

## ST. JAMES'S CHURCH EXTENSION. LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

For a considerable time St. James's Church, West Adelaide, has proved too small to accommodate the constantly increasing number of adherents of the Church of England who reside in the neighbourhood of Mile End and New Thebarton. The late Rev. J. G. Pitcher during his incumbency realized the necessity for a more commodious edifice, but he was not spared to carry out the project which he had in view. In December last the Rev. P. W. Wise was appointed rector of the church, and he immediately began to devise plans for the extension of the building. As a result of his labours the building committee was able a few months ago to take definite steps for the completion of the church. Plans were prepared by Mr. E. J. Woods, and a contract was let to Mr. George Hutt for the erection of the building. On Saturday afternoon the foundation stone of the new structure was laid by the Bishop of Adelaide, Right Rev. Dr. Harmer, in the presence of a large and representative gathering, including many clergymen. The Rev. P. W. Wise said owing to the rapidly growing congregations which attended the services it had become absolutely necessary that the present building should be enlarged. Seating accommodation was now provided for only 200 persons, including the choir; but when the new structure was completed the church would seat between 500 and 600 worshippers. The estimated cost of the undertaking would be about £800. The committee had in hand £250, and an anonymous lady had generously signified her willingness to grant a loan of £500 free of interest for seven years. It had been decided that the building fund should be regarded as a twentieth century thanksgiving offering, and efforts would be made to raise the balance of £550 within the next three years. The edifice would be dedicated to the memory of the late Rev. J. G. Pitcher, whose untiring zeal during the eight years that he held the position of incumbent had endeared him to every one of his parishioners.—The bishop, after declaring the stone well and truly laid, said it was appropriate that the completion of St. James's Church should be associated with the memory of Mr. Pitcher, because his name was rightly honoured not only throughout that parish but by all who had known him. He was a man who consecrated his great talents to God, and his deeply spiritual life and teaching had resulted in much good to his followers. His name would ever be cherished by the poor and the afflicted, whose lives had been cheered and brightened by his sympathy and help. He knew that the work which they had now begun had been the cherished aim of Mr. Pitcher's life during the latter years of his ministry; and no more fitting monument could be conceived. He was delighted to find that a more commodious church had become a necessity. Originally St. James's was connected with the parish

church had become a necessity. Originally St. James's was connected with the parish of St. Luke's, Adelaide, but as the district became more thickly populated it was deemed advisable to create a new parish. The present rector had decided, at considerable personal sacrifice, to remain at his post and complete the work which he had undertaken. He believed that Mr. Wise's devotion to duty was appreciated by his parishioners, and that they would do all in their power to ensure the realization of his aspirations.—The stone bore the following inscription:—"In memory of John Garlick Pitcher, priest, rector of this church, December 18, 1892, to September 27, 1900."—The musical portion of the programme was carried out by an efficient choir, and at the conclusion of the ceremony tea was provided in the schoolroom. The donations laid upon the stone during the afternoon amounted to £96.