

Botany Exhumed

Digitised newspapers on Trove, the availability of British 18th and 19th century newspapers on line, and Ancestry, has surely provided enough material to make something of our nation's past, which is both a quality and entertaining product. Whilst the British have provided the world with Downton Abbey, where are we, Australia in creating the like.

Why this should be we shall leave for discussion on another day.

Botany - An exhumation of a nineteenth century community is an attempt to provide a flickering kaleidoscope of the senses, the sounds, sights, smells, touch and taste of the past, which we living in the sanitised and virtual reality of our present, are the lesser for ignoring. The somewhat vain hope is that this work might provide inspiration to others, such that Botany might become our Downton Abbey. That they both have at their core Lords, one Grantham, the other Simeon, might give us some hope.

Botany was dead to begin with. The Sydney Airport Authority had said so, and hadn't they provided a concrete slab of some enormity, tastefully bitumenised in black, which testified to the fact. The property developer having had any guilt assuaged by a suitably academic heritage study, provided monumental towers. The Cooks River, on recognising death was eminent, turned its face and sought refuge to the south, where it entered the sea.

To begin our exhumation. Botany though was unique, is unique, the only community in our world to be given that name. It is however in its history that we should begin to see just how unique it is. The Botany we shall attempt to warm to life, is not the larger area of Botany Bay, neither the district of Botany, (a large area including Canterbury,) neither is it the Botany Bay, used a some sort of euphemism for the Colony of N.S.W. It is the relatively small area bounded on its east by the sea and enclosed in swamp and sand on its other boundaries. The advantages of its proximity to Sydney, were largely negated by the slough of despond it inhabited.

Lt. James Cook, latterly Captain, on Thursday 3rd May 1770 journeyed up the river which now bears his name - *We landed and travel'd some distance inland. We found the country much richer, for instead of sand I found in many places a deep black soil which we thought was capable of producing any kind of grain, at present it produceth besides timber as fine a meadow as ever was seen, some few places were very rocky, the stone is sandy and very proper for building.*

Eighteen years later, when Arthur Phillip arrived with the First Fleet of convicts. He believed the bay was too shallow and exposed, and the soil around its perimeter was sandy and unsuitable for cultivation. The supply of fresh water was inadequate. On 18th January 1788 he wrote - *Several runs of water were found in different parts of the bayin the northern part of it is a small creek, which runs a considerable way into the country, the sides of it are frequently overflowed and the low lands near it are a perfect swamp.*

Captain Watkin Tench of the Marines was even more dismissive. 'A Survey of Botany Bay took place in September. - *I was of the party, with several other officers. We were*

unanimously of opinion, that had not the nautical part of Mr. Cook's description, in which include the latitude and longitude of the bay, been so accurately laid down, there would exist the utmost reason to believe that those who have described the contiguous country had never seen it.'

If Port Jackson was to become something more than a collection of wooden huts, lime would be required for mortar. Aboriginal middens of sea shells on the shores of Botany Bay provided a plentiful supply of the material required to be heated in kilns to provide lime. John Palmer, who arriving with the first fleet, became commissary, that is responsible for all stores in the Colony.

April 1803; SHIP NEWS- Sailed on Monday last for Botany Bay to take in lime, the John, belonging to John Palmer, Esq.

The John, mentioned was also employed sealing in Bass Strait.

October 1803; SHIP NEWS - On Monday came in the Bee Colonial vessel, from Botany Bay, with a freight of Lime for the use of Government. She sailed at day light on Sunday morning, and at half past ten was forced to bring off South Reef, in a heavy gale which lasted several hours, during which she parted her hawser, about 20 fathoms of which went with her anchor.

December 1803; BOATS. Arrived on Tuesday the Raven, Raby, with lime from Botany Bay.

Communication between Sydney and Botany was difficult. Negotiating the 'perfect swamp' described by Captain Phillip and negotiating the Sydney Heads, required something more than a rowing boat. The fear of foreign invasion may be a reaction to events in Europe. The word native is used to describe aboriginal people, it is only some time later that the word 'native' comes to be used to describe those of European descent born in the Colony.

January 1804; Yesterday morning a Native from Botany Bay brought an account of a large ship having anchored there: As the wind was fair for her getting into this Port, the reason for her going into Botany Bay could be in no other way accounted for than the probability of its being some ship with hostile intentions. Every necessary preparation was made, and the detachments at the outposts ordered to be in readiness to march. Major Johnston immediately set off to reconnoitre, and was soon after followed by the GOVERNOR...on their return it was found the ship was small, and no appearance of anything befell. ...In the...night the GOVERNOR was informed by a letter from the Master that the ship Mary of Bokan is bound for Manilla.

In 1803, Governor King sent to London, for some smallpox vaccine, which had been discovered by the English doctor, Edward Jenner in 1798. One would have to doubt the feasibility of this idea.

January 1804; It was generally accredited by the Medical Gentlemen of the Colony on its first establishment, that the small pox had been introduced among the Natives by the crews of the French ships then lying in Botany Bay; but since that period no vestige of that disease has ever appeared.

Given the historical attitude of the British toward the French, it is not clear where the truth lies.

February 1805; A sailor indulging in an excursion to Botany Bay on horseback during Sophia's stay, unable to make the animal answer the helm, was unfortunately unshipped upon a bed of pretty rough ballast; from which being unable immediately to emerge, the creature shot a-head, and did not again heave in sight until totally dismantled. the honest

Tar, not daring to renew his peril under such accumulated disadvantages, determined to take the prize in tow, and lest he should be left astern again, grappled 'fore and aft-the tail answering every purpose of a rudder. Thus cordially padding side by side at the rapid rate of half a knot an hour, the weary travellers 'with weary steps and slow' at length returned to port, by an impertinent wag mistaken for the constellation Gemini.

The above illustrates how difficult travel to Botany was, the somewhat overblown account below, in which the sailor is rescued by not one but two aboriginals seems to show the latter's familiarity with the terrain in contrast with that of at least the sailor.

A week later; A Trip to Botany. In last week's delineation of the sailor on horseback, we omitted, a counter-part to the caricature at least equal a subject of the pencil. This was no other than an unfortunate scribe who accompanied the tour to Botany; and supposing a necessity for his making a visit on board the Sophia, secured the animal that had carried him to a branch,accomplished his hazardous project in a canoe, the sooty Commander of which in accommodating his passenger, gave a lively representation of the venerable Charon transporting the departed spirit of the practitioner to the Court of Minos. As situations of the doleful cast are sometimes auspicious to the muse of melancholy, until a tremendous howl hurried him into excessive trepidation: the collusive motion of his knees was rapid, his teeth were unpleasantly symphonic, his knotted and combined locks were made to part, and each particular hair to stand or end like quills upon the fretful porcupine." - The noise approached him, and to ascend a tree was become the only avenue to hope. His ascent was ... timely, for a couple of furious native dogs, drawn by mischievous instinct to the spot, made for the tree direct; and after imposing an embargo of seven or eight hours by their vexatious presence, at daylight forsook their prisoner to a train of unenviable reflections. Having often changed his uneasy feat among the branches, his garb had sustained actual damage from every limb. Acceptable had the services of the discarded animal then been, but it would have also been the height of folly to wander upon an unprofitable research which must at all events have been the case, but for the friendly guidance of an ancient native, under whose protection he was ushered into town about mid-day; where after undergoing the congratulations of friends on his happy deliverance from a romantic destiny, one quaintly supposed he has taken a bad cause in hand, or he never could have lost his suit.

Within Aboriginal tribes there was conflict. In focusing on Botany, it is easy to miss the big picture. It must be said that, if newspaper reports are to be believed, there is greater fear throughout this period from 'bushrangers'.

October 1805; Some persons who were spectator of an affray among the natives on Monday last at Botany Bay declare it to have been the smartest conflict for several years remembered. No less than from 12 to 15 were badly wounded; and one was observed to fall lifeless on the floor; he had received a spear in the shoulder joint of one of the adverse party; and his not recovered a defensive posture, when he received a weapon through the neck, which in a few seconds terminated his existence. The man by him wounded still carries the barb in his shoulder, but with stoic fortitude supports his anguish. Several others of the wounded men exhibit pitiable spectacles, but all sustain the accident of war with heroic firmness.

October 1805, *The different tribes of natives met yesterday ... at the Brickfields for the trial of two malefactors, of whom Bennelong was the principal. He withstood innumerable flights of spears with his accustomed sang froid; but narrowly escaped translation, as seldom less than three were thrown at once, and most of his adversaries peculiarly skilled in the deadly sciences. Young Ledbury was afterwards wounded through the thigh by a visitor from Botany Bay; who in turn submitted to a similar destiny; when a cessation of arms took place durante noctis.*

January 1806, the Sydney Gazette; *Early next morning the internment of the body took place, at which the collected friends... the assassin, whom they threatened with persecuting vengeance.they repaired in a mass to the sand hills beyond the Brickfields in expectation of meeting him and his adherents: but were retarded in their progress by a report that he had been .. by some white man with a musket, which however we hope to have been unfounded. They afterwards proceeded to the appointed place, but only in time to be informed that Blewett, the object of their determined rancour, had returned to Botany-bay to obtain a re-inforcement adequate to the number of his assailants-and here at present concludes the memoir of a turmoil that originated in the intoxication of the late unfortunate Musquite.*

July 1806, the Sydney Gazette; *The natives report their having seen the body of a man among the shoals in Botany Bay, about 12 feet under water, supposed to be the body of the late George Legg, who was unfortunately drowned near that place a few weeks since.*

Seals have been used for their pelts, their flesh, and their fat, which was often used as lamp fuel, lubricants, cooking oil, a constituent of soap, the liquid base for red ochre paint, and for processing materials such as leather and jute.

October 1809, SHIP NEWS. *Yesterday several sealers who sailed from hence in the Unity colonial vessel, belonging to Messrs. Benn and Webb of Hawkesbury, came in by land from Botany Bay, with intelligence of the vessel's arrival there the night before with a cargo of about 6000 New Zealand skins.*

A week later The report contained in last week's Gazette of the colonial vessel Unity's arrival with 6000 skins was erroneous, as her cargo consisted of no more than about 3600; which mistake proceeded from the wanton misrepresentation of one of her own people, who had walked in while the vessel lay in Botany Bay.

Edward Redmond (1766?-1840), publican, dealer and Catholic layman, was an uneducated Irish labourer who appears to have signed his name with a mark all his life. At 32 he was involved in the no-sectarian Irish Rebellion, also known as the United Irishmen Rebellion an uprising against British rule in Ireland lasting from May to September 1798. Convicted in King's County in April and sentenced to transportation for life. He arrived in the 'Minerva' in January 1800, listed as McRedmond, the name Governor Lachlan Macquarie used in 1813 when confirming his absolute pardon. Redmond had received a conditional pardon on 4 June 1803 and set up in business in Sydney. In January 1808 he signed the address expressing confidence in Governor William Bligh, though also asking that the government grant freedom to trade and trial by jury to the free colonists of New South Wales. Next year the rebel government gave him a wine and spirit licence and 135 acres (55 ha) at Botany; on 1 December 1809 he received his absolute pardon which, like the grant and the liquor licence, Macquarie later confirmed. He died in 1840

and was buried in the Devonshire Street Cemetery on 24 January. He was later reinterred at Botany.

January 1810, the Sydney Gazette; *Strayed, about a Month since, from the Farm of Edward Redmond, at Mud Bank, Botany, a black and white Bullock; branded twice with the letters I.A. on one of the horns. Whoever will restore the same to Mr. Apsy; Sergeant Majors's Row, will receive Twenty Shillings for their trouble.*

Andrew Byrne was also involved in the no-sectarian Irish Rebellion. He was tried in Wicklow and sentenced to life imprisonment. Transported aged 21, aboard the ship 'Minerva' in 1800, as was Edward Redmond, he married Mary Lewin in Sydney in 1812. Granted 30 acres Penrith 6 Sep 1809. On 11 Jan 1810, Andrew and his future wife Mary Lewin each had to surrender their 30 acre land grants at Penrith to Governor Lachlan Macquarie. The grants had been illegally made by a rebel government under Lt Governor Paterson. New land grants of 30 acres each were then reissued to Andrew and Mary at Botany Bay. These farms, known by the names of Sea View and Newcastle, commanded a full view of the ocean between Botany heads and were noted for stock, particularly horses, on account of an extensive salt marsh. They also possessed a good fishery. The farms also bordered the banks of the Cooks River. Andrew received an absolute pardon on 31 Jan 1811 and sold the Botany Bay farms about 1819.

May 1811; *Found a few days since on the Premises of Andrew Burn, at Sea-View, near Botany-Bay, Two Bullocks, one white with black spot on his hip; the other black with white spots, branded with the letters S. L. on the right hind quarter.—The Owner of the said Bullocks may recover his property, by applying to the said Andrew Burn at the above Place, and paying the damages committed by them on his Premises, and defraying the necessary Expenses.*

The brand S.L. on the two bullocks is likely to have belonged to his neighbour Simeon Lord. . Simeon Lord (1771-1840), the fourth child of Simeon and Ann Lord of Dobroyd, Yorkshire, England, who was convicted at Manchester Quarter Sessions in April 1790 of stealing 21 pieces of cloth, 100 yards (91 m) of muslin and 100 yards (91 m) of calico from Robert Peel and associates; the jury gave to the stolen material a nominal value of only 10d., and Lord escaped with a sentence of transportation for seven years. He arrived in Sydney in 1791 and was soon assigned as servant to Captain Thomas Rowley of the 102nd Regiment. Emancipated early and helped by his master, Lord seems to have begun his mercantile career as one of the shadowy figures who retailed spirits and general merchandise bought in bulk by officers of the New South Wales Corps. In September 1798 he bought a warehouse, dwelling house and other buildings on what is now the site of Macquarie Place. Until later in life, his main abode appears to have been in Sydney on Macquarie Place.



Land Grants Botany

August 1811; *Andrew Byrne, Sea View, near Botany Bay, respectfully begs leave to acquaint the Public, that he has a capital Run for Brood Mares and Horses at the above-mentioned place, which will be taken every possible care of on the most reasonable Terms.*

January 1812; *STRAYED, from Burn's Farm at Botany Bay, about ten days since, a Bay Gelding, black legs, mane, and tail, known by the name of Tipsey, late the property of Mr. Lord, but now belonging to Major Geils. Any person finding the same, and bringing him to Major Geils, will be handsomely rewarded.*

January 1813; *STOLEN, about the 10th of December last, from the Farm of Andrew Burn, at Sea View, near Botany, a dark bay Filley, rising 3 years old, has a small star in the forehead, and one of her hind fetlocks white. Should the said Filley not be returned to the Place from whence she was taken in the course of the Month, rigid Prosecution will be pursued against any person in whose possession she may be hereafter be found.*

For those using cars, carts, or waggons the route from Botany to the city appears to have been a rather circuitous one.

March 1813; *His Excellency the GOVERNOR having given these Circumstances due Consideration, has deemed it expedient that all Cars, Carts, or Waggons, loaded with firewood, Lime, or other Goods or Merchandize of whatever Sort, which shall in future proceed along the said South Head road from Botany Bay, or elsewhere, to the Town of Sydney, shall, on and after the 15th Instant, pay the same Rate of Toll they would be liable to if they were to pass through the Turnpike Gate on the Road to Parramatta.*

Hope is at hand, for in the same month, plans are afoot to form a 'direct carriage road' to Botany.

A Subscription has been set on foot for the purpose of forming a direct carriage Road to Botany Bay, the present communications between which is intricate and precarious, and in many places dangerous. The completion of such a road is truly desirable, as it will afford a safe and easy passage to one of the most picturesque and delightful places in the vicinity of Sydney. A number of highly respectable names already appear to the Subscription List; and there can be no doubt that so desirable an object will produce a general wish of contributing to its acceleration.

Botany was to become home to a variety of sporting activities, the following being one of the earliest.

January 1814; PUGILISM.—*the vigilance of the Police in preventing the disorderly assemblage of persons, whatsoever be the occasion , was yesterday eluded, to the no small satisfaction of some of the pugilistic amateurs. Two champions, who arrived by the Fortune exchanged gloves on the previous evening, and appointed to meet in a field on the road to Botany, about half a mile from the Race Course.— The combatants were, John Beringer and Charles Sefton; the former about twenty, and standing nearly 5 feet 9, and the latter about thirty, and about 5 feet 7. They set to with equal spirit and confidence (Sefton possessing greater skill, but his adversary greater activity, and a longer reach), in a ring formed by a multitude of spectators, which was not less than 30 feet diameter. They fought two hours, and had upwards of 50 rounds, being timed to half minutes, so that out of two hours there was a full hour and a half of hard fighting; during the whole of which neither fell without a blow, and seldom closed. It was long doubtful upon which side victory was likely to spread her wreath; but within the few last rounds Sefton's strength had observably declined much more than that of his adversary, to whose superiority he was at length obliged unwillingly to yield.*

Soldiers were stationed at Botany. The Veterans, were employed on light largely ceremonial duties.

October 1814; On Monday a Coroner's Inquest was summoned on the body of John Davis, a private soldier of the Royal Veteran Company, formerly of the 102nd, who died on the road to Botany Bay the Saturday previous, whither he was returning from Sydney. It appeared on the enquiry, that a Mrs. Bohannan and her son had walked with him part of the distance towards the post at Botany Bay whereat he was stationed; and that finding himself fatigued he sat down, apparently to rest himself, on a sand beach, where they left him— and other persons by accident shortly afterwards found him lifeless.— Verdict of the Inquest - Death by the Visitation of God.

A wharf, seen on early maps, jutting out into the Cooks River is here described as 'the Landing Place at Botany Bay, known as Mudbank.' This advertisement indicates that fishing, as an industry, was by this time well developed.

February 1815; STOLEN, on Tuesday last, from the Landing Place at Botany Bay, known by the name of Mud Bank, the following Ropes; viz. two half-inch Coir Ropes, about 20 fathoms each, belonging to a fishing seine; and an inch Rope, about seven fathoms, cut off from a boat.— Any person giving information so as the Offender or Offenders may be

prosecuted to conviction, shall receive a reward of Five Pounds Sterling.

This George Johnstone was he, of the 'Rum Rebellion' fame. Whether alcohol, or the state of the road, was to blame for the accident we shall never know. Note that it is Andrew Byrne's servant that drives the cart. Byrne's address is O'Connell St. Sydney. The larger land owners or 'settlers,' at Botany, may well have, for the most part resided in Sydney.

August 1815; Yesterday evening as Mr. G. Johnstone, of the Commissariat, was taking an airing on horse back on the new road to Botany Bay, his ears was attracted by a moaning at the side of the road; where he found a man lying on his back, unable to move, and a mare and cart overturned, the mare with one of her forelegs broke short at the fetlock. The cart, which belonged to Andrew Byrne, at Sea View, was going thither with a lading of boards, the noise occasioned by which, as the poor man (who is Byrne's servant) conjectured, had frightened the mare, and occasioned the disaster. He was taken into the Hospital the same evening, and the unfortunate animal lay this afternoon on the spot where the accident occurred, incapable of removal.

Here we have clear evidence of Simeon Lord, an often absent but nevertheless significant mover and shaker, in having land at Botany.

January 1816; NOTICE. Whereas many Depredations have been committed on the following LANDS, the property of the undersigned, viz.— And, One hundred and thirty five acres of land, called Johnstown, near Botany Bay, enclosed by the Creek and a ditch fence; which fence, together with the crops now growing on the said farm, have been damaged by Stock straying there-on without any Keeper. He hereby strictly forbids all persons whatever trespassing on the above LANDS, on pain of the most rigid Prosecution; and all cattle found thereon in future will be impounded. SIMEON LORD.

May 1817; NOTICE.— notwithstanding the repeated Advertisements in the Sydney Gazette, cautioning Persons against trespassing, or cutting down Timber and carrying it away that is intended for Building and other Purposes on the Farm of Andrew Byrne am situate about three miles from Sydney, on the Botany Bay Road, known by the Name of Bell View; I therefore hereby give Notice, that all Horses and Carts found on the above Farm after this date will be impounded, and the Owners prosecuted; the Farm is bounded on the West, North, & east by a Swamp, on the South by the Government Road.— A Reward of Two Pounds will be given to any Person that will give Information of the Offenders. ANDREW BYRNE

Comparisons can be made, regarding how much beef Byrne and Redmond, could produce. The quantities are in pounds.

October 1817; DEPUTY COMMISSARY GENERAL'S OFFICE, Sydney, A LIST of Persons who have tendered SUPPLIES of FRESH MEAT, for the Use of His Majesty's Stores, and from whom the Quantities expressed against their respective Names will be received at the under-mentioned Stations.

AT SYDNEY.

By whom tendered Quantity to be received Residence

Mr. Edward Redmond 5000 Sydney

Mr. Andrew Byrne 2000

February 1819; TO be SOLD by PRIVATE CONTRACT, and entered on immediately, the

under-mentioned valuable FARMS, containing 30 Acres each.— The most of them Cleared-granted by His EXCELLENCY GOVERNOR MACQUARIE; situate in the District of Botany Bay, distant five Miles from Sydney, and has a Government road leading to the spot.- Those Farms are known by the name of Sea View, and Newcastle, and has the advantage of commanding a full Prospect of the Ocean between Botany Heads, and is noted for Stock, particularly for Horses, on account of an extensive Salt Marsh, and possesses a delightful Fishery which supplies the Country abundantly with fish.— It is also situated on the Banks of Cook’s River, and famous for all manner of Sport.- There is a good Country House, which can be repaired at a trifling Expense. For particulars apply to Mr. Andrew Byrne, the Proprietor, O’Connell-street, Sydney; whose only reason for disposing of the Premises is, his intending to remove into the interior.

June 1819; GOVERNMENT AND GENERAL ORDERS.

To be paid. Andrew Nash for Bricks for Government Use at Parramatta £22 8s 0d

Andrew Byrne, for Lime for Government Use at Sydney £21 0s 3d

The conclusion can only be that Byrne’s lime is made from Botany shells.

Andrew Byrne still has land at Botany

October 1819; DEPASTURAGE-STOCK taken to Grass on the following Terms, on the under-mentioned Farms, now in the Possession of the Proprietor, where all Attendance will be given by a Stock-keeper:- Horses at 1s. per Week, for not less than three Months; no Charge for Foals under three Months; old Horned Cattle at the Rate of £1 per Year per Head.- No Stock whatever are to be allowed to Trespass on the following Farms; viz. one about three Miles from Sydney, on the Botany Road, known by the Name of Belle View; the second adjoining the Fresh- water Creek on Botany Bay Beech, called Castlehide; the third situate on the Sea coast, mid-way between Sydney and Botany Heads, called Long Bay; the Whole forming a large Run, with the Advantage of the best Water in the driest Seasons; & known to be highly beneficial in restoring Horses and other Cattle to a good and healthy Condition.- N.B. Liberal Encouragement will be given to a Stock-keeper, who well understands his Business, and can produce Reference to character for Honesty and Diligence,- Application to Andrew Byrne, O’Connell-street, he being the Proprietor.

The first newspaper evidence that Lord’s Mill is in operation. Simeon is paid by the government for supplies.

October 1819; Mr. S. Lord for Milling and Dressing Cloth &c. for Government use £ 53 8s. 3d..

There is some irony in someone committing the same crime for which Simeon Lord was sent out to the Colony. Note the limited range of stock Lord could produce at this time. Whether or not ‘Olive Drab’ was a popular colour, or was all that was available, paint of the same colour was used in the better class of early colonial housing.

July 1821; TWENTY POUNDS REWARD.— Whereas, on Thursday Night last, or early on Friday Morning, my WOOLLEN FACTORY at Mud-Bank, Botany Bay, was broke open, and Two Pieces of Broad Olive Drab Cloth, containing each 40 yards, was stolen; and Half-a-Piece, containing 24 yards, of White Raw Ditto, only scoured, since taken out the Loom:— The tracks of three persons having been discovered and traced to and from the Factory and Sydney, leaves no doubt of those traced being concerned with some of my

men in the robbery; the above reward will be paid to any person or persons giving such information as may lead to the discovery of the property, and conviction of the offender or offenders: And as some hints have already been dropped from a suspicious person, there is every reason to expect that one of those concerned in the said robbery will give evidence; therefore, the above reward will be paid to any one that gives the first information necessary to discover the property, and lead to the conviction of the felons. S. LORD.

Peter Howell, was at this time Inspector of the street gangs and lived on Castlereagh Street. An unfortunate individual, who was constantly burgled at this time. In 1829 he received his Certificate of Freedom.

May 1822; TWO POUNDS REWARD.— *Stolen from my Hut at Botany Bay, on Thursday night last, or early on Friday morning, a SILVER WATCH. Maker's Name John Milton, London, No. 2130. The above Reward will be given on Conviction of the Offender, or to any Person who may give such Information as may recover the same. PETER HOWELL.*

Simeon Lord opens a flour mill.

March 1825; S. LORD BEGS LEAVE TO INFORM HIS Friends and the Public in general, *that his Flour Mill at Mud-bank, Botany Bay, will shortly be ready for the reception and grinding of wheat, and hat smutting and dressing machines will also be ready for use about the same time. S.L., is willing to enter into contracts for grinding wheat and dressing flour into such qualities, and on such terms as may be agreed on; and as his mill and granary are sufficiently commodious to contain 4000 bushels of grain, persons desirous of entering into a contract for any limited period, or for the grinding of a large quantity of wheat, will be accommodated with storage, and they may be assured that every possible accommodation will be afforded them. Vessels not exceeding 100 tons burden, may approach within a very short distance of the mill, where they may be in perfect safety. For further particulars apply to S. Lord, at his residence in Macquarie Place.*

The tonnage of ships carrying lime to Sydney from Botany rarely exceeds 20 tons, here we are told Botany is capable of harbouring, up to 100 ton vessels.

June 1825; An excellent flour mill, which is worked by water, is just completed by one of our oldest and most enterprising colonists-Mr. Simeon Lord. The mill is erected on his estate at Mud Bank, Botany Bay, a distance of about six miles from town.... The great demand which at present exists for these indispensable buildings, strongly indicates the rapid extension of our population.

There is much of interest and of some value to be found on Botany Bay.

September 1825; Before Judge STEPHEN. Thomas West, was indicted for stealing a quantity of barley and maize, the property of Solomon Wiseman, from Half Moon Beach, Botany-bay, on the 22d of August last. It appeared that early in August last, Solomon Wiseman, a settler at the Hawkesbury, shipped a quantity of barley and maize, on board the Penguin, belonging to Mr. Thomas Street, bound for Sydney; that the vessel unfortunately ran ashore at Botany-bay, and Mr. Street, immediately on receiving information of the circumstance, sent several persons down, in order if possible, to save the grain. Accordingly a great quantity was got out of the vessel and laid in heaps upon the beach, where it remained for several days, for the purpose of drying, and in which state it was found by the prisoner, and a large portion of it removed, and was afterwards found in his possession.

the defence set up by the prisoner's Counsel was that the property was derelict or abandoned, and was removed under that impression. Mr. Macvitie, Mr. Oxley, and Mr. Walker, severally bore testimony to the previous good character of the prisoner. The Jury returned a verdict of Guilty, accompanied with a recommendation to mercy. Remanded.

Botany races were worthy of being mentioned in a song.

September 1825;

THE RACES O.

A New Song to an Old Tune. "O what a day!"—Tom Thumb.

Old travellers, folks say, who from here to there are dancing,

On foreign sights and novelties to satisfy their eyes,

When on their travels gain a passion for romancing,

And gull their simple readers with a volume full of lies.

The Race ground gained, that place of fun, the knavish world's epitome,

Where jockeys jostle honest men, who jostle too in scorn;

Where men lay bare their secret thoughts, and skilful in anatomy

Just try to bleed their friends, who try to bleed in turn.

Great Epsom Downs with all their show, their bon ton , their horses O,

Newmarket too, with all her dukes, her buckles and her crosses O.

Could ne'er display so bright a day— that day light full was dawning O.

Upon the Course of Botany on a fine September morning O.

In our present age, where heating and cooking are provided by electricity or gas, we can fail to recognise that firewood was a daily requirement for the household, the baker and the hotel keeper who provided meals.

October 1825; *A very curious Public Notice appeared in the Gazette, that has excited considerable feeling; and which strikes us as not the most happy Regulation we have seen come forth. At present we have only time to remark on that part which prohibits "cutting or carrying away timber from the lands lying between South head and Botany-bay." It is well worthy of observation, that in all that line of country there is scarcely a tree to be found that can possibly be converted to the purpose of building parochial churches and public schools." for it is our opinion the man should have a patent that could produce any thing in the shape of a plank in the whole range. ...If those concerned were only aware how many poor families may be deprived of bread, that now subsist on bringing into town barrow loads of fuel, they would at once admit that the Regulation originated in a want of due knowledge concerning the facts as they happen to stand. In that direction nought but the poorest fire-wood is procurable. We are aware when these facts come to be known,... that the situation of the poor will be commiserated, who are not only now deprived of bread, but also of fire to keep them from cold.*

Continued in October 1825; *THE ARCHDEACON, having represented to His Excellency the GOVERNOR the difficulty of obtaining Materials for Building and Fencing, in consequence of the Depredations committed by cutting the Timber on the Lands reserved for the Purpose of building Parochial Churches, and particularly Public Schools, for the Education of Youth..... His EXCELLENCY is pleased is pleased to command, that all Persons, hereafter found cutting or carrying away timber on the undermentioned Lands,*

will be presented by His MAJESTY's ATTORNEY GENERAL; and a Reward of FORTY DOLLARS will be given to any Constable, or other Persons. who will give Information against any Person or Persons,... CUMBERLAND.

Sydney. —- Lands lying between the South Heads, and Botany Bay.

There are still soldiers at Botany.

January 1826; *During the prevalence of the thunder storm on Saturday last three soldiers, stationed at the look-out-house on the heads of Botany Bay, were struck with the electric fluid. They were instantly removed to Sydney.*

In February of 1826; *William Bishop was indicted for stealing a writing desk, the property of Thomas Reynolds, on the 19th of December last. The prisoner had formerly been employed by Mr. S. Lord. On the 20th of Dec. last, meeting Daly, a carter of Mr. Lord's, he obtained permission to have a desk carried on a waggon to Botany Bay. On arrival there, it was noticed by the overseer, who shewed it to Mr. Lord on the following morning, when he visited the estate. He ordered it to be taken to the Police Office, where it was owned by the prosecutor. The prisoner in his defence, said he found the desk in the street. Verdict— Guilty. Sentenced 3 years to a penal settlement.*

The phrase, 'visited the estate,' would suggest that Simeon Lord's principal place of residence is Macquarie Place, Sydney.

Lime exported to Hobart.

