

COMPLETION OF THE BUILDING.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.

The foundation stones in connection with the completion of St. Mary's Cathedral were laid on Sunday (June 8). The Governor (Sir G. Strickland) presided at the ceremony, at which there was a large attendance. The collection realised £10,500.

St. Mary's Cathedral was begun 92 years ago. It was consumed by fire 18 years ago and was then rebuilt. It is now approaching final completion. The first foundation stone was laid by Archbishop Kelly, who was presented with a silver trowel by the architect, Mr. J. Hennessy. The Archbishop of Melbourne laid the second stone. The inscription, which was in English, was as follows:—"In honour of the most Adorable Trinity under the title of Immaculate Mother of God, Help of Christians, Patron of the Church in Australia, this stone was laid and solemnly blessed by Thomas Joseph, Archbishop of Melbourne, June 8, 1913, 48th year from the burning of the old church and 92nd from its foundation. Pius X., P.P., and George V. King of Great Britain and Ireland."

The Governor said: "I feel grateful for being associated with my fellow Roman Catholics in Sydney on the occasion of the laying of these two foundation stones. I congratulate the whole people of Sydney upon the determination of Archbishop Kelly to enter at once with all energy and despatch on the completion of this magnificent cathedral. It requires apostolic spirit; it requires the heart of a lion to undertake to collect the funds necessary to meet the difficulties incidental to placing the building in which we worship God in this our community on a standard which will be an honour to ourselves and to posterity.

Archbishop Kelly proposed that, with a view to securing a continuation of the works for the completion of St. Mary's Cathedral subscriptions be now opened.

Mr. Holman said: Speaking as the first one to-day who has had the honor of addressing this gathering, not being himself a member of that community, I venture on behalf of my brother Christians who are outside the pale of the Roman Catholic Church, to offer my most hearty congratulations and good wishes to the Catholics of Sydney in the great work they are putting their hands to. I feel the immense service done by the Church to Australia, from the point of view of ornamentation, is a service regarding which those of us who do not belong to it might well take this occasion to offer our congratulations. This great

to it might well take this occasion to offer our congratulations. This great building, when completed, will probably stand without-rival amongst the architectural triumphs of the southern world. The influence of a great artistic work like this is in no way confined to those who enjoy the privilege of worshipping at the shrine therein. Here is to be seen the effect of the noble example set by the Catholics of Sydney, to be followed not altogether unworthily on this great occasion, when all are asked to help. A Protestant will subscribe to a temple erected to a Common God, who is Father of all of us, as well as his Catholic brother. This is an occasion when there can be no jealousy between Melbourne and Sydney, as a speaker remarked. Jealousy, if it exists between a Protestant and Catholic, can be abolished for ever and ever in enduring friendship. We can all reunite in raising this monument to our common religion.