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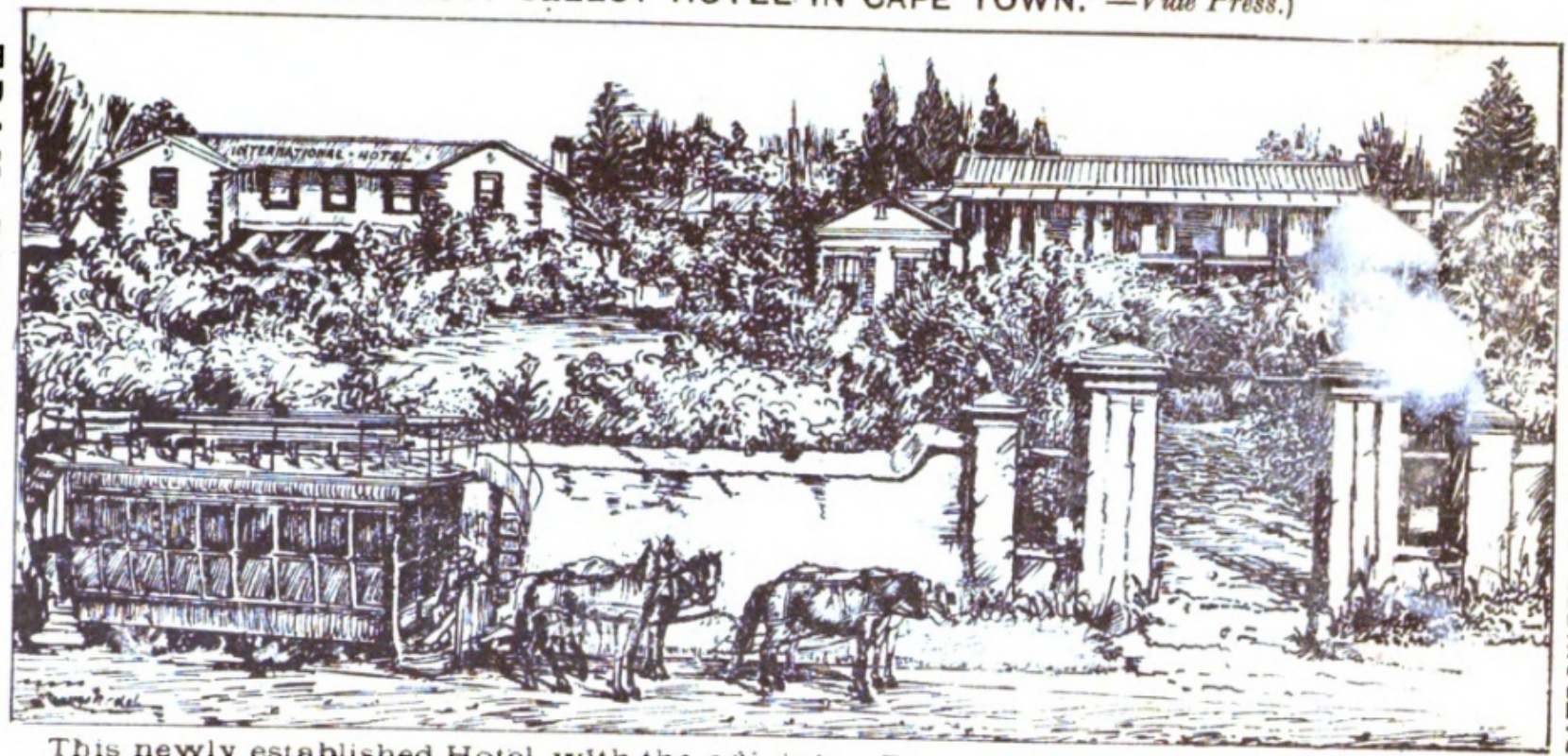
O'CALLAGHAN'S INTERNATIONAL HOTEL, THE GARDENS

("THE MOST SELECT HOTEL IN CAPE TOWN."—*Vide Press.*)

TRAM CARS TO AND FRO EVERY HALF HOUR.



PATRONIZED BY THE LEADING COLONISTS AND DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FROM EUROPE.

