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ROUND THE WORLD,

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A Run through the OCCIDENT, the ANTIPODES, and the ORIENT.

(Extracts from a series of letters written to the employés of the Massey Manufacturing Co., by W. E. H. MASSEY, Esq.)

AUSTRALIA.

Seventh Letter, dated S.S. "Lusitania," Lat. 10.18 N. Long. 53.47 E. March 10th, 1888.

TRUSTING that my last epistles have not been too much of the geography lesson style to be interest ing to you, I again take up my pen to continue the record of our wanderings.

When I set out to write this series of letters it was not my intention to weary you with lengthy descriptions of the various countries we visited, further than to give you some idea of their political and social condition, realizing that we on the one side of the globe know so comparatively little about the new and rapidly growing countries on the opposite side, and further, that you might better understand the account of our tour which it was more especially my object to relate. But to do even this much with my present subject, Australia, is beyond the scope of a mere letter. It is a broad topic—enough for a volume. A few leading points, however, will enable you to better appreciate its size, its almost unlimited capabilities, and the great undertakings of its people.

Take the geography of your son or daughter attending school, or of your younger brother or sister, and turn to the map of this vast country. The whole of the territory of this great island continent is greater than that of the United States. In the map you see, it may be on a small and condensed scale, and hence not impress you as being so large a country. You will note that the map is divided into five sections, each of these being a Colony, each Colony having a separate, independent, and responsible government, similar to that of New Zealand, previously spoken of, except the Colony of Western Australia, which is still under the direct control of the Crown, and has only recently petitioned for responsible government.

As has been the case with other continents, by strange coincidence the settlement of Australia also began in the east, proceeding thence westward, though one would have supposed the part nearest the mother country would have been opened up first. The eastern portion is, however, by far the most valuable territory.

New South Wales, though next the smallest in

size, is the oldest and wealthiest, if not the most important, colony, and is this year celebrating the centennial of its first settlement, which was also the first in Australia.

1889

This "first settlement" consisted of H.M.S. Sirius, with six transports and three store ships with a cargo of convicts, under command of Capt. Arthur Phillip, who landed at Botany Bay* in January, 1788, and shortly afterwards moved for better quarters to another point, the magnificent harbor now known as Port Jackson, hoisting the

*See cut of Botany Bay (Sydney Harbor) in next issue of the ILLUSTRATED.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND GARDENS, MELBOURNE, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA.