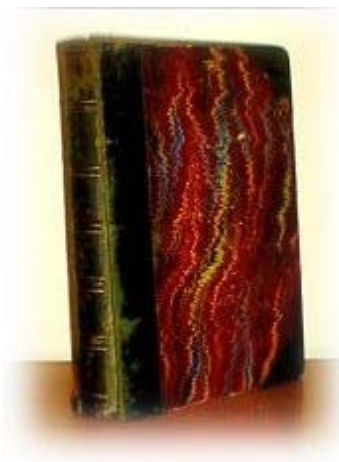




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## The Australian Contingent

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*E. N. Benson*

THE

# AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT.

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A

HISTORY OF THE PATRIOTIC MOVEMENT

IN

NEW SOUTH WALES,

AND AN

ACCOUNT OF THE DESPATCH OF TROOPS TO THE ASSIST-  
ANCE OF THE IMPERIAL FORCES IN THE SOUDAN.

BY

FRANK HUTCHINSON AND FRANCIS MYERS.

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SYDNEY: THOMAS RICHARDS, GOVERNMENT PRINTER.

1885.

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# THE AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT.

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## INTRODUCTION.

IN telling the plain story of the Australian Contingent, it is desired to place on permanent, authoritative record the true course of a movement which, in whatever light it may be regarded, does undoubtedly constitute an epoch in the history of our Country. Whether the action of the Government be approved, as by the virtually unanimous voice of the Country it has been, as a bold and brilliant inspiration of genius, a noble proof of this young land's courage and loyalty—or whether it be denounced, as in some quarters it also has been, as a violation of the Constitution and a wanton abuse of power—the one fact remains the same. For good or for evil, that action has taken Australia out of the category of Colonies, and raised her, as has been eloquently said, “to equal companionship with the chivalrous Nations of the earth.” Men may differ

air that, owing to recent disagreements with the Colonial Office, the Colonies themselves were faltering, if not absolutely in their allegiance to the Old Country, at least in their good-will.

#### THE FIRST ACT.

It was then, in that moment of gloom and disaster, that the idea of "Australia's opportunity" appears to have struck, as the saying goes, "two great minds at once,"—the Acting Premier (Mr. Dalley) and his friend Sir Edward Strickland, K.C.B., himself an old soldier of long service and distinction. The latter was the first in the field, at any rate with the public, with a letter to the *Herald* (see *Appendix*), strongly urging the enrolment from amongst all the Colonies of an Australian Legion or Contingent for service against "England's and all Christendom's old enemies, the Saracens" in the Soudan. What might have come from this stirring appeal there is now no saying, for the same morning a Cabinet Council was called by the Acting Premier, his own better, because prompter, proposal of an immediate offer to the Home Government of troops from New South

minorities. Let any man however reckon amongst his own friends the number for and against; let him look to the representative men of the Colony, and reckon their numbers, and the sides they have chosen; let him look to the Churches; and last, to the voices of the World, as discovered in all the great newspapers of all the Cities of Europe.

#### THE WORLD'S APPROVAL.

It is easy in the light of latest received information to justify this heading. The news of the gratitude of England, the impression in Germany, and the general surprise of Europe, flashed across in necessarily brief messages, was in many quarters treated with contempt; but those best versed in the history and most familiar with the sentiment of Europe, and best able perhaps to judge of the broad effects of such a movement, held their peace, content to await the justification which the earliest Mail would surely bring. They did not wait and trust in vain. The "Khedive," arriving with English files up to the 20th February, puts the Colony in possession of the fully recorded English mind up to that date. And how does it stand?

## APPENDIX A.

It has been thought well to give here the three following speeches as, so to speak, the representative speeches of the debate:—

Mr. DIBBS: If the House wanted to be convinced of the wisdom of the action of the Government in despatching our troops to the Soudan in the first instance, and then calling Parliament together to sanction it, we have that conviction in the conduct of the Honorable Member who has just resumed his seat. The Honorable Member informs us that he enters his protest against the unconstitutional action of the Government. He tells us distinctly that it was our duty to call Parliament together in the first instance, and obtain its sanction for our proposed action. If we had appealed to Parliament in the first blush of the excitement, which ran very high when it became known that our offer had been accepted by the Imperial Government, we should have had a singular circumstance to record in the history of that time; we should have had the vote of the Honorable Member who is now entering his protest by voting for the amendment of the Honorable Member for Eden. Little things get whispered about, and I have heard certain whispers about the Honorable Member; his name has been mentioned.