This newly established Hotel, with the adjoining Premises as Private Apartments, is situated in the healthiest part of the City, and in a most commanding position. It is only 8 or 10 minutes' walk from the Public Offices, and being surrounded by the Gardens and Private Villas of the leading Citizens, is entirely free from the Heat, Noise and Dust of the Town.

W. T. O'CALLAGHAN, Proprietor.

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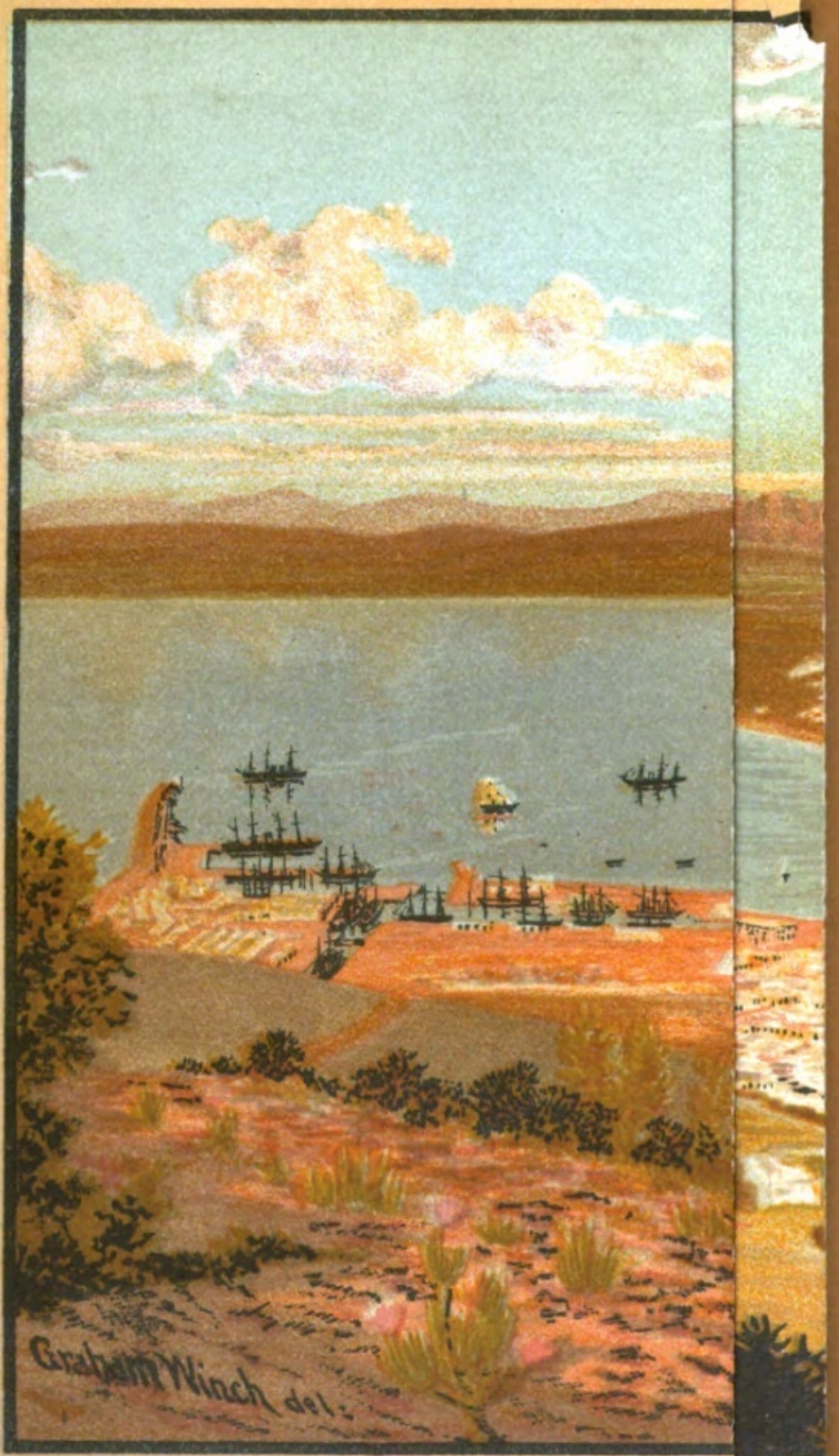

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OFFICIAL HANDBOOK.

