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VICTORIA AND ITS METROPOLIS: PAST AND PRESENT.

year he was admitted into partnership—the business being carried on in Bourke-street west under the above style. Amongst the principal buildings this firm has designed and carried out, are the lecture hall of the Baptist Church; Briscoe's warehouse; Duckett's warehouse; Morris, Roberts and Meeks' warehouse; the Mercantile free and bonded stores; Andrew Agnew and Co.; Wallach's furniture warehouse; the Cairns Memorial Church; the Melbourne Permanent Building Society's offices; the residences of Messrs. Wm. M'Lean, East Melbourne; J. M. Bruce, Toorak; David Elder, Essendon; A. Gillespie, Essendon; R. Harvey, Balaclava; the following hotels: Ballarat Star, Governor Arthur, Baths', New York, &c.; and four mills for Gillespie Bros.; T. Brunton and Sons, Sydney; Gillespie, Aitken and Scott, Dight's Falls; and W. S. Kimpton and Son, Kensington.

Vandyck Photographic Co. Ltd., Melbourne, have their studios next the General Post-office, Bourke-street. This establishment is situated upon one of the oldest photographic sites in Australia, the well-known firm of Johnstone, O'Shannessy and Co. and other photographers having carried on business there for a number of years. Mr. Chas. L. Birkin, the manager, who has a staff of sixteen assistants and does the operating himself, has had an extensive experience in photography, being for a number of years with Cobb and Co., photographic instructors to the Royal Milliary Academy, London, and other well-known English firms. He is a native of Pembrokeshire, and arrived in Victoria in 1883, taking charge of the above studio in 1886.

Vernon, W. Sherwood, C.E., J.P., Meibourne, is a native of Surrey, England, who received his education partly at home and subsequently in this colony, where he arrived in 18_{33} . After leaving school he was articled to Mr. A. Walker, surveyor, Sandhurst, and in 1868 'started practice on his own account at Daylesford ; was for many years authorised surveyor under the Grown Lands department, and engineer for the borough of Daylesford and the shire of Mount Franklin. He was a member of the shire council of St. Arnaud for many years, being chosen president in August (337, and was chairman of the St. Arnaud water works trust. Mr. Vernon is a justice of the peace, and a lay member of the Ballarat church assembly. He is a member of the Victorian Institute of Surveyors, and a few months ago opened a Melbourne office at Fraser's buildings, Queen-street, where he now conducts business.

Walsh, Dr. George Joseph. Dandenong, was born in county Fermanagh, Ireland, in 1856. He was in Canada for five years, and passed his examination as doctor in Trinity College, Ontario, in that dominion, also passing afterwards at Edinburgh and Dublin. He landed at Wellington, New Zealand, in 1833, from London, and after travelling for eighteen months for the New Zealand Government, and for the Australian Mutual Provident Society, came to Victoria, and has practised his profession ever since at Lonsdale-street, Dandenong.

Walstab, George Arthur, Caulfield, is a son of Mr. A. J. G. Walstab, J.P., formerly planter, of Demerara, and now resident in Melbourne. He was born in $i3_{34}$, and arrived in Victoria with his father and family in $i3_{52}$. Entering the mounted police as a cadet, he served two years in that corps, and in $i3_{57}$ he went to India, where he served in Richardson's Horse during the latter portion of the mutiny. He joined the *Calcutta Englishman* newspaper in $i35_{56}$, and was sub-editor and editor until $i36_{55}$, when he returned to Austrolia and joined the Melbourne press. In $i37_4$ he was appointed secretary to the Minister of Lands, and held that appointment until the reduction in the Civil Service in $i38_{56}$. Mr. Walstab is creditably known as a novelist in Australia, his works, "Confessed at Last," "Pierce Charlton's Wives," "Looking Back," and "Standing at Bay," having received favourable recognition from both press and public. He was for a time editor of the *Castlemaine Representative*, and afterwards of the Melbourne evening *Herald*. He has been engaged for several years on the latter paper as a leader writer, and it is not too much to say that to his pen is due some portion of the success which that journal has achieved.

Wardrop, James, Collingwood, is a native of Glasgow, who arrived in Victoria in 1854, and was educated under Mr. Trythal at the Lithgow-street State-school. Collingwood. He was afterwards pupil teacher, and is now first assistant in the same school. Since his arrival in the colony, Mr. Wardrop has always lived in Collingwood, his present residence being in Nicholson-street, in that city. He has been seventeen years in the volunteer and militia forces, and is now lieutenant of the B company, second battalion.

