

ST. JOHN'S, PARRAMATTA.**SUNDAY SCHOOL CENTENARY.**

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first Sunday School in Australia—which was opened at Parramatta in 1813, in a private house, by Mr. (afterwards Rev.) Thomas Hassall—the rector of St. John's, Rev. S. M. Johnstone and Mrs. Johnstone gave a garden party in the church grounds on Saturday afternoon, when the usually quiet, old-world atmosphere of Parramatta resolved itself into one of active festivity. Just outside the church the municipal garden, gay with practically all the bright autumn flowers that bloom, and with a fountain playing in the centre, formed a charming entrance to the gate of the edifice, over which a canopy of roses and palms hung. The grounds presented quite a gala appearance with their noble Moreton Bay figs, cedars, pepper trees, and elms, the latter in their autumn foliage of bright yellow, from which hung lines of gay bunting and flags, while the tea-tables on the lawns showed large brass bowls of fragrant roses, and the local band dispensed appropriate selections.

During the afternoon a tablet in commemoration of the centenary was unveiled in the school hall by Ven. Archdeacon Gunther, Vicar-General, who was for many years incumbent at St. John's. On the platform with him were Mrs. Gunther, Miss Hassall, Miss Wickham, Mrs. Johnstone, Mrs. Joseph Cook, Ald. W. P. Noller, Messrs. H. C. Budge, P. Morgan, H. B. Cowper, and Harrington.

In the course of his address Archdeacon Gunther said:—"What a wonderful institution the Sunday school was. It was not only beneficial to the children, but very often through them to their parents. He had before him a valuable official document, which stated that in the early days of New South Wales, before a Sunday school could be established, it was necessary to first obtain the sanction of the Governor."

A medal had been struck in connection with the celebrations, and each Sunday School scholar received one, and Miss Hassall (daughter of the late Rev. Thomas Hassall) was presented with a gold one. In responding, Miss Hassall said that, though she had left St. John's, Parramatta, 21 years ago, she felt far more at home there than in her own parish.

Miss Wickham, who this year completed 50 years of Sunday-school work in the old parish—that of St. John's—was presented with a gold watch from the parishioners, and a Bible from her pupils, while Rev. S. M. Johnstone was asked to accept a gold pencil.

Among those present not previously mentioned were Mrs. H. C. Budge, Lieutenant and Mrs. Fitzpatrick, Mrs. Noller, Ald. and Mrs. C. A. B. Champion, Ald. Ringrose, Rev. J. H. and Mrs. Willcoxson, Rev. R. C. Blumer, Rev. W. Knox and Mrs. Knox, Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Cowper, Dr. and Mrs. Phipps-Waugh, Dr. and Mrs. W. S. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. John Waugh, Miss S. Waugh, Mrs. F. Watkins, Misses Watkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hill, Mrs. P. Morgan, Mrs. Burnell, Misses Burnell, Mr., Mrs., and the Misses Readett, Mrs. E. Davies, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Davey, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Brown, Misses Hardley, Mrs. Waugh, sen., Misses Richardson, Miss Allport, Miss Vallack, Mrs. J. J. Miller, Captain and Mrs. Guyot, Mr. Trollope, Mrs. Johnson, Miss Lyons, Mr. F. Weston, Misses Houston, Miss Freeman, Miss Moore, Mrs. and Miss Watford, Mrs. Tunks, Miss Mona Brown, Mrs. A. Barry, Mrs. T. Moxham, and Miss Pregnell.

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The centenary proceedings were brought to a conclusion on Sunday with a military parade and service in the church.