

## CHAPTER XVI.

*Isolation of St. Kilda Village—Residents Seek Intellectual Relaxation— The St. Kilda Athenaeum—E. G. Fitzgibbon, J. Hemming and G. H. F. Webb and Others Provisional Committee—Shakespeare and Other Poetic Recitals Foreshadowed—First Report by Fitzgibbon—Fees for Membership—Athenaeum Opened, January 16, 1857—Archery—Royal Victorian Archery Club Formed at St. Kilda—Miss Clara Aspinall's and Sir John Madden's Reminiscences—St. Kilda and Mechanics Literary Institute, Established 1859—Lectures in Town Hall—Archibald Michie—Captain C. R. Nash and Robert O'Hara Burke—St. Kilda Cricket Club—Ladies' Charitable Activities—Prince of Wales's Marriage, 1863—Duke of Edinburgh's Visit—His Welcome, and Letter of Thanks—Alfred Square—Prince Alfred Bowling Club— Queen Victoria's Patronage, and the St. Kilda Cricket Club—A Letter Dated from Windsor Castle.*

ON October 14, 1856, a meeting of the residents of St. Kilda was held in the Junction Hotel for the purpose of considering the desirability of starting a literary club, and reading room, to be called "The Athenaeum, St. Kilda." H. J. Jennings was in the chair, and a motion was passed, moved by T. W. Jackson, and seconded by H. C. Fraser :—"That it is desirable to establish an institution, in the nature of an Athenaeum, at St. Kilda, for St. Kilda, and its immediate vicinity." J. Hemming Webb, who lived in Argyle Street, was appointed honorary secretary. The promoters then adjourned until October 21, when they were to meet, in increased numbers, "for the furtherance of this local, and much-needed institution."

Among the increased numbers present at the second meeting, held also in the Junction Hotel, were the Hon. John Hood, M.L.C., in the chair; G. S. W. Horne, M.L.A.; Dr. Patterson; Dr. McNichol; Rev. James S. Waugh; J. Taylor; E. G. Fitzgibbon; W. C. Northcote, B.A.; Thomas Loader ; J. Hemming Webb; George H. F. Webb; P. Malony ; R. Kerr; H. C. Fraser; A. W. Fraser; G. Babbie ; and J. McWilliam. Letters were read from His Honor, Mr. Justice Molesworth, the Hon. Solicitor- General; Archibald Michie; Alderman Bennett, M.L.A.; Rev. D. Seddon; Rev. R. Fletcher; Rev. A. Paul; Dr. Evans; H. S. Chapman; A. J. Agg; F. P. Stevens; Dr. Van Hemert, and

others resident in the locality, approving of the movement. These apostles of culture formed themselves into a provisional committee to draft the rules of the institution, and with the avowed intention to carry the proposal to a successful issue.

It was purposed that the St. Kilda Athenaeum should have a news room and a library ; a lecture, a chess, a committee, and also a coffee room. A course of reading, of original, literary, scientific, philosophic, and historic papers was to be given. Shakesperian recitals and poetic recitals, were also foreshadowed, as well as literary and social soirees. In the pompous language of the day, adorned with the everlasting flowers plucked from the mythological garden on the slopes of Parnassus, within the walls of the yet unbuilt St. Kilda Athenaeum it was intended, so some of the learned men assured those who were at the meeting, in eloquent words, that Minerva would be the Athenaeum's presiding goddess, that she would be supported by Euterpe, Terpsichore, and the other beautiful muses associated the world over with the arts and sciences. The promises of intellectual feasts were generous, and the goddess Hope waved to Success. There was a certain E. G. Fitzgibbon, too, who saw to the classical side, and that the goddesses were on parade.

Edmond Gerald Fitzgibbon, who arrived in Melbourne in 1852, and became town clerk of Melbourne in 1856, the year of the meeting of the promoters of the St. Kilda Athenaeum, took a very active interest in the social life of early St. Kilda. It was he, who drafted the rules of the proposed Athenaeum, a work he was competent to do, for he was a barrister who was called to the Victorian Bar in 1860. In the work he was assisted by another notable resident, George Henry Frederick Webb, who a year before, in 1855, had been appointed shorthand writer to the Victorian Government. He was one of two remarkable brothers, the other brother, was J. Hemming Webb, also a Government shorthand writer. They were sons of a naval officer who had served under Nelson at Trafalgar. G. H. Webb read law in James Wilberforce Stephen's office, another resident of St. Kilda. Webb eventually became the leader of the Victorian Equity Bar, "took silk," and was appointed a Queen's Counsel. He was offered a judgeship when the first Mr. Justice Williams died, which offer he declined, but, in 1886, he accepted

a second offer of a Victorian judgeship, a position that became vacant by the death of Sir Robert Molesworth, who was also a resident of St. Kilda. Webb had a very lucrative Chambers, and equity practice. More honorariums, or fees, were to be found in his Queen's Counsel's blue stuff bag, than there was financial profit to him, being gowned in the robes, the wig, and the dignity of a judge.

It will be seen that the members of the committee of the St. Kilda Athenaeum were a learned group, and not merely "bushwackers" on the skirts of culture. If they were not literary men, they were men of letters. A report issued by the provisional members of the committee, displays the literary "mettle of their pastures" in a remark contained therein, where they state that "they are not forgetting the amusement and edification of what Montgomery calls the 'angels of life—the ladies.'" Who remembers James Montgomery to-day, the minor poet, imprisoned radical of the fifties? The phrase, "the angels of life the ladies." was one that would have appealed to Fitzgibbon. The remark, indeed, is very much in the way of Fitzgibbon. Those who can recall Fitzgibbon's speech, with its remarkable, clear metallic-like Irish "burr," and the nervous energy, and timbre in his voice, strongly pulsating in his body, as if seeking more potent articulation, than were already the prodigal gifts of the gods, to the masterful man from Cork, may be pardoned, if they are misled into an error, when attributing the composition of the report to Fitzgibbon.

The rules of the Athenaeum were in due course drafted, considered, approved, and then ordered to be printed by the committee. We have discovered one copy of the rules indexed, and carefully stored in the archives of the Melbourne Public Library. The first page of the book reads :—"Rules of the Athenaeum, St. Kilda, established October 14, 1856. Printed by Wilson, Mackinnon, & Fairfax, commercial printers, 78 Collins Street East, and 74 Collins Street West." In those days, newspaper proprietors conducted job printing offices, as a branch of their trade of publishers and printers.

The committee of the Athenaeum announced that a donation of fifteen guineas secured a life membership for a gentleman, and a sum of ten guineas obtained a like distinction for ladies. The annual subscription, for adults, was fixed at £2/2/- per

annum, and for juveniles, (under sixteen), £1/1/-. The Athenaeum was opened, with a considerable amount of ceremony, on January 16, 1857, in a building on the grounds of A. E. Wheatley, in Acland Street. For the occasion the place was decorated with flags, bunting, and plants. Dr. Sewell was in the chair, and J. Hemming Webb read to those present an address, wherein it was anticipated the Athenaeum would form the centre where the flowers of culture would blossom in St. Kilda. "Orion" Horne read a paper on "Popular Institutions," and then, marvellous to relate, it is suddenly recorded, "the band struck up, and dancing commenced." Truly the Terpsichorean promise had not been forgotten.

What melody the band "struck up" is not recorded. Whatever the melody may have been, it had not charm enough to sustain, on any lines of permanency, the fortunes of the Athenaeum. The attempt to establish the Athenaeum was a rank, unrelieved failure. Some newspaper correspondence may still be read about the sickly career it ran. From those letters we learn, that the reading room was above a furniture shop, in Acland Street; that the "daily papers were to be found somewhere," that there were very few reviews in the room, and only a few odd volumes.

It was the dance on the opening night, that was the fatal precedent. Other dances followed the first one, and Miss Terpsichore, as time passed, grew bolder, and, in the end, possessed the waxed floor of the Athenaeum, above the furniture shop. Euterpe wept on Minerva's classical bosom, and refused to be comforted, but she had her admirers, who, angered at her exclusion, shot stinging arrows on her behalf, that were visible, from day to day, in the Melbourne newspapers. The correspondents, in their letters, alleged that "promiscuous dancing" took place in the Athenaeum. It was clear that some of the bravest of the committeemen had peeped, discreetly, at the dancers, and that they had seen sights which had pained their senses of literary values. They said the dancing was "shocking," quite as bad as the dancing to be seen in that over-gay place, the Cremorne Gardens, Richmond. Alas for the high hopes of the distinguished men of the first days of the St. Kilda Athenaeum! The dance douche made the flowers of culture wilt in the Athenaeum. The bright lights of the committeemen, which

shone so bravely at first, were nowhere to be seen. The torch-bearers of culture; the embryo judges, the town clerks, the captains and the majors, the unnumbered hosts, all, all of them had paid their first, their last, and their only subscription, and afterwards they had stolen away, leaving the dancers to dance their jigs until they sank out of sight into the eternal silences of this lost hope of St. Kilda's suburban intellectual supremacy. The St. Kilda Athenaeum was publicly described in 1857 as "a mockery of a thing, the sooner squashed the better." Apparently it was "squashed," for any further accounts of the Athenaeum have not been found, so that we must conclude that FitzGibbon's work at the rules, while a labor of love, was a work in vain.

Archery in the Victorian era enjoyed a revival as a popular pastime amongst "gentlefolk." The ladies of Melbourne were not behind their British sisters in their love of "making a clout." In November, 1857, a meeting was held at the Terminus Hotel, St. Kilda, to form the Royal Victorian Archery Club. The Hon. Major Hodgson, M.L.C., was the leading spirit; Major Richard Nash was in the chair. Sometimes Nash is spoken of as a major, sometimes as a captain. The reporters of the day regarded him as "something military," and they promoted, and derided him in an amusing if perplexing fashion. The supplies of captains and majors in the Victorian Volunteer Forces anyway, outran the demand. Amongst those present at the archery meeting were Benjamin Cowderoy, Dr. Black, W. Fairfax, T. J. Crouch, G. M. Harris, R. Kerr, M. Mitchell, E. Sandford, F. T. Sargood and G. Windsor. The initiation fee for ladies was fixed at 10/6, gentlemen £1/1/-, with an annual subscription of £1/1/-. His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B., and Sir W. Foster Stawell, Chief Justice, were elected patrons of the Club. Other office-bearers were :—President, the Hon. John Hodgson, M.L.C.; Vice-Presidents, W. H. Archer, B. Cowderoy and R. Kerr; Treasurer, T. J. Crouch, and Hon. Secretary, W. Fairfax. William Henry Archer was the Assistant Registrar of Victoria, who, in 1854, prepared the first statistical register of the colony, a mine of information for historical students of early Victoria. As one of the Vice-Presidents of the Archery Club, his name served as well as he.

The opening archery meeting took place on Saturday afternoon, December 19, 1857, on the park ground at Fitzroy Street,

near the railway station. The ground was not fenced in along its frontage to Fitzroy Street, but the club members were in hopes that a fence would be placed there without unnecessary delay. Six straw targets were erected, and spaced at 30, 50 and 60 yards. The meeting's social eminence was stressed. The "principal families of Melbourne" were represented. The men wore broadcloth, white gloves, and black belltopper hats, the ladies' hats were floral gardens, their fair limbs were hooped in crinolines. The number present was estimated at 300, all of the women being more or less bright roses, that did not blush unseen, in the social life of Melbourne that found at that time, its most tense expression in fashionable St. Kilda. Flags were suspended from the branches of the gum trees, and the band, of the 40th Regiment, played during the afternoon. The morning had been oppressive, with great heat. In the afternoon a strong southerly wind was blowing, accompanied by odd showers of rain. It was arranged that the ladies were to shoot for the captaincy of the club on the following Saturday. The name of the club as first proposed, and advertised, included the word "Royal." Representations were made by the vice-regal authorities, that the word could not be used, without permission of the Queen. The club members therefore abandoned the use of the word "Royal," and described themselves as members of the Victorian Archery Club.

Miss Clara Aspinall, a one-time St. Kilda resident, says: "It was once my privilege to be at an archery party, at which one of the guests, I was informed on good authority, wore a thirty guinea bonnet!" Miss Aspinall was a lady from Lancashire, the daughter of the Rev. James Aspinall, rector of Althorp, the cradle of the "ancient house of fame," the Spencers of Althorp. Miss Aspinall left the old traditions of Althorp behind her, to cross the seas, to visit her brother, who resided at St. Kilda, and he was Butler Cole Aspinall, the well known barrister, politician, and wit. The late Sir John Madden, in his memory notes of early St. Kilda, favored us with the following personal estimate of Aspinall. "Aspinall," he wrote, "was a young man of marked oratorical power, with a fair knowledge of law, though he was no reader, at all events, in the direction of law books. He was absolutely a disciple of Democritus, and saw all things in the light of laughter. Indeed it may be doubted if the graver

side of human things ever seriously occurred to him though he lived, poor fellow, to be very familiar with them."

"Aspinall had a very peculiar face, somewhat heavy in expression, and his upper jaw distinctly overhung the lower. His nose was large, and was obstructed in some way, so that his enunciation was markedly that of one who, as it is fallaciously said, 'spoke through his nose.' These peculiarities detracted somewhat from his effectiveness as an orator, but they were special 'stage properties' for the effectiveness of his vivid, sparkling, ever-present humor. His gravity gave his sallies the quality of surprise, and so their suddenness, and laughter-moving force swept audiences into waves of irresistible mirth, even on solemn occasions, and his peculiar enunciation accentuated his points in a surprising way, so that it became the common habit to attribute every joke, and story to 'Aspinall,' which the raconteur invariably endeavoured to convey with more or less successful imitation.

"Aspinall was exceeding well patronised by clients, especially in the then flourishing Criminal Court, and he might have been a wealthy man, but his brilliancy, and geniality, made him such acceptable company everywhere that he gradually dropped away from serious business, and died while still a fairly young man. He resided in Park Terrace, Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda, in 1860, for a short period, and later in Dalgety Street, for about one year. He then moved to Hoddle Street, Richmond, where he continued to reside for some time."

We resume. Miss Aspinall returned on the steamship "Great Britain" to England, in May, 1861, having among her fellow passengers Miss Avonia Jones, and G. V. Brooke. She published a book in 1862, entitled "Three Years in Melbourne," which contains her impressions of St. Kilda, and among other observations she refers to the popularity of sea bathing at St. Kilda. Her brother was one of the regular bathers at Kenney's Baths, and he went there almost every morning, in the company of James Joseph Casey, who had been successively a Minister in the McCulloch, Francis, and Kerferd Ministries. Casey was a political opportunist of the first water, and his appointment to the office of a County Court judge in 1884 was regarded as a "political job." In the political world he was known, by the vulgar, if not by the profane, as "King Casey." "Punch"

frequently tilted a good-natured shaft at his immaculate 'appearance, and his well-waxed moustache. On one occasion, when he was in the zenith of his political power, he was shown, in a cartoon, as in London, and as walking down Regent Street, dressed in the pink of fashion, smoking his usual cigar, and swelling with importance as if he was at least the landlord of Buckingham Palace. That picture of his Empire greatness was somewhat away from him in one of Kenney's bathing bunks, and "Punch" thought so too. Under this striking picture of prosperity, were words "Casey's Altered Circumstances." Some time after that the whirligig of politics brought about the downfall of Casey's party, and the defeat afforded "Punch" the opportunity to publish another cartoon. Casey's beautiful hat was changed into a broken remnant of past greatness ; his clothes likewise were made to look shabby. The cartoon was labelled "Casey's Present Circumstances."

