

## A LOST TREASURE:

An advertisement in the *Illawarra Mercury* of 21 June 1858 stated:

### TO BUILDERS

Tenders for the building of a dwelling house will be received by the Rev. T. C. Ewing, Wollongong, till 6th July, proximo. Plan and specifications may be seen at his residence, and also at the office of E. Blacket, Esq., Mort's Buildings, Pitt-street, Sydney. No tender will be accepted unless perfectly satisfactory.

Various indications suggest that this referred to "Cormiston." The latter was Dean Ewing's home; it was not shown on a map of Wollongong c. 1855-7; it was shown in Von Guerard's view of Wollongong in December 1859; the *Mercury* of 14 July 1859 advertised a cottage "lately occupied by the Rev. J. C. Ewing . . . to be sold or let," suggesting that by that time he had moved into his new "dwelling-house."

We knew that in the wanton destruction of "Cormiston" Wollongong had lost one of its few old houses of character and architectural distinction. If, as the *Mercury* advertisement suggests, it was a Blacket house, our loss was greater than we knew. No doubt those responsible for its destruction will feel even more proud of themselves.