

OPENING OF THE NEW CHURCH, QUEANBEYAN.

On Sunday morning last, at 11 o'clock, the new Anglican Church, called Christchurch, was solemnly opened for Divine Service. The Rev. A. D. Soares, the Incumbent, officiating, in the absence of clergymen from Goulburn or Yass, whose services had been expected for the occasion. The interest manifested by the friends and members of the church was, judging from the very numerous attendance and becoming demeanour of the worshippers, more than common; and must have afforded much pleasure to the minister and lay officers upon whom was devolved the onerous task of erecting such an edifice. The text from which the opening discourse was preached, was taken from Zechariah iv. 6: *Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord.* After sundry introductory remarks, the preacher proceeded to speak of the sacredness in which they were then assembled, and the proper feelings which should actuate the ministers and hearers on the occasion. The Lord, he said, should not be taken to themselves, but both glory and praise should be ascribed to Him to whom they were so justly due. "He," he continued, "who undertook to erect this temple to the Lord, were comparatively few in number, and with few resources of our own. We undertook a great work in conscious weakness. We had many and great difficulties to overcome. Yes, mountains of difficulties, and innumerable obstructions had we to encounter: but we have seen them removed one after another,—we have beheld them gradually dwindle into insignificance, and disappear before us; the great mountain has become a plain. Even enemies (who happily now no longer exist) were not wanting to hinder the good cause we had in hand, even as the Jews had enemies who endeavoured to hinder them in their good work. We had our day of small things which many despised, and we ourselves hardly dared to contemplate the magnitude of the work we were engaged in, and found it difficult to assure the faint-hearted amongst us, that we should yet *bring forth the headstone with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.* In these points we have found ourselves similarly circumstanced to the Jews when building their temple, after it had been destroyed; and we, like them, have succeeded in the work undertaken with doubts and fears, and much distrust on the part of many; we have brought this building so near to a completion, that we can in a suitable manner dedicate it to God, by the offering of praise, thanksgiving, and a holy worship, and by observing in it the ordi-

holy worship, and by observing in it the ordinances of His appointment with decency and order. And now, I would ask, whence have we obtained this success? To whose power are we indebted? By whose might have been enabled to carry out our designs? Oh! brethren, let us not sacrifice to our own gifts, nor burn incense to our own exertions; but bless God, who has given us wherewith to build, and prospered this work of our hands upon us. Well does it become us this day to *enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise, to be thankful unto Him, and speak good of His name.*"

After having fully considered the bearing of the text on the erection of the *material* temple, he proceeded to consider it from a higher point of view, and to draw from it a lesson of greater importance, though of a like nature, observing, that the style and language of the prophet were such, that the reference to the *spiritual* building was plain. They evidently pointed to the final establishment of Christ's church,—the spiritual edifice not made with hands, but reared by the power of the Holy Ghost. The structure they had built could not be as far as it might serve for preparing stones for the true temple, if there should go forth lively witnesses, who would help to build upon earth, they would have cause for rejoicing. He attributed the vigour and languor of the visible church, that the words of their text were really overlooked. The early church was preached with *power* and the people who heard declared the same power; therefore the revivals of the church were the work of the Spirit. The church had ever been his witness, every member belonging to it was to be known. *By the grace of God I am what I am.* The preacher proceeded: "What an alteration should we shortly observe in the manner of our attendance upon God, did every member who came before Him with his lips, bear them in mind, and seek earnestly that the rich unction of the Holy One might be poured forth upon him. Who would condemn the beautiful liturgy of our church as formal, did every one who joined in it lift up his heart with his voice in the responses? It is indeed pitiable the indolent and inattentive way in which many join in our services, bespeaking most plainly the absence of the Spirit, and the little desire there is for His gracious influence. How different might it be!"

After pointing out what would be the probable results to the congregation, if every one present were to worship the Most High *in spirit and in truth*, he exhorted his hear-

the present were to worship the *ghost* *in spirit and in truth*, he exhorted his hearers to seek the agency of the Holy Spirit as well when out of the church as whilst within its walls,—to live in the Spirit, otherwise in vain might they hope to overcome the temptations of the world, the flesh, and the devil; and concluded: “Finally, my brethren, let us all learn to seek this blessing more earnestly for the church at large; let us show our membership by a more cordial sympathy with the members of Christ’s body generally; let us pray that the time may soon come, when *we shall no more need to teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord, but when all shall know Him from the least to the greatest.* Oh! for

the outpouring of the Spirit, in that day when *the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth, as the waters cover the sea!* when we shall all be *filled with the Spirit*, and in communion with the Father and the Son shall inherit eternal blessedness. * * Let us pray God marvellously to carry on his work of grace, purifying our hearts by faith, and revealing himself to a perishing world, as able and *willing to save to the uttermost all who come unto Him.* Let us pray Him for the outpouring of His Spirit in pentecostal showers, that *the wilderness and solitary place may be glad, and the desert blossom as the rose.* * * And while we are thus praying for ourselves and others, let us earnestly strive in our own persons to exhibit all the *fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.* * * Then will heaven hereafter resound with hallelujahs, and vicing with each other in declaring, that *not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord of Hosts*, in one prolonged acclamation we shall ascribe glory to God and to the Lamb, who saved us by his grace.”