Warner and Carter, Melbourne. This firm of architects, &c., consists of Messrs, F. S. Warner and C. H. Carter, carrying on business at Lincoln's Inn chambers, William-street. Mr. Warner was born in Somersetshire, England, in 1863, and was educated there. He learned the trade of general builder, and coming to Victoria in 1884, commenced business at once, erecting buildings at Richmond, Collingwood, Albert Park and other suburbs, and in the city. Mr. Carter was borm in Derby, England, in 1858, and was educated and learned his profession of architect there. He landed in Adelaide, South Australia, in 1881, came to Victoria in 1885, and formed the present partnership a short time ago. Wastell, William Henry, Oakleigh, is a native of London, who came to Melbourne in 1851, and engaged as bookkeeper to Messrs. Benn and Co. of Collins-street. He went to Oakleigh as postmaster and deputy-registrar of births, deaths, and marriages, which position he retained up to December 1886, when he retired from active business. The post-office when started was a room 20 feet long, and had but two mails per day. It is now a handsome brick building, containing telegraph, money order, post, and savings bank offices, and receives and despatches thirteen mails per day. Mr. Wastell was shire secretary for seventeen years, secretary for the cemetery trustees, treasurer for the A.O. of Foresters, and for ten years a churchwarden. He has married twice; his first wife, who died in 1878, was a daughter of Mr. Tanner, of Lincoln, England, and his second, whom he married in 1883, the eldest daughter of Mr. R. Hickson, of Grove Farm, Mansfield.

Watts, Thomas, sen., J.P., Melbourne, of the firm of T. Watts and Sons, architects, Swanston-street, arrived in Victoria in 1853, and commenced business with Mr. Russell, under the style of Russell and Watts, which firm afterwards become Russell, Watts, and Pritchard, until 1364, when the name was changed to that of Smith and Watts, and so continued until 1370, at which time Mr. Watts became sole proprietor. In 1883 he admitted his sons into the firm, and they have carried it on in partnership up to the present time. Of the principal buildings with which Mr. Watts has been connected, may be mentioned the West Melbourne Presbyterian Church, the Albert-street Baptist Church, the Baptist Church at Geelong, the Baptist Church at Emerald Hill (South Melbourne), the Federal Bank of Australasia (Prahran), the Victoria Sugar Company's works, the Rosstown sugar works, Felton, Grimwade and Co.'s chemical works (West Melbourne), and the private residences of His Honor Mr. Justice Williams, and of Messrs, C. J. Ham, J. M. Davis, James Balfour, W. T. Moffatt, and others. Mr. Watts is a justice of the peace for the central bailiwick, and was president of the Caulfield shire council in 1371, and president of the Victorian Institute of Architects in 1884-5.

Weigall, Alfred Henry, Melbourne, is a native of Elsternwick, Victoria; and was educated at the Church of England grammar school, Melbourne, where he obtained the foundation scholarship. He served his articles as solicitor to Messrs. Lynch and M'Donald, was admitted in 1883, and commenced practice in 1886. He is a commissioner for taking affidavits-for New South Wales, New Zealand and South Australia, and conducts his business at the Australian Widows' Fund buildings, Collins-street west.

Wells. William Elliott, South Melbourne, on coming to Melbourne in 1856, proceeded up the country to the goldfields, and on his return to Melbourne in 1868 settled in South Melbourne, following the avocation of builder, and, later, of an architect, with which, in 1877, he combined that of real estate agent, his place of business being in Clarendon-street. Mr. Wells was mayor of South Melbourne in 1836, and for three years has had a seat in the city council of that suburb.

Wilkinson. Thomas Gee, Notting Hill, near Oakleigh, was born at Grantham. Lincolnshire, England, in 1330, and was articled to a civil engineer. He landed at Brisbane, from the first ship chartered by the Rev. Dr. Lang, on 6th February 1848. After a time he came down to Melbourne, and was with a government survey party, at Westernport, on Black Thursday. Afterwards went to Forrest Creek, Bendigo, and Ballrat diggings. He settled at Notting Hill about thirty years ago, and has carried on business there ever since, and is postmaster there now.

Wilkinson, William, East Brighton, was born in Manchester, England, and came to Melbourne in the ship *Wallace* in 13_{40} . He started storekeeping in Flinders-lane at a time when the greater part of Melbourne was bush. He purchased land in Flinders-lane from Mr. John Fawkner, and built thereon the premises now occupied by Messrs. Edgetton and Moore, printers, which property he still owns. He continued in business until 18_{32} , and in the following year bought 3 acres of land at East B.ighton, on which he now resides. Mr. Wilkinson has a family of three children.

Willan Sons and Colles, Melbourne. This firm of solicitors, proctors, and conveyancers, of 39 Queen-street, was originally started in Melbourne under the style of Smith and Willan in 1350, and continued under that title until 1370, when Mr. Smith retired from the firm, and went to New Zealand. Mr. R. H. Willan joined his father, and the business was carried on as Willan and Son up to 1880, when Mr. C. P. Willan, who had practised since 1874, was admitted a member of the firm, which then became Willan and Sons. This continued until 1855, and in that year Mr. Willan, senior, retired, and Mr. Thomas Colles, who had been in practice since 1872, became a partner in the firm, which then took its style as above. Mr. C. P. Willan is a notary public.

Williams, Frederick, Melbourne, was born in London in 1838, and coming to the colony in 1837, commenced the practice of his profession of architect and surveyor in 1869, since which time he has been engaged in erecting numerous buildings in the city, suburbs and country. He was elected a member of the Sandridge (Port Melbourne) borough council in

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