April 1826; SHIPPING INTELLIGENCE.

The brig Fame is taking in lime at Botany, and will sail either this day, or tomorrow for Hobart Town.

Problems with bushrangers.

June 1826; *The bushranger, a few days since, paid a visit to the farm of Mr. Simeon Lord, on the Botany-bay-road. Four men entered a dwelling on the premises, and carried off some articles of property. The Police have got the scent, and expect very shortly to succeed in apprehending them.*

July 1826; *On the evening of Thursday last, a party of constables, under the direction of Chapman, was dispatched to a distance of about seven miles on the Botany-bay road, in quest of some marauders, who the police had information intended plundering the Lachlan Mills. On the constables' arrival, two men were detected within the Mills. On the constable's arrival, two men were detected within the Mill, who it appeared had been there for some hours before. A large mill stone was broken, a quantity of iron work attached to the mill was wrenched off, and rendered unserviceable; some timber became fired; two of the operators, as we before informed, were secured and lodged in safe custody in the gaol. The proprietors of the Lachlan Mills have, it is thought, sustained about £200 damage— no property was carried off by the thieves.*

An entertaining incident that involved Simeon Lord and the son of the celebrated merchant Campbell.

July 1826; *A singular seizure has taken place by H.M.S. Fly, very recently. The Alligator, a vessel that has been trading out of this port for several years past, belongs to Mr R. Campbell, jun. and Mr. Emmett, lately put into Botany, with a cargo of wheat, &c. from Launceston. This schooner, being originally a Portuguese built vessel, never had any*

regular papers, but merely a pass from the Colonial Government to sail within certain limits. The Alligator heard of the Fly's arrival by some chance or other, before she made the port, and took shelter in Botany. Application was made for permission to the Naval Officer, to unload the cargo in Botany, at Mr. Lord's Manufactory. The cargo was accordingly discharged— the vessel dismantled of every particle of stores and riggings— and the hull was left high and dry on the beach. In this forsaken, and useless condition, the old Alligator, we hear, was discovered, by the Lieutenant and boat's crew of the Fly, who went round to seize her. That she is a prize— such as it is— there can be no doubt, if all be correct. However, to Mr. Emmett there is every credit due for sagacity and activity in extricating as much of his property as circumstances would permit.

A sly grog shop as a side-line to fishing? The term 'posse comitatus,' we would suggest may give the writing a certain pretentiousness, but it may also be incorrectly used

September 1826; POLICE INCIDENTS. *Kit Webb, a lad who has or does follow the craft of a catcher of fish, be they many or few, great or small, in fresh water or salt seas, was brought up to answer, in the best manner he could, to the charge of being a fisher of men, inasmuch as he was reported to bait his hook with liquor, and by such means draws it to men and their money, and all without having any license to authorise such privateering. Depositions were had, which briefly set forth that on the 11th day of this present month of September, one of the Assistant Superintendents of Police did, accompanied by a constable, proceed to the defendant's house at Botany, and there and then find a number of persons congregated together; that the object of the constable in setting out was to, if possible detect certain bipeds denominated bushrangers, whom they had reason to believe were in concealment near that spot: that the defendant, with all imaginable good humour, did receive the constable into his house, offered to share with them his homely fare, that then and there the "posse comitatus" did lug forth none other than two crown prisoners, hied them away, lodged their persons in security, and lodged informations against the defendant as a harbourer and unlicensed vender of strong waters. To the latter charge defendant pleaded that himself, with a set of jolly good fellows, had clubbed together for the purchase of as much liquid as would furnish them with a day or two's spree; but being convicted of harbouring prisoners of the crown under his roof, was fined in the penalty of 50 dollars and costs.*

Typical of the inaccuracies of newspaper reportage in the 19th century is, that Robert Johnson is Robert Johnston a son of Lieutenant-Colonel George Johnston.

October 1826; Alexander Ross, free, was charged on the deposition of Mr. Robert Johnson, with having feloniously taken and carried away a certain dapple-iron-grey mare, the property of deponent. It appeared in evidence that the prisoner was a servant in the employ of Mr. Simeon Lord, from whose farm, at Botany, a mare, exactly answering the description of that which was the subject of the present charge, was lost, some two or three years since. Mr. Johnson's cattle were frequently in the habit of straying on Mr. Lord's run, and it was conjectured by the latter, that the mare in question might have intermixed with them, and in that manner have got away; but though frequent enquiries had been made, no tidings whatever had been heard of the absentee, until a few days since, when a mare was seen by the prisoner, either on Mr. Johnson's estate at Annandale, or in the

immediate neighbourhood, which in his opinion, was the one lost. Accordingly he gave information to his master, Mr. Lord, who under the conviction of the identity of the animal from the positive representations made to him, gave immediate direction to the prisoner to take possession, vi et armis, which was instantly done, and the dapple-grey safely deposited on Mr. Lord's premises. Mr. Johnson, however, was not to be convinced quite so easily as to Mr. Lord's ownership, and without delay put in his claim by an application to the Magistrates, who upon his swearing to the mare being his, issued their warrant, by virtue of which the prisoner was brought before the Bench to answer for his share in the transaction. Mr. Lord attended on the part of his servant, who he stated, had acted entirely by his orders, and though he would not himself swear to the animal on account of the time she had been out of his possession, still he was prepared with the testimony of several of his servants, all of whom were ready to depose to her identity. Mr. Johnson, on the other hand, was supported by the direct evidence of his brother, who positively swore that the disputed mare was the property of his family, was foaled on his late father's estate, was called Young Peggy, was got out of Old Peggy, sire unknown, and that she had various marks about her by which he could swear to her amongst a thousand. This testimony was also corroborated by that of a man who had formerly been in the habit of looking after the horses of the late Colonel Johnson and had himself assisted in breaking in "Young Peggy." Various allegations and replications took place between the respective claimants, but the Magistrates having enough before them to shew that no felony had been committed, but that the question was entirely one of property, dismissed the case, leaving it open to Mr. Lord to prosecute his claim by civil action in the Supreme Court.

Alexander Ross later settled in the Cooks River area, where in March of 1837, he was apprehended for receiving corn, the property of A. B. Spark of Tempe House. Note once again, that it is Simeon Lord that attended court on behalf of of servants.

One of the activities of the short lived 'Grand Jury,' system within N.S.W. was to suggest to Government areas which needed improving. In 1827, A. B. Spark bought land on the Cooks River at what is now Wolli Creek.

November 1826; In extending their range of observation, the Grand Jury, present to the attention of the Court two subjects connected with the convenience of the inhabitants of Sydney, and its environs, and leading ultimately to the embellishment of the town and the neighbouring country. They observe that the inferior streets in Sydney, are, in some parts, nearly impassable.The other subject which they desire to present is the condition of the inferior roads in the vicinity of Sydney. With moderate application, the road leading to Botany Bay, Cook's River, &c. might be maintained in comfortable repair, by means of which easy communication might be held with the various adjoining farms, from which a plentiful supply of fruits and vegetable might be drawn, with a effect combining both utility and ornament. A.B. SPARK Foreman.

Botany has an invaluable resource for the city of Sydney.

November 1826; We imagine that the only rational way of getting Sydney plentifully supplied with water, would be to get possession of that large body of fresh water belonging to Mr. Lord, at Botany. At present we believe, it is used in turning a mill of that gentleman's, and it is sufficiently large to supply the whole of Sydney were it to contain a

million of inhabitants.

The following may not be the same plane as previously envisaged, but it is, in fairness, a step in the right direction.

January 1826; *We have much satisfaction in announcing to the Public, that, on Friday morning last, HIS EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, accompanied by the Hon. Mr. McLEAY, Colonel and Captain DUMARESQ, Mr. OXLEY, Lieutenant DE LA CONDAMINE and Mr. BUSBY, proceeded to inspect the line which the last named Gentleman has laid down for the pipe tract, by which to convey water to Sydney, from the large lagoon near the Botany-bay road. His EXCELLENCY and the whole Party expressed themselves much gratified by Mr. BUSBY's plans, which are forthwith to be carried into effect. We announce this fact in the pleasing anticipation that the metropolis of New South Wales will not long be destitute of an abundant supply of this first element of health and comfort; for, independently of the characteristic energy of the present Government, the plan has been thoroughly matured, and is undertaken with every advantage which science and experience can afford in the prosecution of such an undertaking.*

Supplies for Simeon Lord's flour and cloth mill.

February 1826; *SHIP NEWS. - At Botany Bay, on Friday evening last, from Port Dalrymple, the Colonial cutter Speedwell, Captain James. Ladage, wheat and wool—consigned to Mr. Simeon Lord.*

Simeon Lord shows he has specialist knowledge of Botany.

May 1827; *A circumstance of rather a mysterious nature is at present under the investigation of the Superintendent of Police. About three weeks ago, a man, named Andrew White, was missing from his residence at Botany-bay. A person, named Briffith, with whom he had been last seen, and on whom suspicion lighted of having, by some means or other, made away with White, was taken before the Police, and underwent several examinations, but nothing being elicited immediately to implicate him, he was discharged. On Wednesday last, a report of a body having been found in the neighbourhood of Botany, was brought to the Superintendent of Police, and on Thursday an Inquest was held. The body, however, was so dreadfully mutilated by the fishes, that it was impossible positively to identify it, and the Jury returned a Verdict of Found Drowned. The supposition as to the way in which White is missing is, that, having been known to go out late at night in a fishing-boat, he fell overboard, or threw himself in. Mr. Simeon Lord, however, appeared at the Police - office on Friday last, and made a deposition as to his having seen the place where the body, supposed to be White's, was found, and that it was impossible, supposing he had been drowned in the manner and situation which is reported, that he could have floated to where the body was discovered. Other witnesses have, in consequence, been sent for, but as yet nothing beyond vague suspicion has attached itself to any parties.*

Also in May 1827; *The body of Edward White, who came by his death a short time since, at Botany, under circumstances of a suspicious nature, and which, after the inquest, was interred by order of the Coroner, was on Monday, discovered floating in Cook's River. The place where it was buried was swampy ground, and the body was washed out by the water, and drifted down the stream to where it was found with one of the arms off in addition to the mutilated state in which it was first observed on the shore at Botany.*

The late fires are most likely those which were first reported in the newspapers of the 29th of November 1826, temperatures reached over 100 degrees F.

June 1827; QUERY. *To what use are the tolls-the heavy tolls-which are received at the Botany Bay Gate, appropriated? During the late fires the bridges were all burnt down, they have never been repaired; and, in consequence, the only good part (that made by Governor Macquarie) of the road, is impassable. The road now forced into general use trespasses upon private property, and could be closed at the will of an individual. It is moreover knee deep in sand; and all but as bad as the Government Road. The traffic even now is considerable, and would increase with the facilities afforded it; but my carters say they ought to be paid fourpence for using the road, instead of paying that for the use of it. How are we to settle this? Bullanamyng.*

Bullanamyng, is the aboriginal word for what is now the Cook's River area.

Further notice of an improved water supply for Sydney.

September 1827. *Mr. BUSBY has commenced opening a trench in what is called Hyde-Park, for the purpose of laying the pipes, which are to conduct the water from the marshes of Botany Bay. We should have expected that the first trenches would have to be opened near the said marshes. The trench in Hyde Park should at all events not have been opened til the pipes are ready, so as that they might be covered up again immediately, as the Park (so called) is a public promenade and ride.*

Another weather and sporting report pointing to the fun to be had at Botany.

February 1828. *On the afternoon of Wednesday last, Botany was visited by a storm, which passing over Sydney, bestowed its favours on some two or three Gentlemen who had gone thither on a shooting excursion, in the form of hail stones, some of which it is said measured twelve inches in circumference. Notwithstanding their magnitude however, no heads were broken.*

Also in February a visitor observed;

From "Two Years in New South Wales", by P. CUNNINGHAM, Surgeon R.N.

"Sydney is most abundantly supplied with fish, which are caught with hooks and lines, chiefly towards the heads of the harbour, by the native blacks, and disposed of to the retailers, who hawk them about the town; the sounds of 'Fish O,' Hot Rolls, all hot,' and many other English cries, often chiming in agreeably upon your ear. Mud oysters are brought over from Botany Bay, where they are abundant; and by fitting yourself out with a few slices of bread and butter..... you may quickly secure a cheap and most delicious lunch.

In March, also from "Two Years in New South Wales, " by P. CUNNINGHAM, Surgeon R.N. *Mr. Simeon Lord has a long-established woollen manufactory at Botany Bay, where coarse and second cloths are manufactured from our wools, of various colours, and at various prices-all dearer, at first cost, than similar English articles, but cheaper in the end, from their greater durability. Woollens are also made at Parramatta by the women confined there, both for clothing the government workmen and selling to the settlers; two yards and a quarter at 2s. 6d. per yard being sufficient for a pair of trowsers. Very durable twills are also made here from the New Zealand flax.*

A slight note of pessimism is noted when reporting the improvements to Sydney's water supply.

March 1828; *The public aqueduct to convey the water from Botany swamps into the town of Sydney, is carried on with some industry; but how soon it promises to be in a state of readiness for the use of the inhabitants, cannot well be understood. Although bushrangers, appear to be not on horse, the reportage in the press of the time is constant.*

July 1828. *Some of the more intelligent blacks in the interior, prove of infinite service to the mounted police and to constables, in tracking out bushrangers when occasions require their assistance. One native a few days ago secured a bush-ranger at Botany, and delivered him up to the Police, who gave him some trifling reward. ...In Sydney as well as Parramatta, the reward-money for the apprehension of run-a-ways, the constables complain, is greatly in arrears.*

Also in July 1828. *Yesterday morning, a man named Ralph, a runaway, as it has since appeared, from an iron gang, was shot by Constable Nichols and Pearce, on the Botany-bay road. It seems that the constables were out in search of a party of bushrangers, who have been lately committing depredations in that quarter, when they fell in with the unfortunate man who has been wounded, and called out for him to stop, but he only increased his speed; in consequence of which his pursuers, under the impression that he was one of the objects of their search, fired after him, and brought him to the ground, he having received three balls through his body. the man has been conveyed to the General Hospital, and the Surgeon's report is that the wounds are not particularly dangerous. Constables should be cautious in such cases; inasmuch as death, ensuing in consequence of wounds inflicted on an individual against there is no charge of felony, amounts to murder.*

August 1828; *The Attorney General has caused an information to be filed against two constables who fired at, and mortally wounded, a prisoner of the Crown, whilst the constables were in pursuit after bushrangers in the vicinity of Botany Bay.*

August 1828. *The Botany road continues in the same deplorable state it was two years ago, for want of bridges, which were burnt down during the great conflagration of the surrounding bush, when the Warspite, 74, was in the harbour.*

To be fair to the Government of the time, the 'great conflagration' happened in late November 1826.

This the first evidence of the land being suitable for a salt works or salt panning.

It is not however the last.

August 1828; *ESTATES FOR SALE BY PRIVATE CONTRACT, A VERY VALUABLE SMALL ESTATE at Botany, about six miles from Sydney, consisting of 60 acres of Land fenced in, wherein is a cottage of four rooms, out-buildings, stable, and sheds; a good garden, and paddocks fenced. The waterside is admirably adapted for salt works; and, from the situation of the estate itself, many manufactories might be erected that would be a fortune to the speculator.*

The horrors of a visitation from bushrangers.

September 1828; *The dwelling of a poor settler, at Botany, named Browne, formerly of the old 102d Regiment, was plundered by two bushrangers, on Monday last. One of the marauders has been secured, and is at present in custody of the police. It appears that about noon, Browne, had occasion to leave his dwelling without any person being therein,*

but owing to the retired, quiet state of the neighbourhood, he was under no apprehension whatever of such a visit as he afterwards received. After being occupied for some time in a little garden at some distance from the house, Browne, happening to cast his eye in that direction, saw two men, one carrying a gun, and the other with a large parcel on his back, taking their departure from his door. On proceeding to his dwelling, he missed several articles, amongst which was a musket that was kept loaded near his bed side. He immediately followed in the track which the robbers had taken; one of whom having observed him, turned round and presented the gun at him, desiring him to come on. Browne, having no assistance and being an aged man, returned to his dwelling, where in a few minutes after, he was again visited by the robbers, who burst upon his door, and saying, that, as he did not appear to be satisfied at their having taken a little, he should see they would serve him, proceeded to plunder the house of every portable article it contained, with which they took their departure, after vowing vengeance against the owner if he offered to come after them. On leaving the house, the second time, however, the robbers were observed by a deputy overseer of a gang, stationed in the neighbourhood, who having made himself acquainted, from Browne, of the transaction that had taken place, immediately provided himself with a musket, and shortly after came up with them. The robber who was armed, snapped his piece at the overseer, but it miss fired, as did also that of the latter. A scuffle ensued, and Browne, having by this time arrived at the scene of action, one of the marauders was captured, and the other fled, leaving his booty behind him. The man who is apprehended turns out to be one Thomas Iredon, a runaway, for some time, from Parramatta Barracks.

It is now two years since the 'conflagration' and still no improvement.

November 1828 - *The road to Botany, and particularly, at the Waterloo dams, is, we are informed, Altogether impassable for carriage conveyance. Some guts and deep holes interspersed along the roads are open, and most, if not all the bridged tumbling, or but to tumble down.*

The Judge's summation, and awesome decision. Note the differing accounts of the events, one in September, the other December.

December 1828; *John Iron, convicted of breaking into the dwelling of John Browne, an aged man, settled at Botany, committing a robbery therein, and putting him in fear, being placed at the bar, and having nothing to urge in arrest of judgement, the CHIEF JUSTICE addressed the prisoner as follows:-*

"John Iron, you have been capitally convicted of an offence, the enormity of which leaves little hope that any mercy can be extended to you, from those to whom His Majesty has entrusted the Executive Power in this Colony. You were charged with entering, in company with another man not yet discovered, the dwelling of a peaceable and aged settler, at Botany Bay, whence, after taking such articles as you thought proper, you retired with your plunder. Being observed by Browne, who was absent from his dwelling at the time, and upon his following you, you again returned to the house, and there compelled him to submit to your violence, after which you once more proceeded to plunder the house, and again retired with your spoil, leaving the old man in such a situation as prevented him from following you or seeking assistance. You returned again the third time, but in the interim,

the old man had found means to free himself from the cords with which you had bound him, and had obtained the assistance of a constable named Lally, who placed himself in a convenient situation to receive you when your third approach was observed. Upon finding the old man free, you levelled his own gun, which you had previously carried from the house, at him. The gun was loaded, having been charged with powder, and duck shot by Browne himself. What your intention was, can only be collected from the overt act of which you were guilty, but there is every reason to suppose, had not your arm been arrested from behind by Lally, who rushed out upon you, and at whom you also presented the gun, you would have perpetrated the crime of murder, in addition to that of which you have been convicted. These complicated crimes call upon the Court to visit you with proportionate punishment. Let me enjoin you, therefore, to prepare for that fate which awaits you, and by sincere repentance, endeavour to make your peace with God, for the manifold offences of which you have been guilty.” Sentence of death was then passed.

Does J. W. Sturgeon, own the land, formerly occupied by Andrew Byrne?

January 1829; NOTICE. ALL STOCK found Trespassing on Sea View Estate, Botany, commonly known by the Name of Mud Bank, or on 1200 Acres adjoining the said Estate, will be impounded. J.W. STURGEON. Sea View, Botany.

We can but assume the invalid was ‘legless’?

January 1829; HIGHWAY ATTACKS..... *An invalid belonging to the Botany Tower was also attacked. He happened to be carrying half a gallon of rum in a bottle; of which the robbers, two in number, made themselves masters, and then satisfying themselves who the man was, insisted that he should take “pot luck” with them - for this purpose they all sat down and finished the bottle.*

The difficulties of travelling to Botany

June 1829; Ifyou should take the short cut to Botany, be careful that you keep a respectable distance from every thing in the shape of a bog. We give this caution from experience, as a friend of ours got into a strange predicament last season, by not paying attention to our advice on this head. For trusting to his own foresight, he advanced boldly forward, poor soul, till he could advance no further. In short he was hard and fast in a bog.he remained bellowing like a calf for the space of two hours, when he found himself on firm ground again. But, a la Highlands, he skulked into town after night-fall, as an embargo had been laid on the legs of his breeches.

Lime from Botany to Sydney. We now begin to see the size or displacement of the boats which ship lime to Sydney.

July 1829; SHIPPING NEWS.

COASTWISE from 15th to 21st Instant, inclusive.- INWARDS.

Phoenix, Rodgers, 9 tons, Botany Bay, lime.

OUTWARDS. Phoenix, Williams, 9 tons, Botany Bay, in ballast.

Behold a fine example of business mixed with pleasure.

July 1829; It is expected the seizure of the Darling schooner will cause some employment for the Barristers of the Supreme Court next term. It occurred in consequence of her landing spirits at Botany Bay. It so happened, that Mr. Cotton, the Comptroller, was on a

shooting excursion at Botany, and discovered the spirits being landed.

A sad case of drink driving.

August 1829; *On Monday last an inquest was held at Mr. Lord's, Mud Bank Botany, on the body of a man named John Joyce, assigned to Mr. L. and upwards of half a century old. It appeared in evidence that the deceased was at Sydney on Friday last, and returning home about 8 in the evening with his cart, while in a state of intoxication, was thrown from it and the wheels passed over his breast. Dr. Bland was in attendance and gave his opinion on the cause of the man's death. Verdict— Accidental death, in consequence of a hurt by being thrown from a cart when in a state of intoxication.*

Another delivery of lime with a slight increase in tonnage.

August 1829; SHIPPING NEWS.

**COASTWISE from 29th July to 4th August, inclusive.-
INWARDS.**

Phoenix, Williams, 10 tons, Botany Bay, lime.

A new road to Botany is indeed good news. What is more interesting is what at this time Botany produces.

September 1829; *A new line of road is being formed through Mr. UNWIN's ground at the back of Surry Hills, to Botany. This was much required, for besides the greater market part of the fish that comes to Sydney, a large proportion of pork, poultry, and vegetables, would be brought from the shores of that celebrated Bay, if there were a good road.*

Whilst Simeon Lord still appears to live at Macquarie place there is an extension to his mill. The filling for mattresses, kapok, may have the potential to be turned into cotton.

October 1829; *S. LORD, begs to inform his friends and the public, that he has, at a considerable expense, improved and extended his Woollen Manufactory at Botany Bay, with the addition of a new double carding engine, from which he will be able to supply a large quantity of Cloth and Blankets, of a superior quality and at reduced prices; and notwithstanding the depression of Wool Wheat and all other kinds of produce in Exchange for his manufactures including mattresses, &c. S. Lord has for sale (10,000) ten thousand pounds of fine clean Wool, for which he will take half the amount in such goods as he may require, at a reasonable rate. S. L. has also for sale, a few casks of Rum and Brandy, English shag and other Tobacco at reduced prices for cash. Bread and Biscuit supplied at the shortest notice. Merchants and others may be accommodated with a small-house and Ware-house for goods at a reasonable rent, on application to the Proprietor. S. LORD, Macquarie Place.*

There was much to commend Botany to the criminal classes.

October 1829; *Constable Nichols apprehended a runaway prisoner from Hyde Park Barracks, in the bush near Botany, yesterday, with a number of forged passes in his possession. He was sentenced by the Magistrates to three months' labour in an iron gang.*

This article gives an insight into the built environment of Botany at the time.

In November of 1829; SUPREME COURT. *Ezekiel Rogers was indicted for a highway robbery on the person of Thomas Brimstone, at Cook's River, on the 4th of October. Thomas Brimstone said, I am a settler living at Botany; on the 11th of October, I was standing at the door of my hut, when the prisoner came up, and struck me with a spade,*

knocked me down, and then beat me with an iron pot; he then rifled my pockets, and took away four half crowns and five shillings; the prisoner then went away and joined two other men who were at some little distance off; I swear the prisoner is the man for I had seen him frequently before. Elizabeth Lee said, I live at Botany, and know the prisoner; I saw prisoner on the 11th of October last; I was at the house of a person named Kennedy, and saw him pass the prosecutor's hut; a little dog ran out to attack him, and the prisoner threw something at him; some words ensued upon this, between prisoner and the prosecutor, who knocked the prisoner down, and then ran into his hut followed by the prisoner; shortly after I saw the prosecutor with a gun in his hand, and also the prisoner whose face was covered with blood; I do not think the prisoner could have taken money out of Brimstone's coat pocket, and I not seen it. By the prisoner-Brimstone did not tell me that he had been robbed till three days after. Elizabeth Kennedy said, I live at Botany; on the 11th of October, I was in company with the last witness, and saw the prisoner go towards the hut of the prosecutor, who was standing at the door. [This witness corroborated the statement of Elizabeth Lee in every particular.] The Jury immediately found the prisoner Not Guilty.

Not quite in the category of 'Dick Turpin', but nevertheless the crime was, 'highway robbery.' What appears to be 'trouble at t'mill,' again!

September 1830; POLICE INCIDENTS. *William Ayscough, one of Mr. Simeon Lord's government men, was brought up, for leaving his station at Botany, coming to Sydney without leave, and threatening his overseer and master, that if they got him flogged he would flog them. The man seemed to have forgot all idea of subordination, and evidently conceived his own choice to be the only proper rule of conduct-50 lashes.*

Botany reveals itself as a place for the leisured classes.

November 1830; *In consequence of the desirable alteration in the weather on Sunday, numerous parties were made for excursions on the water, as well as to the Cherry Gardens, Botany, and other places of public resort. Cheerfulness and hilarity once more sat upon the countenances on which gloomy apprehension for the harvest had before stamped itself.*

Perhaps another case of 'deja vu,' for Simeon Lord, as he reflects on his criminal past, and that of Thomas and Mary?

In April of 1831; *Thomas Estherbrook, and Mary, his wife was then placed at the bar, charged with stealing twenty pounds of wool, from Mr. Simeon Lord's premises at Botany Bay. Mr. Lord's wool sorter stated, that having missed wool at different times, he had acquainted his master, and a search had been instituted, when he discovered that the prisoner's bed was filled with wool of the same description as that which was missing; he could not however, swear that the wool was Mr. Lord's property, although he believed it to be his from its fineness, and such wool not being generally used for beds, being valued at 1s. 3d. per pound. Mr. Lord could not positively swear to the wool being his property, but his belief was strong that it was. The Jury retired for some time, but could agree in their verdict, a Juror was withdrawn by consent of the prosecutor, and after the old couple had given vent to their feelings in a hearty embrace in the dock, they were discharged.*

A late and large grant to a market gardener.

In October of 1831; GRANTS OF LAND.

BOTANY. 1. John Neathway Brown, 100, one hundred acres; described as No. 1 in the Government Notice of 14th September, 1831, in the name of John Brown.

Wonderful news of a water supply!

January 1832; TOWN WATER.- *The valuable labours of Mr. BUSBY, in bringing a supply of water into the town, are now appreciated by the inhabitants, thousands of whom are daily supplied from his aqueduct in Hyde Park. Better water was never drank, and, even in this prolonged dry weather, there is a constant and super-abundant supply..... It is his intention, by authority of Government, to intersect the whole town with pipes, which are to run along every street, except some on the Rocks that are above the level. From these main pipes the inhabitants will be at liberty to convey (of course at their own expense) leaden pipes into their houses, and thus enjoy the same conveniences as are furnished by the towns and cities of England by the great Water Companies. The aqueduct, stretching from the Botany Hills to Hyde Park, will hold a million of gallons, and will, Mr. B confidently calculates, be kept constantly filled.*

In September of 1832; William Simmons, a settler, residing near Botany, appeared on a warrant under the following circumstances. *John Winterbottom, a free servant to Mr. S. Lord deposed that a bullock had been missing some time from his master's premises. From information he received, he went on Thursday last to the farm of the prisoner, where he observed such circumstances as left no doubt on his mind that Mr. L.'s bullock had been slaughtered there. He saw four feet, exactly like those of the deficient bullock, and a head, which he immediately recognised as that of his deceased friend .- Remanded.*

An impressive feat of identification.

August 1833; On Monday last, Mr. J. C. Phelps, of the Customs, residing at Botany, sent his horse and cart into town for supplies. The carter had obtained some timber, and went into the warehouse of Messrs. Cooper and Levey to complete his load, leaving the cart standing at the door; on his return, he found that some kind friend had taken his horse and cart and walked off with his booty. We have not heard whether the thief has been apprehended.

Phelps was a landholder in the area. That he has to purchase timber in Sydney indicates the quality of wood to be found at Botany.

A vision of Botany, and at least two of its people. That McCullum worked at the Salt-pans reveals a little recognised industry in the area.

February 1834; SUPREME COURT-CRIMINAL SIDE. *James Hamilton, and Alexander McCullan, were indicted for feloniously entering the house of John Mackaness, Esquire, on the night of the 30th of December, with intent to commit a robbery, and for aiding and abetting therein. Thomas Murray deposed that he was servant to the prosecutor, and slept in his house; that ...after midnight, being awake by a noise he got up, and saw a man in the room; that he called out "Who is there?" but received no answer; that he then alarmed the house, and the strange man closed upon him, and after much struggling, wounded him in the arm, and on the body, with what he supposed to be a fork. ...that the man then made his escape through the window, and he pursued him; that a fellow servant George Clayton, then came to his assistance with a loaded pistol, joined in the pursuit, and fired at the man as he leaped over a fence of the paddock; witness then found the prisoner Alexander*

McCullum on his hands and knees inside the fence, with a hat and shoes besides those he wore, and on questioning him, he said that he had been drunk, and had laid there to rest himself; witness hailed his fellow servant, and they took McCullum into the house, and secured him until the arrival of the constables, who were sent for; McCullum than said that he worked at the Salt-pans at Botany, and had a hut there; in the morning, the prosecutor, witness, his fellow servant, and two constables, went to McCullum's hut, and on searching it found some pieces of cord breeches, a buff waistcoat, and a razor, which had been taken from the prosecutor's house in a former robbery; on searching further, they discovered the prisoner, James Hamilton, up the chimney, who was endeavouring to get out at the top of it; but prosecutor, who was armed, threatened to shoot him if he stirred further; the moment he was brought down the chimney, witness, (Thomas Murray) exclaimed "that's the man that broke into my master's house and wounded me; I can swear positively to him; ... The jury after retiring a short time, returned and pronounced James Hamilton Guilty- and Alexander McCullum guilty of aiding and abetting in the burglary.

Thos. Kellet & Thos. Drew, purchased land, which was the site on which the Banks Hotel was built. Subsequently named, the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, it became arguably the most successful tourist attraction in nineteenth century N.S.W.

In April of 1834, a Sale of Land took place at the Police Office,.....when the following prices were obtained for each lot respectively.