HISTORY, PRODUCTIONS, AND RESOURCES

OF THE

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

EDITED BY

JOHN NOBLE,

CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY;

Author of "South Africa, Past and Present, &c."

CAPE TOWN:

PRINTED FOR THE COLONIAL AND INDIAN EXHIBITION COMMITTEE,
BY W. A. RICHARDS & SONS, GOVERNMENT PRINTERS.

1886.

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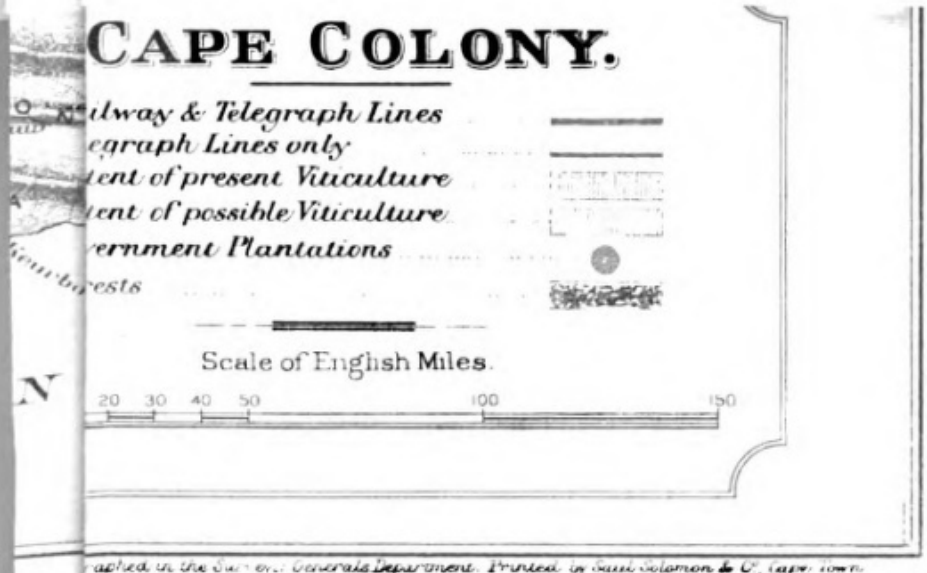

raphed in the Surveys Generals Department. Printed by Saul Solomon & Co, Cape Town.

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BEACH OF THE ST. JOHN'S RIVER.

