

MATHESON CHURCH.

FOUNDATION STONE LAID.

In Memory of Pioneer Minister.

Yesterday afternoon the foundation stone of a new Presbyterian Church at Matheson was laid by the Rev. E. Norman McKie, B.A., Moderator of the New England Presbytery. The church, which is the gift of Mr. John Sinclair, of Waterloo, to the Matheson Presbyterians, is being erected in memory of the late Rev. Archibald Cameron, the first minister in the North.

In the presence of a gathering of about 60 adherents of the church, comprising residents of Matheson and surrounding centres and a contingent from Glen Innes, the foundation stone of the church was laid by the Rev. E. Norman McKie, Moderator of the New England Presbytery. Yesterday afternoon, following a local religious service conducted by the Rev. A. P. Cameron, B.A., the minister of the charge. In an appropriate address Mr. McKie said that when the annals of the Waterloo Valley were written that which was taking place that afternoon would be recorded as one of the red-letter days in the history. They were gathered to lay the foundation stone of the House of God, of a place where the spiritual worship of the Eternal Head and King of their church would be celebrated and observed, not to-day, and not to-morrow, but through many generations. They met to dedicate the foundation stone of a building which would be completed in due course to perpetuate, beneath those southern skies, that form of worship under the signs of the great Christian religion which they received from their Scottish forefathers. They had brought with them the traditions, the ideals and the aspirations of that nation, which had made contributions to the progress of the world, to the advancement of learnings, to the increase of piety and the inspiration of the Gospel in a measure quite out of proportion to their numbers on the basis of population. Mr. McKie said the building was being erected through the generosity of Mr. John Sinclair, out of whose generous nature many past works and good counsels had proceeded in the past, and who enjoyed such a disposition that he would fain not have his left hand know what his right hand did. Mr. Sinclair, in setting his hand to that work, was doing one of the noblest works open to man—the raising of a place that would be a visible testimony to his efforts, and give an opportunity to the people of that community to worship God in sincerity and solemnity, in dignity and with spiritual fervour. With that far-seeing vision which Mr. Sinclair had of the future of the country, he was building a church that would be the forerunner of a great religious and spiritual influence when that valley was filled with people and the hills resounding with song, and the great unfolding of the future would be manifest before the eyes of the people.

Mr. McKie said the stone was being laid in memory of the first minister of the district, the venerable and revered Archibald Cameron, who full of labor and energy, and enriched with the love and affection of a wide circle of friends, was gathered to his rest about 20 years ago. One hundred and ten years ago, on the 13th. of next month, this beloved pioneer minister was born amid the Powinshie hills in that land of piety and Godliness. As a young man he came to New England and laid the foundation of Christian religion amid the

to New England and laid the foundation of Christian religion amid the valleys and plains of this wide New England plateau. He had no particular limits to his work; he could go as far as the energy and daring of man would take him. It was a noble thought of Mr. Sinclair's that that justice should be erected to keep them in memory of what they owed to that great minister; to induce them to keep their lamp trimmed and burning and follow in the line of merit and service in their day and generation. They were called upon to do up and follow in the late Rev. Archibald Cameron's footsteps and do their part for the expansion of the Kingdom of God and for the propagation of the Gospel.

Proceeding, the Rev. McKie said Mr. Sinclair had set aside a portion of his land to be dedicated to the work of God, for the ideals for which the Church had stood in the past. They had read of the struggles and difficulties of the leaders of their faith, daring kings and parliament-men, in order that human freedom might be gained—that men might have liberty of worshipping God according to the dictates and impulses of their conscience—for that day and for future generations. The Church of God faced the great problems of the world to-day and was baffled. It was essential that not only in the scattered country places, but in the thickly populated cities they should have the devotion of the men and women so that this standard might be enhanced, and the world brought into a condition of tranquility and peace.

A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MAN.

Mr. John Sinclair expressed his pleasure at the large gathering that afternoon, representing a tribute to the man in whose memory the church was being erected. The ceremony that day took him back to an early period in his life. It was 63 years ago since he first met the late Rev. Archibald Cameron. As a young man in his teens he arrived at Clatscaux Station a complete stranger. There he met the late Mr. Cameron and a friendship was established which continued right to the end. He was deeply grateful that he had been spared those years in prosperity and peace to be able to do something of a practical nature in tribute to the memory of that splendid man who did so much for the north. Mr. Sinclair referred to the wonderful work of the late Mr. Cameron in an area that embraced five present-day charges. A further tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Cameron was the fact that the two ministers with them that day, who grew up under the influence of their revered pioneer minister, should be elected to the church of their fathers.

A LASTING INFLUENCE.

Rev. John Wetherpoon recalled his first association with the late Mr. Cameron 70 years ago, and told of the influence which that association had had upon his life. In those early days they worshipped in a bark-roofed building at Wellington, at a period before the rise of Glen Innes. "Trust in God, and do the right" was the teaching of the late Mr. Cameron to him as a young man, and that teaching had had a great influence upon his life. Mr. Wetherpoon paid a warm tribute to the generosity and thoughtfulness of the

Mr. Sinclair in the erection of a church in memory of such a worthy man.

Mr. A. F. Ross, of Balclava, conveyed the community's gratitude to Mr. Sinclair for the provision of such a fine building for worship.

Rev. A. P. Cameron expressed his pleasure at seeing so many assembled. It was not necessary for him to say how such a service appealed to him. The gift of Mr. Sinclair reminded him of a man spoken of in the

him. The gift of Mr. Sinclair reminded him of a man spoken of in the Holy Book who "passed through the Valley of Baca, and made it a well."

The church, when completed, would be something that would represent Mr. Sinclair in the Waterloo Valley. We passed through this world but once, and was it not a fine thing to leave something behind by which people would know we passed that way? The church was a beautiful gift to the glory of God, and he prayed that God's richest blessing might rest upon the gift and the giver.

Subsequently afternoon tea was dispensed by Miss Sinclair, and Pipe-Major Ruthven and Piper Ferguson discoursed a number of pipe selections at the station residence.