Lots per acre

BOTANY ALLOTMENTS

<i>20 Seventy-five acres, Bank Meadow allotment, No. 1, by J. C. Phelps, at</i>	<i>£1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>21 Seventy-five acres, do. do. No. 2, Thos. Kellet & Thos. Drew at</i>	<i>£1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>22 Forty-six acres one rood and twenty perches do. do. No. 3 by Simeon Lord at</i>	<i>15s</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>23 Forty-eight acres two roods do. do. No. 3 by Simeon Lord at</i>		<i>15s</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>24 Fifty acres, do. do. No. 9, Thos. Kellet at</i>	<i>10s</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>25 Fifty-one acres do. do. No. 9 by Simeon Lord at</i>	<i>15s</i>	<i>0</i>	
<i>26 Fifty-eight acres two roods do. do. No. 6 by Simeon Lord at</i>		<i>15s</i>	<i>0</i>

Mr. Simeon Lord is now described as 'of Botany.'

September 1834; POLICE INCIDENTS. *James Clayton, assigned to Mr. Simeon Lord of Botany, was placed at the bar charged with being absent from the service of his master since the 3rd instant. Mr. Lord gave him a very bad character, and stated that he was continually running away, and had been before punished for the offence. The prisoner on being asked what he had to say in his defence, effectingly replied, "Ladies and Gentlemen, your Worships, and the Court, the unfortunate depositions that have been made against me, leaves me not a shadow of a hope; I have therefore only to lay myself, a poor prisoner, at your feet, Ladies and Gentlemen, and crave a merciful sentence."- Fifty lashes.*

Why should Lord require a painter and glazier, is he building a house?

June 1835; List of Assignments of Male Convicts to Private Service, from 31st January 10th February 1835. Lord Simeon, Botany, 1 painter and glazier.

James Backhouse (1794-1869), naturalist and Quaker missionary, was born on 8 July 1794, the fourth child of James and Mary Backhouse, members of a well-known Quaker business family of Darlington, Durham, England. He was apprenticed to a chemist in Darlington, where he

developed tuberculosis. Regaining health with outdoor work, he trained for two years in a Norwich nursery, where the sight of Australian plants and association with Friends interested in prison reform and transportation contributed to his concern to visit the convict colonies. In September 1831, with the financial support of the London Yearly Meeting, he sailed for Australia with George Washington Walker. Their reports were sent to London Friends and to the Colonial Office and used by reformers of prisons and Aboriginal settlements.

In July of 1835, James Backhouse wrote:

“We walked to Cooks River, which empties itself into Botany Bay, and fell in with a party of Blacks, who were fishing. One of them had a canoe, made of a large sheet of bark, stretched open with sticks, and drawn together in folds at the ends. This process they effect, by first warming the bark in the fire. The man and his wife were seated on their knees in the canoe, in which they had a fire, on a flat stone. The man propelled the canoe by means of a paddle, that he applied first on one side and then on the other. He used a spear in fishing, made of a long stick, with four, long, wooden prongs, attached to it, by means of string and Grass-tree Gum. This he brought slowly, almost into contact with the fish, before striking. While fishing, he kept up a noise like the blowing of a Porpoise, and accompanied it by showers of saliva, that disturbed the surface of the water, like small rain. He seldom failed in transfixing his finny prey. Another man, who stood on a log that extended into the river, was equally successful, by a similar process.

“7th mo. 4th. Wishing to hold a meeting with the few settlers, on the shores of Botany Bay, we walked thither, and called at their dwellings. These are chiefly small huts, on the edge of a marsh, built by some veteran soldiers, who were located there, a few years since.”

That Simeon Lord appears to have spoken to Backhouse at Botany suggests by this time he was in residence.

*Wishing to hold a meeting with the few settlers, on the shores of Botany Bay, we walked thither, and called at their dwellings. These are chiefly small huts, on the edge of a marsh, built by some veteran soldiers, who were located there, a few years since. “The soil being of a nature requiring to be turned over, and exposed to the action of the air, for two or three years before it becomes fertile, and these men having no capital, and not being generally industrious, many of their cottages have been deserted, and their lands have passed into other hands. Botany Bay, with its gay shrubs, might wear an imposing aspect, to the first navigators of these seas, after a tedious voyage; but its shores are shallow, and not convenient for landing, and most of the land on the north side, is dreary sand and marsh, of little, real value. The pieces that are worth anything, are of very limited extent, and are in few hands. One of the proprietors has established a woollen manufactory, which, from the price of labour in this country, is not likely to pay. He told us, that the leaves of the Wooden-pear, *Xylomelum pyriforme*, dye wool yellow, and that the branches of *Leptospermum scoparium*, answer the purposes of Fustic-wood, and dye fawn-colour. A handsome species of Grass-tree, *Xanthorrhoea arborea*, was in flower, in some of the sandy grounds : its root-stocks were surmounted by an elegant crest, of rush-like leaves; from the centre of which, the flower stem arose to ten feet in height; “somewhat less than the upper half of this, was densely covered with brown scales, giving it an appearance, something like a Bull-rush. From amongst these scales the small, white, star-like flowers emerged, as in the other*

species of this genus. The plants with large root-stocks had been destroyed, for fuel, for which purpose they are much valued. In this neighbourhood, as well as at Port Jackson, the Sweet Tea, Smilax glycyphylla, abounds. It is a low, climbing plant, with narrow, heart-shaped leaves, having a taste something like Spanish Liquorice. It was used instead of tea, by the early settlers, and formed the chief ingredient in their drink, on occasions of rejoicing."

Simeon Lord, now aged 64, still has problems with his workers.

November 1835; *The man Simpkin, Watchman at Mr. Lord's Establishment at botany, who was apprehended on a charge of maliciously shooting at one of the assigned Convict servants, was discharged from custody, it appearing from evidence that the piece must have gone off accidentally. The assigned Convicts of the Establishment availed themselves of this opportunity to induce the men to lay a charge against the watchman, he having by his vigilance detected them in robbing the stores, for which they threatened to be revenged on him. Some of these worthies are now in custody on one of those charges.*

December 1835; *James Parks assigned to Mr. Lord of Botany Bay, was put to the bar. Mr. Lord junior, stated that the prisoner had received a pass to proceed to Sydney in order to present his application for a ticket-of-leave, but instead of doing which had remained in a house on the road-side, where he became intoxicated and was found there in the evening. Sentenced to receive 36 lashes.*

January 1836; *NOTICE. TENDERS will be received at the Custom House, for the supply of the Boats' Crews stationed at Sydney and Botany, with the undermentioned Rations for the Quarter*

ending 5th April 1836, viz:—

Nine Pound Flour.

Eight Pounds Beef.

Half Pound Sugar.

Quarter Pound Soap.

Quarter Pound Salt.

J. GIBBES, Collector, R. WEBB, Acting Comptroller.

Custom House.

An interesting comparison can no doubt be made as to the diet of those who are residents of Great Britain at the time.

Also in January 1836; *Death. On Thursday last, at the farm of Mr. Connolly, at Botany, Darby Shay, upwards of 100 years of age; he retained his faculties to the last.*

Interesting, but irrelevant, in that Mr. Connelly's farm is, although on Botany Bay, is outside our area, and it would be wrong to suggest he gave his name to Shea's Creek.

Another fatality.

January 1836; *An inquest was held at the Roe Buck tavern Surrey hills, upon the body of William Hamilton, an old pensioner, aged 67 years, who had been missing since the 28th December last. It appeared from the evidence, that the deceased had lived with a person named Lord, who resided near to the South Head Light-house. On the day mentioned above, deceased came into Sydney, with a cart load of wood, which he disposed of for five shillings. He then loaded his cart with some provisions and butter for Lord, and a quantity*

of shingles for a neighbour; with such a load he was seen in Castlereagh-street on the latter part of that day, but not afterwards heard of, until Friday last, when a man named Woolls, a collector of insects, birds, shells, and other colonial curiosities, was passing through Botany swamp perceived a cart upside down. Upon approaching it more closely he found that the cart had been upset, and deceased underneath the load, with the exception of his head, from the appearance of which, he judged that the body must have lain there at least three weeks. The horse was dead also, fastened in the harness, but appeared to have struggled violently in order to extricate itself, as the shafts of the cart were much marked with blood. He gave immediate information to the nearest constable. The body of course was in a very advanced state of decomposition, but yet by his clothes, &c. clearly identified. On his pockets being searched, three shillings and some halfpence were found. deceased had been very much addicted to drinking and had probably spent the difference of cash in the indulgence of his habitual propensity, which may account for his having taken a direction, different to that which led to his home. Mr. Surgeon Steward who examined the body, stated that being in such a state of putrefaction, it was impossible to state with any degree of certainty, what might have been the cause of death, but so far as he was enabled to judge he considered it had not been occasioned through violence used by any other person. The jury were of opinion that death had been produced by the load falling upon him, but in the absence of all positive evidence brought in a verdict of found drowned.

An interesting conclusion by the coronial jury. In spite of evidence to the contrary, that alcohol was a contributing factor, they decide that he drowned in the swamp.

The other question is this Lord, living near the South Head Light-house, Simeon? Botany, had a brush with fame for the person finding the old pensioner was non other than a young William Woolls (1814-1893), a Church of England clergyman, schoolmaster and botanist, born on 30 March 1814 at Winchester, Hampshire, England, nineteenth child of Edward Woolls. At 16 he migrated to Australia, reaching Sydney on 16 April 1832 in the 'Grecian'. He became one of the most distinguished of a group of clergyman-botanists in the colony. Woolls was best known for his promotion of Australian botany and his assistance to other scholars. He gave many popular lectures, wrote countless letters on native flora to local newspapers and advised on the horticultural and agricultural sections of colonial exhibitions.

Botany gains a reputation for gardening.

February 1836;

EMIGRATION.

Since now-a-days there's ev'ry man

Attempting Emigration, Why should I not propose a plan

To benefit the nation?

Long have I thought it in my mind,

To find a fitting home

Might seem by nature's self-designed

For kindred self to roam.

Musicians hasten to the Sound,

The surplus priests to Rome;

While still the race of hypocrites

*At Canto are at home.
Send bach'lors to th' United States
Maids to the Isle of Man;
Let gard'ners all to Botany go,
And shoeblacks to Japan.
Sporting activities continue.....*

Wikipedia dates the introduction of the fox to N.S.W. as 1845, which is in conflict with the following. This appears to be a fox hunt, in that 'brush' is a reference to a fox's tail.

July 1836; FOX HUNTING EXTRAORDINARY. *On Wednesday morning last the Sydney Hounds met at the corner of the New Race course, at 7 A. M., and after having waited ten minutes for lazy folk, trotted off to try a cover at Botany Bay. But a very short time elapsed before they found, and having rallied him out of the scrub, broke away at his brush over a neck of land in the direction of the light house. After about a mile and a half, literally as fast as the fastest could go, he got down to the beach and having passed through a small cover, without hanging in it for a moment, told his way along along the sand for a mile further, when he clambered the rocks, still however sticking to the sea side till he got to Little Cudgee, where he turned inland, ...he immediately made his point through some thick covers for Mr. Lord's Mill, at the end of which he turned to the right, skirted the adjoining paddocks, and from thence close down to the New Race Course as hard as he could tilt he was here headed back by a snob with a cart, and took a fresh start in the direction of Bondi.....This is the second time he has escaped after a desperate struggle, let him beware of the third!*

An ageing, Simeon continues to be reminded of his criminal past by the behaviour of his workforce.

September 1836; Thomas Cooper and James Park, assigned to Mr. Simeon Lord, of Botany, were charged with stealing a piece of factory cloth, the property of their master. The case being clearly proved, they were each sentenced to an ironed gang for twelve months.

In September 1836, Alexander Brodie Spark of Tempe House, at what is know as Wolli Creek, wrote in his diary:

Went to the Hurdle Race which came off near the Race Course on the Botany Road. Although there was no great amusement in seeing a company of riders in pied liveries kicking down the rails over which they ought to have leaped, yet as the day was fine and the company numerous, the scene was animating and the exercise pleasant.

In November / December of 1836, James Backhouse wrote:

"After visiting the men, in the department of the Mineral Surveyor, we accompanied the person filling that office, to a tunnel, which he is forming, from the Botany Bay Swamps, which is nearly completed, and brings the water to Sydney. This tunnel is arched with hewn stone; it is two feet wide, four feet high, and about two miles long. The water from it is laid in iron pipes into various parts of Sydney, but it is not yet distributed to private houses. The Botany Bay Swamps are natural reservoirs, being extensive basins, in sandstone rock. One of them occupies about 1,000 acres, and is filled with sand, which keeps the water pure; it is overgrown with shrubs, but is of great depth, and contains a vast body of water. Few of these reservoirs exhibit water on the surface, beyond what renders the soil a little boggy; but

some small streams ooze from them, and in two or three cases, their surface is pure white sand. Most of them are ornamented with gay shrubs and plants, which also abound on the adjacent sandy hills, in many places on the sides of which, the sandstone rocks are bare. The marshes “The marshes are now gay with Callistemon lan-ceolatus, a low, rigid, willow-like “shrub, with clusters of crimson flowers, like bottle brushes, surrounding the stem, and with Blandfordia nobilis, a plant with an erect stem, about a foot and a half high, crowned by about a dozen pendent flowers, an inch long, tubular, and as thick as a swank’s quill, sealing-wax red, tipped with orange at the six-cleft mouth. There are also upon these swamps, several other striking shrubs and plants, among which may be enumerated Melaleuca thymifolia, and armillaris, Ejiacris obtusi-folia, Drosera pedata, Villarsia elata, and Utricularia sjeciosa, and violacea. On the low hills there are Corroea speciosa, Stenantha pinifolia, Rceperia pinifolia, and several species of Banksia, Leptospermum, Lencopogon, &c. The shrubs on these low hills and swamps, gave the name of Botany Bay, to the bay by which access was first gained to them. Some of the swamps are formed into gardens, which, retaining their moisture, supply the Sydney market in summer.”

More stealing, the theft may not be of the true honeysuckle, but of native Banksia, or Grevillea, to name but two.

December 1836; *Thomas Hall, assigned to Mr. Simeon Lord, of Botany Bay, and Peter Spencer, free, Boatman, were committed for trial, the former on a charge of stealing, and the latter with receiving viz Honey-suckle logs, value 20s, the property of Mr. Lord.*

January 1837, *James Backhouse wrote: We walked to the north head of Botany Bay, to visit the Custom-house officer, stationed there; who, we were glad to find, had strictly adhered to temperance principles, for the last thirteen months. The officer at the Light-house, at the heads of Port Jackson, and one of the pilots, have also adopted temperance principles, greatly to their advantage. At the north head of Botany Bay, stands the monument, erected by the French Government, on the spot from which La Perouse embarked, when he last sailed from this land, in 1788. No tidings respecting him were obtained from that period, till within a few years, when Chevalier Dillon ascertained, that he was wrecked on a small Island, near the Fegee group. Contiguous to the monument, is a rude tomb, containing the remains of a French priest and physician, who was attached to the party of La Perouse, in their expedition to circumnavigate the globe. This exploit, so much thought of at that period, is now performed by almost every vessel from England, to N. S. Wales or V. D. Land ; as these come out by way of the Cape of Good Hope, and return by Cape Horn “in consequence of the wind, in the latitudes of the Southern Hemisphere, in which they have to sail, blowing almost constantly from the west. Near the Heads of Botany Bay, “gay butterflies were numerous. Some of those in this part of the Colony, are remarkable for having the upper sides simply white, or mottled, while the under sides are exceedingly gay with various colours. Two noble, dark coloured, species are frequent about Sydney; where they, with many others, are occasionally to be seen in the streets. In returning, we passed a row of fishermen’s huts, near to which two men were mending their nets. We had some conversation with them, reminding them of the fishermen of Galilee, and of that Gospel which they were chosen to proclaim. Not being unmindful of their temporal interests, we instructed them in the art of making shrimp-nets, and taking*

shrimps; of which there are plenty on the neighbouring shoals, but they are rarely brought to the Sydney market."

Leisure activities were at times physically demanding.

In March of 1837, Spark wrote.

Drove Mrs. Duguid to the Hurdle Race and back, a distance of about ten miles in deep sand.

Servant problems continue. Charles Lucas, having been transported in 1832 in the 'Isabella', was in the 1837 muster, registered as being aged 20 and assigned to Simeon Lord. Thomas Lucas, of Wiltshire, comes out in the same year aboard the Portland and is also assigned to Lord.

January 1838; On Thursday, Mr. Simeon Lord, of Botany had occasion to bring before the Bench an assigned servant named Charles Lucas; Mr. L. stated that he had been forty six years in the Colony, but had never found his master in an assigned servant before. This man did just as he liked; went out and returned again when he thought fit; in fact he found the man a perfect riddle, the solution of which was beyond him. He gave it up.

A fine example of Real Estate writing of the time, to rival anything written in the present century.

January 1838; EVENING SALE AT THE ROYAL HOTEL of COCKPEN, CONTAINING NINETY-NINE ACRES. Selected by the Proprietor near Newtown under peculiar advantages, being the choicest Bonne Bouche in the whole parish of Botany, enjoying the rare requisites of soil, situation, roads, river, wood, and water, and its distance about two miles and a half from the southern boundary of the Metropolis where the minimum price of Land fixed by the Crown is £1000 per acre,The whole of the above exceedingly compact

Freehold Estate, situate on the right hand side of the old Botany Road, extending westwards to the Waters of the Bay to which it has a frontage of a quarter of a mile, immediately opposite to the handsome seat of Mr. Duguid, intersected on the northern boundary by Shay's Creek, not far from the Waterloo Mills and adjoining the improving property of Messrs. Torkington and Roberts.The Estate of Cockpen is composed of rich vegetable and marl soil in most parts, abounding in fertile fern denoting the excellence of its capabilities, and requiring only the pruning knife of industry, or a few of Mr. Mackay's Indian Hill Coolies to render every portion of it highly lucrative, many acres being without a tree to obstruct the successful operation of its culture.The picturesque and diversified views from Mount Cockpen which forms the Chateau site of the Estate... is accounted one of the prettiest things that can be well imagined-overlooking the riches of the bay, contrasted with the lowlands around, and the Vale of Tempe, with numberless country seats seen in the distance,added to this, the pleasant and gentlemanly society of the neighbourhood, the blessings of health, sea bathing, fowling and angling on the Estate, are not the least of its superiorities. This pre-eminent Property therefore, so desirable for transforming into orchards and garden grounds, ...will be brought to the hammer and sold without reserve, in lots to suit purchasers, on the day fixed above.

Sporting activities that might well be ignored by the gentile.

March 1838; AT a Public Meeting, held at Knight's Hotel, on Monday last, it was unanimously resolved, that in consequence of the bad state of the Old Race Course on the

Parramatta Road, the Sydney Subscription Races should be held on the Botany course, near Lord's Mill, on the last Wednesday and Friday in April.

April 1838; *Two suspicious looking fellows were captured on the Race Course on Wednesday, and marched into Sydney. An old man was robbed near the course early that morning, and as there are two or three bushrangers about Botany, it is expected he will identify both of them. No other robbery or accident occurred on Wednesday.*

Also in April 1838; SYDNEY RACES.- *We went on Wednesday last to have ocular proof of what the Sydney Races were; and we must say, that a more deplorable evidence of popular depravity we have never witnessed. There was no lack of swearing, drinking, gambling, and a choice congregation of the blackguards and pick-pockets of Botany Bay. There were few respectable looking people-there were also some beautiful horses-splendid trappings and liveries-but a race course of the cruellest and most inhuman description that ever race was run on. At every bound the horses sank perhaps a foot deep into loose sand, rendering the galling exertion to which it subjected the poor straining animals absolutely killing. This cruelty which is inflicted on these noble animals destroys any pleasure which the sight of the eager contest of so many swift and noble steeds is calculated to produce. It is this, combined with the system of betting to which these amusement give rise, that renders horse-racing so decidedly objectionable.*

June 1838; SPORTING.- *A mill, upon which some hundreds changed hands, came off at Mudbank, near Botany, on Thursday, between Gorrick, a native, and a man named Taylor, for £75 aside; the result was, that in 33 rounds the native polished off his antagonist to a nicety. The contest was good and met the approbation of the spectators. Better this than Italian assassination any day.*

The conflict of dates, regarding when fox hunting begun in N.S.W., may be explained by this sad little entry.

In August of 1838; *It is a fact, that the highly domesticated canine inmate of a "respectable house" in George-street, afforded the Sydney (sportsmen?) several "brilliant runs" over the sands of Botany last season!*

Nimrods of Sydney, one would think

Your faces, not your coats, were pink.

December 1838; CORONER'S INQUEST. *An inquest was held on Thursday, at the Bunch of Grapes, King-street, on the body of Daniel Burke, an old man lying at the General Hospital. The deceased had formerly been a scourger on board the Phoenix hulk, but had latterly resided at Botany; a few days ago he was found in a hut there in a, deplorable state, and removed to the hospital. He was said to have been a very intemperate man, and the surgeon was of opinion that circumstance accelerated his death. The jury returned a verdict to that effect.*

Phoenix was a merchant sailing vessel, noted in the past for delivering lime from Botany to Sydney. Having been damaged upon the Sow and Pigs Reef within Sydney Harbour it was converted to a prison hulk and served as such from 1824-1837. A scourger was employed in whipping errant convicts.

More activity in the Botany swamp.

December 1838; THE BUSHRANGERS- *It is to be hoped that the depredations of the four*

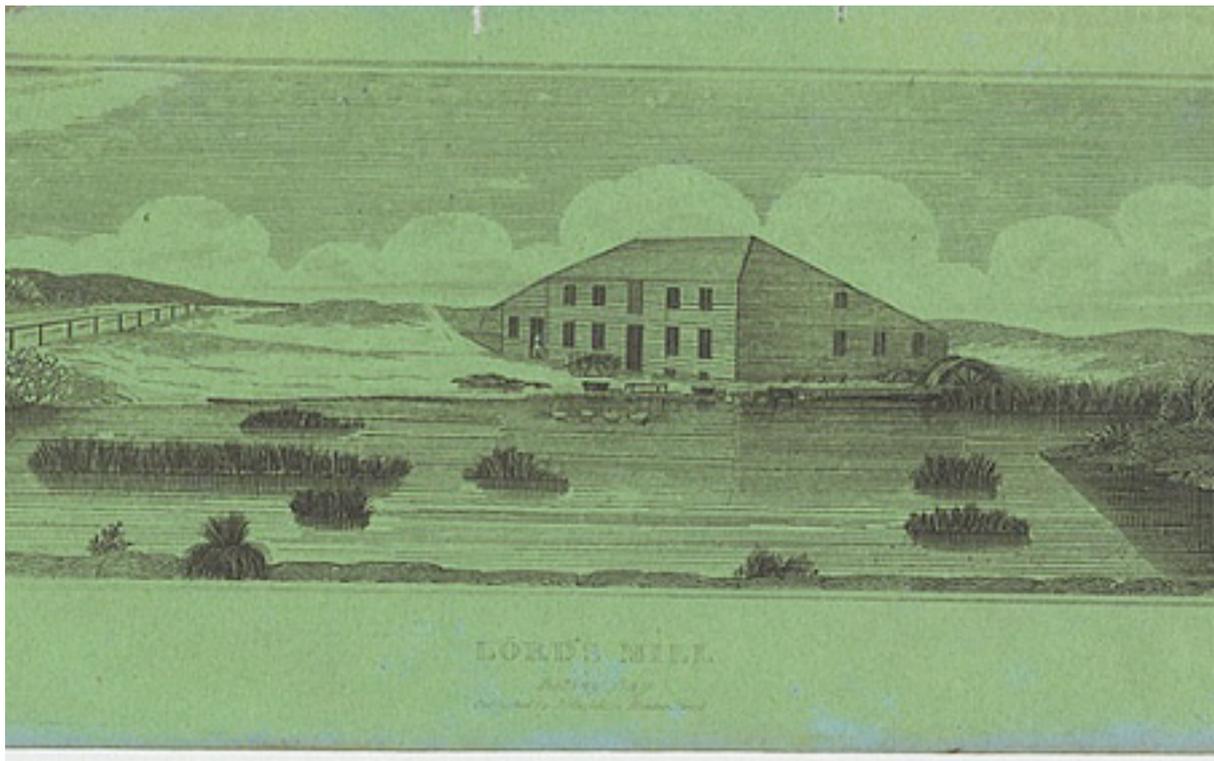
bushranger mentioned in our last, have been put to a stop to at their onset. On Sunday last, one of them was apprehended by the constable stationed at Newtown. ... On the morning of Sunday the others were seen by some young men crossing a swamp in the neighbourhood of Botany, (who had gone out shooting). These persons had no idea who the men were that they saw, but one of them at the moment discharged his piece at some object, and no sooner did the men hear the report than they took to their heels,— under the apprehension that the party were constables in pursuit of them. It appears that they did not deem that place any longer secure, and therefore made their way across the country towards the interior....

The residents of Botany were not happy!

December 1838; *On Friday a woman named Maria Morris, whose husband formerly kept a public-house, was convicted of selling a gill of rum and fined £30 and costs. The defendant lived at Mud-bank, near Botany, and according to the evidence of the constable, great complaints of the house had been made by persons living in the vicinity.*

The following reference to “Whitney,” which is in Wiltshire, England, and blankets, would explain why Thomas Lucas was assigned to Simeon Lord.

James Macle hose, the author of ‘Picture of Sydney and Strangers’ Guide in N.S.W for 1839,’ wrote:



Lord’s Mill.- The accompanying plate represents the villa, residence, and manufactory, belonging to Simeon Lord, esq., situate near to the renowned “Botany Bay,” about seven miles from the town of Sydney. We believe Mr. Lord to have been the first to attempt to manufacture the wool grown within the colony; but although we may have some doubt as to his priority as a manufacturer, there can be no question as to his success—for upon examining a sample of the production of his looms, especially his blankets, they may properly be compared to those of the great mart so celebrated in England for this article;

and without bestowing too strong an eulogy on this gentleman's successful efforts, we should, we should say that his estate, with its factories, its reservoirs, and other works of art, merits the appellation of the "Witney" of New South Wales. As a clothier, Mr. Lord has for a considerable time afforded employment to about sixty persons, and his productions from the staple commodity of the colony, although confined to the coarser description, fully confirm our remarks in respect to his blanket manufactory.

Sport continues on Lord's Hill.

August 1839; HUNTING APPOINTMENTS.

CUMBERLAND HOUNDS.- Friday. August 30. Lord's Hill, Botany.

This may well have been the wrong time to promote Real Estate, for in the next decade an economic depression descended upon the colony.

August 1839; Two roods and seventeen perches, in Cook's Town, at the mouth of Cook's River, near Mr. Lord's Mill, on which is erected a Cottage. This place will, ultimately become the port of the Wullanora, George's River, and Botany Bay.

ALLOTMENTS AT COOK'S TOWN.

TO BE SOLD by Private Contract, or LET ON LEASE...

Allotments at Cook's Town, delightfully situated on the banks of Cook's River.

ALSO. To Let, a large quantity of good swampy Land at Botany.

ALSO. To be disposed of Land in Macquarie-place not built upon, running fifty feet in depth, at per foot.For further particulars, ... apply to the Proprietor, Mr. Lord, Banks House Botany Bay, or to Mr. J. Smith. Solicitor, O'Connell-street Sydney.

The following is a fairly substantial property, the house being of brick, and the previous owner employing men on land which is irrigated.

September 1839; BOTANY.All that most invaluable 56 Acres of Land, held direct from the Crown and situate at Botany. Twenty-five Acres of which are under cultivation as a market Garden of first-rate description, having between Three and Four Hundred Fruit Trees.... The Garden is completely fenced in with a Six-feet Paling.

ALSO A NEAT VERANDAH COTTAGE erected thereon, nearly all Brick, and contains three good sized Rooms, Weatherboard Dairy, and Kitchen with Ovens, quite new, sufficient to bake 100 lbs. Flour, Three good Huts, Pig-styes, and four-stall Stable ...at the very low Rent of £150 per annum. H. & V. beg to remind interesting purchasers of this important property, that during the

excessive drought last season the pure waters of Botany were running all over these grounds in small canals, and in six hours after a heavy fall of rain the men can work in the garden, which simple fact is a proof of the quality of the soil; ...

October 1839; TO MARKET GARDENERS.

TO BE LET. FIFTY ACRES OF LAND, near the Botany Swamps. The Land consists of a deep rich loam, and particularly suited to the cultivation of a Vine or a Market Garden. It is proposed to portion out the Fifty Acres in small Farms, of from 5 to 20 Acres each, to persons capable of improving and fencing them, or the whole to a respectable tenant.

Mr. Gill was noted for his catering for big social events, notably celebrations on Saint George's and St. Patrick's day.

January 1840; *A turtle weighing 300 pounds was caught at Botany, on Sunday evening by some fishermen, by whom it was immediately conveyed to Sydney, and was cooked yesterday at Mr. Gill's in Pitt-street.*

Also in January 1840; *DIED, Yesterday, at his late residence, Banks House, Botany, Simeon Lord, Esq., aged sixty nine years, deeply lamented by a large circle of relatives and friends.*

The Death of Simeon Lord at Botany. There is but one reference to his criminal past in his obituary, "an humble individual, who came to this colony in its infancy a mere youth, perhaps an imprudent one".

DEATH OF MR. SIMEON LORD.- *It becomes our painful duty to record the death of Simeon Lord, Esq., at his residence, Botany Lodge, on the 29th inst., aged 69:- one of the very few of this colony, whose hospitable table for the last forty years has ever been open to the British officer or invalid of India, the captains of merchant ships from all parts, as well the needy and often ungrateful emigrant, whether at Botany, or at Macquarie-place, which he built in 1819, then the best house in the colony. Mr. lord was an extensive ship owner, merchant, and manufacturer of cloth, giving employment to many of the labouring classes, who adored him and his good lady, Mrs. Lord. Nor were these liberal acts the first trait in his character; he was the first, and by far the largest contributor to the benevolent institutions and every charity in the colony; also the very first to join the valuable institution the Sydney College, and continued to give his support. ...In religion Mr. Lord was of the Church of England, but he was no bigot. The Catholic, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan, were to him all respected alike. Having reared a large family of ten children; his three daughters were married into families of the first respectability, and it was his pride to give his seven sons the best education the colony could bestow; some of whom fill the highest commercial stations in the colony, others are married and settled on his immense estates in different parts of this and the sister colony, all amply provided for, by an humble individual, who came to this colony in its infancy a mere youth, perhaps an imprudent one:- but his honest zeal, good conduct, and industry, without a single friend on his arrival redounds more to his honour, and that of his family, than if born with such a fortune as he died possessed of, he had spent it in profligacy and ruined his family.- From a Correspondent.*

As Oscar Wilde said, "The unspeakable in full pursuit of the uneatable," continues.

