

## THE GENESIS OF LISMORE.

It has already been stated that Lismore, 65 miles by river from Ballina, owes its origin to the late William Wilson, who acquired the whole of the open country at the head of the North Arm and round and about the junction of Wilsons' and Leycester Creeks as a cattle station. This very junction now by the way, constitutes the heart of one of the wealthiest, most progressive, and best equipped municipalities in Australia. The Lismore homestead in the fifties was further down river at the foot of Girards Hill. Wilson's Creek wound its way lengthily through scrub and hills from Lismore until it finally disappeared at its source in the heights east of Bangalow and overlooking Byron Bay. Curiously enough these same heights in the same locality also provide the fountain from which Emigrant Creek, taking a more southerly direction, wriggles its way through Newrybar to Tintenbar, and on to Ballina at the extreme mouth of the river. Both creeks played a conspicuous part in the old cedar campaigns. Leycesters Creek, which junctions with Wilsons Creek at Lismore, was named after the late Mr Leycester, who possessing an elemental knowledge of medicine and surgery, was wont to apply his powers generously to the needs of the timber men and their wives and children and was long held by them in grateful esteem. After the first cedar had been removed from the banks of the Lower River creeks, the exploration and opening up of the arms above Lismore gave a new impetus to the industry. As a result new settlers found their way north, and many of the original pioneers removed there and erecting the first hasty humpies at the junction, laid the foundation of the Lismore of to-day. In the decades that followed untold millions of feet of cedar, pine, beech, rosewood, teak and other timbers found their way down these tributaries to the main river. In the dry periods when the creeks were low the cutters were employed felling and hauling the logs to these waterways, where they were branded and left to await the first flood to sweep them down to Lismore. Here a heavy iron chain cable was stretched across the river to arrest the speeding logs and hold them pending such time as they could be identified and sorted out by their owners for shipment. This method gave rise in due course to a series of frauds that ended in gaol for a number of men. It happened occasionally that logs were found at the chain bearing the brands of men whom it was known never worked them, and gradually it became evident that the dishonest trader was busy in the community. This practice of brand faking became so frequent and free in the end that concerted action was taken to suppress it and to bring those responsible for it to justice.