Tulle

50

Volume 15 No 1
February, 1996

The Journal of
The Australian Society of the Lacemakers of Calais

MEETING DATES

Saturday, February 17 , 1996
Saturday, May 18, 1996
Saturday, August 17, 1996
Saturday, November 16, 1996

Venue for all Meetings:

Don Bank Cottage

6 Napier Street, North Sydney
Meeting Time: 1.00pm
Train to North Sydney Station
or
Bus from Wynard

NEXT MEETING

Saturday, February 17, 1996

Annual General Meeting

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Tulle

Volume 11 No 1, February 1996

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

In July 1982, twenty one people gathered at the NSW Archives to form an Association of people who had one thing in common. No one there realised that the outcome would be a lasting and close knit society that would grow and spread across the world. Nor did anyone dream that the four page newsletter that followed that meeting would grow to the creditable quarterly journal of a professional association that it is today.

This edition of *Tulle* is the 50th and it has not missed a deadline since its inception. The first four editions were only eight pages in length, but were enough to interest and encourage people. In the second year of publication I became editor, and with the enormous assistance of MFB (Marjorie Frances Brown), it grew in size and circulation. One can't assess one's own work, but suffice to say I felt that when I handed on our most precious communication link to Gillian, I was satisfied that our stewardship had been a good one. I could not have done this job without MFB.

When Gillian accepted *Tulle* it took off. She had not only the "will", but also the "way"!. With technology ather finger tips and the skills to use it she has added a wealth of knowledge and ideas - she is so enthusiastic and adventurous and her energy is so endless, she exhausts those who try to keep up with her, but one is too fascinated by what will come next not to try! Gillian has taken *Tulle* from being a newsletter to recognised and sought after publication. It was the springboard for our first big publication in 1988, and has been her practise net for our next one to be published in 1998. We are appreciative and enormously proud of her work, and congratulate her.

Doug Webster is not standing for re-election. After years of faithful travel from Canberra to Sydney, he feels that younger legs are needed. I tried to talk him out of such foolishness, but he would not have it, so it is with regret that I accept his wishes . Doug has been a great secretary; one who has attempted to keep me in order, who always has an agenda ready and an orderly approach to meetings that would wander if left to me! I will miss his guidance and encouragement and his great help that is always quiet and thoughful. Thank you Doug, foryour three years work. **Claire Loneragan**

FROM THE SECRETARY

In spite of the onset of end of year pressure, there was a good attendance at the November meeting. Most of the discussion was about the plans for 1998 anniversary meetings and the new book. Gillian outlined her proposals for the book's contents and asked for ideas especially about publishing, marketing, the possibility of Heritage Commission or other grants. After the formal business Claire introduced Leonie Masson, the resident Curator of Don Bank Cottage who gave a very interesting talk on the history of the Cottage and the district and explained how it happened that the cottage with its suburban garden was able to remain an oasis surrounded by skyscrapers.

This is my last **FROM THE SECRETARY** message as I shall not stand for re-election at the AGM. Although I have enjoyed the work, living as I do in a small, familiar city, I find coping with Sydney's week-end public transport increasingly onerous.

Societies such as ours frequently wither after a few years of initial enthusiasm but ASLC has continued to flourish. It is a tribute to the leadership of Claire and her predecessors that meetings are still well attended, and to those who provide the afternoon tea and organise the raffle thereby helping to make meetings enjoyable social occasions. Lindsay and Beth keep our name before the wider public while Barbara manages our finances with calm efficiency.

Our members are scattered across Australia and it is impossible for most of them to attend meetings but *Tulle* keeps everyone in touch. The first issue of October 1982 with its mixture of 1848 record and modern news and comment was a foretaste of its further development.This combination of news and articles of historical interest has continued; under Gillian's editorship it has grown in size and professional appearance and my delight on seeing each new cover is, I am sure, shared by Members everywhere.

My thanks for your support for me during the last three years and my best wishes to all for the future. DBW.

AND THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 50th edition of *Tulle!*

From the very first meeting held at the Archives in Sydney some 14 years ago there was a commitment to a publication to connect people. The Newsletter was called *Tulle* from that very first issue in our gloriously mistaken belief that this was the French word for lace.

Tulle means in French exactly what tulle means in English. It is the gossamer fine web of fabric that we associate with bridal veils - BUT it was also the very basis for machine made lace . The invention of a machine that could reproduce this web was the challenge for the earliest lacemakers. Once reproduced, it was then embellished and embroidered with decorative forms to look like bobbin made lace . Finally changes were made to the machines so the whole lacy form could be made by machine.

Our inadvertent error epitomises *Tulle*. Our earliest Newsletters were the basis for a larger Journal, and in recent years we have applied the machinery of a computer so the whole of the Journal is reproduced by machine, and it too, continues to grow and become a wealth of information for those with an interest in their history^.

Tulle is being used as a resource by other writers and so it is now a copy-righted journal. This won't in any way limit its usefulness to ourselves and others - it will just ensure that there is recognition given to researchers for their discoveries of resources and their hours of work and it marks the final growing up of *Tulle*.

I believe I am the 4th Editor we have had - with Theo Saywell starting out, followed by Claire Loneragan and Marjorie Brown.

The accumulated knowledge through 50 issues is quite amazing!

When I was quite a lot younger than I am now, our secretary Doug was an equally younger teacher who, at High School, attempted to teach me Latin. I cheerfully struggled with it for two years and in my third year I was introduced to Ovid - from then on I was hooked on stories historic and ways with words.

I knew Doug was related, but Latin teachers weren't in vogue as heroes or friends at that stage - I now know we are actually Second Cousins Once Removed with William Branson the Lacemaker our common forebear . I live probably only twenty kilometres from Doug but it wasn't until the formation of ASLC that I got to know him and enjoy greatly his company, his knowledge and his way with words. As Secretary he has been marvellous and I shall miss his organisation - right down to doing his notes on disk for me so they slot straight into *Tulle*.

Thank you for all your practical help and ideas Doug - I do hope you continue with your gentle chidings of my not-so-correct English, your eye for detail and your ways with words for *Tulle* !

Gillian Kelly
Editor

A people who forget its history is like a man who loses his mind.

Small note in the Maritime Museum at
Fort Scratchley, Newcastle

Notes to Letters from Adelaide

John Freestone finished his first letter to his parents with the note that it had been a very wet season in South Australia. He spoke with respect of Mr Calton who aided him at Gawler. Mr Calton owned the famed Old Spot Inn - apparently a successful venture.

