

CHAPTER XIX.

Early Schools—School Masters and School Mistresses—First Anglican School—John Hadfield, Headmaster—Various Well-known Schools— St. Kilda Lyceum—Professor Tegethoff—James Bonwick—Alexander Gillespie—The Pembroke Hotel Becomes the St. Kilda Grammar School—Becomes Private House, Tenants Henry Jennings and Judge Casey—A Revered Teacher, Mrs. Elizabeth Macarthur, of St. Kilda Ladies' College—M. and Madame Akerman and Others—All Saints' Grammar School—State Education—State Schools of St. Kilda—School of Industrial Art—Distinguished Artists, C. D. Richardson, Rupert Bunny.

IN The Argus newspaper dated November 1st, 1850, there appeared the following advertisement:—

"A lady resident in the healthy and lovely Village of St. Kilda, is desirous of receiving four little girls to educate, during the summer months, or permanently. The children would have the benefit of sea bathing. For further particulars, apply by letter to O.S.A. Argus office."

This advertisement appeared in several issues of the paper. Evidently "four little girls" requiring education, and sea bathing, were not easily come by in the year 1850, on a remunerative basis, or perhaps Mrs., or Miss, Osa was too stringent in her request for references, or may be it was the amount of her charges. "References" were always required by "genteel folk" in those early days. We knew an old lady who was a schoolmistress of those days, who always spoke of the wealthy residents of early St. Kilda, in tones of worshipful respect, referring to them as "the gentry of St. Kilda."

A notice was seen one morning, tacked to the door of the first Anglican school in St. Kilda. The notice stated, in a fair round hand:—

"THIS SCHOOL IS CLOSED
IN CONSEQUENCE OF
THE MASTER
HAVING GONE TO THE DIGGINGS."

The school room was in Acland Street, and on Sundays, the room was used for divine worship. A portion of the old building forms a part of the present Christ Church Sunday School. The school remained for almost a year without a teacher, for teachers were difficult to find. At the time there was a young school master, on his way from London to the Colony, in the ship "Clara Symes." He also was "going to the diggings." The name of that young man was John Hadfield. Fate willed that he should spend 120 days on the sea, ere he was given the opportunity of carrying out his intention. When Hadfield arrived in Melbourne, with his wife, and his brother Benjamin, in 1853, he found reasons to change his mind about "going to the diggings." The conditions of life in Australia Felix, were unlike anything he had imagined. John felt his friends in his native village of Devizes, in Wiltshire would regard any statement of his, that some of the native animals had pockets in their pelts, as a traveller's yarn.

John, and Benjamin Hadfield, were prepared to be surprised in some ways. They were even prepared to resist being murdered in any way. Before leaving London, they had melted down a number of leaden inkpots, and recast them into bullets, for the two large horse pistols which they carried. They were not, however, prepared to find, on landing from the "Clara Symes," that there was not a room available for lodging in Melbourne. If it was like that in Melbourne, how much worse was it, said John, at the diggings? And Benjamin, not knowing anything about it, quite agreed with his brother. John went back to the ship, secured some blankets, and came ashore for the second time. Mrs. Hadfield made up a bed, under a gum tree, growing upon a green hill, south of the Yarra. John returned to the vessel to gather together their belongings. His brother stood through the night, under the gum tree, with the loaded horse pistols, guarding Mrs. Hadfield. The following day, John Hadfield erected the first, or one of the first tents, on the hill afterwards known as Emerald Hill. He said the location was about the spot now occupied by the South Melbourne Town Hall.

Mr. Hadfield struck his tent to rent a room in St. Kilda, at the cost of one pound per week. While living in St. Kilda, he heard of the closed school, and he decided to apply for the vacant

post. Shortly afterwards, he was stuck up, and robbed, in Barkly Street by a bushranger, but that experience did not change his intention of remaining in St. Kilda, though, for some time after the "bail up," he carried a loaded revolver—the horse pistols were discarded as obsolete—in his pocket, going to, and coming from the school.

John Hadfield, born on March 8, 1827, was educated at the Burrow Road Training College, and though only twenty-six years of age when he left for the Colony, he had gained a reputation as a teacher, in the service of the London School Board. Early in his teaching career, he displayed a special aptitude for imparting instruction. Since 1848, in Victoria there had been a denominational system of education, and it was administered by a Board, and subsidised by the State. It was to that Board Hadfield applied for employment, and he was appointed to the school in Acland Street.

The heritage left by the schoolmaster, who had disappeared, was not a great one. On the day Hadfield re-opened the school, he was inclined to think that all the scholars had gone to the diggings to look for their one time teacher. The school bell was rung, and rung yet again, but only two pupils answered the call. He enrolled these two faithful ones, and so commenced his long, and honorable career, as the village schoolmaster of St. Kilda.

Some genteel ladies, in "reduced circumstances," opened what were ungallantly called "Old Dame's Schools." Those schools lasted for a time, when they were crushed out, and superseded by good schools, conducted by ladies, who did endeavour to impart knowledge to their pupils. Among the schools, recorded in 1857, as being in existence were those of Miss Brodie, Barkly Street; Mrs. Elines, Barkly Street; Mrs. D. G. McArthur, Robe Street; and the Misses Williams, 84 High Street. There was also about that time the well known school of M. and Madame Forissier, Barkly Street, and afterwards that of Madame Pfund. This successful young ladies' school was called "Oberwyl". Later there was the St. Kilda Lyceum, a well remembered school that had as its principal, Professor Tegethoff, irreverently called by his pupils, when out of his hearing, "Sticky stuff." He occupied a house of two stories situated in Carlisle Street, between High Street, and Barkly Street, belonging to Kenric Brodribb, who was the first solicitor of the St. Kilda

