

The clock in Government House is now striking the hours. The necessary apparatus has lain in the Tower unused for many years - probably nearly eighty. It has recently been repaired, put together and erected by Mr. A. Dalgleish, Watchmaker, Elizabeth Street, Hobart. The bell of the clock is of bronze, and was cast in 1818 by Rockingham, a celebrated London bell-maker.

The following facts are taken largely from notes by the late Mr. J. Moore-Robinson: The clock in the Tower of Government House was the first public clock imported to this colony. It was requisitioned for by Governor Davey in 1816, built in 1821 to the order of the Imperial Government by Thwaites of Clerkenwell Road (the firm which made the clock for the House Guards Parade, London, in 1756) and arrived in the colony in 1824, and was placed in the tower of old St. David's Church on December 30th, 1825. It had one dial only.

In consequence of a public demand for more than one clock face, the Government of Sir John Franklin purchased two clocks from the same firm of makers at a cost of £300 each. These were constructed in 1829, and on their arrival in Tasmania one was placed in front of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Bathurst Street, where it still remains, and the second was put alongside the original clock in St. David's Tower. In 1843 the original St. David's clock was removed and sold for £50. When Government House was in building, and a clock required, this original clock was purchased for £150 in 1855, and placed in the Tower in 1857 where it still remains.

The second clock of old St. David's was left in the tower until the Church was pulled down, the clock machinery being lowered to the ground on August 20th, 1874. This clock remained first at

Mr. Abbott's, the Murray Street clock-maker, and later in the crypt of the Cathedral until 1922, when it was given by the Cathedral Chapter to the Church of St. Lukes, Richmond, and erected in that building in the first week of November, 1922.

19th September 1930.

Dear Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor to acknowledge your letter of the 15th inst., and to thank you for so kindly sending him a copy of your article in the "Observer" of November 24th, 1928. I feel sure His Excellency will be most interested in your history of Government House. I will write to you again and return your notes.

Yours faithfully,

CAPTAIN G. A. D. G.

J. Murray Abbott Esq., F.R.S.,
"The Clockmaker"
Murray Street,
Lower Manhattan, N.Y.