

In the "Peeps at Great Men" series is the story of that well-beloved novelist, Charles Dickens, about whom you have read in the June number of the Magazine. Two other famous writers whose stories are attractively told are Sir Walter Scott and William Shakespeare.

Only one other of these Great Men will I mention here. That is George Washington, the first President of the United States. The author has outlined Washington's early life in Virginia, and described his first adventures as a soldier with the Indians and the French. Then is told the story of the War of Independence up to the final overthrow of the British rule and the establishment of the United States of America with George Washington as the first President. You will enjoy this story of war and adventure and peace. Washington is one of the most admired figures in history; he is a hero who is worthy of your emulation.

I must not forget to tell you that all the books in these series contain many beautiful full-page illustrations in colour and black and white.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TREES.

No. 10: The Red Morrel.

(By C. A. GARDNER, Government Botanist.)

The Red Morrel (*Eucalyptus longicornis*, F.v.M.) is the best known of all the Morrels, and in the older settled districts it is the tree which most frequently goes under the simple name of Morrel. But there are in reality three or four trees which are distinct, and known as Morrels; so that, in speaking of this tree, it is advisable to give it the qualifying name of "Red Morrel." The name "Poot" is also given to this tree in the lower Great Southern Districts by the older settlers; but this name is now but rarely used.

What is a Morrel? The name appears to be either a native one, or one coined by the earlier settlers, and it is now doubtful if we shall ever be able to trace its origin. Undoubtedly it was first applied to the Red Morrel, and later on it was given to other trees of similar appearance which the bushman was unable to distinguish from the original Morrel externally, although differences in the colour of the timber were responsible for the name "Black Morrel." Another tree occurring around lakes on the Goldfields became known as "Lake Morrel," while still another tree of the same habit and bark, but with a crown resembling a York Gum, received the rather apt name of "Yorrel"—a combination of York Gum and Morrel.

The Red Morrel is spread widely throughout the State, its range being only slightly less than that of the Salmon Gum. Its habit of growth is much like that of the Salmon Gum, but the crown is not so dense, and the tree is flatter in outline. The bark, however, is quite different, being rough and grey on the whole of the trunk, smooth on the branches and somewhat reddish-brown, while between these two parts there is an area of flaky, almost ribbon bark. The timber is deep red, and very dense and hard, with an interlocked grain. It is a very strong timber, used to some extent by wheelwrights, and, in the agricultural districts, for building purposes generally.

The range of the tree extends from north of Mullewa to near the south coast. The western boundary runs close to Goomalling and Wagin, and thence to Cranbrook. Gnowangerup is close to the southern boundary, as are also Ravensthorpe and Salmon Gums. The eastern limits are not definitely known, but the tree probably extends at least as far east as Zanthus.

The sucker, or juvenile, leaves of the Red Morrel are a pale bluish-green, and the base of the leaf is continued for some distance down the stem. In this respect it somewhat resembles the Merrit sucker leaf, but is much smaller. It is rich in oil. The mature or normal leaves are stalked, narrow, rather thick and glossy, only the midrib being conspicuous on both surfaces. The peduncles (foot stalks which support the umbels) are slender and slightly angled, and about half an inch in length, supporting usually 6 to 8 flowers on slender stalks of about a quarter of an inch. The calyx-tube is almost hemispherical, but the operculum (bud-cap) is long and pointed. The species derives its specific name (*longicornis*), from the long horn-like operculum, which is longer than the calyx-tube. The flowers are small, and yellowish-white, the stamens being kinked inwards when the flower is in the bud stage. The fruits are in shape something like an egg with the point cut off, broader below the middle than above, and the deeply sunk seed-box or capsule has long and protruding pin-like valves. These valves are formed from the base of the style.

The long bud-cup distinguishes the Red Morrel from most of its allies. It can be confused only with the Merrit which has a smooth bark, and the Redwood which has bluish, not shining leaves. The Yorrel, which looks very similar, has narrower fruits with a small obtuse bud-cap, and the York Gum has a very different leaf with prominent rambling veins.