

PREFACE

I thank the Councillors of the City of St. Kilda for conferring upon me the distinguished honor of the appointment of Official Historian of the City of St. Kilda. I hope that my work will be considered by them of such merit as to justify their choice of myself for such an important commission. I am indebted to the Town Clerk, Mr. F. W. Chamberlin, for submitting to me old records of St. Kilda that he has, from time to time, patiently collected, and thoughtfully husbanded for historical purposes. In other ways Mr. Chamberlin has given to me generous assistance; and also inspiring encouragement, in my attempt to complete the difficult task of writing the history, in such a way, as to be worthy of the city.

I have endeavored to make, in the text, adequate acknowledgment of any source of important local information that I have happily tapped.

Throughout the work I have indicated when it is a surmise I am projecting, so that the reader may not accept a surmise as face value for a fact, and so be misled. An apposite instance of my caution, in not accepting a popular belief, without authority, appears on Page 14. A line reads:—"The Lady is usually supposed to have been Lady Grange," etc. This assertion, in a positive form, was believed by almost everyone interested in the question of the lady's identity, with the schooner's name, "The Lady of St. Kilda." Since the words "usually supposed" were written and in print, I have ascertained that the Lady was Lady Dyke Acland. I have indicated my source of authority in the appendix.

Mention, by way of appreciation, is due to Mr. J. A. Sears, of the Sears' Photographic Studios, High Street, St. Kilda Junction, for the fine modern pictures of St. Kilda,

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which, through their selective beauty, certainly adorn the two volumes of the history. Nor can I allow this opportunity to pass, without reference to the Managing Director of Printers Proprietary Ltd., Mr. W. A. Comeadow, who, also, has been keen to ensure that the craftsmanship of the printing of the History should be in evidence as a credit to Australian typography. Indeed, I may add, that the work involved in producing the two volumes of the St. Kilda History, from its compilation to its publication, has been the work of Australians.

J. B. COOPER.

Dec. 5, 1930.