August 1840; *The Cumberland hounds met on Thursday afternoon at the Sandy Race-course. After drawing about ten minutes, a challenge was heard from old Manager ...whereon the plucky pack, applying themselves to the work in good earnest, went off at score- after a splendid burst of nearly four miles, they killed him in capital style near the Botany Swamps; the largest field of this season was present, were all well up, and returned highly gratified with the run.*

There is no explanation as to why shells themselves, rather than the processed lime, are being sent from Botany to Sydney.

January 1841; *LIST OF COASTERS.- INWARDS.*

December 31.the Dove from Botany, with shells.

April 1841. *BOTANY CHURCH.- The residents of this populous district will assemble*

today at the establishment of the Messrs. Lord, for the purpose of co-operating with the Lord Bishop of the Diocese in plans for the erection of a church. For upwards of fifteen years the late Simeon Lord, Esq., obtained the regular attendance of some Clergymen or Missionary for the benefit of his neighbours and numerous dependants, these services have been continued since the decease of that much-respected colonist, but they have been for some time past inadequate to the increasing wants of the district. It is therefore, to be hoped, that all who have families or servants in the neighbourhood, will not only arrange to attend upon so important an occasion; but strenuously exert themselves in promoting the objects of the meeting. It would perhaps be as well to use the same opportunity in arranging for the commencement of a school to instruct the children of the fishermen, manufacturers, and gardeners, who are too distant from Sydney, and are deprived of any such advantage.

June 1841; TOWNSHIP OF BOTANY.

MR. STUBBS announces that, in consequence of the numerous inquiries about the sale day of the above important Suburban Property, the Proprietor has given instructions to be submitted at Public Competition, on TUESDAY, 8th June.... TOWNSHIP OF BOTANY.

Near Newtown, being a choice “bonne bouche” of one hundred acres, adjoining the Cockpen Estate, and with the rare the rare requisites of soil, situation, roads, river, wood and water;...to be ever hereafter known as the Township of Botany. It is situated on the right hand side of the old road leading to Botany Bay, and extends westward to the waters which divide the town from the handsome chateau of Mr. Duguid. ...the productivity of “Deaf Bob’s” and other market-gardens in the town, is the best confirmation of this fact.

The waters somewhat grandly referred to are those of Shea’s Creek, whose fate it was to become the notoriously and noxious Alexandria Canal. As for Mr Duguid’s ‘chateau’, whilst a substantial building on Cook’s River Road, (Princes Highway) Tempe, and named, “The Poffle” from the Scottish Gaelic for a great wood, it certainly wasn’t a chateau. ...

These statistics come at an interesting time, shortly after transportation had been abolished.

Those who still had part of their sentence to serve are counted in this number, as bonded.

Musters throughout the 19th century testify to Simeon Lord being one of, if not the largest user of assigned labour. An artificer being “a person who makes things by art or skill; a craftsman; an artist,” the great likelihood is that they were employed by him. The vast majority of housing stock is still of wood for brick making had not as yet moved out to Cook’s River, Newtown and St. Peters.

In September 1841; The parish of Botany is returned as containing 554 inhabitants, 319 males and 235 females. Of the males 248 are free and 71 bond; of the females 225 are free and 10 bond.

Thus—Free-Males248

Females225

Bond-Males..... 71

Females 10

Total ...554

Of these 385 belong to the Church of England, 60 to the Church of Scotland, 26 are Wesleyans, 6 other Protestants, and 77 Roman Catholics.

Of landed proprietors there are 36, mechanics and artificers 32; the remainder servants, gardeners, farm labourers, &c.

There are 112 houses; 28 of stone or brick, and 84 of wood; 99 are inhabited.

A sporting event which seems to have attracted the right class of people. James Raymond, an Irishman, was the colonies first postmaster-general, who lived by this time at Varroville, Campbelltown, but is buried in the family vault, which sports an heraldic crest, at St. Peters Church, Cooks River.

December 1841; THE TURF.— *A Hurdle Race came off with great eclat at Botany, on Saturday last. The ground was attended by a great number of spectators, and the manner in which the race was contested was extremely creditable to all parties concerned. There were several good leaps in the course of the race, and as might be very reasonably expected, many of the aspirants received a few hearty tumbles. We are happy, however, to learn, that with the exception of a soiled or rent garment and a bruise or two, no injury has been received. The race was won by Major Lettsom's Block, ridden by Price, and closely followed by Mr. Raymond's Highflyer. The remainder of the contesting parties were far behind, or according to the most approved phraseology of the turf- nowhere.*

The size of these two blocks of land, pose the question, could a man earn a living wage for himself and family by working such plots?

December 1841; FOSS & LLOYD are instructed ...to sell by auction....**ALL Mr. J. Pritchard's interest in...Two Allotments of LAND, in the parish of Botany, distant about three miles from Sydney, and adjoining the road to Lord's Mill, and the township recently sold. These allotments are contiguous, and contain respectively two acres, more or less, and two acres two roods and twenty-two perches, and enclosed by a strong post-and-rail fence. On the former is a substantial brick chimney, and the skeleton of a house recently destroyed by fire. To market gardeners the above offers a rare opportunity, the soil being of a character peculiarly suited for their operations, not being liable, in hot weather, to form a hard brick-like substance, impervious to atmospheric moisture,.....**

March 1842; LORD'S BOTANY WOOLLEN MANUFACTORY. *Sir however glorious the genial influence of prosperity may warm and animate the breast of the wealthy settler and possessor of "many flocks," his part is but a small portion of that consequence from which he assumes and arrogates to himself so much importance. Let it not either be taken for granted that the mere grower of any staple commodity, ...enriches a nation half so much as he who brings the raw material into use by reproductive industry, skill and manufacture. Unfortunately there seems to be a great lack of public spirit in this colony towards patronising anything like colonial manufacture. For instance the woollen Tweed, for all purposes of men's wearing apparel, whether for bush or town, both common and superior qualities, made perfect after many years of expensive improvements by Mr. Lord of Botany, seems totally passed over, and not at all appreciated, although for warmth, texture, lightness, comfort, and cheapness there is nothing imported equal to it. It is very gratifying to observe that Messrs. Pite and Preston... have shown a proper zeal in the colony's good by having appropriated a whole panel of their splendid lusted shop, or magaz'n de modes, for the display and advantage of the various fashionable colours and shades of Mr. lord's Tweeds which have been brought to such superiority and perfection. It*

is to be hoped that every gentleman in the colony will visit Messrs. Pite and Preston's Emporium of Fashion, which in point of eclat and resort may be well styled the Bond-street "Heirokekosmas,"

I am Sir, &c. A NATIVE.

O Simeon, if you were only here to read of such praise. Magasin de modes, meaning a fashion house., and below Taglionies are short braid trimmed overcoats. Lord's Mill's has come a long way from the olive drab or white on offer in 1821!

April 1842; COLONIAL TWEEDS, FLANNELS. MESSRS. PITE AND PRESTON beg to inform the inhabitants of Sydney, and public generally, that they have purchased the entire stock of Woollen Flannels, &c., &c., manufactured by Robert Lord, Esq., at the Botany Mills, which stock has now been removed to their stores at 34, Pitt-street.

.....The Tweeds are without exception the best article for wear and durability, ... and are particularly recommended to gentlemen for riding trousers, shooting coats, Taglionies, &c., &c., The colours are brown, green, Oxford, and steel mixtures, also in plaids, &c.

June 1842, Spark wrote in his diaryFelt little better, but determined to attend the picnic which Maria (his wife), and Mrs. Duguid had concocted between them. The rendez-vous was on a knoll near Mr. Lord's Mill, from which the Bay is to be seen. Here we walked, and lunched and talked till the sun declined, when we started homeward

O to find the grassy knoll upon which A. B. Spark, of Tempe House dined.

Once again we find shells, not lime being delivered to Sydney, the tonnage of the ship has increased.

September 1842; LIST OF COASTERS.- INWARDS.

September 10..Northumberland, 17 tons, Dennis from Botany, with shells.

An insight as to the income of the market gardeners of Botany.

October 1842; Sydney Markets. October 21..... In the fruit and vegetable market, a supply of new potatoes were brought in this morning, seemingly very fair; they are principally from Botany and the Surry Hills, and the retail prices are 1 1/2d per pound.

November 1842; LIST OF COASTERS.- INWARDS.

December 31. Dolphin, 16 tons Nicholson from Botany, with 350 bushels shells.

Another example of prices paid for produce from Botany. This Mr. Brown is John Neathway Brown, who when he died, lived in a two story house, named in the funeral notices, as variously Bonwong or Boomerang House. He is buried in St. Peters Church, Cooks River graveyard.

May 1843; MARKET DUES.- Yesterday, in consequence of the non-payment of market dues, by a carter in the employ of Mr. Brown, of Botany, a sale took place by the Clerk of George-street Market, when one dozen bunches of carrots were sold for 2s. 2d.; the coppers were afterwards handed over to Mr. Brown's man, but the 2s. were retained to satisfy the claim. The sale took place under the thirty-first clause of the 3rd Victoria, No. 19, which passed the Council on the 22nd October, 1839.

You never know what you will find when shooting at Botany.

June 1843; INQUEST.- On Saturday last, an inquest was held before the Coroner, J.R.

Brennan, Esq., at Mr. Driver's public house, in Elizabeth-street, on the body of Mr.

Charles Aldrich, late master of the whaling brig 'Genii,' which was found in a highly

decomposed state last Thursday evening, by Mr. T. Vincent Curtis, late clerk of the George-

street market, when out shooting in the neighbourhood of Botany. He, and a number of other witnesses, including Messrs. Petors, Shearer, and a'Beckett, surgeons were examined as to the appearance of the body, and the cause of death, without being able to elicit anything that could be regarded as decided evidence as to the manner in which deceased came by his death. From the circumstances of an open razor having been found under the body, it is feared that his death was occasioned by his own hands. After due deliberation, the Jury returned the following verdict:-"That the body of the deceased was found in a far state of decomposition, but when, or by what means he came by his death, there is no evidence to show." The conduct of a Mr. Pullinger, an intimate acquaintance of the deceased, who ought to have been present to be examined at the Inquest, but was absent, was severely animadverted on, and is to be enquired into by the Coroner. We cannot close our notice of this inquest, without expressing our surprise that so little attention was paid to the circumstance of a grave having been found dug in the neighbourhood. Is it too late yet to make inquiry into the point?

Same ship as previously, but now with lime to Sydney.

February 1844; LIST OF COASTERS.- INWARDS.

December 31. Dolphin, 16 tons Nicholson from Botany, with lime.

One for the olfactory organ, the aroma of tallow, fell-mongering and wool washing production.

March 1844; SHEEP MELTING.— *Another establishment has been formed near Sydney for rendering down sheep, that of Messrs. Armitage and Co., of Botany. It is intended to melt the animals by steam on an improved system; and at present the establishment is strong enough to produce about twelve tons of tallow per week. The extensive fell-mongering and wool washing business of the firm is carried on at the same place.*

In this sport the birds are purchased beforehand and released from captivity, to be shot at, on the day.

July 1844; PIGEON MATCH.— *Yesterday, a Match took place at the Botany Swamps, by some of the Sydney Amateurs-the prize, an elegant Silver Cup, was carried off by Mr. May.*

And so begins the boom in tourism for Botany.

December 1844; ADVANCE AUSTRALIA!

SIR JOSEPH BANKS HOTEL, BOTANY BAY,

THOMAS KELLETT returns his sincere thanks to his numerous friends and the public, for their very liberal support since he has opened the above Hotel, and invites those who have not visited this delightful bay to do so, as he is confident from the accommodations of his house, combined with moderate charges, that he will give satisfaction to those who patronize him. The Hotel is little better than five miles from the Police Office, Sydney, by the road leading off Parramatta-street, passing through Chippendale, and the Waterloo Mills, whence finger posts at equal distance show the roads, as the road is good it will be a delightful drive. There is a road through Newtown, past Mr. Lord's Flour mills, and so on to La Perouse's monument, and the gentlemen on horseback can come several other ways. it is considered one of the healthiest spots in the colony for invalids, and sea bathing is at the very door of the house. For young married couples to spend the honey-moon, the greatest attention will be paid to their comfort, and they will be accommodated on the most reasonable terms. Dinners or lunches provided at the shortest notice. N.B. A bullock to be

roasted on New Year's Day.

November 1845; ADVANCE AUSTRALIA. SIR JOSEPH BANKS HOTEL, BOTANY BAY, THOMAS KELLETT begs to return his sincere thanks to his numerous friends and the public for their liberal patronage since his opening the above Hotel.....For invalids and sea bathing it cannot be equalled-or for new married couples to spend the honey-moon.

Haste to the Wedding,

Come, come away,

Haste to the Wedding

At Botany Bay,

where every attention and comfort will be found. Pic-nic parties need not burden themselves with supplies, as they can be obtained as reasonably as, and in fresher condition, than they can be brought from Sydney. The splendid scenery, the green meadows, the Pacific Ocean, and the refreshing sea-breeze, render this the most delightful spot. Wines, Spirits, Ales, &c., of the best quality, not to be equalled in the city. Dinners, Luncheons, &c., provided in first rate style at the shortest notice, and on reasonable terms.

Give Kellett one trial, you'll surely say,

He cannot be equalled at "Botany Bay."

Another manufactory in Botany, and equally on the nose.

March 1846; BURGLARY.- On last Saturday night a hut, the property of William Walker, attached to his tannery in Botany, was broken into, and a quantity of blankets and wearing apparel stolen from it.



October 1846; VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY. *The picture is a sketch of the Volunteer Artillery practising at Botany. the field-pieces are stationed on the sandy beach and the practice is at targets moored in the bay. (Sydney Illustrated News)*

It is not always plain sailing on Botany Bay.

November of 1846; MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.- Mr. Mountford Longfield, on Sunday last, endeavoured to cross Botany Bay in a small sailing boat. When about half-way the boat was swamped, and Mr. L., and a servant man who was with him, were drowned. The bodies had not been recovered.

Something of a spectacle for the newly weds at Mr. Kellett's hotel.

December 1846; INQUESTS— *An inquest was held on Sunday last, in the "Sir Joseph Banks" Inn, Botany, on the body of Henry Davis, who had unfortunately been drowned with a Mr. Longfield, on Sunday, the 22nd November last, while crossing Botany Bay in a sailing boat, which was capsized by a squall of wind. Mr. George Brett, residing at Botany, deposed, that he saw Davis and Longfield leave the shore in a boat on the day of the accident; that when about half way across, it being very stormy, he saw the mainsail hauled down, it was soon after hoisted up again; soon after this it appeared to him as if a gust of wind had burst on the boat which capsized her; witness and some others shoved off immediately to their assistance, but on arriving at the place where the accident occurred they could not find any vestige of the boat or those who left the shore in her. William Ralphe, a fisherman, had found the body on the beach on the preceding day, at a place where it had been left by the tide; it was very much mutilated. Dr. Tierney, had viewed the body of deceased, it was very much decomposed and mutilated by the fishes; the marks on the body were such as would be produced by the motion of the water and the fishes; from the advanced state of decomposition in which the body was found, it was impossible to say what had been the cause of death. The Jury found a verdict that deceased had been accidentally drowned by the upsetting of a boat on the 22nd of November.*

A Botany crime wave;

January 1847; Some time on Wednesday night, or early on Thursday, two horse collars, and a set of harness were stolen from the stable of Henry Green, a carter, at Botany. The stable door was not locked. There was also stolen from Captain Hinson's stable at Botany, during Wednesday night last, a set of carriage harness; a set of gig harness; and a saddle with military stirrups. The whole valued at £15.

February 1847; EXTENSIVE SEIZURE.— On Saturday last Mr. Stirling, Chief Inspector of Distilleries, accompanied by several policemen, went to Phillips's Farm, Botany, about a quarter of a mile to the eastward of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, where they seized a still of 150 gallons contents, in full operation, under ground. Robert Gray, Matthew Holland, and Mary Morris, who were on the premises when the seizure was made, have since then been lodged in the watch-house.

Also in February 1847; ILLICIT DISTILLATION.— In Consequence of some information which he had received, constable Fallon was induced one day last week, to drop the policeman and assume the sportsman, and taking with him a double-barrelled fowling piece, to cross the sands between Sydney and Botany inn search of game generally, and of a still in particular, which he might come across. To his considerable satisfaction, after having, to lull suspicion, pretended to have lost himself, he found that his information was all correct, and on Saturday the chief Inspector of Distilleries, with Fallon and another constable, went to the place, which is on a

portion of a farm belonging to a Mr. Phelps, and rented by a man named Morris, and there found, under ground, a 150 gallon copper still in full work, about sixty gallons of spirits, four bags of sugar, and a variety of the necessary adjuncts required by distillers. All these were secured, as were the persons found on the premises, two men and a woman; together with a cart, harness, a number of horses, &c. The parties in custody, whose names are Robert Gray, Mathew Holland, and Mary Morris, were brought up before Mr. Flood, at the Police Office, yesterday. Mr. R. Johnson appeared on behalf of Mr. Stirling, Chief Inspector, and Mr. G. B. Nichols was in court on behalf of the defendants in custody.the only application now to be made to the Court was to hold the parties in custody until an information, was filed against them.... they were remanded in custody until Wednesday, when the case will be proceeded with by information.

February 1847; POLICE OFFICE. WEDNESDAY.- *Robert Gray, Matthew Holland, and Mary Morris, were placed at the bar, charged with keeping and using an unlicensed still at Botany. With regard to Gray, who was the holder of a ticket-of-leave, the Bench gave no judgement; Holland was remanded; the female defendant, Morris, was ordered to pay a fine of £100, less £10 to be allowed for costs—one third of the fine to go to the informer, the remaining two-thirds to be applied as the Act directs.*

THE BOTANY STILL. *The man Holland, who was taken into custody custody on Saturday last at Phillips's Farm Botany, as being one of the parties concerned in working the still then seized, was brought up before the Mayor and Mr. Windeyer at the Police Court yesterday.....The charge was dismissed by the Court, on the ground that the prosecutor had not adduced sufficient evidence to make out the charge against the defendant. Costs were afterwards applied for, ... but Mr. Windeyer, refused the application, ... by dismissing the case, had merely returned a Scotch verdict of "not proved."*

March 1847; COMMITTAL.— *John Murphy, a freed hired servant, late in the employ of a market gardener named Hicks, residing at Botany, was committed on Saturday last, to take his trial for breaking open his master's box in his absence, and stealing therefrom twenty-five shillings in silver, and a dark cloth purse. When Murphy was searched in the watch-house, the purse and two shilling and three pence was found in one of his pockets.*

Thirty three years on the Bureaucracy finally inform the public.

April 1847; GRANT OF LAND. COLONIAL Secretary's Office. April 3.- *The following description of a grant of land, with the name of the person to whom it was originally promised, or by whom it is now claimed, is published for general information.*

CUMBERLAND.- 3. Andrew Byrne, 50 acres, parish of Botany. To be called Macquarie Sea View. Promised by Governor Macquarie to Andrew Byrne, the present claimant, on the 4th July, 1814. Quit-rent 1s. per annum, commencing 1st January, 1827.

Where might you ask is Mr. Andrew Byrne, the owner of the land? He is playing mine host at the Peacock Hotel, George St. Brickfield Hill. Mr. William Beaumont has in the same roll superseded Mr. William Kellett.

June 1847; "Another Joey." —*Mr. Beaumont, the inn-keeper residing at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany, appeared to answer a charge of cutting too much wood on premises at Botany, preferred by a Mrs. Byrne, on whose farm the alleged trespass had taken place. It appeared that Mr. Beaumont had ordered his men to cut fire-wood for the use of the*

house, and as complainant's property was not fenced in, he thought they were on the property of Mr. Lord, which adjoins complainant's farm, and from whom the defendant had leave to fall timber. The Bench dismissed the case; the complainant on leaving the Court indignantly exclaiming. "They can cut away as long as they like." The defendant took the hint, and cut his stick with the greatest possible celerity.

Steeplechase and hurdle races have a long history of attracting the amateur rider. Dr. Hadley may well have been one of them.

October 1847; SPORTING.- *On Saturday last, a Hurdle Race, at Botany Swamp, for the Champion cup, value 30 guineas, was won by Mr. A. King's Wallaby. The Harkaway Stakes, of 2 sovereigns each, with 10 sovereigns added, were won by Mr. Hill's Flirt; and the Hack Stakes of one sovereign each with 10 sovereigns added, were won by Mr. Harris' Besse. There were several spills, among which we regret to state, we have to notice one where by a severe injury was sustained by Dr. Hadley, who was thrown from his horse Harold, in the first race.*

Inquests become a feature at the Sir Joseph Bank's Hotel.

December 1847; CORONER'S INQUEST.- *An inquest was held yesterday afternoon, at Mr. Beaumont's the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany, on view of the body of John King. From the evidence it appeared that on Thursday afternoon, as Mr. John Johnson was coming up towards Sydney from the Botany Heads an aboriginal who was in the boat directed his attention to what he thought was a human body; Mr. Johnson landed, and at about 150 yards from the jetty found a dog lying on some male wearing apparel, and some twenty or thirty yards from the beach saw an object floating, which he thought was a human body; assistance was procured, and the object he saw proved to be the body of John King, which was quite naked; King had been at the hotel on Thursday morning and wanted something to drink, which was refused him, when he went away saying he would get it elsewhere. This appeared to be the last that was seen of him alive. Every exertion was made to resuscitate the body, but without effect. Dr. Tierney examined the body, and deposed that in his opinion death had been caused by suffocation. The Jury returned a verdict of accidentally drowned.*

March 1848. THOMAS COOPER TURNER, Esquire, the Civil Crown Solicitor, has ever, so far as compatible to his official duties, manifested an anxiety to promote the interests of the LOCAL TURF, and by his presence and influence at the principal Meetings, has contributed in no small .. to the advancement of our national sports.. therefore, we select as an appropriate personage to head

THE SPORTING LAWYER.



“OUR SKETCHES,’ ...It is hardly necessary to remind our readers that the above cut represents Mr. Cooper attired in jockey costume, on the occasion of the recent BOTANY SWAMP HURDLE race, in which he rode his favourite horse, and although unsuccessful in these, we trust yet to see him leading the van on the same ground.

In April of 1848, on his ordination the Rev. James Hassall began ministering at St. Peters Church, Cooks River. In his memoir, “In Old Australia” published in 1902, he reflected on his time there and at Botany.

My parish , in those days included Newtown, Botany, Cook’s and George’s Rivers, Petersham, Canterbury, and George’s Hall within three miles of Liverpool. I must say, I never have had since a worse class of people to deal with than were some of the old fishermen, at Botany, and the charcoal burners between George’s and Cook’s rivers (although afterwards I was a gaol chaplain for fifteen years.) The district was as wild and godless a place as I have ever known, although so near Sydney. Still I have baptised as many as eight children at a time from one family, and had the satisfaction of starting a school there with forty children, and another at Canterbury with as many more.

The economic depression of the 1840’s may have affected Botany.

June 1848; NEW INSOLVENT.- *Edward Hongham Rogers, of Botany, near Sydney, gardener: Debts- £126 0s. 10d.*

Drama at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel.

September 1848; BUSH FIRES.- *On Friday, a very large portion of the bush in and around the district of Botany was on fire. It commenced in several places about four*

o'clock, P.M., extending from Lord's mills to the Sir Joseph Banks' Hotel in one direction , and for two or three miles in others, and continued raging until the strong westerly wind died away about eight in the evening. If the wind had not changed, all the out-buildings of the Hotel must have been destroyed, and fears were entertained for the house itself. the fencing round the property was nearly all destroyed.

More great moments in sport from the Botany swamp.

November 1848 - CANINE FANCY - *The match between Tommy the Tailor's white dog "Stupid," and Dutch Sam's mouse. Ploughed dog, for £10 aside, came off at the Botany Swamp. ...The odd at starting were five to four upon Sam's dog, but these changed after a few runs in; and Stupid after fighting an hour and ten minutes was declared conqueror. Both dogs were well handled and fought well and gamely, Sam's dog died about an hour after the contest was over.*

December 1848, A.B. Spark wrote:

A party of riders assembled at Mr. Breillat's about one o'clock and we proceeded to the rendezvous at Botany Bay, where we dined and enjoyed ourselves for some hours. The journey to and from through deep sand was very unpleasant, and nearly knocked up my horse.

The merchant, Thomas Breillat, lived at 'Thurnby', Enmore.

More shooting, more sport, in the Botany swamp.

January 1849; SYDNEY RIFLE CLUB. *This club held its usual New Year's "meet" yesterday. The trial ground was a new one, formed at the edge of the Botany Swamp- a decided improvement on the one formerly used, but there was still further improvement in the arrangements by the erection of a small tent from beneath which the competitors fired. They were then freed from the heat of a burning sun, and the interruptions which the bystanders will intrude. The following shows the result of the meeting:- FIRST MATCH,- Twenty-six members; prize a first-rate Rifle ; three shots: won by Mr. Share.... SECOND MATCH,-Twenty-six members; prize, the Society's Large Silver Medal; three shots: won by Mr. Scott.... THIRD MATCH,-Twenty-six members; prize, a Rifleman's Belt; three shots: won by Mr. C. Roberts.*

The City Councillors were prepared to do their bit to secure a supply of water to the city.

In April 1849; A DEPUTATION from the CITY COUNCIL, *consisting of the Aldermen, Councillors, with attendants, horses, carriages, and all the paraphernalia of Civic Processions, waited upon the spirit who guards the waters of the Lachlan Swamp, for the purpose of ascertaining how long the prince of that aquatic territory would be pleased to favour the hot city with his cool and limped gifts. They provided themselves with ample stores of grog, the better to bear up against the perils of the journey; nor did they forget to carry a large store of alcoholic and vinous matter, in order to offer oblation to the Guardian of the Stream, and drink his very very good health-long life to him, and many of them, in bumpers round. On reaching the margin of the Swamp, they found King freshwater was out on a running visit to his saline brother, Neptune, at Botany and as they were compelled to await his return, in order to kill time, they turned to, and pitched into eatables and drinkables, as City Councillors only know how to do....*



THE GREAT SWAMP FIGHT!
OR,
SPIRITS AND WATER; OR, THE GEN-II OF THE STREAM.

May 1849; *THE CHASE.*

THE FITZROY HOUNDS.-This tidy little pack threw off near the Long Swamp, Botany, on Wednesday morning, and after a severe run of nearly four miles the scent would not lie, and the dogs was lost.

November 1849; *LACHLAN SWAMP AND TUNNEL.*

The subject of securing a constant supply of water to the city at the swamp and through the tunnel has been repeatedly under the notice of your Committee. ... A report on this subject was adopted by the Council on the 9th August last, recommending an application for the extension of the proposed grant, so as to include feeders, enclosing an area of 1020 acres, instead of the 172 formerly recommended.

November 1849; *RECENT ROBBERIES.*- On Monday last, Constable Elkin, apprehended a man named Bows or Whitten, who has been identified as one of several who were concerned in stealing a quantity of leather from the premises of Mr. Castilla, at Botany.

Mr. Castilla had a tannery, near Lord's Mill

March 1850 - the last verse of a poem entitled 'England in Australia' states -

Thus, thus this gallant huntsman keeps up the merry game:

His head, his heart, his hand my boys, for ever are the same;

And a parting toast I'll give you, with a ringing three times three;

May George oft hunt at Botany, and we for there to see

Further evidence that Andrew Byrne was rarely to be seen at Botany. The question arises, are these English oaks or rather the Australian 'she-oak'?

July 1850 - *Mr Andrew Byrne ...has a farm in the neighbourhood of Botany, upon which are growing several ornamental oak trees, ranging from six to twelve feet in altitude, and from three to five inches diameter in the stem. These 'lords of the forest' are when felled, individually worth about sixpence or a shilling each, but when standing are of an enormously unaccountable value....the son of Byrne, when seeing Richards Andrews laying an axe to the root of one of these arboreous pillars, ...it was clear that murder was in his eyes. Richard in his defence could only state that he was living on Mr Castellar's ground, which adjoined Mr Byrnes, but as there was no fence between the two, he could not tell whether he was on Mr B's or Mr C's estate, consequently he chopped away for a little firewood with the most honest intentions in the world.....their worships...by the persistence of young Byrnes in demanding the value of his 'ornamentals' fined Andrews one shilling for the damage and five and two-pence costs.....*

Further attractions at Botany.

November 1850 *A ROYAL VISITOR - Amongst the passengers by the Royal Saxon,..is a magnificent Royal Bengal Tiger. the first of these formidable jungle brutes that has ever visited our shores. An Indian Bear and a curious sample of the monkey genus complete the zoological trio, which we are informed are destined to form and inconsiderable addition to the already interesting collection of Messrs Beaumont and Waller at Botany.....*

Foundation Day is what we now call Australia Day

January 1851; *The Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany. The public are most respectfully informed that in consequence of a severe domestic bereavement in the family of MR. BEAUMONT, the fete announced at the BOTANY GARDENS for Monday next, in celebration of the 63rd Anniversary of the Foundation of the Colony, will NOT TAKE PLACE.*

Also in January of 1851; BOTANY GARDENS.- In consequence of the lamented decease of Mrs. Beaumont, the proprietors of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel solicit the indulgence of the public in withdrawing the programme for their Anniversary fete on Monday next, the announcement of which appeared in our last number.

Botany was attracting a quality clientele.

April 1851, A.B.Spark wrote.

Rowed as far as Bowman and Weller's inn (Beaumont & Waller's Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany.) where we were entertained with the sight of a variety of beasts and birds, and a numerous assemblage of people amusing themselves, with Punch and Judy to crown all. We stuck so often ' mud banks coming back, that it began to be unpleasant groping our

way in the dark, but we landed at last in safety about half past seven.

May 1851 THE BOTANY FETE.

This grand affair,...and though far from numerously attended, owing most probably to the shortness of notice, gave unqualified satisfaction to the assembled guests. His excellency the Governor , and the honourable Mrs Keith Stewart, and party, honoured the gardens with their presence.

November 1851. THE BOTANY FLORAL HORTICULTURAL AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

These delightful grounds are now putting forth their most brilliant attractions. The extensive improvements recently made by the enterprising proprietors of Messrs Beaumont and Waller, have been so signally seconded by the hand of nature, that the gardens may now be pronounced unrivalled in the Southern Hemisphere. Every variety of amusement is at the command of visitors to the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, shooting, fishing, pic-nic-ing,, boating etc and the addition of a splendid concert room serves to prolong the gaiety of the guests after sunset. The bathing season may now be said to have fairly commenced, and the conveniences for this invigorating indulgence surpass any within a reasonable distance of the metropolis. The elephant and his illustrious compeers will be domiciled on the grounds, and we understand the proprietary are negotiating for a full-grown lion, shortly expected from Africa. For the ornithologist the magnificent aviary possesses manifold attractions. In brief, a day or a month spent in this and healthy locale can never be regretted by the citizen who prides himself in catering for the enjoyment of his family.

