

alike each new corner improves, or otherwise upon his predecessors there is little else than wood used for building, however now they are commencing brick but more frequently stone erections. It seems to be in some hat of a transition state; some of the wooden buildings are very pretentious, among which I mention particularly the "Sydney Times" office, and the City Hotel, conspicuous objects in Cathedral Square, this latter is a large open space in the centre of the town enclosed in railings, being the site for the proposed Cathedral, which is to be built across the ~~street~~ chief thoroughfare in Colombo street causing it to diverge on each side. The design is Scott Russell's, ~~merely~~ is merely to carry it out. In the drapers shops there is as good a display as in the English provincial towns, and other things in proportion on the whole its appearance is decidedly pleasing and likely to improve upon acquaintance it is not however so healthy as Sydney, and is fearfully dusty.

Business now is very dull, and there have been a large number of bankruptcies lately according to all accounts my letters of introduction have produced nothing but civilities situations are scarce. But to return to my narration, it was a magnificent day and very warm though but the early spring or end of winter, the mornings & evenings however are very cold. The first gentleman we called upon was out we then went to where I expected to find my brother but to my great disappointment I found he was away acting as pursuer upon one of his employer's counting houses and would not be back for a month we then proceeded with a letter of introduction to the Rev. J. Fraser, the minister of the Scotch free church, who together with his wife has been most kind ^{in every way} laying out the greater part of his time in assisting us to find a house &c, he kindly took Mr. Tennant & I the night while I went back to the vessel to bring the children off the next day, which I accomplished very comfortably in company with the Grieasons, though coming out the sand in the cart from summer the driver while lighting his pipe allowed the horses to go a little too far out and our right wheels suddenly sunk up to the axle trees in the mud, we all had to get out, fortunately another trap was passing at the time the occupants of which kindly gave us assistance, and by unharnessing the horses and putting our "shoulders to the wheel" in a kind manner we managed to drag it out, it served as a little experience of Colonial life.

9th we are now settled ^{in a work} as comfortably as can be expected.