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THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM:—
FRAGMENTS OF ITS EARLY HISTORY¹.

BY

R. ETHERIDGE, JUNR., Director and Curator.

(Plates xlv.-xlix.)

In the first part of these "Fragments" were detailed the Inception, Title, and Names of the Earliest Curators. In the present part will be found related the wanderings to and fro of the Collections from the first record I have to their arrival at their present home in College Street in 1849.

3. WANDERINGS OF THE INFANT COLLECTIONS.

It will be remembered I traced back the Museum's history to practically 1827 as the "Colonial Museum." One may safely assume this was the "beautiful collection in charge of Mr. W. Holmes" possibly in the Judge Advocate's Old Office judging by an article in the "Sydney Gazette" of 1830² :—

"The Sydney Museum [another early name for the institution], kept for the present in the old Judge Advocate's Office, has just received from the out-stations some valuable additions to its stock of curiosities."

This is the first direct reference, other than those already detailed, I have met with. What the relation of the foregoing office to the next location, the "Old Post Office," referred to in the "Sydney Gazette" of 1830³, was I am not certain. But first which of the Old Post Offices is here referred to? That in George Street (then called High Street) about the site of the present Metropolitan Fire Brigade building at Circular Quay; or the second on the King's Wharf, opposite the Paragon Hotel, Circular Quay⁴; or the third in Bent Street⁵, at the rear of the present Education Department building? In all probability the last named, for in "The New South Wales Calendar and General P.O. Directory" for 1832⁶, there occurs in a list of public offices and buildings amongst other items :—"Museum, Bent Street," but in 1833 edition of the same publication, this is not repeated. Mr. Hugh Wright, of the Mitchell Library, informs me the Judge Advocate's Old Office "was in what is now Loftus

¹ Continued from "Records," Vol. xi., No. 4, 1916, p. 67.

² Sydney Gazette, xxviii., 1830 (6th Feby.), No. 1772.

³ Sydney Gazette, xxviii., 1830 (31st Aug.)

⁴ Houston—"History of the G.P.O., etc., in N.S.W., 1890," pp. 3, 7 (*vide* H. Wright).

⁵ Bent Street—up to 1810 was without a name. In the "Sydney Gazette" of 1810 (viii., 1810 (Oct, 6th), No. 353) is a "Plan of the New and Old Names of Streets, etc., in the Town of Sydney, with Explanations and References." The New Street under the name of Bent Street is described as "extending from Spring-row in an easterly direction to the fountain, and thence to the north end of Phillip-street."

⁶ N.S. Wales Calendar and G.P.O. Directory, 1832, p. 26.

Street, at the south-east corner of the existing Lands Office." Such being the case, it is almost within the range of certainty that this is the Bent Street site already referred to as the third Post Office, and the "Museum, Bent Street" of "The New South Wales Calendar." That there was a government office in Bent Street in these early days is certain :—

"The Court was held in a building in Bent Street in the premises that years afterwards were used as the Government Sales Office, just at the rear of the present Education Office⁷."

A passage in D. D. Mann's "Present Picture of New South Wales⁸," a curious old book published in London in 1811, would, if not carefully read, lead to the belief of the existence of a collection in Sydney as early as 1810, under the name of Bullock's Museum; in his chapter on Natural History, Mann speaks of "two stuffed specimens" of the Koala, or Native Bear. Bullock's Museum, however, was a privately-owned collection in Piccadilly, London, the proprietor being William Bullock.

It is certain that as early as 1830 a *permanent* Museum was in contemplation, for the Committee of the Australian Subscription Library and Reading Room [afterwards the Public Library of New South Wales] petitioned Governor Darling for the grant of a town allotment :—

"and suggested that the Museum, then in an embryo state, should be combined with the Library⁹."

Bladen says that on 10th Oct., 1831, the Governor gave permission to the Committee :—

"to select two allotments of ground in Hyde Park¹⁰ . . . it being understood that suitable provision be made for a Museum, which, as far as regards collections of animals, birds, etc., has been already commenced, and which it is conceded may be united with great advantage to the Public Library."

Two allotments were selected in Hyde Park, but nothing further came of the matter until some years after.

It is quite evident the idea of a combined Library and Museum had not been abandoned by 1835, for we find Governor Bourke writing to the Secretary for State asking for :—

"permission to propose to the Council of this Colony¹¹ the appropriation of money for the erection of a building to serve as a Library and Museum and to be placed in connection with the Sydney Botanical Gardens . . . The building should contain rooms for the Colonial Museum for

⁷ Old Times, i., No. 2, 1903, p. 110.

⁸ Mann—Present Picture of N.S. Wales, p. 49 (4to., London, 1811).

⁹ Bladen—Free Public Library, N.S. Wales, Historical Notes, etc., 1906, p. 7.

¹⁰ Brief notices in the "Sydney Gazette" (xxxiv., No. 2756, 7th January; No. 2856, 8th Sept.) lead one to believe that Hyde Park was laid out in 1836.

¹¹ Legislative Council—"In 1824 a proclamation was issued by Governor Brisbane announcing that the King had been pleased to institute a Legislative Council for New South Wales" (Old Times, i., pt. 2, 1903, p. 123). The date of this proclamation was 11th Aug., 1824.

which collections on a small scale have been making for a few years past, I consider, therefore, it would be more advisable to build a house for a Library and Museum¹².”

In 1827 the “Australian Subscription Library” was located in Terry’s Buildings, Pitt Street, but in December, 1831, was removed to rooms at the Old Post Office in George Street, and again in May, 1836, to a house in Bridge Street, then recently vacated by the Chief Justice¹³.

“This building stood on the site of the present offices of the Department of Lands [and must therefore have been the Judge Advocate’s Old Office] at the corner of Bridge and Gresham Streets On the Estimates for the year 1838 an amount of £4,000 was voted for building a Public Library and Museum”¹⁴

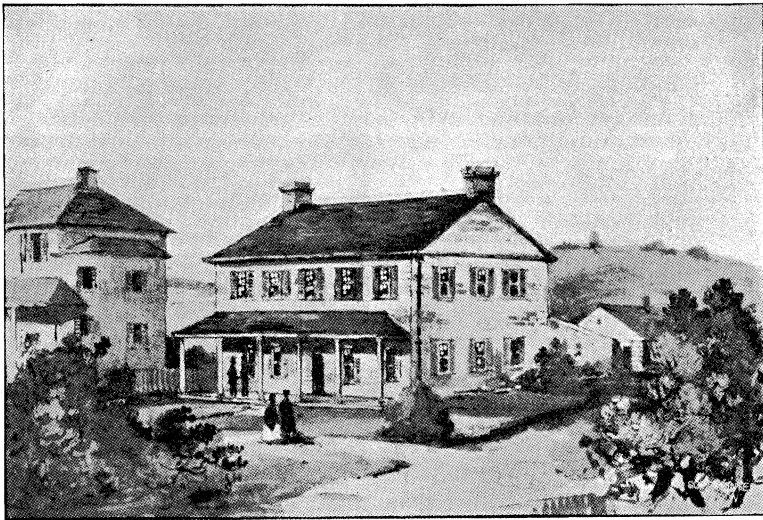


FIG. 6.

“Residence of the Chief Justice in which the Library was located from 1836-40.”

(After Bladen—“Public Library of N.S.Wales, Historical Notes,” 1906, p. 13.)

Confirmatory evidence of this statement is to be found in the Australian Museum Committee’s Minutes, for, on the 1st August, 1838, it is recorded :—

“A letter was read from His Excellency the Governor [Sir George Gipps] stating that the Colonial Architect had been directed to confer with the Committee of the Australian Museum and the Australian [Subscription] Library for the purpose of proposing an eligible situation for the erection of an edifice suitable for those Institutions.”

¹² Bladen—*Loc. cit.*, pp. 13-14.

¹³ Bladen—*Loc. cit.*, p. 15.

¹⁴ Bladen—*Loc. cit.*, p. 15.

We can only conclude that with the removal of the Subscription Library to Bridge Street in May, 1836, to a house then recently vacated by the Chief Justice, also went the infant Museum from the following expression of Bladen's:—

“The premises in Bridge-street, occupied by the Library and Museum, were ordered to be vacated to accommodate the Surveyor-General and his Staff; rooms being provided for the Library at a building in Macquarie-street, opposite the site on which the Sydney Mint now stands.”¹⁵

This only accounts for the Library, what became of the Museum? These lengthy extracts from Mr. Bladen's interesting account render it clear that the conjoint Colonial Museum's collections and Subscription Library must have come together in Bridge Street, one from the Judge Advocate's Old Office in Bent Street, and the other from the Old Post Office in George Street, jointly occupying the house variously referred to as the Chief Justice's [Sir F. Forbes] and the office of the Surveyor-General. Hence they migrated together to the building in Macquarie Street, opposite the present site of the Royal Mint, and here their partnership ultimately ended. It has been stated that the Museum occupied “a small room attached to the Legislative Council¹⁶,” but like other of Fowles' statements, lacks confirmation, as I have been unable to find any evidence in support.

This Colonial Museum in the house of Chief Justice Forbes is referred to in the “Sydney Gazette” of 1836¹⁷:—

“The two lower rooms of the late residence of Chief Justice Forbes are set apart for the purpose. They are being nicely fitted up with glass cases to suit the apartments. The selection of birds and beasts, etc., are well worth seeing, all of which are in the highest state of preservation and neatly arranged.”

It may be interesting to give a few facts about this house in Bridge Street. In the Dowling “Reminiscences¹⁸,” by Judge James S. Dowling (son of Chief Justice Sir James Dowling), occurs the following account:—

“Passing Government House, three buildings came in view on the left side of Bridge Street . . . All were Government property. The first was the Colonial Secretary's Office, but is now used by the Education Department, and before it now grow the celebrated two old fig trees . . . The central building is no more, what it was used as I forget. The third was the official residence of the Chief Justice.”

As these buildings were as described soon after Judge J. S. Dowling's arrival in Sydney, as a lad, the “Reminiscences” must refer to about the year 1828¹⁹. From the same source we learn that Sir Francis Forbes was:—

“The only Chief Justice to whom was granted the privilege of living in a Government residence rent free . . . It stood in Bridge Street,

¹⁵ Bladen—*Loc. cit.*, p. 20.

¹⁶ Fowles—Sydney in 1848 [1878], p. 83.

¹⁷ Sydney Gazette, xxxiv., No. 2875 (22nd Oct.).

¹⁸ Dowling—Reminiscences of the late Judge (J. S.) Dowling, Parts i. and ii., Old Times, i., No. 2, 1903, p. 114, No. 3, 1903, p. 185.

¹⁹ Dowling—*Loc. cit.*, No. 2, p. 116.

and was only recently pulled down, and partly on its site has been erected the very handsome block of buildings for the Lands Department²⁰.”

The building in Macquarie Street to which the Museum collections and the Subscription Library were removed in May, 1840, was:—

“well known to the old colonists as the Surveyor-General's (the late Sir T. L. Mitchell) office²¹.”

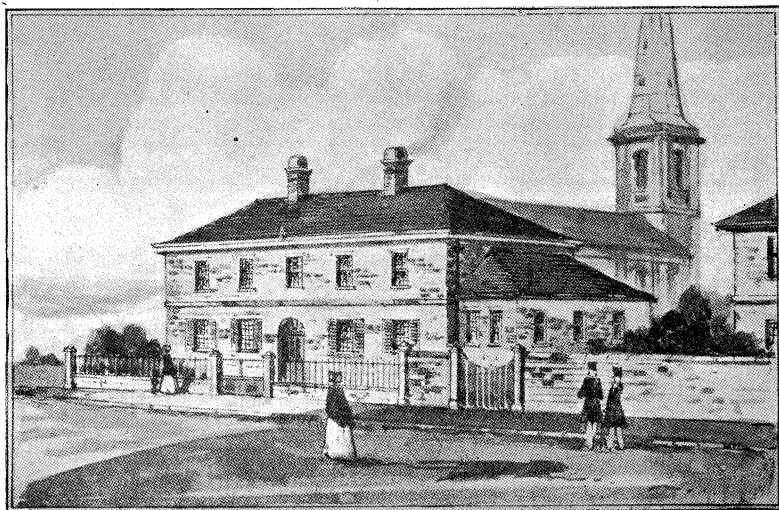


FIG. 7.

“St. James' Parsonage. In which the Library was located from 1840-3,” and also the Museum.

(After Bladen—Public Library of N.S.Wales. Historical Notes, 1906, p. 16.)

and according to Macle hose was previously in the hands of the Collector of Inland Revenue²².

About this time, to be exact, on 12th August, 1841, the Rev. W. B. Clarke addressed a letter²³ to the Colonial Secretary (Honourable E. Deas Thomson) calling attention to:—

“insufficiency of accommodation in the apartments reserved for the Museum in the house lately vacated by the Surveyor-General,” and “detriment accruing to the stuffed specimens to which they are exposed The apartments reserved in Macquarie Street are, in the opinion of the Committee, inadequate for the purpose of arrangement and reception.”

The letter concluded by definitely asking for better accommodation to be provided. The return correspondence to the above is not before me,

²⁰ Dowling—*Loc. cit.*, No. 3, p. 190.

²¹ Dowling—*Loc. cit.*, No. 3, p. 188.

²² Macle hose—*Picture of Sydney*, 1838, p. 84.

²³ *Official Letter-book*, i., p. 36.

but the above letter was followed by a second, dated 18th October, 1841²⁴, also written by Mr. Clarke, in which he said :—

“The only room in the Buildings in Macquarie Street suitable for the reception of the Museum is, at present, in the occupation of the Town-Surveyor's Department, the other rooms, as I had previously the duty of observing, being quite insufficient for the purpose.”

The matter of the Town Surveyor's Office was finally settled by a letter from the Colonial Secretary (Hon. E. Deas Thomson), as recorded in the minutes of 1st Dec., 1841 :—

“The Secretary [W. B. Clarke] read a letter from the Colonial Secretary stating that the room applied for in the occupation of the Town Surveyor cannot be granted by His Excellency [Sir G. Gipps] for the use of the Museum.”

In the “New South Wales Calender and General Post Office Directory” for 1837²⁵ there appeared the following, which at first sight, may seem a contradiction to a great deal that has gone before :—

“The Museum, Macquarie Place, is open daily (Sundays excepted) between the hours of 12 and 3.”

The contiguity, however, of this Macquarie Place site and that in Bridge Street is sufficient to indicate them as one and the same, but if proof be needed the following advertisement²⁶ should be sufficient :—

Australian Museum.

Notice is hereby given, that the Australian Museum²⁷ having been removed to the house lately occupied by His Honor the Chief Justice, in Macquarie Place, is now open for Public Inspection on *Tuesdays* and *Fridays* between the hours of Twelve and Three.

By order of the Committee,

George Bennett,
Secretary.

Australian
Museum,
June 8th, 1836.

It is surprising how little care appears to have been exercised by local historians in earlier days. Thus, Fowles in his “Sydney in 1848²⁸,” says that whilst the Museum occupied the two rooms in the Surveyor-General's Office, “Dr. Bennett resigned his office as Director in favour of Mr. William Sheridan Wall²⁹.” It has already been shown in Part I how fallacious such a statement was. Fowles also says the Institution was founded in 1836³⁰.

The first Museum Catalogue was published in 1837. On the 20th September, 1837, the Sub-Committee resolved that :—

²⁴ Official Letter-book, i., p. 39.

²⁵ N.S.W. Calendar and G.P.O. Directory, 1837, p. 342.

²⁶ Sydney Gazette, vii., No. 226, 1836 (June 15th) p. 454; *Id.*, No. 227, (June 22nd) p. 472.

²⁷ Note the title.

²⁸ Fowles—Sydney in 1848 : illustrated by copperplate engravings of the principal streets, public buildings, churches, chapels, etc. (4to.)

²⁹ Fowles—*Loc. cit.*, p. 84.

³⁰ Fowles—*Loc. cit.*, p. 83.

“The Manuscript Catalogue of the Museum drawn up by the Secretary [Dr. G. Bennett] be printed and that tenders are to be received from the Atlas and Colonial Printing Offices³¹,”

five hundred copies to be the issue. It was not actually ordered to be set up in type until the 4th October, 1837, the tender of Mr. Tegg, of the Atlas Printing Office, being accepted. This Catalogue was entitled :—

“A Catalogue of the Specimens of Natural History and Miscellaneous Curiosities deposited in the Australian Museum, by G. Bennett³².”

and has long been out of print. It would appear that a further Catalogue was contemplated as soon after the appearance of Bennett's as 1842, for on the 12th May of that year a letter is recorded from the Colonial Secretary, Hon. E. Deas Thomson, stating that His Excellency [Sir George Gipps] agreed to print copies of the Catalogue, but “recommended its revision³³.” This revision was carried out by Mr. (Sir) W. Macarthur, and here the matter seems to have ended.

During its early struggles the Museum appears to have possessed a rival in that of the Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts, established 23rd March, 1833³⁴, and said to have been “opened” in 1837³⁵. Meetings were at first held on Church Hill in the house “lately occupied by Captain Rossi³⁶.” For the period, this collection must have contained many objects of interest and value, and amongst its various Curators appear the names of no less than Dr. (Sir) C. Nicholson, Arthur a'Beckett, James Dunlop, F.R.S.³⁷, and for its President, Major (Sir) T. L. Mitchell, Surveyor-General. The Museum contained zoological objects, phrenological busts, minerals, fossils, Grecian and other coins, models, etc.:—

“The establishment of a Museum was considered by the originators of this Institution as a subject scarcely secondary in importance to any contemplated in its design³⁸.”

The first record of acknowledging donations to come under my notice appeared in 1838. On the 3rd October of that year the plate, and a proof therefrom, were submitted to the Sub-Committee for inspection and approved of³⁹. This system is still in vogue. Looking a little further ahead, it was resolved on the 30th July, 1853⁴⁰, that :—

“The circular letter conveying such vote of thanks shall be signed by the Chairman.”

This was so far afterwards departed from that the Curator, or his representative for the time being, performed this, and it is so now. It was also customary for many years to forward lists of donations to the public press for acknowledgment in that way.

³¹ Minutes, 20th Sept., 1837.

³² pp. 36 (12mo., Sydney, 1837).

³³ Minutes, 12th March, 1842.

³⁴ Third Annual Report for 1835.

³⁵ Moore's Almanac and Hand Book for N.S.W. for 1832, p. 43.

³⁶ Raymond's N.S.W. Calendar and G.P.O. Directory, 1835, p. 418.

³⁷ Tegg's N.S.W. Pocket Almanac, 1840, p. 170.

³⁸ Annual Report for 1838 (1839), p. 16.

³⁹ Minutes, 3rd October, 1838.

⁴⁰ „ 30th July, 1853.

We left the collection, variously alluded to as the "Colonial Museum," "Australian Museum," etc., located near the corner of what is now Macquarie and King Streets, in apartments spoken of by the Rev. W. B. Clarke in anything but flattering terms. From this point there is, unfortunately, a confusion of dates in the Museum's history, and misstatements in contemporary literature; all accounts, however, agree that the next move was to the "New Court House, Woolloomooloo," the present Criminal Court at Darlinghurst. Fowles, the author of "Sydney in 1848⁴¹," says the removal to the Court House took place in 1840 in the following words;

"In the year 1840 Mr. Wall, under the instructions of the Committee, and at the request of the Governor, Sir George Gipps, again removed the Museum to apartments prepared for it in the Supreme Court Buildings at Darlinghurst."

Again, in "Tegg's New South Wales Pocket Almanac" for 1842 is a further error, in the following words:—

"The Museum at present is at the New Court House, Woolloomooloo, but will shortly be removed to the apartments in Macquarie Street recently in the occupation of the Surveyor-General's Department and under the same roof with the Australian Subscription Library⁴²."

Maclehose gives a view⁴³ of this "New Court House" (as completed) on the New South Head Road, Sydney (Fig. 8).

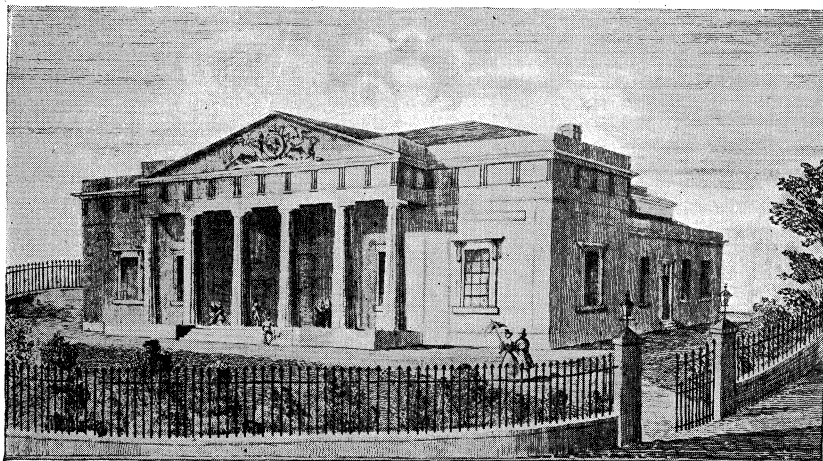


FIG. 8.

New Court House (as completed), South Head Road, Sydney.
(After Maclehose—"Picture of Sydney and Strangers' Guide in N.S. Wales for 1838," pl. opp. p. 120.)

⁴¹ Fowles—Sydney in 1848, etc., p. 84.

⁴² Tegg's N.S. Wales Pocket Almanac for 1842, p. 153.

⁴³ Maclehose—Pictures of Sydney and Strangers' Guide in N.S. Wales for 1838, pl. opp. p. 120.

These errors are only equalled by the statement made in the 1890 "Guide to the Contents of the Australian Museum, etc."⁴⁴, that :—

"The Museum was soon afterwards removed to the Surveyor-General's Office in Bridge Street, where it remained till 1849, in which year it was again removed to its present site at the corner of William and College Streets."