Aspinall owned a wonderful dressing gown with as many colors as Joseph's coat, and ornamented with gorgeous tassels. In this gown, his head crowned by a red smoking cap, his shuffling feet shod with tattered hand-embroidered slippers, he made his way, with Casey, to the baths. Casey, more often than not, carried a law tome with him, and he would read therefrom as they sauntered. Casey, who before coming to Victoria in 1855, had been a pressman at New Orleans, was reading for the bar, and Aspinall was assisting him in his studies. Frequently the two men would come to a full stop in Fitzroy Street to continue with spirit an animated argument. When they reached the baths they occupied the same bunk, the door of which was shut. Therein the two men would remain at times for half an hour. Aspinall always looked well at the water before he took his plunge into the sea. If the waves were rough, he would shake his head to Casey, and without saying a word, shuffle home again. At that time there was a noticeable finger-post-like white board, nailed to two posts, outside the Prince of Wales Hotel ; the board bore upon its surface a bold legend, printed in black letters, saying, "To the Bar." Aspinall said that he, as an officer of the Court, could not be indifferent to such a plain direction. Nor was he.

Aspinall, at this time, was one of the two first members for Talbot in the Legislative Assembly. Another St. Kilda resident,

David Blair, was the other. The electorate of St. Kilda was represented by Thomas Howard Fellows, and Frederick James Sargood. Fellows, afterwards Judge Fellows, shared with Aspinall, Michie and Ireland the lion's share of the briefs delivered in Temple Court, then the classic, and chosen temple of the barristers of Melbourne. It was in the original Temple Court, in the year 1879, where we first became friendly with Sir John Madden, then Dr. Madden, LL.D. He occupied one of the poorly-lighted chambers, upstairs, in the south-west gallery. We frequently visited his chambers, and our memories of the room are distinct. We visualise the appearance of its dusty, threadworn red carpet of sorts, the heap of old briefs that had not been claimed, odd pieces of used red tape, and a yellow holland window blind, that made the yellow walls' radiation of light more intensive of a yellow hue. We never went up, nor came down, the crooked narrow staircase, that led on to the slate-slabbed, broadly-paved ground floor of the Court to his clerk's office, G. Harper Brown, but we sensed in our feelings the mustiness of law, and for some reason also, perhaps the subconscious impression of the yellow lights, we thought of Jarndyce v. Jarndyce, for young Australians read Dickens in those days.

Dr. Madden was then coming into eminence as a pleader. Among his rivals in the Supreme Court, as we recall, were J. L. Purves, Hartley Williams, and J. G. Duffy, also a St. Kilda resident. Williams wooed the St. Kilda electors, and sought to represent them in the Legislative Assembly in 1874, but they would not have him. J. H. Hood, afterwards Mr. Justice Hood, was, at the time of Dr. Madden's initial eminence, the leader of the Bar in the County Court, presided over by Judge Thomas Spencer Cope, whose Bardolf nose was a lamp of attraction to our youthful eyes. The old barristers, Sir Archibald Michie, Q.C., Townsend MacDermott, and others, were sitting in the shadows cast by their setting suns, almost briefless, and almost forgotten. Purves's young "lion," who "deviled" for him, the late Walter Coldham, who lived opposite to J. G. Duffy in St. Kilda, had not then pushed the "old lion" Purves, Q.C., out of his practice in the Criminal Court. Not here the place to dwell too long, on the personality of the late Sir John Madden, LieutGovernor, and Chief Justice of Victoria, and one of St. Kilda's distinguished citizens, except to record that John Madden was

a knight *sans peur et sans reproche*. He had been athletic through his young manhood, and a great hunting man for many years. To the end, he was the "glass of fashion, and the mould of form." He invariably wore a flower in his coat's lapel, his clean-shaven face was relieved by a heavy brown moustache that had a suspicion of barbering, with wax at its ends. The clean-shaven somewhat ascetic legal face was not Sir John's, who was not quite indifferent to the good things of life. He may not have been a great lawyer, as great lawyers are classed, but he served his generation in law, politics, and vice-regal consulships, with distinction and honor.

Sir John was good enough, in the notes he took the trouble to write at our request, to refer to other barristers, who lived in early St. Kilda, and helped to adorn the social life of those in the village. Among them was an Englishman, named Dawson, who came to Melbourne soon after the gold discoveries. Sir John says : "He was really a distinguished lawyer, and in the Banco Court he shone, no one better. He was a very capable speaker of the cultured style, with a peculiarly soft and elegantly modulated voice that told in earnest appeals to juries in a most effective way. His language was choice, and he always spoke with a definite literary style. He enjoyed an enormous practice, but he developed a brain affection, and faded out. He lived in St. Kilda, in Robe Street, near where Dr. Black resided for many years. Mr. Dawson departed from St. Kilda about 1864.

"A great pleader, Mr. Harris, arrived in Melbourne about 1862. He was essentially the logical, and restrained, and precise special pleader, one of the few, who were adversaries in that art to the illustrious T. H. Fellows. In oratory, and Court work, Mr. Harris had but little part, but in the then, no less important process of the law, which was his speciality, he had much success, and good practice. He resided in the villa, still existent, at the north-west corner of Alma Road, and Westbury Street, for several years, and he died there about 1868.

"Mr. Whipham too, was another special pleader of distinction. He was a very big man, with a large voice, and was a genial, pleasant fellow. He resided in a cottage, which stood alone about the west end of where Southey Street is now, but which has now disappeared. He dropped dead at Queenscliff, about 1863.

"Michael Annesley Billing, was another St. Kilda resident, and one of the founders of the Bar in Victoria. He was a man of good appearance, and good manners. Well trained in the law, and full of professional dignity, he came from Dublin, and in Melbourne, he speedily achieved a large general practice. In all important civil proceedings, in which the Crown was a party, Mr. Billing represented it. For many years he acted as lecturer on Law in the Melbourne University. He was a good court man, though his manner was somewhat pompous, and he had no great claims to be regarded as an orator. He was an exception to most of his contemporaries, in that he kept the money, which he so abundantly and laboriously earned.

"Mr. Billing lived in Balaclava Road, in a villa between Hotham Street, and Westbury Street, until about 1868, when he built the mansion now called 'Ontario,' at the corner of Balaclava Road, and Oriing Road, where he continued to reside, until about 1880, when he was called before a higher court."

