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James Anthony Froude (1818–94) was one of the foremost historians in Victorian England, though he was often controversial and opinionated, especially towards Catholicism. His 1884 biography of Thomas Carlyle (which will also be reissued in this series), with its emphasis on Carlyle's weaknesses as well as his brilliance, caused lasting offence to many. In 1886 he spent six months travelling in South Africa, Australasia and America, and published *Oceana* on his return. He was very impressed by what he saw, and regretted popular indifference to the Empire at home. He believed that settlers from British colonies would reinvigorate and renew Britain itself as well as the Empire, since historically empires have a pattern of expansion and decay. His fears of the decline of Britain as a world power if she lost her Empire proved prophetic. A bestseller on publication, it remains a fascinating and readable account of his travels.

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Oceana

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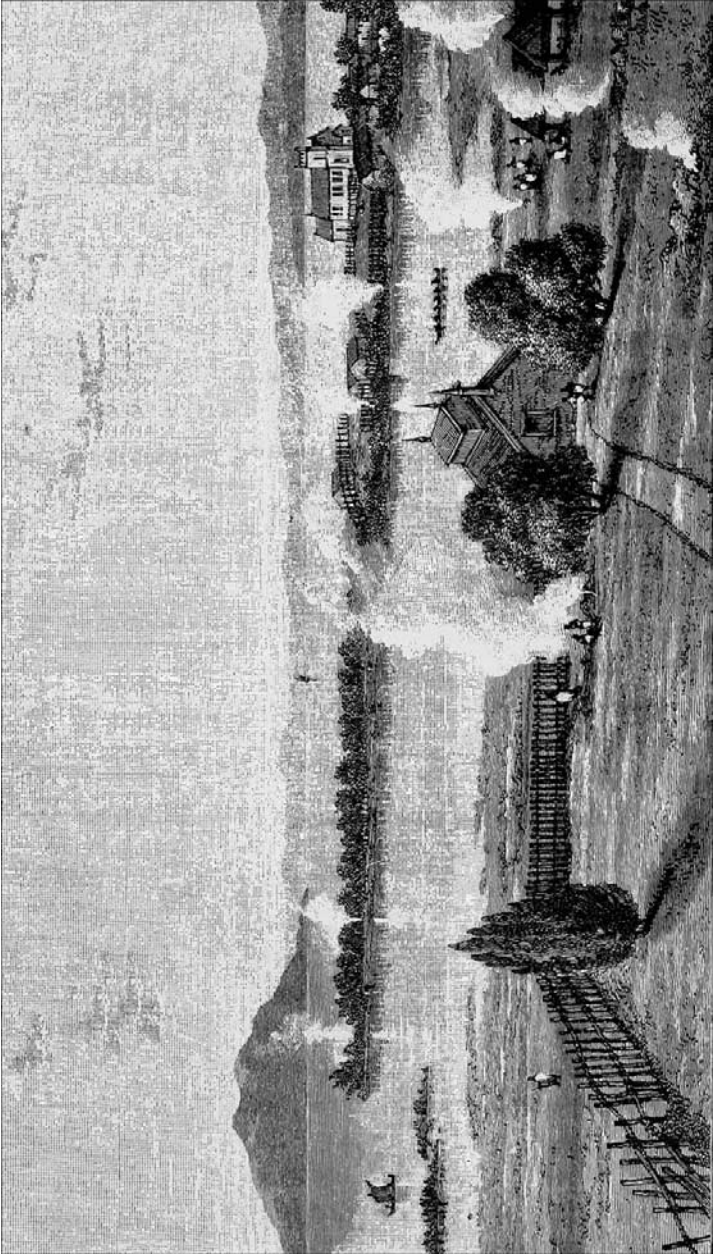
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LAKE ROTOMA, FROM OHINEMUTU, NEW ZEALAND

Drawn by Lord Elphinstone

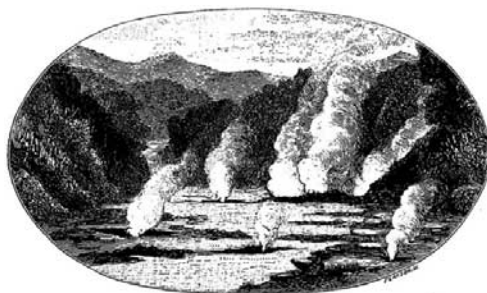
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OCEANA
OR
ENGLAND AND HER COLONIES

BY
JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE

Moribus antiquis stat res Romana virisque—*Ennius*



HOT SPRINGS, NEW ZEALAND

LONDON
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1886

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PREFACE.



I HAVE explained so fully in this work my reasons for writing it, that a further account of those reasons would be superfluous. I might therefore, so far, let it go out into the world on its own merits, without an additional word.

Some kind of preface, however, is recommended by custom, to which it is always becoming to conform.

I avail myself therefore of the opportunity, first, to thank Lord ELPHINSTONE, who was my companion during the more interesting part of my journey, for the use which he has allowed me to make of his portfolio of sketches; and secondly, to request my Colonial readers, when they find me quoting anonymous opinions or conversations, to abstain from guesses, which will necessarily be fruitless, at the persons to whom I am referring.

The object of my voyage was not only to see the Colonies themselves, but to hear the views of all

classes of people there on the subject in which I was principally interested.

Where there is obviously no objection, or where I have reason to know that the speakers themselves entertain no objection, I give the names myself. Where I do not give the names, although I introduce nothing which was not said to me by someone worth attending to, I have involved my description with details of time, place, circumstance, and initials, all or most of which are intentionally misleading.

J. A. F.

ONSLow GARDENS: *December 5, 1885.*

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