Henry Calton and his brother Charles were Nottingham men and in 1820 their father Thomas headed up an immigration from Nottingham to Cape Hope. [1] Not very long after their arrival at the Cape Thomas died, and his wife asked to be returned to Nottingham with her children. There were other Lacemaker families in that immigration so it is interesting that they should meet so far from home.

Henry arrived in South Australia in 1838 on the *Pestonjee Bomanjee*. He was variously a Post Master, a Court Clerk and a Publican. He died in Victoria aged 42 in 1852 having followed the lure of the gold to Bendigo. He left a wife and two children behind.

His brother Charles, born 1808, arrived on the *Royal Admiral* in 1838. Charles died at Kadina in 1862, having been a farmer and a publican. Charles' wife, Mary, died in her 55th year in 1860. Charles was at that time the proprieter of the Portland Hotel, Port Adelaide. Charles had a son John Frederick who married Elizabeth Goldsmith of Dover in 1854.

[1] See Tulle 42, Feb 92

Letters from Adelaide

South Australia,
December 15, 1848.

Dear father and mother,- I hope you received the newspaper I sent, containing a full account of our arrival, and a list of the names of all the emigrants on board the *Harpley*. I sent it on purpose to set your minds at rest concerning the safety of my little lot from "the dangers of the deep" and I hope you have also received my letter bearing date November the 1st, wherein I gave you an account of our landing and my seeking for work, and getting a place to go shepherding. In that letter I promised to send you word what I thought of the country, and what were my prospects.

In the first place, then, I will tell you, as far as I am able to judge, what I think of the country and climate. The weather, so far, I think beautiful. It has been, to my thinking, just like a very fine spring, though the colonists say it is cold, and that there has been two winters this year, and not one of the oldest among them ever remembers the rainy season to have lasted so long. Nevertheless, I think it all the better for us who had just landed, as we get used to the extreme heat by degrees; and, if I can judge from the short space of time I have been here, taking my own family for example, I should say it is a very healthy country for Europeans, though I believe my mud cabin is situated in one of the healthiest spots in all South Australia, being in a valley within four or five

miles of the top of a range of mountains, and within twenty yard of what is called the River Gilbert.

But they call anything a river here. The Gilbert is no bigger than the Tinker's Leen in Nottingham Meadows, and is only a river in the rainy season; in the summer time it is nothing else but a string of water-holes. As for the land it is of a fertile description, but the scarcity of water is a great drawback on cultivation. There is not one stream that deserves the name of river. The Torrens, which runs through Adelaide, is the same as the Gilbert, nothing but holes of water here and there during the summer time.

There is plenty of good corn and good vegetables grown here, and the land is well adapted for the growth of the vine. There are many farmers with small vineyards, and I have no doubt before long it will be a very profitable source of commerce.[2] As for the timber, there is very little good about where I am; but they tell me there is plenty of good timber 20 miles off. The principal trees about here are gum-trees. We have often talked and laughed about Colonel Crockett and "Opossum up a gum-tree', but it is a reality; for there are plenty of them. There are plenty of kangaroos and emus within 15 miles of my hut, and if I had a gun I could have plenty of sport, for quails, wood pigeons, ducks and turkeys are here in abundance, and also crows, magpies, hawks, parrots and all others down to as small as tomtit, and no trouble to get at them, for the birds are all very tame, and will let you come within a few yards of them. But the most plentiful thing here is the ant; there are hundreds of thousands of millions of them, and some very large, plenty an

2 Prophetic!

inch long. The grass is alive with ants, grasshoppers, beetles and several other sorts of insects - lizards so large that had I seen them in England I should have thought them young crocodiles. The worst of all is the snake, whose bite is death. There is a fair sprinkling of that venomous reptiles about here. I have killed five; the longest between five and six feet. We have had several natives call at our hut. They all seem very harmless, but Ann cannot bear the sight of them, so she does not care how few of them come.

And now to tell you, if I can, what are our prospects; but I think this will bother me at present, for everything seems dull, gloomy and uncertain - wages are coming down and masters are making the flocks a third larger.
It is a rather curious fact, that the French Revolution, which was the principal cause of our coming, should be the ruin of several of the sheep-farmers here, yet it is no less strange than true, for the price of wool has come down very low, fetching but one half the price.

Several of the poorest farmers have been sold up stick and stump, very good sheep selling for 3s.6d. each, so that you you will see, instead of my getting out of the reach of revolutionary war and its effects, I have been dropt in where it is felt the worst. You know I have not been the luckiest fellow in the world, and this is only another instance of my close connexion with "Fortune's eldest daughter".

I do not feel satisfied with my prospects here, and therefore intend coming back to Nottingham if I can get a chance, that is, if

the lace trade keeps anything like as good as was expected when I was there, and for the following reasons:- First, my wife does not like the place, neither does she like the thought of being here by ourselves. While there was some likelihood of some of you coming to us, she was contented, but when we found how things were going, we of course made up our minds that under no consideration would we send for any of you, nor, indeed, would I persuade any other person to come unless he could land with £120 in his pocket.

In the second place, wages will be very low, so low that a man, after living very frugally, having nothing but damper, mutton, tea and his "bacca" for a year, will be able to save next to nothing. Indeed, at the time I am writing this, there are no less than nine hundred men and women walking Adelaide streets in search of employment, some begging for work at any price. I really do not know what is to become of all the emigrants who are coming here, unless Government starts some public work such as cutting a canal, or making a railroad, or something of that sort.

There used to be always a demand for shepherds but there are too many now. The masters used to think 900 or 1000 a sufficient quantity for one flock, but now they have made three flocks into two, thus throwing every third shepherd out of employ, besides hut-keepers; so you will see they do not want any new hands for shepherding for some time to come.

The third reason is, I should not like to stop here to do no better than at home, and at present I do not see any chance of doing so

well, much more better,- that is, always supposing trade to be as good as when I left. I expected to find good land cheap, so that a poor man would have a chance of buying some; but I find on the contrary, land is very dear near to the large towns. There is certainly plenty of land to be bought for £1 per acre, but it would not be of any use to a man like me, for the produce of such land would cost more in carriage to the market than it would be worth when it got there, all kinds of cartage being extremely dear, which is principally owing to the very bad roads.