Council, and brother to W. Brodribb, one of the overlanders from Sydney. The Brodribbs were staunch Anglicans, and associated with church work. Professor Tegethoff had about fifty pupils, and one of them was a shy boy named A. Kruse, who afterwards gained a world wide reputation as a violinist. When Kruse, years, afterwards, was paying a visit to St. Kilda, some of his old fellow students, at Tegethoff's, St. Kilda Lyceum, entertained the distinguished musician at a banquet. The members of the Executive Committee of welcome were : Felix Meyer, Arthur Weber, Paul Joske, A. S. Abraham, Harry Leddin, Victor Lemme, Arthur Trapp, Charles Iffla, Fred Thoneman, Fred Michaelis, Edward J. Hart, and Edward De Beer. This list shows that the Professor had among his pupils some boys, who afterwards became well known Melbourne men. According to one of his pupils, the Professor was not for sparing the rod. Tegethoff was a Prussian Jew, and the Christian side of the Lyceum asserted, in a loud unchristian-like manner, that the Professor delighted to flay the hides of the unlearned Gentiles, with many resounding "Hochs." The school speech days were very unusual ones. Parents, and friends, were invited to attend, and they then witnessed the extraordinary sight of the whole of the pupils being examined, one by one, regarding what they knew. Every answer to a question had to be spoken loud enough for all present to hear. Afterwards, the prizes were distributed to those successful pupils, who had come through the public examination. Such speech days usually occupied three hours of time. The Professor examined the pupils as to their knowledge in foreign languages, and his assistant master, McPherson, was responsible for the boys' efficiency in the three "R's." In 1873, the St. Kilda Grammar School, under the directorship of the Rev. John Stanley Low, had as its head master the Rev. Percy J. Smith. The Charnwood Grove School, High Street, St. Kilda, was superintended by the Rev. A. Gosman, and J. Cope, with Walter Forster as principal.

In the years of the sixties, James Bonwick, compiler of Early Port Phillip Records, started a school at Hofwell House, afterwards the Queen's College. Prior to that, Bonwick was a Government Inspector of Schools, in the Ballarat District. Among his pupils was Henry O'Hara, afterwards Surgeon O'Hara. Bonwick gave up the school in 1872, and went to Eng-

land. William P. Bonwick succeeded him, and the school was transferred to Carlton House. James Bonwick, in December, 1867, wrote to the St. Kilda Council, and said he had lived in St. Kilda for years, and had received many kindnesses. He was 50 years of age, and in the evening of his days, he desired to see in St. Kilda, an institution for young men, where they could obtain "rational amusement, and instruction." He was willing to contribute £100 towards that object, and £20 for the first few years of struggle. The Council appointed the Mayor, Councillor James Patterson, and Councillors Lord and Crouch to carry out the proposal, but Bonwick's desires were not realised. In 1871, or early in 1872, Alexander Gillespie took over Hofwyl School. The school speech days were held in the Assembly Hall, Grey Street, with Sir James McCulloch presiding. Robert Bradley, subsequently became the head master of Queen's College, followed by others.

The shuffling of the positions of headmasterships in St. Kilda, was somewhat bewildering, and no man was more changeful of his offices than Alexander Gillespie. For fifty years he lived in Barkly Street. He was the founder, and the principal of the St. Kilda Scotch College, of the St. Kilda Grammar School, of which Howell Thomas was the head master. Gillespie was connected with All Saints' Grammar School, under the head mastership of William H. Goff, M.A. When R. S. Bradley controlled the Queen's College, the late Alexander Gillespie was a master there. The peregrinating old schoolmaster of St. Kilda, Alexander Gillespie, so well liked by the boys, died in December, 1924. William H. Goff was another well known schoolmaster of St. Kilda, at All Saints' Grammar School, established in connection with All Saints' Church, at the time, when the Rev. J. H. Gregory was the incumbent of All Saints'. Goff left All Saints' School, and started a grammar school, principally composed of boarders, at Beaconsfield, where he eventually died.

At the corner of Acland, and Fawkner Streets, there was, in the year 1857, the Pembroke Hotel, and the licensee was Frederick Rees. The hotel stood on Allotment 34, and it had a frontage of 82 feet to Acland Street, by a depth of 160 feet to Fawkner Street. The building was a brick, stuccoed, one, on foundations of stone, and it contained 21 rooms. At the back of the hotel was a weatherboard building, 58 feet by 14 feet, which

was used as a dining room. There was also a stable, and a bricked cement underground tank, twelve feet in depth, and ten feet in circumference. The hotel was well equipped for customers, but they did not arrive at the hotel in sufficient numbers to show a profit to Frederick Rees. This hotel, like Carlton House, Sudgen's venture, was before its time. Rees closed the hotel, and moved into High Street, to be in the fairway of the trade stream flowing between Brighton, and Melbourne. He opened another inn in High Street, and transferred the name "Pembroke" to his new premises. Rees remained there for a number of years, and it was there that the first lodge of the U.A.O.D. was opened in November, 1893.

When Rees went out of the original Pembroke Hotel, in St. Kilda, William C. Northcott took the place, on lease, for four years, at a yearly rental of £350, and he had the option of buying the building for £5,000. Northcott had the B.A. degree, and was formerly a scholar of Caius College, Cambridge, and head master at the Preparatory Military School at Wimbleton. On January 16, 1857, he informed parents, and guardians, of potential pupils of his, that the premises he had temporarily occupied, as a school in Fitzroy Street, were objectionable on many grounds, and he had decided to re-open his school, known, as the St. Kilda Grammar School, on Monday, January 19, in the house hitherto known as the Pembroke Hotel, Acland Street. Headmaster Northcott stated that extensive alterations were being made to the hotel, and that schoolrooms, dining hall, &c., were in the course of erection. "The present school," he adds, "is in a retired position, commanding a full view of the Bay, and adjoining a Government Reserve, which stretches down to the sea." At the St. Kilda Grammar School, under the headmastership of this scholar of Caius College, scholars were given "a sound English education, classics, mathematics, and French." Young gentlemen were prepared for the University, the Bar, the Army, the Navy, and the Civil Service. Mr. Northcott stated he could produce the highest references and testimonials. Northcott had among his pupils a boy, who became a Supreme Court Judge of Victoria, the late Mr. Justice Hood, and also His Honor's brother, in addition to two sons, Tom and Dick, of the leading barrister of those days, Richard Davies Ireland. After Northcott closed his school, the place was altered, and became a

private house which had, as its first tenant, Henry Jennings, the lawyer, of whom we have already written. After Jennings died, Judge Casey made the place his residence. On wet days, when the rain had beaten for some hours against the white wall of the building, the hotel's name could sometimes be traced on the wet wall in faded black letters. It would be possible for an early resident of St. Kilda, if he could return from the shades, to mistake a gentleman's residence for the old Pembroke Inn. Perhaps Oliver Goldsmith found the idea for his comedy "She Stoops to Conquer" in the history of such a house.

