

vening and, in some places, very fertile area between Western Australia and New South Wales and the other colonies on the east coast was formed into the immense province of South Australia in 1836. With the exception of the vast and chiefly desert stretch of country known as the Northern Territory, for the time administered by South Australia, this completed the division into six colonies of this immense island. By 1859 the colonies were all entirely independent of each other, and, sharing in the results of the victory for autonomy in Canada, they, too, had almost complete self-government.



MAP OF AUSTRALIA

**The natural features of Australia.**—The coast line of Australia is singularly unbroken. A cordon of high land lies between the coast and the great basin of the interior, with its vast wastes of arid sand. The mountains of Australia, unlike those of Europe, Asia, and America, are in no case so high as to be permanently snow-capped; there