As I have now given you my reasons for thinking of returning to Old England, you must not think that they are any worse than I have stated, I have neither made them better nor worse, but just what I really think they are. Neither must you think that we are miserable, or short of "grub", we have plenty of victuals, and generally a good plum pudding on a Sunday. You know I have not been here long, and therefore may be writing under false impressions, but I have stated what I think is true.

I remain your affectionate son,
John Freestone.

But John Freestone did not go home to England! His employment was with James Masters who came to Australia on the *Africaine* and in the early 1840s took up land around what is now called Riverton. It was not an easy area to access - the road in being a mere track in the 1850s, entirely without fences and with other roads branching off

it. While working for Masters he and his wife had two more sons. Like most men in South Australia Freestone followed the lure of gold to the diggings at Avoca in Victoria. He took his wife and children , and it is most likely that Ben Holmes and his family, his companion from Nottingham to Calais to Gawler to Riverton travelled there with him.

There is no record of whether he was a lucky miner but a daughter was born there and died in the same year. The family stayed in the area . Charles Robert died of typhoid at the age of 15; Alfred and John didn't marry, but the other boys did and had familiesof their own. According to the Avoca Mail they were cricketers, somewhat better at bowling than batting.

Many of the next generation died with typhoid being particularly prevalent. However, John Freestone lived to old age, still working as a miner when he died at the age of 78 in 1890. He is buried in Amherst Cemetery.

Later, various members of the family went into farming but James went to Western Australia where he was accidently killed at the Great Eastern Mine , Lawlers in 1899. His son, William settled in the Wongan Hills District about 1910. After many disasterous farming years in Victoria, the rest of the family followed and their descendants still farm in the Wongan Hills area.

Photograph: The sons of John Freestone.
Standing l to r Harry, James. Seated Alfred, William, John, Frederick

From the notes of Marlene Kilminster

Riverton, South Australia

One of the consistencies in our knowledge of the *Harpley* passengers is frequent reference to Riverton. John Freestone and Benjamin Holmes were there in 1848. The Lander family was there from 1854 to 1861. Henry Longmire married there in 1857 and Mary Longmire died there in 1858. Elizabeth Sumner's husband, William Esaw died there in 1857, as did Cornelius Crowder in 1879.

Riverton owes its beginnings to James Masters who arrived on the Africaine in 1838. Like many, Masters began his Australian life as a hotel keeper. He was the licensee of the Commercial Inn in

Grenfell Street, Adelaide.

In 1840 he obtained an occupation licence for an area on the Gilbert River near what is now Riverton and established his station headquarters on land that later was surveyed as section 1282 . He called his house Saddleworth Lodge after his birthplace in Yorkshire. In 1853 he had a portion of this section laid out as a town and he called this Saddleworth. It was not until 1856 that James Masters laid out the town that was to adopt the name of Riverton. According to local history, the first name suggested was Gilberton, but this name was in use elsewhere.

By 1861 James Masters had returned to York - whether to visit or as a repatriate is unclear, but he died there, aged 61, leaving a legacy of kindness to the Freestones that may well have convinced them to stay!

Information Gazeteer of SA

A Note on Jean Duncan Foley:

In Quarantine

A History of Sydney's Quarantine Station 1828-1984.

(Kangaroo Press, 1995)

The health of new arrivals in this country has been of concern to the government authorities since the first days of white settlement, especially during the days of the long sailing ship voyages. At first ships suspected of carrying people with infectious diseases were sent to isolated anchorages till the medical authorities were satisfied that it was safe for people to land; then, in 1828 an area of Inner North Head to the south of Spring Cove was set aside as a permanent quarantine station.

In Quarantine describes in scholarly detail its fortunes over the next 156 years, the erection of temporary, makeshift and permanent buildings, the dedication of some officials and the neglect or incompetence of others, the periods when it was little needed alternating with times of overcrowding and the recurring problems arising from the Government's failure to determine whether the ultimate authority for it should be with Health or Immigration. It is an interesting story, underpinned by extensive research and meticulous documentation.

For us, Chapter 4 dealing with the period 1838-59 will be of particular interest. "Our" immigrants undoubtedly benefited from events 10 years before they sailed. As the author puts it:

Throughout 1837 and 1838, the extent of sickness and deaths on the immigrant ships was the subject of 'unsparing investigation' by the government. Evidence obtained from various ship surgeons revealed the need to improve accommodation, diet, sanitary arrangements and discipline. The need to change departure dates to avoid winter storms was also revealed in evidence about the Scottish immigrant ship *Duncan*, which had sailed from Greenock in January 1838

with 143 children aboard. During the first six weeks of the voyage the hatches had to be battened down almost continually because of high seas, rain, hail and snow. In the fearful conditions between decks, nineteen children had died painfully as seasickness took its toll and the milk of nursing mothers dried up. On board the 36 immigrant ships which arrived in 1838 there were many deaths, particularly amongst young children. On board the *Layton*, 70 children died, most from measles.

As a result Governor Gipps set up a Committee to investigate. Its report apparently caused some irritation in Whitehall but spurred both the British Land and Emigration Commissioners to institute reforms and the Colonial authorities to maintain their vigilance. When the *Agincourt* arrived in October 1848 there was no need for quarantine; three children had died but five had been born.

