

THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM:—  
FRAGMENTS OF ITS EARLY HISTORY<sup>1</sup>.

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 1830<sup>2</sup> :—

"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 1830<sup>3</sup>, 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 Quay<sup>4</sup>; or the third in Bent Street<sup>5</sup>, 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 1832<sup>6</sup>, 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

---

<sup>1</sup> Continued from "Records," Vol. xi., No. 4, 1916, p. 67.

<sup>2</sup> Sydney Gazette, xxviii., 1830 (6th Feby.), No. 1772.

<sup>3</sup> Sydney Gazette, xxviii., 1830 (31st Aug.)

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

<sup>5</sup> 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."

<sup>6</sup> N.S. Wales Calendar and G.P.O. Directory, 1832, p. 26.