The sermon was listened to with devout attention; and we trust that the impressions made by it will be productive of real good. For our own part we never remember to have listened to a more appropriate and effective discourse. There was undoubtedly the very unction attending it which the preacher was exhorting his hearers to seek, and which he insisted was so necessary to the spiritual growth of the church.

The evening service was conducted by the Rev. P. G. Smith, of Canberra, who preached a very suitable sermon from 2 Corinthians vi. 16: *For ye are the temple of the living God.* The congregation, perhaps owing to the darkness of the night, was not nearly so large as in the morning, but was, nevertheless, equal to the expectations of many.

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The collections for the day amounted to £21 15s. 7d., of which the sum of £15 19s. 10d. was collected in the morning.

With respect to the edifice itself, whilst it is an ornament to the town, it is a credit to the denomination to which it belongs, still more so to those whose individual exertions have brought it so near a state of completion. It is neat and beautiful without unnecessary embellishment, and yet nothing is wanting to render it in every way suitable for all the purposes of Christian worship. One thing in particular attracted our notice; we refer to the text, *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved*,—beautifully executed in old English characters, and traced in relief around the chancel arch. We admire the taste which selected such a passage—there being, in our opinion, not another throughout the inspired volume so well adapted for the purpose, or so calculated to inspire the worshipper with confidence towards God.

There is ample accommodation for a large congregation, the following being the dimensions of the building:—nave, length 37ft. breadth 22ft; transept, length 46ft. breadth 22ft; chancel, length 16ft. breadth 14ft.; height of walls 14ft.; height of gables, 31ft. When in its finished state it will be lighted with stained glass windows, and adorned with a spire whose height will be 75ft. from the ground. On the north side of the building is a vestry, and the entrances to the body of the church are by a door on either side of the transept, and another at the tower end.

The internal fittings are excellent, having a pulpit, reading-desk, baptismal font, communion table, &c., in perfect keeping with the building; and the sitting accommodations have certainly been made with a view to the ease and comfort of the occupants.

As regards the financial state of the church, the cost, as far as now contracted for, is as follows:—For the building, independent of internal fittings, £1810; new internal fittings, £80, much of the furniture of the old church being used in the present;—making a total of £1890. Of this amount about £1460 has been actually paid leaving a balance requiring immediate payment of £430. What further sum will be required for the erection of the spire and the other additions which are requisite to the thorough finishing of the church we have not ascertained; but we think that when the time shall arrive for these improvements, the friends of the episcopalian church will not be slow in coming forward to so good a work. In the meantime it must be apparent to all, that the most active exertions are necessary to liquidate the already specified amount of £430, and we would urgently call

amount of £130, and we would urgently call upon those who have not yet paid up their subscriptions promptly to do so, seeing as they must, that the amount has to be paid for work already done.

We congratulate the Rev. Mr. Soares, whose labours for the production of this creditable structure have been untiring, on the complete success which has so far attended his exertions; and sincerely do we hope, that the numerous congregation we witnessed on Sabbath morning last will not become the less when in succeeding Sabbaths the novelty of meeting in the new sanctuary shall have passed away, but continue to evince an appreciation of their present privileges by a constant and devout attendance on the ordinances of the house of God.

THE court-martial on Lavelle, about which the public are pretty well tired, has now closed. The prisoner in defence asserts that by the rules of the service, he having served 12 years on the 19th November, 1859, he is on application entitled to his discharge, if in time of peace. Assuming that he was so entitled, he not only says he has been detained illegally in the service, but absurdly claims at the rate of £700 a-year for compensation for his services. On Monday, Lavelle was found guilty—sentence deferred.—*From our City Correspondent.*

REHEARSING FOR A DUEL.—On the occasion in question Mr. Shee's friendly and skilful professor "put him up," as the phrase went, by way of rehearsal, and instructed him to stand, edgeways, with his right side towards his antagonist, guarding his head with his pistol held perpendicularly closed to his face, and protecting his right side with the left hand, brought round and placed on the right hip, closed to the elbow of the pistol arm. This edifying private drill was accompanied by the consolatory assurance, that if these instructions were strictly adhered to, there would not be more than six inches square of the surface exposed to the hostile bullet, in which a mortal wound could be inflicted.—*The Life of Sir Martin Archer Shee.—By his Son.*