

DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS.

JEFFERIS MEMORIAL WINDOW.

In 1839, the year that Napoleon III., the Emperor of the French, announced war on Austria, and Garibaldi in war, and John Bright in politics were names to note and remember, and when there was no Earl of Beaconsfield but only Mr. Disraeli, a little cluster of people, who lived on the north side of the Toorrens, and had to cross the ford home from the town of Adelaide, joined together to form a Congregational Church for North Adelaide. That little band of Christian unionists, who have all passed on, are represented by the noble pile of buildings on the picked site of the hill above the city, and by a long line of worshippers who attest their works' value and permanence. The diamond jubilee services of the Brougham Place Church were begun on Sunday by the morning worship under the direction of the Chairman-elect of the Congregational Union (Rev. A. H. Teece, B.A., M.C.). Mr. Teece, who spoke on knowledge and religion and the Pauline method of gaining the true knowledge of Christ, was a member of the Rev. Dr. Jefferis's church in Pitt street, Sydney, having been baptised and received his membership by him.

—Memorial Window.—

There was a large attendance. During the service an anthem, written by the church choirmaster (Mr. Frederick Bevan) was sung. There was a large and representative gathering in the afternoon, when Mrs. C. P. Hodge, a daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Jefferis, unveiled a handsome memorial window to his memory. The large double window, which was designed by Mr. Williams, of Clarkson, Limited, and erected by that firm, is both chaste and rich—cool blue tones, relieved by touches of brilliant red and yellow. The shield and badge of New College, Oxford, where Dr. Jefferis received his theological education, a Scriptural passage, "Where the spirit of the Lord is there is liberty and the descending doves all unite with the cross, crown, and palm branch to typify the preacher, and his inspiration and service. The college motto, "Cor nostrum inquietum est donec requiescat in Te" appears at the right window. The inscription on the window is as follows:—"To the glory of God and in memory of the Rev. James Jefferis, LL.D., who was born at Bristol in 1833. He died at Encounter Bay on Christmas Day, 1917. This church was built during the first pastorate of the Rev. James Jefferis, which began in 1839 and continued until 1877. His second pastorate began in 1894, and he retired in 1901, remaining an honoured

second pastorate began in 1894, and he retired in 1901, remaining an honoured member of the church to the end. The memory of the just is blessed." The Rev. G. W. Wright, M.A., of Stow Memorial Church, gave the address. It was from Stow Church that the foundation members of the church came. The present pastor (Rev. Alfred Gifford) presided. A large portrait of Dr. Jefferis was placed in the church porch, and Mr. Gifford asked the children to file before it that they might remember the face of the first pastor. Mrs. Jefferis and a grandson of the late doctor attended the service. There were also present Mrs. George Stace, one of the early members, and several ladies who were present at the inauguration of the church in the Tynte Street Hall in 1839.

—Dip Into the Past.—

In the evening there was again a large congregation, when the Rev. Alfred Gifford conducted a thanksgiving service. The church was decorated with pot plants and flowers. The preacher said the practice of holding diamond jubilee celebrations, which had royal sanction, and was of universal acceptance, originated in the old custom of signaling the anniversaries of wedding days by peculiar gifts, such as the first year a paper wedding, the third a candy wedding, the seventh a fro lace, and so on. Only two or three of these, such as the silver, the golden, and the diamond wedding celebrations were now kept up. The diamond, which meant adamant, signified indestructibility or permanence. The church was permanent because keyed to the universal need of man, as man. He referred to the building in which they were worshipping, which he said had foundations 5 ft. in thickness. All the structure was in proportion. Dr. Jefferis used often to repeat the jovial question of his friend and supporter Capt. Bagot, as he looked at the massive foundations—"Well, Jefferis, are you building a fort?" Reference was made to the fact that when the Rev. Mr. Cox wrote the jubilee history of Congregationalism in 1887 only 10 out of the original 32 members remained. Mr. Thomas Frost, one of the original members compiled a history at the jubilee services 10 years ago, and a proposal to erect a memorial window to him, by the old scholars of the school was being freely spoken of. Mrs. Devenish, of Prospect, had precedence now on the roll of the church, while Mr. J. Miller Anderson, of Avenel Gardens, was the senior deacon. Mr. Ragless, of Bridgewater, was the first Sunday school scholar. All of them were still members of the church.

—Legal Leaders.—

A significant fact was the number of legal leaders who had been connected with the church. Sir John Gordon was a member of the Young Men's Society, and spoke at the jubilee. At the jubilee meetings Mr. Paris Nesbit, K.C., had travelled from

at the jubilee. At the jubilee meetings Mr. Paris Nesbit, K.C., had travelled from Melbourne, in the midst of a holiday, to be present at the banquet, and at a recent lecture Mr. Angus Parsons, K.C., reminded those present of the day, when he was a scholar in the Sunday school. A lawyer, Cr. McEwin, was now secretary of the church, and the past and present adherents included many other leaders of the fraternity. The gospel, as well as the law, had its representatives from the church in the Rev. J. E. Crosswell, of College road, the Rev. T. S. Williams, of Oakleigh, Victoria, Rev. N. Beaney, of Bordertown, and others. Messages of affection and congratulation had been received from many parts of the Commonwealth. In the evening sermon the preacher dealt with the theology or doctrine of God, the Christology or doctrine of Christ, and the Soteriology or doctrine of salvation, of those who formed the original church fellowship. They taught the knowledge of God as giving the key to the meaning of life and the universe; the revelation of God in Christ as the religious message that revealed the character and attitude of God, and explained the religious experiences of men, and showed the value of this in reconciling man to virtue and to God, and enabling him to develop that type of character which was salvation. They stood for a free brainful gospel, which was in its nature enheartening.

—Many Activities.—

The celebrations, which will be continued, are to be attended by the Chairman of the Union (the Rev. Willet Bevan, M.A.), whose father the late Rev. Dr. Bevan was brought from Melbourne to conduct the jubilee services 10 years ago. Arrangements have been put in hand for the renovation of the social hall, which is also to be lit with electricity. The church buildings comprise the church auditorium itself. A large social hall, the Jefferis's Memorial Hall, a kindergarten hall, and four vestries, with a dozen or more classrooms. Its activities comprise Bible study classes, literary classes, tennis and gymnastic guilds, sewing guilds, and all the other departments usual in a fully-organized church.