

NEW WESLEYAN CHURCH AT ROSS.

(From our own Correspondent.)

On Wednesday last a large concourse of people assembled at Ross to witness a very interesting ceremony in connection with the laying of the memorial stones of the new Wesleyan Church at this place. The trustees of the building had invited Mrs. Horton, of Somerset, and Mrs. Parramore, of Beaufront, to lay these stones, and all were pleased that these venerable and highly respected ladies had consented to be present and to acquiesce in the wish of the trustees. The building is on one of the best sites on the township, and will be seen for miles by the traveller as he approaches the town; its style will be Gothic, and will cost nearly £3000 before completed. The architect is a Tasmanian, an old Horton College boy, though now of Melbourne—Percy Oakden, Esq.—and the works are under the supervision of Mr. William Will. A crowd had collected on the little hill on which the church is being built by the time it was announced to commence the ceremony.

The Rev. H. Greenwood gave out a hymn, and read a portion of Scripture, after which the Rev. F. Neale engaged in prayer. Thomas Parramore, Esq., then read a document, which, with the *Launceston Examiner* and *Hobart Mercury* of the day, with the last issue of the *Wesleyan Spectator*, will be placed in the cavity under the foundation stone. The following is a copy of the document read:—

"The old sanctuary, in which the Wesleyan Methodists of Ross and its neighbourhood have worshipped for nearly half a century, and which has become endeared to them by the associations of the past, being found unsuitable for present requirements, and the building itself fast falling to decay, it was therefore decided in the month of May, 1879, the Rev. F. E. Stephenson being superintendent of the circuit, to commence as soon as practicable the erection of this building, of which to-day two memorial stones are to be laid, one by Mrs. Horton, relict of the late Samuel Horton, Esq., of Somerset, and one by Mrs. Parramore, relict of the late Thomas Parramore, Esq., of Wetmore and Beaufront. The trustees of the old church at the angle of High and Bond streets, Ross, were Revs. W. Longbottom, J. A. Manton, W. Butters, John Weatherstone, and John Waterhouse, with Messrs. Samuel Horton, T. C. Brownell, A. Jackson, C. Hudson, Mars Miller, B. Horne, Philip Oakden, D. Bacon, and Isaac Sherwin. The trustees of the new church are Messrs. T. Parramore, G. Parramore, T. Riggall, H. I. Davis, C. Archer, W. W. Fox, Frederick Hart, Basil Archer, and Philip Oakden; Governor, and Commander-in-Chief of the colony, Major Sir George Cumine Strahan, R.A., K.C.M.G.; Colonial Secretary, the hon. William Moore; President of the Wesleyan Conference in Victoria and Tasmania, and Chairman of the District, Rev. J. G. Millard; Secretary of the Conference, Rev. E. J. Watkin; Superintendent of the Circuit, Rev. H. Greenwood; President of Horton College, Rev. F. Neale; architect of the building, Percy Oakden, Esq.; clerk of the works, Mr. William Will."

The document having been read, W. W. Fox, Esq., B.A., presented to Mrs. Horton a mallet and silver trowel, remarking that her name was connected with and chiefly instrumental in rearing the old sanctuary; it was only fitting that her name should be associated with this new building.

The Rev. F. Neale, on presenting another mallet and silver trowel to Mrs. Parramore, observed that he had a pleasing duty to perform on behalf of the trustees, whose desire was that she should accept the mallet and trowel, and with them lay this memorial stone, so that by this act her name would still be remembered and her memory perpetuated.

Each lady with the silver trowel spread a little lime, helped to lift the stone to its place, applied the level, and then with three taps of the mallet declared "this stone well and truly laid in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost."