To resume. The St. Kilda Mechanics and Literary Institute was established in the year 1859, and its beginning came about in this way. Councillor Dr. Spicer moved at the St. Kilda Council meeting, held on July 20, 1859 :—"That the Council, recognising the great value of literary institutions, is desirous of seeing a local Mechanics Institute established in St. Kilda, and would feel justified in appropriating a grant-in-aid, to any such society, which presented features of usefulness, and durability, to the extent of £500." The motion was carried, with a proviso, that the sum of £1,500 should be raised by private contributions. What was described as "a very influential signed requisition" was, on September 27, 1859, presented to Councillor Fraser, chairman of the St. Kilda municipality, desiring him to call a public meeting, for the purpose of taking steps towards the formation of a literary institute in the district. The chairman complied with the request. The meeting was held, and we quote the following newspaper paragraph, wherein is described what took place at the meeting. The report reads :—"A public meeting was held at the Court House, St. Kilda, yesterday (October 1) evening, for the purpose of taking steps towards the formation of a Literary and Mechanics Institute in the district. The meeting had been called in consequence of a very influential requisition, having been presented to the chairman, the Hon.

Alexander Fraser, M.L.C., and because of the Municipal Council having expressed its willingness to grant the sum of £500 in aid of the object, the whole cost being estimated at about four times that amount. Amongst the gentlemen, upon the platform, and some of whom took part in the proceedings, were many well known residents of the district. The Hon. H. S. Chapman, Messrs. Cowderoy, J. S. Johnston, M.L.A., Hugh Chambers, — Brodribb, — Trenchard, Rev. Mr. Draper, Rev. Mr. Fletcher, Rev. Mr. Seddon, etc. Resolutions were carried, in favor of the formation of the Institute, of the subscription to it being fixed at a rate that would enable persons of the smallest means to join it, and of the immediate appointment of a committee, to further the objects of the meeting. The committee appointed consisted of Messrs. Fraser, Cowderoy, Johnston, Chapman, Brodribb, Chambers, Fletcher, Trenchard, Gardiner, Anderson, Heiman, Thomas, Smythe, D. McLaren, Parker, Grant, McNaughton, Bowman, D. Johnstone, Alsopp, Tullett and Dr. Spicer, with power to add to their number. The meeting was by no means so numerously attended as might have been expected, there being little over 60 persons present, but the amount of earnestness shown in the matter, will probably make up for the paucity of numbers."

At first the editor of The Argus newspaper was in a hopeful mood, but later, when the editor found that the wealthy men did not subscribe for the building of the St. Kilda Mechanics Institute, his paper said, November 28, 1859 :—"It can scarcely, however, be a matter of surprise that the broadcloth suburb is so behind, when we state, that some of the oldest and most wealthy residents in the municipality, have refused their mite towards the desired object." Intellectually early St. Kilda had in residence men learned in laws, in politics, and in other subjects, so that there was no lack of lecturers. Writing of the social condition of St. Kilda, in the year 1858, Miss Aspinsall says: "Nearly all the leading members of the Bar, and lawyers, have houses here, which they have built, or taken on lease. In Alma Road, and its vicinity, may be found attorney-generals, past, present, and future, scattered about in profusion." Reference to the early Melbourne directories is instructive in that respect. Many prominent men, other than lawyers, bankers and politicians,

lived in St. Kilda. Lectures were given in the Town Hall, St. Kilda, under the direction of the St. Kilda Mechanics and Literary Institute committee. The rules of the Institute were printed by Goulding Smythe & Co. On the cover of the book it is stated that the rules were adopted at the general meeting of members of the Institute, held at the Court House, St. Kilda, on Monday, October 31, 1859. Ebenezer Flint was the first secretary of the Institute.

On the occasion of the opening of the St. Kilda Town Hall for the first time to the public, on December 19, 1859, Archibald Michie, in honor of the occasion, and also to celebrate the inauguration of the St. Kilda Mechanics Institute, delivered a brilliant address, that was reported at length in the "Melbourne Morning Herald." The lecture was entitled "Colonists: Socially and their Relation to the Mother Country." We are told that "three or four hundred of the elite of Melbourne" were present. Among the "numerous company who graced the occasion," were :—The Hon. A. Fraser, M.L.C., Chairman of the Municipality, and members of the Municipal Council of St. Kilda; the Revs. David Seddon and Currie; Colonel Pitt ; G. R. Rusden, J. S. Johnston, M.L.A.; J. Jennings, H. J. Hart, W. Powell, D. Blair, B. Cowderoy, James Smith; Capt. Nash ; D. McDonald, J. Trenchard, Worsely, and G. Rolfe. The lecture was the "talk of the town," and the local paper "The St. Kilda Chronicle," published it in pamphlet form. The first "St. Kilda Chronicle" has long ceased to chronicle the "small beer" of early St. Kilda. So far as we know, not one copy of the paper has survived. Archibald Michie has a playful reference, in his book entitled, "Readings in Melbourne," to the business methods of Goulding & Smythe, proprietors of "The St. Kilda Chronicle." Referring to cheap literature, Michie writes: "You can get a classic for a shilling, and 'The Times' newspaper—that 'history of the world for one day'—for fivepence, and 'The St. Kilda Chronicle' for nothing; for they always send me the paper, but never call for the subscription."

We have the contemporary authority of Miss Clara Aspinall for stating "that the lectures were well attended by nearly all the rational inhabitants of St. Kilda, those who have leisure to attend them. The room is sometimes densely crowded, especially when the king of lecturers, Mr. Michie, a leading

member of the Bar delivers one. I feel it, however, my duty to state, that the greater proportion of the audience consists of the fair sex. The gentlemen are either unequal to the effort of leaving the dinner table at the uncivilised hour of eight, or they consider that their minds, complete, do not require any further nourishment."

Some of the titles of the lectures are mentioned :—Coriolanus, Ghosts, Shakespeare, the Moon, and Garibaldi. Garibaldi, Miss Aspinall observes with innocent pleasantry, "was a most useful personage at all kinds of re-unions, for no matter upon what subject the lecture, or public meeting, might be, somebody generally managed adroitly to introduce, in thrilling accents, that heart-stirring name, thereby eliciting thunders of applause, which helped very much to make the evening pass off *con spirito*." The lecturer on Garibaldi was one of Garibaldi's Englishmen, the late Dr. W. Henry Embling, afterwards an M.L.C., a resident of East St. Kilda. He had early in the Italian Liberator's campaign, joined the "Red Shirts," and he volunteered his professional services, consequently he was able to speak with the authority of an eye-witness, and to give those touches of color which adorn such recitals.

Johnson's old hotel, The Star and Garter, was one of the hotels in St. Kilda that had a large room, suitable as a place to use for readings, recitals, and songs, to limited audiences. One of the last occasions when the Star and Garter room was so used, was on January 17, 1859, when Mrs. T. Butler gave what was described as a "disquisition upon the genius of Shakespeare, with dramatic readings to illustrate the same."

His Excellency Sir Henry Barkly presided at least on one occasion, in the St. Kilda Town Hall, when R. H. Horne delivered a lecture on "The Progress of Italy." Italy, and its Liberation, in 1859, were very attractive subjects to English-speaking races, who sympathised with the struggles of the patriot Garibaldi, and with his famous "Red Shirts." Lectures in St. Kilda were so well attended that those who essayed to entertain the public by such means, and to put money in their purses, attempted to exploit the acquired taste for lectures that prevailed in St. Kilda. Miss Aspinall states :—"A cabinet maker latterly was seized with the idea that he was not born to be exclusively a hewer of wood, or manufacturer of sofas, and chairs, and there-

fore it was suddenly announced to the St. Kilda public that he would, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor, who had signified his intention to attend, give a lecture on Chivalry."

