free the Curator (Mr. Akitt) for the important work of cataloguing exhibits. The committee consists initially of Mesdames M. Evans and E. Mockreth and Mr. McCarthy (Councillors), and Messrs. J. S. Inverarity and R. Seidemonn (co-opted).

It is expected that in the near future the Committee will ask for volunteer assistance from members in a working bee. In the meantime, as always, volunteers to help in staffing the Museum would be most welcome. The need is greatest on weekends, and above all on Mondays. If you can assist, please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary, or with the member responsible for staffing on the day on which you are available.

SUNDAY: Mrs. E. Mackreth, 46 St. John’s Avenue, Mongerton; phone 2-49.
MONDAY: A volunteer is needed to take charge of Monday staffing arrangements.
TUESDAY: Mr. W. V. Minton, 25 Church St., Wollongong; phone 2-414.
WEDNESDAY: Mrs. M. M. Evans, 13 Kembla St., Wollongong; phone 2-36.
THURSDAY: Mrs. Dunkerley, 74 Smith St., Wollongong; phone 2-7647.
FRIDAY: Mrs. H. McCarthy, 21 Stanleigh Cres., West Wollongong; phone 2-8225.

The Museum (at 11 Market St., Wollongong) is open from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission charges are 15c, children 5c, family parties 40c. (Members free.) If you have not visited it yet, come along and make yourself familiar with this part of the Society’s work.

APRIL MEETING—

There was an attendance of 35 members and visitors at the meeting of the Society on April 6, when Mr. W. G. McDonald (Councillor) was the speaker, the subject being “In re a Gentleman, One — the rise and fall of Francis Woodward, sometime M.L.A. for Illawarra.” The talk was illustrated by slides.

Francis Woodward (1846-1905), the son of a prominent early citizen of Goulburn, began practice as a solicitor in Wollongong in 1871. He achieved great and apparently well-deserved success professionally, and was recognised as one of the town’s leading citizens, being particularly prominent in the temperance societies and as Master of Lodge Illawarra, in which capacity he was largely responsible for the building of the Old Masonic Temple in Smith Street. An outstanding unsuccessfully for Parliament in 1885, when he and William Wiley stood as free trade candidates it appears that wireless and TV have destroyed the entertainment value of elections.) Though he made little impression on the political life of the colony as a whole, he was a hard-working and energetic local member — matter of even greater importance than now — who evidently gave satisfaction to his constituents, for he was triumphantly re-elected with a greatly increased majority in 1889.

A highlight of his first term was the official opening of the railway from Wollongong to Clifton, which he performed on Queen Victoria’s Jubilee Day, 20 June, 1887. His second term saw his greatest parliamentary achievement, the passing of the Wollongong Harbour Trust Act. Woodward was appointed chairman of the Trust, but this brought him nothing but trouble. The trustees wrangled interminably to no result, the scheme proved financially impracticable, and Woodward was glad to find an excuse to resign. He declined to stand in the 1891 election and returned to his practice, which he said afterwards had been “much neglected”.

An unhappy result of this neglect was that his clients’ money had become inextricably mixed with his own. Worse still, Woodward had become heavily involved in the land boom which was then at its height, and was in fact gambling with other people’s money. (One of his rash speculations was the purchase of 60 feet of Crown Street for £25 per foot.) The speaker thought this was probably due at first to carelessness and bad bookkeeping, but that when Woodward realised what was happening he plunged more deeply into speculation to square his accounts, and in the meantime, to keep going, began knowing using one client’s funds to repay another.

The bursting of the boom, and the bank smash of 1893, spelt ruin for Woodward, though he starved off disaster for two years, during which he tried desperately but vainly to retrieve his position. Finally he was exposed, stud
of the rolls, made bankrupt, and at the Wollongong Quarter Sessions convicted of misappropriation and sentenced to three years' penal servitude.

After his release he obtained a job as a shorthand teacher and lived obscurely in Sydney till his death at the age of 59. His story is a tragic one, for, whatever the exact degree of his guilt, he was a man of considerable ability and many virtues, who did Wollongong and Illawarra substantial service; and it seems likely that engrossment in that service, leading to neglect of his own business, was the original cause of his ruin.

SYDNEY EXCURSION — 15th APRIL:

In perfect weather on Saturday, 15th April, 26 members and friends travelled to Sydney. Our first stop was at St. Peter's, Cook's River, the first suburban church in Sydney, erected in 1838-39 to the design of Thomas Bird. Though as architecture it may be more curious than beautiful, it is a building full of interest, whose unusual features included the twelve massive columns each shaped from the trunk of a single ironbark tree, stained-glass windows depicting Australian wildflowers, and a tower, itself of remarkable design, at the sanctuary end of the church.

We were hospitably received by the Rector, Rev. A. F. Donohoo, who gave us a brief account of the history of the church, and by the ladies of the parish, who provided morning tea.

The large overgrown graveyard surrounding St. Peter's illustrated one of the problems of a church whose parishioners are moving away as the area becomes industrialised. St. Stephen's, Newtown, has been more fortunate, having been able to enlist substantial outside help in restoring and maintaining both the church and the historic Camperdown Cemetery. The church itself is one of the most beautiful in Australia — one of the two churches which Morton Herman considers "the best buildings of Blacket's very best period."

The cemetery, historic in itself, has become the repository of remains and monuments from even earlier cemeteries at George Street (now the site of Sydney Town Hall), and Devonshire Street (now the site of Central Station). Blacket's own headstone, transferred from Balmain, is in the grounds, as his ashes rest in St. Andrew's Cathedral. Perhaps the most famous of all those who lie there was Sir Thomas Mitchell, memorable to us not only for his explorations but for his having laid out the main roads of Illawarra and selected the site for, and planned all that was ever planned of, the town of Wollongong. Among others are John Purland (died 1808), son-in-law of Governor Bligh; Alexander Macleay, and others, too numerous to mention, of note in the history of New South Wales, and among the less famous the victims of the Dunbar disaster, William Augustus Miles "who derived his parentage from Royalty" (William IV), Bathsheba Ghost, the matron of the Sydney Infirmary, and Eliza Donnithorne, the reputed original of Miss Havisham in Dickens's 'Great Expectations'. Let it be added also that the connoisseur of epitaphs and funerary verse will find here all he could desire. Here also our thanks are due to the Rector, Rev. B. W. Powers, and to the ladies of the church, who provided lunch.

From Blacket's ecclesiastical masterpiece we moved on to his secular masterpiece, the original buildings of Sydney University, in particular the Great Hall. Morton Herman says, "The main building, and the Great Hall, although copies of the medieval architecture of hundreds of years before, are conceived with such sureness of touch, such fine proportioning of the parts, and such skilful detailing that the result is true architecture... The roof of the Great Hall can only command admiration even in the most stubborn critic of Victorian architecture, and it would be a soulless man indeed who would be unaffected by the intricately detailed bulk of the exterior of the hall... Of the great complex of buildings that comprise the University of Sydney, those of Edmund Blacket and those of Leslie Wilkinson some eighty years later... are architecture: the rest are buildings. Unfortunately, the buildings now make it hard to see the architecture — impossible to see it as it should be seen — but our members were not soulless. Altogether it was a most successful and interesting day, and a trip well worth repeating at some future date.

HENRIETTA HEATHORNE'S "PICTURES OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE 1843-44":—

(Continued from April Bulletin, in which a brief note on the author appeared.)

For some time my mother was very miserable at confronting new conditions of existence. 'Don't fret, Mamma,' I said as she wept; 'it will be such fun!' So speaks youth to age.