

FOREWORD

This little book is not issued as a history of Sydney. It contains some bits of history, but the greater part consists of tradition—accounts of past happenings that have been handed down by older generations, fireside versions that are now known to but very few. The historical portions were gleaned from books, newspapers, letters and public documents, the traditions were gathered here and there as opportunity offered. Taken as a whole the contents are such as to admit of no exact classification, but an attempt has been made to arrange them in order of time.

It has been the aim to make the work as accurate as possible, and where matters of history are dealt with, they may be accepted as correct. With regard to tradition no great accuracy need be expected. That which is passed along by word of mouth naturally becomes vague and indefinite, and often, like the rolling snow-ball, gathers as it goes. I can only assure the reader that I have taken care to get the