

ST. ANDREW'S. Presbyterian Church at Canberra.

OPENING AND DEDICATION.

CANBERRA, Sunday.

A congregation of nearly 1000 was present last night at the opening and dedication of the Presbyterian Church of St. Andrew and its Warriors' Chapel.

The handsome building occupies a commanding site on the slopes of Capitol Hill, not far from Parliament House. Completed about two years ago, the tall grey stone tower and spire are of Gothic design, and with the manse and caretaker's quarters, have already become a landmark in the Federal Capital. Financial difficulties prevented its furnishing earlier, and the church has been for two years unopened and unused. Handsome furnishing has now been supplied, and the building will be used for regular services, which will also be held in the Presbyterian Church Hall in Braddon. About £60,000 has been spent on the building and furniture. The nave, which will complete the church, is to be added.

The Governor-General (Sir Isaac Isaacs) and Lady Isaacs, attended the ceremony, at which the Moderator-General of the Presbyterian Church (the Right Rev. G. R. S. Reid) presided. Among the congregation were the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Perkins), the representative of the British Government in Australia (Mr. E. T. Crutchley), the president of the New South Wales Council of Churches (Mr. T. E. Rofe), Mr. Allison Walker, son of the Very Rev. Dr. John Walker, the first minister of Canberra, to whose exertions the building is largely due, Sir James Murdoch, of Sydney, who gave £3000, Mr. John Ross, and Mr. Neil Ross, of Holbrook, the Rev. Victor Clarke Duff, Moderator-Elect, the Rev. John Edwards, of Rose Bay, Clerk of Assembly, Mr. J. A. Ferguson, of Sydney, Procurator of the Assembly, and many visitors from Sydney and other parts of Australia.

Dignity and solemnity characterised the opening ceremony and dedication service. The crowd assembled on the hillside overlooking Canberra, while the Moderator-General handed to the Governor-General a gold key and asked him to open the main door of the building.

"In formally opening the door of this church of St. Andrew," said Sir Isaac Isaacs, speaking from the church porch, "I have been privileged to perform an act of great solemnity, and, I trust, of national significance. There will be here henceforth for all time still another consecrated shrine where God and His creatures may be brought into close communion."

After opening the door, the Governor-General returned the gold key to the recently appointed Presbyterian minister of Canberra, the Rev. C. E. Turnbull, to be kept by him in perpetual trust for the congregation as a memento of the event.

Sir Isaac and Lady Isaacs then entered the church, followed by the Moderators, ministers, office-bearers, choir, and congregation. Seating accommodation was provided for 800, and the remainder stood throughout the service.

Before the dedication of the church by the Moderator-General, prayer was offered by the Moderator of Victoria (the Right Rev. J. Mackenzie). Passages from the Scriptures were read by the Rev. A. Crow, former Moderator

of Western Australia, and the Rev. C. E. Turnbull, and intercession was led by the Rev. Allan McKillop, of Queensland. The Lord's Prayer was chanted by the combined choir which, after the dedication, led the singing of the Te Deum.

Mr. George Clark, treasurer of St. Stephen's Church, Sydney, and a member of the Canberra executive committee, read a financial report which showed that the £60,258 spent to date comprised gifts £42,975, subscriptions and gifts to furnishings and charges £1200, and an advance from the General Assembly of New South Wales of £16,083. The assets comprised buildings, church manse, and cottage, £54,620, organ £1774, and grounds, furnishings, and charges £3863. He appealed on behalf of the committee for help in liquidating the advance from the New South Wales Assembly, as the work of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales was, he said, considerably curtailed because such a large sum was advanced to St. Andrew's, Canberra.

A letter was read from Dr. John Walker, who is in hospital in Sydney recovering from an accident, expressing disappointment at his inability to attend the opening, for which, he said, he had worked hard for many years.

MODERATOR-GENERAL'S ADDRESS.

Dr. Reid, in his address, said:—"This is a historic occasion for Australian Presbyterians, and it is with feelings of deep joy and thankfulness we have opened and dedicated this noble building for God's worship and service. For all generations to come it will stand as a witness to our faith in God and our belief in the necessity for true religion for the welfare of the nation."

Dr. Reid said they had reared a building worthy of the Presbyterian Church and of the Federal capital. It was a sign that they had faith in the future not only of their denomination, but in the cause of Jesus Christ, the progress of the Commonwealth, and the growth of Canberra. When the Duke of York visited Canberra and looked over its broad and beautiful spaces he said they were symbolic of the high destiny of the Australian nation. That was a vision somewhat different from the limited and provincial outlook of some people in certain quarters, without imagination, foresight, or patriotism, and it encouraged them to provide for future developments.

"We have a great opportunity," added the speaker, "for we are placed here with unbounded possibilities and the promise of untold influence in the Pacific. We have an unparalleled opportunity for combined Christian effort in protecting and uplifting other races around us and in our mandated territories. So much depends upon the national character and Christian influence of our people. Where there is no vision the people perish. The work of the Church is to make this land a moral and spiritual factor in the development of the Commonwealth. This church will at least proclaim to the world that, despite faults and failures, we still profess to be a Christian people. We trust it may also provide an example of national unity in religion and maintain Christian standards of public and social and business life, which will make it a model for the rest of the Commonwealth. In this faith and hope we dedicate this church. We trust Presbyterianism will ever stand for all the great principles for which it has stood throughout the centuries."

THE WARRIORS' CHAPEL.

The dedication followed of the Warriors' Chapel, "a memorial intended to commemorate the grace and favour of Almighty God in a time of great national peril and to perpetuate the memory of the men by whose

in a time of great national peril and to perpetuate the memory of the men by whose willing service and sacrifice the cause of freedom was maintained." The commemoration prayer was offered by the Rev. W. Floyd Shannon, Chaplain-General.

The Governor-General, in an address, said that they had just taken part in a historic, memorable and moving ceremony, the dedication of a noble architectural structure to the service of God. Whatever formulae and creedal differences might distinguish the great historical churches of this land, they all met in the one towering apex of religion as this nation understood it—the worship of Almighty God as the universal Creator and loving Father of mankind—and, therefore, Lady Isaacs and he were glad to be present at the ceremony. It was always a happy duty and a willing task to him to participate in whatever might strengthen the influence of the great recognised religious institutions of Australia—the necessity to strengthen that influence was great—and to participate in anything that could advance the spiritual enlightenment and elevation of the people. The Warriors' Chapel would be a constant and most eloquent object-lesson, emphasising the beauty of voluntary individual service to universal welfare, even to the point of self-sacrifice.

To-day there were large congregations at special services in the morning, afternoon, and evening, at which the preachers were the Rev. Dr. R. G. MacIntyre, the Right Rev. John Mackenzie, and the Rev. Allan MacKillop.