The Government, in 1857, voted the sum of £125,000, for primary schools, which were to provide education for over thirty thousand Victorian children, and be controlled by two Educational Boards, the Denominational and the National. In 1859 the Government expressed itself as willing to reserve a site on Crown Lands for a National school at St. Kilda. A copy of following letter was sent in a printed form by the Chairman of the Municipality to prominent residents. Beyond what the letter itself explains, as also the letter attached to it we are unable to further elucidate it. The letter reads :-

"St. Kilda

"February 29th, 1859.

Dear Sir,

I have been requested by several Gentlemen, interested in the promotion of Education, to convene a meeting, for the purpose of considering an offer, by the Government, of a site in St. Kilda, for a National School, and consulting as to the further steps to be taken in the matter.

The meeting will be held in the Municipal Chambers, in the Police Reserve, near the Junction, on Thursday evening next, at a quarter to eight o'clock, when your attendance is respectfully requested.

I am, dear Sir

Yours obediently,

B. COWDEROY."

In a reply to one of these letters Matthew Harvey wrote, "Charnwood, Thursday evening, To B. Cowderoy, Esq. Dear Sir, I regret extremely that I am prevented by a severe attack of influenza from attending the meeting, to be held this evening, at the Municipal Chambers, to consider an offer by the Government of a site in St. Kilda, for a National School. As it will be

absolutely necessary to procure Funds, by local subscription, for the erecting of the school, before the Government would definitely set apart the site, and as a subscription may be set on foot tonight, you will oblige by putting me down for £25, twenty five pounds. Hoping the meeting may be well attended, and unanimous in its desire to establish a first class National School, in this locality. I remain, Yours very truly, Matthew Harvey."

We have been unable to trace any report of this meeting. Presumably the site offered was the one finally selected upon which the Brighton Road, State School now stands. The liberality of Matthew Harvey in the cause of education shines down the years. Poor unfortunate fellow! He was to live long enough to want twenty five pence!

When early St. Kilda schools are under discussion, "Goslett's School" is invariably referred to; possibly the name "Goslett" clings readily to the memory. The school was not so remunerative that Charles Acton Goslett, Sizar of Trinity College, Dublin, desired to keep it in existence. On February 4, 1859, the school building was sold, by Symons & Perry, it being a portion of the estate of McMahon & Keys. The building was described as being of brick, commodious, and well built, "at present occupied by Mr. Goslett for his large scholastic establishment." The building contained 27 rooms, and was all slated, "It immediately fronted the bay, at the corner of the Esplanade, being one of the healthiest and most desirable situations in St. Kilda." Two cottages adjoining the building, occupied respectively by Mr. Adams, and Miss Dickson, were sold at the same time. Goslett secured a position with Dr. Bromby at the Melbourne Church of England Grammar School, St. Kilda Road, in 1860, and he remained a master there until 1874, when he left, refreshed his law studies, and became a barrister. The charm of St. Kilda retained its sway over him, and he continued to reside in St. Kilda. He was living in Burnett Street in the year 1881. One of the most esteemed lady teachers of St. Kilda was Mrs. Elizabeth Macarthur, the wife of Donald G. Macarthur, we have already mentioned. She, with her husband, and her brother-in-law, D. C. Macarthur, manager of the Bank of Australasia, until his retirement, were very early settlers in Melbourne. Mrs. Macarthur chose St. Kilda as offering the most fruitful field for her useful labors, as an educationalist. She built, what at the time was thought to be a very imposing building, in Robe Street,

which she called the St. Kilda Ladies' College. Upon Robe Street becoming a busy thoroughfare, she removed her school to a house in the then more retired Alma Road. Mrs. Macarthur was a richly gifted woman, who had received an extraordinary good education in Edinburgh. She had a wonderful womanly personality, a heart of excessive tenderness, but she was firmness itself *when* necessary. She was a happy woman, having won the hearts of her pupils, and the esteem of their parents. She had, as the years passed, descendants of her former pupils under her care. She was not a worldly woman. It is related of her that when arranging terms with a visiting master, who asked fifty pounds a year for his services," she replied, "I will give you fifty guineas." This is but one instance of many that were quoted at the time of her death to show the liberal nature of Mrs. MacArthur. It was said of her that, "even remotest Thule felt her *sway*" in private benevolence. For years, a poor lady relation of hers, was in receipt of a monthly pay order sent by each outgoing mail by Mrs. Macarthur. Local, and general charities, all in turn received her widow's mite. Of the three excellent ladies' schools in Prahran, and St. Kilda, it used to be said "Mrs. — turned out learned ladies; Miss — fashionable ones, and Mrs. Macarthur good wives." Mrs. Macarthur died at Rothermaise, Moonee Ponds, on November 30, 1878, where she had been living for about a year in retirement. Alongside her grave, the Rev. A. Gosman addressed the mourners, and ended by saying, "If you seek her monument look around in the hearts, and lives of those she trained, not only for this life, but for the next, to which she has now gone." Her remains were buried in the same grave as her husband's, beneath a marble tombstone, in the St. Kilda Cemetery.

Other schools, in 1861, included the Ladies' Collegiate Institution Kinder Garten and Training School, Gurner Street. The principal was Madame Akermann, Brevetée de la Sorbonne, and the Director of Studies, Mons. Akermann, B. es L.B. es S.M., and Ph., ex-membre de l'Instruction Publique, University of France. This school was established in St. Kilda in 1858, and as may be judged from the qualifications of Madame, and Monsieur Akermann, was an institution that educated the children of parents, who did not grudge paying high fees, for a little French polish. Mrs. Baldwin, in Byron Street, had the Moss Grove Seminary, and in Carlisle Street, West St. Kilda, was W. Bowen,

M.A., with his school. Esplanade House was a school for young ladies, kept by Miss Matthieu. Other notable schools in St. Kilda, at and about that time, were the St. Kilda Education Institute Bay View House, Argyle Street, William Cox, Melbourne University Principal ; Mrs. Brownes' Academy, Retreat Villa, Acland Street. The Misses Ries kept a Ladies' Boarding School in Northampton Buildings, Acland Street. In Park Terrace was the St. Kilda Commercial Academy; the St. Kilda College was in Robe Street with James Clezy, M.A., as its head master. Other schools were the Gloucester Terrace School, Fitzroy Street, Mrs. Hossack's Ladies' College, and there were also other schools in St. Kilda. Obviously youthful St. Kilda was fully provided for in the way of schooling.

