

## ST. ANN'S, STRATHFIELD.

### LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE.

The foundation-stone of a new church, which is being erected for the congregation of St. Ann's, Strathfield and Homebush, was laid yesterday afternoon by his Excellency the Governor. On arriving at Homebush station Lord Jersey was received by the Mayor (Alderman Hinchcliff) and conducted to the scene of the ceremony, an excellent site at the intersection of Homebush-road and Beresford-street. Here there was a large gathering of those connected with the congregation and others, the clergy present being—the Primate (Dr. Samuel Smith), Archdeacon Gunther; Canons Kemmis, Sharp, Moreton, and King; the Revs. A. H. Bartlett, T. R. Regg, S. Hungerford, A. Yarnold, C. F. D. Priddle, Dr. Harris, C. Baber (R.D.), and H. J. Rose (incumbent). There were also several ministers of other denominations present.

The service was conducted by the incumbent, and the Primate addressed a few words of exhortation. He said they should take care that, as they laid the foundation-stone of their church in the faith of Christ, they did not let their interest in the building die out in the mere ceremony of the day. He asked them to strengthen one another's hands in the work in which they were engaged, a work in which the greatest liberality, co-operation, and patience were necessary.

His Excellency, who was presented with a mallet and silver trowel, suitably inscribed, then laid the stone, "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost;" and while the hymn, "Christ is our Corner Stone," was being sung an offertory was collected. Lord Jersey then in a few words congratulated the members of the Church of England in Strathfield upon the starting of their new church building. He trusted it would be of immense service to the cause of true religion in the land. It was well that as the people increased in numbers ample provision should be made for religious teaching and for public worship. But it was of no use to erect fine churches unless they were to be occupied, and he sincerely trusted that it could never be said of their church that though the building was there the people were absent.

The proceedings closed with the singing of the "National Anthem," and with three cheers for the Queen and for the Governor. An adjournment was afterwards made to the parsonage, where afternoon tea was provided.

The following is a description of the building which it is proposed to erect:—Only a portion of the church will be erected at present. It will consist of a nave (55ft. by 35ft.), with aisles on either side, and two porches, and will accommodate about 300. The total cost, including site, will be £2400. Of this sum £1400 has been already subscribed, and a further sum of £500 was laid on the foundation-stone. The complete church is estimated to cost £6250, and will comprise—a nave (75ft. x 35ft.), with aisles, two transepts, chancel (32ft. x 28ft.), morning chapel, two vestries, &c.; and there will also be a tower and spire 132ft. high. The building will seat about 550. The style of architecture is Early English, and the building will be of brick, with brick and stone dressings. The architects are Messrs. Sulman and Power, and the contractor is Mr. Robson.