

**THE GLADSTONE
COLONY: AN
UNWRITTEN CHAPTER
OF AUSTRALIAN HISTORY**

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The Gladstone Colony: An Unwritten Chapter of Australian History by James Francis Hogan

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An Unwritten Chapter of Australian History

BY

JAMES FRANCIS HOGAN, M.P.

AUTHOR OF "THE IRISH IN AUSTRALIA," "THE AUSTRALIAN IN LONDON,"
"ROBERT LOWE, VISCOUNT SHERBROOKE," ETC.

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PREFATORY NOTE

BY MR GLADSTONE

HAWARDEN, *April* 20, 1897.

DEAR MR HOGAN,

My recollections of Gladstone were most copious, and are now nearly half-a-century old.

The period, December 1845, when I became Colonial Secretary, was one when the British Government had begun to feel nonplussed by the question of Transportation. Under the pressure of this difficulty, Lord Stanley, or the Colonial Office of his day, framed a plan for the establishment, as an experiment, of a *pure* penal colony without free settlers (at least at the outset).

When I came in, the plan might have been arrested in the event of disapproval, but the Government were, I think, committed, and I had only to put the last hand to the scheme.

So it went on towards execution.

In July 1846 the Government was changed, and Lord Grey succeeded me. He said he would make none but necessary changes in pending measures. He, however, annihilated this scheme. For that I do not know that he

is to be severely blamed. But he went on and dealt with the question in such a way as to produce a mess—I think more than one—far worse than any that he found. The result was the total and rather violent and summary extinction of the entire system.

Here I lost sight of the fate of "Gladstone." It has my good wishes, but I have nothing else to give.

Yours very faithful,

W. E. GLADSTONE.

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