The Rev. David Seddon, of Christ Church, made the following entries in his diary regarding parochial schools ;—

"1862.—Monday, July 14th, 8 p.m.

Meeting for Election for Local Board for our Parochial Schools. Only six present.

Elected Minister and Trustees: Ex-office with Messrs. F. G. Smith, B. Cowderoy; E. Bardwell, N. Billing and W. Ford.

"July 18th.

Wrote letter to Bishop with names of new Local Board for our Parochial Schools—under common Schools Act, and our Church Assembly Rgns.

"July 22nd, 3 p.m.

Education Board —Subjects: Replies to Bishop's letter about appointment of Local Board, was in chair. My brethren and self sat nearly 3 hours. Subject perplexing—perhaps replies respecting 25 or 30 schools. Opinions generally against combined Schools. A few for them. Self with Hadfield. Dickenson, inclined to improved National plan for such cases."

James Wilberforce Stephen, M.A., a graduate, Fourth Wrangler, and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, was a resident of St. Kilda, and he was returned as the member of St. Kilda, in 1871. The electorate of St. Kilda was in that year comprised "of the Town of Prahran, the Borough of St. Kilda, and that portion of the City of Melbourne, lying south of the Yarra,

Average first week 1872..	175
" " " 1873	275
Mr. James A. Ure's school (Presbyterian) Inkerman Street, St. Kilda—	
Average attendance of pupils first and second week, 1873	120
Showing an increase of thirty pupils on the year before.	
Average attendance first week, 1872	70
" " " 1873	108
Miss Atkinson's School, Evelyn Street—	
Average attendance of pupils, 1872	64
First two weeks, 1873	99
Increase, 35.	
Average attendance of pupils first week, 1872	52
" " " 1873	78

Under the Act, School Boards of Advice had to be formed. The members of the Boards were elected to the position, by the votes of ratepayers. The first election, for members of the St. Kilda Board of Advice, took place on May 31, 1873. A large number of citizens offered themselves for election. The result of the poll disclosed that the electors had chosen a distinguished group of men. The newly created Board was composed of—

The Rev. Alexander Gosman	121 votes
John Matheson..	121 "
T. J. Crouch..	109 "
Alexander W. Fraser	108 "
Robert Murray Smith	90 "
Robert Sellar	83 "
W. B. Rankin..	79 "

It will be seen that the Presbyterians voted very consistently, the number of votes cast for the Rev. Alexander Gosman, and John Matheson, the general manager of the Bank of Victoria, and a pillar of the St. Kilda Presbyterian Church, 121, probably represented every elector of that denomination, who went to cast his vote at the polling booth. The Anglicans did not do so well, the voting being patchy.

The Board held its first meeting on July 22, 1873, in the St. Kilda Town Hall, all the members being present. John Matheson was elected chairman of the Board, and Robert Murray Smith, M.A., its correspondent. Smith was member

for St. Kilda, in the Legislative Assembly in 1873, a position he held for four years when he was defeated. Under the will of Edward Wilson he was one of the trustees of The Argus newspaper. The Board decided that its members should spend the next week as their time allowed, in seeking in St. Kilda, a suitable site for a State school, with a view to recommending the selected site to the Government.

At the St. Kilda Council on February 10, 1873, a letter was read from the Inspector of Schools, on behalf of the Minister of Public Instruction, asking on what terms the Borough Council of St. Kilda, would lease the Town Hall, to the Department of Education for use, temporarily, as a State school, during the ordinary school hours. The school accommodation in the borough was insufficient for the wants of St. Kilda. It was impossible to erect a permanent State school just then, and the Department heads hoped that the Borough Council would help them in their difficulty. The hall would not be required until June 30. The schools of Mr. Hadfield, and Mr. Ure, were insufficient in accommodation, to contain the great increase of scholars, which the new Education Act had brought about. There were very few places in the borough the Department could hire for the purposes of a school. The charge for the Assembly Hall, in Grey Street, was too great, the new Oddfellows' Hall, at the Junction, was too far away from the centre of the borough. A large building in Robe Street was unfit for the purpose. The St. Kilda Town Hall was the only building, after those mentioned, contained in the borough, suitable for the purpose. The Council decided to loan the hall to the department, free of cost, on the condition that the place was kept clean, and in good repair, and further, that the department take immediate steps to construct a building suitable to the requirements of the place.

The Minister of Instruction took advantage of the Borough Council's permission to use the hall, almost at once. Pupils from Hadfield's School, Christ Church School, Acland Street, were marched to the hall. For several weeks, the Christ Church school had been crowded to excess, 150 more pupils were crammed into the school, in excess of the Government regulations, governing the cubic air space for each pupil. The congestion of pupils in Ure's school, became so great that the Education Department rented the Temperance Hall, in Blanche Street, and 100 scholars were sent to school held in that hall,

Whether the members of the St. Kilda Board of Advice made their contemplated tour of the Borough, in search of a school site, we do not know, but it is obvious that the Government, having Crown Lands available in Carlisle Street, and Brighton Road, that the Crown was not in the market as a purchaser of any land from private owners for a school site. Two allotments, for church reservations, had already been excised from that parcel of Crown land, one for the Wesleyans, or Methodists, and the other for the Anglicans. A considerable amount of local historical interest is connected with this piece of land, on a portion of which the present city hall of St. Kilda stands, with a beautiful frontispiece of well trimmed lawns, handsome trees, and flowing curving walks. Originally, to the Council, a portion of the land was known as "The Market Reserve," and it was reserved for that purpose. The Council exercised some form of trusteeship over it, and in March 1873, the Planting Committee of the Council, anxious to beautify waste places by planting trees, proposed to make some improvements in its conditions. The place was a no man's waste of more or less rubbishy appearance. The land was described as "an irregular shaped piece of land opposite the Greyhound Hotel bounded by the Brighton Road, Carlisle, Chapel, and Dickens Streets, a portion of which is already reserved for market purposes, and is at present (March, 1873) in an unsightly condition. The committee recommend that the Minister of Lands be requested to permanently reserve, for public purposes, the whole of such land, or, as much of it, as has not been already reserved, and that it be vested in the Borough Council. This land," the report went on to say, "is as nearly as possible in the centre of the borough, and an open breathing place, and recreation ground, as it might be made, will be of incalculable value in the future. If placed in the market, at present it would sell for a mere trifle for the large ditch, conveying the drainage of Caulfield passes through it, and this fact would depreciate it in all time coming for building purposes. In the event of the land being permanently reserved, and placed under the control of the borough Council, the committee recommend that it be enclosed in a substantial wooden fence ; that the surface be levelled, and formed, and laid down with grass, that a belt of trees be planted round it, and that a few clumps be planted where desirable. The sides