April 1852 THE BOTANY GARDENS

These unrivalled pleasure grounds will be thrown open...and the proprietors have secured such a combination of talent and amusement as can be appreciated by the public. The unparalleled feat announced to be performed by Mr Ashton - riding 4 bare-backed horses from Botany Toll Bar to the entrance gate of the hotel, a distance of about 5 miles., within 30 minutes -is of itself calculated to attract hundreds of wondering spectators. The entertainments provided for the company within the grounds, especially the rope extraordinary rope-walk performance of Signor Cardoga, are more than usually interesting.....

January 1853 APPALLING FAMINE AT BOTANY

Last Saturday a scene occurred at this favoured spot. a scene unparalleled in the memories of the oldest butcher and baker. Half Sydney having emptied itself into the above locality, neither bitsup was to be had after 2pm. Five shillings were freely offered so thronged was the place - for a three legged stool: and planks on resters ...at half-a -crown the fourteen inches We saw many respectable families seated on the hot sand, and being under a vertical sun, were in many instances heard of as slowly grilling. Ginger beer never went up so in the memory of man, rising per bottle as high as three shillings. The heads and tails of shrimps went at two-and- sixpence a pint. We are informed, though we do not vouch for the truth of the report, that a gentleman was obliged to roast his tiger (having first disengaged him of his boots which were supposed indigestible) to satisfy the cravings of his appetite;

and that three mice were sold at eighteen pence a-piece and cooked for a squatter just arrived from the bush. A pious and respectable family were detected breaking into the larder of a professional gentleman in the neighbourhood. We are not yet at liberty to give their names. A foreigner sold a live tortoise for two pounds, to make mock-turtle for a common councilman. Pigeons were pelted with five shilling pieces, and in several instances brought dead to the ground, and broiled on the Botany beach. A very respectable bald-headed attorney, happily having some parchment deeds about him, soaked them in brandy-and-water (which he providentially carried in a pocket pistol), and then divided them among his exhausted family, thereby unconsciously, but no less beautifully, realising the fable of the pelican pelican feeding with its own blood its little ones.....



From Sydney Illustrated News

Remarkably there was still game to be had, of fish and fowl, in the Botany swamp.

February 1853 A MARVELLOUS TALE

George Smith, Esq, and a friend lately arrived from England, were taking a day's shooting over the Botany Swamps. They bagged seven or eight braces of quail, when a dog with them made a dead stop, dropped his nose, and stiffened his tail. It was first supposed that the sagacious animal had sniffed a wounded bird, but his attitude raised a doubt upon the point. The sportsman approached him carefully, with 'gunnery' in complete order; but when they reached Ponto they found that one of the lobster, clawfish or crab species of shellfish, which infest the swamp, had fastened upon Ponto's nose and changed the organ of smelling into that of feeling. Ponto was released from his precarious position ...the fish has been subsequently boiled, and is preserved as a curiosity in its shell.

April 1853 ABORIGINAL FASHIONABLE DEPARTURE,

'Captain Wingle', 'Jack Harris', and his amiable lady, 'Mary Ann' with 'Old Bowen', have

removed their encampment from the outer Domain to Botany; the Captain having been recommended change of air by his medical adviser.

The Bagnall's were essentially a fishing family, though carpentry was one of their trades. They came free from the county of Cheshire, curiously an area not having a sea coast.

December 1853 £2 REWARD -Lost (supposed to have strayed from Botany Bay) one Dark Bay Mare, branded with JP cojoined on the near shoulder with cojoined under, and a small star in the face, longish tail, comes below the hocks. a little white under one hind foot, A reward of £2 will be paid to any person bringing the above described Mare to SAMUEL BAGNALL, Botany Bay, near Castilla's Tannery.

'Native', in this instance, means someone born in the Colony.

January 1854 - Christmas has been spent in sultry merriment. On Boxing Day the whole of Sydney poured out to Botany, where a grand fete had been provided by an enterprising individual who combines the proprietorship of a hotel with that of certain zoological gardens. There some of the natives had an opportunity of seeing for the first time a real live elephant, which in the evening was mounted by an adventurous character, who performed with great success some daring feats of elephantmanship.

John Brown is the afore mentioned John Neathway Brown. As an aside we add, an ancestor of the Australian actor Brian Brown.

April 1854 Embezzlement - Henry Meehan, alias Dodds, was charged with embezzling the sum of 14s. the property of Mr John Brown, market gardener, of Botany. The prisoner had been sent to town to dispose of a load of cabbages on behalf of his master. and had kept back the sum of 14s. from the proceeds of the sale. Committed for trial.

Whilst the first report contains information missing from the second, it is Samuel who dies and his father who is Thomas.

May 1854; MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY. ----- A magisterial inquiry was held yesterday at the house of Mr. Parkinson, the Wellington Inn, before Mr. John Ryan Brenan, Coroner, touching the death of John Face, another inquiry was held before Mr. R. Ronald, touching the death of a young man, named Thomas Bagnall, a fisherman, who was accidentally drowned at the mouth of Cooks River, Botany Bay. It appeared from the evidence that on Sunday last he, in company with his father and another fisherman, were wading in the water, in the act of returning from mooring the boat; whilst so doing deceased's hat blew off, and whilst running after it to secure it, he fell down in the water, and although a good swimmer, he almost immediately sank, and was not recovered alive. Verdict, Death from drowning.

DROWNED.- A magisterial inquiry was held on Monday last before R. Ronald, Esq., at Botany Bay, touching the death of a man named Samuel Bagnall: the following evidence was given. Thomas Bagnall, father of deceased deposed, that on the previous day Sunday, about 8 a.m., witness and two other persons together with deceased, went into a boat on Cook's River with the intention of fishing in the Bay; they however abandoned their intention of fishing, and on their return home, deceased's hat was blown into the water; deceased while running after it along the bank of the river, stumbled and fell in; deceased although a good swimmer was unable to save himself, and before assistance could be rendered he had sunk; deceased, who was a fisherman, was between 23 and 24 years of

age. Finding-Death from drowning.

December 1854 - BOXING DAY BOTANY- *Messrs, Beaumont and Waller announce their annual boxing day Fete, at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, with the zoological gardens attached, on an unusually sumptuous scale. The German band is engaged for the occasion. Malcolm's Amphitheatrical stud will go through a variety of feats of horsemanship. Dancing will be engaged in on the lawn, a well-attained apolloicon will at intervals relieve the German band. The menagerie of wild beasts, of various climes, will also be open to the public inspection. A sumptuous collation will be served to the visitors in the rustic saloon, and the Ben Bolt steam-packet has been hired for the conveyance of those visitors who prefer a transmarine to an equestrian passage.*

The 'apolloicon' is we believe an apollonicon, which was built in 1817 built by the English Organ builders Flight & Robson in London. It was an automatic playing machine with about 1,900 pipes and 45 organ stops with a technic familiar to the barrel organ. It also had five keyboards, one of them used as the pedal keyboard, so the instrument could be played by a few persons in manual mode as well

Here the inquest is held at the home of the individual who died, the afore mention market-gardener.

March 1855; S.M.H. MAGISTERIAL INQUIRY.- *An inquiry was held on Saturday last, before Mr. Rowland Ronald, at Boomerang House, Botany Bay, the residence of the late John Neathway Brown, whose death was the subject of the present inquiry. From the evidence of Mary Ann Neathway Brown, third daughter of the deceased, it appeared that he was between fifty and sixty years of age. On Saturday morning last, about eight o'clock, she went up stairs to her father's room, to see how he was, and found him lying on the floor by the side of his bed, with his head against a bed-post. She was afraid that there was something wrong, and called her sister Elizabeth, and told her that she thought her father was dead. She (Elizabeth) then examined him and found that he was quite dead. He went to bed the night previous in his usual health, which however had been impaired for many months. He was attended by Dr. M'Kellar. Frederick M'Kellar deposed that he had known the deceased for the last fifteen years, and frequently attended him professionally. He had been complaining latterly of giddiness and symptoms of flow of blood to the brain. From all appearance of the body and circumstances attending his death he (Dr. M'Kellar) was of opinion that death was the result of apoplexy. Finding "Died from natural causes."*

June 1855 - DEATH OF THE ELEPHANT AT THE BOTANY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS - *We regret to announce the demise of Sarah, the female elephant, which for many years past constituted one of the principal attractions at Mr Beaumont;s menagerie. The remains of the animal have been given over to the curator of the Museum, who is now engaged in preparing the skeleton for exhibition.*

Huts and birds still to be found on the Botany swamp

August 1855 FIRST SNIPE OF THE SEASON - *The lucky chance of knocking over 'the first snipe' has again fallen to the lot of Mr Cockeell, of Park-street, who bagged his bird on Wednesday morning on the old spot, near Joe's hut, Botany swamp...the snipe..is a splendid bird and worthy of the usual custom of being preserved in commemoration of the*

event.

In the burial register of St. Peter's Church, Cooks River, William Mosley of Botany, is aged 52 years and carpenter. Apoplexy is now considered a stroke.

CORONER'S INQUEST.- *An inquest was held on Saturday last, at the house of Charles Smith, Botany, relative to the death of William C. Maudsley, aged 45 years, who was found dead in the bush in the vicinity. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased was a bush carpenter residing at Botany, that he was very much addicted to drink, and that he was found lying dead in the bush, with his face downwards. Mr. Smith gave evidence to the effect that about 3 o'clock on Thursday the deceased, who was working for him, complained of a pain in his chest and retired to his bed, and that, though sent for regularly, he did not attend at meal-time afterwards. From the evidence of Dr. Jenkins the jury were informed that the deceased died of apoplexy accelerated by habits of intemperance, and a verdict accordingly was returned.*

Having exhausted the vast quantities of shells in the aboriginal middens, shell gatherers were forced to go further afield, with the following results. The death of William Honeyburn, whose residence is Carter's Island at the mouth of the George's River as is Pelican Point, is not an event which occurred at Botany. The Fortune of War Inn was at St. Peters, which would suggest that the body came ashore at Botany.

August 1857 DEATH BY DROWNING. - *A coroner's inquest was held on the 27th instant, at the Fortune of War Inn, Cook's River, touching the death of a man named William Honeyburn. The deceased, it appears, had on Monday week last proceeded to Botany for a load of shells; shortly before his death he was in a narrow flat bottomed dingy; there were two other boats within a short distance; suddenly the men in the other boats missed the deceased and made search for his body; nothing, however was found except his hat floating upon the water. Exertion was used to recover the body but without success; a couple of days since it was found floating in the water near where the dingy was at the time deceased must have fallen overboard. The dingy is described as being very unsafe, added to which circumstance is the fact that deceased had drunk the third part of a bottle of rum only a short time before his death. Deceased was a native of the West of England; he had only been 3 years in the colony, and had succeeded in saving some money; he was twenty-four years of age, 5 feet 10 inches in height, and a single man. The following is the verdict: - "We find that the deceased came by his death by drowning, caused by the unsafe state of dingy he was in; and at the time we believe that deceased was possessed of money - which is now nowhere to be found."*

DEATH BY DROWNING. - *An inquest took place on Thursday last before the City Coroner, Mr. J. S. Parker, at the Fortune of War public house, Cook's River, on view of the body of William Honeyburn, who came by his death on Monday week, the 17th instant, at Botany. From the evidence it appeared that the deceased, along with some others, had gone with his dingy for a load of shells, to a place called Pelican Flat. About four in the afternoon (according to the evidence of Samuel Carr), it being then three-quarter flood, with the wind, about east, not fresh, and no sea to speak of, witness left along with deceased, whose dingy he took in tow; that they steered for George's River, and had not proceeded more than one hundred yards, when Honeyburn got into his own boat by*

himself, and at once dropped astern; that, in a minute or two after, witness looked behind to see what Honeyburn was doing, his boat being from thirty to forty yards astern, when he observed deceased's boat with no one in it; that a basket was floating close by, together with the cap of deceased; that he adopted immediate measures to discover deceased, and render him assistance, had he been seen, but never got a sight of him; that deceased could not swim, and was rather reckless when in a boat; that being only a labourer, he did not well know how to manage such craft; that witness had no idea how deceased fell out of the dingy, which was a very unsteady thing, and not more than eighteen inches wide; that the water would be about five fathoms deep at the place deceased disappeared; that an effort was made to procure grappling irons, but they were unsuccessful, and had to give it up; that the body was found on Wednesday forenoon, the 26th instant, floating close to the spot where deceased had disappeared. In answer to questions by the coroner, it was stated that Honeyburn was a strong healthy man, about twenty- four years of age; that he came from the West Coast of England, and had been about three years in the colony; that but for taking rum witness thought the accident, in all probability, would not have happened and that he was possessed of some money and property too, but where the cash was deposited he could not say. From the testimony of other witnesses it appeared there had been a good deal of drinking amongst the shellers, it being their custom to treat each other, and that deceased had taken a good sup, but knew what he was doing. The testimony of Thomas Barker, M.D., went to show that he had examined a body taken from the waters of Botany, in an advanced state of decomposition, and said to be that of a man called Honeyburn; that there were abrasions on it, and some parts discoloured and swollen, but that his death had been caused, he should judge, by suffocation from drowning. Verdict accordingly.

December 1857 WATER WORKS AT BOTANY -*The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new engine-house connected with the water-works at Botany was performed on Saturday last. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, the Mayor elect, the Aldermen and a large party of visitors were present. ...the ceremony .. consisted of depositing under the stone a bottle containing the newspapers of Saturday's date, together with several of the current coins of the realm.....a description of he projected operations.. enlarged very forcibly on the necessity of an ample and continuous supply of water for sanitary purposes,.....the company adjourned to the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, where a gold collation had been ordered by the Mayor. The works will be capable of supplying 250,000 persons, estimating each individual to consume 30 gallons per day.*

Are residents of Botany included in the 250,000 people? The Mayor must surely be of Sydney. Death at the mouth of the Cook's River at Botany. .

May 1860. FATAL ACCIDENT AT COOK'S RIVER. *The bodies of the two men reported to be missing from Newtown in yesterday's issue, and supposed to have been drowned at Cook's River, have been found by constable Ferrelly and others who, since last Monday have been indefatigable in their exertions to recover them. Their names are William and Frederick Markwick,(uncle and nephew). on Sunday last, about 11 o'clock, they left home with the intention of gathering oysters in Cook's River; they were afterwards seen about dusk in a small punt crossing the river. there is a deep and narrow channel at its head, and when the tide flows, it covers the sandbank on both sides to a considerable distance. On this*

sandbank the body of the elder man, William Markwick, was found on Thursday, and that of Frederick Markwick, yesterday. An inquest was held on the bodies by the City Coroner, and a verdict returned of "found drowned, but how they were drowned, there was no evidence to show, and the jury considered the punt in which they were last seen, unsafe with two persons in it."

More sport at Botany.

August 1860 - THE HERALD ANNIVERSARY DINNER - *The Sydney Morning Herald held the fourth anniversary dinner, ...at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel..the party was conveyed to Botany in four omnibuses, and notwithstanding the deplorable conditions of the road, no inconvenience was felt in going or returning, On reaching the hotel they separated to enjoy themselves according to inclination. Some rambled through the gardens, others partook themselves to boating, while cricket, football. rounders, quoits, and foot-racing afforded recreation and amusement to the majority. At 4 o'clock the party sat down to an excellent dinner.*

January 1861; Empire. CORONER'S INQUESTS. *The City coroner held an inquest on Wednesday, on view of the body of a child named Henry Albert Collins, aged one year and eight months. Deceased had always been a sickly child, and a few days ago appeared worse than usual. After having dinner on Sunday he went to sleep, and awoke in an hour's time. He then commenced vomiting. His mother took him to a chemist, who gave him a chalk powder, and lanced his gums, which were much inflamed. Deceased gradually sank, and expired on Tuesday morning. Dr. Woodcock examined deceased, and stated his opinion to be that the death of deceased was the result of natural causes. The jury returned a verdict accordingly.*

The Coroner may have overlooked 'death by patent medicine' .

Some more good news for city dwellers.

April 1861 - WATER - *In their last report the Municipal Council stated that the engines at Botany and the line of 30-inch main to Sydney had been completed and in use for the last two months in 1850.....the engines, main and all the machinery have since been in constant and successful operation daily, Sundays excepted. without any casualty whatsoever...the whole of the city mains are now connected to the Botany works and can be supplied from that source when occasion requires it.*

Where, we ask, is the railway today?

June 1862- *A public meeting was recently held in Sydney for the inauguration of the Botany Railway Company.the line recommended by them starts from the Government railway close to the Erskineville bridge at Newtown, and, following a straight course of about 3 miles, terminates near the city waterworks at Botany. The line is extremely level, and the works will consequently be light. It is proposed to dispense altogether with ballasting, and to lay down the rails upon a succession of ironbark sleepers....the cost of the line so constructed will not exceed £2000 per mile.*

This idea, at least, latterly showed some prospect of being accepted.

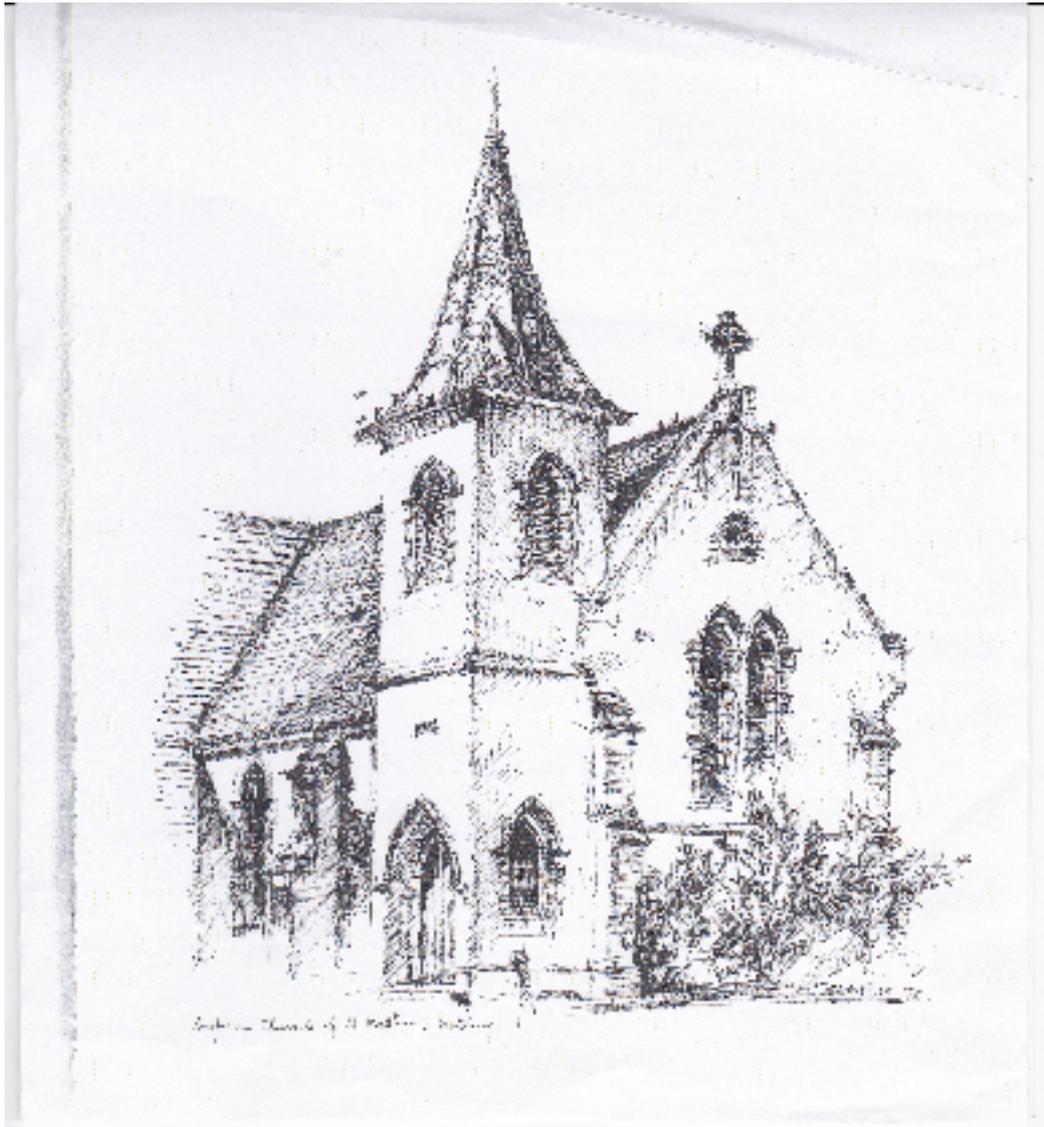
June 1862 PROPOSED USE OF CITY WATERWORKS FOR BREEDING FISH - *Mr Black has forwarded a petition to the Municipal Council to obtain the rental of the city water- works at Botany, for the purpose of breeding fish in the reservoir.....the*

introduction of fishwould be positively beneficial in keeping the water clear from vegetable matter.....at present there are a large number of eels in the water, which being predaceous in their habits it would be necessary to eradicate. In the first instant Mr Black would introduce Murray Cod.....other fresh water fish would be subsequently introduced.... the spill-water - the overflow form the reservoir - might also be turned to good account in the cultivation of oysters...

Would we not want to be sharing with them?

September 1862 - ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, BOTANY...a tea meeting was held by members of the Church of England in Botany, the place used...being a large room at the old factory in the waterworks enclosure.....The guests assembled before 5pm, and found a bountiful supply of the usual eatables and drinkables, provided by the principal families resident. After tea, a lecture was given by Rev. G.H. Moreton on the missionary work....the lecture was quite crowded and the audience appeared highly gratified with their entertainment. The good old National Anthem was sung with much heartiness, another hymn having been sung before the lecture. The Rev. A.H. Bull, incumbent of St Peters, who presided on the occasion, expressed his deep gratification at the scene before him - indeed the sparse nature of the Botany population made all wonder whence so many came, and he rejoiced in looking at the church, now so nearly completed, in this part of his parish, and hoped to be able to give increased efficiency to its services when it was opened.....a collection was made for the church, which with the sale of tickets, realised the sum of £21 10s.

November 1862 - ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH, BOTANY....this church was formally opened for divine service. There is a considerable population belonging to the Church of England in the neighbourhood, and since the old weatherboard church on the Sandhill became useless, has been removed, a congregation of sixty or seventy persons has been gathered ...in the old factory kindly lent for the purpose by the Waterworks Company. A regular service every Sunday will now be provided by the incumbent at St Peters, under whose charge the the wide district of Botany is placed.....The church is a neat and substantial brick structure, with lancet windows, a small tower and spire at the north-west angle, chancel and vestry complete. The architect is Mr Munro....the builder in James Godbolt, of St Peters.....the Rev. W.H. Savigny...preached an interesting sermon....prayers were read by Rev. A.H.Bull, incumbent of St Peters. The collection amounted to £8, which makes the whole sum now realised about £650, this has been supplemented by a loan from the Church Society of £200, without interest, the whole cost being £850.



St Matthews Church , Botany (Botany Bay Sketchbook - Gamble & Phillips)

Progress is made with the Sydney Municipal Council!

February 1863 - PISCICULTURE ...*the Municipal Council declined to accede to a proposal made by Mr A. Black to lease the water reserve at Botany for the purpose of pisciculture....another proposal was made to the Corporation....that they should erect artificial tanks for the above purpose, which would, cost about £170 and also pay for the expense of bringing the Murray Cod and other edible fished from the Murray, which would be about £30. Mr Black offered to give his services gratuitously, the only remuneration he required being, that after the Corporation expenses had been reimbursed...he should receive the residue of the fish.....if it should be desired he would be prepared to take the whole of the water used from the waste water of the engine - having a cooling tank for the purpose of cooling down the water to the temperature necessary for the incubation of the ova.....,,the motion was negatived by a majority of six to five...*

The residents of Botany have risen up against their oppressors.

May 1863 - REMOVAL OF THE OLD BOTANY TOLL BAR

A large meeting of the inhabitants of Botany and Waterloo was held at O'Rourke's Half-way House for the purpose of taking into consideration the removal (by the trustees of the Botany Road) the old toll house to its present site and the expenditure of the £100 mileage money, voted by the Government for the whole of Botany Road, upon one portion of that road, viz., that portion between the railway bridge and the old toll-bar, in the Redfern Municipality. It was clearly shown by the speakers Messrs Lord, Cooper, Walsh and Wilcox, that three out of the five trustees were owners of property and residents of Redfernand were directly interested in the removal of the toll-bar and spending the money on that part of the road fronting their own doors, to the detriment of the road generally, more particularly as the residents on this piece of road did not pay toll.....the following resolutions were moved....1st that the removal of the toll- bar, by the present trustees of the Botany Road, thereby entailing a loss of toll money of upwards of £150 per annum mileage money, without the consent and sanction of the residents of Botany and Waterloo, was injurious and illegal .2nd that the expenditure... of the £100 mileage money, given by the government for the whole of Botany Road, upon that one portion lying between the railway bridge and the old toll-bar would be unjust.... 3rd that a petition to the Minister of Lands embodying these resolutions be prepared by the committee consisting of Messrs Lord, Smith, Wilcox and Geddes....

A note of pessimism is sounded regarding the railway line.

July 1863 - *We are still unable to report the commencement of the proposed railway between Sydney and Botany which was projected two years since, and the bill for which passed through Parliament last session.negotiations are being entered into with the owners of the land along the line and it will probably depend on the terms that they propose, whether or not the undertaking is carried out. It is understood that in the event of exorbitant prices being asked, or of the landowners refusing to lend any assistance in carrying out the railway, the affair will be abandoned.*

Plenty of open space at Botany.

February 1864 *In reply to Mr Lucas, Mr Wilson said there were 4040 acres of Church and School lands unsold in the Parish of Botany,in the Parish of Botany there was a permanent reserve of 1630 acres. and with this exception there were no waste crown lands therein.*

Water, water, every where, but not a wholesome drink.

February 1864 CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Alderman Macintosh reported.....the deficient supply and the unwholesome quality of the water from Botany.

Once again we are thrown back into a joyful simple past.

February 1864 - BOTANY - *the children of the Botany Tabernacle Sunday-school held their first annual treat at Botany. The afternoon was spent in playing various games, Tea was spread under the willows in Mr Hickson's house. After tea, the scholars sang hymns, and were suitably addressed, when, after giving three hearty cheers for their teachers and*

the ladies who had so kindly provided the tea, the children went to their homes.

Could this be a victory for the residents of Botany?

April 1864 - REMOVAL OF TOLL BAR- *The toll bar, at the junction of Redfern and Botany streets, on the Mudbank and Cook's River Road, has been removed to the bridge crossing the stream at Waterloo Woolwashing Establishment.*

Could this epistle be the work of a resident of Botany?

August 1864 - THE DISTRICT AND BAY OF BOTANY *.....the district and bay of Botany, although lying within a few miles of the metropolis, are but little known to its denizens. A great many, no doubt, have paid a visit to the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, or to the waterworks, and have, probably, rambled a little in their neighbourhood, but a still greater number have never visited any part of Botany.....the approach to Botany is unpromising. The main road from Sydney.. is perhaps the most villainous piece of highway within a day's ride of the capital....on the outskirts of this suburb there are many market gardens by which the monotony of the scene is somewhat relieved, Still the road is monotonous.. And it continues to be until after the district of Botany itself is fairly entered upon. The line of demarkation between Botany and Waterloo is a roadway - I cannot call it a road - known by the queer appellation of Ricketty-street.the name Ricketty-street is said to have been bestowed upon this roadway in consequence of the jolting to which all were subjected who travelled in any sort of vehicle, the layers of bush and grass by which the heavy drag through the sand was sought to be relieved. The name is not an inappropriate one even now. But as it might be applied with still greater justice to some parts of the main road itself, it seems hard that this 'branch line' should be particularly stigmatised.....From Ricketty-street tothat part of the bay where the hotel to which the mail runs - is about three miles. The miserable trust road branches off to the westward ere half that distance is traversed, and from thence there is a good highway formed by the Government. This is called Bunnerong Road and is continued along the shores of the bay..... From Half-way House until within half a mile or so of the bay there is no material change in the aspect of the country. Nevertheless it ceases to be monotonous.a frequent reoccurrence of roadside cottages - some very pretty- with large gardens attached to them. Here and there are residences of greater pretension. The most picturesque of these is Frogmore, the property of Mr Hollinshead.....*

A general view of church life in the area.

August 1864 - THE DISTRICT AND BAY OF BOTANY

The Anglican church at Botany is decidedly the best of the ecclesiastical buildings in that district.the church stands in the centre of an acre of land , the gift of Mr George Lord.....the church is dedicate to St Matthew. It will hold, it is said, about two hundred people.No government salary, I believe, is attached to the Anglican pastorate of Botany and Waterloo, but a respectable stipend is raised by voluntary contributions slightly aided from the funds of the Church Society. The denomination which.... ranks next in numerical strength at Botany. to the Anglicans, is the Methodists....the Primitive Methodistshave not yet erected a chapel. The Wesleyan Methodists have two chapels...one is called the Botany Chapel and the other Botany Bay Chapel. Botany Chapel occupies commanding position, and is the first place of worship seen on entering the district. it stands upon a hill

to the westward of the road. It cost, I was informed, about £500 and will accommodate about 100 persons. Botany Bay Chapel has been erected upon a low hill, fronting Bunnerong road, a little beyond the Anglican Church of St Matthew. The land on which it stands was given by Mr George Lord. It is a plain but neat building, the erection of which cost, at the time of the building was rather dear, £800. It will accommodate about 175 people. Both Wesleyan chapels are brick, and were erected by voluntary contributions. There are three p[laces of worship close together on the eastern side of the Bunnerong Road, near its junction with the road to Mudbank St Matthews Church and the Botany Bay Chapel...the third is the Roman Catholic Church.....the nearest of the three to Sydney. The Roman Catholic church and the Botany Bay Chapel are both upon hills, The Anglican church stands upon the lower ground between them. The hill upon which the Roman Catholic church stands is the highest....the church of 'Mount St Bernard'. The church is similar in aspect to St Matthews and has no tower.....it has less of the village church and more of the chapel aspect.... it has the most ornamental finish, quite a little gem in its way. The land upon which it was erected was the gift of Mr Edward Lord. The history of the Church of St Bernard...is a little peculiar. The Roman Catholics of Botany, having long felt the need of a local church, some of them went earnestly to work to supply this want. Mr Smith, of the Botany Tannery. Mr O'Rourke, of the Half-way House and the late Mr Williamson, chairman of the Redfern, municipality and of the Botany Road trust, were prominent in the work with many others assisting. Having obtained the gift of the site they decided to make the erection of the church the work of the Roman Catholic laity and to hand it over to the ecclesiastical authorities when completed....on a design furnished by Mr Munro...the whole was completed for about £500. One other place of worship ...is the chapel of the Independents, known as 'the Botany Tabernacle'. It is a very pretty structure of wood, erected on land given by Mr William Rolfe, It cost about £150 - raised by subscription - and will accommodate nearly 100 people. There is a Sunday School attached to the church and a small day school....There are no schools at Botany in connection with the principal churches but there a a national school of the class called 'non-vested'. It is held at the Botany Bay Chapel The teachers are Mr Charles Stratford and Mrs Stratford, with a youth as a 'pupil teacher'. About 100 scholars are on the books, though the average attendance is much less. Botany people express an anxiety to see a National school established wholly unconnected , even in appearance, with the place of worship of any particular denomination. The Post-office, ...Temperance Hall and Tea Gardens are one the Bunnerong Road near the three churches....The Tea Gardens, although by no means extensive, appear pretty.....The Temperance Hall has been occasionally used... for exhibitions and lectures.