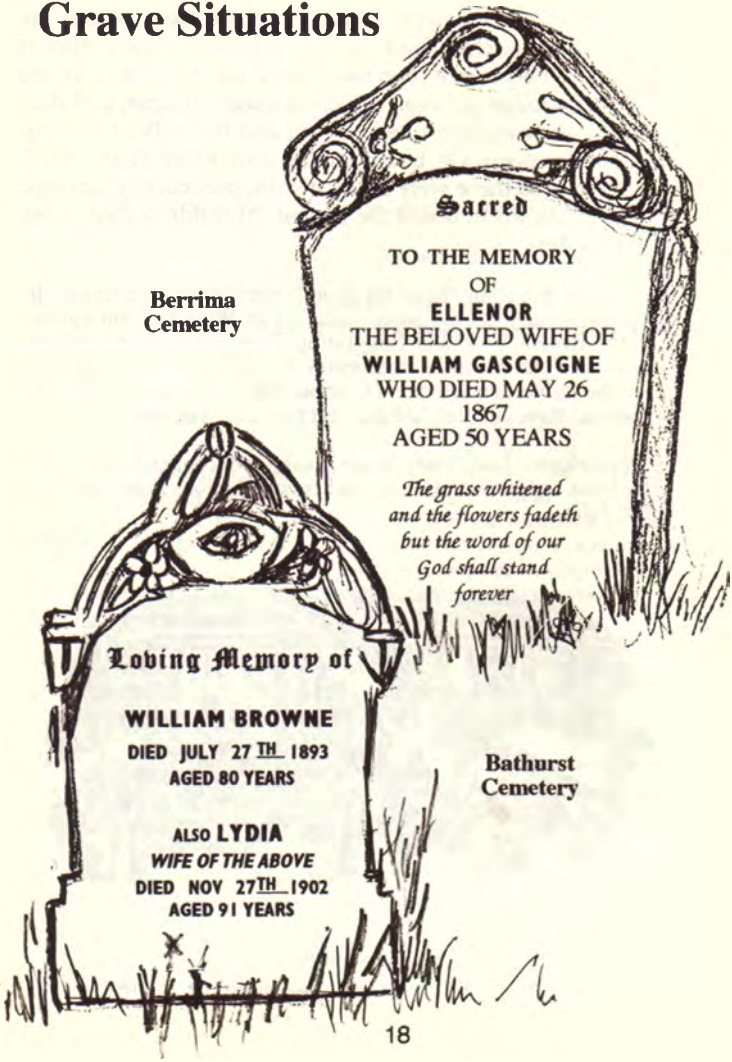
We welcome Lady Foley to our Society, we congratulate her on a fine book and we look forward to her contributions to our meetings and/or *Tulle*.

DBW

Emigrants at dinner, 1844

Immigrants at Dinner

Grave Situations



Berrima Cemetery

Bathurst Cemetery

Identification Please !

In Archibald Gilchrist's records of John Dunmore Lang's writings, there is an interesting small paragraph:[3]

> **Horse Knew the Way:** I had only about an hour and a half of daylight remaining when I started for Paterson and it was soon quite dark. I had never travelled the road before; but presuming the horse had done so I left the matter very much in his hands. There had been an extensive fire on the mountain and it had quite obliterated the track in some places. I could not help admiring the ingenuity of the animal in finding the track again repeatedly when we had lost it, although we did differ in opinion occasionally as to the proper route. It was nine o'clock when I reached the shoemaker's hut in the valley of the Paterson. He proposed that I should give his apprentice a shilling to mount a horse of his and guide me by the numerous sliprails to the punt. I gladly assented to this arrangement and found him an intelligent boy, son of a free emigrant from France sent to the colony by the home government shortly after the last French Revolution.
>
> John Langmore Dunn, 1851

In the MISSING FRIEND columns of the South Australian Police Gazette there was the following entry. Does this William belong to any of our Stubbs?

> **ENQUIRY:** 7 April 1880
> Information is requested respecting the whereabouts of William STUBBS, labourer or teamster, aged about 40 years; height 5'9", swarthy complexion, black hair andmoustache; said to be employed with several teams on some of the railways in the North.

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3 I am indebted to Theo Barker, of Bathurst Historical Society for introducing me to this invaluable resource. *GK*

Entrepreneurs or Villains?

The history books tell us that John Heathcoat patented a lace-making machine in 1809 and also that in 1816 three Nottingham men (Clark, Webster and Bonnington) smuggled some machines to Calais and so established an English lacemaking industry at St Pierre. These are, of course, gross oversimplifications - both were not single events but parts of long processes. Anybody who has bought a computer knows that it has probably been superseded by the time the account has been paid, and so with the nineteenth century lace trade, a major breakthrough was followed by a series of smaller improvements.

Gravenor Henson published his History of the Framework Knitters in 1831. In it he gives not only some of the details of the improvements to the machines but also the developments in the industry. The 1970 edition of the History has an Introduction by S.D.Chapman giving a useful short account of Henson's life and work. He was born in Nottingham in 1785 and was apprenticed to a framework knitter. He was a clever mechanic and after Heathcoat's invention was able to establish himself as an independent manufacturer.

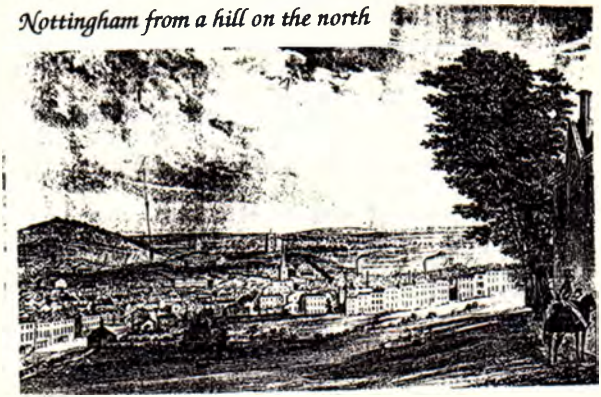
However, possibly because of fluctuations in the lace trade or because he saw that manufacturers were patenting the improvements made by a generation of artisans, while he was still in his twenties Henson began to devote himself to political activity. He believed that the industries should be regulated by the Government to maintain a decent standard of living for the workers, that British industry should be protected from foreign competition and that the export of British machinery and the emigration of skilled workers should be controlled. He was an opponent of the inequitable operation of the Combination Acts. These forbade joining together to achieve commercial advantage, but had penal sanctions only against workmen and not employers.

Henson's History narrates an incident about a "tickler", a device for making eyelet holes on material being woven on a stocking frame -

an embryonic predecessor of lacemaking. This is Henson's account slightly paraphrased:

> Morris had patents for eyelet hole machinery, to protect which required constant litigation till a final decision was obtained in the case of Morris v Branson in the Court of the King's Bench at Westminster in 1776. Morris suspected that Branson was using the patented device illicitly but had been unable to detect him till at length, observing that the windows of Branson's shop fronted the fields and that in the heat of summer the workmen laboured with them open, he and his witnesses took up a position on the long hill on the western side of Nottingham and with a powerful telescope, early in the morning, saw Branson using the tickler machine, and immediately entered an action against him.