Distinguished men gave lectures, to attend which there was no charge for admission. Less distinguished and less philanthropic lecturers sought the Council's permission to lecture in the hall, and to make a charge for admittance. A daughter of Captain Marryat sought to do so. Captain Marryat was the author of excellent sea stories, copies of which were in the St. Kilda Library. One of the books, torn and worn, "Poor Jack," still survives in the residue of the library housed in the Town Hall. Miss Marryat asked to be permitted to lecture in the St. Kilda Town Hall, on *Lola Montes*. From whence came Miss Marryat to St. Kilda is not stated, but the councillors were as much surprised to have a request of that nature, from the daughter of such a favorite writer of old-time sea stories, as they were astounded, when they learnt that the subject of the proposed lecture was to be *Lola Montes*. The staid, and shocked councillors of St. Kilda felt, that they could not grant permission to even the daughter of a popular novelist, to lecture on *Lola Montes*. They preferred the father's innocent fictions, to the daughter's questionable truths. They refused the application.

References appeared in the newspapers to "the theatre at Mooney's Hotel." The "theatre" was a large room, which the licensee let for meetings, dancing, and entertainments. Nigger minstrels, whites blacked with burnt cork, were a standard attraction. Nigger minstrels toured the suburbs even crossing over to Williamstown. Monologue performances were also popular, whether in recitation or song. A popular performer, who showed in the suburbs, was named Farquharson. We quote (September, 1859) a notice of his performance. It reads :—"Mr. Farquharson gave one of his entertainments last evening at the Royal Hotel, St. Kilda. The room was well attended, and the audience manifested the usual indication of approval. Amongst the novelties of the performance was the introduction of Tennyson's, or Tupper's 'Riflemen Form,' which was well received. There are two musical versions of this song, one by Balfe, and the other by Lindley. Mr. Farquharson sang the latter."

We learn from a report, January 18, 1861, that the annual meeting of the St. Kilda Mechanics Institute was held the day before in the Municipal Hall, when fifty persons were present. Mr. Benjamin Cowderoy, the Chairman of St. Kilda Municipality, was in the chair. Twelve months before, the date of the meeting, the Institute was formed with Mr. — Kelsall as the honorary secretary. The subscription was 5/- per quarter, and the subscribers numbered 128. The receipts from all sources were £260, but the expenses of carrying on the Institute exceeded that sum by £119. Numbers of "most eminent, and talented gentlemen, in Melbourne had given, in the St. Kilda Town Hall, a series of interesting, and instructive lectures, which had been very numerous attended." A canvass of St. Kilda had resulted in 150 people giving their promise to become new subscribers. Captain Nash moved, and Mr. Brodribb seconded, that Mr. Archibald Michie, M.L.A., be re-elected President of the Institute. The Hon. T. T. a'Beckett, M.L.C., and H. S. Chapman were elected to the office of Vice-Presidents. The Committee was formed by the following residents :—The Hon. George Rolfe, M.L.C.; Messrs. J. H. Kelson, I. M. Thomas, J. Anderson, Trenchard, Cook, Kelsall, Richmond, Levitt, Alston, N. Billing, and Captain Nash. Messrs. Sydes and Cowderoy, J.'sP., were appointed auditors. Captain Nash, whose name re-occurs, was Captain C. R. Nash, of the First St. Kilda Rifle Corps. He lived in Carlisle Street. He was the first secretary of the Gardiner Road Board, and afterwards a civil servant, and head storekeeper, in charge of the Government stores. While occupying that position he superintended the fitting out of the Burke and Wills expedition. Burke's pistol found in the dead man's hand was taken by Nash from the articles brought back by the relief expedition. Leaving the Government service, he went to New Zealand to the gold diggings, and becoming hard up, sold the pistol. The Victorian Government, at the instance of Sir Redmond Barry, recovered the pistol, which was, at the time, the subject of a copious correspondence in the newspapers. Nash returned to Victoria, and afterwards he went to Sydney, where he died. His wife, well-beloved and most respected by hosts of pupils, some of whom rose to fame, started the first young ladies' school in Elsternwick. It was in her school room in Cole Street the first services of the Presbyterian Church in

Elsternwick were held. She was the sister of Alfred John Agg, who had a distinguished career in the civil service. He took a great interest in sport at St. Kilda, and in 1857 was the vice-president of the St. Kilda Cricket Club. Originally the secretary of railways, he passed to the position of head Government store-keeper, and from that he rose to be the Under-Treasurer of the colony, and then, in 1857, he was appointed to be the Commissioner of Audit. With him as a co-vice-president of the St. Kilda Cricket Club was Kenric Edward Brodribb. The president of the St. Kilda Cricket Club was Sir George Stephen, afterwards Q.C. in 1871. Sir George was knighted in 1837, and he had the distinction of being the first commoner whom Queen Victoria knighted, after her accession to the throne. The treasurer of the St. Kilda Cricket Club was William Fairfax, of "The Argus" newspaper, the secretary, J. Anderson, J.P. A note of the day states the members of the club "meet near Junction Hotel, in the South Park."

In the historical flotsam, preserved by the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, is a letter from Elmslie Stephen, the honorary secretary of the St. Kilda Cricket Club. The letter is headed "Sept. 19, 1860, The British Hotel." It contains a request to the Council, to assist the club to build a pavilion. The St. Kilda Football Club was formed in April, 1873. Its first president was the Hon. J. J. Casey, M.L.A., and the vice-president, Judge Skinner. The hon. secretary was Edward Bage ; the hon. treasurer, Edward Shew; committee, Messrs. Anderson, Fulford, Turner, Skinner, and Grey Smith. The club played its first match—"a scratch one"—on April 26, 1873. The whereabouts of the club's ground was a problem, but the Committee decided that the "match should take place on the most suitable piece of ground that can be procured in the vicinity of the railway station." The club's secretary afterwards wrote to the St. Kilda Council, requesting its permission to play on the "Alpaca paddock," adjoining the Prince Alfred Bowling Green. The sought for permission was granted. Later, a special meeting of the club was called, because there had been a liberal response to the invitation, issued by the provisional authorities of the club to: "Any gentleman, desirous of joining the club, must apply to Mr. Shew, at the Bank of Australasia, Collins Street, or to any member of the Committee." On June 11, 1873,

the St. Kilda Football Club held its first meeting, as a club, at Young & Jackson's Hotel, Swanston Street, for the purpose of electing office-bearers for the season. E. J. Fulford was in the chair. The following appointments were made :—President, the Hon. J. J. Casey ; Vice-President, Judge Skinner ; Captain of the team, Arthur Greenwood; Vice-Captain, Frank Fulford; Honorary Secretaries, G. L. Skinner, for the first twenty, and E. Curr, Secretary for the second twenty; Treasurer, Edward Shew ; Committee, George Watson, and Frank Fulford. The number of members of the club was stated to be 60. The great match of the season was the one between the St. Kilda Football Club and the Southern Football Club, which had its ground in Fawkner Park, and was in composition a Prahran Football Club, captained by James Kelly, fireman, national school teacher, and general good citizen of Prahran. The inter-suburban rivalry that was aroused at the two matches—one played on the Alpaca Paddock, and the other in Fawkner Park, opposite the Alfred Hospital—was very great indeed. The playing circles were black with spectators. The games were fast, and furious, and even pugilistic towards their ends, spectators fighting, too, and loudly disputing over the merits of their own teams. We know, because regularly we were one of the juvenile members of the crowd. There was no gate money in those days, and no gates. Nor was there a ring line. The crowd frequently surged on to the ground, but still the game went on, amidst the skurrying spectators. The police, three or four constables, were present, but what were they among so many? The game was played for the game, and the men who played the game were sportsmen, who received more spills and kicks than halfpence, for, of the latter, they received none.