of the drain should be formed to a uniform slope, and sown with couch grass, and weeping willows, should be planted on each side along its course. Two or three metal depots might be formed where most convenient."

Towards the end of the year 1872 the Government bought a piece of land in Inkerman Street for the purpose of erecting a State school, in a central position of the Borough of St. Kilda. Having done so, plans, and specifications, were prepared for the school building, when the newly elected Board of Advice lodged objections to the erection of only one school, urging that the requirements of the Borough embraced two first class State schools. The members of the Board of Advice were successful in their protest, so far as the proposal to have two schools was concerned, but the Government declined to erect schools, capable of providing for more than 1,000 children, since it was estimated there were only 2,000 children in the Borough. Fifteen months of time had passed away, while the differences of opinion existing between the Board, the Council and the Government, were being discussed. The site of the proposed school, in South St. Kilda, was described as near to the Grosvenor Hotel. It will be seen how persistently, in land locations, the early records make use of references to hotels as land marks, to indicate localities. The Council waited, as a deputation, on the Minister of Education, and also wrote a letter to him wherein was expressed the hope, that first class schools would be erected in suitable positions, within the Borough, as soon as possible. Moreover, the Council, possibly by way of increasing the pressure on the Minister, complained that the continuous occupation of the town hall, for school purposes, was putting the Council to very serious inconvenience, as no doubt it was. A contemporary report states the uproar of the children, and the untidy state of everything connected with the temporary school, in the Town Hall, were dreadful nuisances, and should be removed. The Minister of Education expressed his regret, that the Department had, by force of circumstances, been compelled to remain so long in possession of the hall, and in having to use it as a school room. The Council was assured, that every effort was being made to finalise the negotiations, that were proceeding to obtain a lease of the Wesleyan Church school room in Fitzroy Street. If the Depart-

ment was successful in doing so, the Town Hall would be given up immediately. Soon afterwards the children left the Town Hall, and the Government paid the Council between £30 and £40 for renovations to the hall, which was described as being "left in a dreadful mess." Many years afterwards, history was in part to repeat itself in the repetition of the Council lending the City Hall to the Education Department, for the purpose of holding the Brighton Road State school in the hall during the influenza outbreak. It was the same council, same department, same school, but all of a different generation. The hall was a different one, the first being the old Town Hall in Grey Street, that was afterwards used as the police court.

The Education Department informed the Council that tenders had been called to erect a State school in South St. Kilda, and the site on which the Department contemplated erecting the school, was at the corner of Chapel Street, and Dickens Street. The description would have been more accurate, had the Minister said the school was to be placed on the Brighton Road frontage of the Church reserve. He also told the Council, that the accommodation of the proposed school was to be capable of seating 300 pupils. The Council objected strongly to this attempt of the Education Department to foist upon the Borough, a second class school. The Council petitioned for a school to contain enough room for 1,000 scholars. The Minister explained that the plans of the school were drawn, so that the school could be expanded by additional buildings. That did not satisfy the Council. The school they sought should be built at the outset. After argument, a compromise was effected in the Council's favor, to the extent that there was to be provided space for 600 school children, just half as many more as the Department first proposed. This decision was reached in the month of July, 1874. The Brighton Road State School was opened on January 11, 1875, Headmaster John Hadfield, with a staff of twelve teachers. The school was estimated, when finished, to have accommodation for 650 children. On the opening day 604 school children attended. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Wilks, declared the school open, in the presence of 200 visitors. The Board of Advice was represented by its correspondent, J. S. Seddon, and Messrs. Ecroyd, and others. Seddon and Ecroyd were new members of the Board of Advice, having

replaced Robert Murray Smith and Robert Sellar, both of whom had left the district.

The new State school proved to be a very progressive one, none more so, at that time, around Melbourne. It had a Scholars' Lending Library which in August, 1875, contained over the number of 200 volumes. A free night school had been started, and the school was attended by nearly 100 pupils, mostly adults. A drum and fife band had been formed, afterwards to be well and favourably known, far and wide, as the Juvenile Drum and Fife Band of St. Kilda State School, No. 1479. Later, when the cadet movement came into being, the Head Master, Mr. Hadfield, formed the finest State school cadet corps in the Colony. John Hadfield's name will be known to future generations of St. Kilda, State School children, for in the Brighton Road State School, is a memorial tablet to his memory. John Hadfield! John Hadfield! His spirit still lives to be an inspiration to teachers and pupils in the old St. Kilda State School.

The drawback to the school grounds was the drain that ran through them. This drain gave the Council a problem that could be solved only by the expenditure of money. In May, 1880, the Council waited as a deputation on the Minister of Public Works, with regard to the drain in the school grounds. The Council had spent on the drain as a whole, in St. Kilda, the sum of £18,000. The sum required to complete the work was £1,200. The proportion of the work in the school grounds was estimated to cost £320. Half of that sum was offered by the Education Department, and the Council sought aid from the Government, which after Premier Bent had growled, was given to the extent of one third of £1,000. Since that time, the St. Kilda Council has taken an interest in the school grounds, the late Councillor Hewison, with the assistance of his colleagues, forming modern play grounds.