That the removal did not take place to the Court House site in 1840 as stated by Fowles is proved from the following extracts from official documents. At the Committee meeting held on 4th August, 1841, it was :—

"Resolved that the Secretary [W. B. Clarke] communicate with the Colonial Architect respecting the removal of the Museum to more suitable apartments than those allotted for its use in the Surveyor-General's Office. The Secretary accordingly addressed a letter to Mr. Lewis [Colonial Architect] to that effect."

Apparently no notice was taken of this request, for the minutes of 4th August, 1841, record a resolution almost in the same words as the above that the Secretary this time communicate with the Colonial Secretary direct :—

"Respecting the removal of the Museum to more suitable apartments than those allowed for it in the Surveyor-General's Office" [i.e., in Macquarie Street].

Evidently a little official energy manifested itself after this second appeal, for there is a copy of a letter extant⁴⁵ from Mr. Clarke to the Colonial Architect dated the 7th December, 1841, asking the latter to meet the Museum Committee at a date to be named :—

"At the Court House, Woolloomooloo, adjourning thence to the building in Macquarie Street."

The next letter⁴⁶ passing between the same parties, 20th December, 1841, leads one to believe that by this date the removal to the Court House was practically settled, for therein Mr. Clarke invited Mr. Lewis to meet the Committee on 23rd December :—

"At the Museum in the New Court House."

It may, therefore, be taken for granted that the removal from the Surveyor-General's Office, near the corner of Macquarie and King Streets, to Darlinghurst took place some time very early in 1842. In fact, it is so stated in Tegg's Almanac for 1842⁴⁷, but as this is followed by the exploded story of subsequent removal again to Macquarie Street, too much reliance cannot be placed on it. Here Mr. W. Holmes' "beautiful collection" certainly remained until February, 1849. That it was there in 1848 is stated in Coleman's "Almanac"⁴⁸ for 1848 :—

⁴⁴ Sinclair—Guide to the Contents of the Australian Museum, 1890, p. 5.

⁴⁵ Official Letter-Book, i., p. 42.

⁴⁶ Official Letter-Book, i., p. 45.

⁴⁷ Tegg's N.S.Wales Pocket Almanac and Remembrancer for 1842, p. 153.

⁴⁸ Coleman's N.S.Wales Almanac and Remembrancer for 1848, p. 48.

“The Museum is at present at the New Court House, Darlinghurst, and is open for public inspection every Wednesday from 10 to 3. The Gardens daily from sunrise to sunset.”

The Minutes of 26th August, 1848, record that the members of the Museum Committee were asked to examine :—

“Specimens of Natural History now in Court House previous to removal to the New Museum.”

The permanent building in William Street, Hyde Park, having been pronounced sufficiently advanced to receive the collections, the removal, according to the Minutes, was ordered on 24th February, 1849⁴⁹, to be carried out :—

“Mr. Wall was authorised to proceed with the removal of the specimens of Natural History now in the New Court House, and to draw for the amount necessary to cover the expenses of their safe conveyance to the Museum. The sum not to exceed Thirty Pounds.”

4—THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, AS WE KNOW IT, 1838-46, INCLUSIVE.

The Government of the day evidently had in view the erection of a permanent building to be devoted to the purpose of a Museum and Public Library as early as 1838, for in the Minutes of 1st August, 1838, we read :—

“The Colonial Architect [Mortimer W. Lewis] had been directed to confer with the Committee of the Australian Museum and the Australian Library for the purpose of proposing an eligible situation for the erection of an edifice suitable for these Institutions⁵⁰.”

As the Collections have been traced to their permanent home, I now propose showing how that abode came into existence.

On the 25th September, 1844, Dr. [Sir] Charles Nicholson moved in the Legislative Council that an address be presented to His Excellency [Sir G. Gipps] asking that :—

“in furtherance of the object of the Right Honorable the Earl Bathurst, then Secretary of State for the Colonies, as communicated in His Lordship's Despatch to the Governor of this Colony, dated the 30th March, 1827, to cause some suitable apartments to be forthwith provided for the Australian Museum; or, if this be not practicable, to direct the Colonial Architect to prepare a plan, elevation, and estimate of a suitable building for the purpose to be laid before the Legislative Council for approval.”

To this petition Sir George replied on the 27th of the same month⁵¹ :—

⁴⁹ Minutes, 24th February, 1849.

⁵⁰ Minutes, 1st August, 1838.

⁵¹ New South Wales, Votes and Proc. Leg Council, 1844, No. 65 (27th Sept. 1844) p. 243, “Message,” etc.

Gentlemen,

I shall have much pleasure in giving directions to the Colonial Architect to prepare plans and Estimates of a Building to be erected for the Australian Museum.

George Gipps.

Government House,
Sydney, 27th September, 1844.

On the back of a separate copy of this reply, printed Government Gazette size, and now in the Mitchell Library, are a series of minutes, initialled "G.G.," one of which reads as follows⁵² :—

"Write to him [Colonial Architect] stating that I propose to place on the Estimates for 1846, a sum not exceeding £3,000 for the erection of a Museum, and request him to prepare a Plan of a Building suitable to the purpose. But before doing so, he should confer with the Committee of the Museum, both as to the nature of the Building to be erected, and the situation in which it should be placed. It seems to me, however; that it ought to be in the Botanic Gardens."

On 30th October, 1845, this sum was accordingly voted by Council :—

"No. 52."

"Votes and Proceedings of the Legislative Council, 30th October, 1845, p. 4."

"(53) Resolved, that a sum not exceeding £3,000 be appropriated towards erecting a Public Museum, at Sydney, for the year 1846."

And of which the Committee were duly informed as follows :—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 14th March, 1845.

Gentlemen,

An address having been presented to the Governor by the Legislative Council wherein His Excellency was requested to cause some suitable accommodation to be provided for the Australian Museum, I am directed to inform you that it is proposed to place on the Estimates for 1846, a sum not exceeding £3,000, for the erection of a Museum; and that the Colonial Architect has accordingly been desired to prepare a plan of a suitable Building for the purpose, first, however, conferring with you as to the nature of the Building to be erected, and the situation in which it should be placed.

His Excellency has, therefore, desired me to request that you will have the goodness to confer with the Colonial Architect on the subject.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient servant,

The Committee of
The Australian Museum.

for the Colonial Secretary,
W. Elyard, Junr,

The Committee in the interval were, no doubt, busy looking around for a site, for on the Minutes of 12th September, 1845, there occurs the following :—

"The unanimous opinion of the Meeting, that the portion of the Government House Demesne, east of the Library⁵³ and nearly opposite the Statue would be a very eligible situation."

⁵² 1844. New South Wales (Australian Museum). Ordered by the Council to be printed 27th September, 1844.

⁵³ This presumably means the present Public Library, the foundation stone of which was laid by the Honorable Alex. Macleay in 1844 (*Old Times*, i., No. 1, 1903, p. 21).

A deputation consisting of the Hon. Alexander Macleay, Dr. W. Dawson, and Mr. Lewis, was accordingly appointed to wait upon His Excellency.

The answer to this deputation was communicated to the Committee by a letter from the Colonial Secretary (The Hon. Deas Thomson) that His Excellency⁵⁴:—

“under the circumstances of His very probable, speedy departure from the Colony, he did not feel himself fully authorised to alienate any portion of the Lands now attached to the Demesne of Government House for any purpose whatever.”

As a set-off against this disappointment, however, the Colonial Secretary informed the Committee⁵⁵:—

“He had received His Excellency’s command to propose to their consideration that portion of land lying immediately to the north of the Sydney College⁵⁶.”

This offer was there and then accepted, with:—

“Their grateful sense of his attention to their wishes.”

It is interesting to note that this action on the part of Sir George Gipps seems to have been brought about by a suggestion emanating from Mr. S. A. Perry, Deputy Surveyor-General, in terms of the following letter, addressed by the latter to the former:—

Surveyor-General’s Office,
Sydney, 31st January, 1846.

Sir,

In attention to your letter of the 29th instant, No. 46/41; I have the honor to transmit to you herewith a tracing of the portion of Land situated at the corner of College Street, adjoining the allotment granted to the Sydney College, and which forms no part of the land belonging to Hyde Park, but from which it is distinguished as a reserve for Government purposes, and is consequently available for the object to which your letter refers. The area of the portion of land alluded to, as far as can be ascertained without a very minute survey, is two acres, two roods, and twenty perches, more or less. And I have further the honor to state that I am not aware of there being any objection to the appropriation of one acre of the Land for the purpose of erecting a Museum, reserving the remainder to be applied at some future period, and for which the position of the ground appears to me to be peculiarly eligible.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sgd.) S. A. Perry, D.S.

The area of the ground marked on plan may be granted as a site for a Museum, and the remainder of the land reserved, though without any pledge or promises as to the future appropriation of it.

(Sgd.) G. G.
February 3, 1846.

⁵⁴ Minutes, 18th November, 1845.

⁵⁵ Minutes, 28th January, 1846.

⁵⁶ Now the Sydney Grammar School. The site so occupied in 1830 formed part of the then Racecourse. The College was utilised for University purposes pending the opening of the latter in 1852. (Dallen—University of Sydney. Its History and Progress illustrated (4to. Sydney, 1914.) p. 7.)

The tracing accompanying this document had been lost when this letter first came under my notice, but fortunately another rough tracing (Fig. 9) to be referred to in the sequel as exhibiting additional land granted to the Committee, was found in the Museum archives. Here, on the original site of one acre is shown as "former site of Museum."

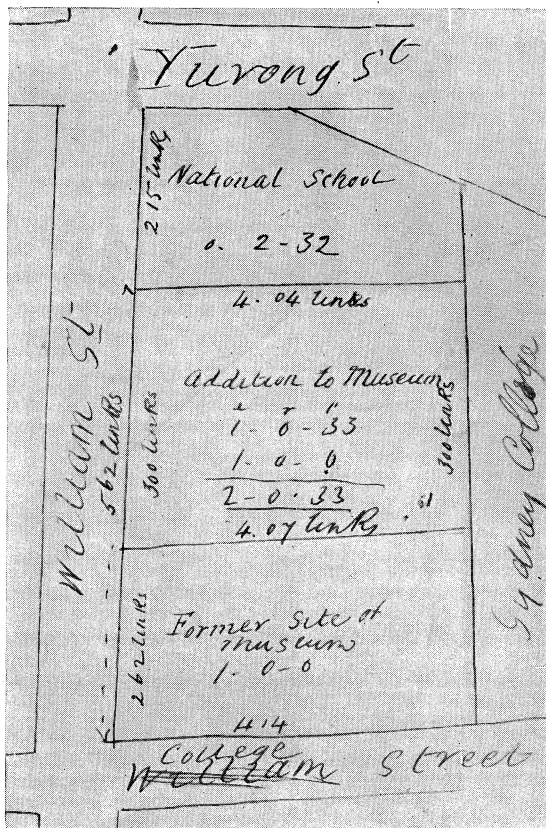


FIG. 9.

The site granted by His Excellency Sir George Gipps is thus referred to in the "Dowling Reminiscences," already mentioned. The wording of Miss Salmon's article is so similar I think these "Reminiscences" must have been the source from which she obtained her information; furthermore, both perpetuate the same mistake⁵⁹ :—

In an interesting article entitled "Old William-Street. Interesting History," etc., by Miss Mary Salmon⁵⁷ we learn that :—

"Where the Sydney Museum now stands in College-Street, was high ground that had a creek running along one side of it, where the boys fished for eels The ground where the Grammar School, the Museum, and the William-Street Public School stand⁵⁸ was the property of Chief Justice Forbes, and in it he had a fine garden, with a high brick wall that abutted on the Riley Estate."

⁵⁷ Evening News, February 13th, 1917.

⁵⁸ Yurong Street Public School.

⁵⁹ Dowling—Old Times, i., No. 2, 1903, p. 117.

"The ground [in 1822] where now stands the Museum, Grammar School, and the buildings facing College Street to its intersection with the Old South Head Road [Oxford Street] was enclosed by a brick wall, and I think was the property of the Chief Justice [Forbes], and by some was called his garden; the brick wall formed part of the western boundary of the Riley Estate."

A portion of this same ground referred to in the two previous quotations, that on which the Museum stands⁶⁰, is distinctly referred to in already quoted official documents (p. 350) as a "reserve for government purposes," consequently it could not have formed part of the Chief Justice's garden. Support is lent to this view by an old plan in the possession of the City Council (Fig. 10) for a copy of which I am greatly indebted to Mr. A. H. Brigg, City Surveyor. This explains the position by showing Sir Francis Forbes' (Chief Justice's) grant as at the western end of the block between Stanley and Francis Streets, and from the latter to the Old Toll House, which stood at the corner of College and Liverpool Streets.

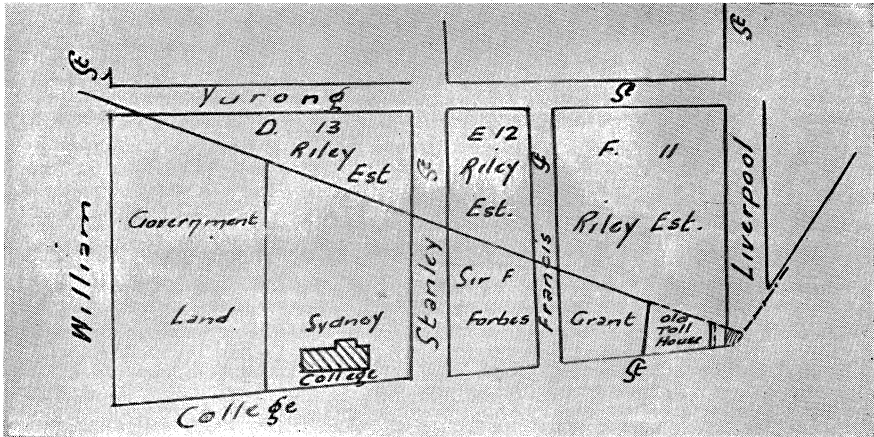


FIG. 10.

Portion of plan traced from Old Plan in possession of the City Council of Sydney dated Oct. 3rd, 1844, showing the position of the "Government Land," on a portion of which the Museum now stands.

There is even an older plan in existence of a part of this "reserve for Government purposes," mentioned in Mr. Perry's letter (p. 350), showing the present Museum site as a portion of the "Old Convicts' Garden" (Fig. 11), the proposed Park-William Street bisecting it. This plan, now in the Mitchell Library, and signed by the Surveyor-General, Sir T. L. Mitchell, is entitled as follows:—

"Sketch of a General Plan for the Regular Extension of the Streets of Sydney."

⁶⁰ Fowles again fell into error when he said the Museum site was at the "corner of William and Stanley Streets" (Sydney in 1848, etc., 1878, p. 84).

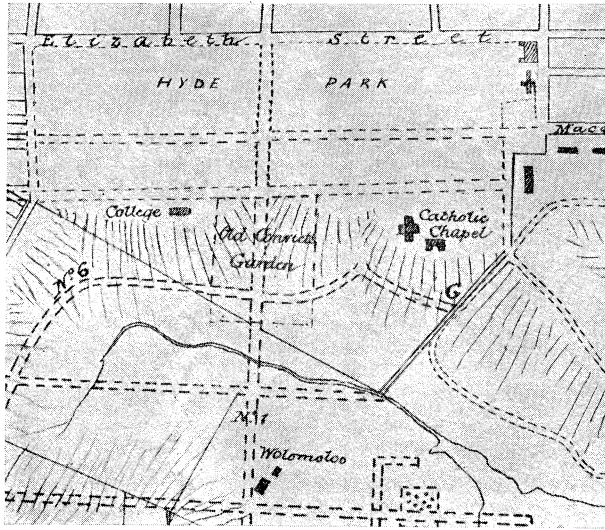


FIG. 11.

Part "Sketch of a General Plan for the Regular Extension of the Streets of Sydney, 7th June, 1831," by Sir T. L. Mitchell, Surveyor-General, showing position of the "Old Convict's Garden."

and is dated 7th June, 1831. With this plan (Fig. 11) is a letter from the Surveyor-General to the Colonial Secretary [Honorable Alexander Macleay], dated 21st November, 1831, as follows⁶¹ :—

"I have the honor to transmit a plan for the extension and improvement of that part of Sydney adjoining Hyde Park, and for laying out the latter with more advantage as a place of public recreation. I would, therefore, do myself the honor to suggest, for the approval of His Excellency, the Acting Governor, that no buildings should be erected, or allotments granted, on the enclosure within the brick wall named the "Convict Garden," but that that wall be removed, and the whole of the ground within that, and also that between the Catholic Chapel and Woolloomooloo boundary, be added to, and considered a part of, what is called "Hyde Park." I have the honor to submit this suggestion, because the principal charm of Hyde Park, or the Racecourse, is the view seen from it of the waters of Port Jackson, the Heads, etc., and the sea breeze which is freely admitted on that side from Woolloomooloo Bay, but which would be entirely shut out had the space named the "Convict Garden" been covered with buildings."

The plan, prepared by the Government Architect to the order of Sir George Gipps, was submitted to the Museum Committee by Mr. Lewis, and received the former's approval. It was accompanied by a letter from His

⁶¹ Report upon the Progress made in Roads, and in the Construction of Public Works, in New South Wales from the year 1827 to June, 1855, by Colonel Sir T. L. Mitchell, Surveyor-General (Sydney—Printed by William Hanson, Government Printer, Hyde Park, 1856), p. 51.

Excellency "sanctioning the erection of the Museum." This plan was also submitted to the Colonial Secretary, Mr. Lewis saying in his covering letter:—

"The plan requested, drawn in accordance with the general views of the Committee, and although the design is not so ornamental as I could wish, yet it is chaste, and affords all the accommodation requisite for some years to come, and is so planned to admit a great extension on a superior scale as well as ornament hereafter." (Pl. xlv.)

On the 12th February, 1846, a letter was received from the Colonial Secretary [Honorable E. Deas Thomson] informing the Committee that the Colonial Architect:—

"has been authorised to proceed with the Building":—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 12th February, 1846.

Gentlemen,

With reference to my letter of the 4th instant, respecting the Site granted for the erection of a Museum, I do myself the honour to inform you that, by command of His Excellency the Governor, the Colonial Architect has been authorised to proceed with the Building, according to a plan submitted by him, and approved of by His Excellency the sum of three thousand pounds (£3000) having been included in the Estimates for the present year.

I have the honour to be,
Gentlemen,

Your Most obedient servant
for the Colonial Secretary
(Sgd.) W. Elyard, Junr.

The Committee of
The Australian Museum.

The commencement of the present building was made in the early part of 1846, probably late in March, with the construction of a portion of the North Wing, or that part facing William Street, and comprised a basement, area, and area wall, the dimensions, expressed in more than one document emanating from the Colonial Secretary's Office, being 108 feet long by 64 feet wide, 51 feet high, and 352,512 feet cubic contents.

I give the month of March as the commencement of building operations on the faith of a M.S. document in the Mitchell Library:—

"Schedule of Tenders for Works towards erection of a Public Museum, Sydney, received in pursuance of Public Notice dated 15th February, 1846, inserted in the New South Wales Government Gazette of 17. 20. 24 and 27 February, 3 and 6 March, opened in presence of the undersigned on 9 March.

E. Deas Thomson
(Sgd.) Wm. Lithgow
Mortimer W. Lewis, C.A."

This is supported by the following extract from an official letter deposited in the same Library. Through it we learned the name of the contractor:—

No. 46/59.

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney, 13th March, 1846.

Sir,

In transmitting to you the enclosed Schedule of Tenders for the performance of certain Works towards the Erection of a Public Museum, I am directed by the Governor to inform you that His Excellency approves of the Tender of Mr. George Paton being accepted.

I have, etc.

The Colonial
Architect.

for the Colonial Secretary
W. Elyard, Junr.

There is certainly a discrepancy in dates, unfortunately, in connection with the commencement of building operations, for in more than one communication from the Museum Hon. Secretary (Lt. R. Lynd, R.N.) to the Colonial Secretary the former complains that:—

“This building was commenced in January last year⁶².”

In the face, however, of the documents quoted, I think, the latter end of the first quarter of 1846 may be accepted as approximately the date of commencement of the Australian Museum building as we now know it. The time allowed by the Colonial Architect for the completion of the work was eighteen months:—

“Mr. Lewis informed the meeting that the new building would require eighteen months to complete, but that within three months he would be able to afford the Curator a sufficient workshop in the building⁶³.”

5—FINANCIAL, ETC.

The financial position of the Colonial Museum from June, 1829, to December, 1837, has already been given (Part i., p. 70). From 1832 to 1837 the voted income never exceeded £200 per annum. In 1833-36 this was apportioned, according to “Raymond’s New South Wales Calendar,” etc.⁶⁴, as follows:—

“Zoologist	£130	0	0
Purchase of Specimens	70	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£200	0	0.”

but, in the official statement referred to above, there was no expenditure in 1833, and only the most trivial in 1832. In 1836 the allowance was subdivided in this manner:—

“To the Keeper of the rooms.....	£10	0	0
Collector and preserver of specimens at 1s. 9d. the hour	32	0	6
Providing specimens and incidental expenses	157	19	6
	<hr/>		
	£200	0	0.”

The income was again £200 in 1837⁶⁵, and this sum was continued as the annual allowance up to and after the institution became regularly known as the Australian Museum, certainly until 1846, but was increased shortly afterwards.

As an instance of the Institution’s scanty means is the following:—A letter of 5th October, 1836, is extant, informing the “Superintendent,” Dr. George Bennett, that as remuneration for the conducting of the

⁶² Letter, 47/2709, 31st March, 1847.

⁶³ Minutes, 7th July 1846.

