



JOHN DUNMORE LANG

HIS WORK AND INFLUENCE

IN

AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION

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## PREFACE

The topic of this thesis on John Dunmore Lang and his influence on Australian Education was chosen after a preliminary perusal of his manuscripts, now housed in the archives of the Mitchell Library, Sydney. Very little previous research has been done on the life and work of Doctor Lang and there are no dissertations which deal exclusively with his contribution to Australian Education. Mr. A.C. Child has made an investigation of Dr. Lang's life and work and has published two articles in the Royal Australian Historical Society's Journal. However, that study has been spread over all the Doctor's activities, while the present study is limited to his work in education.

The problem of this study was to investigate and evaluate Dr. Lang's work and influence on the educational development of his adopted country. But it was obviously both impossible and undesirable to isolate entirely the educational activities from the other work of Dr. Lang in Australia. In some cases the educational work was bound inextricably with other phases, as when the establishment of the Australian College was also the opportunity for a bold and successful venture in immigration. The first chapter is an attempt to outline briefly the life of Dr. Lang so that the details of his educational work could be seen in proper perspective. For this purpose also an appendix has been prepared to outline chronologically the main events of the Doctor's life.

Other chapters have been dictated of a necessity to give to Dr. Lang's work a background without which the study would lack clarity and significance. Thus a brief survey of education in Australia up to Dr. Lang's arrival in the colony has been included. The chapter on Church and School Corporation has a further purpose, in that Lang's actions in relation to this Corporation influenced practically all his later work in education. Apparent digressions will thus be recognized as necessary because of later influences.

But all this background material and the details of Lang's educational ventures have been included as basis for a judgment on his influence in Australian education. The extent of Dr. Lang's work in education is amazingly wide both in nature and time, and is all the more surprising when one realises that other phases of his work were as much or more widespread though not perhaps as lasting. He managed to crowd several careers into one lifetime, and do well in all of them.

The opportunity of making acknowledgment of help given must also be taken here. The thanks of the writer are due to the staff of the Mitchell Library who helped and co-operated whenever possible. The manuscripts of Dr. Lang were still in process of assembling, checking, and binding, but any inconvenience caused by the writer's desire to use the material was cheerfully accepted. The writer's gratitude goes also to Dr. E.V. Steele, the Fisher Librarian of the University of Sydney, who so graciously granted the privileges of graduate use of the fine library.