Nottingham from a hill on the north



The defence was that that the tickler and eyelet hole work were known, had been previously used and was not a new invention. This was supported by two witnesses, Mayo and his wife who declared she had made a tickler some years before Morris had obtained his patent. The other defence was a reference to a 1572 judgement to the effect that new additions to old inventions were not new inventions. Against this it was stated that this would destroy the validity of every patent that had been granted. The jury gave a verdict in favour of Morris with £500 damages. Because the plaintiff

could not obtain a warrant to seize the defendant's effects until the next court term, Branson secretly took himself and nine frames to London where he took ship.When his absence had been discovered an application was made to Lord North, the Prime Minister, who despatched a revenue cutter and Branson and his frames were taken into custody when in sight of France. As additional penalty the frames were forfeited, a £200 fine imposed with imprisonment till it was paid.Branson appealed for clemency and the Secretary of State admonished him for the consequences that might have arisen to his fellow tradesmen and townsmen and to his country, remitted his fines on condition that he should give security for remaining in the country and assign his frames to Morris who would employ him as a master stocking-maker and allow him to keep the frames while paying rent.

Mayo, who had been a witness and a workman for Branson, had the same idea, but deterred by Branson's example, decided to limit himself to taking ticklers to France to use on French stocking frames. But he had scarcely alighted from his coach in London when a press-gang seized him and he was obliged to serve on a man of war for several years.

The incident caught my attention because the principal character shared a surname[4] with my 'Agincourt' ancestor, but it also throws an interesting light on the rights of the English householder, in that Morris was unable to enter Branson's workshop until he had witnessed evidence that the law was being broken. It is also interesting that Mayo, obviously not a property owner, did not have similar rights to resist being conscripted in the navy.

DBW.

[4] The principal character's name was Josiah, and he had a son John. Lacemaker William's father was John. The evidence to prove or disprove a relationship has mot yet been found. GK

POOR RATES IN NOTTINGHAM

In the year 1764 the poor rates of St Mary's parish amounted to £480;

in 1792 to £ 3 697;
in 1797 to £5 457;
in 1802 to £11 050;
in 1802 to £15 382;
in 1808 to £18 499;
in 1812 to £24 763;
in 1831 to £21 493; and
in 1842 to £23 803.

At the first of these periods the population of St Mary's parish was, in all probability, about 11 500 souls; the total sum levied as poor rate, divided among this population, would amount to about 9d. per head per annum.

In 1842 the population of St Mary's parish was about 41 000 and the total sum for the union, on account of the maintenacne and the management of the poor, was £17264, which was at the rate of nearly 8/6 per head per annum! being just eleven times as much as at the earlier period; which may fairly be inferred to mean that in 1842 there was 11 times as much pauperism in the town, after all our boasted improvements in arts and sciences, and manufactures, and exports, and knowledge, and religion, and legislation, as existed in it in the year 1764.

Verily, we have yet some grand discovery to make in political science, much more valuable than any we have as yet realised.

Notts Newspaper
May 29, 1847

A READER'S QUERY

This reader's interest has an intersting twist for ASLC.

WHITAKER
DARKER

Mrs Lyn Murphy, PO Box 29, Brooklyn, 2083 seeks information on Edward Whitaker and his wife Frances Darker . Frances Darker was the daughter of Benjamin Darker and Elizabeth Walkendon and Lyn believes Edward was connected to Heathcoat.

Edward and Frances Whitaker are of significance to ASLC. Ben Darker had another daughter Ann who married Richard Kemshall . Their son, Ben, was our Lacemaker. Edward Whitaker is credited with developing the bobbin in its carriage that has become synonymous with ASLC

Edward Whitaker was instrumental in Heathcoat's success. While Heathcoat did not ever invent any significant portion of his machine in his own right , he did arrange the parts in such a way that he had success where others had failed. The principal parts of his machine were: The warp beams upon which the warp threads were wound; the flat bobbins in which the "weft" threads are carried; the carriages that hold the bobbins allowing them to turn and release thread; the comb bars that held the bobbin carriages.

Heathcoat's arrangement of these parts allowed each bobbin thread to twist around the warp thread and for one half of the threads to cross the fabric one way while the other half crossed in the other direction. The result was a stable tulle.

The flat bobbin using a spring to control the flow of thread was devised by George Whitemore of Nottingham who was employed by Robert Brown. Edward Whitaker was a shop mate of Whitemore's and the flatness of these bobbins is accredited to him. Whitaker's machine also used comb bars to guide the bobbins. Heathcoat himself told Felkin that he used Whitaker's principles in developing his machine.

Taking the Lacemakers Back to Calais

In June 1996 the Editor will be visiting Calais.

She is taking with her copies of the photographic collection of the Lacemakers of Calais that you have contributed over the years.

If you have a photograph of your Lacemakers that you would like included in this collection please forward it by March 31st, 1996 to

Gillian Kelly
10 Sorrell Place
Queanbeyan,
2620, NSW

Eliza Wand

born 26 May, 1835
rue des Soupirantes,
Saint-Pierre deCalais

* A laser copy is sufficient

Fun and Games

The life of an ordinary man in the middle nineteenth century was not easy, and the life of the laceworker with its split shifts, long hours, child employment and declining salaries was as hard as any.

But it isn't human nature to allow life to be all grim, and Calais and St Pierre were no exceptions.

Calais was quite sophisticated in the eighteen hundreds - it had theatres and dances, a Philharmonic Society and a Literary Society. The industrial suburb of St Pierre did not grow culturally until much later, but that is not to suggest that the local inhabitants did not have fun or seek to learn!

While Calais held elegant balls, St Pierre had its own dance hall even before the Revolution of 1789. The Batavia was near the St Omer canal. In a cul-de-sac near rue des Soupirantes the Cosmorama stood in a garden. It was pleasant with the main room decorated with pictures on nature and famous places. In 1816 it was owned by a Mr Maubert who held a large dance at the end of the season, advertising that the gardens and rooms would be lit by hundreds of lights and that there would be an eight piece orchestra.

A poster implored people to come and help him overcome the losses that a bad summer had helped him incur, and the English weren't ignored as the poster was repeated in English. It must have been a popular enough past time because the entry fee was 1,50F for men and 1F for women!

Another popular venue was the Vauxhall established in 1808 by an actor, J B Plante who ran it for some years and then sold it to a M Tournée, a dancing instructor. Around 1830 the entry fee was 50 centimes for men and 25 for women. It closed in 1836 and was sold to M Pilate who ran it as a French/English boarding school for some years until it was sold again and then demolished in 1850.

