

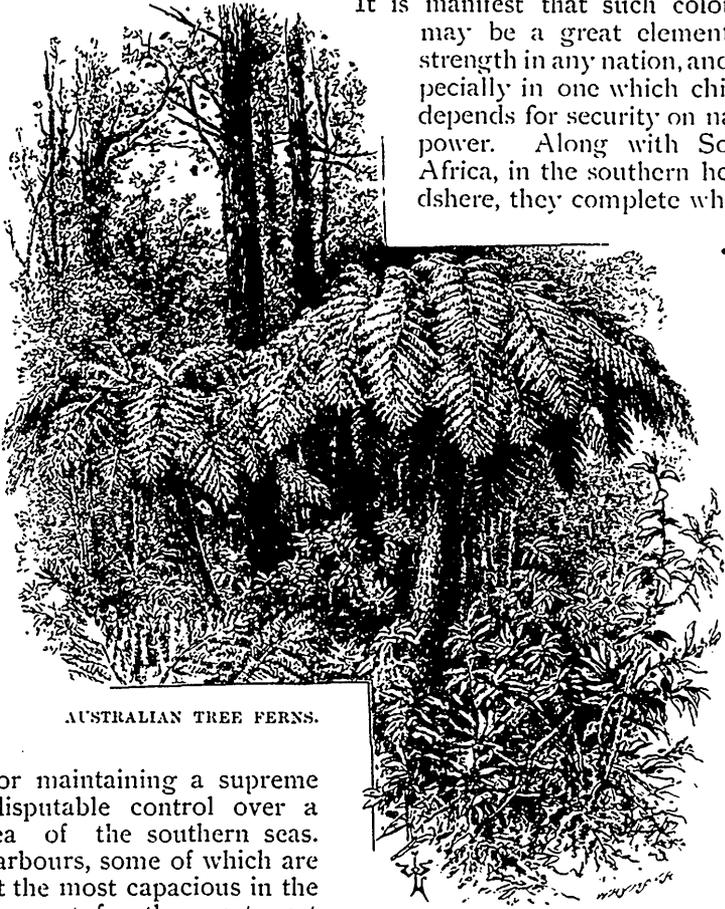
dividual lines of development, as in Canada. There is no large Dutch element, as in South Africa.

As a base of maritime power, the Australasian colonies manifestly furnish to the nation of which they are a part an oppor-

mania, and New Zealand, great neighbouring gold deposits increase the value of the harbours as stations for either carrying on or protecting trade.

Still more important, they have behind them great and increasing populations, capable of supplying adequate means of local defence. It is manifest that such colonies

may be a great element of strength in any nation, and especially in one which chiefly depends for security on naval power. Along with South Africa, in the southern hemisphere, they complete what I



AUSTRALIAN TREE FERNS.

tunity for maintaining a supreme and indisputable control over a vast area of the southern seas. Their harbours, some of which are amongst the most capacious in the world, are yet for the most part capable of secure defence. Several are already supplied with docks, spacious enough to admit for repair the largest ships afloat. The more important are already strongly fortified. Melbourne is pronounced by competent authorities to be one of the best defended ports in the empire. In New South Wales, Queensland, Tas-

have before called the quadrilateral of maritime position, which in the northern hemisphere is represented by the United Kingdom itself, and Canada, with the commanding outlook of the latter upon the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. A great sea power, enjoying the right to their exclusive