⁶⁴ Raymond’s N.S. Wales Calendar and General P.O. Directory, 1833, p. 266; 1834, p. 261; 1835, p. 405; 1836, p. 190.

⁶⁵ Macarthur—“N.S. Wales; Present State and Future Prospects,” 1837, p. 220 (Appendix No. 46); Raymond—*Loc. cit.*, 1837, p. 202.

Museum, he cannot be allowed more than £100 a year! The following, copied from a document in the Rev. W. B. Clarke's handwriting⁶⁶, illustrates the disbursements of this £200 a year:—

"Application for Grant of £200 for the year 1841-2, for the service of the Museum.		
Salary paid to the Secretary from 1st Jan. to 31st July	£58	6 8
Salary paid to the Collector from 1st Jan. to 31st July	58	6 8
Salary paid to the Collector by the Secretary	9	10 0
Bills paid by the Colonial Treasurer	68	16 8
Incidental expenses paid by the Secretary	10	0 0
Balance in Secretary's hands to meet bills (unpaid)	4	10 0
	£200	0 0
Portion of Secretary's salary unpaid	41	13 4
" of Collector's " "	32	3 4
	£73	16 8"

From May, 1842, onwards the £200 was paid in half-yearly instalments⁶⁷, leaving its entire distribution to the Committee. The application for an increase already mentioned as taking place in 1846, is recorded on the minutes of 7th September of that year.

As early as 1847 the Museum accounts appear to have been transmitted direct to the Auditor-General⁶⁸, a practice and privilege still in vogue.

Once the removal of the collections from Darlinghurst was accomplished, it clearly became the policy of the Committee to increase them as rapidly as possible. This was effected, even at this early date, by soliciting donations and inaugurating a system of exchanges.

In "Tegg's New South Wales Pocket Almanac and Remembrancer for 1842" it is intimated that⁶⁹:—

"Specimens of Natural History, especially such as belong to the Australian Colonies, the Islands of the Pacific, and surrounding countries are earnestly requested. Communications to be addressed to the Rev. W. B. Clarke, Secretary As the Geological and Mineralogical departments are very defective, specimens of rocks, minerals, or fossils, will be very acceptable."

Acquisitions by exchange were equally sought, for on 5th October, 1836, we find the Museum Sub-Committee recommending that relations be opened up with the British, Cape, Calcutta, and other similar institutions, as well as the Linnean and Zoological Societies⁷⁰ in London, the Royal Society in Edinburgh, and the Asiatic Society, Calcutta. At the confirmation of this recommendation on 16th November, 1836, it was resolved⁷¹:—

10.40.

⁶⁶ Document G. ———

5

⁶⁷ Minutes, 12th May, 1842.

⁶⁸ Minutes, 4th December, 1847.

⁶⁹ Tegg—*Loc. cit.*, pp. 153-4.

⁷⁰ There is an interesting letter in existence from Edward Charlesworth, Secretary of the Linnean Society, addressed to Capt. (Admiral) P. P. King, R.N., and dated 28 Leicester Square, 9th May, 1838, introducing "our Ornithologist, Mr. Gould."

⁷¹ Minutes, 16th November, 1836.

“That the Duplicate Specimens be distributed to the various European Museums.”

In particular two large exchanges were received from the Asiatic Society in 1844 and 1846 respectively.

6.—BUILDING OF THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM, AS WE KNOW IT, 1846 TO 1863 INCLUSIVE.

The construction of the first portion of the Museum, or North Wing, gave rise to misunderstanding, expostulation, and recrimination, that it would be as well to avoid, if possible, but these happenings are so intimately interwoven with its history they must be touched on to render the latter clear and succinct. There were originally three contracts, viz. :—

- Contract No. 1.—“consisting in excavating for the whole building to a solid stratum to receive the foundation,” etc.
 ,, 2.—Placing six girders, forty feet long, on the foundation walls⁷², and floor of joists.
 ,, 3.—Carrying up the walls to the requisite height to receive the roof⁷³.

Assuming the date of commencement given to be approximately correct, we then find the Committee exactly twelve months after referring to⁷⁴ :—

“The very slow progress making in the erection of the building.”

and instructing their Honorary Secretary (Lieut. R. Lynd, R.N.) to :—

“Address a letter to the Colonial Secretary [Honorable E. Deas Thomson] complaining of this delay, and soliciting the interference of the Governor”!

In this letter occurs the following passage :—

“The Committee would desire to observe to you that this building was commenced in January last year [i.e., 1846]. That the Architect, Mr. Lewis, himself a Member of the Committee was fully aware how desirable it was, that the work should be brought to an early completion and, in fact, that he had, to meet the earnest wishes of the Committee distinctly promised, that a portion of the building should be available for the purposes of the Museum, by the end of October last Up to the present the building has progressed but little beyond the basement⁷⁵.

That is to say, in practically twelve months only the foundations and basement had been completed, or Contract 1 and part of 3. The letter concluded by detailing some of the difficulties under which the Institution continued to labour.

⁷² These wooden hardwood girders are as good to-day as that on which they were placed in position.

⁷³ Letter from Colonial Architect to Colonial Secretary, 6th April, 1847.

⁷⁴ Minutes, 27th March, 1847.

⁷⁵ Letter 47/2709, 31st March, 1847.

The Colonial Secretary's reply, bearing date 17th April, 1847, covered an explanation⁷⁶ by the Colonial Architect, a lengthy document giving measurements and details of work done, and from which we gather that the building had progressed but little beyond the basement.

Up to the 25th May, 1847, the cost had amounted to £1,028/14/8, thus⁷⁷ :—

In 1846.	For Excavation and Masonry	...	...	...	£644	0	4
„ 1847.	„ Masonry and Timber	...	...	...	384	14	4
					<hr/>		
					£1,028	14	8

leaving unexpended a balance of £1,971/5/4 of the original £3,000 voted, which Mr. Lewis anticipated would be enough to carry up the walls and roof of the building.

The next trouble to be faced by the Committee was that of money, as we learn from the following letter :—

Australian Museum,
6th June, 1847.

Sir,

By direction of the Committee for managing The Australian Museum I have the honor to state to you for the information and consideration of His Excellency the Governor, that from a statement made to The Committee by the Colonial Architect, they have every reason to believe, that the sum already granted (£3,000) for the erection of the Museum will be entirely expended by the end of the current year, at which time the body of the Building will have been carried up and roofed in, agreeably to the very exact estimate framed by Mr. Lewis at the commencement of the Work. To carry out, however, the original design adopted by The Committee, a further sum, estimated by Mr. Lewis at £2,000, will become necessary, and, accordingly, The Committee respectfully beg that His Excellency would be pleased to direct that a sum to that amount be placed upon the Estimates of The Public Expenditure now about to be laid before the Legislature, for this service.

I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most obedient humble servant

(Sgd.) Robt. Lynd,
Honory. Secretary.

A minute attached to the letter, by the Colonial Architect, explained that the sum voted for the completion of the design would have sufficed had it not been for an increased wages bill. An estimate of an extra £1,000 was given as the sum necessary to complete "the interior according to the original plan;" and to provide an internal gallery and external portico, as desired by the Committee, a further £1,000, together making the sum asked for by Lieut. Lynd.

Both the gallery (the present Mineralogical Gallery) and the portico were subsequently erected (Pl. xlvi.). The latter was still in existence when I joined the Museum Staff (Pl. xlvii.), and beneath it my predecessor, Dr. E. P. Ramsay, had a large aviary. This portico was demolished in 1892, when the North Wing was enlarged.

⁷⁶ Letter 47/2888, 6th April, 1847; Minutes 17th May, 1847.

⁷⁷ Minutes, 25th May, 1847; *Id.*, 14th September, 1847.

The request for an extra £2,000 was refused by His Excellency (Sir Charles Fitzroy) in the following terms⁷⁸ :—

Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney, 24th June, 1847.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 6th Instant, requesting, by direction of the Committee for managing the Australian Museum, that the further sum of £2,000 may be placed on the Estimates to complete the Museum according to the original design. Having laid your communication before the Governor, I am desired to inform you that His Excellency regrets that the state of the Finances of the Colony, and the other large and urgent demands upon the Revenue, will not allow of His entertaining, at present, a request for so considerable a sum as £2,000 in addition to that already voted for the purpose.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,
for the Colonial Secretary,
(Sgd.) W. Elyard, Junr.

Robert Lynd, Esq.
Honorary Secretary
to the Committee for
Managing the
Australian Museum.

At the same time the yearly allowance was increased to £300 for general purposes⁷⁹.

Undismayed by those rebuffs, the Committee again resolved, on the 14th September :—

“That the pressing necessity for further support should be again brought under the notice of the Governor.”

and the Honorary Secretary was instructed to ask for a further £1,000 (instead of £2,000 as before). This, however, was refused by letter of 21st September :—

“As the financial arrangements for the present year are closed, but if the improved state of the Revenue will admit of it, a sum will be placed on the Supplementary Estimates.”

By the 30th November, 1847, the Colonial Architect reported the walls carried up, and nearly ready to receive the roof⁸⁰.

The request for the £1,000 was duly honoured as will be seen by the following :—

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 10th January, 1848.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of 14th September last, requesting that by direction of the Committee of the Australian Museum a further grant of one thousand pounds in aid of the funds for the erection of the Building; and to my reply of the 21st of the same month, stating that the Governor could not then accede to the above request as the Financial

⁷⁸ Also Minutes, 14th September, 1847.

⁷⁹ Minutes, 4th December, 1847.

⁸⁰ Letter No. 47/9442. This money, voted in 1847 “for the completion of the building,” the Committee subsequently complained was employed in “raising the walls.”

arrangements for the year 1847 were closed, I am now desired by His Excellency to inform you that a vote of £1,000 as a further sum "for the erection of the Public Museum at Sydney" was subsequently proposed and agreed to by the Legislative Council.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

your most obedient servant,
for the Colonial Secretary,
W. Elyard, Junr.

Robert Lynd, Esq.,
Honorary Secretary
to the Committee of
The Australian Museum.

In October, 1847, Lieut. R. Lynd found it necessary to resign the Honorary Secretary-ship. His last attendance at a meeting was on 12th October. He was succeeded by the Rev. George E. Turner, who became a committeeman in 1845, and at once assumed the duties.

It is always interesting to ascertain when customs or methods of procedure, still existing, first came into force. Thus, the first indication of that most valuable adjunct to Museum display and scientific investigation, moulding and casting, otherwise replica work, appeared as early as 1848, when :—

"The Committee ordered the sum of sixteen pounds to be paid to Mr. Circuit for making several casts of the bones of a *Diprotodon* discovered and brought to Sydney by Mr. Turner, of the Darling Downs⁸¹."

The Presiding Officer at a now-a-day's Board is styled the President. This title appeared for the first time in April, 1848, but not coupled with the name of any of those present at the meeting⁸². The matter was evidently revived again in 1852, when Dr. George Witt moved that a "President of this Committee" be appointed for the year 1853⁸³. This, however, does not appear to have been acted on, as the word "Chairman," or "in the Chair" continued to be used as heretofore.

For some years during the term of office of my predecessor, Dr. E. P. Ramsay, dredging in Port Jackson was the order of the day at least once a week. This time honoured custom was first inaugurated during Curator Wall's rule, as it is recorded on the Minutes of 21st September, 1848, that :—

"Mr. Wall was then authorised to purchase a dredging machine for the use of the Museum, the expense not to exceed two pounds."

⁸¹ Minutes, 26th February, 1848. The *Diprotodon* remains in question were thus referred to by the Rev. W. B. Clarke :—"In the year 1847 Mr. Turner, a settler on the Downs, brought to Sydney a large collection of bones dug up from the banks of King's Creek, and together with Dr. Leichhardt and Mr. Wall, of the Australian Museum, I assisted in putting together such as correspond. The result of our labour was the construction of the head of a *Diprotodon* of such enormous proportions, that it measured four feet in length from the frontal bones to the occiput"—New South Wales Geological Surveys, Report No. x. (*Votes and Proceedings*, 1853) p. 5. An extended account was also given in the "Appendix to Report No. x," Nos. 1-5, pp. 11-17. The original collection made by Mr. Turner was, Mr. Clarke said, "sold to Mr. Boyd." Now Sir Richard Owen records the sale in London "of a series of Australian Fossils sent to London from Sydney by a Mr. Boyd," and among these was the head of a *Diprotodon* (*Phil. Trans.*, clx., 1870, p. 521).

⁸² Minutes, 22nd April, 1848.

⁸³ Minutes, 30th October, 1852.

There was no lack of applicants for the use of the "large room" as it neared completion. The "Society for the Promotion of the Fine Arts in Australia" held its summer meeting there with the permission of His Excellency the Governor-General⁸⁴. The "Australasian Botanical and Horticultural Society" also held its monthly meetings in the Committee Room (now the Board Room), commencing in September, 1848⁸⁵. But possibly the meeting that attracted the largest amount of public attention was a ball given in "Commemoration of the first Steam Mail communication [R.M.S. 'Chusan'] between Great Britain and Australia," and the Museum was in consequence closed for a month⁸⁶! Date of the ball was 26th August.

In these early days the contents of the Australian Museum was of a dual nature, Natural History on the one hand, Fine Arts on the other. The latter consisted of "Casts from the Antique" presented by Sir Charles Nicholson in November, 1849⁸⁷. The walls of the Committee Room (the present Board Room) were ordered to be painted dark red as a set-off to the white statuary⁸⁸. Later this was amplified by a purchase for £320 of other pieces from a Mr. Nichol in 1852⁸⁹. These were placed in the "great hall," but in July, 1853, their removal became necessary during the erection of a contemplated gallery around this room; further, at this date the replicas were not paid for⁹⁰!

Through the disastrous ending of the Kennedy Expedition to Cape York in 1848, the services of Mr. T. Wall, as Collector, were lost⁹¹; he was appointed in April, 1848. When it was determined to fit out an Expedition to Shelbourne, or Weymouth Bay, to search for any chance survivors, it was contemplated by the Trustees to send the Curator, Mr. W. S. Wall, as one of the party to endeavour to recover any objects of Natural History collected by his brother⁹², but the suggestion fell through⁹³.

About this time the Director of the Botanic Gardens (Mr. Charles Moore) was asked to lay out and plant the ground in front of the Museum. From Mr. Moore's predilection for that scourge of gardens, the Moreton Bay Fig, this occurrence probably marks the date of planting of the trees but recently removed⁹⁴.

A study of the "Minutes" of this period, aided by the perusal of documents preserved in the Museum archives, and elsewhere, plainly

⁸⁴ Document B. 10.48

⁸⁵ Minutes, 24th Sept, 1848.

⁸⁶ Minutes, 11th Aug. 1852; Document A. $\frac{19.52}{2}$

⁸⁷ Document C. $\frac{30.49}{4}$

⁸⁸ Minutes, 6th Oct., 1849.

⁸⁹ Minutes, 24th Oct., 1852; Letter-book, i., p. 126.

⁹⁰ Minutes, 30th July, 1853.

⁹¹ Minutes, 17th March, 1849.

⁹² Minutes, 17th March, 1849; Letter-book, i., p. 94.

⁹³ Minutes, 24th March, 1849; Document B.B. $\frac{10.49}{1}$

⁹⁴ Minutes, 26th May, 1849.

reveals the growing dissatisfaction on the part of the Committee at the slow progress made by the Contractors, nature of the work done, and the excess of cost over estimate. This was explained by Mr. Lewis as due to the advance in wages and cost of material over those ruling in 1845. The items of excess were thus shown:—

“ Original Estimate	... ..	£3000
Additional masonry in basement	... ..	£588
Increased rate of wages and materials	... ..	2838
		£5838 ”

So grave, indeed, had matters become in connection with the erection of this edifice that they came under the notice of the Executive Council:—

“ Summary of Proceedings of the Executive Council on the 22nd May, 1849, relative to the Estimates prepared by the Colonial Architect for building the Cemetery Wall and the Museum. Minute Nos. 49/21.”

After the perusal of documents and examination of witnesses, the Council recorded its opinion in these words. The estimates:—

“ for the building in question, and especially for the Cemetery Wall, were prepared loosely and without taking into consideration the nature of the ground on which they were to be erected. It is also clear that the Colonial Architect was fully aware that the cost of the buildings at the rate at which the first contracts were taken would vastly exceed that stated in his estimate, but that he did not in any way bring this fact under the notice of the Government when the acceptance of the Tenders was under consideration, so far as to afford any opportunity of deferring the commencement of the work until the increased expenditure should have been sanctioned by the Legislative Council. In these particulars at least the Council are of opinion that the conduct of the Colonial Architect was highly reprehensible, and that His Excellency the Governor would be pleased to instruct the Colonial Architect to furnish detailed statements of expenses incurred in the construction of the Museum, from the first commencement up to the present day, such accounts to be drawn up in the usual form of a debtor and creditor account.”

In the meantime (1st September, 1849) the Committee deputed a few of the members to wait upon the Governor (Sir Charles A. Fitzroy) to urge upon His Excellency the immediate necessity of a further grant of £1,000 to complete the roof.

On 6th September, 1849, the Colonial Secretary (Honorable E. Deas Thomson) addressed a letter to the Committee expressing the wish of the Governor:—

“ That the Museum Committee should form themselves into a Board to ascertain the amount of the debt which had been incurred in the erection of the Colonial Museum over and above the sum voted by the Legislative Council of the work actually performed whether it tallied with the vouchers and accounts sent in by the Government, and to report what amount may be justly due to the Contractors, as well as the sum that will be required in excess of the Supplementary Vote for 1849 and the Vote for 1850, to place the building in such a state as to secure it from damage from bad weather.”

A statement of the sums disbursed, in accordance with the above, was duly furnished by the Colonial Architect on the 10th September, and by the Auditor (Mr. William Lithgow) on the 12th September. In

conformity with the Governor's desire the Committee lost no time in forming its "Board," and at first appear to have contemplated employing Mr. E. T. Blacket to conduct investigations on its behalf,⁹⁵ but at its next meeting the names of Messrs. Robertson and Duer were substituted⁹⁶.

I have before me only the draft of the letter conveying this information, signed by Mr. William Sharp Macleay, to the Colonial Secretary. In this Mr. Macleay says:—

"The Committee referred the examination and valuation of the works done in the Museum together with the claims of the various Contractors to two professional gentlemen, Messrs. Robertson and Duer."

On the 21st September, 1849, the Rev. G. E. Turner was informed an additional £500 had been placed on the Supplementary Estimates and voted, but must await the result of the investigation of the claims against the Government then going on⁹⁷. This was, as the Committee expressed it:—

"for roofing in the Building and protecting their Collections from exposure to the weather."

Apparently it was paid some time early in 1850.

A document bearing date 23rd October, 1849, gives the amounts so far voted for the building as revealed by the "Appropriation" Acts, and the dates of the assent to those Acts, to be as follows:—

8th June, 1845	...	...	...	...	...	£3,000
2nd October, 1847	...	...	...	...	...	1,000
16th June, 1848	...	...	...	...	...	1,500
						£5,500

A detailed statement of expenses prepared by Mr. Lewis, and furnished by the Colonial Secretary, 17th October, 1849, informs us that from October, 1846, to November, 1848, the cost had amounted to £5,485/13/9, and that to complete the roof (i.e., to the original plan) a further sum of £267/9/4 was required.

The report of Messrs. Robertson and Duer bearing date 5th October, 1849, is a very lengthy technical document that would be of little or no interest to readers of this account, but all that is necessary can be gathered from the "Report of the Australian Museum Board" founded on the above, and dated 26th October⁹⁸.

The Board stated, *inter alia*, that the construction of the building, as it then stood, differed in several respects from that formerly approved by the Committee, more particularly in having a central dome or cupola (Pl. xlvi.); a recapitulation of the matters accounting for the various sums of money asked for and their disbursement. The Committee concluded this portion of the "Board's" Report by suggesting that all future sums should be placed "under their sole control"⁹⁹.

⁹⁵ Minutes, 8th September, 1849; Letter-book, i., p. 102.

⁹⁶ Minutes, 15th September, 1849.

⁹⁷ Document, No. 49/254.

⁹⁸ Document, 49/10513, 31st October, 1849.

⁹⁹ Also in a letter of 20th August, 1849 (Letter Book, i., p. 98.)

At this period the Museum Committee consisted of the following prominent citizens:—

William John Macleay, Esq.
 George Macleay, Esq.
 William Macarthur, Esq.
 Charles Nicholson, M.D.
 Captain P. P. King, R.N.
 George Bennett, Esq.
 Mortimer W. Lewis, Esq.
 Archibald Shanks, M.D.
 Staff-Surgeon Loftus Hartwell
 Rev. W. B. Clarke, M.A.
 Rev. Robert Lethbridge King, B.A.
 John Mitchell, M.D.
 Rev. George E. Turner, Hon. Secretary
 John Bidwell, Esq.

It may not be uninteresting to reproduce here a facsimile of the proclamation appointing the First Committee in 1836¹⁰⁰ (Fig 12).

