

812. Australia is for the most part a land of table-lands and plains. The *Australian Alps*, near the east coast, are the principal mountains.

813. The principal **rivers** are the *Murray* and its tributaries.

814. The **climate** in the northern half of Australia is very hot, and cotton, sugar-cane, and tropical fruits are cultivated; in the southern half the climate is temperate, and the products are grain, the vine, and mulberry.

815. Sheep-raising is a leading industry in all the colonies. Cattle and horses also are numerous.

816. The trees of **Australian forests** are mostly evergreens, and stand far apart. The foliage is scanty, the leaves present their thin edge to the sun, and there are no tangled vines clinging to the branches, as in the warm countries of South America. Many of the trees have beautiful blossoms.

817. Many of the **wild animals** of Australia belong to a family called *marsupialia*, remarkable for a sort of pouch in which they carry their young. The largest of these is the *kangaroo*. The birds are beautiful, but they are not noted for richness of song. The *emu* is a large bird resembling the ostrich. The *black swan* and *lyre-tail* are remarkable birds.

818. New South Wales and Victoria have rich **gold mines**. South Australia is noted for its rich **copper mines**.

819. The **inhabitants** of Australia are mostly colonists from the British Isles and their descendants.

820. The natives are degraded savages. They have neither house nor tent, but wander about, almost naked, in search of food. They are black, but have not features like the Negroes of Africa. Their hair is not woolly, nor have they flat noses or thick lips.

821. **Melbourne**, **Sydney**, and **Adelaide** are the largest cities of Australia.

822. **Tasmania** or **Van Diemen's Land**, separated from Australia by *Bass Strait*, is about the size of New Brunswick.

823. The **climate**, native plants and animals, and the pro-

ducts, are similar to those of Southern Australia. Agriculture and the rearing of sheep are the chief occupations. *Hobart Town* is the capital.

824. **New Zealand** comprises two principal islands and one of smaller size.

825. The **climate** is temperate and healthful, and the **soil** is fertile. All kinds of grain, vegetables, and fruit grown in



835. BREAD-FRUIT TREE.

Canada are successfully cultivated. Wool and flax are the chief exports.

826. The **inhabitants** are mostly of British origin. The natives were formerly fierce cannibals.

827. **Wellington**, the capital, has a fine harbour.

828. **New Guinea** is one of the largest islands in the world. It is occupied almost wholly by degraded savages.