

**LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF PRINCE ALFRED COLLEGE.**

A few months ago the idea of building a College in connection with the Wesleyan body was mooted at a breakfast held in the Wesleyan Lecture Hall, and was very warmly taken up. A site was selected, and perhaps a more appropriate one could hardly have been chosen. It is situated on the western boundary of Kent Town, and faces the Park Lands, whilst also commanding a splendid view of the hills to the east. The announced visit of the Duke of Edinburgh induced the promoters to take steps towards having the foundation-stone laid by His Royal Highness, and with all the éclat befitting the occasion. On the Prince's arrival His Royal Highness graciously signified his willingness to lay the stone, and the day fixed for the ceremony was Tuesday, November 5. Large platforms were erected for the accommodation of the crowd which was expected to be present, and on reaching the ground it was very evident to everyone that the decorative art had been extensively called into requisition, and that under the directions of the Rev. J. Watsford, Rev. S. Knight, Mr. Garlick, and others, it had been used to good advantage. Opposite the front of the building a large circle was formed, round which festoons of evergreens were thrown. A circle was formed outside this in the same way, and between the festoons there was a wide carriage drive extending through the grounds to Bulk-road. Strips of canvas were nailed over the platform as an awning, but these did not form a very efficient screen from the sun, which fortunately, however, was clouded. The poles which supported the festoons, as well as the platforms, were gaily decorated with bunting, and altogether a very animated and pretty display was made.

The time fixed for the ceremony was 2 o'clock, and long ere that hour ladies and gentlemen began to arrive, and by 2 o'clock the platforms were nearly filled by a large number of well and fashionably-dressed ladies and gentlemen. The ministers of various denominations, the Cabinet Ministers, and the members of the Reception Committee, were invited, and many of them were present. Crowds of people assembled also on the grounds outside. At 10 minutes past 2 o'clock the escort of H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh was observed approaching, and almost immediately afterwards His Royal Highness's carriage drove up to the entrance of the marquee, amidst loud cheering. His Royal Highness was escorted by a troop of cavalry, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Higgins, and a guard of honor was formed at the entrance to the grounds by the Scotch Volunteer Company, under Captain Bulk. Prince Alfred having alighted, walked to the chair prepared for him, politely acknowledging the plaudits which were bestowed upon him as he advanced. His Royal Highness was accompanied by His Excellency the Governor Sir Dominick Daly, as also by his Equeries, Lord Newry and Hon. Elliot York, Lieutenant Hatg, Captain Taylor, Hon. Mr. Carson, and Mr. Brierly. There were also Lieut.-Colonel Hamley and Mrs. Hamley, the Chief Secretary (Hon. H. Avera), Mr. and Mrs. Soutter, Mr. D. D. Daly, Major Lucas, and Captain Deering. His Royal Highness was dressed in plain clothes, as were also his Equeries and suite, His Excellency the Governor, and the other gentlemen standing near the Duke.

The Rev. R. C. Flockart then gave out the following verses, which were sung:—

"From all that dwell below the skies,  
Let the Creator's praise arise;  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung,  
Through every land, by every tongue.

Eternal are Thy mercies, Lord;  
Eternal truth attends Thy word;  
Thy praise shall sound from shore to shore,  
Till sons shall rise and set no more."

After this the Rev. S. Knight read the following portions of Scripture:—Psalm cxxvii., 1; Psalm lxxii., 1; Proverbs, iii., 13 to 17; Psalm lxxvii., 1 to 3; Psalm cxli., 12; Psalm lxxii., 18 and 19. An appropriate prayer was then offered by the Rev. Mr. Millard, at the conclusion of which the Rev. Mr. Watsford read the following address:—

"To His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., &c. &c.

"May it please your Royal Highness—  
"We, the Committee, appointed by the Australian Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church,

"We, the Committee, appointed by the Australian Conference of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, to conduct its educational affairs in South Australia, beg leave to present our hearty congratulations to your Royal Highness on your safe arrival in Australia."

"Rejoicing as we do with all Her Majesty's subjects on this occasion, we have embraced the opportunity of very respectfully inviting your Royal Highness to lay the foundation-stone of a College, where a sound and superior education will be imparted both to the sons of the members of the Wesleyan Church, and to all who may desire to avail themselves of its advantages.

"We humbly pray that your Royal Highness will be pleased to allow us to name this Institution Prince Alfred College, and thus add another to the many lasting memorials of your Royal Highness's visit to this province.

"We respectfully request your Royal Highness in laying the foundation-stone, to accept the trowel which we here present for that purpose.

"Praying that your Royal Highness may receive every blessing of Providence and grace on earth, and at last obtain a Crown of Life that fadeeth not away.

"We are, your Royal Highness's most humble servants,

"On behalf of the Committee,

"JOHN WATSFORD, Chairman.

"G. W. COTTON, Hon. Sec.

"Adelaide, 5th November, 1867."