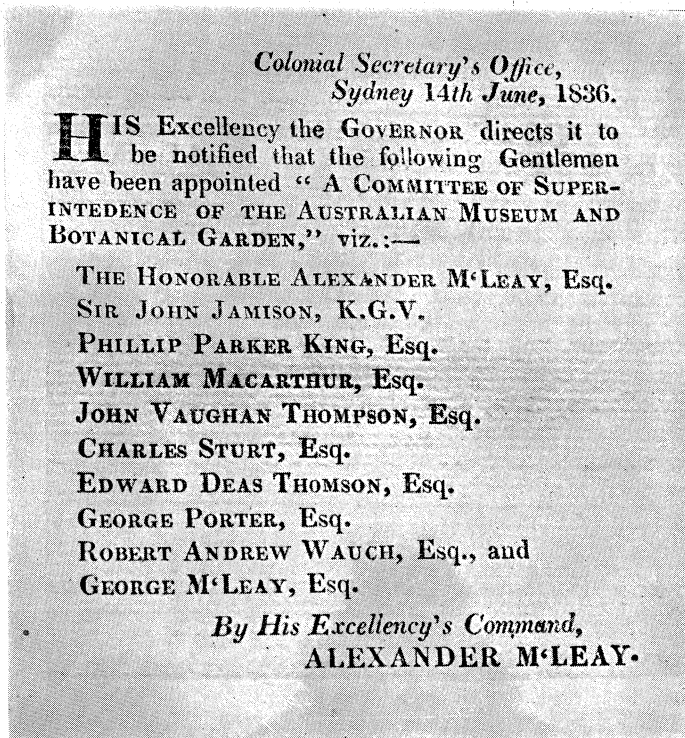


FIG. 12.

¹⁰⁰ Government Gazette, 1836, p. 451.

The result of Messrs. Robertson and Duer's investigations was briefly as follows:—

“ Payments by Colonial Treasury	...	£5,505	17	1	
Outstanding claims due ¹⁰¹	...	1,640	1	3	
					£7,145 18 4
Work done and materials supplied	...				5,228 15 3
Surcharge	...				£1,917 3 1

or a sum actually overpaid by the Treasury of £277/11/10, which “ will more than meet the expense of placing on the building a roof with sky lights.”

The Committee then proceeded to pass very caustic remarks on the uncertain, if not wilfully confused manner in which claims are made on the Colonial Treasury; the shortcomings of the respective Contractors; extra charge for materials over contract price; material totally unaccounted for; non-delivery of material charged for in accounts; wages expended on non-existent workmen, etc.

In reading the minutes and documents of this period, the mind of the reader cannot divest itself of the official misunderstandings that seem to have existed between the Museum Committee and the Colonial Architect on the one hand, and between the latter and his official superiors on the other hand. In fact, this is evident from the tone of a letter from William Sharp Macleay, the Chairman of the aforementioned Board, bearing date 26th October, 1849. The length and redundancy of this document, and also the fact that it is in many ways a recapitulation of what has gone before, renders its transcription here unnecessary.

As if all these contrarieties were not sufficient, differences arose between the Committee and their advising architects as to the matter of payment of the latter's costs. An “ Action of Debt ” was entered in the Supreme Court, the nominal defendants being the Rev. G. E. Turner and W. Sharp Macleay¹⁰². I have not been able to ascertain exactly how this action ended, but apparently it was ultimately settled by arbitration, Mr. W. M. Manning (His Honor Sir W. M. Manning) being the arbiter.

On the 3rd June, 1850, the Rev. G. E. Turner wrote to the Colonial Secretary asking that¹⁰³ :—

“ The whole of the unoccupied land within the present enclosure on the south and west sides of that portion which has been allotted for the erection of the National School ” [Yurong Street Public School now]

might be added to the Museum grant. This was acceded to by His Excellency, Sir C. A. Fitzroy, and the Committee informed accordingly on 16th July, 1850¹⁰⁴.

¹⁰¹ Distributed over four Contractors (Document 49/10513, 31st October, 1849; Letter-book, i., p. 107.)

¹⁰² Letter No. 50/525, 13th August, 1850.

¹⁰³ Letter-book, i., p. 113.

¹⁰⁴ Document, 50/5373.

Even at the beginning of 1850 the roof had not been completed, for on 30th March of that year it was resolved that :—

“ Mr. Blacket¹⁰⁵ be requested to inspect the roof and report generally to the Committee as to the best mode of completing the sky-lights.”

At the same meeting the Honorary Secretary announced the receipt of £990/5/- from the Government “ towards the completion of the Roof, etc.¹⁰⁶” Mr. E. T. Blacket was instructed on 3rd August to prepare plans and specifications “ for the completion of the Building¹⁰⁷.” The tender of a Mr. Inder (£794/5/-) was accepted on 12th October, 1850¹⁰⁸. It is clear that even before the completion of the roof the minds of the Committeemen were occupied with the question of fittings for the room, which afterwards became known as the “ Old Hall,” a Sub-Committee, consisting of Dr. Charles Nicholson, and Messrs. W. J. Macleay and E. T. Blacket, being appointed for the purpose¹⁰⁹.

Mr. Edmund Thomas Blacket, referred to above, the second Colonial Architect, successor to Mr. Mortimer William Lewis, was appointed Committeeman in March, 1851¹¹⁰, and into his hands passed the structural work of the Museum for the time being.

At this time came to an end the connection between the Museum and the Botanic Garden, a resolution to the effect that the “ Committee should be relieved from the present reference to it ” (i.e., the Gardens) having been passed on 15th November, 1851¹¹¹. This was communicated to the Colonial Secretary two days later¹¹². The latter replied on the 23rd¹¹³ granting the request and saying :—

“ His Excellency [Sir C. A. Fitzroy] is fully sensible of the advantage which has been hitherto derived from your connection with it.”

In pursuance of the selection of a Fittings Committee the Honorary Secretary was instructed on the 26th June, 1852, to apply for the insertion of £3,000 on the Supplementary Estimates¹¹⁴.

An extraordinary request was received from the Secretary to the University of Sydney, by direction of the Vice-Provost asking for a conference between Committees of the Senate and Museum respectively with :—

¹⁰⁵ Mr. E. T. Blacket had in the meantime succeeded Mr. M. W. Lewis as Colonial Architect.

¹⁰⁶ Minutes, 30th March, 1850.

¹⁰⁷ Minutes, *ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ Minutes, 12th October, 1850.

¹⁰⁹ Minutes, 8th February, 1851.

¹¹⁰ Document, 3rd March, 1851.

¹¹¹ Minutes, 15th November, 1851.

¹¹² Letter-book, i., p. 117.

¹¹³ Document, 51/10865.

¹¹⁴ Minutes, 26th June, 1852; Letter-book, i., p. 123.

“A view of ascertaining upon what terms the Museum and grounds might be transferred to the University, and of course to ascertain primarily whether any proposition would be entertained by the Committee of the Museum.”

The Committee's reply was brief and to the purpose:—

“It was unanimously resolved that its acceptance would be detrimental to the interests of the Museum, whilst, moreover, it is one which the Committee, under its present constitution, is not competent to entertain¹¹⁵.”

Through a letter from the Rev. G. E. Turner to the Colonial Secretary, of 18th March, 1852, we learn that at that date the building was actually finished. There occurs this expression:—

“Now that the building is complete¹¹⁶.”

Dr. John Smith, the first Professor of Chemistry at the Sydney University, was appointed a member of the Committee in November, 1852¹¹⁷.

As to the above £3,000 for casing the Governor expressed his unwillingness to grant so large a sum¹¹⁸, to which the Committee replied:—

“That he would have the goodness to cause any sum which he may think sufficient to be placed on the Supplementary Estimates.”

Before the question of fittings could be taken into serious consideration the erection of a gallery and railing became necessary. For these the Government provided £500¹¹⁹, and in July a tender for £390 from Mr. Abbott for building the gallery was accepted¹²⁰. To enable this to be carried out successfully the “Old Hall” was stripped of “all objects of Art and Natural History,” and the room closed to the public¹²¹. The railing surrounding this gallery was to cost £210¹²².

The death of John Carne Bidwell, Esq., a member of Committee, was reported on the 2nd April, 1853¹²³.

The year 1853 was a momentous one in the history of the Museum. It was in July of that year that the Rev. G. E. Turner retired from the position of Honorary Secretary. His place being taken by Mr. George French Angas, who, on the 30th July, was appointed Secretary and Accountant. The interval between the retirement of one and the

¹¹⁵ Letter-book i., p. 119; Minutes 20th January, 1852.

¹¹⁶ Letter-book i., p. 123.

¹¹⁷ Document B. 10.52.

¹¹⁸ Minutes, 24th July, 1852.

¹¹⁹ Minutes, 7th May, 1853; Letter-book i., p. 127. (Also Minutes, 8th September, 1849; 16th February, 1850.)

¹²⁰ Minutes, 2nd and 9th July, 1853.

¹²¹ Minutes, 9th July, 1853.

¹²² „ „ „

¹²³ Minutes, 2nd April, 1853.

appointment of the other was filled by Dr. George Witt, who had been a member of Committee since 1852, acting as Honorary Secretary¹²⁴.

The year 1853 also saw the abolition of the Committee System of administration, and the establishment of a body of Trustees under an Act of Incorporation. I think the first step towards the consummation of this very desirable proceeding took place on the 8th February, 1851, when the following members of Committee :—

“ Were appointed a Sub-Committee to consider and report upon the best means to be adopted for ameliorating the Constitution of the Committee of Management of the Australian Museum and Botanic Garden, viz., Dr. Nicholson, E. Deas Thomson, and W. [Sharp] Macleay, Esqrs.¹²⁵”

As a result of the appointment of the above Sub-Committee it was proposed on the 4th December, 1852, by Captain [Admiral] P. P. King, R.N., and seconded by Hon. [Sir] William Macarthur that :—

“ A Sub-Committee be appointed to consider the propriety of applying to His Excellency the Governor General requesting that His Excellency will be pleased to introduce a Bill into the Legislative Council during its next Session having for its object the Incorporation of the Institution and the investment of the Building and other property belonging to it as Trustees, to be nominated in the first instance by His Excellency¹²⁶.”

On the 1st January, 1853, the above gentlemen made their report to the Committee of Management, a very lengthy and comprehensive document, of which the following is one of the most important paragraphs¹²⁷ :—

“ They have had under consideration the Constitutions of the most distinguished Public Museums in Europe, and have found that these may all be resolved into two classes, to wit, those which are governed chiefly by Administrators of rank or political influence, and those which are administered by Professors of Science or Literature. The British Museum may be taken as a fair type of the former class, and the *Jardin des Plantes* at Paris of the latter.”

The report then described in great detail the constitutions of these Institutions, and continued :—

“ Your Sub-Committee therefore propose that the system of the British Museum, as it has been lately modified in pursuance of the suggestions contained in the Report of the Committee of Parliament before alluded to should be adopted as far as possible by the Australian Museum. They would even recommend the appointment hereafter by a special Act of Council of a Family Trustee, whenever any remarkably munificent donation or bequest shall have been made to the Museum ; and they venture to make this recommendation, not only because members of the family of a donor usually watch, with advantage to the institution, over the fulfilment of any contract or conditions as to the preservation of the objects so given or bequeathed, but still more on account of its having been found that nothing has encouraged liberality towards the British

¹²⁴ Minutes, 9th and 30th July, 1853. In July of this year Museum “ Registers,” or as they were then termed “ Records of Contributions,” were first established (Minutes, 30th July, 1853).

¹²⁵ Minutes, 8th February, 1851.

¹²⁶ Minutes, 4th December, 1852.

¹²⁷ Minutes, 1st January, 1853 ; Document, B $\frac{35.53}{1}$

Museum on the part of private individuals so much as their foreknowledge that a member of the donor's family would have the special privilege and power of watching over the manner in which his intentions might be carried into effect. Within the last ten years property to the amount of half a million sterling is stated to have been bestowed on the British Museum Your Sub-Committee think that the Secretary of the Museum should be a paid officer, and that his office and all subordinate employments should be in the gift of the Trustees. In the present infant state of 'the Australian Museum' it is presumed that its division into two Departments, each under the superintendence of a Curator would be sufficient—that is, a Department of Science, and another of Literature and Art”

This exceedingly comprehensive report was signed by Capt. P. P. King, Mr. W. Sharp Macleay, and Dr. George Witt. It was accompanied by a draft of :—

“ A Bill to incorporate and endow the Australian Museum.”

On the 13th January, 1853¹²⁸, the Draft was adopted by the Committee and ordered to be transmitted to the Governor-General [Sir C. A. Fitzroy]. It was duly passed by the Legislative Council on 23rd June, 1853, and signed at Government House on 4th July, 1853, the signatories being :—

“ Charles Nicholson, Speaker, Wm. Macpherson, Clerk of the Council, and Chs. A. Fitz Roy, Governor General¹²⁹.”

And was presented to the now Trustees at their meeting on 9th July, 1853¹³⁰.

This Bill, which remained intact until 1902, need not be quoted at length, but it may be as well to indicate briefly some of its privileges and the absolute control of their own affairs it conferred on the Trustees :— The Body Corporate to consist of twenty-four Trustees, twelve Official and twelve Elective ; vacancies amongst the latter moiety to be filled by the election of “ such other fit and proper persons ” by the general body ; five to form a quorum¹³¹ ; no power to alienate, mortgage, charge or demise, any lands or tenements without the consent of the Governor and Executive Council ; permanent endowment of £1,000 per annum ; power to appoint and dismiss all servants of the Institution ; to have the entire management of all its affairs, concerns and property ; power to make, alter, or repeal “ By-laws, Rules and Orders ; ” at least once a year, or whenever the Governor shall signify his pleasure to that effect, “ report their proceedings¹³²,” the same to be laid before the Legislative Council¹³³ ; and accounts of expenditure to be furnished annually.

¹²⁸ Minutes, 13th January, 1853.

¹²⁹ Act 17, Victoria No. ii., 4th July, 1853.

¹³⁰ Minutes, 9th July, 1853.

¹³¹ Still the rule. The first record of an election mentioned on the Minutes was that of Committeeman Dr. Archibald Shanks, proposed by Dr. Loftus Hartwell to take the place of Dr. W. Dawson (Minutes, 12th August, 1848.)

¹³² In other words the Annual Report.

¹³³ Now before the House of Assembly and Legislative Council.

The first body of Trustees consisted of the following gentlemen¹³⁴:—

Official.

- The Chief Justice (Sir Alfred Stephen).
- „ Colonial Secretary (Honourable E. Deas Thomson)
- „ Attorney General (Honourable John Hubert Plunkett)
- „ Colonial Treasurer (Honourable Campbell Drummond Riddell)
- „ Auditor-General (Francis Lewis Shaw Merewether)
- „ Speaker, Legislative Council (Sir Charles Nicholson)
- „ Solicitor-General (Honourable William Montague Manning)
- „ Collector of Customs (Honourable John George Nathaniel Gibbes)
- „ Surveyor-General (Sir Thomas Livingstone Mitchell)
- „ Colonial Architect (Edmund Thomas Blacket)
- „ President Colonial Medical Board (James Mitchell, M.D.)
- „ Crown Trustee (Honourable Henry Watson Parker)

Elective.

- Arthur a'Beckett
- George Bennett, M.D.
- John Carne Bidwell
- William Branwhite Clarke, A.M., Clerk.
- Captain Phillip Parker King, R.N.
- Robert Lethbridge King, A.B., Clerk
- William Macarthur
- George Macleay
- William Sharp Macleay
- John Smith, M.D.
- George Edward Turner, B.C.L., Clerk
- George Witt, M.D.

The Act was formally presented to the new "Body Corporate" by the Colonial Secretary on 9th July, 1853, when the Trustees appointed a Committee of the same three gentlemen (King, Macleay, and Witt) who had previously acted, to:—

"Draw out such rules and regulations as may be immediately required for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act of Incorporation."

The Report of this Committee was received by the Board, as it must henceforth be called, on the 30th July, 1853, and the following were its recommendations¹³⁵:—

- "1. That regular Meetings of the Trustees be held early in every month.
- "2. That at every such meeting an account shall be presented and entered on the Minutes of all expenses incurred during the preceding month including all salaries and wages and the same when audited and found correct shall be paid by cheque or cheques drawn on the Treasurer and signed by not less than two Trustees.
- "3. That the Bank of New South Wales, Sydney, shall be appointed the Treasurer to the Trustees.
- "4. That at every monthly meeting the pass-books from the Bank made up to the day shall be laid on the table and the amount of the balance in hand entered on the minutes of the day.
- "5. That Vouchers for all payments made in accordance with the orders of one monthly Board be presented for examination at each succeeding meeting.

¹³⁴ Minutes, 1st January, 1853: Act of Incorporation, par. iv.

¹³⁵ Minutes, 30th July, 1853. Document A. 10.50,3

- “6. That the Curator shall present at every monthly meeting a detailed list of all contributions to the Museum received during the preceding month together with the names and addresses of the contributors and the same shall be on the minutes.
- “7. That the Chairman shall be requested to propose a *vote of thanks* for every contribution found to be worthy of that attention, and the circular letter conveying such vote of thanks shall be signed by the Chairman and forwarded to every contributor without delay.
- “8. That at the written request of the Chairman of the last monthly meeting or on the order of any three Trustees in writing the Secretary shall be empowered to summon a *special meeting* of the Trustees, and the circular notice by which such meeting is summoned shall state the object for which the meeting is called.
- “9. That in addition to the *Rough Minute Book* the Secretary shall fairly transcribe the minutes of every meeting into a book to be called the “*Fair Minute Book*” and such Book shall contain as the first minute the Report of the Sub-Committee which was delivered in on the 1st January last, upon which Report the present Act of Incorporation was founded and which enters into many valuable details as to the objects contemplated by the establishment of the Museum. That the insertion of this Report be followed by the Act itself and then by the Minutes of the Trustees (as such) commencing with those of the first meeting of the Trustees held July 9, 1853.”

This same Sub-Committee was also instructed to make application for a “Deed of Grant” :—

“Of the Land and Premises, the Buildings and all objects of Natural History therein contained and all other movable property whatsoever late in the custody of the Committee of Management of the Australian Museum¹³⁶.”

As expressed in the following letter¹³⁷ :—

Sydney, July 23rd, 1853.

Sir,

The undersigned being the Committee appointed at a Meeting of the Trustees held on Saturday, July 9th, 1853, have the honour (in accordance with the subjoined resolution) to make application for a Grant of the Land, Premises, etc., now in the custody of the Trustees by virtue of the late Act of Incorporation.

To the Honourable
The Colonial Secretary.

We have the honor to be, etc.,
(Signed) George Witt,
Phillip P. King.

In reply the Trustees were informed that it was necessary to refer their application to the Surveyor-General, but it was nearly two years before the deed was delivered to them¹³⁸, although it had been ready in the Colonial Secretary's hands since the 14th March previously¹³⁹, and for it a fee of £1 was paid¹⁴⁰.

¹³⁶ Minutes, 9th July, 1853.

¹³⁷ Document G. $\frac{10.50}{4}$

¹³⁸ Minutes, 14th April, 1853.

¹³⁹ Letter-book, i., p. 145.
 $\frac{10.50}{4}$

¹⁴⁰ Document G $\frac{10.50}{4}$

The Sub-Committee were also charged, it appears, "to direct their attention" in the matter of a Seal, and although "various devices for Arms" were considered, an exact recommendation could not be made at the time. It was, however, suggested that the die-sinking had better be executed in London¹⁴¹. At any rate the design was agreed to and approved (the Lyre-bird, *Menura superba*) on 4th February, 1854¹⁴². But as the next meeting records the fact that a tender was accepted from Mr. James Allan, £10, the die must have been sunk locally¹⁴³; it is a very beautiful piece of work and still in use.



FIG. 13

On August 12th, 1853, Mr. Charles Kemp wrote from the *Sydney Morning Herald* Office to Sir Charles Nicholson suggesting that the "tablet to the memory of Gilbert" be removed from the office in question, where it had reposed for some time, and placed in the Museum. It appears this tablet was provided out of portion of the "Leichhardt Testimonial Fund." The Trustees after considering the matter replied as its unanimous decision, through Dr. Witt, Honorary Secretary, that¹⁴⁴:—

"The Australian Museum was not a suitable place for the erection of a tablet which had been executed in memory of the late Mr. Gilbert¹⁴⁵"

The tablet must, however, have remained here for a time, for Mr. Calvert, one of Gilbert's companions, asked permission, on 1st April, 1854, to deposit it in St. James' Church, King Street.

Also, in August (30th), 1853, the first Crown Trustee was appointed by the Governor-General (Sir Charles Fitzroy) in the person of Henry Watson Parker, Esq., afterwards Colonial Secretary (1856-7).

¹⁴¹ Minutes, 30th July, 1853; Document A $\frac{10.53}{3}$

¹⁴² Minutes, 4th February, 1854.

¹⁴³ Minutes, 4th March, 1854.

¹⁴⁴ Minutes, 3rd September, 1853; Document N 10.50.

¹⁴⁵ John Gilbert was assistant to Charles Gould and aided largely in collecting the material for the latter's magnificent work, "The Birds of Australia" (folio). He accompanied Leichhardt in the Overland Expedition from Moreton Bay towards Port Essington in 1844-5, and was killed by natives on the east side of the Gulf of Carpentaria, 28th June, 1845 (See North—*Rec. Austr. Mus.*, vi., No. 3, 1906, p. 125).

I insert here portions of two maps of Sydney bearing date 1854, showing the relative positions of the Museum, Sydney College (Grammar School), and the National School (Yurong Street Public School), one

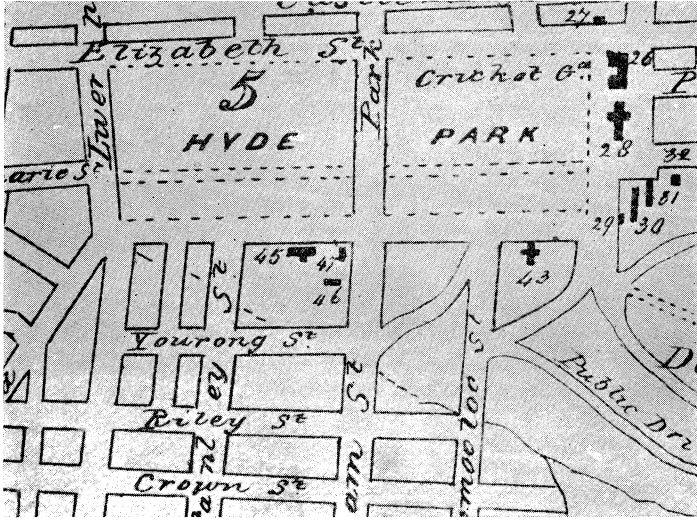


FIG. 14.

