

Croaker Memorial Church.

AT WALHALLOW.

OPENING AND DEDICATION.

The consummation of many hopes and efforts was realised in the formal opening on Sunday last, of the new Croaker Memorial Church at Walhallow, near Quirindi. Many visitors were present from the surrounding districts, and from Curlewis, Gunnedah, and Outrindi.

The dedicatory ceremonies took the form of a short service in which three ministers took part, Rev. E. W. Hyde (Methodist), Rev. R. C. Macklyeft (Presbyterian), and Rev. W. P. Boat (Anglican).

The Vicar based his address upon incidents in the Book of Nehemiah, and said there was something of an analogy to the present case, for while it fell to some to take the lead, the noble structure which was being opened that afternoon was the fruit of the sympathy and co-operation of many.

The building had a two-fold office to fulfil. It had been erected as a memorial to one whose influence in that community was always made to subserve the best ends. To the late Mr. Croaker came not only the honor of being amongst that sturdy band of pioneers who had done so much for the pastoral development of this great Commonwealth, but the greater honor of one whose citizenship and Christian ideals were such as to suggest in the minds of those who knew him a monument of this kind. The other purpose for which the building was erected was to provide a place of worship for the people of that neighborhood.

He paid a compliment to the committee for their enterprise, and to the architect and builder for the creation and carrying out of a splendid design.

During the service a tablet as a personal tribute to the late Mr. and Mrs. Croaker by the late Mr. Charrington was unveiled by the present manager of Walhallow Station and a handsome commu-

Station and a handsome communion service, the gift of the Holmes family, also in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Croaker, was dedicated to the use of the congregation.

Though not wholly finished, the fine stone building is a splendid tribute to the courage and enterprise of the committee and the people as a whole. The church, which has already cost about £1200, is practically free of debt.

Mrs. Abbott presided at the organ for the opening, and the ladies served liberal and tasteful refreshments to the visitors at the close.