

If we would preserve the loyalty of our colonial dependencies, assuredly knowledge must abide with power, and we therefore cordially welcome the contribution to our knowledge which Mr. Wallace has supplied in his work on *Australasia*.⁷ This book is one of a series which Mr. Stanford is publishing as a compendium of geography and travel, and it contains much valuable information, well arranged by an accurate and intelligent observer. Mr. Wallace is already favourably known to our readers as the author of an interesting work on the Malay Archipelago; and we find that in the present book the word *Australasia* is used in a very extensive sense; less than half of its contents are devoted to Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand, and the remainder contains a description, geographical and geological, historical and ethnological, of the various groups of islands sometimes generically referred to as Polynesia, but which Mr. Wallace divides into the Malay Archipelago, Melanesia, and Mikronesia. In the account of Borneo we find an interesting sketch of the career and administration of Sir James Brooke. We should add that the book is well illustrated, and its value enhanced by twenty maps, which leave nothing to be desired; the index, as far as we have been able to test it, we have found highly satisfactory, and our only criticism must be that Mr. Wallace would have made it much more convenient to read a book which deserves to be read if he had found it feasible to divide it into two volumes—as the division of the subject seems itself to suggest—of reasonable dimensions.

⁷ "Australasia." Edited and extended by A. R. Wallace, F.R.G.S., Author of "The Malay Archipelago," "Geographical Distribution of Animals," &c. With Ethnological Appendix by A. H. Keane, M.A.I. London: Stanford. 1879.