Portion of Hyde Park, College Street, etc., showing position of the North Wing of the Museum, No. 41.
(Map-frontispiece to Moore's "Almanac for 1854.")

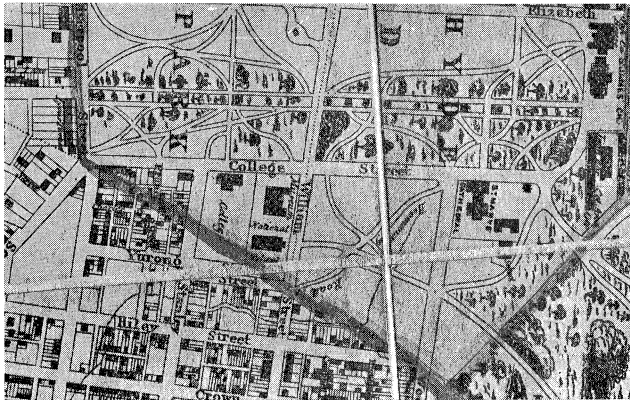


FIG. 15.

Portion of a more detailed map of nearly the same area, with the Museum in a more advanced state.
(Portion of "Woolcott and Clarke's Map of the City of Sydney, with the Environs," etc., 1854.)

much more elaborate than the other. Fig. 14 is taken from "Moore's Almanac" for 1854, and forms the frontispiece. Fig. 15 was portion of "Woolcott and Clarke's Map of the City of Sydney with the Environs." etc., 1854.

It is now necessary to again turn our attention to the proposed gallery around the "Great Hall" which we have already seen was to cost £390 for building the gallery and £210 to provide the railing surrounding. I regret to say I am quite unable to disentangle the various contracts entered into and sums asked for towards the building of this gallery. The proceedings in connection therewith seem to have been simply on a par with the hopeless muddle in which everything was steeped relating to this unfortunate North Wing.

In the First Annual Report of the Trustees to December, 1854¹⁴⁶, it is said the building "was utterly unfit for the display of objects of Natural History," the gallery was reported as "nearly completed," but fittings were urgently required. Apparently to meet the cost of these and other services the Legislative Council voted £500 in 1853, and £2,000 in 1854. The "building expenses" between July, 1853, and 31st December, 1854¹⁴⁷, are given in this First Annual Report as follows:—

<i>Estimated Cost.</i>			
1. Cases around Gallery	...	...	£1,700 0 0
2. Cases around Hall	...	...	1,460 0 0
3. Cabinets on floor of Hall	...	...	1,000 0 0
4. Staircase from "Hall" to Gallery	...	...	300 0 0
5. Drainage (in basement)	...	...	75 0 0
6. Flagging	..	...	436 0 0
			£4,971 0 0

In an Appendix to this First Annual Report is given the full cost of this gallery, and this is all I have been able to find about it:—

1853.—Abbott's building contracts	...	...	£1,716 12 3
Bernasconi (mouldings)	...	...	13 13 0
Murray (carving panels)	...	...	60 0 0
			£1,790 5 3

The Annual Report in question was the first of its kind and has been regularly maintained, according to enactment, to the present time, when, as now, it was drawn up by a Committee. The first record occurs in the Minutes of 3rd March, 1855, when Messrs W. S. Macleay, H. W. Parker, W. Weaver, with Dr. John Smith were deputed to so act. The Draft Report was adopted on 7th April, 1855, and at once forwarded to His Excellency the Governor-General (Sir W. T. Denison).

The survival of old customs, wholly or in part, has been one of the marked features of this Institution. For instance, at the present time cheques may be signed by any two Trustees on an emergency to meet an

¹⁴⁶ Published 1855.

¹⁴⁷ Ann. Rept. for 1854-1855, p. 1; Minutes, 2nd September, 1854; Letter-book, i., p. 139.

account, if countersigned by the responsible officer making the request. This practice took its rise as early as 1854 when, on the 4th March, Sir Alfred Stephen moved that any three members of the Board could so act, instead of two as now¹⁴⁸.

Another old custom that survived even up to the time of the writer becoming a member of the Staff was that of forwarding lists of donations to the public press regularly each month. It was in July, 1854, that it was decided to so supply "both" daily papers¹⁴⁹.

On the 23rd January, 1854, the Trustees were invited¹⁵⁰ by the Colonial Secretary (Hon. E. Deas Thomson), on behalf of His Excellency (Sir C. A. Fitzroy) to contribute their "duplicate specimens of Natural History" to the Official Contributions to the "Universal Exhibition for Agriculture and Industrial Products" to be held at Paris in May, 1855. The Trustees were also asked by the Chairman of the Commission (Sir Alfred Stephen) to afford space in the Museum for the display of the exhibits purposed to be forwarded to Paris, to be opened in the "Long Room" (Pl. xlv.) on 2nd October, 1854¹⁵¹.

There are still alive old Sydney identities who remember the Museum "Menagerie." The first resident appears to have been a Tigress purchased of a "Mr. Smith" in November, 1848, for £12, and then placed in the care of Mr. W. S. Wall for six months¹⁵²:—

"When she will be full grown, and may be then killed for the skin and skeleton."

but as a tigress was still present in 1854¹⁵³, this design does not appear to have been carried into effect.

The next guest was a Grizzly Bear presented by Mr. J. D. Nicholls¹⁵⁴ in April, 1854. Up to October of the same year these were supplemented by a Native Dog, or Warrigal, two Eagles and an Emu¹⁵⁵, and at the beginning of 1856 two Native Companions made their appearance in the Museum grounds, but were almost immediately sold to a "Mr. Wilcox"¹⁵⁶ for £5¹⁵⁷. The collection was completed by the addition of a "large Tortoise" which was ordered to be killed and converted into a skeleton¹⁵⁸. Apparently the care of the animals became too much for Mr. Wall, or they began to be regarded as a nuisance, for we find Mr. W. Beaumont, of Beaumont and Waller, Menagerie Keepers at the "Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany Bay," also known as the "Zoological Gardens, Botany,"

¹⁴⁸ Minutes, 4th March, 1854.

¹⁴⁹ " 1st July, 1854.

¹⁵⁰ Document, M. 11696.

¹⁵¹ Minutes, 4th March, 1854; Document G $\frac{60.54}{1}$

¹⁵² " 21st September and 7th November, 1854.

¹⁵³ " 3rd December, 1853.

¹⁵⁴ " 1st April, 1854.

¹⁵⁵ " 7th October, 1854.

¹⁵⁶ " 9th January, 1856.

¹⁵⁷ " 2nd February, 1856.

¹⁵⁸ " 26th November, 1856.

offering to take charge of the Museum animals on certain conditions. The Trustees ultimately consented to the transfer on the following terms, viz.:—payment for the cages, bodies to be returned to the Museum after death, and present to the Trustees the bodies “of such animals as may die in his (Beaumont’s) possession¹⁵⁹.”

A view of these Botany Zoological Gardens will be found in “Ford’s Australian Almanac” for 1853¹⁶⁰. In the same publication for 1851 there is an unpagged advertisement towards the end of the volume setting forth the attractions of the Gardens, which is rather amusing. This enterprising firm also secured an Elephant, of twenty months old, brought by the ship “Royal Saxon” from Calcutta in August, 1851¹⁶¹. This Elephant, with other animals, was exhibited “by permission of the Right Worshipful the Mayor and Corporation” on Hyde Park, at the corner of Park and Elizabeth Streets¹⁶². In “Press Cuttings from the Newspapers of Fifty Years ago¹⁶³,” this venture of Beaumont and Waller is spoken of as the “small menagerie upon the racecourse.”

In April, 1855, Secretary Angas applied to the Colonial Secretary for £5,000 to be placed on the Estimates towards completing the internal fittings of the North Wing¹⁶⁴, which received a gracious answer¹⁶⁵, but eventuated in only £2,000 reaching the Trustees¹⁶⁶ (Approp. Act 18 Vict. No. 34, 1855).

In the Annual Report for 1855 the completion of the gallery in the North Wing in the previous year was reported. The Report also says:—

“As soon as the Trustees were made aware that the Legislature had voted the sum of £3,000”

plans and specifications for cabinets and fittings were obtained¹⁶⁷, exhibited to the Board at the end of 1855, and a design having been agreed upon, the matter was placed in the hands of Capt. W. E. Ward for execution, and tenders ordered to be called for¹⁶⁸; the latter, however, appear to have been for only a portion of the work.

On the 1st September, 1855, Dr. George Witt relinquished his Trusteeship¹⁶⁹. Dr. Witt was a member of the Old Committee, having been appointed by His Excellency Sir C. A. Fitzroy in September, 1852¹⁷⁰. He left the Colony to reside in London.

¹⁵⁹ Minutes, 2nd September and 7th October, 1854.

¹⁶⁰ Frontispiece.

¹⁶¹ *Syd. Morning Herald*, 27th Aug., 1851.

¹⁶² “ ” 12th Sept. 1851.

¹⁶³ *Old Times*, i., 2, 1903, p. 100.

¹⁶⁴ Letter-book, i., p. 146.

¹⁶⁵ Minutes, 12th May, 1855; Document A $\frac{20.55}{26}$

¹⁶⁶ Letter-book, i., p. 151.

¹⁶⁷ Annual Rept. for 1855, p. 1.

¹⁶⁸ Minutes, 3rd November, 1st and 20th December, 1855.

¹⁶⁹ “ ” 1st September, 1855.

¹⁷⁰ Document, B $\frac{10.52}{5}$

A great loss was sustained during 1856 through the death of Rear-Admiral Phillip Parker King, R.N., on the 26th February; he had served as Committeeman and Trustee for more than twenty years¹⁷¹. The vacancy thus caused on the Board was filled by the election of Randolph John Want, Esqr., on 5th April.

The Honourable H. W. Parker who had filled the office of Crown Trustee since August, 1853, resigned that position in October, 1856, in consequence of becoming Colonial Secretary, an office carrying with it the position of an Official Trustee. He was succeeded as Crown Trustee by the Honourable Edward Deas Thomson, Esqr., in January, 1857¹⁷², a member of the old Committee.

Notwithstanding the completion of the gallery as announced in the Annual Report for 1855, this unfortunate North Wing does not appear to have been completed even by September, 1856, for it lacked a staircase to the gallery, flagging and drainage to the cellar, the hall ceiling unpainted¹⁷³, and general want of ventilation. To rectify all this the sum of £2,000 was placed on the Estimates for 1856¹⁷⁴. Dilatoriness supreme appears to have been the order of the day, for by 1864 affairs remained in an unfinished state, judging by a letter from Mr. Krefft to the Colonial Secretary in August of that year, asking that a floor be laid down¹⁷⁵.

No more hopeless muddle appears to have been made in the affairs of the Museum than the casing and fitting up of the hall and gallery. They seem to have been commenced in the early part of 1856, and the work continued well on into 1863. The fittings in question consisted of enclosing the intermediate pillar spaces on the floor of the hall with glazed framings, cabinet cases with glass tops on the floor, and glazed wall cases around the gallery¹⁷⁶. These fittings were in existence when I joined the Museum Staff, and I must say they were anything but works of art! To provide these fittings an appropriation was passed by the Council in 1856 for £3,000¹⁷⁷ and three contracts for their construction were let at £568, £857, and £1,387 respectively¹⁷⁸. The Annual Report just quoted then says:—

“The internal fittings of the great hall being thus brought to a state approaching completion, etc.”

¹⁷¹ Minutes, 8th March, 1856; Ann. Report for 1856 (1857), p. 1.

¹⁷² Ann. Rept. for 1856 (1857), p. 2; Document B $\frac{15.57}{2}$; Minutes 7th Feb., 1857.

¹⁷³ Minutes, 2nd February and 18th September, 1856.

¹⁷⁴ „ 18th September and 4th October, 1856.

¹⁷⁵ Letter-book, ii., p. 183.

¹⁷⁶ Document A $\frac{20.56}{28}$; Minutes, 15th March, 3rd May, 5th and 12th July, 1856.

¹⁷⁷ Minutes, 8th March, 5th April, 1856.

¹⁷⁸ Minutes, 3rd May, 5th July, 1856; Letter-book, i., p. 160; Annual Report for 1856 (1857), p. 1.

In 1857 a further £2,000 was passed to the Trustees' credit, and this enabled them to complete those services detailed¹⁷⁹ at an expenditure of £1,650. It was finally arranged that a series of glass cases were to be constructed and fixed around the gallery balustrade for the purpose of displaying the minerals¹⁸⁰.

The subject of By-laws first took shape on 3rd March, 1855, when Mr. George Macleay moved, and the Hon. H. W. Parker seconded, that a Committee be formed:—

“To prepare a code of Bye-laws for the conduct of the affairs of the Museum.”

These were passed by the Executive Council on the 14th April following¹⁸¹, and in the letter accompanying the approved copy the Colonial Secretary reminded the Trustees, in accordance with the 8th clause of the Act 17 Vict., No. 2, that the:—

“Museum Bye-laws must be published in the ‘Government Gazette’ within one month from the date thereof.”

A copy was ordered to be engrossed and forwarded to His Excellency the Governor and His Executive Council.

The following are the By-laws in question, and it will be noted that in some respects they are similar to those now in vogue, in others much more drastic:—

Bye-Laws of the Australian Museum, 1855¹⁸².

Meetings of Trustees.

1. The ordinary meetings of the Trustees shall be held as early as possible in each month, on such day of the week, and at such hour, as shall be agreed upon by the Board.
2. Any Official meeting may be held, at not less than two days notice, on a requisition signed by Three Trustees being lodged with the Secretary; provided that, in such requisition, the object for which the meeting is to be called be specified.
3. Every meeting, ordinary or special, may be adjourned, at the pleasure of the majority of the members present, to any future day at their discretion.

Vacancies in the Office of Elective Trustee.

4. The office of Elective Trustee may be vacated by resignation, by absence from the meetings of the Board, without leave, for six successive months, after the month of February, 1855, or by ejection as hereinafter provided¹⁸³.

¹⁷⁹ Annual Report for 1857 (1858), p. 1; Letter-book, i., p. 171.

¹⁸⁰ Minutes, 2nd April, 1863.

¹⁸¹ Document A $\frac{11.55}{3}$

¹⁸² ” ”

¹⁸³ This By-law was passed on 10th February, 1855 (Document A $\frac{11.55}{2}$; Letter-book, i., p. 143), and is still in existence, but in January 1858, it was altered to three months (Documents A $\frac{11.58}{4}$ and A $\frac{11.58}{5}$)

5. If any Elective Trustee shall contumaciously disobey any bye-law or order of the Board, or shall by word or writing publicly defame the Museum, or dishonestly do anything to its injury, he shall be liable to ejection by the Board.
6. Whenever there shall be cause for the ejection of any Elective Trustee, it shall be the duty of the Chairman, on the requisition in writing of Two Trustees, to propose at some meeting of the Board the ejection of such Trustee; and at the next ordinary meeting—previous notice thereof having been given him—the question shall be put to the Ballot, and if two-thirds of the members present vote for it, the Chairman shall cancel the name of such person in the list of Trustees, and the ejection of every such person shall be recorded in the Minute Book of the Museum.
7. As soon as a vacancy in the office of Elective Trustee shall have been declared ex cathedra by the Chairman, it shall be competent for any Two Trustees to propose the admission of a candidate for the office of Elective Trustee; provided that, at the time, the qualifications, scientific, literary, or otherwise, which such candidate may possess for the office, be stated in writing and signed by such Trustee.
8. At the next ordinary meeting after the Candidate has been so proposed, the election shall take place by Ballot; provided that no person shall be declared elected, unless he have in his favor two thirds of the members balloting.

Honorary Correspondents.

9. It shall be competent for the Trustees from time to time to elect Honorary Correspondents of the Museum.
10. Each certificate proposing a candidate for election as an Honorary Correspondent shall be signed by two or more Trustees, and shall specify the services which such candidate may have rendered to the Museum, or to the general cause of science; and such certificate having been presented at one of the ordinary meetings of the Trustees, the Election shall take place by Ballot at the next ensuing meeting of the Board; provided that no person be considered as duly elected unless he have in his favor two thirds of the members voting.
11. There shall be transmitted to each Honorary Correspondent, as soon as may be after his Election, a diploma under the Common Seal of the Museum (Fig. 16) signed by the Chairman for the time being, and countersigned by the Secretary.

Administration of Finance.

12. Some one Bank in Sydney shall be appointed Treasurer of the Museum.
13. At every ordinary meeting of the Trustees, an account shall be presented and entered on the Minutes, of all expenses incurred during the preceding month, including all salaries and wages; and the same, when audited and found correct, and countersigned by the Chairman for the time being, shall be paid by cheque or cheques drawn on the Treasurer, and signed by Two Trustees.
14. In cases of urgency, any three members of the Board may, by cheques countersigned by the Secretary, direct the payment of any account; every such cheque to be reported to the Board at its next meeting, and noted in the Minutes with the cause of the proceeding.

The Common Seal.

15. The Common Seal of the Museum shall be kept in a chest having three locks, with three different keys, of which two shall be in the custody of Trustees appointed by the Board, and the third shall be kept by the Secretary.
16. Every document to which the Common Seal of the Museum is to be affixed, shall be sealed at a meeting of the Board, and signed by the Chairman for the time being, and countersigned by the Secretary.

(Sgd.) Phillip P. King, L. King, W. S. Macleay, Alfred Stephen, J. Smith,

In February of this year a Committee previously appointed for the purpose, brought up its report¹⁸⁴ :—

“Regulations of the Official Conduct of the Secretary of the Australian Museum.”

Honorary Secretaries existed to the date of the Act of Incorporation in 1853, but thence onwards the Secretary was a paid servant. In the report of a Committee appointed on 9th July, 1853¹⁸⁵,

“To draw out such rules and regulations as may be immediately required for carrying into effect the provisions of the Act of Incorporation.”

The appointment of a Secretary was referred to as follows¹⁸⁶ :—

“Much of the anticipated advancement of the Museum depends on the judicious appointment of this officer. The requirements are such as are not ordinarily combined in one individual, who, in addition to a good share of classical attainments, ought to possess facility in correspondence, aptitude in business, correct and punctual habits, and withal a certain amount of enthusiasm in natural history and a love of the arts generally.”

Amongst the Secretary's duties provided for in the “Regulations” of February, 1855, as above, are¹⁸⁷ :—

“To arrange and catalogue such portions of the General Collection of the Museum as shall be allotted to him for the purpose, to make drawings of such animals or fossils as shall be indicated to him for the purpose by written request from any one of the Committee of Three Trustees hereafter to be appointed.”

During official hours the Secretary was not to engage in any other work than that connected with his office “under no pretext whatever.”

At a later period, in November, 1858, it was decided that the Secretary¹⁸⁸ :—

“Should be entrusted with the general charge of the Institution and the supervision of the other Officers connected with it.”

But this was overridden by a subsequent resolution passed when considering the terms of appointment of a successor to Mr. Wall in March, 1859 :—

“A suitable person to fill the office of Curator, and take charge of the Australian Museum¹⁸⁹.”

184	Minutes, 10th February, 1855; Document A	$\frac{11.55}{1}$
185	„ 9th July, 1853.	
186	„ 30th July, 1853; Document A	$\frac{10.53}{3}$
187	„ 10th February, 1855; Document A	$\frac{11.55}{1}$
188	Document A	$\frac{10.58}{8}$, 18th November, 1858.
189	Minutes, 3rd March, 1859; Document A	$\frac{10.59}{10}$

On the resignation of Mr. G. F. Angas in 1853 or soon after, the Secretaryship, as a separate office, was abolished, and combined with the Curatorship in one person¹⁹⁰.

Doubt arose in the minds of the Trustees whether their trust-custody extended to the specimens contained in the Museum prior to the Act of Incorporation in July, 1853. It was accordingly resolved on 2nd June, 1855, to address a letter to the Governor-General¹⁹¹ :—

“Requesting His Excellency to make over to the Trustees the collection of specimens of Natural History which was contained in the Museum *prior* to the Act of Incorporation.”

This request was favourably considered and the whole contents of the Museum incorporated in one series¹⁹².

At the meeting of 1st August, 1855, the seats of Messrs. William Macarthur and A. M. a'Beckett were declared vacant. To replace these gentlemen, the following were elected on 6th October, 1855 :—His Excellency Sir William Thomas Denison, Kt., Governor-General of the Australian Colonies; Rev. John Woolley, D.C.L. (Oxon), Principal of the University of Sydney; and Edward Wolstenholme Ward, Esqr., Captain of the Royal Engineers, and Deputy-Master of the Sydney Branch of the Royal Mint.

A revival of the practice of Exchanges took place in May, 1856, circulars being sent to no less than forty-nine European, two African, three South American, and five North American Museums soliciting specimens¹⁹³.

The Trustees, for some unexplained reason, were dissatisfied with the Act of Incorporation, and on 10th December, 1856, the Colonial Secretary was communicated with and informed that “anomalies” existed in the Act, and an amendment was requested. This, however, the Governor-General (Sir W. T. Denison) did not think it expedient just at that time and the matter dropped¹⁹⁴.

The first announcement of opening the collection to the public since removal from the “Old Court House” at Darlinghurst appears to have been made in August, 1850¹⁹⁵, notwithstanding the incomplete condition of the building; Mondays and Fridays were the selected days. How long this continued is unknown, but on 25th May, 1857¹⁹⁶, the public were

¹⁹⁰ Document A $\frac{10.60}{1}$

¹⁹¹ Minutes, 2nd June, 1855; Letter-book, i., p. 153.