In 1834 the Villa Mermand was built close to la grande Rue. It was very large - in the middle of a garden, with a lecture room, concert hall and ball room. It lasted about seven years when it too became a boys' boarding school.

Near Sacre Coeur le Jardin Fontbonne was built. In 1835 it has a cafe, a concert and ball room and a billiard room. After the Vauxhall closed, it became THE place to go. In 1845 it was redecorated and included a theatre. Weddings were held there and a gymnastics school ran in the garden.

The waltz and the polka were the dances of the time, with admonitions that all would behave, especially in their treatment of women and that men would not dance in boots.

At the end of January a Fair was held. Wandering play groups presented their pieces and there were the expected magicians, food sellers, puppet shows, magic lantern shows and dioramas. Side show alley attracted wrestling, performing bears and fortune tellers.

A circus performed regularly in a huge ring formed by wooden planks. When the season was over, the circle was dismounted and the timber sold to the bakers for their ovens.

Gymnastics was a little known sport until the arrival of the English. They also brought with them the art of boxing. In 1837 a match with a prize of 100F was arranged. This was illegal by French law, but the constabulary arrived after the match had started, stopped it and

split the 100F between the combatants, leaving a very cross audience.

While the English did take their recreations with them, it wasn't until 1850 that they organised a cricket competition!

While the whole world seemed to pass through Calais, the Calaisiennes themselves did not seem to travel anywhere. However, should our workers have wanted to travel, the means was easily at hand. As early as 1819 the diligences covered the distance between Paris and Calais in 28 hours, at the cost of 50 to 60 F. By 1835 this cost was down to 35F and in 1846 the rail reached Arras. The diligence took eight hours from Calais, and the train another 7. Rail reached Calais late in 1848 and the trip took Calais to Paris was shortened to about 12 hours.

The Lacemakers often crossed to Dover for marriage services and it would seem some families regularly moved around, either to maintain family and friendships or to keep employed. The trip from Calais to Dover took from an hour and a half to two hours, depending on the wind, and it took eight hours to reach London.

Holy days were celebrated with fervour - singing and dancing food and wine or beer.

Early on New Year's Day people took to the streets in their Sunday best, holding their children's hands and wishing a happy New Year to all their parents, friends and neighbours. It was a testing day as one was expected to drink many, many cups of coffee and little glasses of wine or aperitifs with sweets and biscuits.

Saint Eloi is the saint of silversmiths, blacksmiths and locksmiths and the laceworkers adopted her as their patron too. On the evening before the holy day small bands wandered the streets for drinks, a meal and dancing.

Then came St Nicholas. The evening before the Saints Day, the children put their shoes near the chimney, and next morning would find them full of sweets, oranges and toys. This is also the merchants holy day and they began the morning by singing in the choir at Mass. This was followed by wine and cakes served to them,

and that evening a dance was held at one of the venues.

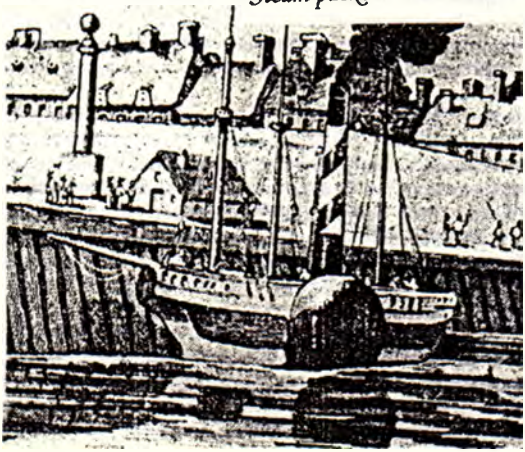
Finally Christmas was celebrated with a copious meal. The English introduced plum pudding and mince pies to the French cuisine.

There was a less attractive side to so-called entertainment. The laceworkers involved themselves in pigeon racing cock fighting and dog fighting. Drinking was a favoured pastime. There were many, many establishments for the purpose and on Sundays the men gathered to drink, play cards, dominoes and backgammon. When the pay was high, then the laceworkers drank more!

While there were exceedingly difficult times, and the work hours were long and dreary, it is the nature of people to have fun and entertain themselves. The laceworkers of Calais were no different and it would seem the entertainment of those who lived there sustained the livlihood of a great many others!

from
Calais et Saint-Pierre au XIX^e^ Siècle,
Albert Vion
Westhoek Editions, 1982

Steam packet at Calais 1843



Thomas Johnson, Engineer

While the life story of Thomas Johnson is an interesting one, the drama played out in the inquest into his death offers an incredible richness.

The Report on the inquest was printed in the Bathurst Times on Wednesday,June 4, 1879. In the same paper, on the same date there is a report on that report.

The main characters identify Bathurst residents, their trades and their addresses. The detailed description of Thomas' final hours and death gives an idea of his life style. Family references fill the family tree. The point of law the Coroner makes leads to the journalist having to rescue Thomas' reputation by telling us more about his personality than any Coroner's report ever!

INQUEST

An inquest was held on Monday morning at the Imperial Hotel, George Street,before JC Stanger, Coroner, and a jury of twelve, on the body of Mr Thomas Johnson who died on Saturday 31st May. The following evidence was taken:

Constable Quigley stated: I am stationed at Bathurst. I have seen the body of deceased. It is the body of Thomas Johnson; on Saturday last, deceased's son reported to Doctor Martin and me that his father was either dead or dying; in consequence of what I had heard, I proceeded to the dwelling of the deceased in the company of Doctor Martin, who examined the body in my presence and pronounced life extinct; deceased was lying on the floor on his right side,his right arm extended at right angles to his body; deceased had on his clothes; he also had a large cape or cloak on; from the position in which he was lying it is likely that he had rolled off a large chest near at hand, which,probably,he had bent sleeping on. on the floor near deceased I noted a quantity of brownish fluid, which emitted an offensive smell; the fluid would resemble stale beer or porter; I observed no external marks or injury on the body; on a table near

the body I found a bottle labelled chlorodyne about three parts full; judging from the moisture about the mouth of the bottle, I thought it had been recently used; I also found a bottle containing what I believed to be Chinese medicine and which bottle appeared to have been recently used; through the house I found a quantity of liqueur and medicine bottles; some of the liqueur bottles had the appearance of having been used recently.

By the Coroner: I have known deceased about 12 months; I never saw him drunk the whole of that time.

