

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, BISHOPSTHORPE.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

On 16th instant, at noon, his Excellency the Earl of Belmore, acting as the deputy of the Duke of Edinburgh, at the particular request of his Royal Highness, laid the foundation stone of St. John's Church, Bishopthorpe—an edifice designed for the use of members of the Church of England resident in the populous suburb of the Glebe. The intended building will occupy a fine, and commanding situation at the intersection of the Pyrmont Bridge and Glebe Roads, nearly opposite to the parochial schoolhouse, long made to serve for all the purposes of a parish church. The Church, to be named in honour of St. John the Evangelist, will consist of a nave and chancel, with north and south aisles, north and south porches, bell tower, vestry and organ chamber. The style adopted differs from the usual English style in architecture, and if it be necessary to give it a name it may be said to resemble the Lombardic, or Continental Gothic, before the introduction of the pointed arch. It has also some affinity to the Norman style, in English classification. The nave and aisles are together sixty-six feet long by forty-three wide, with sittings for four hundred and fifty persons. The nave is to be divided from the aisles by arcades of six arches, each on ten circular columns, with richly carved capitals. The clerestory walls above will be pierced by twelve circular windows. The chancel is twenty-five feet long by twenty feet broad, with the usual communion table and fittings, and seats for the choir. The pulpit and reading-desk are to stand immediately under the chancel arch. On the south side of the chancel is the vestry, and an organ chamber opening into the chancel and aisle by ornamented arches. The whole of the roof open, and painted in bright colours. The campanile, or bell tower, one hundred feet high, stands at the east end of the north aisle, and will carry a light peal of four bells in an open arcade, in the top story. The whole will terminate in a square pyramidal roof, covered with lead. The Church is intended to be built of white stone, from the Pyrmont quarries, and will, if carried out according to the plan, be at once a very commodious and a highly ornamental building. The height of the tower was on the 15th, signified by means of a lofty mast, from the end of which waved the Royal Standard, in honour of the Prince, who had been pleased to evince such a kind interest in the prospects of the Church in that district.

The Earl and the Countess of Belmore arrived at about 12 o'clock, and were conducted to the seats prepared for them within the church enclosure, and under a large awning near the foundation stone. Her ladyship was accompanied by Miss Gladstone; Mr. Toulmin, the private secretary, being in attendance upon his Excellency. In the midst of the enclosure lay the foundation stone, surrounded by a small platform, covered with red cloth and bordered with wreaths of laurel and cypress. Near this spot—precisely that on which the tower is to be erected—was placed a table, on which stood the casket containing the splendid trowel and mallet, to be used during the ceremony. The choirs of St. James's, Christ Church, St. Mark's, and St. Paul's were stationed at the south-eastern corner of the enclosure, behind the Governor, where they were led by Mr. J. P. Ward of Christ Church, as honorary choir-master; Mr. James Furlay, organist at St. James's, presiding at the harmonium. The band of 50th Regiment, by the kind permission of Colonel Waddy, were present at the ceremony, and were placed at the north-eastern corner of the inner space. There was a very large throng of people present, both within and without the rails, parishioners, subscribers, and friends. Amongst those who were present were Sir Alfred and Lady Stephen, the Metropolitan Bishop and Mrs. Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Blacket, Mr. G. W. Allen (the Mayor of the Glebe) and Mrs. G. Allen, Colonel Waddy and Mrs. Waddy, Dr. Foulis and Mrs. Foulis, Mr. and Mrs. Pinhey, Mr. Fee-bury, Mr. J. P. Mackenzie, the Hon. John Campbell, Mr. Charles Campbell and Miss Campbell, Mrs. Macarthur, Miss Betts, Mrs. Pell, Mrs. Pilcher, Mrs. H. O'Brien, and Miss Allwood, Mr. Alexander Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. James Gordon, the Rev. Dr. Tucker, the Rev. Mr. Pendrill, and the Rev. George King. The clergymen who took part in the ceremony were the Bishop of Sydney, the Dean of Sydney, and the Rev. Messrs. Garnsey, Kemmis, H. King, T. Smith, W. C. B. Cave, E. Rogers, Coglette, Creny, Barry, Lumdaine, Stephen, Vidal, Hayden, Fletcher, P. J. Smith, Moreton, Rich, S. Mitchell, and Roberts.

