

### HOTHAM MEMORIAL CHURCH

PORT ELLIOT, November 30.

The Congregationalists of this Arcadian resort are celebrating their jubilee by erecting a new place of worship, which has been appropriately designated the Hotham Memorial Church, as a mark of respect to the late Rev. John Hotham, who for nearly thirty years preached in this township. The laying of the foundation-stone of the Church was fittingly performed by the widow of the late Mr. Hotham on Wednesday afternoon in the presence of an enthusiastic gathering. The Rev. Charles Hodge, a former pastor of the Church, and the Rev. Penry Jones, of Port Victor, conducted the opening exercises. The Rev. W. A. Bainger, of Goolwa, followed with an address, in the course of which he said he was pleased that progress was being made by denominations which always worked smoothly with Methodists. The Rev. M. Harris, the present pastor of the Church, referred with gratification to the presence of a large number of old residents, mentioning specially Mrs. Honeyman and Mrs. John Trigg, sen. He eulogized the work done in the past by the Revs. R. W. Newland and John Hotham, and felt particularly pleased that Mrs. Hotham was there that day taking the prominent part she had to perform in laying the foundation-stone of the New Church, which would serve to remind future generations of the good work done by the dear old man whose name it would bear, and of the services rendered to Congregationalism by his wife and daughter. The necessity for a new building for worship had long been felt, the old structure being not only badly situated

for visitors but inadequate for all purposes, and he explained the circumstances which had been taken to secure a new site, and put up a suitable temple for the worship of Almighty God. He then asked Mrs. Hotham to lay the stone, which she proceeded to do with accustomed rites amid loud applause. The handsome tablet bears the inscription—"This stone was laid to the glory of God by Mrs. Hotham on November 29, 1899. M. Harris, pastor; C. E. Taplin, architect." At the public meeting in the evening addresses were given by the visiting ministers. The pastor reported having received £50 from persons outside the district, and asked that a similar sum should be raised locally before the end of the year. He explained how Mr. Taplin was on the platform that evening, and on behalf of the Church and Building Committee he thanked that gentleman for his valuable assistance. The Rev. W. Penry Jones, in a stirring address, reminded the audience of the origin of Congregationalism over 300 years ago, and said that the denomination had ever been on the side of those who fought for liberty and freedom, both religious and political. The members of an Independent or Congregational Church

Independent or Congregational Church made their own laws for the government of their own Church, and claimed the right to worship God independently of any Bishop or priest. They recognised that One was their Master, even Christ, and that all were brethren. The Rev. C. Hodge's address consisted chiefly of reminiscences, he having lived in the district for many years and having been personally acquainted with both the Rev. R. W. Newland and the Rev. John Hotham, both of whom he followed as pastor, first at Port Victor and afterwards at Port Elliot. The Rev. W. A. Bainger also spoke, advising all to foster a vigorous growth in the spiritual as well as the physical life. Songs interspersed the proceedings.