

NOTES AND COMMENTS

Professor William B. Todd

The Library was visited for a few days in August by Professor William Burton Todd, Professor of English at the University of Texas, Austin. Professor Todd is a world authority on the forgeries of T. J. Wise and a leading bibliographer. Since 1966 he has been editor of the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*.

On the evening of 2 August Professor Todd gave an instructive and highly entertaining talk to the Friends on Wise forgeries with particular reference to those acquired by Alexander Turnbull. It is hoped to print an edited version of this talk in a future number of the *Record* and Professor Todd has also promised the editor an article comparing the Turnbull Library's copy of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *The runaway slave* with the copy in the John Henry Wrenn Library at the University of Texas.

Samuel Stutchbury, 1798-1859

During recent years, the Library has received a number of requests for information about Samuel Stutchbury, a naturalist who visited New Zealand, 1825-26. Investigations drew a blank. Stutchbury remained an enigma. It was, therefore, with some excitement that we greeted the recent acquisition of a number of Stutchbury manuscripts. Of greatest interest are the two volumes of journals Stutchbury kept while employed as naturalist to the Pacific Pearl Company's expedition to the South Seas, 1825-27, which included New Zealand among its ports of call. The more important is the second volume, an extended fair copy of the first and well illustrated with coloured sketches. Further records comprise a scrapbook of published papers on scientific subjects, letters from fellow naturalists and copies of reports Stutchbury made as Geological Surveyor, New South Wales, 1851-55, all supported by useful biographical notes compiled by Dr C. A. O. Fox, from whose estate the material was purchased.

Early Thorndon and Old St Paul's

Old St Paul's, Mulgrave Street, was opened in 1866 and remained the parish church of Thorndon and the Cathedral Church of Wellington until 1964. In 1966 it was bought by the Crown as an historic building and a fine example of Colonial Gothic architecture in wood. Since then the Ministry of Works has carried out a superb job of restoration. After being re-opened for two years the old church was closed again for six months this year while electrical re-wiring and heating