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Bates Smart & McCutcheon Pty Ltd

Architects Engineers Town Planners

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WILLIAM BRITTIAN TAPPIN

He was born at Ballarat in 1854 and died in Melbourne in 1905.

For some time he was in a partnership, Tappin and Gilbert, which has offices in Ballarat and Melbourne; however in 1890 after Mr. Joseph Reed's death he joined the firm forming the partnership Reed Smart and Tappin, that was to continue until 1907.

During this period the Bendigo Cathedral of the Sacred Heart was commissioned. Its first stage was completed between 1896 and 1901, however it was not until 1953 that the next stage was commenced.

Two of the other noteworthy buildings were produced by this partnership - the four storey building next to St. Paul's Cathedral built for the Metropolitan Gas Company and the Convent of the Good Shepherd at Abbotsford.

In 1900 Mr. Tappin wrote a paper for the First Australian Catholic Congress held in Sydney on "The Role of Art and Architecture".

He was something of an artist, designing the stencils behind the altar in St. Patrick's Cathedral, and is credited with the design of a shrine in St. Francis Church Melbourne.

When reporting his death in 1905 the Argus described him as "....our foremost ecclesiastical architect."

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