The Community, or at least one member of it, make their feelings known.

August 1864 THE DISTRICT AND THE BAY OF BOTANY

..besides being decidedly the worst highway out of Sydney, the Botany Road (or, to speak with more technical accuracy, the 'Mudbank and Cooks River' Road) has the most singular history, perhaps, of any other thoroughfare in the colony. Its management is vested in a board of trustees under the Parish Roads' Act....trustees are elected by the

proprietors of the lands within a given distance (three miles) from the 'parish road' which they are to manage. They are empowered to levy a small tax per acre upon such properties for the construction of the road, and when a given sum per mile has been expended upon it, and it can be safely traverse, the Governor may authorise the collection of tolls. ...toll-houses can only be erected and tolls collected at such places as the Governor may from time to time appoint by proclamation....the collection of toll at any two places on the same line of road, which are less than ten miles asunder, is prohibited.....how far has the law been obeyed on this particular road....the first proclamation...by Sir George Gipps..in 1844...authorised the levying of tolls and fixed their amount, but named no particular site for the erection of a toll-bar.....the collection was ...gone on from that date.....in 1853 a second proclamation was issued by Sir Charles Fitzroy, doubling the amount of the tolls, but still naming no place where they were collected...in 1863 there was a proclamation issued by Sir John Young, authorising a levy of toll according to the same scale as was fixed...1853....and appointing 'one hundred and fifty yards from the junction of Redfern and Botany Streets. to be a place at which tolls shall be collected...before this time toll had been collected at the junction of Redfern and Botany Streets, where a toll=house had been erected, although without any authorisation..by the law....the proclamation did not say in which direction the 150 yards ...were to be measured...the trustees shifted the toll-bar over 300 yards in a southerly direction...nearer to Botany...this site was near the southern boundary of Redfern....it relieved many living living within that boundary...those who lived further south continued to be victimised....the grumbled accordingly....in 1863 another proclamation was issued appointing the 'former site of the toll-bar at the junction of Redfern and Botany Streets to be a place at which tolls shall be collected...the trustees took no heed and continued to collect the toll...near the southern boundary of Redfern...in 1864 another proclamation... 'that the said toll=bar shall be removed to the bridge crossing the stream at the Waterloo wool-washing establishment...about a mile... in the direction of Botany. form the Redfern and Botany Streets.....for a very long time, prior to the last proclamation, the trustees had a toll-bar at the bridge...to catch market gardeners from Botany, who might otherwise have dodged the toll- bar near Redfern and Botany Streets. it wasillegal.....toll-bar at the bridge was legalised and...with a rescission ..to collect toll at ...Redfern and Botany Streets.... the bridge was made the only place on the road where toll could..be legally collected...the trustees continued their collections, both at the bridge and near the Redfern boundary....toll is being collected at two places about a mile apart on the same line of road... on the Bunnerong Road, near the churches, there is another bar with a neat toll-house nearly finished.....three taxing places within five miles on the worst road out of Sydney.....the trustees.. might perhaps have usefully done a few things not contemplated by the Parish Roads Act.....when trying to find a path along this precious highway, without plunging knee deep in the mire - a very difficult task for the pedestrian, even in broad day, after a little bad weather.

Church life continued.

September 1864 PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL, BOTANY -For the last four years the Primitive Methodists have worshipped and conducted their Sabbath school in the house of Mr T. Harris, being unable to get a suitable plot of land on which to erect a chapel till

within a few weeks ago, when Mr G. Stiff offered a site in the Gardener's Road, which was accepted by the society. and preparations were immediately made to build. ..the foundation stone was laidthe chapel will be a neat structure, eighteen by twenty=six feet inside, of a suitable height, and having six circular- headed windows.

The lot of the city dweller is not a happy one when it comes to the quality of water.

November 1865 WATER SUPPLY - *...report on the necessity for and cost of, deepening that portion of the reservoir at Botany, to the same depth as that portion already done, to make it capable of storing double the quantity of water...the work must be done at some time ...as the water was now low and labour abundant it could be done cheaper than it could under ordinary circumstances...unanimously agreed to.*

February 1866 THE WATER DEFECT - *Public attention has at length been awakened to the injurious effects produced by that 'villainous compound' jocosely called 'pure water' that is daily pumped up from the bog at Botany.....The Botany 'water' is both deficient in quantity any detestable in quality,,, the sooner our supplies are drawn from a purer source , the more beneficial it will be for the public health..*

February 1866.....*Altogether there had been expended on the Botany Water-works...no less a sum than £309,000 and...it would cost another £100,000 to give a permanent supply of water for the city.....Mr Woods believed that a permanent supply could never be obtained from Botany...*

The market gardeners come together to improve their lot.

July 1866 MARKET GARDENERS' MEETING - *The market gardeners of Petersham, Cooks River Ashfield, Wattle Swamp, Canterbury, Five Dock and surrounding assembled...for the purpose of taking into consideration some fit and proper market...to effect their produce for sale...at a previous meeting of the market gardener, at Botany, it had been agreed 'That is was highly expedient that the market gardeners should take immediate steps for securing a place whereon they might conveniently dispose of their produce' ...they were paying a large sum annually to municipal authorities and yet their interests and rights were neglected...the chairman said that the corporation had proposed to build a market-place for market gardeners at the Haymarket...Mr Morris said the corporation had proposed ten years ago to give market gardeners a proper market but no market had been yet got ready for them....a similar meeting of market gardeners should be held at Mr Guilfoyle's Inn, Cooks River.*

What was growing at Veteran Swamp?

October 1866 HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY - EXHIBITS.....*Mr Saxby, market gardener and florist, of Botany, exhibited a fine collection of Ranunculus, Anemones, Pansies, Dianthus, double and single Petunias, and Rose Victor Trouliard, These exhibits were highly spoken of as first-class.*

It was a concern that graveyards, and the drainage from them, contributed to the spread of Typhoid. The graveyard of St. Peters Church, Cooks River closed in 1896, for that reason.

October 1866 CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

It has been represented ..that there exists a burial-ground at Botany, attached to the Wesleyan church; that this ground is close to the water-works and percolates into it.

A challenge for present day residents of Botany is what this market gardener managed to exhibit.

November 1866 - *Mr J.Saxby, market gardener and florist, of Botany, exhibited the following roses - Isabella Gray, Madame de Cambiacus, Madame Plantin, Madame Devigne, Madame Domage, Souvenir de 3rd May, Castille, William Lobb, Baronne de Wassim, Charles Lawson, Boula de Nautille, Madame Trottier, Jules Mayotien, Borowereng, and also 22 varieties Dianthus Hiddwingii, seedling antirrhimuns, 33 varieties carnations.*

Spoil sport!

January 1867 *THE SHOOTING SEASON* -*Every true sportsman must have experienced a sensation of disgust at an announcement which appeared ...prohibiting all persons from shooting over an estate on the south side of Botany - doubtless the best ground for sport within a similar distance of Sydney on any side.*

Is it not a magnificent landscape?

January 1867 *THE WATER SUPPLY* -*....a visit of inspection to the works at Botany...the tollbar at the Botany swamp was reached ...and the party proceeded on foot to inspect the work which has just been commenced...the construction for three of the new dams....very little has been done....a couple of pile driving machines have been erected...some portions of the old dam have been removed and the guides for the erection of the new one put up..... the old ruined huts in the vicinity of the dam have been patched up and turned into domiciles for the workmen employed.....at the place where they have commenced operations there is a fine stream of water running through the sluice in the old dam...and no diminution in the volume or force of the current has been noticed.....after passing this spot the water spreads itself out over swampy land, which is covered with bulrushes and low scrub...there is a narrow channel in the middle of this swamp but the water is not confined to it...and consequently there is a considerable loss from soakage and evaporation...the party proceeded to the old tweed mill on the verge of the swamp and there they sat down to a sumptuous luncheon.....the company walked down to the engine room and inspected the works....there are three engines, but two of which are working...the machinery is in perfect order and works very smoothly, without the least vibration....the visitors expressed themselves pleased with the of the works generally, and those who had been somewhat disposed to act the part of alarmists respecting the water supply were convinced that their fears had been premature.*

An interesting insight into late nineteenth century justice.

March 1867 - *Henry and Walter Twyford, two boys under seven years of age, appeared to answer the complaint of Peter Francis O'Farrell, Roman Catholic clergyman, for maliciously breaking one hundred and eighteen panes of glass in the windows of Mount St Bernard Church, at Botany. thereby doing damage to the amount of £6. Their worships said they had no jurisdiction to make an order against children bit proceedings may be taken against the boys' father for the recovery of the amount of damage.*

It's not known if Mr. Berry was a significantly dissatisfied customer of Walker's Glue Works. That there is a designated wharf for lime, seems to point to how important that product is to the city.

April 1867 TO DRAYMEN -Wanted TENDERS for the removal of ten tons of glue pieces from Lime Wharf to W. Walker and Co's Glue Works, Botany, Apply to J.S. Berry, ironmonger, George - street.

Decidedly no late night drinking, of water at least.

May 1867 ,After a rather stormy discussion in the City Council, a majority of Aldermen have decide on restoring to the citizens the usual supply of water at night.some Aldermen expressed their dissatisfaction with the engineering arrangements at Botany. One averred that the engines were not capable of doing the work attributed to them, and the calculations as to the quantity pumped up were quite erroneous and unreliable. Another contended that the dam excavations going on for securing an increase of the supply were a waste of money, inasmuch as £1295 had been spent to secure an increase of only two and a quarter days' supply.

Love was perhaps, for Mr. Macintosh, " Like a red red rose which sweetly blooms in June."

September 1867 -BOTANY MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY - The usual fortnightly meeting...was held in... the old factory at the Botany Water Works. There was a large number of persons present, among whom were several ladies. Mr John Macintosh read a descriptive essay on the life and character of Robert Burns, interspersing his remarks with quotations from the poet's works.

Hard to know where the truth is in these reports on water spanning from October to December
October 1867 THE WATER COMMISSION -... inquiry...the water supply of Sydney...his worship the Mayor.....gave his opinion that the works in progress at Botany, if successfully completed, would store sufficient water to meet the requirements of the city for the next twenty- five years; but he did not feel any confidence in supporting that the supply would be adequate for a longer period than that.

November 1867 The dams at Botany are said to be not answering expectation. An additional sum has been asked for to strengthen them, but opinions differ as the probability of their standing the pressure brought against them. If they stand the first heavy rain they will store a large quantity of water, if they fail the money spent upon them is wasted. The want of a foundation makes it difficult to keep the piles in position.

December 1867 DAMS -A very favourable report has been made bt the city engineer with regard to one of the new dams lately constructed at Botany....No 4 dam eight feet of water in it,....at the end where the embankment is made.....the water was also heading up from this dam into No 5 and No 6. ...notwithstanding the immense quantity of water flowing from it, the water was rising at the rate of about one and a half inches per day.....no perceptible leakage taking place...the water in this one dam is said to cover from thirty-five to forty acres and is estimated at about 50,000,000 gallons.

There is much we have lost in communities of the twenty-first century, and the following is one of them.

December 1867 - BOTANY MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY- The usual fortnightly meeting...was held in... the old factory at the Botany Water Works..there was a good attendance..the evening was devoted to reading, recitation, singing etc,.....most pieces were performed in a highly creditable way....

Firemen were employed at the Waterworks, not to put out fires, but rather to stoke them, for

steam was required for the pumping of the water supply

February 1868...at last meeting for the Corporation,.. how much room there is for economy....if small coal instead of large was used for the furnaces at Botany there would be a saving of £1200 per year.....

The news is not all good, but not all bad.

February 1868 - The water supply in the city has again drawn much attention.....not from the short supply at Botany but from its super abundance. ..rains have tested the strength of the new dams, and parts of the some of them have given away....there can be no doubt that an additional quantity of water has been stored, though part of the scheme has temporarily broken down.

February 1868 THE DAMS AT BOTANY - "City Engineer's Office" - a report... that the dams Nos 3,4,5, and 6 were full....the sluices were not open.....reached No 3 dam ...sluices shut and water running over the land at the northern end so fast as to effectually prevent any person from reaching the dam to open the sluice....No 4 dam, the water was on the top of it, i caused the sluice to be opened and in a few minutes the water in the pond lowered perceptibly...Nos 5 and 6 in same state as No 4 and opened their sluices....if the sluice of No 3 had been opened only four hours before I arrived...no damage would have occurred to the land at the north end of it, or the weir....the sluice of No 1, reported to be full open, is proved to be only partially so.....No 2 can be examined, proof will be had whether that was full open or not...the whole of the damage being attributed to the locks having been closed instead of open.

March 1868 - The controversy as to the engineering of the Botany dams still continues....there is no doubt as to the fact of great damage having been done by the late rains, it is also certain that some of the works stood pretty well, and conserved a fair quantity of water, by additional strengthening they can probably be made quite secure against pressure of similar storms.

April 1868 WATER - The engines and machinery at Botany, and the line of 30-inch main between Botany and Sydney, continued to work day and night (Sundays excepted) throughout the year, without any casualty, excepting that which... occurred early in 1867...The quantity of water pumped into Sydney and its suburbs from Botany during the year 1867 was 995,436,976 gallonsthe arrangement..for shutting off the supply of the inhabitants during the night time, was continued with great advantage for some months at the commencement of this year.

Mrs. Lord, being the daughter-in-law of the late Simeon Lord, it was her duty to perform the honours on this auspicious occasion.

September 1868 - BOTANY PUBLIC SCHOOL. The foundation-stone of a new Public School at Botany was laid on Wednesday, by Mrs. G. W. Lord in the presence of three or four hundred spectators, exclusive of school children, of whom about 120 attended. The school buildings will accommodate 150 children, and include a suitable residence for the master. Its design is in accordance with that of many other public schools, and reflects great credit upon the architect, who has in a very large degree, managed to combine the useful with the beautiful. The Secretary, on behalf of the Local Board, presented to Mrs. Lord a very handsome trowel, for the purpose of laying the foundation-stone. It had a

handle of ivory, and the blade, which was surrounded by a scroll and leaves, bore the following inscription:— Presented to Mrs. Geo. W. Lord, by the Local Board, on the occasion of her laying the foundation-stone of the Botany Public School. September 30th, 1868.

Another challenge from Mr. Saxby to present residents of Botany.

October 1868 - EXHIBITS - Mr Saxby, florist Botany: *The following fine roses: General Jacquemont, Cloth of Gold, Lord Raglan, Son. d'un Ami, Victor Verdier, La Reien, Richard Gordon, General Simpson, Sidonie.*

December 1868 - Mr Saxby, florist Botany: *Twenty- four splendid varieties of gladioli. These were, without doubt, a fine collection, and commanded great admiration.*

A rival to the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, for the excursionist shilling was Mr. Correy's Botany Tea Gardens.

April 1869 - INSURANCE BRIGADE PICNIC - *The members of the Insurance Fire Brigade, together with wives and families, and members of the Windsor Volunteer Fire Company, had a grand picnic...at Mr Corrie's well-known beautiful and secluded gardens at Botany. The party numbering about one hundred, left Sydney... the members of the fire brigade travelling on the engines and the ladies and children in omnibuses. Two steam fire engines and one manual engine were taken out. After a very pleasant ride of about three quarters of an hour, the party arrived at Mr Corrie's grounds....the engines were tested. The manual was first to undergo examination and the trial proved satisfactory. No 1 steam engine was next...steam was got up in the space of five minutes and after it had been worked with the hydrant for some time, and found to be in good working order, five lengths of hose and hydrants were applied. The superiority of steam over manual was exemplified....for upwards of half an hour five splendid streams of water were thrown to a great height by the steam engine manufactured by Shand, Mason & Co., London. The American manufactured steam engine was next tested,..although... the engine proved somewhat inferior to the English made machine, it nevertheless threw some splendid streams of water to a considerable height. A fine stream of water runs through Mr Corrie's grounds, which renders them admirably adapted to the fire engine practice...After the practice..was over....the members...hailed the engines to a favourable spot and assembling themselves in a group in front of them, Mr Shroder, the artist, took a photographic view of the whole.... the company sat down to an excellent luncheon, served by , ... under the rainproof and comfortable tents.*



Map showing Correys Gardens and Sir Joseph Banks Hotel

A pretty penny is paid to some Botany residents.

April 1869 COMPENSATION FOR LAND - ...the following amounts...to several parties...for lands taken for, and damages sustained, by the waterworks at Botany, viz: Sir D. Cooper, £11,263 13s 3d, Mr. George Lord, £7,530 9s 4d, Mr Edward Lord, £404 9s 4d, Messrs. Darvall & Costella and Co., £1,446 15s 6d.....two gentleman were appointed to value land that was required for the extension of the area of the watershed and for ensuring a better supply of water.

Between June of 1869 and April of 1870, the Sir Joseph Banks continues to amuse the public in a variety of ways, so much more than poker-machines.

June 1869. *There has been some good pigeon shooting also during the week...On Tuesday, at the Sir Joseph Banks at Botany, there was some very good sport, and Mr. Longfield again came off victorious, killing fifteen good birds consecutively.*

November 1869 The Botany Sports ...a good many entries have been made in the different velocipede and pedestrian events, and they give every promise of a good day's sport...plenty of dancing for those fond of this amusement, and a capital band, under the able conductorship of Mr W.J. Rice of the Prince of Wales Theatre.Having received an invitation from the proprietor to go out to Botany and view the improvements he has lately made - we found ourselves at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, after a pleasant drive along one of the finest roads in or about Sydney. ...we were shown over the hotel...it is furnished in the best and neatest possible manner, and the gentlemen who stop at Botany have all the numerous conveniences of a first-class Sydney hotel, with the advantages of the sea-air and view of the gardens. The billiard-room is fitted up with one of Thurston Hopkin's

tables...in front of the hotel are the principal portion of the gardens, between which and the road a splendid piece of running ground has been formed...the convincing spot has been so arranged that the spectators can witness the races from the start to the finish, which is a very important fact.....some little distance away is the 'dancing saloon' or rather lawn, ...specially prepared for that purpose, and is as level as a billiard table.....the band... to be placed in the centre. so that lovers of Terpsichore will not be able to complain of any shortcomings in that particular department.....through the grounds ...in every direction are shady nooks with seats, &, being quite the thing for picnicking...it is really worth while going out to Botany, if only to see the gardens, leave alone the various quadrupeds that have been collected there. A few steps brings you out to the beach where you have a splendid view of Botany Heads and La Perouse Monument.we ...visited the spot where the apparatus had been erected for the proper roasting of Mr McCarroll's fat ox...we have every reason to suppose that it will be cooked to a nicety.

January 1870 "There was no balloons, boys, there was no balloon, Though I went to see it, on Monday afternoon "I went to Botany with the rest, everybody went there and brought their advertisement.....that a balloon would ascend.....I went and saw what? A large crowd waiting for the balloon, 12 o'clock came and so did several buses loaded.....everyone said, "Well, it will soon be here."One o'clock came, everyone thought it ought to be there. They looked to the east, they looked to the west, but saw nothing.a small boy arrived.....he cried out "The ballo-o-o-n's a busted!"Twelve elderly spinsters asserted they smelt gas, twenty-four wives and mothers of large families fainted, and 144 children of all sexes screamed themselves into convulsions.."alas, it was too true - the balloon had burst, and in two places."people who went to see the balloon go up, grumbled and stormed.....it was announced that the balloon was up and visible, upon a wagon fully 0003 feet from earth, with two horses attached....the grumbles were satisfied ...found the balloon was not a swindle.

January 1870 SPORTS AT BOTANY -the walking match, which the Committee of the Botany Boxing Day Sports ordered to be contested again will take place at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel.the Committeedecided that the race should be walked over again, owing to the unwarrantable interference of spectators.....

January 1870 SPORTS AND ASTONISHING NOVELTIES AT BOTANY -.....we expect there will be a large attendance at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel and Gardens. The blowing up of a ship will be a sight worth witnessing,. the ship and other arrangements, in connection with it, will cost the proprietor £200.The "baby show" is a great hit, upwards of thirty babies have been entered.A small charge for admission will be made, for the benefit of the Randwick Orphan Asylum.....The splendid brass band of the Naval Brigade will play at the marquee.Mr G. Brown of the Adelphi Theatre will be M. C. for the dances and the orchestra of the Prince of Wales will play selections of music. The clog dancing, and sword dances will take place on the platform erected in the centre of the racecourse. For those fond of "novelties" Botany will be the place on Anniversary Day.

February 1870 SPORTS AT BOTANY- The torpedo explosion, which through a flaw in the cable that carried the electricity from the shore, became a failure on Anniversary Day, was brought to successful termination."the vessel was blown up, the Rover's Bride,

being moored in the bay at a distance of 1100 yards from the shore. By making the affair a complete success ...the secretary of sports, has kept faith with the public.....at a quarter past 4 o'clock the fuse connected with the torpedo was fired, and the result exceeded the most sanguine expectations of the promoters.In the doomed vessel were stored 500. lbs of gunpowder. .." ..which was connected by branch wires with the battery.Broken spars, pieces of wood, iron etc were thrown to a height of about twenty feet..... The next item in point of importance on the programme was.....a grand trotting match for two miles..... The sports concluded by a walking match against time by Gleeson for five miles. He performed his task by arriving at the finishing post at the expiration of the specified time - half an hour.

April 1870 THE SPORTS AT BOTANY - EASTER MONDAY - The spirited proprietor of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel and Gardens announced. " .to hold a grand carnival." .in honour the discovery of Australia by Captain James Cook. The management came out with a number of novelties.....considering the amount of interest taken by the public in the progress of the Captain Cook statue, it was believed that there would be an immense concourse of people at Botanyhowever the management had to contend with an extraordinary number of counter- attractions.At Botany there is every facility afforded for dancing.....with sports and other amusements, as well as the attractive grounds, we wonder that the public do not find themselves at Botany.."The prominent feature was the performance of the "female Blondin" on a tight rope, and seating herself therein. The rope was stretched at a height of about forty feet in the air, above the lawn in front of the hotel, and it was about 100 yards long.... In order to guard against any accident occurring several...gentlemen held a bed-quilt under the rope. The next event was the "Great Roman Chariot Races" for which three chariots were entered. Two horses were attached to each chariot one of the horses bolted and the vehicle was injuredso there were only two starters."There was no opponent to Mr J. Gibson in the champion clog dance, he danced several steps and was awarded first prize. Five athletes took part in some wrestling matches A good race took place for the 900 yards flat race..... A band was in attendance and played various selections of music throughout the day..... a programme of dances were gone through.

Moonee Ponds has a rival in Botany's own Mr. Saxby

December 1870 Mr J. Saxby florist, of Botany, exhibited thirty-one seedling gladioli, which were much admired by the meeting; also, five curiosities of the same partaking of the double character; six fine varieties of antirrhinums , twelve pansies, five double geraniums - Madame Lemoire, Gloire de Nancy, Triumph, Duplex, and Triomphe de Lorraine.

A reflection on how precious the Waterworks is.

January 1871 - The road to the head of Botany Bay is finished; ..therefore ready means for for the movement of artillery in that direction. Two guns will be stationed at Botany to protect the Water- works from attack of boat's crews. The water of Botany Bay is so shallow that a vessel entering the harbour would so at great risk, and would not be able to get within two miles of the Water-works.

January 1871 - INSURANCE BRIGADE AT BOTANY - The anniversary picnic....took place ..at Mr Correy's, Botany Tea Gardens, ...shortly after 9 o'clock ..the members of the

Insurance fire and salvage brigade, with their wives and children, left the brigade station in Bathurst-street, in three of Messrs Woods, Shortland and Co's commodious buses and a couple of other vehicles.....at 2 o'clock... The excursionist's sat down to a dinner, sumptuously and well prepared by Campagnoni, spread on tables under the shelter of a capacious marquee.....

H. Campagnoni, cook, pastrycook and confectioner, was the caterer of the day.

James Waller and William Beaumont were business partners who owned the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel. James was a noted, singer, taking part in a variety of musical concerts, though remaining an amateur.

February 1871; DEATH OF MR. JAMES WALLER. A MUCH respected citizen, not less remarkable for his powers as a vocalist than distinguished for his private worth, has been suddenly called away from amongst us. Last Monday night, Mr. James Waller (of the firm of Beaumont and Waller), after a very brief but painful illness, expired at Burva-place, Botany Road, to the great distress of his family, and to the sorrow of a widely-extended circle of friends. his death leaves behind him a melancholy void, which will long be appreciable: for his amiability of manners, and his large-hearted philanthropy were in perfect harmony with his noble voice, so familiar to thousands, and so admired by all-and never so happily, so exultantly raised as when enlisted in the blessed cause of charity, or in the sacred service of religion.

The market gardener of Botany exhibits again.

March 1872 - There were some very good varieties of African marigolds, double zinnias and gladiolus, in all of which Mr Saxby's exhibits bore the palm. The gladioli, however, were scarcely so good as usually come from Botany. Mr Saxby's herbaceous phlox contained two or three good varieties which as yet are not common, and for his two collections he received a first and an extra prize.

JUNE 1872 - Sydney Waterworks Botany...quarterly report....no causality of any kind to record, beyond the ordinary wear and tear that might be expected, the supply of water to the city ...having been regularly maintained, the reservoirs being full almost every day....the consumption of water is immensely on the increasesufficient to urge upon all concerned the urgent necessity for immediate action in increasing our means of supply and storage.....we have now arrived at what might be considered as very closely approximating our maximum capabilities...

Arriving in the Colony of N.S.W. in 1872, Rev. Stanley Howard, curate at St. Peters Church, Cook's River, constantly wrote to his family in England, largely focusing on that which was different from his homeland. The letters, have been published as, 'Stanley - A young man's colonial experience'.

June 1872, Rev. Stanley Howard wrote: The bananas were new to me with the large clusters of fruit. In the afternoon we went to Botany Bay! We started by omnibus about 3 o'clock and arrived at the bay in an hour or so. The road was very uninteresting until we came to within half a mile of the end, when the country on each side became pretty, several flowers appearing which I had not seen before. The village of Botany is passed more than a mile back, but there are many houses about this part of the bay. We walked to the beach through the grounds of a hotel, Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, where to our great disquiet we

saw a game of croquet going on. How horribly civilised! The bay is a very fine one, but scarcely came up to our expectations. The entrance looked tempting, but we had not time to walk there. After strolling about the beach we turned back to the road, and sauntered through the 'bush' waiting for the coach and enjoying the new flowers, new at least as growing in the open air. I was particularly taken in with a lovely plant which is an erica or very much like it. I remember it well at Cambridge in the hot houses, here it was growing by the road side. It is such a graceful plant with a lovely white flower and a delicious scent, some of the flowers were coloured by the iron in the soil. There were cactuses too growing like weeds. Among other curiosities of the bush we came across two 'aborigines' with whom we had a long talk. They were very ugly, abominably filthy, clothed in old semi-worn out dresses, both of them spoke English quite naturally, one was particularly well up in slang and a little more besides. They belong to the Murrumbidgee tribe about 150 miles up the country and are down here for a replenishment of their stock of blankets.

October 1873, Rev. Stanley Howard wrote: I have been to three German houses this afternoon. I do like them as a rule. They are often such kind open hearted people. The Mahnkes live near here, such a nice old couple- , both laid up and supported by the daughter who keeps a school. They cannot talk much English but the daughter interprets. I went down into what they call Botany swamps to find another German family, and in my search made the acquaintance of a couple of the name of Weidermeir who sometimes come to our church, though I never saw them there that I remember. It proved to be quite a congenial acquaintance, as also was that I made with the third, Pender, who in the course of conversation (in very broken English) said, "Vell, I would like to ask you vone question. I not know much about them things, but I know a little. Ven a child is born in a family, all is very happy and pleasantful and the fader and all is quite glad and all de friends are glad. But when Jesus is born on Christmas day, de people here, dey take no notice, 'xept just go to church, then dey go and play cricket or anything like dat and not tink of Him, dey don't seem to care". Then looking me straight in the face as if he would have a straight forward answer, said, "How is das?"

David Jones, no less, the one we must all keep up with patronises Correy's gardens

December 1873 - One of those gratifying picnics...to mark the goodwill and Internet harmony existing in many of the large mercantile establishments in t edits was celebratedby the kind consideration of the firm of D. Jones & Co. Arrangements ha deepen made for three of the largest four-horse omnibuses owned by S.U.O/. Company, and the party started for Correy's gardens at Botany.....the gardens were reached and very little time was lost in partaking of lunch....

Would you drink it?

January 1874 ANALYSIS OF THE BOTANY STREAM ..Report on five specimens of water collected along the course of the Botany stream...arranging the specimens in order of their apparent purity, judging from colour, taste and smellNo 1. Clear and bright; no sediment, and no colour, taste or smell. No 4. Nearly as good as the last, but there is a faint colour perceptible, and there is a slight sediment, no smell, nor any marked taste. No 5. Distinctly,, but not highly coloured. A little more sediment than in last, slight smell and taste. No 2. Yellow colour, slight smell, distinct taste of organic matter and iron, flocculent

sediment. Water not fit for use. No 3. The most objectionable specimen, brownish yellow, brown flocculent sediment, unpleasant taste and smell, animalcules abundant in this water, and in No 2.

The market gardener from Botany has done it again!