On the entrance of his Excellency, accompanied by the Bishop, the incumbent (the Rev. E. M. Saliniere), the members of the committee, and the clergy (who were all

Bishop, the incumbent (the Rev. E. M. Saliniere), the members of the committee, and the clergy (who were all habited in their surplices and stoles, &c.), the band of the 50th played the National Anthem. The choir having taken up their places then chanted the 64th and 132nd Psalms—*Quam Dilecta* and *Memento Domine*—with a commendable precision, considering all the difficulties inseparable from the occasion. The Rev. the Incumbent then said certain prayers appointed—the collect for St. John's Day, the collect for the Festival of St. Simon and St. Jude, and the collect for All Saints Day. The lessons followed, the first (from sixth chapter of the First Book of Kings) being read by the Dean of Sydney, the second (from the second epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians, chapter 2) being read by the Rev. George Vidal, the incumbent of Christ Church. After the lessons, the Apostles' Creed was recited by all present. His Excellency and the Bishop then advanced a few steps to the foundation stone, where the incumbent read to the Governor the inscription of a parchment to be deposited under the foundation stone, in commemoration of the event. This document was as follows:—

In the name of the ever-blessed and undivided Trinity, and under the dedication of St. John the Evangelist, this stone was laid by his Excellency the Right Honorable Somerset Richard, the Earl of Belmore, Governor-in-Chief of New South Wales, at the request and in behalf of his Royal Highness Alfred Ernest Albert, Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., on the fifteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord MDCCCLXVIII., being the thirty-first year of the reign of her Majesty Victoria, Queen of Great Britain and Ireland, and of the colonies and dependencies therein in Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australasia, Queen, Defender of the Faith, &c., &c.

The Right Reverend Frederick Barker, D.D., Bishop of Sydney, and Metropolitan.
Incumbent, the Rev. Edward Mitchell Saliniere, of St. Aidan's College.

Trustees of the Church Lands—The Very Rev. William Macquarie Cowper, M.A., Dean of Sydney; and John William Wood, Esquire.

Churchwardens—J. W. Wood, F. W. Binney, and E. O. Heywood, Esquires.

Church Building Fund Committee—The Rev. Edward M. Saliniere, the Rev. J. Pendrill, M.A.; J. W. Wood, E. O. Heywood, Edmund Furbey, J. P. W. Bell, and E. Spafforth, Esqs.; and Messrs. J. Tucker, J. B. Dobson, D. Williams, and J. Spading.

Architect—E. J. Bisbet, Esq.
Gloria Tibi Domine.

It was inscribed in a glass bottle, in the usual way (with newspapers of the day), and deposited in the hollow in the lower stone. The Rev. Mr. Saliniere (all things having been made ready to lower the stone) thereupon requested the Governor to be pleased to lay the foundation stone of St. John's Church, Bishopthorpe, on behalf of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. This his Excellency, with the assistance of the master builder, was pleased to do; notifying to the people (in the accustomed form) the end and object of the building. The mortar was duly spread with the Prince's trowel, the stone duly struck with the mallet provided.

At the conclusion of the ceremony the choir chanted Jackson's *Te Deum*, in which, so popular is that piece of church music, a large majority of the company very heartily joined.

The BISHOP OF SYDNEY said that he was deputed by all who had had the pleasure to be the promoters of that good work to return to his Excellency their grateful thanks for having that day so kindly discharged the duty in their behalf which had been deputed to him by his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. They could hardly mention that name without deep emotions of shame and sorrow—without deeply lamenting the cause which had precluded their beloved Prince from performing that service for them, for which they had now to thank his Excellency. That most unhappy event which had intervened between the promise of the Prince in their behalf and the accomplishment of his kind intention, was something that had awakened the deepest emotion amongst them all, a sorrow which had manifested itself from every corner of the land in ten thousand different ways. Day after day, a tide of loyal emotion had risen and swept onward to Government House, and fervent had been the prayers which had been offered for him who had been there residing—that he might be fully restored to health, and that God would be his safeguard during his homeward voyage. They deeply regretted that the Prince should not have been enabled to be there on that occasion, but as it was not so to be, they did, nevertheless, very gratefully recognise the kindness of his Excellency in acting on the Prince's behalf; and the more so, as they were well aware that his Excellency's

