

## CHAPTER VII.

### HISTORY, GOVERNMENT, AND SOCIAL STATE OF NEW SOUTH WALES.

1839.

NEW SOUTH WALES is known in the United States almost by its name alone.

It happened from the circumstances of our visit, that we were enabled to obtain much information in relation to this rising colony.

Australia, or New Holland, of which New South Wales is as yet the most important part, requires no description of its dimensions and geographical position. It is sufficient to note the fact that it possesses a sea-coast of the vast extent of eight thousand miles. It was first discovered by the Dutch, while engaged in exploring the coast of New Guinea, who saw the portion of it to the south of Endeavour Straits, and gave it a name from that of their own country, in 1606. A few months after this discovery, Louis de Torres made the north-eastern point of Australia.

In 1616, Theodoric Hartog fell in with that part of the western coast which lies within the tropic and latitude  $28^{\circ}$  S. This he called *Endracht's Land*, after the name of his vessel.

In 1618, the coast between latitude  $11^{\circ}$  and  $15^{\circ}$  S., reaching from the Gulf of Carpentaria to Cape Talbot, was seen by Zeachem.

In 1628, De Witt and Carpenter discovered that part of the western coast known as De Witt's Land, and surveyed the Gulf of Carpentaria.

In 1667, Van Nuyt sailed along the southern coast, from Cape Leeuwin to Spencer's Gulf; and to this part of Australia his name has of late been restored upon the maps.

Tasman, in 1642, discovered Van Diemen's Land, which was long after considered to be connected with the main land of Australia. Finally, between 1766 and 1770, after an interval of a century, during which no researches had been made, and some of the discoveries