October 1874 - Mr. Saxby, of Botany, who is the largest exhibitor of flowers at the present show, having no fewer than thirteen stands..... his collection were twenty-four roses...obtained second prize....a still larger exhibit of fifty rosesobtained first prize....twelve beautiful pansies of various colours and the most delicate tints were much admired and won first prize.... a miscellaneous collection of cut flowers. , was equally fortunate in securing a first prize...several choices of azaleas and rhododendrons being particularly noteworthy...several fine carnations, verbenas and pelargoniums were also exhibited and won prizes....

At the time Rev. Stanley Howard wrote, 'No rain! No rain!' the following entry echoes.

January 1876 THE WATER SUPPLY - The continued dry weather has..caused anxiety as to the condition of our water supply...the present appearances of the sand reservoirs...on the Botany watershed encourages us to hope that there would be no water famine even if rain held off for two or three months longer.... As we must depend upon the present watersheds for some time to come it is not lost money that is judiciously invested in their moderate extension and their protection from defilement...however favourable these reports may be, they must not divert attention from the necessity of looking further afield for a supply of adequate water..

The flannelled fools descend on Botany.

October 1876 FIRST LORNES V. FIRST UNDAUNTEDS - On Saturday ...the first elevens of these clubs met at Corry's Ground Botany. The Undaunted went to the wickets first, having an excellent team...and only succeeded in obtaining 16 runs.,The Lornes were disposed of for 39 runs..thus victorious by 23 runs. SECOND LORNES V. SECOND UNDAUNTEDS - ...met on the Sir Joseph Banks ground, the second LORNES being victorious by 25 runs

A magnificent plea, though, in hind sight quite pointless. Worth reading for the phrase, the 'suburb... possessed more native industries than any other', and then enumerates them.

October 1877 Proposed Railway to Botany - A deputation consisting of Messrs. R. Hill M.P., J. Lucas M.P., J. Sutherland M.P., John Geddes J.P., J.S. Calvert J.P., J.R.Linsley J.P., A.R. Fremli, H. Freeman, H. Wescott, J. McDonald, junior, W. Stephen, W. Pritchard, John Berry, W. Beaumont and W. Woollaghan, waited upon the Hon. Edward Combes, Minister of Works with respect to the proposed railway to Botany. ...a public meeting held recently at Botany, in favour of the construction of a railway.... Botany offered more facilities for a railway for a railway than any other place....the country over which the railway would go was level. The line would pass near to the Botany water-works. which it was necessary to protect from any Hostile power, and would be for the benefit of a suburb which possessed more native industries than any other. There were extensive kerosene works, four or five large wool-washing establishments, soap manufactories, tanneries, brick factories, large bone works, a large boiling down establishment, a glue factory (said to be the largest in the southern hemisphere) and a candle manufactory.... if it were taken to

La Perouse Monument it could be extended from there to the heads of Port Jackson, by which plan facilities would be afforded for placing guns in position to protect the city of Sydney from being blown to pieces by an enemy's ship..... Some time ago it was thought desirable to construct a railway to Botany and a private company was formed...the whole of the land was surveyed...there were no engineering difficulties....if the railway were taken to the La Perouse Monument it would be used by the people going and coming between Sydney and Wollongong, and the produce coming from Wollongong to the Sydney markets would be landed at Botany Bay and sent on by the railway. The line could go round by Botany, through Randwick, up past Waverley, through Paddington and on the Sydney...and to Botany could be constructed for less than £3000 per mile....thousands of people would travel by it for the purpose of recreationBotany was one of the oldest, and would be become one of the most thickly populated suburbs of SydneyMr Combes said that if there was to be a railway to Botany it must be part of a general scheme of suburban railways.

Death by drowning is a common feature of suburban areas still reliant on wells for water. The fig boxes suggest that figs could be produced at Botany.

December 1877 S.M.H. CHILD DROWNED IN WELL.- *About 1 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon a child named Sydney Roland Goddard, aged two years and two months, the son of George Goddard, market gardener, of Botany, was by his sister Alice, found drowned in a well close to her father's house. Medical assistance was immediately procured, but it was of no avail. The deceased was last seen by his mother about a quarter before 1 o'clock. As he was not seen for some time afterwards, search was made, and his dead body was found as stated. It is supposed that he fell into the well while floating some small fig boxes, which were found in the water. An inquest on the body was held at Botany yesterday afternoon by the City Coroner, when a verdict of "accidentally drowned" was returned by the jury.*

A Victorian newspaper of the time, reported, 'a desire to witness the mysterious processes by which the coarse, ill smelling, and unpleasant looking fat from our boiling down establishments, was converted into the snow-white translucent candles'.

December 1877 FIRES AT BOTANY *a reflection of fire in the direction of Botany was seen from the station of the Insurance Brigade in Bathurst-street., Mr Bown and his firemen set off at once in the direction of the fire.....it was at Robertson and Co.'s Stearine Candle Works, at Botany. When the factory was reached it was wholly in flames, owing to the inflammable character of the oil and tallow it contained...the place was soon completely gutted....the flames were prevented from spreading to and destroying the stores adjoining the factory, together with Mr Robertson's Ouse, which was close by....the factory was chiefly of timber, and in some places rose to a height of three stories.....another alarm of fire was given....which led to the firemen of the various companies to proceed again in the direction of Botany,,,,,a weatherboard cottage of four rooms with a lean-to skilling of two apartments..... had been burnt to the ground leaving only a brick chimney standing. This cottage was situated about midway between the Botany halfway house and Mr Robertson's late stearine factory, but was fully a quarter of a mile off the main road..the owned of the destroyed property was Mr. William Pritchard.*

The wharf then existing appears to have its limitations

August 1878 PROPOSED WHARF AT BOTANY *A deputation.....waited on the Minister for Works...for the purpose of urging the claims of Botany to the erection of a suitable wharf at that place. The sum of £300 had been placed on the Estimates for the purpose of extending the wharf accommodation, but this was inadequate for the purpose...the desire was that the Government should, from consolidated revenue, either grant the sum thought requisite viz. £5,000 or allow it to be granted out of the loan vote.....Mr Sutherland...admittedthat the people that the people of Botany had some claim on the public revenue for the satisfaction of their wants. The erection of a suitable wharf would allow the cheaper supply of coal. Wood and other products to the inhabitants, but would also develop a much larger traffic to the place.*

The five or six refers to dogs and their quarry is the hare. Mr. Lord is one of Simeon Lord's sons, who has now, it would appear, settled at Botany.

April 1879 COURSING NOTES *-Mr Lord has five or six in work at Botany, under the care of a private trainer.*

Ah! Mr. Campagnoni, you've done it again.

July 1879 FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION *- The 103rd anniversary of the United States Declaration of Independence was celebrated." ...by a picnic at Botany. The guests.....proceeded to the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel and grounds, where a most agreeable day was spent in strolling over the pretty grounds, conversation, and in dancing. there were over a hundred ladies and gentleman present....the dinner...was provided in Messrs. Campagnoni and Co's well-known style.*

Cape Hawke is a coastal headland on the New South Wales coast, just south of Forster/Tuncurry. Newspapers, from 1803 mention lime burning, at Botany.

September 1879 CAPE HAWKE *- She'll gathering has commenced here on a large scale to supply the lime kilns at Botany,, and the ketch Ability has left with her first load.*

Correy's Tea Gardens, an appropriate place for a tea meeting.

October 1879 *- the foundation stone of a Presbyterian church was laid at Botany by the Rev. DR. Fullerton with the customary ceremony, in the presence of a number of local residents. Since 1872 a service has been conducted in the local Mechanics Institute, but the Presbyterians of the locality determined to erect a place of worship.....the building is to be constructed of brick.....after the ceremony was over a tea meeting was held in Correy's pavilion....*

The New Year's Day holiday found a multitude seeking pleasure.

2nd January 1880 - BOTANY *- The Sir Joseph Banks pleasure grounds at Botany were very largely patronised yesterday, it being estimated that at least 5.000 persons present during the day. The amusements provided were of a varied character, dancing forming the greater attraction.....in the afternoon a concert was givenMr Gordon Barker performed a number of magical tricks, in a temple devoted to that art, and the proceedings generally were enjoyed by the Young Australian Band, who played during the day.*

North-west of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel lies Ricketty-street. Michael Metcalfe, of Metcalfe Stores, (still standing at The Rocks area of Sydney), lived at 'Petersleigh', on the Cooks River Road, St. Peters.

January 1880 - At the Central Police Court - Rush (sub-inspector of police) v. Samuel Keep.....*the defendant did deposit a quantity of night soil, at or near Ricketty-street, a public highway,.....from which soil unwholesome and offensive smells and stanches have issued, and still do issue in the common nuisance of the liege subjects of our said Lady the Queen there being, inhabiting, residing and passing, and against the peace of our said Lady the Queen, and contrary to the act in such case made and provided.....Inspector Rush.....visited the defendant's place and saw large quantities of night soil on the ground. And liquid matter flowing into the culverts, a great stench arose therefrom rendering the air impure.....a bad smell on Cooks River Road and from thence a nearly a mile along Ricketty-street until he came to the defendant's premises, as the crow flies the Chinaman's garden is nearer the defendant's to Cooks River Road; the Chinaman uses nightsoil; could not distinguish defendant's stench from any other persons; the nightsoil appeared to have recently been deposited on the defendant's land, it had not been worked into the ground....people are living within a radius of a quarter of a mile from the defendant's garden, go where you will about Botany, you will smell nightsoil, , there are persons in the locality who use boiling down matter, the smell from which is worse than. That from nightsoil, defendant's house is about midway between St Peters Road and Botany Road. Michael Metcalfe ...lives at St Peters and knows the defendant's premises from which frequently were emitted unpleasant smells....he has been often compelled to close all the doors and windows of his dwelling, they are unwholesome smells, very offensive, and render the enjoyment of life and property uncomfortable to him, and greatly deteriorate the value of property in the Neighbourhood. Mr Williamson had lived at St. Peter's for 23 years, during the last three years the smells had become offensive, twenty-three years ago the water in the creek was good, but now it is most offensive, had seen nightsoil on defendant's premises, had heard other Gardeners use it, ...had not heard that the defendant's ground had been a place on which nightsoil may be deposited,....Thomas Harris, a gardener, and a thirty-five years resident of Botany,..did not experience any stench from defendant's garden ...there are Chinamen's gardens next to the defendant's and they take in nightsoil, sickly and deadly stanches arise from Sheas Creek, into which the matter from boiling-down establishments are thrown....case closed...defendant to take trial.*

Anniversary day, or as we say, Australia Day, comes round once more with no great difference from twenty-first century activities.

27th January 1880 - BOTANY.....*From an early hour...coached and omnibuses, all loaded with passengers, might be seen hastening on to Botany, which has long been a place which people of all classes regard as one of the most enjoyable places where a holiday may be pleasantly spent. The attractions of Corry's gardens and the well-kept Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, with its botanical gardens, have secured for that favoured spot such fame that no visitors coming to spend coming to spend a short term in Sydney ...be allowed to leave without being asked to spend a day at Botany. Yesterday the road was thronged with vehicles of every description...one wonders how...in so crowded a thoroughfare, so few accidents occur...all these places had a great number of visitors....the gardens were visited.....the amusements at the monster pavilion, where two brass bands discoursed good*

sic, were remarkably well patronised. Those who love to trip the light fantastic had every facility afforded them for enjoying themselves....the grand minstrel troupe performed in the afternoon....there were quoits, skittles and the like for those who preferred amusing themselves with games of such character. ...Botany was the scene of great animation and gaiety.

The government appears to have decided to spend money on a new wharf.

February 1880 ACCEPTED TENDERSJ. Nightingale, construction of a wharf at Botany.

The transport revolution begins and a wharf is built.

March 1880 TRAMWAY TO BOTANY - extension of the tramway system to Botany.....the Government had promised....there should be a tramway to Bunnerong Road but now it appeared that it was only to go as far as the Waterloo gates....and that the line would be constructed as to carry not only passengers, but goods.."already determined that Botany should be included in the general scheme...glad that the residents of the district regarded it as so great a boon, and that it was expected to give such good returns.." ..the £300 intended for the erection of a wharf might now be used in making approaches to it, as the wharf itself had been built by the Government.

April 1880 - COURSING -Mr Lord's dogs have left Botany for the City of the Plains. They seem to have had a good off season, and those brindles of his will be hard to beat.

Bathurst is the city of the plains.

Another brush with fame, Bannerman, played in what is regarded as the first test match between England and Australia and was 29 when he took on the task of beating Albert, whoever he is.

June 1880 - PEDESTRIANISM -Charles Bannerman, the well-known cricketer, and Albert, who has gained renown as a "sprinter", met at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, Botany, over a 100 yards spin.." ..both men were well backed at evens.....Bannerman was first to show in front, and led by a couple of feet, when Albert made a good effort 20 yards from home, and was only beaten by a few inches.

Another sporting activity sponsored by Mr. G. Lee Lord, a son of Simeon.

June 1880 -PIGEON SHOOTING -The first meeting of the recently formed New South Wales Gun Club will be held.....on a piece of ground at Botany, placed at its disposal by Mr G. Lee Lord. The club now has a large roll of members, and fully 30 of them will take part.....to keep the ground select.....non-members shall be admitted upon invitation.

Mr. H. E. Lord, should take out the winner's trophy, which had been presented by Mr G. Lee Lord.

June 1880 - NEW SOUTH WALES GUN CLUB -Mr C. Lee Lord ..one of the most prominent promoters of the club, and to his generosity it...now possesses a well-situated piece of ground near Botany, which is held upon a pepper- Cohen rental. This ground, which lies about a quarter of a mile to the right of the waterworks...has been enclosed by a substantial Pauling fence, which forms a boundary of 100 yards each way from the trap, and here was held the opening meeting of the new club. The attendance was small, as non-members are only admitted upon invitation, select, and there was an absence of the "rough" element too often seen at public matches....the shooting was first- class...127 birds were accounted for out of 179 shot at....Mr H. E. Lord, the winner grassed his 14 without a

miss.

A conflict of business interests, Mr. Beaumont with his Sir Joseph Banks Hotel and Mr. Berry with his diverse manufacturing interests.

September 1880 - NUISANCE by a GLUE and MANURE MANUFACTORY -John Sugden Berry.....did at Botany...unlawfully and injuriously boil and steam large quantities of parts of cattle and other animals for the purpose of manufacturing glue, tallow, and patent manure whereof diverse smokes, smells and stenches were caused, impregnating and polluting the air...the premises comprise of two or three acres , and are situated a little off Botany Road.....Sub-inspector Waters visited.....passed two large vats in which were boiling sheep's heads, bullocks' heads, and other like material, and lying about were a great number of heads, trotters and hoofs...a great deal of, which he thought offensive, especially the processes of making glue and patent manure, which he saw on the occasion of the second visit...the smell..very offensive.....William Beaumont deposed he had a property..within a quarter of a mile....he passed the premises and andexperienced a very offensive smell...he frequently smelt it at Correy's Gardens, half a mile away....defendant's showed every desire ..for the removal of bad odours."which would require time to carry out.....no course open but to send defendant to a superior court...if in the meantime, the nuisance should be abated...that would be an end to the matter.

This is probably a race over 150 yards. An English professional runner, in 1887, took 14 and a 1/2 seconds to cover this distance.

October 1880 PEDESTRIANISM - APPLITT V. CARVER FOR £200.....the match came off at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel." in the presence of between 3,000 and 4,000 spectators. The track chosen was on the flat from the gardens to the hotel, and had been carefully prepared and roped.....five or six breaks-away were indulged...before ...drew the trigger to an even start....Carver being the quickest in moving, and at 80 yards, led Applitt by about a yard,.....the western districts man settled his stride and began to close in.....he drew level when a third of the journal was covered. The pair ran together for another 10 yardsthe ex-champion gradually came away, and at 120 yards Carver was struggling three yards in the rear. In the next 10 yards Applitt threw his arm up and ran that way until within five yards of the post, winning very comfortably by a yard and a half.

This epidemic of 1881 -1882, is believed to be the worst in that century to effect settlers in Sydney, with 154 cases reported and 40 dead. The numbers killed during these epidemics of the 19th century are small in comparison with the many aboriginal deaths in the early 1800's.

June 1881 - SMALLPOX IN SYDNEY - The Chinese quarters of Waterloo and Botany came in for inspection.....these districts have large market gardens, to,each of which is attached a small hut, in which from four to,six Chinese, the growers of vegetables, herd together. The huts were found dirty, and near each of them was a manure pit, filled with noisome refuse, but owing to the large area of ground around each domicile, the fowl smells emanating from them. were not regarded as being so dangerous as the overcrowded haunts of the Mongolians in other neighbourhoods.one Chinamen, one of a family of seven, was missing from a certain hovel...a Celestial,seeing the doctor and sergeantdecamped ...officers started in pursuit and caught the fugitive, ...he explained he was

only going to call his countrymen, so that they might roll up to pass inspection. This proved to be the case, and the men being summoned were found to muster to the right number and to be perfectly healthy. Not a single case of sickness was found...but the doctor ordered disinfectants to be freely. It was found that the boiling-down establishment at Botany gave out a most offensive odour

There's no great sense of inflation when these prices are compared with those of May 1879.

June 1881 -BUILDING MATERIALS - Botany and Cook's River (shell) lime is quoted at 1s 1d per bushel delivered in Sydney, Redfern lime, also, delivered in the city, brings from £2 12s 6d to £3 per ton.

There appears to be a need for education in the area. Of the 128 persons from Botany married at St. Peter's Church, Cooks River, from 1839 to 1894, 30 signed with a cross. Sophia Douglas did so when she married William Puckeridge in December of 1889, as did Joseph Frank in marrying Margaret Hort, in May of 1891.

July 1881 - NEW PUBLIC SCHOOLS - It is proposed to establish public schools at Botany, to be known as Botany No 3 and Golspie.

This dispute is between Frank Smith, now the owner of what is called the Sir Joseph Banks Pavilion and a Mr. Renwick. The Hotel now appears to be a separate entity.

December 1881 - SMITH. V. RENWICK -an action for trespass against the Government. The plaintiff claimed under a Crown grant certain lands, now part of Sir Joseph Banks' Pavilion and grounds at Botany. He alleged that the defendant entered the ornamental grounds, and much damage by breaking fences, destroying small buildings, and so on. The defendant pleaded that by the deed of the grant 100 feet above high water mark was reserved by the Crown. On this the whole question turned. The original grant was in 1834. The plaintiff said that since that time the sea had encroached gradually. The defendant said the sea had not encroached, and justified the trespass as being within the terms of the original grant....verdict for the defendant.

Even in 1882, much of what was Botany has gone, the writer being only relieved of his melancholy by a visit to the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel.

In an Illustrated Guide to Sydney of 1882:

BOTANY, During holiday season, is often made accessible by steamer, skirting "round the rough and rugged rocks," but on ordinary occasions we may take the tram-car- fare, 6d. which runs at short intervals from the terminus, Bridge Street, direct to Botany; or we may hire a cab, and so take a more extended drive round the historic region of Botany Bay. We pass through Redfern and Waterloo, thriving suburbs, almost part of the city. On the road are large kerosene works just beyond Waterloo. Market gardens have usurped the place of the bright epacris and the varied baronia. Vegetable life is but the counterpart of animal life-the uncultured must give way. There are of course, a few specimens of wild flora, but in nothing like their old magnificence. Those who remember the road to Botany in years gone by are not surprised at the name given by the first discoverer referred to in our introduction. We know most of the wild flower regions of the colony, but none to compare in variety and richness with Botany, as it was. Midway on our journey a signboard "o'er the road" announces the welcome Half-way House. Arrived at the Bay we pay our respects to Captain Cook's companion by drinking a health in the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel. At this

place of public resort are well-kept gardens, quoit grounds, skittle alley, dancing pavillion- in fact, all the surroundings necessary to brush away the cobwebs of the city from the brains of excursionists. The historic ground whereon Captain Cook first set foot is marked by a brass tablet, and here, too, is the column "A la memoire de Monsieur de la Perouse," the intrepid French explorer, who was just too late to carry out his intention of annexing this great land to la belle France, and whose melancholy end the world of science deeply deplored. "Strolling on the sands," we see the waterworks that supply Sydney, well worth inspection, the spongy ground and sand beds around forming splendid reservoirs and filters for the water. The service pipes are filled by pumping to an elevation sufficient for gravitation. No visitor should leave our shores without first visiting that spot wheron might fly the flag of all nations; where civilization first planted its ensign on a continent known to the Chinese (1619), seen by the Dutch (1606), patent to the Spanish (1605), declared British by Cook, assisted in his researches by Sir Joseph Banks, and sacred to France through the gallant La Perouse.

The joy of the modern is quickly lost in the problems it brings. The modern being the steam tram.

May 1882 - OPENING OF THE BOTANY TRAMWAY - *the Botany tramway was opened for public use, and the liberal patronage bestowed on the different trams, and the satisfaction expressed at the completion of the contract, augur well for the success of this line.....the run out was accomplished in about an hour, and every curve and junction worked splendidly.....at Botany there was not much excitement, as so early an opening was not expected, but subsequently the arrival and departure of each tram was made the occasion of mild demonstration....on the return journey a short halt was made at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, where the company.....drank success to the Botany tramway, and the tram arrived at Hunter-street ...having been only 45 minutes on the journey from Botany.*



Steam tramway to Botany built by Thos. Wearne of Sydney (Pinterest -5 96x440)

June 1882- FATAL TRAMWAY ACCIDENT AT BOTANY -James Hamblet, was run over by a tramcar on the Botany-road.....the tram left Botany...the motor was pulling two cars, both of which appeared pretty full of passengers.....all the lamps were lighted, and the cars arrived at the Gardener's Lane loop, where they were stopped to allow the down train to pass. ...after proceeding about 20 yards ...a man was running towards the tram.....caught hold of the hand rail with both hands and immediately dropped across the line.....the driver pulled updeceased pulled from from between the two front wheels of the car nearest the motorthere was a by-law prohibiting persons getting into cars while in motion.....no blame attached to the officials connected with the tramcar.

July 1882 -the "swell mob" of Sydney.....it is impossible to escape them...on Sunday's, or general holiday,the various suburban trams rack with their filthy language. ."the Botany trams especially are fairly "tabooed" on these days to our wives and families.I have heard many young tradesmen declare they would never go to Botany again in the trams.....going to Botany is not so bad as returning from it. Botany is beyond the five-mile ring which environs Sydney with grog-taps on a Sunday. The "swell mob" go to that pleasant watering place generally sad and sober, but after they have been there a couple of hours, they come back to town in a state of offensive exuberance....their black coats and gold chains make a striking contrast to their foul and obscene language....the Botany trams only run hourly on week days, and on Sunday's they ran every quarter of an hour....passengers conveyed to Botany were regarded under the Licensing Act as bona-fide travellers and therefore could obtain drink.

August 1882 -another accident occurred on the tram to Botany....the tram arrived at Gardener's Lane loop, the scene of a previous accident, the unfortunate man who was standing on the back platform of the first carriage with a bag of corn, attempted to get off the tram which was still in motion, but fell with his legs under the guard board of the second car.....the tram stopped and I 'twas necessary to use a lever ...before he could be extricated.....his right leg was fractured as well as both bones of his left leg.....it was considered not necessary to amputate either limb.

November 1882 - TRAMWAY GRIEVANCE -habitually objectionable proceedings on the line between Sydney and Botany.....one tram car leaves....and reaches Botany a distance of six or seven miles - occupying 45 minutes, this could be achieved ...in one third of the time.....frequent stoppages occurred every five minutes...when returning from Botany the tramcars were stopped opposite the Waterworks Hotel, and the engine driver and fireman were compelled to ...use shovels to clear off the macadamised road material pushed on the rails by travelling sheep.....

Whatever happened to the little German band?

November 1882 -The German Association will hold its annual picnic at Correy' s Gardens, Botany, as this always proves a most enjoyable outing.....At the Sir Joseph Banks' grounds, that genial caterer, Mr Frank Smith will provide and immense programme.....including a strong groups of negro minstrels.

A price comparison between Sydney and Melbourne. You may ask is Botany receiving any of this piped water, and at the price would they want it?

February 1883 ...the city engineerthe cost of water is not unreasonable when compared

to the other colonies. In Melbourne the cost of waterper 1,000 it is 8d. Here in Sydney it is no less than 2s 6d per 1,000 gallons, which, notwithstanding it has to be pumped from Botany, is most extravagant.

Has the tram brought a less desirable element to Botany? The cultured classes must be encouraged, those who might at least listen to part of a lecture, before opting for music and song.

June 1883 - SUNDAY ENTERTAINMENT AT BOTANY - *The first ofa series of Sunday afternoon lectures and classical entertainment was given in the large pavilion in connection with the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel...admission was by ticket, price 1s.....there was yesterday a total absence of the larrikin element as regarded Botany, whether in the tramcars or at the place itself....the audience. ...was of a most respectable and orderly character and numbered about 500.....a lecture on Captain Cook.... had to be cut short in order that the vocal and musical part of the entertainment might be proceeded.*

The tram indeed had brought the wrong sort of people!

June 1883 - BATHING AT BOTANY - *Botany is not at any time a pleasant place for bathing, the foreshore being too shallow, far-reaching andand stinking.beyond the disagreeabilities of Botany as a bathing place itself, it seems that some who bathe there add mental to the physical horror of the place....a letterwhich tells things about " bathing at Botany" that surpasses in immorality the " etablissement des bains" or the performance of the rites of the "Bona Des" with the accompanying coarseness to which even pigsties ate strangers. ...people who like to leave the crowded city and closer suburbs....respectable people visiting Botany...should be made unwilling witnesses to indecency and unwilling hearers of obscenity.....a number of young women went bathing nearly opposite the tramway terminus at Botany and were watched with critical eyes, and commented on with the most disgusting language by some men standing on the shore....the scene at Botanyoutraged humanity and shocked all that was decent....the matter is the police ...where were they whilst beasts were bathing and brutes looking on.....it is within the province of the police to see that at least common decency is observed at Botany.*

The tram also brings death.

October 1883 Killed by Tram - Richard Sayers....*was killed by a tram on the Botany line.. he was under the influence of liquor, but was able to take care of himself...was killed at the Gardeners-lane loop.....William Henry Harrison, temporary fireman deposed... the tram....consisted of two cars and a motor.....reached the Gardeners-lane loop,,,pulled up as usual, and immediately after starting ...saw deceased about 12 yards ahead on the left hand side of the footpath...walking in the direction of Botany...turned around to ask driver a question in reference to the steam gauge..he felt the engine give a jerk...never saw the deceased until he was taken out from under the car....the tram had not gone more than 14 or 15 yards when he felt the jerk.....Robert Rossbridge....saw the deceased about five yards in front of the tram motor....was on footpath, staggered on to the line, and was struck by the motor and knocked down ...appeared to be drunk, and had a bottle in his hand; the motor and the first bogey of the front car passed over him.*

December 1883 THE LATE TRAMWAY ACCIDENT Robert Hogg..*died from the effects of injuries received on the Botany tram line. Martha Hogg deposed...appeared perfectly sober,*

..left home to go to Botany to see the sports. Charles Schwertman, tram conductor, ..tram consisted of two cars and a motor, both were overcrowded at the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, he succeeded in getting about 25 passengers off, half a dozen of whom were worse for liquor, each car would carry about 60 passengers but there were more than that number on.....when they left the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel there were some half a dozen passengers standing on each of the car platforms, just before starting they were told to get off.....persons standing on the platform and stairs refused to obey my orders...tram had proceeded as far as the Lord's-road curve when someone called out 'A man overboard', the tram was stopped and the deceased found lying in the middle of the road.....these persons entered the tram in spite of my warning, I pulled them off from the front of the car, but they got on again at the back and refused to leave.

Strange that the venue for this athletic event is given but the quite legal boxing match, under Marquis of Queensberry rules, (using gloves) is not.

December 1883 - PEDESTRIANISM - Two well-known "peds", Logen and Geddes, met...for 150 yards spin for the sum of £20 a side. Notwithstanding the counter attractions, a good number assembled to witness the event. The men were sent away to a good start.....Logan gaining a slight lead, which he held until within 20 yards from home, when Geddes passed him and won by a yard....

March 1884 - A glove contest, under the Marquis of Queensberry rules, took place at Botany....in the presence of 200 spectators. The contestants were two amateurs....G Seale, well known in cricketing and football circles, and J. Tight; the bout was for a trophy. ...though the men faced each other for five rounds, Seale showed unmistakable superiority from the start, and could have brought matters to a termination sooner than he did.

