**Bega Gazette and Eden District or Southern Coast Advertiser (NSW : 1865 - 1899),**

**Saturday 2 June 1866, page 2**

EDEN, TWOFOLD BAY.

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

OPENING OF THE NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

On Thursday last the great event which has been looked forward to with so much interest, and which has been casting its shadow far and wide, appeared and fully realized all the anticipated pleasure and interest.

I of course allude to the opening of the Presbyterian church here, which time has I believe been anxiously awaited by many.

The labours of the day began at noon by service, at which the Rev. Dr. Lang officiated, in fulfilment of a promise made some time since to the Rev. Mr. Boddie. The little church was comfortably crowded, even the aisle being occupied by cross seats. It is estimated that over 200 people gathered on the occasion. The service commenced with singing the 100th Psalm; afterwards the Rev. Doctor engaged in prayer. The 1st chapter of 1st Corinthians was read and followed by singing the 25th Psalm. The doctor then drew attention to the 22nd, 23rd, 24th verses of the chapter previously read, as those in which his text was to be found; and began by describing the position and commercial importance of the city of Corinth in the days of Paul; then picturing the great apostle trudging wearily on the road thither; his first appearance in the city—his rude speech when contrasted with that of the majority of the Greeks, whose entire time was engaged in the search after wisdom, and whose schools of philosophy were so numerous and so constantly attended —depicting the astonishment and ridicule with which the apostle was received when he first gave utterance to the doctrines of Christ crucified, and first called on them to believe in Jesus; shewing that this doctrine as it had proved to the Jews a stumbling block, even so it fell upon the philosophical ear of the Greeks as foolishness. He then depicted the gradual dawning of light upon the minds of the Greeks—the working of the Holy Spirit in men's hearts—the belief of first one and then another in the words of the great preacher, who still appealed to them in spite of all ridicule and persecution in the name of Him with whom alone salvation was to be found; and then wound up by imagining the earnest cry of those whose hearts had ben pricked, "What shall we do to be saved." and their almost despairing appeal to Paul to direct them in their trouble, and by calling on the congregation to seek that same Jesus, who had proved to the Jews a stumbling block—to the Greeks foolishness—but to them who believed the word of God unto salvation, and whose word would always be preached in that church.

Singing and prayer followed—the daughter of B. Russell, Esq., was baptized, and a collection made amounting to £13. The doxology was joined in by all, and the Rev: Doctor, after pronouncing the blessing, bade all prepare for the tea meeting, to take place at 5 p.m. having been installed amidst great cheering, laid a brief statement before the meeting of the financial state of the church, showing that the subscriptions received, added to the collections and anticipated proceeds of this meeting, would nearly, if not quite, enable him, as Treasurer, to state that they entered the building that day free of debt. He trusted that in a very short time the church would be provided with suitable pews. And after congratulating them on having such a neat and commodious place of worship presented to them under such favourable circumstances; and calling on the Rev. Mr. Boddie to address them, he resumed his seat amidst great applause.

The Rev. Mr. Boddie rose, and would again congratulate his friends on the really very satisfactory circumstances in which they were that day enabled to open their church; and be trusted that Almighty God would so bless the preaching of the word in that house, that many might be brought to a knowledge of the true God—of the means of salvation through a crucified Redeemer, and be led to forsake the world and its vanities, and cast themselves at the feet of Him, who has promised to cast none out that come. As Dr. Lang and himself had to proceed that night to Pambula, he would not occupy them with a long speech; and would merely mention that they were indebted to all classes and denominations for great assistance in erecting the church. He had received a note from the Rev. J. L. Knight, enclosing an excuse for his non-attendance, and sincerely congratulating them on the completion of the work. James Manning, Esq., had also written to excuse his absence, and, with similar congratulations, tendered two guineas towards the funds. He (Mr. B.) felt extremely grateful to all for their liberality, and the kind manner in which many had come such long distances to attend the opening ceremonies.

The cheering that followed having subsided, another hymn was sung, and then the Rev. Dr. Lang rose, and was received with every demonstration pleasure. He must say that he hardly anticipated being present at such a highly respectable and well-attended meeting as he that evening witnessed, and be felt extremely grateful at the cordial reception they had given him. He considered that they had much to be proud of in the really neat little church they had that day, for the first time, entered; and he trusted that under the preaching of his dear friend and brother, Mr. Boddie, all who came to that house would be led to a knowledge of the Saviour Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whose blood cleanses from all sin. The Rev. gentleman then began an explanation of the great political events of the past few years, shewing that they were most certainly connected with the prophecies of Holy Writ. He then went on to say the present year and 1867 were to be, according to the statement of many who had studied the connection of the earth's history with scripture, prophecies two of the most remarkable years since the creation, and that the overthrow of the Papal power would in all probability be one of the great events of the period. The second coming of Christ would, he believed, also take place during that time. He gave the several dates from which these various periods might be calculated; and called on all to watch and be prepared for the coming of Christ in his glory.

The whole appeared to be a brief outline of Dr. Cumming's Destiny of Nations. On the Doctor resuming his seat, the Rev. Mr. Boddie said, he had almost omitted what he really considered a duty, and would call on them, before leaving, to give a vote of thanks to Mr. W. White, for his assistance in providing a plan of the church; to Mr. Ogle, the contractor, who had certainly tried under very afflicting circumstances to satisfy them all; and to Mr. Alexander Davidson, who had furnished, at his own cost, such and elegant and suitable pulpit for the building.

The two reverend gentlemen then rose to leave, but were stopped by Mr. Wm. Prescott, who begged, before they departed, to propose a vote of thanks to Rev. Dr. Lang for his great kindness in coming such a long and, as it proved, perilous journey, to open their church. He said perilous, as he had been an eye-witness on one occasion in which the Rev. Doctor had been thrown from the buggy in which Dr. Shiels was driving him to Eden. As the M. D. fell upon the D. D. the consequences were not very serious; but had the D. D. fallen on the M. D. he certainly would not have expected to have seen the latter alive again.

The vote of thanks was given with enthusiasm. And the Doctor in acknowledging mentioned an anecdote of Dr. Young, which rose another laugh, under cover of which the Doctor escaped.

Mr. W. White then rose, and having thanked the meeting for the kind manner in which they had acknowledged his slight assistance in the erection of the church, read a welcome to all in rhyme which appears elsewhere in our columns.

Some difficulty then occurred as to who should rise to speak for the ladies, who had so liberally supplied the good things that had crowded the tables that evening,- Mrs. Barclay, Mrs. Teas, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. Bonffield, and Mrs. Moorley. No single gentleman making bis appearance, Mr. J. M. Walker rose and said that he knew he was out of place, but he really did not like to see the meeting breakup without paying the honor certainly due to the ladies, for the very creditable manner in which they had performed their part of the evening's entertainment. He would not have risen, but felt so ashamed of his fellowmen that he would not remain silent under the circumstances.

The Chairman then left the chair, and Mr. W. White took it. Mr. Morton, of Melbourne, then rose and proposed a vote of thanks to the late Chairman. As a stranger he ought not to have risen perhaps, but he wished to congratulate them on the possession of such a nice church, and on the happy termination of a still happier day. At-tending the church was he believed a Christian's duty, but he would remind them that unless the heart was towards God their worship was vain.

The thanks of the meeting was then given to the late Chairman with boisterous clapping.

The Doxology having been sang, the meeting dispersed at a late hour, apparently all well contented with the proceedings of the day.