Mr. F. B. SUTTON: And so has yours!

Mr. DIBBS : I have no doubt that it has, but I am now on my trial, and I am prepared to defend myself. The Honorable Member for The Hunter comes here as a champion in the cause of constitutional government. I say again that had we done the national wrong of calling Parliament together before despatching the troops we should have had the vote of the Honorable Member. The little thing whispered about the Honorable Member is this : it is well known to the House and to the Country that some of the citizens of Sydney invited the Mayor to call a meeting of the citizens, for what purpose ?—to express their approval of the action of the Government !

Mr. BURNS : I know all about it !

Mr. DIBBS : The Honorable Member knows that I am going to prove that he was one of those who approved of the action of the Government.

Mr. BURNS : No !

Mr. DIBBS : The Honorable Member approved of the action of the Government.

Mr. BURNS : At no time !

Mr. DIBBS : The Honorable Member signed the requisition to the Mayor.

Mr. BURNS : No. I wish to explain——

Mr. DIBBS : I object to the Honorable Member speaking now.

Mr. SPEAKER : An Honorable Member has the right to explain ; but if the Honorable Member in the possession of the Chair declines to give way, the explanation must be made after the termination of that Honorable Member's speech.

## Privates—

W. J. Williamson.  
J. Withey.  
E. West.

## Privates—

J. Ward.  
F. Walmsley.  
J. Walsh.

## COMPANY B.

Captain Mulholland.  
Lieutenant M'Donald.  
Lieutenant Keating.

## Sergeants—

W. C. Shipway. — Bruce.  
J. C. S. Schulstad. J. E. M'Nair.  
C. E. Murray

## Corporals—

W. Owen.  
C. F. Brickwäld.  
H. P. Ellis.  
R. Neville.  
A. J. Hamilton.

## Privates—

J. Barnett.  
W. H. Batton.  
H. Breakwel  
H. S. A. Brooke.  
F. Blamshard.  
C. E. Blake.  
F. H. C. Brownlow.  
H. G. Bayliss.  
J. A. Begbie.  
F. Buchanan.  
C. Chapman.  
E. T. Cane.  
T. A. Chalk.

## Buglers—

T. O'Neill.  
F. Kerr.

## Privates—

J. B. Allston.  
B. Arnold.  
R. Addison.  
J. Boyce.

also have been included in this resolution. In my opinion, it is impossible to over-estimate the good conduct of all these contingents. (Hear, hear.) A portion of the Indian Contingent especially has had the opportunity of rendering, in company with British troops, most gallant and most conspicuous service; and I have been informed by officers who were present that nothing could exceed, not only the courage, but also the steadiness, the firmness, and the soldier-like qualities, which were displayed by the Sikh regiments on the occasion of the attack on M<sup>r</sup>Neill's zareba—a coolness, and steadiness, and courage which did much to avert the great and imminent danger which at one time threatened the whole of that force. (Cheers.)

The votes were passed in both Houses unanimously, amid loud cheering.