November 1884; CORONER'S INQUESTS. The City Coroner, Mr. H. Shiell, held an inquest yesterday at the Agricultural Hall, in the Domain, on the body of Stephen Harper, who died from the effects of injuries which he sustained by jumping off a tramcar while it was in motion in Elizabeth-street, last Monday night. The body was identified by Henry Harper, a brother of the deceased, who died at Bishop-street, St. Peters. He stated that his brother Stephen had always been a sober and industrious man, and formerly lived in Rickety-street, Botany. John Higg, who with deceased on the night in question, deposed that Harper jumped off the car while it was in motion; he was struck by the footboard and afterwards dragged along the ground for a short distance; the tram was speedily brought to a standstill, and the man was picked up from underneath the car; deceased was black in the face when picked up; he was quite sober at the time of the occurrence, and had been used to riding on the trams; assisted to convey the man to the Sydney Hospital, where he died shortly after being admitted. Benjamin Skinner, the conductor, detailed the facts of the accident as far as he knew them, and the medical evidence was to the effect that death resulted from fracture of the skull. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

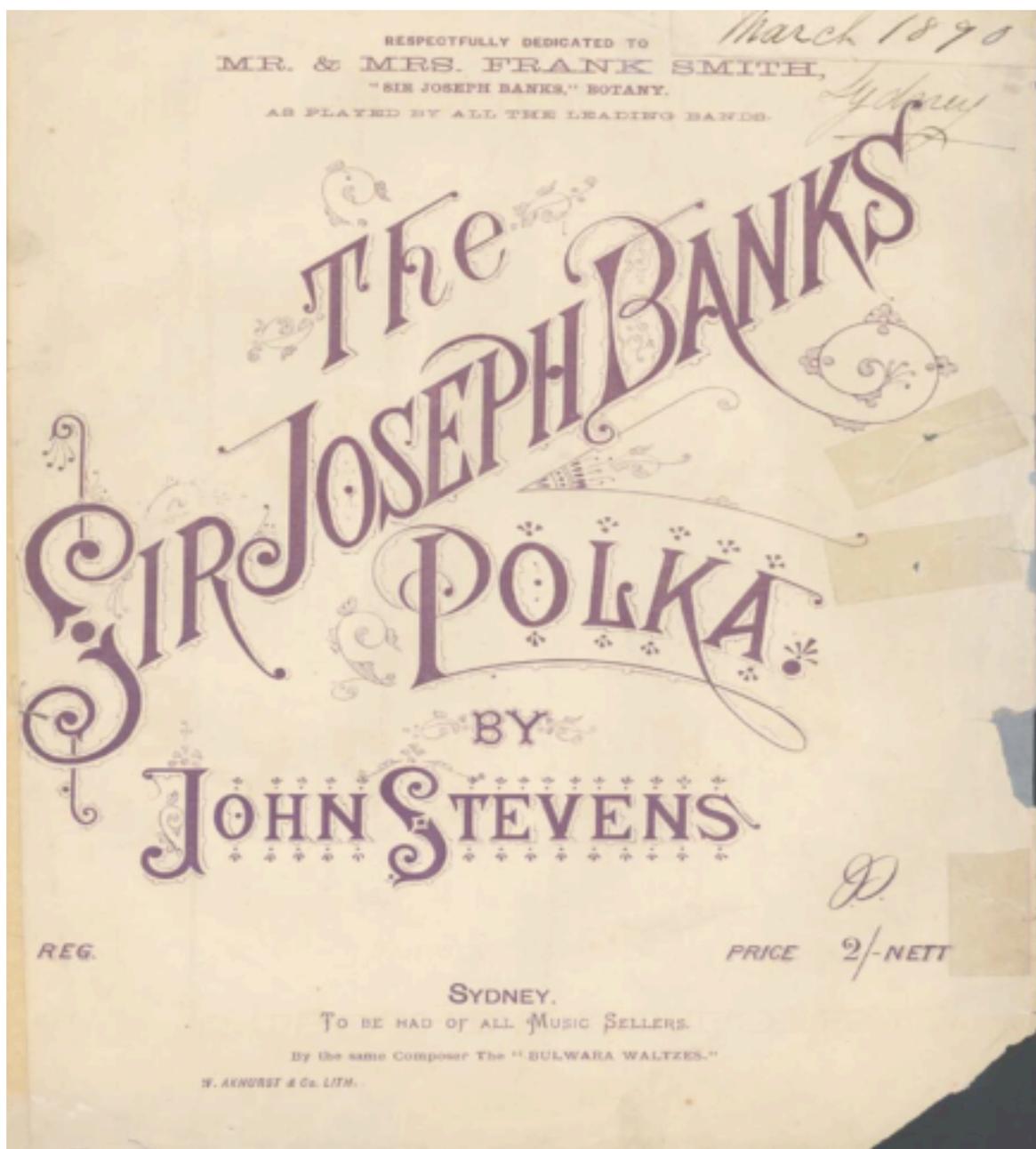
The sense of isolation in parts of Botany persists in spite of the introduction of the tram.

December 1884. Edward Mitchell, 71 years of age, was reported by his wife yesterday morning as having been missing from his residence, 80, George-street, Redfern, since 6 o'clock on Sunday evening. His body was discovered about 2 p.m. yesterday lying on the sand hills near Johnston's wool-washing establishment, on the Botany-road. His throat

was cut, and a razor covered with blood was clenched in his right hand. He had been dead for some hours. The matter was reported to the Redfern police, and the body conveyed to the morgue by Constable Fox. The deceased was said to be of weak intellect.

Let's dance the polka on the grass at Botany, where there is much to delight in

December 1884 - Mr John Stevens, composer of the "Bulwarra Waltzes" has published the "Sir Joseph Polka", especially dedicated to Mr and Mrs Frank Smith, the pollard proprietors of the pavilion at Botany. The polka is in a well-marked rhythm and a good bold style, clearly printed, and will find favour, apart from that which its title will bring, in many quarters. it has been arranged for an orchestra, and has been adapted to meet the resources of holiday bands.....



(National Library of Australia)

May 1885 - AMUSEMENTS AT BOTANY - *Botany was one of the favoured resorts...and judging by the crowded conditions of the trams, several thousands of people must have visited the locality. Sir Joseph Banks pleasure grounds were literally thronged throughout the day.....music for the dancers in the spacious pavilion and a variety entertainment was also given from the adjoining stage which overlooks the grounds. t Kelly's Tea Gardens a number of picnics were held.....The steamer Young Mat made several trips from Botany pier to Georges River - and carried a large number of passengers on each occasion.*

Some insight into the Chinese at Botany.

September 1885 - MISSION TO THE CHINESE - *.....the erection of the first church for the Chinese in the colony at Botany which was nearly completed,..would shortly be opened for divine service.*

December 1886 - SUBURBAN GARDENERS *.....In many suburban districts those holding land for garden purposes are almost exclusively Chinese - as at Botany.....the Chinese it is believed, without exception, cultivate for profit alone, and who as a rule sell their vegetables at the Belmore Market.*

In 1886 the appearance Sheas Creek creek, where it ran through the Chinese gardens and was utilised for growing watercress and irrigating vegetable beds, could hardly be said to give one an appetite for eating lettuces and cresses, but as to the other vegetables nourished by the waters of Shea's Creek, it was said, no harm was likely to result to the consumer if the vegetables were thoroughly boiled before using them.

March 1887 - ST PATRICK'S DAY, At Botany...during the day something like 15,000 people attended the various sports at Sir Joseph Banks, Botany..... A procession of about 700 proceeded from St Benedict' s Church to the Redfern terminus. The different officers and members of the various societies were clad in the customary regalia.....high jump...collar and elbow wrestling.....St Patrick's Day handicap...five mile amateur bike race....walking handicap..... mile foot- race ...hurling match...tug of war.

County Kildare, Ireland was known for excellent Collar-and-Elbow wrestling of the jacket style. The opponents grip with one hand the others collar and with the other hand the other the opponent's sleeve by the elbow tightly. It then becomes a contest of pulling the other off balance, by employing various sweeping, tripping or throwing techniques. No longer velocipedes, the five bike race appears to have been on a circuit.

Continued innovation at the Sir Joseph Banks Pavilion, not the 'Hotel'.

July 1887 - SKATING CONTEST AT BOTANY - *A roller skating competition took place at the Sir Joseph Banks Pavilion, Botany....and the event proved very enjoyable to those assembled to witness the sport. A handsome gold medal, value £5 5s, was offered to the skater who accomplished a mile in the shortest time.." ...the men got away well together on the report of the pistol being heard, and a splendid match ensued....Walsh won by about 12 yards, in a shade under 5 minutes.*

The Sands Directory of 1887, a work which probably have been collated the previous year, lists fourteen homes where the householder was a fisherman, the 1888 edition appears to have only one.

August 1887 - MEETING OF FISHERMEN - *At Botany a meeting of fishermen was held to consider the advisability of forming a union in New South Wales.on account of the*

many difficulties the fishing industry had to contend with....the Governments of New South Wales in the past had done little to help and foster this very important industry, the fishermen of Botany had determined to put themselves in position Whence influence might be brought to bear upon the Government to foster and assist it.....the following resolution was adopted "that...at this meeting of the fishermen of Botany, it is desirable that a union be formed..... for their mutual protection and advancement.

The Sands Directory of 1888, lists twenty one homes where the householder had a Chinese name. If the numbers here are true, they were amazingly fecund and knew how to accommodate people in a limited space. The word 'heathen' also seems inappropriate, an entry in the Sands of 1887, has a Chinese Anglican Church, with the Rev. Tear Tack, officiating, on the east side of Botany-road, Tramway street being the cross street.

November 1887 - THE premier and the Heathen "Chinee" - A deputation waited on the Premier...to ask him to stop the Chinese Gardeners living in the neighbourhood of Botany, from working in their various gardens on Sunday. It was alleged that between 800 and 1,000 of them thus "desecrated the Sabbath". The deputation confined their objections to the Chinese working, and made no reference whatsoever to the trams and trains that were run and the general dealing in tobacco, refreshments, fruit etc. transacted by what in contradistinction to heathendom may be called the Christian part of the community. ...Sir Henry Parkes pointed outthe law provides that no shops shall be opened, but it does not say no field or garden shall be cultivated people must be left to exercise the liberty which is given to them so long as they do not absolutely annoy other people or deprive them of any portion of their liberty....if a man chooses to dig his garden on Sunday it may shock the religious man next door, but it is difficult to see how how we can interfere with him.....I shall probably instruct the police to visit these people, and caution them, though I do,not like cautioning people when I have no power in the matter.

Published in 1880, 'The Flower Queen' is a tonic sol-fa cantata, music by G. F. Root, with libretto attributed to Fanny Crosby. The Band of Hope worked among children to encourage temperance in adult life.

February 1888 - An interesting entertainment was given ..at the Botany School of Arts by the local Band of Hope. "The Flower Queen" was performed before a large audience...the entertainment was a very successful one.

The Volunteer Army Reserve were on the ground at Botany, but may not have been resided in the area.

February 1888 - Members of N0 12, V.A.R. Botany, held their annual meeting at the orderly room.....about 40 members...were present. Captain Boyd congratulated the members on their regular attendance, and their progress in drill during the past year....the roll was complete (60), and the efficient for the year were 48; he believed more efficient than any other reserve corps in the colony. Not having the 80-pounder mounted till end of the year, on the water reserve, Botany, prevented complete drill at the guns, therefore, the battery was not successful in winning any prize at the gun competition; but Colonel Bingham expressed himself satisfied at the general drill of the battery. Captain Boyd drew attention to the warlike aspect of affairs in Europe, and doubted not, that should the volunteers of the colony be called out No 2 Battery would do its duty.

This race, possible of 150 yards, but with some runners being given as much as 20 yards start, makes an assessment of the competitors difficult.

March 1888 - BOTANY HANDICAP - *The second and third round of heats and the final heat in connection with the fourteenth Sir Joseph Banks Handicap were run at Botany....on the cinder track at Mr. Frank Smith's athletic grounds.....the weather was all that could be desired for pedestrians and the public....The attendance was very large being between 5.000 and 6.000 persons present among whom were a large number of ladies. The prizes were....First prize, 150 sovereigns and a gold chronograph, second prize 30 sovereigns, third prize 20 sovereigns, fourth prize 10 sovereigns, and 5 sovereigns each to the winners of two heats. The running was excellent, all events being very keenly contested. C.E. Warn, on the 20 and 1/2 yards mark ..favourite,..succeeded in obtaining first place, after a grand race in the finals its R. Walker about two yards behind him,,,second, G. Smith...a good third....the time occupied in running the event 12 and 1/2 seconds....Warn's victory was a popular one.*

Trams, both deadly and disorganised!

March 1888 - FATAL ACCIDENT AT BOTANY - *....a man named Henry Smith..was killed while making a journey to Botany on a tram....he joined the tram from Sydney at Waterloo, and stood by the side of his son on the footboard, there being no seats available. On the arrival of the tram in the neighbourhood of Collins-street, Beaconsfield Estate, the son's shoulder was grazed by a verandah post. The father...tried to save his son from falling, and in doing so his own head struck the post. Both men fell to the ground. the father was picked up unconscious...taken to Prince Alfred Hospital, where life was found to be extinct.....the son was taken home suffering from Internet injuriesin the interest of public safety, the distance between verandah posts and the tram rail, where the accident occurred should be made greater.*

March 1888 - ST PATRICK'S DAY - *The tram ride to Botany was a kind of punishment that night well counteract whatever anticipations of pleasure were entertained by the excursionists. The waste of time and the choking dust and grit were experiences the gave strong recommendation to the omnibus lines, which did a splendid trade both ways. The parole began to assemble at the Sir Joseph Banks grounds about midday, and the gathering increase to about 15,000. Inside the grounds there was a delightful escape from the wind and dust, and under the bright sunlight the gardens looked their best. Dancing went on all the afternoon in the pavilion, some side shows were at work within the grounds.*

April 1888 - TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD - *.....a state of thingsin connection with the tramways conductors. At Botany, where the tram conductors are allowed an hour for their meals, they have a man told off to make a fire and boil water for them to make tea with; but in the city, at Bridge-street, they are not allowed this privilege, and the men...have to do the best they can. They have only ten minutes ..and then have to take charge of another tram, have their meal when they can, and drink, in connection with their meal, the best that can get. Why not have boiling water at Bridge- street? Is this the way to, encourage conductors to be tea-totallers? Those who are not a strainers get a glass of beer...what happens if they meet a friend and have a second glass, and it,happens to be shot day? It must certainly take effect on the.....they would not,be able to,do,their*

duty.....whenever they can find time to boil water at Bridge-street, they have to boil it in a kerosene tin,...at Botany they have a copper placed there. Trusting that some attention will be given to this state of affairs...and they shall all have hot water supplied for their use....A SUFFERER'S FRIEND.

Two wharfs at Botany;

APRIL 1888 - TENDER ACCEPTED - *George Hairs and George E. Class, for leasing of the public wharfs at Lord's-road and Banks Meadow, Botany, for a term of three years from 13th April, 1888.*

The Australia diet has a grand tradition.

April 1888- *"The Chinese Question in Australia, edited by L. Kong Meng, Cheong Hong Cheong, and Louis Ah Moy."in a climate like ours , vegetable food, is absolutely necessary for, women and children. Diggers and shepherds thrive on mutton, but the white-faced children about Sydney would be still less robust if fruit and vegetables were more costly that they are now.meat is the cheapest food in Sydney, and if vegetables were not grown by the Chinese Gardeners at Botany, Newtown, North Shore.....and brought to our doors by Chinese hawkers, the poor could scarcely procure them.....no people in the world get so much out of land as the Chinese. Half-a-dozen reclaim three or four acres of swamp land, and work it with the assiduity of gold-workers.*



(Sydney Illustrated News)

Interesting that even those who are not happy as to the way Chinese people are treated still refer to them as Mongolian. The other word commonly used by journalists is 'celestial'.

May 1888 TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD - *In my peregrinations through the city I am frequently a witness to the indignities heaped upon the heads of the Chinese amongst us.....upon more than one occasion ...am expectant Mongolian waiting at the street corner..after apparent difficulty satisfying himself that a certain tram was for Botany, make a rush to get on, when the guard, who had been watching his movements, would hurriedly start the tram and go off chuckling...while the would-be passenger would be left to trudge home or await the next, when possibly the same despicable action would be repeated.*

Be it noted that the Sir Joseph Banks Pavilion, not the Hotel, is the centre for leisure activities

June 1888 - CENTENNIAL MUNICIPAL PICNIC - *An entertainment of a somewhat novel character took place at Botany yesterday,when a gathering of mayors, aldermen and ex- aldermen of the city and suburban municipalities was held at the Sir Joseph Banks grounds....the entertainment took the form of a garden party and banquet and about 160 ladies and gentlemen attended. Music was provided in the pavilion, those who, were inclined indulged in dancing ,...older members of the party strolled about the beautiful grounds, or played cricket or quoits..... A novel sight to see...most of them of mature age, clad in tall hats and black coats, playing cricket the the ardour of schoolboys.*

The topography of certain areas of Botany seems to be little changed in 100 years.

June 1888 - MILITARY - *In accordance with new regulations.....a general whole day parade of metropolitan permanent , and partially paid forces was held.....the main feature was a sham fight, which took place on the Bunnerong-road, near Botany". The general idea of the engagement was that a hostile force had landed at Botany and was endeavouring to reach Sydney by way of this road, defensive positions were being taken up by one of our forces at a point about four miles from Randwick. Over 600 men took part in the affair.....the engagement was carried on with great spirit all day.....the defenders at last retiring into a position which they had strengthened with earthworks during the morning. The men behaved on the whole extremely well, and showed great endurance I going through their hard day's work amongst the broken ground and dense scrub in the locality.....experience gained by this field day is of extreme value, as the approach defended on this occasion is one which an enemy would very probably endeavour to reach Sydney by.*

Another reference to a Chinaman, probably a market gardener at North Botany, the area which later became Mascot.

June 1888 - *..... a Chinamanfound lying in an insensible condition on Lord's-road, at North Botany. The Mongolian's lips were smeared with opium, and on being searched an empty horn jar, which bore evidence of having contained a small quantity of the drug, together with the sum of 2s 2 and 1/2 d, was found in his pockets. he was taken to Sydney Hospitalexamined....the patients was suffering from narcotise poisoning...and applied a stomach pump and administered an antidote.*

The 'lantern' is a magic lantern, a projector of large glass slides, a technological wonder spanning the period from 1840-1930, and still in use in this author's childhood. What joy to find the slides of the Botany market gardens.

June 1888 IRRIGATION FOR AUSTRALIAN LANDS - *A public lecture on 'Irrigation as*

a means of improving the character and prospects of our cultivation' ...illustrations of land in its unimproved state and when irrigated, the fixtures being photographs...amongst them being a series of views of the irrigation farm at Botany, which was described as being of very great value for those desirous of seeing how water is put upon land in the very best manner.

A glimpse into the world of today.

June 1888 ELECTRIC TRAM MOTOR - *A very successful trial of an electric tram motor was made ...on the tramline between Sydney and Botany. ...the trial was witnessed by between 200 and 300 gentlemen, who were conveyed to and from Botany by a special tram...the car was at Botany taken for several spins by the electrical engineer ..who pointed out to the passengers various peculiarities in construction.*

A murder, and the last woman hanged in N.S.W.

July 1888 - CORONER'S INQUEST - SUSPICIOUS DEATH OF A MAN AT BOTANY.

An inquest was commenced Touching the death of Michael Peter Collins, who died under suspicious circumstances. Louisa Collins, widow of the deceased, who appeared to, be in an excited state, deposed she resided at People's Terrace, Botany-road, Botany.....was married to the deceased in April 1887had been previously married, first husband died ...February 1887.....Inquiry adjourned.

The extraordinary and mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of Michael Collins ...have now assumed alarming aspects....the Coroner had finished his analysis and had found...a large quantity of arsenic, sufficient to cause death. The police to place Louise Collins...under arrest.....requisite warrants for exhumation of the body of the first husband, also a child (of which the deceased was the father)..... the symptoms preceding the death of all three were similar in all aspects..... Coroner to the jury: We have this fact demonstrated that the deceased died for arsenic poisoning; the question now is, by whom was it administered?

Surely nothing to do with the literacy or insularity of the Botany Community?

July 1888 - POSTAL ARRANGEMENT AT NORTH BOTANY - *....a post and telegraph office was badly needed in the township....at present there was only a receiving-office, the nearest post-office being two and a half miles distant.....at present the post-office in the Botany district only yielded a revenue of £318 per annum, while the expenditure was £515. The question was whether the prospect of an increase of postal business was sufficient to warrant extra expenditure.*

The representatives of the Municipality of Botany flex their muscle.

July 1888 - WAITING ROOM AT BOTANY - *The Minister for Works was interviewed by a deputation representing the municipality of Botany...they requested that a ditch on the Botany-road be filled in, that awaiting room for passengers be erected at Gardener's loop, that the tram service be improvedhe was willing to do all he possibly could but it was not expected ...the requests could be granted for a line which did not pay....alterations might be made in the times of running the trams to Botany.*

July 1888; The New South Wales Poultry, Pigeon, Canary, and Dog Society. *This year's exhibition, closed on Saturday night. ...the prize for trussed poultry fell to Mr. S. Hordern,*

for specimens reared at Radford Park, Bowral; and for the best basket of eggs, Mr. G. C. Goddard of Botany, was given the premier position.

A win for someone who put all his eggs in the one basket. The answer as to how eggs are judged is to be found in 'The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gent', by Laurence Stern. August 1888 - THE BOTANY MYSTERY - ...the death of Michael Collins...the coroner's jury found that the deceased met his death by arsenic poisoning, and that the poison was administered by his wife, Louisa, who was committed to trial on a charge of wilful murder.

No. *H 335* Name *Louisa Collins* 84 ✓

Date when Portrait was taken, *27-7-1888*

Natives place *Mc Scone N.S.W.* Year of birth *1849*

Arrested in *Ship* County *Year*

Trade or occupation previous to conviction

Religion *Catholic* Education, degree of *R.F.H.*

Height *5' 3 1/2* inches

Weight *On admission* *On discharge*

Colour of hair *Black* Colour of eyes *Brown*

Marks or special features

Where and when tried *Syd G. D. Dec 8th 1888*

Offence *Murder of Trach?*

Restoration *Death*

Remarks:—

Executed 8th January 1889

Histons, the Chief Justice Darling said, I hold out no hope of mercy for you on earth!!!

(No. of previous Portraits)

PREVIOUS CONVICTIONS

Where and When	Offence	Sentence
	<i>Nil</i>	

Note: This is the first woman executed in Corbett's Court Yard.

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August 1888 - THE BOTANY UNEMPLOYED ... TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD. The sum of £1,500 was placed to the credit ...of the superintendent of roads for the making of Wilson-street and William-street, Botany. The streets in question have been formed, absorbing £60 of the money...since then nothing has been done towards expending the balance of the money, though dozens of unfortunate men, with families depending upon them, have been walking about with nothing to do while it is lying idle.I beg that attention may be drawn to the apathy shown by those who have the laying out of this In 1888, works were carried out at Shea's Creek to Ricketty-street, to afford relief to the 'unemployed'.

Before these works were commenced the locality was little better than a mangrove swamp, covered with malodorous mud and slime at low water and not far short of a malarious fever bed. But, all this is now changed. A channel is being constructed as far as Ricketty-street, 200 ft. wide, and there is now a proposal before the Minister for Works for its extension through Cooper Estate as far as Eveleigh. The effect of these works has been to reclaim some six or seven hundred acres of swamp and render them tolerably dry at all states of the tide; and in addition to this, the river will be dredged to give a depth of 9 ft. at low water, and 14 ft. at high tide, so that it will be available for navigation.

When the minister for works inspected Shea's Creek reclamation works.

They were subjected to malodours described as containing a good deal of everything nauseous. The first part of the voyage was up a stream composed of a black oily liquid, of the consistency of thick pea soup, the channel itself was well defined, the fascine banks bounding a fairly deep stream 250 ft. wide. In many places the banking up has been done successfully, and first rate pasture flats are already developing, as soon as practicable the natural stream - originally a muddy ditch - will be formed into a serviceable creek that will allow vessels of light draught to run alongside the factories that, it is believed, will within a few years be erected in the locality, about £127,000 has been spent on the work.

It was not only the women of Botany that involved themselves in this momentous event, held throughout October in the Exhibition Building Sydney, but N.S.W. and Victoria. See October 1888 for more information.

August 1888 - MEETINGS - *A publish meeting in connection with the Exhibition of Women's Industries, was held at Botany, in the School of Arts...the local delegates of each department were present. Mrs Trivett submitted some rules from the executive of the needlework department, and also received further promises of help. Mrs Dawson and Mrs Wheeler reported on their departments and the horticultural representative for Botany said that eight cottage gardens in the district had been entered for competition. Miss Stephen had received some promises of exhibits, which she kindly undertook to have removed to the exhibition. Mrs Coward, Mayoress on North Botany was also present.*

Some possible reasons why the tram line to Botany was unprofitable.

September 1888. - THE BOTANY TRAM - *More bungling on the Botany tramline.....was caused by the railway picnic. The ordinary trams in the evening have had to deal with the usual as well as special trackwork, becoming overcrowded before leaving Botany, and leaving regular passengers to get to Sydney as best they could; and to ale the case more aggravating still, the picnickers grumbled at special trams leaving early in the afternoon with scarcely any passengers. The new timetable is a disgrace...no tram left Botany for Sydney from 7.45 until 9.22a.m. and the last tram at night from town leaves at 11.28 and as a rule does not carry more than three passengers till it reaches Waterloo....cannot our member - the Minister for Works - be prevailed upon to have the working of this line, about which there are any complaints, looked into and rectified....BOTANY RESIDENT.*

Prize winners from Botany - Miss Pasfield, Miss Hambly, for a cottage garden, Mrs. Hindmarsh for eggs, Mrs. Timbray (native woman) for shell and seaweed work and Rosetta Abraham for Shell Houses. It is suspected that 'Botany' in this report includes La Perouse, There were a number of women also bracketed as 'native woman' who represented La Perouse.

October 1888; The Exhibition of Women's Industries.

This enterprise which for nearly a year has occupied the earnest attention of a large portion of the feminine population of Sydney, and also of the country, is now an accomplished fact; and the thousands of exhibits now gathered in the Exhibition Building ...shews in a marked degree the high standard of hand-sewing to which the women and girls of our colony have attained. In the departments of needlework, lace and knitting about 3000 exhibits have been forwarded; many for "competition only;" others have been made with the aim of benefitting the exhibition by bringing the work before the public and opening a medium for its sale. ...The paper boxes in another place reveal an industry but little considered, but the failure of which would cause serious inconvenience. In this department considerable amusement was caused by the arrival of a number of native women from Botany who brought a collection of baskets for sale; they were delighted at contributing a portion of their work to the show, and will make more baskets. Many people will be glad to buy the work to encourage the poor women, apart from the use they will find for the baskets.

The hurry-scurry race for all kinds of boats tells it how it is; a race which any could enter, not for example restricted to 18 footers.

OCTOBER 1888 - BOTANY SAILING CLUB - ...*inaugurated the opening of their season....with a hurry-scurry race for all kinds of boats.....the course was: From moorings off Botany pier, round a boat at La Perouse, round boar St Sandringham, round a boat at the "Basket" and back to the pier.....Sheet Anchor, well-sailed by Mr Grant, wins by 1m and 50secs, Chance taking second place , and Nordenfeldt third. The steamer Midget, in charge of the Commodore, Mr Fred Thomas, followed the race, and was well filled with members and their lady friends, owing to the heavy seas, the sufferers from mal de mer were numerous*

November 1888 - THE ALLEGED MURDER AT BOTANY -*the accused was tried at the last sittings of the Court, and, the jury failing to agree, the case was remanded until the present sittings....the case lasted three days....the jury after some deliberation, had not agreed.....and they were discharged.*

November 1888 Mr J.J. McFayden...*the first Mayor of Botany...born in Glasgow....settled down ultimately as engineer at the Botany waterworks, where he remained with a slight interruption for about eight years. He took an active interest in politics and all matters of a public nature that had for their object the advancement of the district and with others fought a hard battle to have the district incorporated. ...The district was formed into a municipality in June of this year.*

For any other information on the Mayors and Councillors, read "The History of Botany, 1788-1970, by F.A. Larcombe.

November 1888 - THE HERALD WAYZEGOOSE - *The annual, picnic of the "WAYZEGOOSE" given by the proprietors of the Sydney Morning Herald, the Mail and the Echo to the employees of those journals, took place..at the pleasure grounds of the Sir Joseph Banks Hotel, at Botany.....the company comprising of the staffs of the literary, commercial, and mechanical departments, together with their families and a few friends, in all numbering about 600, were conveyed to,the picnic by special trams.....an extensive*

programme of sports was begun early in the day and completed in time for the return journey....a variety of amusement was provided, including dancing to the music of the Alhambra band, and skating....the circular railway was largely availed of by the children....the luncheon was the marked feature of the gathering.....Mr James R. Fairfax occupied the chair...after the health of the Queen had been honoured...the health of "John Fairfax and Sons" proposed.....of all the days of the year , the occasion of the wayze goose was the happiest.

The origins of the 'Wayzgoose' is an entertainment given by a master printer to his workers around 24th August, St. Bartholomew's Day. It comes from an Old English word to describe a fat goose suitable for stuffing. William Morris would hold a Wayze goose for his employees during the Kelmscott Press Annual Dinner

The final verdict!

December 1888 - Mrs Collins Sentenced to Death - The trial of Louisa Collins for the murder of her husband, Michael Collins, was concluded.....she had previously been placed on trial for the crime, but the jury failed to agree. She was also placed on trial for the murder of her first husband, Andrews, by the same means, poisoning by arsenic.....little was known of the history of the family before the end of 1886. In December of that year the man, Collins, of whose murder the prisoner stood indicted, was living in the home with the prisoner and her then husband. A short time after this he ceased to live in the house as a lodger. In January 1887, Andrews was taken ill, and in February he died. Thirteen daysafter the death of Andrews, the prisoner and Collins were together at advance, the man, Collins, introducing her as though they were married; but it appears that they were not married until April 9. They lived together for the time of the marriage until the month of June 1888, the prisoner having with her the five children of her former husband. ...two of the children were old enough to leave their home...it would appear that they had left. In the month of June Collins was taken ill and on July 8 he died. It was not until the death of the second husband that any suspicion as to the cause of death of the first was aroused. The body was exhumed ...a chemical analysis disclosed the presence of poison....Soon after Andrews death his wife applied for and obtained money for which his life was insured. Mo such motive could have actuated her in respect of Collin's, for his life was not insured. The symptoms attending the death of both men were the same; both were many days dying, but the prisoner was the only person who nursed them. One of the children....her evidence tended to criminal enterprise her. The jury returned a verdict of guiltythe prisoner...rose in the dock...in reply to the usual question said she had nothing to say....appeared quite unmoved by the result of the trial..His honour ...amidst the profound silence of the court, pronounced the last dread sentence of the law, and prisoner, who still appeared perfectly calm and collected, was removed.

An act of mild criminality may well be an appropriate place to end our exhumation.

June 1891 - Sunday Selling - James Park, licences of the New Half-way House Hotel, Botany-road, was carted with selling liquor on Sunday. Constable C Quelch stated he saw a number of men admitted into the defendant's hotel on Sunday morning.....He caught Mrs Park in the act of serving them liquor, and as he taking up one of the glasses of rum she rushed at him and spilt the liquor all over his clothes. Mr Park came out of another room

and said, "Come into the parlour, old boy, till I have a yarn with you." The constable refused...and opened the door to Constable Vane. Augustus Juhrs, one of the men who entered the hotel , stated that he never received a glass of liquor, and that if he had he would have drunk it.seeing how hard it is to get into a hotel on Sunday." William Long ...asked for a glass of rum, but the policeman grabbed it before he received it.....defendant t£3 and 5s 6d costs.



Botany 1888 / 1889

In beginning this work the hope was to present a work which might delight the senses. The less than vision splendid of Botany, a delight in the taste of the rock oyster, the outrageously varied smells from roses to night soil, of sinking into sand, swamp and sea, the sound of sea, of crowds and of the Sir Joseph Banks Polka, and more, but there is a regret that something is missing. That something is the voices of the people, the migrant people. The accents, the dialect words, of those transported from England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and the regional variations within those nations. Neither should we forget aboriginal people, not only learning English, but contributing words and names to that language. Let us do more to recognise the contribution made by those from Europe and China, even within the confines of an area as small as Botany. Given more time, the hope was to discover where Simeon Lord drew his assigned servants from. The suspicion is, that much as Simeon was a Yorkshireman, (think Sam Burgess)

regarding his workers at the mill, he picked workers for their skills, that skill was anything to do with cloth, in particular. Hence we know of note those from Wiltshire, Yorkshire, and Scotland. On that note, I leave you with the thought as to what could be.

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