We turn the leaves to reach modern times, when the St. Kilda Cricket Ground, as a playing oval is in existence, and the St. Kilda Cricket, and the St. Kilda Football Clubs have become established organisations, as athletic clubs. We find that, in July, 1924, the St. Kilda Branch of the Australian Natives' Association was dissatisfied with the St. Kilda Cricket Club. The association forwarded a resolution to the Council to the effect, that "in view of the St. Kilda Cricket Club, having quite failed to realise its responsibilities to the public, in connection with the management of the St. Kilda ground, the Albert Park Trust

is urged to place the ground under dual control as requested, by the St. Kilda Football Club, the Managing Committee, to consist of three representatives each from Cricket and Football Clubs, with the Mayor of St. Kilda as Chairman."

Ultimately a conference took place between the Albert Park Committee, the St. Kilda Cricket Club, and the St. Kilda Football Club, but they failed to agree. Councillor Burnett Gray then gave notice of motion in Council that he would move for a scheme of municipal control of the St. Kilda Cricket Ground. This motion provided for equitable representation of all concerned, and also, which was the cause of Australian Natives' Association's resolution, "for a general, and much-needed improvement of the ground, and to provide more effective, and modern accommodation for the public." When the motion came on for discussion, Councillor Gray sought permission to delete the word "municipal" before control, and this alteration led to the motion being carried over to the following meeting of the Council, when its consideration was further postponed for fourteen days. At the Council meeting of September 15, Councillor Gray moved his motion, which was seconded by Councillor Renfrey. Councillor Taylor, in speaking to the motion, referred to an arrangement made for the representation of the St. Kilda Football Club, on the St. Kilda Cricket Club's executive. He told how an enthusiastic meeting had been held, with regard to contemplated improvements to the ground, and that £1000 had been subscribed at the meeting, to be used for that purpose. The Mayor of St. Kilda was to be requested to call a public meeting, and it had been agreed that not less than two-thirds of the receipts from football matches should be earmarked for expenditure on improvements to the ground. In the circumstances Councillor Gray withdrew his motion, and this unpleasantness was happily and satisfactorily ended.

H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, eldest son of H.M. Queen Victoria, on March 10, 1863, married the Princess Alexandra, eldest daughter of Christian IX. of Denmark. The St. Kilda Council prepared a loyal address to Her Majesty, and one also to the Prince of Wales. They were the first loyal addresses prepared by the Council on behalf of the residents of St. Kilda. There have been several such addresses since, but the

first addresses of that nature, from an historical viewpoint always retain their interest. The addresses read

"To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty.

"May it please Your Majesty.

"We, your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects, the Chairman and Members of the Municipal Council of Saint Kilda, near the city of Melbourne, in the Colony of Victoria, beg to approach your Majesty with the humble assurance of our devoted attachment to your Throne and person.

"On behalf of ourselves and fellow-residents of this municipality we beg to offer to your Majesty our most hearty congratulations upon the recent auspicious marriage of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, to Her Royal Highness the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, and to express our earnest hope and prayer that this union may prove most felicitous to your Majesty's August Son and his fair and Royal Bride, and that the accession of Her Royal Highness to so distinguished a position in the family circle of your Majesty may prove a source of much joy and comfort to your Majesty through many years to come."

"We beg to assure your Majesty that, although located in this outpost of your Majesty's vast dominions, our hearts are stirred by the same emotions of loyal attachment as are known to possess those of your Majesty's subjects in England, and without the smallest diminution of intensity, and we fervently hope and pray that, under the blessing and guidance of Divine Providence, we may long enjoy in common with all your Majesty's subjects the happiness and prosperity which has attended your Majesty's benign and exemplary reign."

To His Royal Highness Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, Duke of Connaught, Duke of Rothesay, &c., &c., &c., and to Her Royal Highness Alexandra, Princess of Wales, &c., &c.

May it please your Royal Highnesses—

We, the Chairman and Councilors of the Municipality of St. Kilda, in the Colony of Victoria, on behalf of ourselves and fellow-citizens, beg to offer to your Royal Highnesses our humble but most sincere and hearty congratulations on the occasion of your recent auspicious marriage.

We beg to assure your Royal Highnesses that, although our lot is cast in this distant part of Her Majesty's wide dominions, the tidings of your Royal nuptials have filled us with emotions of joy, and with wishes and prayers for your future happiness and prosperity as

deep and earnest as those which have thrilled the hearts of Her Majesty's subjects in the very centre of the Empire.

With them we join in the demonstrations of welcome offered to Denmark's Peerless Daughter. May your union be attended with the choicest and most enduring of Heaven's blessings, and long, very long, may our good and beloved Queen be cheered and solaced by the contemplation of your domestic happiness, and by the assurance that, when in the fulness of time your Royal Highnesses will be called to sit on the Throne now so worthily occupied by your much beloved mother, the affection which beats in all our hearts for her will be continued with unabated fervor towards you and your Royal Consort.

A public meeting of the residents of St. Kilda was convened, at which Councillor Cowderoy was in the chair. Kenneth E. Brodrigg, and the Rev. David Seddon, moved, "that it is desirable to celebrate the marriage of His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, with the Princess Alexandra of Denmark, in a manner worthy of this municipality." Then the company set about the business of giving effect to the resolution. Sub-committees were appointed. The main effort was centred on the "Grand Treat For The School Children." Arrangements were made for fireworks displays, and bonfires. The committee, appointed to carry out the celebrations, passed a resolution, against the Council illuminating the Town Hall, stating that in its opinion the illuminations had be better "left to individuals to illuminate their dwellings, in their own discretion." Collections for the children's treat were taken up, and one official list, that survives the wrack of time, shows that £176/2/6 was given by the residents. The appropriations were :— School Committee, £50 ; Badges, £16 ; Crackers, &c., £8 ; Bonfires, £40 ; Printing, £8 ; Decorations, £8 ; Fireworks, Rockets, &c., £10. The estimate of the school children, to be entertained, was :— Christ Church school, 200 scholars ; Rev. Mr. Moir's school (Presbyterian), 150 ; Wesleyans, 150 ; Independent, 200 ; Roman Catholic, 80 ; All Saints', 80 ; National, 80 ; Mr. Bonwick's, 50 ; Rev. Mr. Paul's, 30 ; total, 980— say 1000. It was resolved by the committee to accept Mr. Collins' tender, for refreshments, at the rate of one shilling per child, for 1000 children ; the repast to be provided in the Albert Park, if fine weather prevailed, or in the Town Hall, if the weather was inhospitable. The sum of £5 was to be spent in crackers, and £3 for the hire of a merry-go-round. Mr. Hadfield

and Mr. Ure, were to be in charge of the arrangements. Each child was to be given a badge. The children were to attend the various church services, at 9 a.m. At 10 a.m., they were to assemble in front of the Town Hall, and sing loyal songs. At 10.30, they were to march along Robe Street, the Esplanade, Fitzroy Street, the Brighton Road to Alma Street, and thence along Prince's Street, to the Park. At noon the feast was to take place and last until 1.30 p.m., to be followed by amusements, and crackers. At 2 p.m. the children were to be dismissed.

That programme was carried out. Mr. Gemmell acted as Director General, and the Head Teachers marched, leading their pupils in this order :—Mr. Hadfield, Christ Church schools ; Mr. Ure, Presbyterians ; Mr. Crouch, Wesleyans ; Mr. R. Smith, Independent ; Mr. Meagher, Roman Catholic ; Mr. Wrigley, National ; Mr. G. Murray, the Rev. Paul, and Mr. Bonwick. The singing was under the direction of Messrs. Hadfield and Ure.

