

New Anglican Cathedral at Grafton.

A short description of the building opened on Friday, and the circumstances which led up to it, will be of interest to our readers. When the late lamented Bishop Sawyer, the first Bishop of Grafton and Armidale, arrived, one of his plans was the erection of a cathedral, which, in his own words, he said he "would like to see extend from the street to the river bank." This was not to be; he was by the inscrutable ways of Providence taken away before he could even initiate the great projects he had in contemplation. After his death some enthusiasm was displayed for a time over a proposal to build what would be a memorial minister church, and we believe some funds were raised, but the enthusiasm soon subsided, and the idea was abandoned. Shortly after the arrival of the present Bishop (Dr. Turner) in 1869, he sought to revive the interest, and had plans prepared for a building, but the estimate of cost was considered by the parishioners to far exceed any sum they were likely to be able to raise, and hence the matter remained in abeyance for some time, and the Bishop, finding his plans more warmly espoused in the other position of his diocese—Armidale—devoted all his energies towards the erection of a cathedral church. This quickly completed, and then Dr. Turner, not forgetting the similar want here, again brought forward the subject. Procuring a modified plan of what he originally purposed, and thereby getting the estimated cost considerably reduced, he eventually succeeded in getting his building project taken up by those for whose benefit it was intended. In the year 1874, during the meeting of Synod, the foundation-stone was laid by the Bishop on June 24, but there the work ceased. Several changes now took place in the incumbency, and about the end of 1878 the Rev. C. C. Greenway, the present Archdeacon of Grafton, was appointed to the pastoral charge of Grafton. This gentleman proved a worthy supporter of his Bishop's building proposals, and first the work of putting in the complete foundation, and then the erection of the structure as it now stands, have been undertaken and carried out. The names of the present Bishop (Dr. J. F. Turner) and Archdeacon Greenway should therefore ever be associated with the history of the Grafton Cathedral Church. The dimensions of the building are—Inside measurement: Extreme length, as at present designed, 133 feet, which are to be extended at some future date. The greatest width of nave is 45 feet, with side aisles reduced to alleys 7 feet wide, thus keeping the whole nave free from any obstruction to sight or sound. The portion of the building now finished and opened consists of three bays of nave, with the sanctuary 34 x 26, and its side aisle 32 x 27. The foundations are laid in concrete, very massive, and fully calculated

side aisle 32 x 27. The foundations are laid in concrete, very massive, and fully calculated to bear the great weight of the substantial walls which support the building. The walls at the base level are of various thicknesses, according to their position—5 feet, 4 feet, and 3½ feet. The acoustic properties of the new church seem all that can be desired, and its proportion and general design evoke the highest commendations from all who have seen it for the first time. An arch of ornamental brickwork spans the chancel, forming altogether one of the finest pieces of brickwork (in design and construction) to be found in the colony anywhere outside of Sydney, and not surpassed by any work even there. The eastern window has five main lights, all of brick construction. This, like all other detail parts of the fabric, has been erected with bricks made for the special purpose—no resorting to the aid of stone for any part. The bricks were all made in the town by Mr. Samuel George, and the contractors for the brickwork, Messrs. Reynold Brothers of Sydney, deserve great credit. Their father

died at an early stage of the work; the sons, although young, have carried out the architect's design to his satisfaction. The roof is in keeping with the other parts of the building. The woodwork portion of the building was contracted for by Mr. G. Lawson, of Frederickton, and faithfully executed. The floor is at present laid with bricks, but the completed work, we believe, provides for ornamental and encaustic tiles. Ample provision is made ventilation and lighting. Temporary fittings are being used at the present time, but we believe several memorial widows are already promised: one of these will be to the memory of Bishop Sawyer, and another to Mrs. Turner, wife of the present bishop, a very graceful tribute in loving remembrance from the ladies of the congregation. The organ, now completed in Melbourne, has not yet arrived, but will be here and in position before many weeks have passed. The style of the architecture is that in which the Gothic architects of Italy worked in during the middle ages: and the architect is Mr. Horbury Hunt, of Sydney, under whose supervision, by occasional visits, the work has been so successfully carried out by honest and willing workmen. It is a structure which does him every credit, and this will be far more apparent when it is seen as a completed whole.—

— Examiner.