

## **PRICE MEMORIAL HALL.**

### **LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.**

On Oct. 4 afternoon the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Price Memorial Hall took place under very happy auspices, the weather being bright and springlike. The hall is situated in Tamar-street, to the south of and adjoining the Congregational Church. When completed it will serve the purpose of a place for worship for a time until the prosperity permits of a new church being erected. As the name indicates, the building is to be raised in memory of the late Rev. Charles Price, whose phenomenal pastorate of 56 years had placed him high in the respect and love of his flock. The edifice will be substantial, and will be a decided acquisition to the street. The measurements of the main hall are 67ft x 36ft and 26ft high to the centre of the ceiling. The walls, to be built on cement concrete foundations, will be 14ft. The style of architecture is Queen Anne-American, and the facade will be of red brick, with cement dressings. The entrance to the main hall will be from Tamar-street, and there will be an inside porch 14ft x 6ft leading into aisles 4ft wide on each side. There will be a fall of 1ft 6in towards the platform. The hall will be 36ft x 11ft, and at the rear of the platform there will be a class-room 20ft x 12ft and vestry 14ft x 12ft. Tasmanian timber will be used for the internal fittings, polished blackwood being of course extensively used with others that will form a nice contrast. The two front and four of the windows on each side will be fitted up with cathedral glass. The contractors have already made considerable progress with the structure.

There was a fair attendance to witness the ceremony. A temporary platform had been erected at the building, upon which were seated the Revs. George Clarke, of Hobart (who laid the stone), J. G. Wright (the present pastor of the church), Handel Jones, W. Law, and J. W. Simmons, of Hobart, and a number of ladies.

After a hymn had been sung the Rev. Handel Jones read a portion of scripture and Rev. W. Law offered up prayer.

The Rev. J. G. Wright then read the following statement, which he said would

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This hall is erected for the glory of God, and called the "Price Memorial," expressive of the long, useful labours of the late Rev. Charles Price, who for 56 years was the faithful pastor of the first Independent Church in Launceston. The work was carried out by Messrs D.M'Ewan and Sons, the successful tenderers, the contract being £811. The seats were made by Messrs H. T. Russell and Son for the sum of £102 10s. The total cost of the building, which is of the Queen Ann-American style, is estimated at £1000, and was designed by Mr A. E. Luttrell, architect, of St. John-street, Launceston, who is supervising the work. Twenty-four of the friends and members of Tamar-street church have each guaranteed a £50 Building Society share, which will mature in 15 years, thus providing for the extinction of the debt when that period elapses. Many other friends have liberally contributed towards the erection of the building, a lady friend heading the list with £50. May the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost, which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow, richly descend on the united labour now consecrated to the glory of God.

JOHN GEO. WRIGHT,

Oct. 4, 1895.

Pastor.

A hymn was then sung, and the Rev. Geo. Clarke whom Mr Wright introduced as the chairman of the Tasmanian Congregational Union, and one of the oldest, if not the oldest friend of the late Rev. Chas. Price—proceeded to lay the stone. A very handsome silver trowel was presented to the rev. gentlemen bearing an inscription setting forth the particulars of the occasion. Underneath the stone had been placed the statement read by Mr Wright, a copy of the *Launceston Examiner* and *Daily Telegraph* of yesterday's date, and the silver coins of the realm.