

JAMES LAURENSEN

for years. We extend sympathy to his widow, and feel that she will, with us, take satisfaction that as he found the Library his friend in life, so it will remember him as a friend hereafter.

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## THE PICTURESQUE ATLAS OF AUSTRALASIA

*A Dog With a Bad Name*

THIS MIGHTY WORK in three, generally handsomely bound, volumes is well known to those versed in New Zealand books. But strange it is that despite the magnificence of its production, the accuracy and scope of its contents, vouched for by Dr Hocken's Bibliography ('a magnificent volume, with splendid illustrations and rare portraits'), it has never enjoyed a price on the New Zealand market to accord with these qualities. There is a good reason, which carries its effects to the present day. It is worth while to tell the story in some fullness.

*The Picturesque Atlas of Australasia* was edited by Dr Andrew Garran, and published in 1886 by the Picturesque Atlas Publishing Company of Sydney. Dr Garran, whose name had formerly been Gammon, had a distinguished career in Australia. Born in London in 1825, he took an M.A. degree in 1848, and went to Australia in 1851. After varied journalistic work he found himself at the height of his profession as editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1873. In 1870 he had taken the degree of LL.D. at Sydney, a qualification that served him well in the newspaper and political world. Quitting the former in 1885 he entered politics in 1887. Thus the 'Atlas' was the child of these two years of relative inactivity. He achieved eminence rapidly, becoming president of the Royal Commission on Strikes in 1890, whose report resulted in the Trades Disputes Con-