

Richman's Creek Church.

RE-OPENING CELEBRATIONS

The Methodist Church at Richman's Creek has recently undergone a transformation, within and without. A band of local men, assisted by Mr. Albert Herde, of Quorn, have zealously applied the plaster, cement, kalsomine, paint, etc., with gratifying results. Re-opening celebrations have been arranged for Saturday, 16th August, and the following Sunday. A tea meeting will be held on the Saturday afternoon and will be followed by a social evening. Rev. A. E. Cowley will conduct the re-opening service on Sunday, 17th inst. at 3 p.m.

A glance at the records shows that it is now 45 years since a meeting, composed of Rev. G. H. Paynter and Messrs. Wright, Kelly, McDonell, Lines, Joyce, McSkimming and Knox, was held in the Itali Itali Hotel and resolved, "That we build a chapel in this neighbourhood." Subsequently a trust was formed, of which the following were members:—Messrs T. Ellery (Secretary), J. McColl, J. Lines, G. F. Havelberg (Treasurer) and W. Wright. Mr. Havelberg's offer of "a site for a place of worship, north of Mr. Cottrell's store," was accepted. Messrs. G. and S. Sheppard's tender of £80 for the mason work was accepted and Baker Bros. contracted to do the carpentering, printing, etc., for £200. Rev. J. Burns was asked to conduct the ceremony at the laying of the foundation stone and Mrs. W. Donald was asked to lay the stone.

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In 1882 an organ was secured and in 1885 the building received interior plastering and a ceiling. In 1894 the block of land adjoining the church on the south side was purchased. In 1894 an attempt was made to sell the building, evidently with a view to building a larger. Failing in that direction the trustees decided to enlarge the building by placing a section, 24ft. x 12ft., across one end of it, thus bringing it to its present size. For this addition Mr. R. Thompson's tender of £92 was accepted.

—The Storm of 1897.—

On Nov. 19th, 1897, sudden disaster visited the church. A violent storm wrecked the new gable, and the roof, ceiling and part of the floor of the whole building. The organ and about a dozen seats were also numbered with the slain. When repairs were effected, two small side gables took the place of the end gable and the shape of the roof was thus altered. Another organ was soon procured. In 1906 the exterior was replastered and the interior in 1909. The present renovations have given the church an attractive appearance. It is anticipated that old residents of Richman's Creek who now reside elsewhere will meet there again at the re-opening celebrations.

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