more on, as they were well aware that his Excellency's time that day had been particularly occupied. As the Bishop of that communion for the use of the members of which that building was specially designed, he desired personally to express his acknowledgments to his Excellency for his kindness in exerting himself to be present amongst them, notwithstanding his other engagements on that day. He (the Bishop) was himself deeply interested in that neighborhood. The time would come when the Bishops of S.dney would be nearly dependent on the rents derived from the property in that locality for the payment of their stipend. Several years ago by the liberality of the then Government that land had been set apart for the support of the Bishops of Australia. The Bishops of Australia had ceased to exist—there had, in fact, never been more than one of them—and the Episcopate once so designated had been subdivided into numerous sees; but still with the future Bishops of Sydney (who represented that first Episcopate) Bishopthorpe would always possess a peculiar historical interest. For himself he hoped he need scarcely say that his interest in the members of the Church of England in that district was not so much derived from the fact that Bishops formed a part of his patrimony, as it was from a strong sense of the growing importance of that locality, and a sincere desire that the spiritual wants of the inhabitants should be properly supplied, and due church accommodation provided. It afforded him much pleasure to think that one of the first grants which had been made out of the funds of the Church Society had been a grant of £150 for the erection of a church in that district which could now be appropriated to that object. His excellent friend the Dean of Sydney, had been the first incumbent of Bishopthorpe, and he was glad that he should have been present on that occasion. He trusted that God might bless all those who had contributed towards that undertaking, and that His would put into the hearts of all present, and of all absent friends, still further to carry on the good work which had been so well begun—until the Church of St. John at Bishopthorpe should be completed, and prayers should thence ascend which would draw down a rich out-

pouring of the divine blessing upon those there assembled for devotion, and upon all around them.

At the conclusion of the Bishop's address the choir sang the metrical hymn, "Jerusalem the Golden," with great effect, and the Bishop pronounced the benediction.

The mallet used was of myall wood, richly ornamented with silver, and the trowel was of solid silver, with a carved ivory handle. The inscription on trowel was as follows:— "Presented to his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, K.G., by the ladies of the parish, on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of St. John's Church, Bishopthorpe, Sydney, N. S. W., 16th April, 1868." Both of these, works of colonial art, presented by the ladies of the parish to Prince Alfred, were handed over to the charge of his Excellency for transmission to the Duke of Edinburgh. One of the churchwardens, Mr. J. W. Wood, after the ceremony presented to his Excellency, on behalf of the members of the committee, an inkstand formed of an emu's egg, set in silver, and mounted on a stand of colonial ebony. On this beautiful object was the following inscription:—"Presented to his Excellency the Earl of Belmore on the occasion of his laying the foundation stone of St. John's Church, Bishopthorpe, Sydney, N.S.W., on behalf of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. 16th April, 1868." Both the mallet and trowel and the inkstand are from the atelier of Messrs. Flavells, of George-street, and are (as all know who have seen them) well worthy of the occasion—creditable to the artists who designed them and to those by whom they have been presented. The arrangements were such as reflected the highest credit upon the gentlemen of the committee, and were carried out with entire success. The Committee of Management consisted of the Rev. E. M. Saliniers (the Incumbent), the Rev. J. Pendrill, Mr. Fosbery, and Mr. J. W. Wood, Mr. F. W. Binney, and Mr. E. O. Haywood, Churchwardens.

The scene presented during this ceremony was a deeply interesting one. The tasteful disposition of the flags (conspicuous amongst which was the standard and the Prince's ensign) gave a joyous air to the proceedings, which was not detracted from, but rather enhanced by the "decent order" manifested throughout. The beautiful white stones, forming the basement of the campanile, contrasted strongly with the green wreaths and other things which surrounded them. When the stone was lowered into its place a large and beautiful crown of chrysanthemums, made by Mr. Creighton, Mr. J. W. Wood's gardener, was placed thereupon by Mr. Blacket, the architect. Only one thing was wanting to complete the picture presented by that gathering under the trees which will surround St. John's, and that was the presence of One who, under other circumstances, would have been there beside his Excellency, but who is now many miles distant from us, far away over the deep waters of the Pacific.

The Bishop and Clergy, with the members of their families, were all most hospitably entertained, after the ceremony, by the Rev. J. Pendrill, the Principal of the Glebe Point School. His Excellency and the Countess of Belmore, the Chief Justice and Lady Stephen, Mrs. F. Barker, Colonel and Mrs. Waddy, with many other distinguished personages, were also amongst Mr. Pendrill's guests.

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