

## WESLEY CHURCH, GUMERAUCHA.

### JUBILEE MEMORIAL STONE, LAYING.

A committee appointed by the trustees prepared a scheme for celebrating the jubilee of the church, which was built in 1860. It was resolved to extinguish the remaining debt, erect a new porch, renovate the property, provide new seats, &c. Obviously £250 was required, and the trustees determined to raise it. Local people led the way, and were encouraged by help from others, especially by the generosity of an anonymous friend, who through the Rev. W. A. Potts gave a new organ worth £35, and sent a further sum of £25. The memorial stone of the new porch was laid on Tuesday. The Rev. H. Howard preached an admirable sermon in the church at 3 p.m., and the congregation represented different churches and various parts of the district. At 4.30 Dr. J. R. Stephens, the oldest local preacher in the circuit, laid the memorial-stone in the presence of a representative assembly. The Rev. W. F. James presented him with a beautiful trowel suitably inscribed, and the patriarch, with deep feeling, indicated his sense of the honor done him, and recalled striking incidents of his earlier days. He declared the stone well and truly laid, and placed his liberal gift upon it. Mr. James read a telegram of congratulation from the Rev. G. Hall, who won golden opinions when a minister of the circuit. Letters and contributions were received from Messrs. J. M. McBride, J. P. Roberts, E. E. Mitchell, and Mrs. Chester, whose late husband labored at Gumeracha. The Rev. H. Howard read the following from Sir Samuel Way, Bart., who was sorry he could not attend:—"Will you do me the favor of laying the enclosed cheque on the memorial-stone as a small token of my good wishes for the success of the jubilee undertaking and my admiration for the untiring zeal, the self-denial, and devotion of the superintendent of the circuit, my very old friend, the Rev. W. F. James." Various other sums were given. Mr. E. Hannaford moved, and Mr. J. Monfries seconded, the following resolution, which was carried with enthusiasm:—"That we heartily thank Dr. J. R. Stephens for laying the jubilee memorial-stone of our new porch. We congratulate him upon his long, useful, and honored life, which we trust will be further continued for many years." Local friends provided refreshments for visitors in the schoolroom, where a goodly number were supplied. In the new town hall the Rev. H. Howard delivered his famous lecture on "People I Have Met." The audience were delighted. Music was furnished by Misses Holman, Clark, and Mr. Sampson. Altogether a pleasant evening was spent. Heartly thanks were given to Mr. Howard and all others who furthered the success of the day; £72 was received, making the total for the fund £190 to date.