In the evening the volunteers co-operated with the Celebrations Committee. It was decided that the immense bonfire should be made on Point Ormond, and also a bonfire in front of the Town Hall, at the junction of Grey, Barkly and Inkerman Streets. It was arranged that the Royal salute was to be fired by the St. Kilda Artillery, in the early morning, at noon, and in the evening. Captain McCulloch, and Lieut. Boyd, were entrusted with the saluting responsibilities. Steps were taken to obtain seventy tons of firewood for the bonfire at the Red Bluff. In addition, barrels of tar, and empty oil casks were donated. The Managers of the Town Common and the Government Department officers consented to the removal of dead trees from the lands of the Town Common, and Public Reserves. Men were employed in felling, and splitting up dead trees, and a team of bullocks was employed hauling the wood to the Red Bluff. The sub-committee directing the activities had for its members the Revs. D. Seddon (Chairman), Bickford, Moir, and Messrs. Tullett, Gemmell, Hadfield, J. S. Seddon, F. P. Seddon, Ure, and Meagher.

And now we come to the true source of the oft-told and variegated tale, of the bullock, that was so imperfectly roasted, on the village green in front of the Village Belle Hotel. We reproduce a copy of the original offer intended for the Celebrations Committee, and sent to the Town Clerk, Edward Bradshaw.

James Gillespie was the licensee of the Village Belle Hotel, Thomas Edington was St. Kilda's slaughter house keeper, and "Mr. Miers" was T. H. Miers, a baker, whose shop was in High Street.

"St. Kilda,

"May 18th, /63.

"Mr. Bradshaw.

"Sir,—Mr. Edington and I have come to the conclusion of giving a bullock and a hhd. of ale. Mr. Miers will give fifty loaves of bread towards it, and Mr. Cameron has promised to assist also. I beg you will kindly set it off to the best advantage in the advertisement.

"Your obedient servant,

"JAMES GILLESPIE."

Everything so far as the Celebrations Committee had control of events went as merry as the Royal marriage bells. The volunteers marched in the evening, with torches aflame, to the Red Bluff, and they set fire to the great bonfire. The bonfire, in front of the St. Kilda Town Hall, flamed at the cross roads. The one omission was that the St. Kilda Artillery, unable to obtain its guns, fired no Royal salutes. When the Celebrations Committee, after the great day of celebration, met to finalise the business, an explanatory letter was received from Lieut. Boyd, explaining the reason of the non-arrival of the guns. The committee meeting was held on May 18, 1863, there being present Messrs. Bunny, Sydes, Bindon, Hornby, Tullett, Sidderley, and Cowderoy. A rough draft of the letter sent in reply to Lieut. Boyd's reads :—The motion passed, "that the letter be ackd., and express regret of Committee that it is so little complimentary to the intelligence of the Volunteer Office, but that the fault is not at all attributable to the St. Kilda Artillery, but, &c., &c." That was it, and the "&c., &c.," conveyed so much that it is not written in the old minutes on blue foolscap paper. The Volunteer Office had forgotten to send the guns, or, alternatively, to make arrangements for St. Kilda to have the guns, and the guns had gone elsewhere. Such was the mixed explanation.

In October, 1867, the Council decided to widen Fitzroy Street, at its junction with the Esplanade, to its permanent width, in anticipation of the Duke of Edinburgh, landing at St. Kilda. On November 18, the St. Kilda Council had under consideration the steps to be taken to celebrate the arrival of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh. A letter was received from

S. P. Lord, and John Strachan, requesting permission to erect a flagstaff 100 feet high with gaff stays, etc., complete in the Custom House Reserve, to be called the Prince Alfred Flagstaff, and also requesting that the name of the reserve should be altered to the Alfred Reserve. The Council agreed to the writers' requests. On the day of the Prince's arrival, the flagpole was dressed with St. George's Cross at the main, and ensign at gaff. In July, 1868, the Lands and Survey authorities wrote to the Council, stating that the Crown Grant for Flagstaff Reserve in the Esplanade of 1 acre, 3 roods, 18 perches, had been issued, and gazetted, and that 10 acres for public gardens had also been gazetted in similar form.

A contemporary paragraph states:—"The St. Kilda Bonfire Committee have been actively engaged, during the past week, in preparation for giving full display to the loyalty of the district. The firewood for the occasion has been grubbed, and cut, and tenders are out for building the pile, on the Red Bluff. The St. Kilda Prince Alfred Demonstration Committee are canvassing the district, with most encouraging results, for a pyrotechnic display, on the Esplanade, on a scale of almost unequalled magnitude. St. Kilda, though almost last in this matter, has now taken the field in earnest. In the newspaper advertisement columns this notice appeared:—"Tenders required by seven o'clock p.m. this day, November 18, 1867, for building bonfire at the Red Bluff, St. Kilda. Specifications at the Village Belle Hotel."

Prince Alfred, the Duke of Edinburgh, first set foot upon Victorian soil at St. Kilda. H.M. frigate "Galatea" came into Hobson's Bay on Saturday, November 23, 1867, and as the "gallant Sailor Prince" did not relish waiting on board his command until the following Monday, when the official reception was to take place he had his gig manned, and he landed secretly at St. Kilda. He was then driven to Toorak House, which the Governor, Sir J. H. T. Manners-Sutton, K.C.B., had vacated for him. On Monday morning, the Prince returned to the "Galatea," and he subsequently disembarked at Port Melbourne, then called Sandridge, where he was received by the Victorian Government authorities with the ceremonial fitting to his rank as the reigning Queen's son.

The St. Kilda Council voted £120 for the purchase of fireworks, to be let off on the Esplanade on the night of the arrival of the "Galatea," in Hobson's Bay. A portion of the money was to be spent on a fete to be given to "all the children of the Borough without distinction." Residents of St. Kilda subscribed £150 towards the fete, which was held in Albert Park at a spot about a quarter of a mile from Fitzroy Street. Twenty-nine tents were erected, representing each school in the district, each tent having a school flag flying from its poles. Three of the tents contained the provisions. The band of the St. Kilda Volunteers played during the afternoon. For the children, races, swings, merry-go-rounds, and such amusements were provided. About 3,000 children and 1,000 adults were on the ground, including 500 day and Sunday School teachers. An account of the fete says:—"An object of much amusement to adults and amazement to juveniles was the Brobdignagian teapot that was placed on a stand, in the centre of the animated throng, and the teapot formed an object of prominence from every point of view."

This teapot was composed of galvanised iron, with three taps affixed to it. After the fete was over, the teapot was bought by a grocer named Kolher. He cut it down to a size that allowed him to use it as a trade sign for his shop in High Street, and he called his shop "The St. Kilda Tea Pot." He afterwards sold his business to a man named Milward. In December, 1912, when looking through some photographic negatives in a Prahran pawnbroker's shop, we found a picture of Milward's shop, with the historic teapot fixed in the roof of its verandah.

In the evening the ships were illuminated, and their rigging festooned with lights. On the shore were many bonfires ; a big bonfire on Point Ormond burned brightly. Another was at Emerald Hill, while the reflections in the sky, in the far east, showed Prahran's bonfire on Mount Erica. Because of the elevated ground, on which the bonfire was set, its glare was seen for distances of miles around. At 9 o'clock a display of fireworks was made on St. Kilda beach, and when, amid a shower of rockets, the last device was lit up, "Long live H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh," and "God Save the Queen," the crowds gave loud and loyal cheers. At the same hour, a burst of fireworks was sent up from Sandridge, and the ships in the bay fired rockets and

blue lights. Both St. Kilda, and Prahran, towns were illuminated ; the shopkeepers of those places making a brave show with transparencies.

