

NEW METHODIST CHURCH AT QUEEN'S OWN TOWN.

Queen's Own Town is yet to be built. At present it consists of two churches, Anglican and Methodist, a public school-house and schoolroom combined, a blacksmith's shop, and two or three railway and other cottages. It is situated at the Finnis, a prosperous farming and dairying district. For nearly half a century Methodist services have been held in the district. The first sermon was preached by the late Mathew Wilson, and a succession of ministers, including Dr. Burgess and his son, the late Rev. A. P. Burgess, the Revs. H. Bath, Alfred Rigg, J. Y. Simpson, J. Gillingham, and J. H. Trevor, and a noble band of local preachers have maintained the services. Queen's Own Town is in the Strathalbyn circuit, and the Rev. W. H. Rofe is the present minister. Our people at the Finnis are noted for their liberality to circuit and Connexional funds, and for their zeal in all good works. The old church was erected forty years ago, and many sacred memories gather around it. It has been the house of God and the gate of heaven to many souls. The foundation-stone of the new church was laid three months ago by Mrs. A. Tucker, sen., and Mrs. S. Collett, in the presence of a large number of friends.

On Sunday, May 30, the President of the Conference, the Rev. W. G. Clarke, opened the new building for Divine worship. The congregations were very large, and the services will long be remembered as times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Although the weather was threatening and the roads bad, large numbers gathered at the tea and public meeting on Monday evening. The minister of the circuit presided, and the meeting was addressed by the President of the Conference, the Rev. T. Geddes White, Captain Ritchie, M.P., and Mr. S. Collett. Solos were rendered by Mr. Westcombe, Captain Ritchie, Mr. H. Goode, and Mrs. T. Goode and Miss Kemp. A recitation was given by Mr. Seemark. The financial statement by Mr. A. E. Henley showed that the cost of the building, including labour and materials given, was £380. The amount raised is £300.

Among those "whose hearts God has touched" in connection with this move-

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ment are Messrs. A. Tucker & Sons, R. Ness, Pearson, A. E. Henley, S. Collett, C. Hodgson, Smith, Medling, Stacey Bros., with their wives and families. Miss Minus has taken great interest in the new church, as have also the members of the Westcombe family. Mr. Smith, who presided at the organ on Sunday and Monday, was supported by an earnest band of singers.

The Strathalbyn school band, kindly conveyed to and from the church by Messrs. Edmonds and Lee, enlivened the proceedings between the tea and meeting.

The trustees are greatly indebted to the Rev. T. Geddes White for preparing plans and specifications, and rendering assistance in many other ways.

The church has quite a bold and imposing appearance. We scarcely know of another building of its size that makes so much of itself. It is built of white free-stone, with brick dressings, is 37 feet long by 22 feet wide, lofty, well-furnished, has up-to-date ventilation, sloping floor, is lit by acetylene gas, and will seat about 130 people.

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