¹⁹² „ 7th July, 1855.

¹⁹³ „ May, 1856.

¹⁹⁴ Document G $\frac{10.56}{7}$

¹⁹⁵ Minutes, 3rd August, 1850.

¹⁹⁶ „ 2nd May and 6th June, 1857.

admitted for one week, and it is recorded that during that time 12,000 visitors attended, a by no means bad attendance for those days. From this time onward the days and hours of visitation were being constantly altered.

In May, a Foreign Correspondence and Exchange Committee was formed¹⁹⁷. The first members were the Hon. R. J. Want, Hon. H. W. Parker, W. S. Macleay, and Dr. Woolley. Again in the same month the "Finance Committee" was resuscitated¹⁹⁸ in the persons of Captain E. W. Ward, R.E., Prof. J. Smith, and W. C. Mayne, Esqr. (Auditor-General). Such a body first appeared in March, 1855, to "furnish a statement of the expenditure of the funds of the Museum¹⁹⁹." The new Committee was instructed to "show a balance sheet at every monthly meeting."

The Hon. R. J. Want resigned his Trusteeship, to which he had been elected in April, 1856, in December, 1857, and was replaced by Sir William Macarthur, Kt., elected 6th February, 1858.

It would appear that upwards of eight years had been allowed to pass without providing a proper water supply, for on the 13th October, Secretary Angas wrote to the Trustees of the Sydney Grammar School inviting them to join in an application to have connection made with the main in Stanley Street.

In the Annual Report for 1856, the Trustees called the Governor-General's attention to the very limited accommodation which the Museum afforded in its then state for the proper display of the various collections²⁰⁰, and again threw themselves on the liberality of the Government for means to extend the building.

In August, Mr. Angas forwarded to the Colonial Secretary (Honorable H. W. Parker) for His Excellency's consideration plans prepared by the Government Architect (either William or Alexander Dawson) and adopted by the Board for the above purpose, inclusive of the "proposed entrance from Hyde Park²⁰¹." This last sentence clearly indicates this as the inception of the West or College Street Wing, and fixes the year as 1857. This application met with no cordial response, the Council expressing its regret that owing to the condition of the public funds it was unable to comply with the request²⁰².

¹⁹⁷ Minutes, 2nd May, 1857.

¹⁹⁸ ,, 2nd May, 1857.

¹⁹⁹ ,, 3rd March, 1855.

²⁰⁰ Also Annual Report for 1858 (1859), pp. 2-3.

²⁰¹ Minutes, 11th July and 1st August, 1857; Letter-book, i., p. 166;

Document A $\frac{20.57}{29}$

²⁰² Document G $\frac{10.57}{8}$

This want of space was brought home to the Trustees in all probability by the investigations of a Committee appointed to "Report on the appropriation of the different rooms in the Museum," between the various officials²⁰³. Amongst other incongruities noticed was the occupation of the "Board Room" or "Council Chamber" by several of the busts presented by Sir Charles Nicholson, which the Committee regarded as "incompatible" with its proper occupation. It is probable that the following extract from the Committee's Report was the germ idea for the erection of the West Wing:—

"Your Committee are of opinion that the only mode of providing properly for the Statuary and other specimens deposited in the Museum will be by making additions to the present building on a scale which may be sufficient for the wants of the Institution for some years to come."

Nothing eventuating from the Trustees' application, the Governor-General took the matter in hand and addressed the following letter²⁰⁴ to his Co-Trustees:—

Govt. House,
2 October, '58.

Sir,

Will you, if it be in accordance with the rules of the Museum, give notice to the Trustees that I propose to bring under their consideration at the next meeting the propriety of drawing up a petition to the Govt. praying that a sum may be placed on the Estimates of 1859 for the erection of additional buildings in accordance with a plan formerly submitted to the Govt.²⁰⁵, the object of such addition being to enable the Trustees to classify and arrange the rapidly increasing number of specimens in the different departments of Natural History, to keep each Department separate and distinct so as to enable the public to visit some pictures at all events of the Museum on every day of the week excepting Sunday; to provide a room for the books which the liberality of the Legislature has enabled the Trustees to purchase; and generally to give to the building a character and appearance which its importance as a branch of the Educational Institutions of the Colony calls for.

Yours,

(Sgd.) W. Denison.

Needless to say this was adopted, and a request sent accordingly²⁰⁶. Even this intervention of His Excellency does not appear to have proved effectual for we find him in August, 1859²⁰⁷, proposing a fourth attempt. This brought forth the pleasing reply from the Colonial Secretary²⁰⁸ that it was proposed by the Government to place on the Estimates the sum of £5,000 for the ensuing five years, in addition to a further similar sum included on the 1859 Estimates for a like purpose.

²⁰³ Document A $\frac{10.57}{6}$

²⁰⁴ Minutes, 4th November, 1858; Document A $\frac{10.58}{7}$

²⁰⁵ These were approved by the Trustees on 8th August, 1857.

²⁰⁶ Minutes, 2nd December, 1858; Document A $\frac{20.58}{31}$

²⁰⁷ ,, 4th August, 1859.

²⁰⁸ Document A 20.1861.

Nothing, however, of a practical nature appears to have resulted until the middle of 1861, for in May a Committee report²⁰⁹ was presented to the Board in which it suggested that the whole of the walls, roofs, and floors of the entire wing be erected, followed by the fittings for the two northern and central rooms²¹⁰.

In their Annual Report for 1861, the Trustees stated they had the satisfaction of reporting that the additions to the Museum were in progress²¹¹. The architect of the New Wing was either Mr. William or Mr. Alexander Dawson, but it was clearly completed under the direction of Mr. James Barnett. Mr. Thomas Barnett informs me that the architecture of the high central portion is "Corinthian Classic," and the wings would be best described as "Italian Renaissance." Mr. James Barnett was Acting Colonial Architect during 1863-65, and occupied the full position from 1866 to 1890, when the title of his office was changed to that of Government Architect.

This western façade of the building evidently met with approval, for we read in "Lawrence Frost's Compendium of his Views of Australia" (no date) that this front:—

"Shows one of the most classic and well-proportioned specimens of architecture to be seen in Sydney."

Again, in "William Maddocks' Visitors' Guide to Sydney," 1872, is the following flowery description:—

"The building is a large, massive, and beautiful edifice, of a bold style of Roman or Grecian architecture The site of the building required a style of architecture which would be effective when viewed from a great distance. The tympanum of the pediment has been left plain, some day it will probably be graced with a colossal emblematical group. Internally the ground and first floors of the new building are about 200 feet in length, 35 feet wide, and 23 feet high; each gallery being divided into five compartments by means of Corinthian columns."

The practice of exhibiting all new material or, at any rate, as much of it as possible at Board Meetings, first came into vogue in February, 1858, by resolution, and has continued ever since²¹². Books had now been acquired either by purchase in a moderate way, or by gift, from the time of the first arrival of the Collections in College Street, but the first indication of library activities proper occurred in August, 1856²¹³, when the Secretary was instructed to prepare a list of all the books in the Trustees' possession, and a trifle later a Library Committee was formed. These transactions unquestionably formed the nucleus of the magnificent Library now connected with the Institution. In the Annual Report for 1858²¹⁴ it was reported that £140 had been allotted for erection of book

²⁰⁹ Minutes, 2nd May, 1861; Document A 20.61

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²¹⁰ ,, 2nd May and 1st August, 1861: Letter-book ii., p. 2.

²¹¹ Annual Report for 1861 (1862), p. 2.

²¹² Minutes, 6th February, 1858.

²¹³ ,, 2nd August, 1856.

²¹⁴ Annual Report for 1858 (1859), p. 2.

cases in the Board Room, but this erection was long delayed as usual; Swainson's Library was also purchased from his widow. Somewhat later £500 was granted to be spent in London on behalf of the Trust by Dr. G. Bennett, Mr. G. Macleay, and Professor Owen²¹⁵.

The arrival of the Austrian Frigate "Novara," on a supposed scientific expedition around the world, gave a stimulus to the Exchange activities of the Trustees and enabled them :—

"to open communication with the Austrian Government and the Imperial Museum at Vienna."

A large general collection was handed over to the ship's officers²¹⁶. At the same time from the British Museum were received the following important replicas, skulls of the *Sivatherium giganteum*, South American Ground Sloth (*Megatherium giganteum*), Cave Bear (*Ursus spelæus*), and the foot of the Dodo (*Didus ineptus*). Exchange matters were in fact progressing so satisfactorily that it became necessary to appoint a London agent "for the transmission of books to and from the Continent of Europe" in the persons of Messrs. Flower and Co., afterwards Flower and Salting.

The seat of Frederick Orme Darvall, Esq., who was a member of the first Board in 1853, lapsed in September, 1858, and to fill the vacancy Alfred Roberts, Esq., Surgeon, was elected in October²¹⁷.

Shortly after the adoption of the new By-laws advantage was taken of the 9th and 10th to elect Mr. Lindsay Buckle Young, of Gladstone, Queensland, an Honorary Correspondent of the Museum, in recognition of his liberal donations of specimens²¹⁸. In July of the next year (1857) Frederick Raynor, Esq., Surgeon of H.M.S. "Herald," Captain Denham, and John Denis Macdonald, Assistant-Surgeon of the same vessel, were similarly elected²¹⁹. All these gentlemen had performed excellent investigations in marine life, and the Museum gained much benefit thereby²²⁰. Another valued Correspondent was Frederick Neville Isaacs, Esq., of Gowrie, Darling Downs, elected in recognition of his energetic collecting of fossil bones from the Post-Tertiary deposits of South-east Queensland²²¹, amongst others that much disputed skull *Zygomaturus*

²¹⁵ Minutes, 4th November, 1858, and 3rd March, 1859.

²¹⁶ Annual Report for 1858 (1859), p. 1.

²¹⁷ Annual Report for 1858 (1859), p. 2; Minutes, 7th October, 1858; 10.58

Document B

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²¹⁸ Minutes, 7th June, and 5th July, 1856; Letter-book, i., p. 163.

²¹⁹ ,, 4th July, 1857; Annual Report for 1858 (1859), p. 2.

²²⁰ Assistant-Surgeon Macdonald was a particularly keen naturalist and wrote extensively. Some of his more important publications were—Anatomy of the Pelagic *Jasonilla*; that of *Nautilus umbilicatus*; of *Macgillivrayia*, establishing a new Order of Gasteropoda; on the Sea Saw-dust of the Pacific; deep soundings obtained by H.M.S. "Herald" in the South-west Pacific; a new form of Compound Tunicate; Anatomy and Classification of the Heteropoda; Anatomy of *Firola*; metamorphoses of the Gasteropoda, and many other papers.

²²¹ Minutes, 5th March, 1858; Annual Report for 1857 (1858), p. 2; *Ibid.* for 1858 (1859), p. 2.

trilobus, Macleay²²². A diploma plate was engraved by Messrs. Allan and Wigley, Lithographers and Engravers, of Bridge Street (Fig. 16), the animal group at the head by Secretary Angas, so well known and appreciated for his artistic ability²²³.



FIG. 16.

The Rev. Robert Lethbridge King, a son of Admiral P. P. King, who was a member of the old Committee from 1848 onwards, and in consequence one of the first group of Trustees, resigned in December, 1857²²⁴. His seat was filled by the election of Alfred Denison, Esq., M.A., on 3rd March, 1858²²⁵.

The Curatorship of Mr. W. S. Wall terminated at the end of this year (1858), his retirement on 31st December being due to ill-health. (See Part i., p. 78.)

²²² See p. 360.

²²³ For instance his "South Australia illustrated" (roy. folio), 1846.

²²⁴ Minutes, 6th February, 1858; Document B $\frac{20.57}{1}$; Letter-book, i., p. 181.

²²⁵ Minutes, 6th February and 3rd March, 1858.

Two Trustees who could ill be spared resigned at the beginning of 1859, in consequence of visiting Europe, Sir George Macleay and Dr. George Bennett, both members of the old Committee, their names appearing on the first collective list in 1836. Sir George resigned on 3rd February, 1859²²⁶, and was succeeded by Randolph John Want, Esq., who was elected 3rd March, for the second time²²⁷.

By now the collection of minerals must have reached respectable proportions and required overhauling and classification. A Dr. Gygax, apparently a German of sorts, happened to be in Sydney at the time and through the instrumentality of Mr. R. H. Want his services were engaged in August²²⁸; by October, however, the unfortunate man was dead²²⁹.

The Rev. W. B. Clarke resigned his Elective Trusteeship in March, 1859, but was again elected in January, 1861²³⁰.

On the retirement of Wall, the subject of his successor evidently became a burning question amongst the Trustees. The Governor-General (Sir W. T. Denison) as an Elective Trustee, interested himself in the matter and wrote Sir George Macleay, then in London, indicating very clearly the necessary qualifications of candidates for the office of Curator, etc.²³¹ On 3rd March²³², 1859, a resolution was passed commissioning George Macleay in conjunction with Professor Owen to select a suitable person. In due course (October 17th) this Committee forwarded the name of the gentleman selected in the person of Mr. Simon Rood Pittard, M.R.C.S., who, accompanied by his family, arrived in Sydney in the ship "Lansdowne" on 5th February, 1860²³³. He was instructed to devote himself exclusively to the duties of his office inclusive of the delivery of lectures on "the different branches of Natural History." These lectures were delivered in the Board Room²³⁴.

The retirement of Mr. Wall, the resignation of the Secretaryship by Mr. Angas as from 1st March, 1860²³⁵, and who had served in that capacity since July, 1853, with the arrival of Dr. Pittard, brought about a reorganisation of the staff. The Committee appointed for the purpose recommended the two offices of Curator and Secretary²³⁶ to be combined,

²²⁶ Minutes, 3rd February, 1859; Document $\frac{20.59}{3}$; Letter-book, i., p. 200.

²²⁷ Annual Report for 1859 (1860), p. 2.

²²⁸ Minutes, 7th May and 4th August, 1859.

²²⁹ ,, 6th October, 1859.

²³⁰ Letter-book, i., pp. 201 and 233.

²³¹ Document B.B. $\frac{20.59}{5}$; Letter-book, i., p. 203.

²³² Document B. $\frac{10.59}{10}$

²³³ Annual Report for 1860 (1861), p. 2.

²³⁴ Minutes, 15th June, 1860.

²³⁵ ,, 7th December, 1859.

²³⁶ Document A $\frac{10.60}{1}$

Dr. Pittard to occupy the position, an Assistant Curator and Clerk in one to be appointed, Taxidermist and Messenger, and an Office-Keeper.²³⁷ Pittard, previously known as Curator and Lecturer, was to assume the title of Curator and Secretary, although the lectures were not to be abandoned. His duties in full were defined as follows:—

“Should attend the Meetings of the Trustees; should keep the Minutes of the Board; be responsible for the care, arrangement and cataloguing of the property of the Museum, and give at least two courses of lectures per annum²³⁸.”

However, poor Pittard did not live long to enjoy his honours; he died of consumption on 19th August, 1862²³⁹.

The gentleman selected to fill the position of Assistant Curator and Clerk was a German, Johann Louis Gerhard Krefft; the date of his appointment was 15th June, 1860, and his position was defined as:—

“Under the direction of the Secretary and Curator for the purpose of copying the Minutes and Correspondence of the Board, and for arranging the specimens in the Museum²⁴⁰.”

On Pittard's death he automatically gravitated into the position of Acting Curator and Secretary²⁴¹.

Amongst the numerous applicants for the Curatorship at the time of Pittard's selection was Henry Edwards, the Actor, a well known Entomologist, and “all round Naturalist,” whose application²⁴² was dated “Sydney, February 2nd, 1860;” the writer of this account had the pleasure of Edwards' acquaintance.

The Pittard family returned to England in October, 1861, passages having been provided by the Government²⁴³.

The Governor-General (Sir W. T. Denison) resigned his Trusteeship 3rd January, 1861²⁴⁴, when an address was prepared. The Board has never had, as one of its members, a more active and zealous colleague, who did everything in his power to advance the interests of the Institution. Amongst many of the matters brought forward by him was the appointment of a Collector, whose whole time was to be employed out of doors; the remarks made on this occasion by His Excellency show him to have been a keen student of practical zoology. He also suggested the immediate commencement of a “Catalogue of the Specimens in the

²³⁷ Minutes, 15th March, 1860.

²³⁸ „ 15th March, 1860.

²³⁹ „ 22nd August, 1861; Annual Report for 1861 (1862), p. 1.

²⁴⁰ Minutes, 15th June, 1860; Document B.B. $\frac{30.60}{2}$

²⁴¹ Annual Report for 1861 (1862), p. 1; Minutes, 23rd August, 1861.

²⁴² Document H 10.50.

²⁴³ Minutes, 3rd October, 1861.

²⁴⁴ „ 3rd January, 1861.

Museum," with a view of aiding Exchanges²⁴⁵; Angas was instructed to commence one of Shells, and Wall another of Birds. Sir W. T. Denison was also responsible for the addition of lists of all specimens obtained either by exchange or donation to the Annual Report saying²⁴⁶:—

"We shall then be in a position to show that an additional Building is a matter of necessity."

In January, 1859, Sir William further proposed the preparation of a:—

"Brief set of plain and practical instructions for collecting and preserving the various specimens of Natural History for general circulation throughout the Colony²⁴⁷."

It was, however, discovered that Mr. John Macgillivray had already prepared and published such instructions, under the title of:—

"Hints on the Preservation of Specimens of Natural History, intended for Country Residents²⁴⁸."

These were adopted by the Board, but only a limited number could have been issued; a copy does not exist in the Museum Library. The appearance of the lists in the Annual Reports just referred to continued for many years, in fact until 1899, when the practice was discontinued.

Previous to 1860 the Endowment of £1,000 represented the income of the Museum, other than special votes for purchases and what not, but in 1857 the Trustees were promised an additional £200 to supplement the then existing Annual Endowment²⁴⁹. This, however, did not eventuate until early in 1860²⁵⁰.

The Governor-General's resignation was followed by that of his relative, Alfred Denison, Esq., M.A., on the 1st March, 1860²⁵¹, who had served since March, 1858. His seat was filled by the election of Sir John Hay, K.C.M.G., M.A., elected on the same day.

The seat vacated by Sir William Denison was filled by the election of William John Macleay, Esq., on the 7th March, 1861. Professor J. Smith resigned in December, 1860²⁵², and was succeeded by Dr. George Bennett in January, 1861, a re-election²⁵³. Sir William Macarthur's Trusteeship lapsed in December, 1861²⁵⁴, creating a vacancy filled in the

²⁴⁵ Minutes, 2nd June, 1858.

²⁴⁶ " " " " "

²⁴⁷ " " 3rd February, 1859.

²⁴⁸ Cox and Co.'s Australian Almanac for the year 1857 (8vo., Sydney), pp. 90-98.

²⁴⁹ Documents 57/3777, G $\frac{10.50}{1}$

²⁵⁰ Minutes, 15th March, 1860.

²⁵¹ " " 7th December, 1859, and Document B $\frac{10.60}{15}$

²⁵² " " 6th December, 1860.

²⁵³ Annual Report for 1860 (1861), p. 2.

²⁵⁴ Minutes, 5th December, 1861.

following February, by W. J. Stephens, Esq., M.A., late Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, and Head Master of the Sydney Grammar School²⁵⁵.

The address spoken of before was made to His Excellency at a levee held on the 19th January. The all-important paragraph to us is the following²⁵⁶ :—

“ We are very sensible of the very valuable services which you have invariably rendered to it [the Museum] and to the Cause of Science generally during the whole period of Your Excellency's administration of the Government. Your constant attendance at the meetings of the board, the anxious desire which you have ever evinced to promote in every possible way the Scientific objects which the institution is designed to foster; the courtesy which has at all times distinguished Your Excellency when presiding at the Trustee meetings, and your numerous valuable donations to the institution all constitute claims on our gratitude, which we feel it to be our duty to acknowledge in terms of unqualified satisfaction.”

Amongst the more important acquisitions made about this time was that of a collection of minerals and ores from Mr. Louis Saemann, of Paris, which arrived in 1861. The purchase was recommended by the Rev. W. B. Clarke, the Legislature having granted a special appropriation of £200 for the purpose²⁵⁷.

After the death of Mr. Pittard a heated discussion, extending over a long period, took place between the Trustees and the Government as to the body responsible for the appointment of a Curator. This appears to have commenced by the Colonial Secretary (Honourable Charles Cowper) requesting to be informed²⁵⁸ of the manner in which the vacant position might be advantageously filled. The Trustees in reply stated their intention of taking immediate steps to fill the vacancy²⁵⁹. In the Colonial Secretary's reply occurred this significant passage :—

“ You will . . . understand than any arrangement proposed will be subject to the approval of the Government²⁶⁰.”

To this the Trustees, under date of 5th December, replied by quoting the 7th clause of the Act of Incorporation, which gave, and still gives them power “ to appoint all Officers and servants of the Museum²⁶¹.” The Colonial Secretary interpreted this clause very differently by restricting the Trustees' privilege to those appointments²⁶² :—

²⁵⁵ Annual Report for 1862 (1863-4), p. 1; Minutes, 6th February, 1862; Letter-book, ii., p. 46.

²⁵⁶ Annual Report for 1860 (1861), p. 2; Letter-book, i., p. 235.

²⁵⁷ Minutes, 15th June, 1860; Letter-book, ii., p. 15.

²⁵⁸ Letter of 31st Oct., 1861; Minutes, 7th Nov., 1861; Document B.B. $\frac{40.61}{1}$

²⁵⁹ Minutes, 8th November, 1861; Document B.B. $\frac{40.61}{2}$

²⁶⁰ „ 2nd December, 1861; Documents 61-4745 and B.B. $\frac{40.61}{3}$

²⁶¹ Document B.B. $\frac{40.61}{17}$; Letter-book, ii., p. 25.