The St. Kilda Council has taken a continuous, and paternal interest in the welfare of the State and other schools, within the municipality. The various school committees, which have replaced the old School Boards of Advice, find in the St. Kilda Council an ever ready listener, and also a helpful adviser, as well as a contributor to funds, to promote such important school accessories as playgrounds. The Brighton Road State School, the Elwood State School, and the Park State School, have bene-

fited in that, and other ways, by the Council's generosity. In the case of the Brighton Road State School a Playgrounds Committee was formed with the late Councillor Hewison as chairman and the committee commenced its scheme of improvements in October 1921 and the Chairman was able to inform the Council in September 1922 that the improvements were almost completed, and that the Minister of Education would declare the grounds open on October 18. The privileges of the playground were conserved to children not exceeding sixteen years of age. The Council contributed £100 for the first year, towards the salary of a Play Master and controller, of the playground, after school hours. The school's playground adjoins the gardens of the city hall.

At a council meeting held on February 25, 1929, the Mayor, Councillor Unsworth referred to the retirement of Miss Marie K. Monckton from the teaching staff of the Brighton Road State School, after having taught there for thirty years. Miss Monckton's &Ideation services during that long period to the children of St. Kilda had been so invaluable that no one could take the measure of the good she had done. The Council placed on its minutes a recognition of Miss Monckton's services. The appreciation, so expressed, is shared by those who know of Miss Monckton' zeal as a teacher, and her kindness as a woman.

There was another highly esteemed teacher—Mr. J. L. Williams, who for 24 years was on the staff of the Brighton Road School. In 1929, by voluntary subscriptions, from many old pupils and admirers sufficient funds were raised to perpetuate his memory by the establishment of Memorial Scholarships.

When the agitation for the Brighton Road State School was in progress it was stated that the Education Department had purchased a piece of land near the St. Kilda market in Inkerman Street with the intention of erecting the St. Kilda State school there, but when the Board objected, and insisted upon the Borough having two schools, the Education Department decided then to build schools at the south end of St. Kilda and in the north.

Having provided for the wants of the children in South St. Kilda, under the new school State Education Act the Education Department procured from the Christ Church trustees a lease of the school room in Acland Street, and appointed James A. Ure as the school's headmaster. In the cause of education he had

given eighteen years of good service to the children of St. Kilda. It was feared, at one time, that in the readjustment of school life, that his position would be done away with. When it was known that he was retained to become the headmaster of the second States school in St. Kilda, parents and children were very pleased. The working of the school under the Act proved satisfactory. The school began in January, with 108 scholars on the roll, within a few weeks that number was doubled, and the school roll closed for the year with 399 scholars upon it, of whom 208 were boys, and 191 were girls. To stimulate his pupils to strive for efficiency James A. Ure, headmaster, devised a plan of giving to worthy pupils at the end of the year a certificate under his hand which he called a "Progress Certificate." From this source, was evolved the State School Certificate of Merit.

Henry Venables, the secretary of the Education Department, wrote to the St. Kilda Council (August 24, 1874) asking the Council to consent to the excision of one acre of land, at the north east corner of the Beach Reserve, Fitzroy Street, for a State school. The secretary added, that the late Minister of Education understood, from a conversation that had taken place, between him, and some members of the Council, that the Council had no objection to the erection of a State school on that site. The letter was referred to the Public Works Committee for consideration. The St. Kilda Council saw the Minister of Education in October, 1877, with respect to the site for the new State school. The Council at that meeting voiced its objection to the proposal to take a portion of the St. Kilda Park, near the Junction, for the site of the school. The Council was anxious that the original site, the Alpaca paddock, Fitzroy Street, should be adhered to. The Council suggested a poll be taken of the rate payers to ascertain their opinion. The Minister, Major W. Collard Smith, said he had examined the two sites. The site by the railway was unsuitable because the land was flooded after rain. The objection to the Park site at the Junction was merely a sentimental one. On the Alpaca site, the school building would have to be erected on stone piers at an extra cost of at least £1,000. The Council expressed the strongest objection to any alienation of any portion of the park lands, at the Junction for school purposes. The Minister said only an Act of Parliament, could give him the power to take the land. Had he had the power

he would have taken the land, so much was he impressed with the superiority of the Junction site over the one by the railway. The minister offered to exchange twenty acres of swampy land, near the Alpaca site, for two acres of land in the Park. The councillors refused to listen to any such proposal, and the meeting came to an end, without the Councillors obtaining any decisive reply that the Council's wishes would be granted.

On October 1, a large deputation of the ratepayers, opposed to the erection of the new State school, on the site chosen near the Fitzroy Street Railway station, waited on the St. Kilda Council. The speakers urged the dangers caused to children, by the number of cabs at the Railway station, and the passing to and fro of such vehicles, the vicinity of the Railway, where the children could get into mischief, all of which could be avoided if the Council would favor a short act of Parliament being passed to enable a school site to be obtained at the Junction.

The Mayor of St. Kilda, at the request of a number of burgesses, convened a meeting of burgesses, which was held in the Town Hall, October 11, for the purpose of taking the opinion of the ratepayers as to the projected alienation of part of Albert Park, for the purpose of building a State School thereon. Councillor McNaughton, addressing meeting, said efforts had been made, during the previous five years, to obtain a State School in West St. Kilda. Twelve months before the Board of Advice applied to the Council for a portion of the Albert Park Reserve, and was refused. Since that time the Education Department had determined on a site, near to the Railway Station. The Department was on the eve of accepting tenders, for the building of the school, where certain property holders formed a deputation, headed by Mr. Simpson, waited on the Minister of Lands, and told him that the site chosen was unhealthy, and that there would not be a garden within a quarter of a mile of the school, that would not be robbed by the scholars. Councillor Tullett stated, that the deputation represented some £250,000, and the members had no sympathy with State Schools, or the masses of the people. Motions for, and against, resulted in such an apparent equality, by a show of hands, that the Mayor requested the meeting to divide from one side of the Town Hall to the other. Finally, still undecided

the Mayor said he would submit the question to a poll of the ratepayers.

