

Kogarah Congregational Church

With the progress of Kogarah and the surrounding districts the cause of Congregationalism has also spread most encouragingly; and with a view to accommodating the rapidly increasing number of adherents it has been decided to erect a church. Plans were prepared by Mr. H. C. Kent, M.A., architect, for a brick school-church which will give seating for 300 adults. The cost, inclusive of fittings, &c., will be about £950, and the site, which was purchased for £250, is a most commanding and convenient one, situated at the corner of Gray and Chapel streets. With a view to economy, the building will be very simple in design, of the early English style, with little or no ornamentation. The centre nave will be 41ft by 23ft, with side aisles attached, and light columns, so as to permit of revolving shutters to be erected to divide the building into class-rooms. The church will be surmounted by a spirette, and the ventilation has been carefully provided for.

On Saturday afternoon the memorial stones of this, the first Congregational Church on the Illawarra line, were laid by Dr. Hannay and Mr. Henry Lee, the delegates of the Congregational Union of England. A dais, very appropriately decked with ferns, shrubs, and bunting, was erected for the occasion. Among those who were present were Dr. Roseby, Rev. J. T. Warlow Davies, S. Savage, T. Owens Mell (president of the N.S.W. Congregational Union), T. Hill, J. Hill, J. Buchan, E. Masterman, G. Lewis, W. J. L. Cross, J. Robertson, C. Taylor, G. Lewis, S. H. Lewis, A. Campbell, G. Preston, and Messrs. J. Mullins, W. S. Buzacott, Ellis Holt, B. Short, and Holroyd.

The proceedings began with the singing of the hymn, "O Lord of Hosts, whose glory fills," which was accompanied by the Botany Mission Band. An introductory prayer was then delivered by Rev. T. Owens Mell.

The pastor of the church (Rev. E. Moore), who presided, made a statement of the funds that had been subscribed for the work, and also read a list of letters of apology from gentlemen who were unable to be present.

Mr. Kent read a description of the proposed building, and the Rev. S. Savage offered up the dedicatory prayer in a most impressive manner.

Alderman A. E. Green then presented a very handsomely finished silver trowel and mallet to Dr. Hannay, which was engraved as follows: "Presented to Rev. A. Hannay, D.D., on the occasion of his laying the memorial stone of Centenary Congregational Church, Kogarah, November 24, 1888."

Dr. Hannay, before laying the stone, which was inscribed as follows: "Centenary Congregational Church Memorial Stone, laid by Rev. Alex. Hannay D.D., November 24, 1888. Rev. E. Moore, pastor," delivered a prefatory address. He then laid the stone, and declared it on the strength of his reputation as a master mason well and truly laid. In the course of a very eloquent address he traced out

In the course of a very eloquent address he traced out the lines upon which a church should be founded, and went on to refer to the great hold that congregationalism was taking upon the world.

The Sunday-school children then sang the hymn "Praise ye the Lord," and Mr. H. M'Pherson presented Mr. Lee with a very beautifully-mounted emu's egg, which was given by the congregation in lieu of the orthodox trowel and mallet. It bore the following inscription: "Presented to H. Lee, Esq., on the occasion of his laying the memorial stone of the Congregational Church, Kogarah, November 24, 1888."

Mr. Lee, in acknowledging the presentation, said that he had been unfortunate enough to have laid no fewer than between forty and fifty stones; and he had such a number of trowels and mallets that he could hardly find room for them; but the departure that they had taken that day was one that would enable him to place the ornament in a position that would always remind him of the laying of the stone of the first Congregational Church on the Illawarra. Mr. Lee then laid the stone, which was very similarly inscribed to that laid by Dr. Hannay, and declared it truly laid. Mr. Lee announced that, on behalf of Mrs. Lee he would give £50 to the church.

Offerings were then laid upon the stones, the hymn, "The Church's One Foundation," was sung, and the proceedings terminated with the pronouncing of the benediction.