²⁶² Letter of 11th December; Documents 61/5179 and B.B. $\frac{40.61}{9}$

“For which salaries are provided out of the Endowment granted by the 3rd section of the same Act. But the office of Curator, having been created subsequently to the passing of that Law and the Stipend appropriated by a special vote of the Legislature, must be considered as coming under the 37th clause of the Constitution Act, which vests all appointments in the Governor and Executive Council.”

During this year the greatest benefactor of Natural Science Australia has yet seen, joined the Board—William John Macleay—in March, 1861²⁶³, one widely known for his public and private munificence and scientific attainments.

The Trustees again wrote in January stoutly maintaining their right to the appointment of all persons in their employ, and asking permission to send a deputation from their body to discuss the matter with the Colonial Secretary²⁶⁴. To neither the letter or the request to be received was any answer sent until 27th March, when the Colonial Secretary not only reiterated his former arguments, but adduced others in support of his contention, and finally declined to give way²⁶⁵. After further correspondence, a Sub-Committee appointed by the Trustees drew up certain resolutions which were forwarded to the Government.

It will clear the stage for further proceedings of a like nature, should such ever arise, if these be quoted *in extenso*.

1. That by the Act of Incorporation the appointment of all the officers of the Institution is by law invested in them only.
2. That the Trustees are of opinion, that the Legislature having voted an amount for Salary of Curator whilst this law existed, must be taken to have granted it with the knowledge that the appointment should rest with the Trustees, and therefore that they are entitled to the disposition for that purpose of the amount so voted.
3. That independently of the question as to the right of appointment of the Curator, which of course also confers the right of dismissal, the Trustees are of opinion that they would not have that control over an officer not appointed by them which would be essential to the due management of the Museum.
4. That the Curator is not an officer of the Government but officer of an Institution endowed by the Parliament in the same manner as the University, the Benevolent Asylum, the Sydney Infirmary, and similar Institutions.
5. That the Government has already recognised the right of the Trustees to appoint the Curator. In the case of Mr. Pittard this appointment was made by them through the instrumentality of His Excellency, Sir W. T. Denison, acting as one of the elected members of the Board, and not as Governor-General, as communicated by their Secretary's letter to you, from which the following is an extract:—

“I am directed by the Trustees to inform you that, having trusted
 “the selection of a competent gentleman to fill the office of Curator
 “to Professor Owen and Mr. George Macleay, they have after much
 “trouble and enquiry chosen Mr. S. R. Pittard, a member of the
 “Royal College of Surgeons of London and Demonstrator of Anatomy
 “at the Grosvenor Place School, as the most eligible of candidates
 “who presented themselves for appointment.”

²⁶³ Minutes, 7th February and 7th March, 1861.

²⁶⁴ „ 2nd and 9th January, 1862; Letter-book, ii., p. 35.

²⁶⁵ Documents 62/86 and B.B. $\frac{40.62}{12}$

The Colonial Secretary's reply of the 24th February, 1860, acknowledged the receipt of the above letter and in his second paragraph states as follows:—

“In reply I am directed by the Colonial Secretary to state, that no payment can be allowed except the sums actually agreed to or paid by the gentlemen who undertook to make the engagement.”

The Trustees consider that it is clear from this correspondence that the right of the Trustees was not disputed by the Government.

6. That with respect to the despatch addressed by His Excellency, Sir W. T. Denison to the Secretary of State and the reply to that despatch, it is sufficient to state that neither the Board nor any of its members were aware of either of them, and that no copy of that reply stated to have been forwarded to them has ever been received by the Trustees.
7. That the Trustees regret the determination which the Colonial Secretary has arrived at as the non-appointment of a Curator at a time when his services are particularly required must materially injure not only the Institution but the Public by depriving them of the lectures the Curator would give.
8. The Trustees cannot for the reasons hereinbefore given consent to incur the responsibility of managing an Institution with an officer who would in fact be independent of their control, and they therefore cannot admit the right of the Government to the appointment nor indeed the policy of vesting it in any other body but the Trustees.
9. Under the circumstances the Trustees must endeavour to the best of their ability to carry on the Institution with the present Acting Curator who also fills the office of Secretary and whose joint occupation will necessarily prevent him from devoting all that care as Curator which the Museum imperatively demands. The blame should the Institution not prosper as the Trustees would desire will not rest with them.
10. The Trustees are under the impression that the Government only refuse to them the right of the appointment of Curator from a belief that the Constitution Act of the Colony renders it imperative on the Government to nominate such an officer, an interpretation of the law in which this Board cannot concur. They would suggest however to the Colonial Secretary that in order to solve the difficulty the Government should place the amount of the Salary of the Curator on the ensuing Estimates as an addition to the endowment fund indispensable to the proper management of the Institution.
11. The Trustees are extremely anxious to procure the services of a thoroughly qualified Curator, and if the salary be granted propose to request two or more of the most distinguished naturalists in England to select such a person for the appointment. At present they have heard of no person qualified for the office.

And here the matter rested, to all intents and purposes, for upwards of two years, in fact, until the 28th April, 1864. In the meantime the Trustees expressed their annoyance and difficulties as follows²⁶⁶:—

“The Trustees have with much regret to report that the Museum is suffering from the want of the services of an efficient Curator, though the Legislature has voted a liberal sum for the salary of such an Officer. . . . The Trustees have been withheld from proceeding to obtain a Curator by the refusal of the Government to recognise the right of the Trustees to appoint such an Officer, or even to make arrangements for the selection of an individual to fill that office.”

²⁶⁶ Annual Report for 1862 (1863-4), p. 2.

However, on the 28th April, 1864, a change came o'er the scene, nothing less than a complete surrender on the part of the authorities, in these words²⁶⁷ :—

“The Crown Law Officers, who have been consulted on the point, have advised that the Office of Curator should be left in the hands of the Trustees of the Museum.”

The Trustees naturally expressed their gratification²⁶⁸ that the Executive Council had at last recognised as a principle the position they had so long maintained. Their letter concludes with these words :—

“The Trustees have had no hesitation in electing Mr. Gerard Krefft who has been in sole charge of the Museum since August, 1861, (having been also engaged as Assistant since June, 1860), and has during the whole of this period given the most satisfactory evidence of energy, ability, and enthusiasm, in his work²⁶⁹.”

At the same time an Assistant-Curator of “considerable practical experience in the person of Mr. George Masters” was appointed²⁷⁰.

About the middle of 1861 the Trustees were appealed to by the Commissioners of the International Exhibition to be held in London in 1862 for co-operation in the supply of specimens of Natural History. The Trustees declined to assist, and offered the Commissioners a very sensible piece of advice²⁷¹, viz.:—

“Send into the interior persons properly qualified to collect and arrange Zoological and Mineralogical Specimens.”

A survival, at the present time, is that of a rule passed in November, 1861, through the instrumentality of Alfred Roberts, Esq., by which no servant of the Trust is allowed to sell or otherwise deal in specimens or collections such as are represented in the Museum.

The year 1862 was remarkable for the number of changes that took place on the Board. The seat of John Hay, Esq., M.L.A., lapsed in January²⁷², but he was re-elected in March²⁷³ to succeed Charles Nicholson, whose seat had lapsed in the previous February, Mr. Hay's position becoming occupied by Edward Smith Hill, Esq., in March²⁷⁴,

²⁶⁷ Documents 64/2290 and B.B. $\frac{40.64}{14}$

²⁶⁸ Document B.B. $\frac{64}{13}$; Letter-book, ii., p. 156, 5th May, 1864. The full correspondence will be found in the “Votes and Proceedings”—“Curator of Australian Museum (correspondence respecting appointment of),” 35A., 1862.

²⁶⁹ Annual Report for 1864 (1865), pp. 1 and 2.

²⁷⁰ Minutes, 2nd June, 1864; Letter-book, ii., p. 155.

²⁷¹ „ 6th June, 1861.

²⁷² „ 2nd January, 1862; Annual Report for 1862 (1863-4), p. 1.

²⁷³ „ 6th March, 1862; Letter-book, ii., p. 49.

²⁷⁴ „ „ „ „ „ „ ii., p. 48.

Colonial Architect James Barnet, who completed the West Wing, commenced by Colonial Architects Dawson, became an Official Trustee in December in virtue of his office²⁷⁵.

For twenty or more years that eminent Naturalist, William Sharp Macleay, gave his best energies to the welfare of the Institution. Committeeman from 1841 to 1853, Elective Trustee from 1853 onwards, ill-health compelled him to resign in January, 1862²⁷⁶. The Board presented him with an Address, a copy of which is herewith given.

“To William Sharp Macleay, Esq., A.M., F.L.S., etc., etc., etc.
Sir,

We the undersigned Trustees of the Australian Museum cannot allow the occasion of your resignation to pass without expressing to you the great regret with which we have learnt, that the state of your health has rendered the step imperative. We the more regret your retirement, because we are sensible of the value and prestige which appertain to your name as that of one who has largely contributed to the advancement of those objects of Science which the institution is intended to promote.

We gladly avail ourselves of the opportunity to record our high appreciation of the valuable services in which you have on all occasions rendered to the Institution during the long period, now extending over twenty years, that you have been a member of the Board.

We shall gladly avail ourselves of the further assistance which you have kindly proffered.

In conclusion we have much pleasure in expressing to you our earnest wish that with improved health you may long enjoy the solace of indulging in those Literary and philosophical researches which have gained for you a high reputation throughout the civilised world.

We have the honor to subscribe ourselves,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servants,

(Sig.)	George Bennett, M.D.	E. Deas Thomson, Chairman.
	Alfred Roberts	George E. Turner
	R. J. Want	William J. Stephens
	William Macleay	Edward S. Hill.”

The first regular proposal to keep Specimen Registers, as we know them now, seems to have emanated from Alfred Roberts, Esq., who in March carried the following resolution²⁷⁷ :—

“That it be the special duty of the Curator or Acting-Curator to keep or have kept a tabulated Account of all specimens received into the Museum which shall embody the following points and be laid before each Monthly Board Meeting.

1. Number in consecutive arrangement.
2. Name and habitat of Specimen (as near as possible).
3. Name of Donor or of person purchased from.
4. Date of presentation or of purchase.
5. Date of its being handed to the Sub-Curator or Taxidermist for preparation.
6. Date of its return to Curator.
7. Letter and number of place or compartment in which it is placed.
8. Ultimate destination.”

²⁷⁵ Letter-book, ii., p. 73.

²⁷⁶ Minutes, 2nd January, 1862; Annual Report for 1862 (1863-4), p. 1.

²⁷⁷ „ 6th February and 6th March, 1862.

The present Registers are modelled more or less on the same lines as the foregoing.

A very important purchase was effected in 1862, that of Count d'Archaic's Collection of Mesozoic fossils²⁷⁸.

What may be termed the third Museum publication made its appearance during this year:—

“A Catalogue of Mammalia in the Collection of the Australian Museum, by Gerard Krefft, 1864²⁷⁹.”

The preparation of this work was first mooted in January²⁸⁰, and the completed M.S. laid before the Board in December²⁸¹. It has long been out of print.

In June, 1863, the Honourable A. W. Scott, M.L.C., well known for his fine but unfinished work, “Australian Lepidoptera and their Transformations,” joined the Board²⁸² in place of Sir John Hay, whose seat had again become vacant²⁸³.

I have previously related the preliminary steps that led to the commencement of the erection of the West or College Street Wing in 1861-2. In their Annual Report for 1866 (1867) the Trustees said:—

“The building will be ready within a short period for the reception of specimens.”

In the same document for 1867 (1868) reference is made to filling the new wing with cabinets, and finally in the 1868 occurs this statement:—

“The new wing has been open to the public since January, and the number of visitors has been largely increased, from 11,300 in 1860 to more than 100,000 persons during the past year²⁸⁴.”

The record of Mr. Krefft's appointment and the brief statement of the completion and opening of the West Wing will form a convenient halting point at which to bring this Part ii. of the Museum History to a close.

²⁷⁸ Minutes, 8th May, 1862.

²⁷⁹ 8vo., Sydney, 1864.

²⁸⁰ Minutes, 7th January, 1864.

²⁸¹ ,, 1st December, 1864.

²⁸² ,, 6th March and 4th June, 1863; Letter-book, ii., p. 105.

²⁸³ ,, 7th April, 1863; Annual Report for year 1863 (1864), p. 1.

²⁸⁴ Also see S. T. Leigh and Co.'s “Handbook to Sydney and Suburbs,” 1867, p. 79.

APPENDIX.

Additions and Corrections to First Part.

DR. J. LHOTSKY (p. 71)—He was an expatriated Pole, and “had a cabinet in Elizabeth Street which was much admired for its scientific arrangement.” From the “Australian Alps” he brought some auriferous sand. Mr. John Benson Martin “was one of the few who attended at Dick’s, the silver-smith, to witness its reduction, and saw the first button of Australian gold turned out of its crucible²⁸⁵.” From this it would appear that Lhotsky’s discovery antedated that of his illustrious countryman, Strzelecki: He was referred to in the “Sydney Gazette”²⁸⁶ as a candidate for Holmes’ place as Colonial Zoologist. He all but anticipated Strzelecki in the latter’s exploration of Mt. Kosciusko, for in a letter to the Editor of the “Sydney Gazette”²⁸⁷ from Jirabombra, on Limestone Plains, dated 5th April, 1834, he wrote:—

“Visiting many of the stations scattered about the interesting and important downs of *Menero*, I crossed the Snowy River, and brought my cart as far as Mutong, situated about 37° S.L. and 148° E.L. . . . and entered by *Westall’s Opening* the very heart of the Australian Alps.”

—The position of this Mutong (which I cannot find on any map) from the latitude and longitude given, must be in Victoria, at some distance to the south of Mt. Kosciusko. He goes on to say:—

“The 5th of March, at 8 A.M., I was on the top of Mt. William, the absolute altitude of which is, according to the preliminary calculations I was able to make at the time, from 5 to 7,000 feet, and therefore by far the highest point ever reached by any traveller on the Australian Continent.”

In the “Sydney Gazette” of 7th and 9th February, 1833²⁸⁸, are advertisements of the approaching sale of his collections:—

“8,000 specimens of plants, many belonging to families seldom attended to by the botanist, together with a variety of woods, gums, classified rocks and other minerals, insects, etc., etc.” [or] “eight thousand specimens of *Plants, Insects, Zoophytes, Minerals, Tympanum Bones of a Whale, Brazilian Snakes, Mosses, specimens of the various Woods of the Colony, Lizards, Fishes, and other Curiosities.*”

Dr. Lhotsky delivered lectures at Hart’s Buildings, Pitt Street, on Mineralogy, Botany, and Zoology, in 1833, under vice-regal patronage²⁸⁹. In a sub-leader of the “Sydney Gazette,” 18th June, 1833²⁹⁰, entitled “Colonial Museum,” Lhotsky was advocated as the one to fill the post rendered vacant by the retirement of William Holmes (p. 75), who died

²⁸⁵ “Reminiscences,” by J.B.M. [John Benson Martin] being a reprint from the *Camden Times* for 1833 (1884), p. 35.

²⁸⁶ Sydney Gazette, xxxiii., No. 2534, 26th March, 1835.

²⁸⁷ Sydney Gazette, xxxii., No. 2427, April 15th, 1834.

²⁸⁸ Sydney Gazette, xxxi., No. 2243, 7th February, 1833, No. 2244, 9th February.

²⁸⁹ Sydney Gazette, xxxi., No. 2260, 19th March, 1833; *id.*, xxxi., No. 2270, 11th April, 1833; *id.*, xxxi., No. 2273, 18th April, 1833.

²⁹⁰ Sydney Gazette, xxxi., No. 2298, 18th June, 1833.

in 1830; also a letter to the Editor of the same Journal, signed "T. D.," advocating a similar course, appeared in the issue of 1st August, 1833²⁹¹, but nothing seems to have come of it. On leaving Sydney he went to Tasmania, where we hear of him in 1837²⁹².

MR. W. HOLMES (p. 75)—I have been favoured by Mr. William Dixon with the following extract²⁹³:—

"The public are not generally aware that a beautiful Collection of Australian curiosities, the property of Government, is deposited in the Old Post Office. This Museum is under the Superintendence of Mr. Holmes, who, between the hours of ten and three, politely shows the same to any respectable individuals who may think fit to call. It is well worthy inspection."

This quite bears out Lhotsky's statement as to the custodian of the Colonial Museum.

It is clear from Raymond's "New South Wales Calendar and P.O. Directory" for 1833, 1834, and 1835²⁹⁴, that the position was unoccupied, although in 1833 the sum of £130 was voted as salary.

REV. W. B. CLARKE (p. 76)—His appointment as "Secretary and Curator with Salary" was announced by the Committee to the Colonial Secretary by letter dated 6th July, 1841²⁹⁵. Several amusing stories relating to Clarke's fossil-gathering are related by the Rev. J. S. Hassall in his interesting work²⁹⁶, "In Old Australia."

REV. C. P. N. WILTON (p. 68)—I have a little more information regarding this gentleman. He was Master of the King's Female Orphan Institution at Parramatta in 1827, and one of His Majesty's Chaplains in New South Wales. The publication of his "Australian Magazine, or Quarterly Journal of Theology," etc., almost brought him into serious trouble with the publisher of an already-existing and somewhat similar titled publication, known as the "Australian Magazine," who threatened Wilton with a "writ of injunction²⁹⁷." His resignation of the Parramatta appointment took place in 1828²⁹⁸.

DR. G. BENNETT (p. 75)—Various titles were assumed during 1838-1841. He severally signed himself as "Secretary," "Secretary and Conservator," "Curator," and "Conservator," only during 1836. He resigned the Secretaryship as from 1st February, 1841²⁹⁹.

²⁹¹ Sydney Gazette, xxxi., No. 2317, 1st August, 1833.

²⁹² Sydney Gazette, xxxv., No. 2908, 7th January, 1837.

²⁹³ Sydney Gazette, 31st August, 1830.

²⁹⁴ Raymond—New South Wales Calendar and Post Office Directory for 1833, p. 249; *Ibid.*, 1834, p. 243; *Ibid.*, 1835, p. 371.

²⁹⁵ Letter-book, i., p. 34.

²⁹⁶ Hassall (Rev. J. S.)—"In Old Australia," 1902, pp. 65, 83, etc.

²⁹⁷ Sydney Gazette, xxv., No. 1383, 8th August, 1827; *Ibid.*, xxv., No. 1398, 12th September, 1827; Barton—Literature of New South Wales, 1866, p. 68.

²⁹⁸ Sydney Gazette, xxvii., No. 1604, 6th January, 1829.

²⁹⁹ Letter-book, i., 1837-61, pp. 1, 12, 13, and 33.

THE NAME "AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM" (pp. 72-3)—It is now clear this name was in use before 1836. Mr. Hugh Wright called my attention to the following. In the "Estimates of the probable Expenditure of the undermentioned Establishments . . . for the year 1835" (dated 12th June, 1834) is the following line:—

"Australian Museum—Towards the support of the Institution . . . £200."

The same appears in the Minutes of the Legislative Council of 4th July, 1834.

ALEXANDER MACDUFF BAXTER (p. 67)—He was appointed Attorney-General previous to May, 1826, arrived in Sydney 31st July, 1827³⁰⁰, and succeeded Saxe Bannister in that office. He is mentioned in Judge J. S. Dowling's "Reminiscences," as taking part in the discussion on 11th June, 1829, on the so-called separation of the Bar into Barristers and Attorneys³⁰¹. He appears to have come under the displeasure of Governor-General Darling who doubted his capacity as a lawyer. He resigned in 1831, and was nominated by charter "Puisné Judge" at Hobart. His differences with Governor Darling were aggravated by domestic troubles. After some delay he returned to New South Wales, and thence to Great Britain, where he died³⁰². As to his endeavour to establish a Museum the following extract from the "Sydney Gazette," 17th September, 1829³⁰³, for which I am again indebted to Mr. William Dixon, is explanatory:—

"The idea started by our respected Attorney-General some twelve months ago, of establishing a Museum in this 'land of contrarities,' appears to have fallen still-born to the ground. It was a good idea, nevertheless; and we heartily wish the learned gentleman would set about realizing it in right good earnest."

Those who read the first part of these "Fragments" will at once grasp how I arrived at 1827 as the approximate year in which this Museum commenced its career. By a fortunate visit to the Mitchell Library my assistant, Mr. W. W. Thorpe, came across the following copy of a despatch from Earl Bathurst to Governor-General Darling which completely substantiates my date:—

83962-3

Colonial Office,
N.S.W. Entry Book, 8,
Downing Street,
30 March, 1827.

BATHURST—R. DARLING, 30-3-27.

Lt.-General Darling,
Etc. Etc. Etc.

No. 16.

Sir,

It having been represented to me that it would be very desirable were the Govern't. to afford its aid towards the formation of a Publick Museum at New South Wales where it is stated that many rare and curious

³⁰⁰ Howe's "Australian Almanac" for 1829, p. 145.

³⁰¹ "Old Times," i., pt. 2, 1903, p. 120.

³⁰² West—History of Tasmania, i., 1852, p. 162.

³⁰³ Sydney Gazette, xxvii., No. 1711, 17th September, 1829.

specimens of Natural History are to be procured, I do myself the honour to acquaint you that although I feel a difficulty in authorizing the commencement of any Building for that purpose until an Estimate of the expense shall have been first submitted to my consideration, yet I am disposed, in the meantime, to allow a sum, not exceeding £200 per annum, to be disbursed for the purpose of assisting in the accomplishment of this object; and as one of the first steps towards ensuring its success seems to be the sending out some proper person to assist in collecting and arranging such specimens as it may be possible to procure in that quarter, I have been further induced to consent to the appointment of a young man to that particular duty who has been recommended to me as peculiarly fitted for it, and who will, therefore, be immediately sent out to the Colony in the capacity of Zoologist with the same rate of Salary and allowances as appear to have been given to Mr. Fisher, the present intendant of the Botanic Garden at Sydney.