In the Legislative Assembly, on November 14, 1878, Major Smith moved for leave to introduce a bill, to vest in the Minister of Public Instruction a piece of land, situated in the Albert park, for the purposes of a school site. There was general unanimity, he said as to the site he proposed. The Albert Park was permanently reserved, and therefore it was necessary to ask for the bill. It was proposed to take a little over one acre of land, adjoining the bowling green, and to give some slight compensation to the bowling club. E. J. Dixon M.L.A. said he could scarcely agree, that there was general unanimity, because the Borough Council of St. Kilda strongly opposed any interference with public reserves, still the majority of the residents appeared to be in favor of the site. Ephraim Zox M.L.A., a resident of St. Kilda, said he was strongly opposed to the tampering with any public reserves. Leave was granted, and the bill read a first, and second time, and committed.

The Park State School, Fitzroy Street was opened on August 1st, 1882. The name of the first Head Teacher was David Gilchrist. The cost of the school building was £5,060, and Messrs. Beardall & Glenncross were the contractors. Additions were made to the Park State School, and also some alterations, carried out in July, 1923.

In May, 1913, proposals were made to erect a Technical School at the South Melbourne end of the Albert Park, but some of the St. Kilda councillors did not favor any land being alienated from Albert Park. In October 1914, the division of opinion in the Council was tested. Those, who were in favor of a site in the Park, were the Mayor, Councillors Love, Renfrey, Allen, Barnet, Gray, and Duigan ; those in opposition were Councillor O'Donnell who was the Chairman of the Albert Park Management Committee, and Councillors Hughes, Molesworth, Pittard, and Gibbs. A motion was then passed to the effect, "That this Council offers no objection, to the excision from Park Lands of an area, not exceeding half an acre in extent, abutting on Albert Road, and the Railway, for the purpose of a technical school as proposed by the South Melbourne Council." The motion rested there for a time but eventually the proposed school was built.

The years of the Great War were not favourable ones for the creation of new schools in Victoria, notwithstanding the gibe of "Business as Usual." In October, 1915, Councillor Gray was interesting himself in a State School, that the Education Department had promised to build in Scott Street, Elwood. He was the author of a motion, that the Council passed, to the effect, that the Department be urged to proceed with the building of the school, in Scott Street, for which financial provision had already been made, and plans prepared. Almost two years were to pass before the Elwood State School was built.

The official opening of the school, at Elwood, took place on Thursday afternoon, June 28, 1917. At the time of the school's opening, its site was on the edge of a barren, sodden moor of reclaimed land, that was not far away from the Elwood canal. It was part of a parcel of six acres, of Crown Land, at Elwood, that had been permanently reserved for school purposes, and taken over by the Education Department, for that purpose. Many people interested in Education were led to believe that the first High School, to be built, south of the Yarra, was to be erected there. We think that, at the time of the reservation of the six acres of land, the Education Department thought so too. Other councils wanted the first high school, and the question of which municipality was to have the High School, resolved itself, into what one man described, as "the Council with the strongest political pull." That was not the whole truth. The Government appeared to act, irrespective of the merits of an application, or else it pooled all the applications, and adjudged them of equal merit, and started the Councils from a red tape line. The winner was to be the highest bidder; the Council that undertook to subsidise the proposed school, with the largest amount, and so relieve the Government's purse of the major cost of the school. Of course it was shameless huckstering, but, even in educational affairs, the draught of political expediency, has to be contended with. St. Kilda—on those terms—was not the Council that "won the war" of High Schools.

Failing to obtain, at that time, a High School the Council was pleased to have the much needed Elwood State School built to accommodate 400 pupils. When the school opened 530 pupils were on the roll. The St. Kilda Council took a special interest in the school. At first its surroundings, and the moorland,

looked uninviting, and in winter the place was productive of a black mud of great adhesiveness. The Council asphalted the footpaths around the school, but the grounds, at the time the school was opened were unformed. The school was fortunate in having an energetic school committee, Captain Wills, as chairman, Mr. Russell Brown, and Mr. Edgar B. Clarke, hon secretary. Present, at the opening of the school, were the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor Barnet and Councillors Hewison, Sculthorpe, Allen, and the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, with Mr. R.G. McCutcheon, M.L.A. The Minister of Education, the Hon. H.S. Lawson, opened the school, which was built on modern principles at a cost of £5,000. The Mayor, Councillor Barnet, presented the school with a Union Jack, which was unfurled to the sound of bugle blasts. Mr. George Robinson, the Head Teacher, thanked the Mayor for the gift of the flag. A number of the girls recited "The Roll Call," and three boy buglers sounded "The Assembly," another group of girls *sang* "The Bugles of England." The flag was saluted, the National Anthem was sung—the school was in being.

A deputation, from the Elwood State School Committee, waited on the St. Kilda Council, in June, 1918, and stated that the Government had erected the school, but it had not done anything towards the improvement of the school lands. The ground was low lying, and 3,500 loads of filling were required. The Committee had placed 1,400 loads of earth on the ground, but the school ground was still full of holes. The deputation asked the Council to give to the Committee 900 or 1000 loads, so that one side at least of the school ground, might be improved. It was stated, that the Education Department was unable to do the work without the Government's aid. Astonishment was expressed that the Government should build a model school, and yet leave its grounds, in such a state, that the children could not cross the school yard without difficulty. The winter before, the ground was in such a state, that the scholars could not, in the yard, find a dry place to stand. The Council decided to give the Committee everything possible, to remedy the reproachful state of the grounds, and so the St. Kilda Council, in a fraternal spirit towards its ratepayers, repeatedly makes good the neglects of Governments.

A new wing of the Elwood Central School was opened on

May 16, 1923. In July of the same year the scholars of the school won the prize given by the Australian Natives Association for the best kept school garden in the metropolitan area. The prize, a picture of the "Landing of the Australians on Gallipoli" was presented by the President of the Association, Mr. A. L. Bussau to the Head Teacher, the occasion being made quite an official ceremony with the Mayor of St. Kilda present, and the Member for St. Kilda, The Hon. F. W. Eggleston, M.L.A.

When Mr. Robinson retired from his position as a State school teacher in the Education Department he offered his services as a councillor for the South Ward of St. Kilda. The ratepayers elected him in 1928 as one of their representatives in the Council. He was Mayor of St. Kilda for the municipal year 1929-30.

On March 14, 1927, the Council was advised that the Education Department had decided to accept the offer of the St. Kilda, and Brighton Councils, of local contributions amounting to £5,000 towards provision for a high school, in the municipal district. Action the Department said was being taken to have plans and estimates submitted for a high school for girls at Elwood.

