

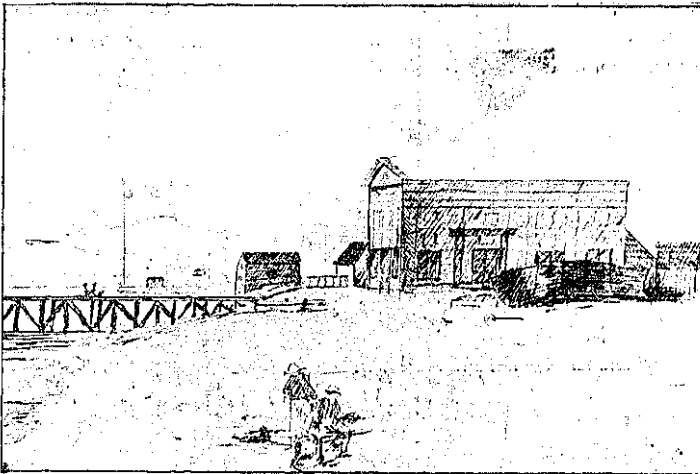
Even in those times people found leisure for newspaper argument, and the names of places formed a fertile subject of discussion. The chalky cliff along the S.E. coast of the North Island was proposed to be called Albonia, but the poetic suggestion fell flat. "Young Nick's Head" — a cape on one side of Gisborne, named by Cook after a cabin-boy—was objected to as unephonious, but it keeps its name to this day.

The "good old times" are gone, and each year sees the ancient landmarks becoming fewer and fewer. The plague scare and the subsequent sanitary reforms have levelled some; others have been ousted to make way

In Woodward-street, running down from the Wellington Club to the Quay, there is another old building utilised at present as a bottle store. It has fallen on evil days, for in pioneer times it was the Congregational Church built by Mr. Woodward, a leading Congregationalist, who has bequeathed his name to the street it is in.

The old Exchange used to stand near the Opera House, but it was destroyed by fire. It was used as a reading-room and a public hall in the early days.

The Thistle Inn was a well-known hostelry in the first days of the colony. It stood at



THE EXCHANGE,

From an old Engraving published in 1849.

for newer and more modern buildings, as is the way with humans. Still, however, we possess here and there a few survivals of the old days. One of the oldest brick buildings, if not the oldest, is Barrett's Hotel, owned and built by Mr John Plimmer. This, however, is not the old Barrett's Hotel, but simply called after it. It was erected about '47, and for a brief season was utilised as Government offices. Another very old building used to be the Roman Catholic Presbytery, and was known familiarly as "Father Ryley's house." It is said to be the oldest edifice now standing in Wellington, and is surrounded by houses. It is in Mount-street.

the corner of Murphy-street and Lambton Quay, and was noted for its capital accommodation. In latter years it had lost its name, given it, probably by some enthusiastic Scotchman, and its low, old-fashioned windows contained little but a few bottles of sweets and a legend announcing "soda and milk." Only recently, when the Royal Hotel was being extended, was this relic of old times pulled down.

Another old building is Messrs Bethune and Hunter's offices, near the Opera House, while still another was the old house in which Mr Rhodes lived. This has been quite lately demolished. It was the quaintest of homes, with tiny narrow stair-