I have, etc.,

Bathurst.

In the preparation of these "Fragments" I have received most cordial assistance from Mr. W. H. Ifould, Principal Librarian, Public Library of New South Wales, Mr. Hugh Wright, Librarian, Mitchell Library, Mr. W. A. Rainbow, Librarian, Australian Museum, and my Assistant, Mr. W. W. Thorpe, whose ever ready help has enabled me to surmount many difficulties.

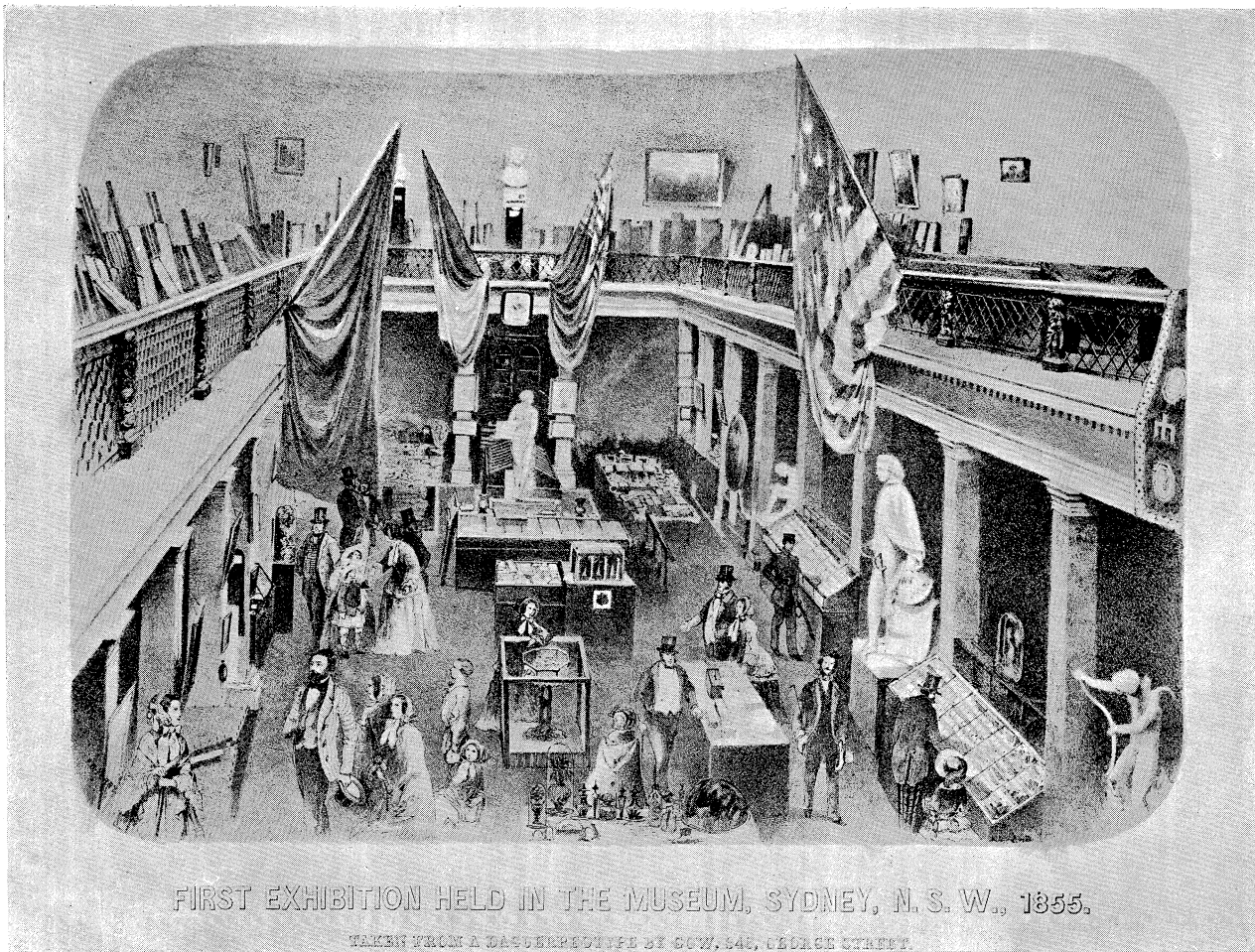
CORRIGENDA.

Part 1, p. 77, footnote 9, line 3, for 1888, read 1858.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLV.

Exhibition of Specimens sent to the "Universal Exhibition for Agriculture and Industrial Products," held in Paris in 1855.

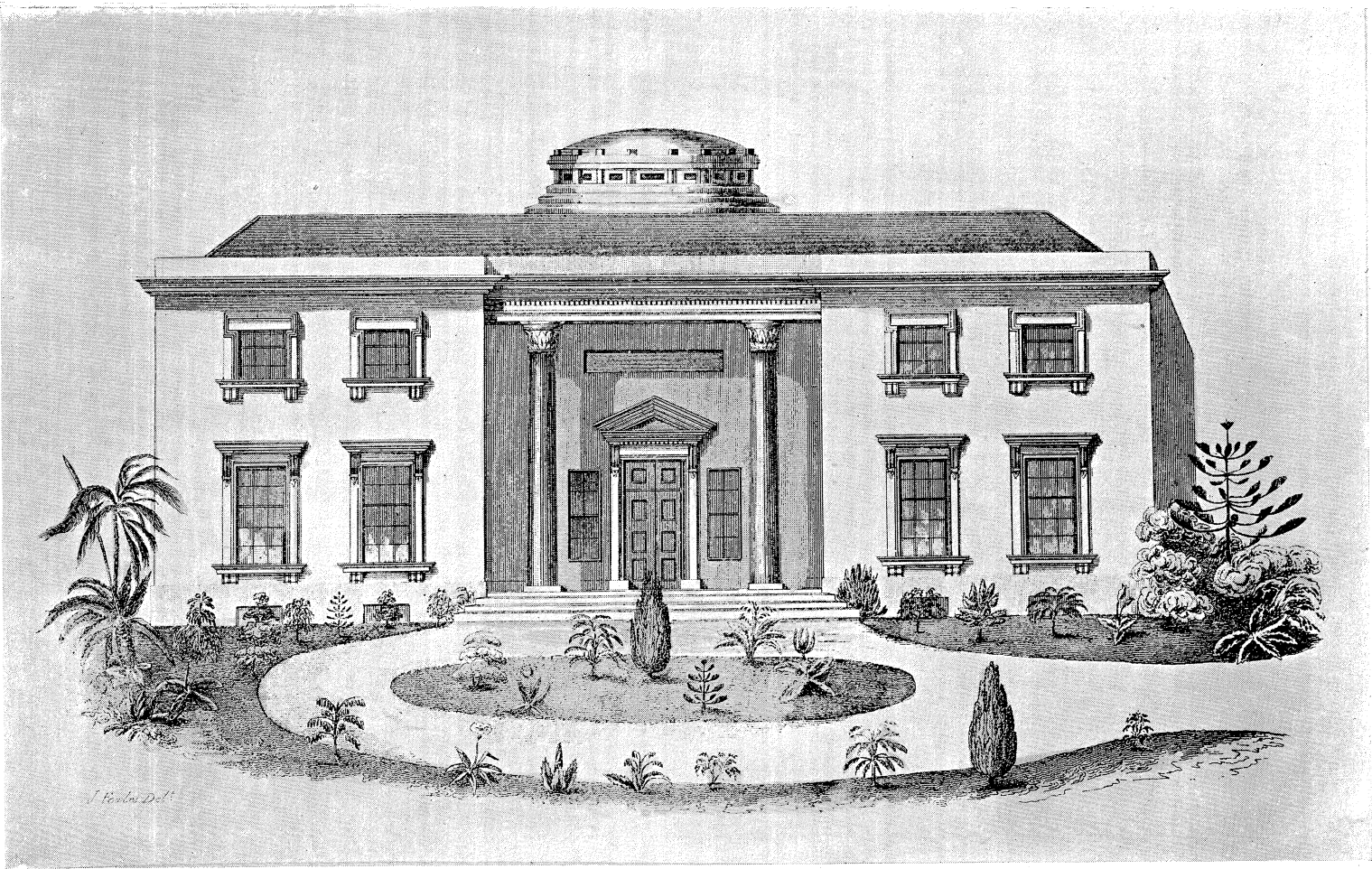
The Plate is reproduced from an old print taken from a daguerreotype by Gow, 348 George Street, and presented by J. H. Maiden, Esqr., Director Botanic Gardens, Sydney.



EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLVI.

The North or William Street Wing as represented in Fowles' "Sydney in 1848," 1878, pl. opp. p. 83.

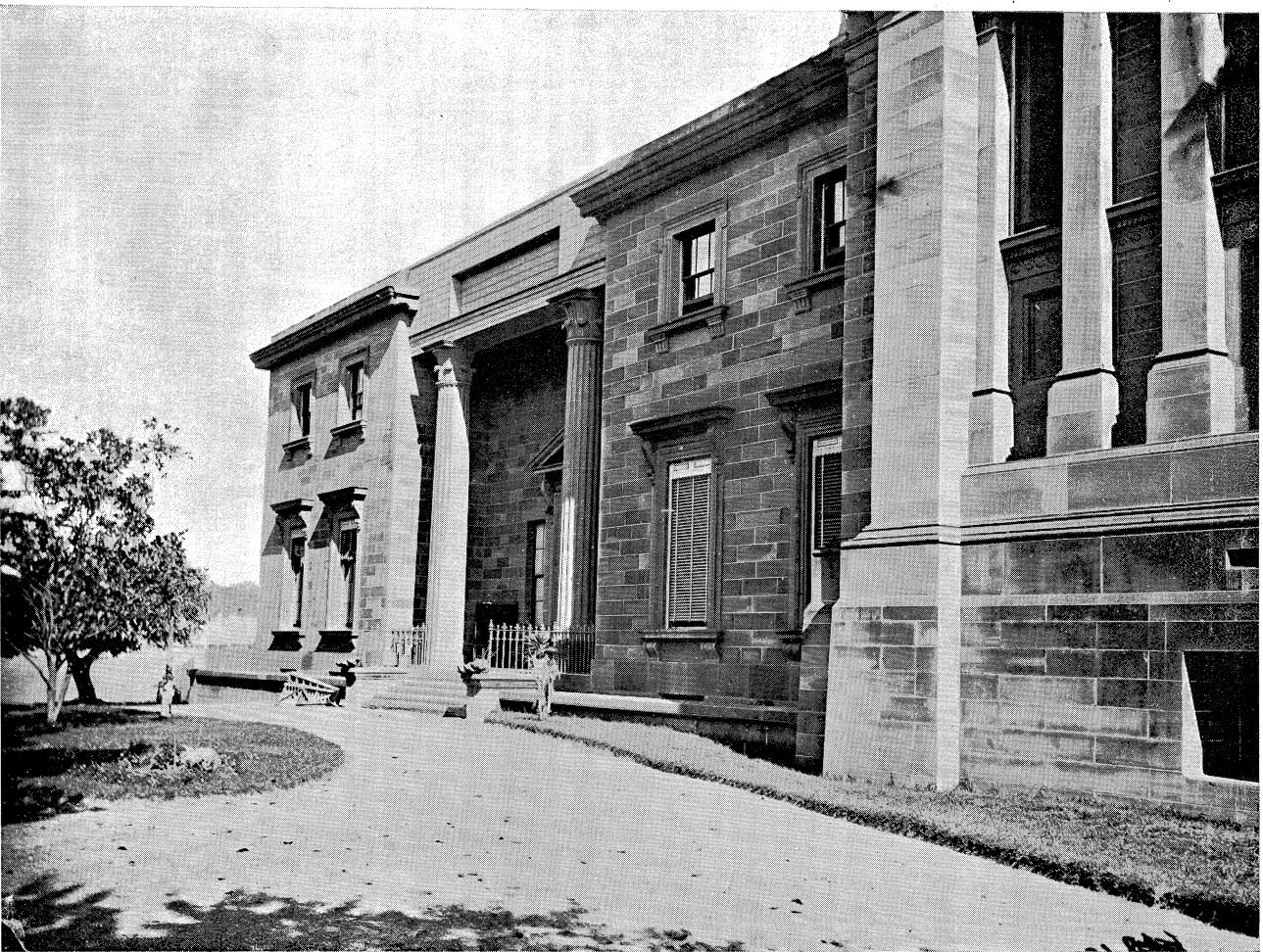
This, no doubt, was the original conception of the Colonial Architect (Mr. Mortimer W. Lewis) but it is doubtful if the dome was ever carried out.



J. Fowler Del.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLVII.

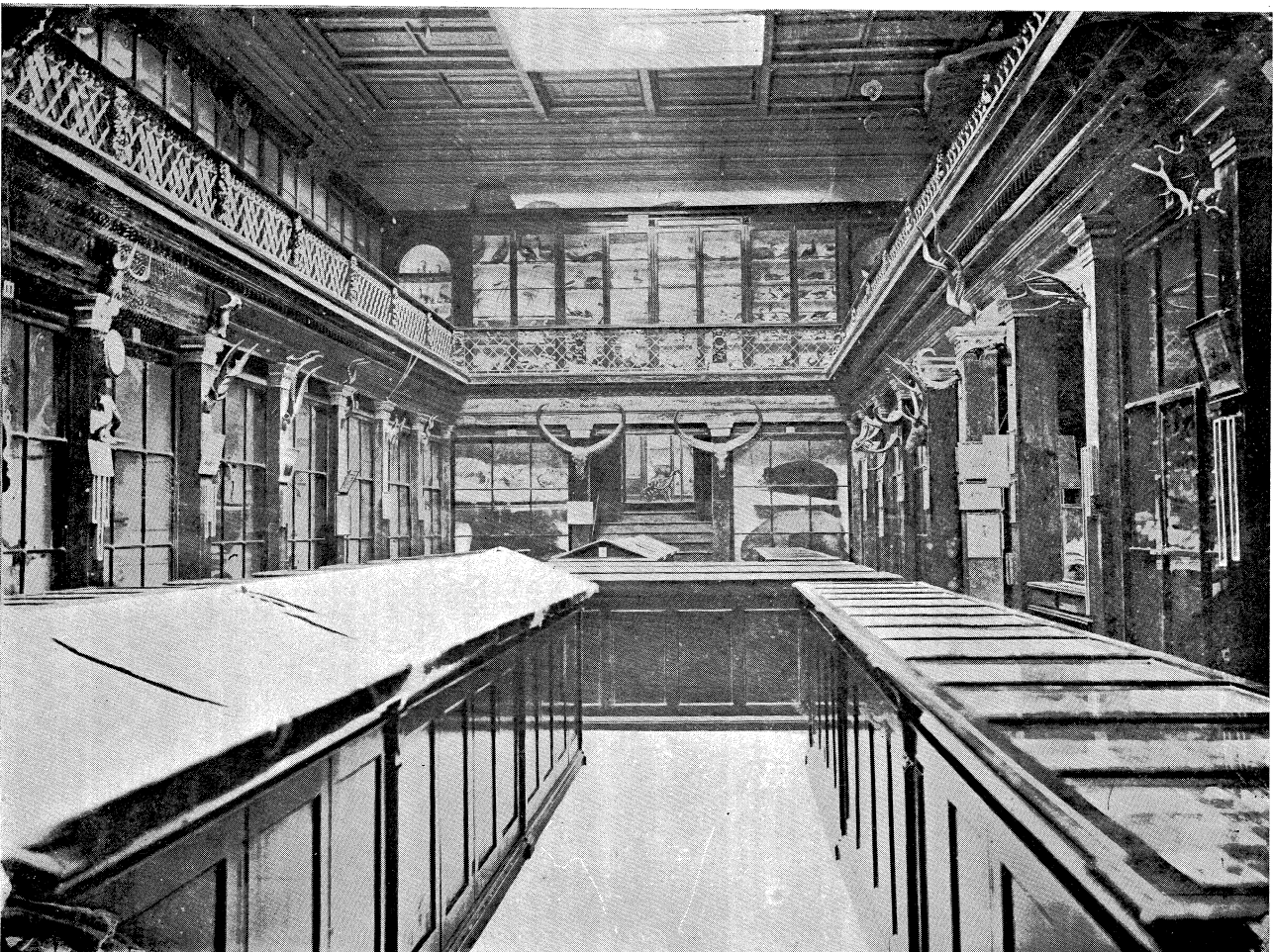
The North or William Street Wing with a portion of the north end of the West Wing. This represents the North Wing as it really was in 1870 and 1880'ties.



H. BARNES, photo., Austr. Mus.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLVIII.

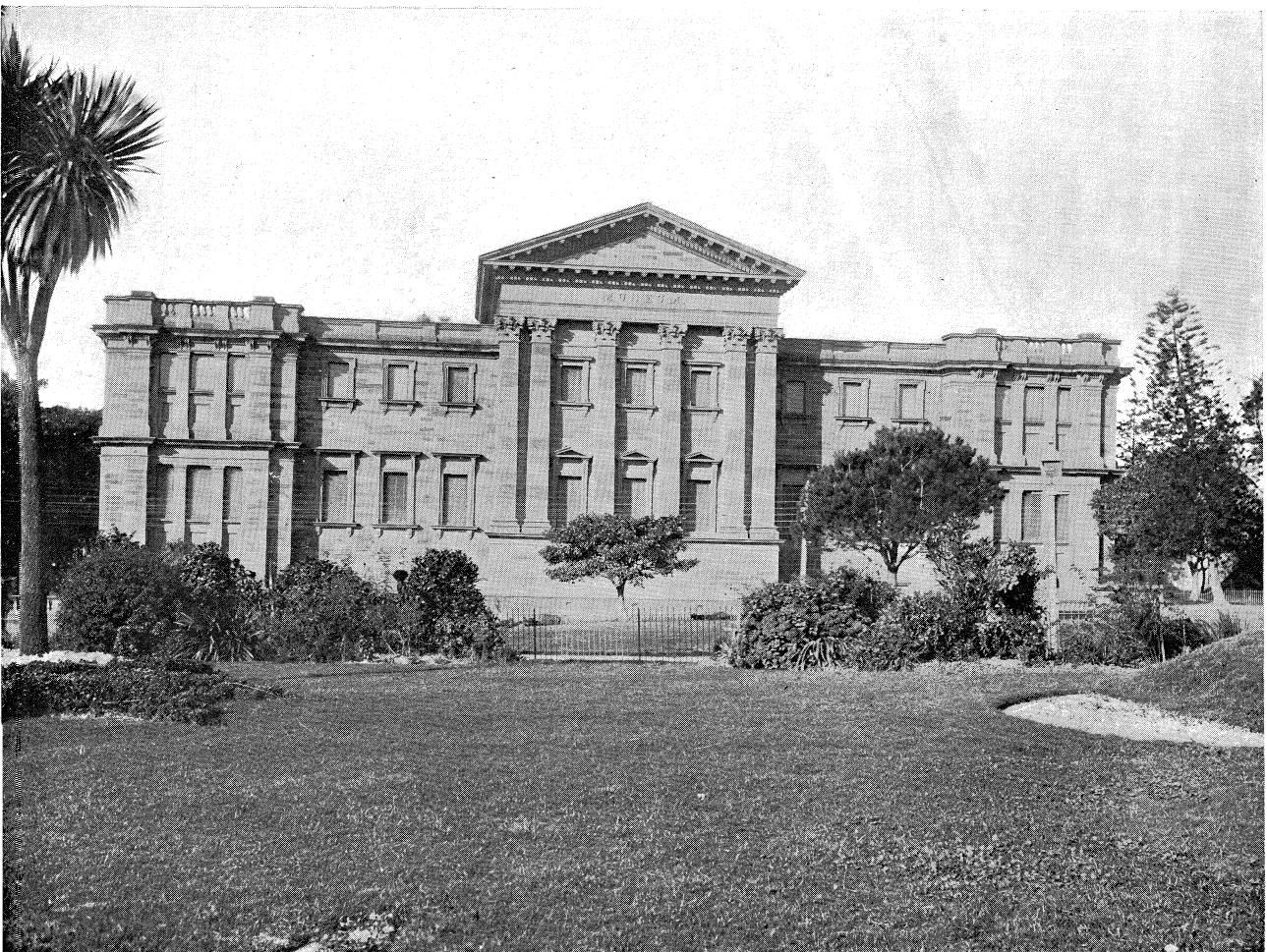
The interior of that portion of North Wing devoted to exhibition purposes, after the completion of the gallery and its cases.



H. BARNES, photo., Austr. Mus.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XLIX.

The West or College Street Wing as it appears when viewed directly in front of the building from Hyde Park.



H. BARNES, photo., Austr. Mus.

[The following corrections were printed in the Table of Contents
for Volume 12, Vol.12 No.13, in 1921, and are here inserted.—

Sub-Editor, September, 2009.]

CORRIGENDA.

- Page 49, line 7—for “Monseptate” read “Nonseptate.”
,, 304, ,, 33—for “*Buchannania*” read “*Buchanania*.”
,, 306, ,, 23—for “*Buchannania*” read “*Buchanania*.”
,, 316, ,, 46—for “Martyn” read “von Martens.”
,, 345, footnote 36—for “Raymond’s” read “Stephens and Stokes.”
,, 355, ,, 64—before 1835 and 1836 insert “Stephens and Stokes.”
,, 355, ,, 65—before 1837 insert “Stephens and Stokes.”
,, 364, line 4—for “William John Macleay, Esq.” read “William Sharp
Macleay, Esq.”
,, 399, ,, 15—for “Mr. Fisher” read “Mr. Fraser.”