

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

Additions at Victor Harbor.

Under excellent weather conditions the foundation-stone of the additions to the Congregational Church at Victor Harbor was laid on Monday, in the presence of a large crowd. The pastor (Rev. A. C. Stevens) presided. The Rev. J. E. Cresswell, of College Park, conducted the service. Mr. Charles R. Hodge (Registrar of the University), who is the eldest son of the late Rev. Charles Hodge, a former pastor of the church, was introduced by the Rev. A. C. Stevens. He was presented with a silver trowel that he might perform the ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of the Hodge Memorial Annex to the Newland Memorial Church.

Mr. Hodge said just fifty years ago the foundation-stone of the present structure was laid by the widow of the pioneer pastor of the south (the Rev. William Ridgeway Newland), a name that would always be esteemed in the annals of the Congregational Church. He asked the present pastor to accept an enlargement of the very small original photograph, taken 50 years ago, as a memento of the occasion. On behalf of the members of their family, he desired to express to the pastor, officers, and members of the congregation his deep gratitude for having adopted this method of commemorating their father's memory, and personally he thanked them for the honor they had done him in asking him to lay the foundation-stone.

Voluntary donations to the amount of £100 were laid upon the stone.

Mr. Simpson Newland, son of the late Rev. William Ridgeway Newland, congratulated all concerned upon the progress they were making. He gave a graphic account of his father's work in the south. Mr. L. Smith (vice-president of the Congregational Church Union) conveyed greetings from that body. As Congregationalists they were proud to honor the old pioneers. Mr. Higgins, a son of one of the pioneer deacons, recited a speech his father had delivered 50 years ago. The Rev. W. J. Mortimer (secretary of the Methodist Conference) congratulated the church on its progress. The Rev. J. D. Northey (Evandale and Kensington Gardens Church) said the Rev. A. C. Stevens was a live and energetic man. The Rev. Gerald Muller (McLaren Vale) said a large number of his church members remembered with affection the ministry of the Rev. Chas. Hodge. Greetings were also received from the Yelki and Newlandtown churches.

Afternoon tea was served in the Town Hall, when the attendance was large. In the evening a picture show was given in aid of the church by Messrs. Griffin Bros. The Rev. A. C. Stevens, who had charge of the arrangements, showed good powers of organisation. The contract is in the hands of Messrs. Williams, and they are pushing on with the work. When completed Victor Harbor will have a fine church, capable of seating a large congregation.