The address was written on vellum. The capital letters were beautifully illuminated, and a nice border of fern leaves entwined with forget-me-nots surrounded the inscription. On the top side of the address a very pretty sketch of the front elevation of the college was placed, and the whole was bound with white silk, and had silver tassels depending from the lower corners.

His Royal Highness, having received the address, read the following reply:—

"Gentlemen—I have great pleasure in accepting your invitation to lay the foundation-stone of this College, which has so noble an object as a sound education, as well for the sons of the Wesleyan Church, as of other denominations.

"It gives me great pleasure to accede to the request you have made, that this institution should be named after me, and the trowel which you have so kindly presented me will ever remind me of this most eventful day.

"May Almighty God grant His blessing upon this institution and the purposes for which it is intended.

"ALFRED."

"To the Chairman and Committee of the Wesleyan Methodist Church, South Australia."

Mr. D. Garlick, the architect, then exhibited to His Royal Highness a drawing of the front elevation of the College, which His Royal Highness and His Excellency the Governor examined with interest, and asked several questions respecting it. Mr. Garlick then read the following copy of an inscription, which, with copies of the Advertiser, Register, and Wesleyan Magazine, and several coins, was to be deposited under the stone:—

"This foundation-stone of a Wesleyan Methodist College, to be called Prince Alfred College, was laid by H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., &c., &c., on the 5th day of November, 1867, being the 30th year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, Sir Dominick Daly being Governor of the Province, the Rev. John Bedford, President of the British Conference, and the Rev. H. H. Goss, President of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Conference.

"The Committee for building this Prince Alfred College being the Rev. John Watsford (Chairman of the District of South Australia), Revs. Matthew Wilson, J. G. Millard, R. C. Flockart, Thomas Lloyd, Wm. M. Bennett, Samuel Knight, G. W. Patchell, W. S. Worth, H. Bath, H. T. Burgess, C. H. Goldsmith, Alfred Rigg, James Allen Thomas Edmeades, D. S. Wylie, J. S. Greer, and Messrs. John Cotton, W. G. Coombs, J. B. Stack, L. Bosch, M. Kingborough, W. Rhodes, Thomas Padman, James Scott, Wm. Scott, T. G. Waterhouse, G. W. Cotton, James Robin, John Carr, G. W. Chisner, Thomas Robin, Wm. Longbottom, H. Thompson, J. M. Spera, T. E. Acraman, R. N. Gault, and F. H. Faulding. Daniel Garlick, Esq., Architect, and Charles Farr, Esq., Builder.

"GOD SAVE THE QUEEN."

Messrs. T. G. Waterhouse, J. Cotton, M. P. and

Messrs. T. G. Waterhouse, J. Colton, M.P., and G. W. Cotton, then advanced and presented the trowel for H. R. H.'s acceptance. The trowel is made of pure gold, and measures about 14 inches in length. On the blade the following inscription is engraved very neatly:—"Presented to H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., on his laying the foundation-stone of Prince Alfred College, in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Church, South Australia, 1-67." The inscription is surrounded by a very pretty border of start-pea foliage and flowers. The handle is joined to the blade by means of twisted roots, about which are seen the Thistle of Scotland and the rose of England. A portion of the handle is of plain gold, round which a cable is entwined, and at the top of the handle is a ducal coronet. The level, which was presented with the trowel, is made out of Huon pine, and is a nice piece of carving. About the plumb ball are carved flags and anchors, and other nautical emblems, as also the letters A. E. A. The plumb-ball is of gold suspended by silk. Prince Alfred having received the trowel, proceeded to spread the mortar, and the stone was lowered, His Royal Highness guiding it into its place, and having struck it with the mallet in orthodox fashion, he said "I declare this stone to be well and truly laid." Hearty cheers were then given for the Prince, and three loud cheers were given also for His Excellency the Governor. His Excellency the Governor made a few remarks in acknowledgment of the compliment. He expressed his very great pleasure at seeing the idea of this College likely to be accomplished. He had known of it for some months, Mr. Colton and Mr. Watford having told him. He was very happy also that their royal and distinguished visitor had fallen in with the views he entertained himself respecting this College, and had consented to lay the foundation-stone of an institution which he hoped would be a great benefit to the Wesleyans of the colony, and to South Australia generally.

The National Anthem was then sung, and the Benediction pronounced, but before the company dispersed, the Rev. Mr. Flockart stood upon the stone and called for three cheers for the Queen, which were followed by three cheers more for Prince Alfred. As His Royal Highness retired, the Regimental Band played "God Save the Queen," and the Scotch Company, who had been brought within the marquee, presented arms. Just after His Royal Highness started one of the traces attached to his carriage broke, which delayed the procession a short time, but everything was soon put to right, and the Prince drove off, amidst a genuine outburst of the loyal feelings entertained towards so distinguished a member of the Royal Family. A large number of persons stayed to see the stone, which is a fine piece of Maclesfield marble, and bears the following inscription:—"This stone was laid by H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh, on the fifth day of November, MDCCLXVII."