The Rev. J. G. Millard, President of the Conference, now delivered an eloquent and telling address suitable for the occasion. After expressing his pleasure at being present he spoke upon the character and use of God's house; it had its holy purposes; it had an influence for

expressing his pleasure at being present he spoke upon the character and use of God's house; it had its holy purposes; it had an influence for good upon generations to come; the sanctuary had always been a necessity in connection with the worship of God. The building now being erected had its distinctive character in that it was a Wesleyan Methodist Church, where people would worship according to the formula of the Wesleyan Church, and where the doctrines preached would be according to the standards of theology held by that Church, and which he believed to be truly scriptural. Some people grumbled about denominationalism, though he did not think Tasmanians grumbled much in that way; all Protestant Churches preached Christ as the same Saviour, and because the Methodists thus preached Christ they claimed to be a church truly apostolic. After the speaker had given a brief resume of the doctrines to be preached in the new sanctuary, he continued by observing that if we were about to build a palace for the Governor some would say that was a grand work; or an hospital for the sick, or an asylum for the insane, or a hall of science, some would regard it as a great work. Well, this was to be a palace for the King of

appropriate address upon small beginnings and great results, hoping that many blessed results would follow the work of that day.

Dr. Stephenson, of London, spoke for nearly one hour to the great pleasure and profit of the meeting. He made a graceful reference to the sunshine and clear atmosphere of this country as compared with the Old Country, and congratulated the people on the beautiful sanctuary they were erecting on such a splendid site. He would suggest that the old students of Horton College should subscribe and place a memorial window in the new church. The reverend doctor then went on to say that the people did not know the good they were doing; just as Mary showed her love to the Saviour by anointing Him for His burial, though she did not know she was doing this, let them like Count Zinzendorf think of all that Jesus had suffered for them, and then do all they could for Him; when the new church was erected they had still to go on building the spiritual Church of Jesus.

Several students of Horton College sang solos, joined by a strong choir in the choruses, Mr. T. Riggall presiding at the organ.

Mr. Riggall proposed a vote of thanks to ladies, donors, speakers, and choir, which was seconded very humbly by Mr. Fredk. Hart, of Campbell Town; and being carried by demonstrations of approval. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and the meeting closed with the doxology.

Kings, an hospital in which the spiritual sick were to be healed, an asylum where men would be restored to their right minds in Christ, a hall where the loftiest science would be taught—that of how to save the immortal soul. The rev. speaker concluded with a peroration showing how the sanctuary and worship of God affected the politics and well-being of a nation. Nineveh had nothing left but the monuments of her past greatness; Babylon was a place inhabited by wild birds; Egypt was now worshipping the bull and crocodile; Athens, St. Paul in his time saw the city given up to idolatry; Rome had fallen from her proud imperial position to a poor conquered thing. All these nations had been without the true worship of God, and to that might be traced their decay; so a nation now without the worship of God must fall. As Britons we are proud of what our ancestors have done for science and the advancement of society; the good that has thus come to our fatherland we should desire for this our new country and home. The politician and the business man were in earnest, and so we Christians must be in earnest also if the future of this country were to be something good and lasting.

Another hymn and the Benediction closed the ceremony, after which a collection was laid upon the foundation stone, amounting to £138 5s 6d, which with the evening collection and proceeds of tea must have amounted to about £160 for the day.

The friends now adjourned to the School-room, which had been most lavishly and beautifully decorated for the occasion. There a most sumptuous tea awaited them. The tables were presided over by Mesdames T. Parramore, Riggall, Neale, and Davis the following young ladies assisting:—Misses Hudson, Taylor, Jackson, Pitt, Krach, and Davis. If any lady has been forgotten, a thousand apologies for the unintentional omission. Ample justice was done to the provisions by about 300 people.

The tea over, a public meeting followed in the church, presided over by Thomas Parramore, Esq., J.P. The room was crowded, the speeches good, and the singing attractive. After the Chairman's opening remarks he called on the Rev. H. Greenwood to read the pastor's report; and the church steward, Mr. H. Davis, to read the financial report of the new building, which showed that with subscriptions and interest the amount raised was about £1800, but that the building would not be completed for less than £2500. The principal donors to the new church are Mrs. Horton £500, Mr. T. Parramore £518, Horton College Council £200, Mrs. Parramore, sen., £100, Mr. G. Parramore £100, Mr. Thomas Riggall £100, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Oakden £50, Mr. W. W. Fox £50. Actual expenditure up to date, £518.

The Rev. F. Neale, although unexpectedly called upon (as some speakers were absent who were expected to be present) gave a very appropriate address upon small beginnings and great results, hoping that many blessed results