William Johnson stated; I have seen the body of deceased; it is that of my father; he was 66 years of age; I saw him last Saturday morning about 8 o'clock near our shop in George Street; he was waiting for me coming from my house; he met me in the street and asked me for some money; I gave him 5/-; he said he was bad and that he had wanted medicine; he refused to come to the shop; he had been drinking for about seven days; he said he would go home; I watched him go to his house and that was the last I saw of him until about 1 o'clock of the day when my brother told me that father was very bad; brother and I went down to see him; he was in the house where the body now lies; I saw father on the floor; I lifted his arms up and found that he was dead; father had not done any work for some time; I supported him, and have done so for the last ten months; he had given to drink ever since I can remember; he would sometimes drink for three or four weeks; mother is living and resides with me;

Dr Bassett deposed: I am a legally qualified medical practitioner, and reside in Bathurst; I have examined the body of the deceased, the subject of this enquiry; I found no marks of violence upon the body and from what I have observed and the habits of deceased I believe he died of natural causes. accelerated by intemperance; several bottles were about, but I saw nothing to make me suppose any drugs had been used to induce death.

Henry McKever deposed: I am a tailor and reside in Keppel Street. I have seen the body; I have known deceased for tenor twelve years. I saw him about ten o'clock Saturday morning last; I saw him at the house where the body now lies; he said he had had a very bad night' he said he had taken some chlorodyne to induce sleep; he requested

me to make a fire as he was not able himself; I did so; I left him about ten o'clock and at on returning about one o'clock, on opening the door,I saw him lying on the floor.; I went in next door and told Mr Rickards about it; Rickards said, on examining him, we had better let his son know; I then went away; I knew that he was a Good Templar for several months; this was about eighteen months ago; when I saw him about ten, he was quite sober.

William Rickards stated: I am a pawn broker and reside in Howick street; I have seen the body; it is that of Mr Johnson. I had known him about five years; on Saturday lst about nine o'clock Mr Johnson was standing at his door,and he remarked to me that he had never passed such a night as he had last night and that he would never pass another such night for a £5 note; that was all the conversation I had with him; he was apparently sober.; he would occasionally take a drink; be a long time off drink and then take a spree; I knew him to be a Good Templar sometime; he was so for about four months previous and up to about a week ago and then he broke out.

In the transcript, the word frequently was substituted for occasionally and the witness asked for this to be corrected. The Coroner remonstrated there was no difference and this led to further altercations that were reported as follows:

The Bathurst Times
Wednesday June 4, 1879

Inquest of the Late Mr Thomas Johnson

Our readers will perceive, from the report of the inquest held on the body of the late Mr Thomas Johnson, that some unpleasantness arose between the Coroner and the jury, regarding not only the verdict, but also touching on the manner in which the proceedings were conducted. The foreman and other of the jurors thought some of the Coroner's remarks were out of place, and insulting,while the Coroner considered that the said jurors had acted unseemly, and rendered themselves liable to grave censure, if not amenable to further serious proceedings, on account of the manner- he alleged- in which he had been insulted whilst in the discharge of his office. The verdict as will be seen was " Died from Natural Causes". The Coroner appeared to demur, and inquired if the jury would not add

the words " accelerated by intemperance". On receiving the answer "No", his Worship wished to know why; when the juror said " because it is not upon the evidence, the Coroner rejoined that the Doctor's opinion was that effect, and that the son of the deceased had also testified similarly. It was given in evidence that Mr Johnson had, about 18 months ago been a Good Templar, and one of the jurymen said that from his own knowledge, he had been a member of the lodge at Bathurst for seven or eight months. It was further stated by another witness that deceased was Good Templar for about four months immediately previous to the week before his death. The foreman said he would take down the names of the jury, and state the conduct of the Coroner to the Attourney-General. The Coroner read from a work on the duties of a coroner, a case in which a witness in a coroner's Court refused to sign his deposition, and was sent to prison; and it intimated that though he would not like to adopt such a course, he would not be exceeding his duty if he did so. The juror said he would like to catch the coroner at that, and dared him to commit; for his Worship would remember that in the case which had been read, it was the witness who was dealt with, and not a juryman.

Whilst writing on this sad case we think it only our duty to say that Mr Johnson was one of the most remarkable men of his class in this district. He was not only an ingenious and practical engineer, but his general intelligence was of superior order.

The extent of his acquaintances with ancient and modern history, as well as the knowledge he had of some of the leading English literary characters of the last generation was such as is seldom met with except in persons of high culture. He had a tenacious memory; and he was a lively admirer of smart writing, and of satire of humour; though in his own manner of conducting an argument he was serious and thoughtful.

Mr Johnson had been many years in Bathurst, and previous to coming to the colony he had spent some time in France. We learned at the inquest that he was sixty-six years of age at his death.

FOR THE GENEALOGIST

ON CONVICT LINES:

James Crofts, Framework Knitter of Burton, Leicestershire, born c 1790 was tried at the Leicester Assizes with William Youle and Robert Gadby. James was 5'8"', with dark complexion, dark grey hair and hazel eyes. He was sentenced for life and arrived in Australia in 1818 on the *Lady Castlereagh.*

James' path in the colony was not a steady one, and in 1820 he was transported to Newcastle aboard the *Elizabeth Henrietta,* having been sentenced by W Minchin to a year there for a Colonial crime.

He was still in Newcastle in 1823, when he sought permission to marry Mary Smith of "Providence". Permission was granted and in the same period James sought a mitigation of sentence :

"...That your humble petitioner being desirous of intermarrying with one Mary Smith of Newcastle is humble presumed the liberty of soliciting your Excellency's permission of so doing."

"...petitioner hath been emboldened to implore your Excellency sanction under the force that his exemplary conduct added to a consideration of that the female will plead for the indulgence being imparted."

By 1823 James was a keeper at the Newcastle goal, a position he held for several years at least. By 1825 he was due half a year's allowance in lieu of slop clothing and the Commandent ordered payment to be made in Spanish dollars. He married his Mary and they had one child. Mary died at the age of 38 in 1841, having born one child only - Thomas, born 1838. Later in 1841 James remarried Maria Brennan and in the next ten years they had 7 children.

Francis Brownlow, labourer of West Markham, Nottingham,born 1787, arrived on the Malabar in 1819, having been transported for 7 years. He was 5' 8", od ruddy complexion with balck hair. He was assigned to Thomas Pierce of Parramatta and got his Ticket of Leave in 1824 at Parramatta. He married Mary Moore c 1827 and they had eight children. Francis died at Picton in 1859, aged 74 years.