On January 2, 1868, Prince Alfred visited the St. Kilda Bowling Club, in Fitzroy Street, arriving at the green, about one o'clock, in the open barouche, drawn by four grey horses, driven by himself. He was accompanied by Lieut. Haig, and was received by the President of the Club, Mr. William Nimmo, and the Hon. Alexander Fraser, M.L.C., at the entrance gates, where there was a large crowd. On entering the grounds the Prince was loudly cheered by the 600 present, the majority of whom were ladies. The Prince then retired "to the pavilion, and after remaining there a few minutes," so runs a contemporary report, "he came on to the ground, and tried a few bowls, but did not take part in any of the rinks that were playing." This account of the Prince's "retiring to the Pavilion" reads as if the Royal visitor had found the St. Kilda Road hot, dry, and dusty.

The Prince was accompanied over the ground by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Dr. Patterson, the Mayor of Melbourne, J. S. Butters, and several other gentlemen. The Prince planted a tree to commemorate his visit, and the following inscription was placed beside the tree, "Wellingtonia Gigantea, mammoth pine, a native of California, planted 2nd January, 1868, by His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh." The Prince expressed a wish to become an honorary member of the club, whereupon the committee decided to name the club, the Royal Alfred Bowling Club. Afterwards the Prince drove along the Esplanade, looked at Prince Alfred Square, named after him, and then "home" to Toorak.

Such was the account of the first visit of a prince of royal blood to St. Kilda. The memorial of his passage will remain for all time in the place name of Alfred Square. Prince Alfred, at St. Kilda, was the forerunner of even more distinguished Royal personages than himself. The great honor of receiving Royalty has become somewhat of a habit with the Council of St. Kilda, and the St. Kilda's Town Clerk. Custom hath made it easy for any Mayor of St. Kilda to bask in Royalty's smiles while the Town Clerk reads the address of welcome. We have Prince Alfred's word above his signature, that his visit to St. Kilda interested him, and, the world can surely take a prince's word!

A letter was received, and read from him at the St. Kilda Council meeting of January 13, 1868. The letter said:—

"To the Mayor, and Corporation of St. Kilda.

"Gentlemen,

"My visit, though short, to your borough was interesting to me.

"I thank you heartily for the expression conveyed to me in your address, and for your cordial welcome to myself.

"ALFRED."

When the news came to Melbourne of the attempted assassination of Prince Alfred by the madman O'Farrell in Sydney on March 13, 1868, the St. Kilda Council, in common with every other public body, expressed its horror, and its detestation of the crime in a loyal address to His Royal Highness.

Alfred Square, shown on an old plan in the Lands Office, has "Reserved Bowling Green" marked upon its area. Apparently it was at one time intended that St. Kilda should have, like Plymouth Hoe, a bowling green by the sea. Tradition says that Francis Drake, and his captains, were playing a game of bowls when they first heard of the approach of the Spanish Armada in 1588. Devonshire men were very active as first settlers in St. Kilda, and they may have suggested to the Government the beauty of a bowling green on a commanding eminence by the sea. The St. Kilda Bowling Club was three years of age, when its members had the honor of enrolling royalty, in the person of Prince Alfred, among its members. We doubt very much whether the men, who started the St. Kilda Bowling Club, knew that the north-east corner of Alfred Square was reserved for a bowling green. The genesis of the club took place through a meeting of residents of St. Kilda, held in the committee room, of the Town Hall, in Gray Street, on June 7, 1865, for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a bowling club. A number of gentlemen favorable to the proposal attended. Dr. Patterson was voted to the chair. The following resolutions were carried :-

- (1) That a bowling club, to be called the St. Kilda Bowling Club, be established forthwith.
- (2) That the entrance fee be one guinea and the annual subscription one guinea, both payable in advance

- (3) That a provisional committee be appointed to select an eligible site, and to obtain the sanction of the President of the Board of Lands and Survey for its occupation, to enrol members, draw up a code of rules, and to report to a meeting to be held on Wednesday, the 21st inst.

The Town Clerk of St. Kilda, Edward Bradshaw, consented to act as the honorary treasurer, and secretary, of the Provisional Committee. He was requested to write a letter to the Commissioner of Lands and Survey, for an appointment, to receive a deputation, from the Committee, to request that a site in the St. Kilda Park, immediately contiguous to the Melbourne and St. Kilda railway reserve, be granted with a frontage of 205 feet to Fitzroy Street, and a depth to the railway reserve. Upwards of forty gentlemen enrolled their names, as members of the proposed club, at this very early stage of its inception. The office-bearers, and committee, were, first the Mayor of St. Kilda, the Hon. Alexander Fraser, M.L.C., as president of the club; Dr. Patterson was appointed vice-president; Sydney W. Smith, the town surveyor of St. Kilda, honorary surveyor to the club; Councillor Henry Tullett, hon. secretary; Edward Bradshaw, hon. treasurer; S. P. Lord (Consul for U.S.A.), and councillor in 1866, and with one intermission, he retained his seat in the council until 1875; Councillor J. Turner, 1864 to 1866; W. Nimmo, 'a squatter residing in Grey Street ; W. Hawkins and J. D. Gowan, a merchant with his home in Prince's Street. On June 21, it was announced that the application of the Provisional Committee of the St. Kilda Bowling Club, for the use of a part of the Albert Park, for the site of a bowling green, was granted by the Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Survey, subject to such grant having the approval of the Borough Council, which had the temporary control of the portion of the park, sought to be alienated for club purposes. The Council had planted the park at the proposed site with trees. The Public Works Committee of the Council recommended the Council to consent to the club's use, and occupation, of the ground, and the recommendation was adopted. Prior to this, "The Argus" newspaper, on June 6, had written :— "Should the Committee be successful in its application to the Minister of Lands for the use of a piece of the public reserve, the club will start under better

auspices than the one already in existence, as the latter has been put to considerable expense in obtaining, and renting from a private holder the ground which it occupies."

The original intention was that the club should number 100 members, but before the green was opened, November 11, 1865, the members' roll exceeded 100. The first proposed site of the green was where the Park State school now stands. A tender for a paling fence, by one Armstrong, was accepted, and D. Johnson laid out the grounds. It was not long before the residents of Fitzroy Street objected to the unsightly fence, enclosing the ground. In consequence of the complaints, the members of the St. Kilda Council made a personal inspection of the green, and its appurtenances. The councillors considered there was room for improvement in the fence, and they suggested to the club that it should erect a picket fence. The Committee stated that when the club had sufficient money it intended to erect an open iron fence, on the Fitzroy Street frontage, so as to have one large green, measuring 150 feet each way, and a smaller green for croquet. The councillors, on their inspection of the ground, found that the club had made provision for a quoit ground, for walks, and slopes for lawns. The bowls' house, and refreshment room, were of a temporary character. The grounds were pleasant to look at, and when it was remembered that the club only dated back to the latter part of June, it was admitted that the club had accomplished a great deal. The first game of bowls played was between two teams, the sides chosen by the president and vice-president. The vice-president's team won by six, the numbers being 78 to 72. The members who had paid up their club dues numbered 128. Since that time this pioneer bowling club has prospered, and it has now its accepted and distinguished position in the list of the bowling pioneer clubs of Melbourne.