

The members of the Hebrew body laid the foundation stone of a Synagogue on Tuesday afternoon last, on the plot of ground they recently purchased in York Street. Nearly all the members of their faith were present on the occasion. The service, which was selected from Holy Writ, was read in an impressive manner in the Hebrew and English languages. The plate which was deposited in the stone contained the following inscription:—

"To commemorate the laying of the Foundation Stone of the Sydney Synagogue, in the presence of the Hebrew Body of New South Wales, on Tuesday, 19th day of April, a.m. 5602, in the 5th year of the Reign of our Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, and in the fifth year of the administration of the Government of this Colony by Sir George Gipps."

To which was added, the names of the various persons belonging to their Committees, &c. Mr. Hume is the gentleman engaged as the architect and superintendent of the work, and when completed it will be a neat and commodious building. In the evening about sixty of the subscribers to this place of worship sat down to a sumptuous dinner at the "Albion Tavern." After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and local toasts were drunk, as also some appropriate ones relative to the circumstances of the day.

—FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

The Voice of Jacob.

First Australian Jewish Newspaper.

The foundation of the York Street (Sydney) Synagogue caused a quickening of Jewish consciousness throughout New South Wales, which then included the Port Phillip district, now known as Victoria. The movement had a noticeable effect in the country towns in the matter of the observance of the Sabbath. In Sydney, under the editorship of Mr. George Moss, there appeared a local edition of *The Voice of Jacob*, an English periodical founded in 1841. The extract following is from the issue of May 27th, 1842. A copy of this number, and of the only other two numbers published, are included in the library of our late President.—[EDITOR'S NOTE.]

We perceive that two notices relative to the affairs of the members of the Hebrew Persuasion in Sydney, appear in the *London Periodical* from which we have made copious extracts. We now, therefore, republish for the information of our co-religionists in the Mother Country, the extract from the general Census, taken by order

of the Government in the year 1841, relative to the number of the Jewish population in the Colony of New South Wales. For our own part, we are not aware of so great a number, as at present, we only observe ninety subscribers to the Synagogue. The following is a correct extract from the Official Return of the Census for 1841, being the number of persons in each County professing the Jewish Religion :—

Argyle	30
Bathurst	4
Bligh	1
Brisbane	1
Camden	35
Cook	6
Cumberland	559
Durham	21
Georgiana	0
Gloucester	4
Hunter	3
King	0
Macquarie	39
Murray	11
Northumberland	46
Phillip	2
Roxburgh	9
Saint Vincent	3
Wellington	0
Westmoreland	0
*Wellington	1
*Bligh	1
*Lachlan	1
*Monaroo	5
*Murrumbidgee	4
*Peel's River	3
*New England	1
*Clarence River	0
*M'Leay River	0
Moreton Bay	0
Norfolk Island	9
Colonial Vessels	0
Bourke	51
Grant	1
Normanby	0
*Western Port	2
*Portland Bay	3
Total	856

*These Counties or Districts are Commissioners' Districts "beyond the boundaries of location." Bourke, Grant, Normanby, Western Port, and Portland Bay, are in the Port Phillip District.

With the exception of the county of Cumberland, it will be seen, that there are but 300 persons of the Jewish persuasion settled over the vast territory of New South Wales; and the gross number of 500 and odd souls in the county of Cumberland, we should arrange as follows :—

Married Males	60
Single "	40
Married Females	60
Single "	35
Children from 10 to 14 years	100
" 10 to 6 years	100
And under	100
Bond	
	Total ... 495

Barnett Levey.

The Father of The Theatre in Australia.

By COLONEL A. W. HYMAN.

(Read before the Society, December 11, 1941.)

George Street, in the early days of Sydney, was known as Sergeant-Major's Row, from the fact that a number of senior non-commissioned officers of the New South Wales Corps resided in and around that locality. They were accustomed to add to their incomes by keeping, under license, what were then known as "grog shops." About 1807 a Sergeant Ricketts was given a lease of an allotment of 1 rood 17 perches (later known as 72 George Street) in the Row. This subsequently became the site of the first Royal Hotel. On this site Dymock's Building now stands. The present owners purchased the land in 1922 for £15,000. It was originally purchased by Alexander Riley 110 years previously for £57.

In 1817 this land was sold to Solomon Levey for £400. Solomon was a brother of Barnett Levey; both were well-known figures in the mercantile life of early Sydney. Solomon Levey was, in fact, a partner of Daniel Cooper in the then well-known business of the Waterloo Stores. Solomon Levey died in London in 1833.