Walking in Their Footsteps - Part 1

Family stories come alive when researchers can visit those place they know their ancestors walked. So many of us visit sites to help us relate family stories to history. For early Australian immigrants this can pose a problem. So much in the early days was of a temporary nature, or built of materials that made them necessarily temporary.

Some was even destroyed on purpose. In the Illustrated Sydney News during 1865 there is a drawing of the first Parramatta goal - a solid sandstone building - being pulled down with the caption that it is a good thing to have this blight on our history removed forever.

It is possible though to gain a taste of 1848, and so:

To Bathurst

* If you don't know Sydney Harbour, take the Manly Ferry to view the Heads from the inside. A set of binoculars will help you identify the gracious old homes that sprinkled the foreshores in 1848 - Carthona, built on Darling Point, Lindesay at Double Bay. Diarists of the time repeatedly spoke of the beauty of the harbour with its houses nestled in amongst the greenery. This is still there!

* Catch the Rivercat to Parramatta from Circular Quay and travel up the river to the Queens Wharf where the Agincourt passenegrs stepped ashore. The foreshores are being restored, and in the narrower parts of the stream you travel through mangroves as they would have in 1848.

* Walk around Parramatta with the help of a guide map available from the Tourist Bureau. The Lacemakers would have - and while their barracks, which were immediately beside the old wharf site on the down stream side, have long disappeared, there is plenty of 1848 Parramatta to see.

* Take the new highway to Blaxland and there turn right onto Layton Avenue. This winds down under a railway bridge and then becomes the old Mitchell's Pass that the Lacemakers basically travelled. A winding stretch brings you to David Lennox's first stone bridge. This beautiful bridge is well worth exploring. From here you can continue back down to Emu Plains (one way from here) or return to Blaxland and drive on to Wentworth falls. The very outside loop of this community is the old road and takes you past where the Weatherboard Inn used to be.

* Hartley becomes the next focus. The Court House and several of the oldhouses were there in 1848, and a drive down through the village takes you to a dead end, but crosses Cox's River where the old road did.

* The highway leads you to Bowenfells, where you turn left and head towards O'Connell through Tarana. There is little left of 1848 O'Connell in 1996, but the country is glorious in late spring and would have lifted the hearts of the travellers. The drays stopped at O'Connell for Mrs Crofts to have her Babe. The Sergeants lived there on the Fish River, Elizabeth Cooper is buried there and so is Alfred Lowe's wife. There are two small cemeteries attached to the Catholic and Anglican churches.

* The road from here sweeps across the hills and down to Kelso, joining the highway opposite the street that leads to Kelso Church. A left hand turn takes you into Baturst and you are ready to explore all that is there.

Looking up the Parramatta River, 1863

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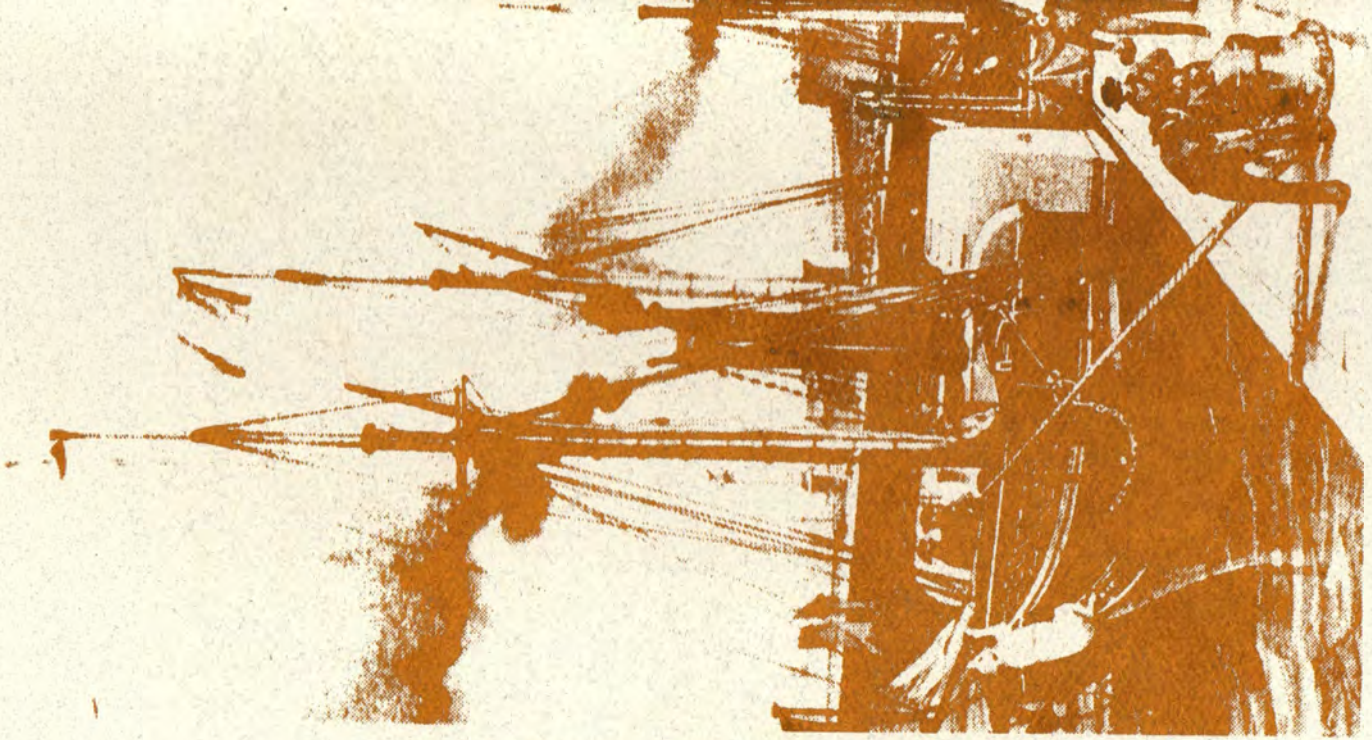

Louis-Phillipe returns to Calais in 1844 after an official visit to England.

by Cl. Gardy, from **Calais et Saint-Pierre au XIXe Siècle,** Albert Vion