## APPENDIX G.

## THE PATRIOTIC FUND.

AMOUNT of Subscriptions to above, acknowledged by Hon. Treasurers to the Fund:—

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Jas. Tyson (first contribution) .....	2,000	0	0	Officers, Department of Harbours and Rivers	549	7	9
Messrs. Livingstone Learmonth .....	2,000	0	0	Wm. Laidley .....	500	0	0
Officers of Railway Department .....	1,430	0	0	Mrs. John Frazer .....	500	0	0
James R. Fairfax (first contribution) .....	1,000	0	0	Sir G. W. Allen .....	500	0	0
W. Halliday (first contribution) .....	1,000	0	0	Freemasons of the Grand Lodge of New South Wales, per Dr. H. J. Tarrant .....	500	0	0
Daniel Cooper .....	1,000	0	0	Mr. Donald Larnach ...	500	0	0
E. Ross Fairfax .....	1,000	0	0	The Hon. Thos. Holt, by his attorney, F. J. E. Holt .....	500	0	0
Thos. Walker .....	1,000	0	0	E. T. Webb .....	390	0	0
Tooth & Co. ....	1,000	0	0	Field and Officer Staff, Survey Branch .....	2	2	0
Commercial Banking Company of Sydney	1,000	0	0	J. Milson .....	250	0	0
Bennett Brothers, <i>Evening News</i> .....	1,000	0	0	Farmer & Co. ....	250	0	0
David Berry .....	1,000	0	0	J. H. Goodlet .....	250	0	0
W. B. Levy .....	1,000	0	0	Officers, Postal and Money Order Department .....	225	0	2
Parramatta Patriotic Fund, per S. J. Pearson, hon. treasurer...	500	19	2	J. Hindson .....	200	0	0

# Getting around this CD

## Navigating Archive CD Books CDs

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## Searching Text on Archive CD Books Australia CDs

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Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology has been developing over the years as a useful mechanism to convert images (as Archive CD Books pages are) into text which can be searched. The quality of the OCR can still vary, and hence the searchability can vary. Around 95% or 99% of the words in books with good type are searchable—or even higher with very good type.

*OCR is now a wonderful searching aid in many instances  
but there is still no substitute for reading the book!*

## Different Versions of Adobe Acrobat Reader

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Adobe Acrobat Reader 4 or later should be used. Adobe Reader 6 (as it is now named) in fact has considerably better searching options and is recommended.

- **Acrobat Reader v4** has both a “Find” and a “Search” tool. Those tools are two \*totally\* different things. Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the \*FIND\* tool
- **Acrobat Reader v5** has only a “Find” tool (not a “search” tool). Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the \*FIND\* tool.
- **Adobe Reader v6** has only a “Search” tool (not a tool labelled “Find”). HOWEVER — what is called “Search” is the same as the tool that used to be called “Find” Our CDs (that are searchable) work with the \*SEARCH\* tool

## Tips For Searching and Getting More From the CD Books

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- update to Adobe Reader 6 for more versatile searching options, including the ability to bring up a list of all instances of the word you are searching for — across multiple files on a single CD in a single search request.
- enter the MINIMUM number of characters needed to bring up the search results required.
- use Adobe Reader 6 to do some trial searches to try to identify the characters that may be misread. These can show up in the extra text in the search results list (Adobe 6 only). A few minutes trial will help you to avoid using characters that are more prone to being misread, e.g. try entering “rederi” if you want “Frederick”, but find that the letters “F” “c” and “k” are sometimes misread.
- use the “Match whole word” option to eliminate unnecessary items in your results list, e.g. to eliminate all the blacksmiths and tinsmiths etc when you only want the name Smith.
- use the “Match case” option to eliminate all the occupations “smith” if you only want the name “Smith”.
- don’t just search for names. Search the book for other names, places and subjects of interest:
  - › look for others of the same name
  - › look for others who lived in the same place or street
  - › who was the postmaster or police officer in the town?
  - › how often and at what time did the coach arrive in town?
  - › what churches were there and what time were services held?
  - › what other activities were there in the community?
  - › look for others who had the same occupation or other interests
- all of this and more may be available in a seemingly mundane book such as a directory. You can learn much of the background of life at the time, even if your ancestor is not listed there.
- Many CDs have only one file, but some have the book content spread over several files. Adobe Reader normally searches in the file that is open at the time. If you wish to search ALL files at once choose the "All PDF documents in" option and select the CD drive or directory the files are in—Adobe Reader 6 only.

ADOBE ACROBAT SEARCHING IS A WONDERFUL FIRST FINDING AID.  
BUT DO NOT RELY ON IT TO PICK UP ALL THE INFORMATION YOU WANT

