

## A South Australian Romance

How a Colony was Founded *and* a Methodist Church Formed  
*Rev. John Blacket*

“Fellow-Colonists! if this is a proud day to us, as most assuredly it ought to be, how much more should our Brethren, in the dear Old Mother Country, exult in the pride of our situation! How should they rejoice at being witnesses of what no other nation in the world besides England has been permitted to see! What other nation has seen her children so extensively spread over the most distant parts of the earth, founding communities, governing themselves, speaking the same language, improving on the models of her institutions, reverencing the land of their forefathers, and sympathising with that race of which we ourselves are a continuing branch?” –Sir HENRY AYERS, “Address at Jubilee of South Australia, 1886.”

To the memory of my wife’s parents CALEB AND PHOEBE FIDLER, pioneers in the establishment of Methodism in the south-eastern part of South Australia, this book is dedicated.

### AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT

AFTER the lapse of more than sixty years, to “trace the course of all things accurately from the first,” is by no means easy. Unless the course is accurately traced, the attempt had better not be made. It was in the spirit of this conviction that the writer undertook the present work.

It is not a relation of personal experience. The Colony of South Australia had been founded many years before the writer came out of the mysterious somewhere upon this busy Australian scene. Whilst this is true, the reader will please bear in mind that painstaking effort has been put forth to make the record correct.

It is hardly necessary to add that this has consumed a large amount of time, and has involved a considerable degree of labour. Old records had to be found, and then carefully searched. Like Papias, when seeking apostolic traditions, the writer “imagined that what was to be got from books was not so profitable for him as what came from the living voice,” consequently old colonists had to be sought out, and interrogated.

To all who so generously rendered assistance my hearty thanks are due, and are herewith tendered.

JOHN BLACKET.

Wesleyan Parsonage,  
Melrose, South Australia,  
July 1898.