

CONTENTS.

INTRODUCTION.

Discovery and Settlement—Territorial Jurisdiction of New South Wales—Military Crown Colony—Stages of Colonial Constitutional Development—Legal Character of Colonial Constitutions—Establishment of a Legislative Council—Constitution Act, 1842—Agitation for Liberal Institutions—Australian Colonies Government Act, 1850—Constitutions of 1850 and grant of Responsible Government—Settlement in Van Dieman's Land—Relation to New South Wales—Swan River Settlement—Founding of South Australia—Colonization of New Zealand—Settlement at Hobson's Bay—Establishment of Port Phillip District—Movement for Separation—The Boundary Question—New Colony of Victoria—Effect of Separation—Northern Australia—Moreton Bay Settlement—Agitation for Independence—Erection of Colony of Queensland—Question of Boundary—Result of Period of Dismemberment—Debate of 1840—Policy of Union versus Colonial Autonomy—Legislative Union of Australia 1—39

CHAPTER I.

THE GERM OF FEDERATION.

The Mercantile Colonial Policy—Modern Colonial Policy—Colonial Self-Government and Imperial Free Trade—Economic Relations of the Colonies—Preferential and Differential Duties—Policy of Intercolonial Free Trade—Lord Stanley's prohibition of Discriminatory Duties—Effect on Intercolonial Relations—Retaliatory Customs Legislation—Debate in Legislative Council of N. S. W. on Commercial Relations of Colonies—E. Deas Thompson's suggestion of an Australian Governor-General or Imperial regulation of Tariffs—Despatch of Governor Fitzroy—A Federal Executive—Customs Systems of the several Colonies 40—57

CHAPTER II.

THE FEDERAL POLICY OF EARL GREY.

Earl Grey's Despatch, 1847—Nature of Federal Proposals—Reception in the several Colonies—Debate in Legislative Council of N. S. W.—Views of E. Deas Thompson—Divergent Opinions of the Council—Character of the Federal Assembly desired by Council—The Golden Despatch—An Australian Customs Union suggested—Difficulties of the Colonial Office—Committee of the Privy Council for Trade and Plantations—Function and Character of the Committee—Report of the Committee—Discussion of the Report in respect to a Uniform Tariff; and the Organization and Powers of the General Assembly—Australian Colonies Bill, 1849—Discussion of the Clauses of the Bill—Debate in the