

NEW PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Striking Features of Building.

The new public library in Macquarie Street will contain the largest marble mosaic floor which has been put down in any building in Australia. The design is a replica of the Tasman Map, which is one of the treasures of the Mitchell Library.

Another interesting feature of the new building will be a stained-glass window, presented by "The Sydney Morning Herald" to mark the five-hundredth anniversary of the invention of printing.

The subject of the window, which will be in the reading-room, will be William Caxton presenting Margaret of York with a copy of his book, "The Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye." The book itself is in the Chataworth Library. The illustration, with its mosaic-like net of lines, should lend itself well to stained glass.

Originally the Master Printers' Association and the Printers' Union had thought of giving the Caxton window. Now that the "Herald" has made the donation, the Public Librarian, Mr. Ifould, is working out a plan for the printing trade to give three other windows. The subjects will be beautifully illuminated capitals from the Durham Book and the Book of Kells. The two letters of the latter initiate the sentence, "In principio erat verbum" ("In the beginning was the word"), from the Vulgate Gospel of St. John.

Two bronze doors will have a decoration of printers' marks—one from each important country. Then there will be a large carving in freestone depicting Caxton's design for his own printer's mark.

The mosaic of the Tasman map will be enriched by shapes of seventeenth-century ships, which do not appear in the original. The map itself came into the possession of the Mitchell Library about six years ago. It belonged formerly to a Greek princess, who was the heiress of Prince Roland Bonaparte. Tasman's voyage to the Pacific is fully indicated, together with his discovery of Van Diemen's Land. The mosaic will cover the library vestibule.

Arthur Fleischmann, Daphne Mayo, Ralph Walker, and J. E. Longdon are all working at the details of the bronze doors which they are modelling for the main entrance.