

longer legs than others, and some had much darker feathers ; indeed, one specimen in Breslau was almost black on the back ; but they are only varieties of the ordinary form. In Paris I saw the type specimen of *D. peroni*, the extinct form of Kangaroo Island, and consider it a good species, its feathers being considerably longer than the mainland variety, besides being darker in colour and smaller in size ; it is difficult to judge its age.

In passing through Rotterdam, Antwerp, Hamburg, Berlin, Breslau, and Vienna, I was only able to inspect the Zoological Gardens in these cities, but in both the Berlin and Vienna Gardens I noticed many Australian birds, which were thriving, some having been in captivity for many years, but they all looked the picture of health. A list of the Australian birds at the Breslau Gardens appears elsewhere.\* At Venice I saw the usual sight of the thousands of Pigeons at St. Mark's-square ; when being fed by the public with grain they often alight on the hands, shoulders, &c., of the feeders, showing how tame they are. In London the number of tame Pigeons is also very large, and they nest on many public buildings, such as Parliament Houses, Westminster Abbey, the Law Courts, &c. At Rome two Eagles are kept in captivity by the steps leading to the ruins of the old Roman forum ; also two wolves near, in remembrance presumably of Romulus and Remus. I was told that they had lately found the tomb of these two latter, and saw the excavation. In the Zoological Gardens at Giza, about half-way between the Pyramids and Cairo, I saw many forms of European birds, and in these gardens Night-Herons roost during the day, and at night go to the river flat to feed, in exactly the same way in which the wild Night-Herons (*N. caledonicus*) do in the Melbourne Zoological Gardens. They also have three specimens of that curious Stork the Shoebill (*Balæniceps rex*). Many Purple Gallinules (*Porphyrio coeruleus*) were noticed in the flooded fields near the town. Pelicans and Flamingoes were seen, as usual, in great numbers in the swamps bordering the canal, and hosts of smaller water-fowl, including Dottrels, Plovers, Stints, &c., &c., but too far off to distinguish clearly. On coming into the Southern Ocean three species of Albatross were seen following the steamer—the Royal, Wandering, and White-capped—but the first-named was the most plentiful.—D. LE SOUËF. Melbourne, 20/3/08.

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\* See p. 190.

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