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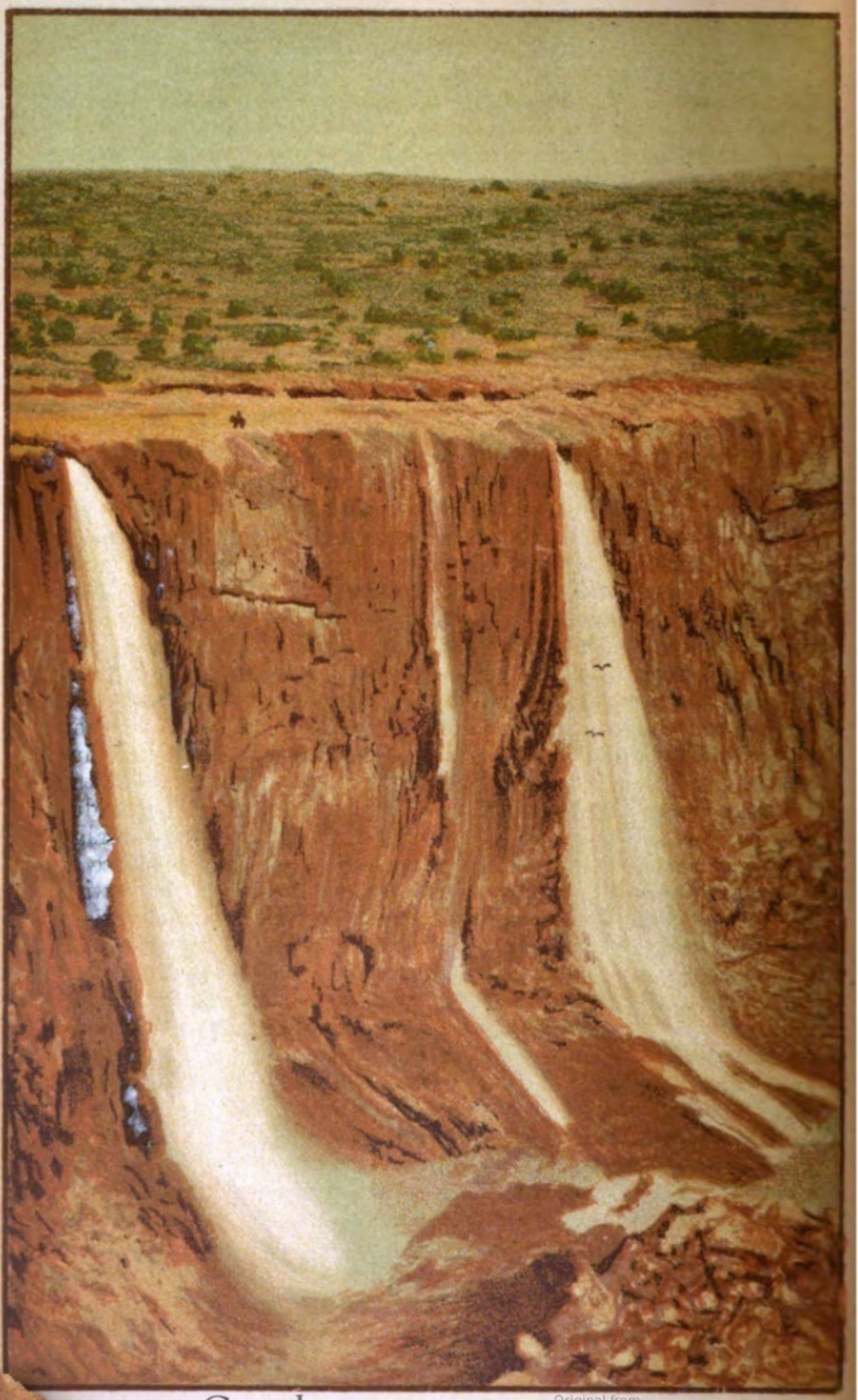

THE TSITSA WATERFALL.

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ends and the shadows [illegible]. The exquisite semi-tropical vegetation, African in its type and almost Brazilian in its beauty; the charms of light and shade over the grand panorama of mountain, wood, and water; and the glimpses of hill and dale, forming the high lands in the extreme distance and seemingly merging into the cobalt sky, furnish a picture of beauty in Nature untouched by Art rarely to be met with.

The mouth of this river, like most of the rivers on the coast, is obstructed by a bar of shifting sand, the channel contracting, expanding, and changing its condition according to the volume of water or floods in the river. It is reported to have been so flooded on one occasion as to have had a width of 900 feet with a depth of 30 feet nearly the whole of the distance across. After the shallows and intricacies of the mouth and first half mile have been passed, the depths and channel are favourable for navigation, but this is not uniformly maintained, for, as the river is ascended, shallow bars, with an average lesser depth, but with alternating deep holes, are met, so that it is necessary that a vessel of over seven feet draft should wait for the high-water tides. The river remains navigable for shallow-draft barges or canoe boats for a total distance of 10 to 12 miles from the sea, at which point the tidal wave and all possible navigation is abruptly stopped by a pebbly steep inclination, down which the river waters flow from their distant drainage area, the rolling uplands of Pondoland and Griqualand East.

The verdure of these Eastern coast lands is due to the supplies of moisture carried to them by the trade winds of the Indian Ocean. The vapour-laden clouds are arrested or caught by the high mountain barriers, upon whose summits and sides their refreshing and fertilizing showers descend. And this brings us to a brief notice of the climatic and meteorological conditions of the Colony. The seasons of the Cape it must be remembered come in reverse order to those in the northern hemisphere;—thus, the Cape summer is from December to February; Autumn from March to May; Winter from June to August, and Spring from September to November.