Councillor Morley reported to the St. Kilda Council in November, 1928, upon results obtained by a deputation from Sandringham, Brighton, St. Kilda, and Caulfield Councils to the Minister of Education, when he was requested to build a high school for both boys and girls at Elwood. Councillor Morley informed the Council, that the Minister's reply was hopeful. Shortly after an acute political situation arose, and the Hogan Ministry was defeated, and a McPherson Ministry came into power. This change—the political situation not having clarified itself, even after the change of Ministry—had the effect of leaving the question of the High School at Elwood, shelved for the time. Another political shuffle took place and the McPherson Ministry went out of power, and the Hogan Government returned to office. St. Kilda's quota to the £5000 agreed to be paid by the Councils, is £1,800. At the time of writing (October, 1930) negotiations with the Government for the High School at Elwood are proceeding.

In 1881 James A. Ure was the headmaster of the State school in Fitzroy Street, Robert Bradley was still at Queen's

College, and John Hadfield, of revered memory, at the State school, Brighton Road. James Anderson Ure was born in 1826, being the eldest son of a Glasgow solicitor, who came to Australia in the "Marco Polo" in 1854. The Acland Street school, of which he was in charge, was closed on the 31st July 1882, and the pupils transferred to the newly erected school in Fitzroy Street. Mr. Ure died in February 1909 at the age of 84. His brother, Mr. Alexander Ure, was a Member of the House of Commons and ultimately was elevated to the Judicial Bench under the title of Lord Strathclyde, Lord Justice-General for Scotland.

There were two Art schools in St. Kilda, one for girls, and one for boys. The St. Kilda Girls School of Art, was opened in October 1872, with nine pupils. The drawing class was held in the Lecture Room, Alma Street, St. Kilda. Miss Adams was the instructress, and she soon had 44 pupils. The honorary secretary was Miss Fulton, and the Rev. A. Gosman, assisted by a committee of ladies managed the school. Pupils were charged 2/6 a quarter payable in advance. The St. Kilda School of Industrial Art held exhibitions of its pupils' drawings in the Town Hall. One of those exhibitions was held on January 3, 1873, and it was opened by the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor W. G. Murray. The prizes were provided by the Borough Council, and they consisted of "valuable mathematical and draftsmen's instruments, books, and drawings." When the Mayor opened the exhibition, among those present were S. H. Roberts, the Secretary of the Melbourne Technological Commissioners, and Councillors Johnston, M'Intyre, McNaughton, Lord and Connibere. The pupils, who won prizes were, William Hipe, J. M. Kennedy, F. Healy, T. J. Powells, C. H. Round, and C. D. Richardson, the last named followed an artistic career, and is well known as the head of an art school in Melbourne. He has made a reputation as a painter, and a sculptor. It was fitting that the modelling of the figure of a soldier, on St. Kilda's memorial, to her sons who fought in the Boer war should be the work of C. D. Richardson. St. Kilda has a distinguished son in the art world, and a native of St. Kilda, Rupert C. W. Bunny, son of Judge Bunny, who was a councillor of St. Kilda. It is claimed for Rupert C. W. Bunny, that no Australian artist has "a greater international reputation. His work has been

distinguished almost from the beginning by individuality of vision, charm, and delicacy of expression. Gay incidents from modern life, groups of figures in sun lit gardens, and shadowed arbours, or silhouetted against sea, or lake appeal strongly to him." Julius Hamel was the superintendent of the St. Kilda School of Industrial Art. To the regret of the St. Kilda municipal council Hamel resigned his position in March, 1873. The school did not long survive his loss. Specimens of his artistic work are the three illustrations at the end of this volume. They are reproduced from a volume of municipal statistical records, for the year 1861 filed in the Melbourne Public Library.

Six years after the passing of the Education Act, the Roman Catholic parish priest of St. Kilda the Very Rev. James Corbett, afterwards bishop of Sale, invited the Christian Brothers to open a school in the St. Kilda parish, which then for church purposes included the present parishes of East St. Kilda, West St. Kilda, Prahran, South Yarra, Armadale, Balclava, and Elwood. The first community of three Christian Brothers came from Ireland. The Superior, the Rev. Brother Patrick Corbett was a brother of the parish priest of St. Kilda. The brothers opened a school in a one roomed building, which soon proved altogether inadequate. A new brick building now used as a primary school was built in the year 1878 in Westbury Street, near Dandenong Road, East St. Kilda, within the sphere of influence of St. Mary's Church. This building consisted of three large class rooms, and two smaller rooms. Among the early Superiors of the College were Brothers Morgan, Bodkin, Hughes, Nugent, and O'Donohue. Brother Bodkin was one of the pioneer brothers, who came to Victoria in 1869. Up to 1899, the secondary work was carried on in the old building. The first three class rooms, of the present College building, were erected in 1899. At that time the Rev. Brother O'Shea was the Superior of the College. The College was further extended in 1907. The alumni of the College have upheld the reputation for sound instruction. Christian Brothers have distinguished men in all ranks of life, who having been their pupils are glad to claim the Christian Brothers' College, East St. Kilda, as their Alma Mater. In sport, the school can lay claim to, in cricket, Harry Graham repeatedly a member of Australian Elevens; in tennis, Arthur O'Hara Wood; in athletics, an Aus-

ralian Marathon runner, George Blake; in football, Gerald Brosnan and Joseph Hogan, in horseracing, the jockeys, Frank Bul-lurk and "Brownie" Carslake.

While this chapter is waiting for the printing press, it is announced that Miss A. E. Garton, a well known teacher of St. Kilda, is retiring from the scholastic profession at the end of this year, 1930. Miss Garton is the proprietor of the Ladies' School called "Oberwyl", that once belonged to Madame Pfund and which school as "Oberwyl" dates from the year 1878 though we think that it incorporated the school of M. and Madame Forissier. In 1886 the school "Oberwyl" was bought by Madame Mouchette. In 1898, Miss Henderson, and Miss Garton, who established the school "Kalimna" in Acland Street, became the proprietors of "Oberwyl". Later Miss Henderson bought the school "Faireleight", which school is now known as "Clyde".

END OF VOLUME I.