

ST. BARNABAS' CHURCH, NORFOLK ISLAND.

THE *Taranaki Herald*, New Zealand, reports:—The consecration of the Church of St. Barnabas, recently erected at the headquarters of the Melanesian Mission, at Norfolk Island, to the memory of the late Bishop Patteson, took place on the 7th December, the event having been postponed from St. Andrew's Day, the 30th September, in order to permit a large number of visitors who were expected by the mission barque Southern Cross to be present. Amongst them were the Right Rev. Dr. Stuart, Bishop of Waiapu, with his Maori chaplain, Rev. Kerehona te Apai; Ven. Dr. Maunsell, archdeacon of Waitemata; Rev. J. Kinder, D.D., late master of St. John's College; Rev. E. C. Elcum, chaplain to the Bishop of Adelaide; Revs. Messrs. Ashwell, Lush, Gould, Dudley, Renata Tangata, and Walsh; Mr. Upton, trustee of the mission property; Mr. Mills, M.P. for Exeter, and his son, Lieutenant Mills, R.E.; Mr. Hawkes, a visitor from Adelaide; Mr. Yonge, a cousin of the late bishop, &c.; together with a number of ladies, among whom was Miss Atkin, sister of the Rev. J. Atkin, who lost his life on the same occasion as Bishop Patteson, the total number of visitors being 47.

The church is, externally at least, a by no means imposing structure, chiefly built of a coarse-grained sandstone obtained in the island, but for some unaccountable reason the upper part of some of the walls are of wood. This incongruous mixture of materials, the lowness of the walls, which in the nave are only 17ft. in height, and the poor appearance of the western front, which is further disfigured by a most ungainly porch, combine to produce an effect which is by no means pleasing. The building is cruciform, and is composed of a nave 54ft. by 27½ft., apsidal chancel, with a chord of 24ft., two small transepts, which are used as a vestry and an organ chamber, and an open porch which extends across the entire western front. The design included a bell-turret, but for want of funds this was not erected. This is not to be regretted, as, aesthetically considered, the loss is a gain. The beauty of the inside, however, makes up for the deficiency outside. The walls are of hewn stone, alternate courses of white Oamaru stone being used in the chancel with excellent effect. The high-pitched open roof, the principal timbers of which are of Norfolk pine, and the planking of kauri, is of massive and ornamental design, and tends much to remedy the defect caused by the lowness of the walls. The chancel is simply perfect. Approached by five steps of black Devonshire marble, it is paved in an elaborate pattern in two colours of the same beautiful material. At the back of the altar, which is covered with a handsome cloth embroidered in gold, and bearing among other figures the representation of the palm leaf found on the body of the bishop after he had been killed at Santa Cruz, is the reredos, carved in black walnut, and furnished with three panels in mosaic, and on each side are hangings of dark-blue velvet, worked in a flower pattern by the widow of the late Commodore Goodenough, who, it will be remembered, was killed on the same island as the bishop, though on a different occasion. In the upper part of the chancel walls are five pointed windows of stained glass representing our Saviour and the four Evangelists. The general effect of the windows is pretty good, but the designs, which are by Burne Jones, will not bear a critical examination. The organ is a fine-toned instrument, with 500 pipes, by Wilson, of London; and the font, which is situated at the entrance, is a fine massive one of red and black marble. The seats, for the present only low forms, to be superseded shortly by suitable stalls, are ranged choir-fashion on each side of a broad passage paved with marble, which runs from the door to the chancel steps.

Many of the beautiful objects mentioned, and indeed most of the pieces of furniture, are the gifts of friends of the mission. The total cost of the church, including the gifts, cannot have been far short of £5,000. Most of the work was done on the

been far short of £5,000. Most of the work was done on the island, and is of a very creditable character, considering the resources at hand. The building will be principally used as a collegiate chapel for the mission station, at which there is a varying population of some 250 persons, composed of the mission staff and the scholars brought from the many different groups of islands in the Melanesian Archipelago annually visited by the mission vessel.