The picture above, from the Latrobe Library, Melbourne, taken from the booklet, depicts the fine stone church when its spire and roof were intact and the government cottage beside it.

ABERCROMBIE HOUSE:

Yes, Virginia, your little friends are wrong — "Abercrombie House" is not in the Illawarra!

On Monday, November 8, 1971, "The Sydney Morning Herald" published a supplement "Our Heritage of History", which under "Country Areas" depicted a large residence described as No. 4 "Abercrombie House, Mt. Pleasant (1878)" locating it near Wollongong.

Following a number of enquiries "The Herald" was approached and the paper confirmed that the house shown was in the Bathurst district.

Repairing to the reference section of the Wollongong Public Library we found two books on Bathurst with pictures of the house which captioned it "The Mount" (Jubilee of Bathurst, P.25, 1912; "The Story of Bathurst" Pp. 116 and 117. Angus & Robertson, 1961) and described it as the home of the Stewart family.

The founder of "The Mount" estate, Major-General Stewart, commanded the Buffs in the Peninsula under Wellington. As a reward he was granted 3,000 acres which he selected at Bathurst. At one time Lieut-Governor of N.S.W., he died in April, 1854.

The locality of the house is apparently known as Mt. Pleasant, but this is a very common occurrence — we have two in the Illawarra — the one near Wollongong, where our hard-working secretary lives, and the other near Kiama! We know of two others in N.S.W.

The Postal Department, however, does not recognise the name in N.S.W., but lists Victoria (3350), South Australia (5253) and Western Australia (6153).

Oh yes! Don't know anything about "Abercrombie House".

A MARITIME MISCELLANY:

We have read over the past few weeks three books that we can recommend to those interested in ships and history. Please write to the publishers direct if you would like any of them.


5½" x 8½". 56 Pages and cover, Illustrated. 50 cents. Post Paid.

This is the first issue of the journal and whilst we like the title and contents we hope the format will be changed in future. They have adopted the "sporting program" type, a page of text followed by a page of advertisements, but still good value for 50 cents!

Articles included are on the Pacific War, Australian dockyards, British battleships and the Scottish-born American Admiral John Paul Jones.

Membership of the Society is open to all interested.