



Auckland University College.

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WHEN one speaks of an Old World University, he immediately conjures up before his mind's eye the picture of a majestic pile of buildings with quaint, picturesque Gothic windows, ivy-covered walls and spacious quadrangles, hallowed by the glorious traditions of centuries. He looks upon it with something of that reverential awe with which we regard noble institutions that are the gradual evolution of time, and are associated with much that is great and glorious in the past history of a country. The handsome buildings of the Otago University and of Canterbury College are in keeping with the dignity and importance of their work, and give the residents something—if only a floating flavour—of the Old World conception of a University College. So far, however, is the average Aucklander from calling up such a picture at the mention of the Auckland University College that to him it is merely a name—a shadowy something he has read of in the newspaper, and not a substantial reality. The reason is not far to seek. The Auckland

University College is located in a remote corner of the city, out of the beaten track of the citizens; it is a plain, low wooden building, or, to be more accurate, group of buildings, with no pretensions to architectural beauty; in fact, as far as outward appearances go, it might easily be mistaken for a barracks or a boot factory.

Yet this building has a history such as the Southern Colleges cannot boast of. It is clearly identified with the establishment of our New Zealand Parliamentary Government. It was here in 1854, when New Zealand was first granted responsible government, that our legislature first met, and after passing its first Act—the Act authorising the sale of spirituous liquors within its precincts—proceeded to the consideration of the minor matters that the assumption of responsible government involved.

It was not till some years after its establishment that the Auckland University secured this permanent abode. In the first years of its life it wandered about from the District Court in High Street, where lectures on Law were first delivered, to one room in