One circumstance which has an important influence on the climate of the Colony is the existence of two ocean currents on its coasts—the warm tropical ocean current coming down from the Mozambique channel along the east coast and around Cape L'Agulhas; and the other the cold South Atlantic current on the West Coast. Table Bay and False Bay mark the differences of temperature of the two—the waters of the latter at times registering 15° higher than those of the former.

Another striking distinction is, that in Autumn and Winter, the equatorial or return winds from the North-west discharge their

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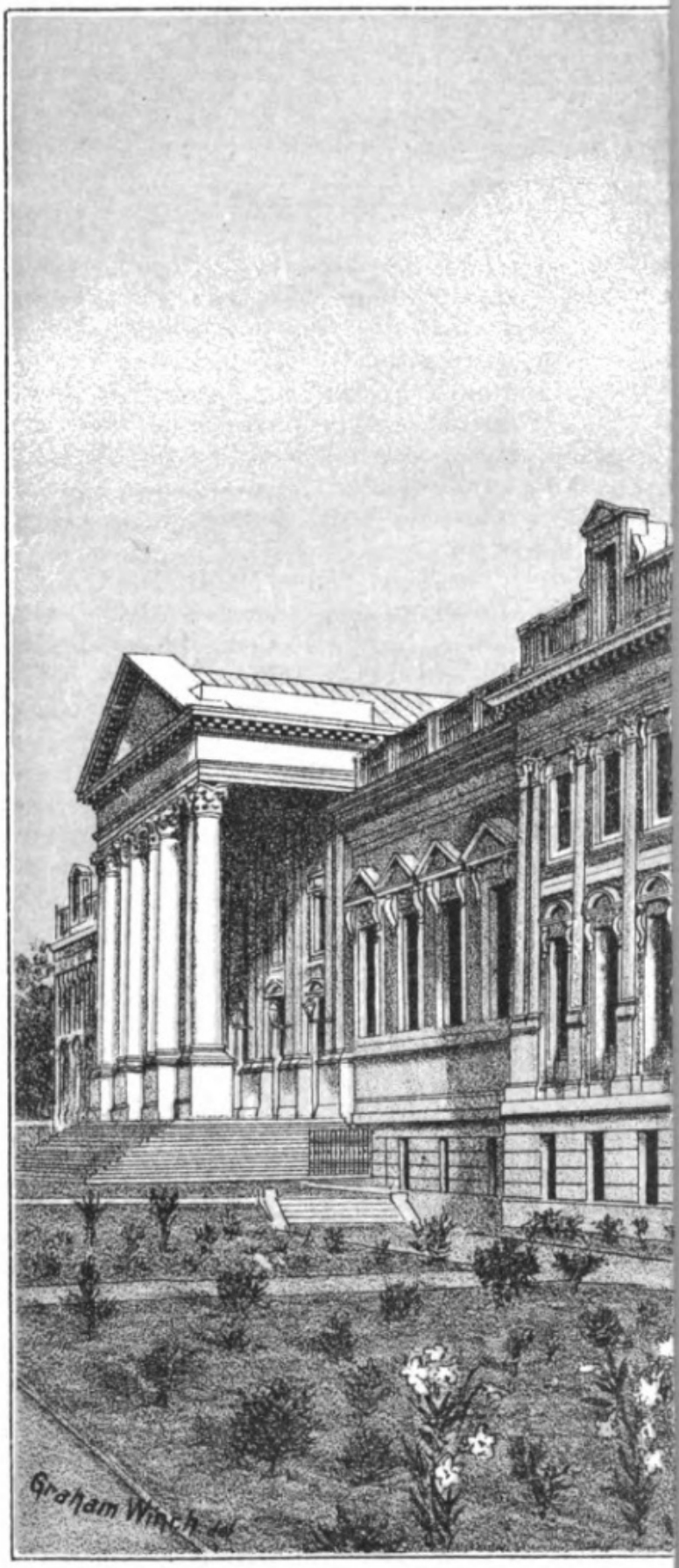

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