon as the population should number fifty thousand souls.

The new colony which was organized on the most approved theoretic principles was based on three fundamental guarantees of progressive liberalism,—self-support, non-transportation and religious freedom.³ The new province arbitrarily carved out of the territory of New South Wales, underwent, in the terse language of Sir G. Dibbs, "a caesarian operation in its birth."⁴ Unlike the subsequently formed colonies, it did not have a native origin, nor enjoy a natural development; it was the artificial product of political and social speculation. Its early history reveals the fate that usually falls to such impracticable experiments. The Association became heavily involved in liabilities, the office of the commissioners in London was abolished and the Secretary for the Colonies was compelled to take over the direct administration of the colony.⁵ The province thus assumed the normal type of a Crown colony under an executive head directly appointed by, and responsible to the Colonial Office as in the other colonies.

From the time of its discovery by Cook, up to 1837, but feeble

¹Garnett, E. G. Wakefield, ch. IV.

²4 and 5, Wm. IV., c. 95.

³Coghlan, *The Seven Colonies of Aust.*, p. 98.

⁴National Australian Convention 1891, p. 88.

⁵Coghlan, *The Seven Colonies of Aust.*, p. 101.