

BRICKS :

When the settlers from the first four ships came over the Hills to the Plains, they, or a considerable number of them, camped on a site on the southern bank of the River Avon, near where the Barbadoes Street Bridge now is.

This settlement was called "The Bricks" and was so called because a boatload of bricks had been discharged there, and even a pile of bricks made a landmark in those days. The River was largely used at first for the conveyance of the settlers' heavier goods, and that was probably the reason for the selection of this site.

After a year or so at "The Bricks" the settlers moved out to the sections they purchased in various parts of the newly-laid-out town.

My people came to Cashel Street, to the spot where we now are, and my earliest memories date from here. Ours was at first a two-roomed lean-to, and most of the other houses were of the same modest dimensions.

You may imagine the houses did not interfere much with the surrounding view. That view was pretty much like that from the deck of a ship at sea - only a tussock plain instead of water.

When looking towards the Plains, two objects stood out conspicuously against the background of the mountains -