

**HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, DEVONPORT.**

THE first building bearing the above designation was opened for public worship by Bishop Selwyn on Sunday, September 3rd, 1865. It was a small church, capable of seating about one hundred and eighty people. Though small, it was fully adequate to the requirements of the population then resident in Devonport. Thirty five years ago there were about fifteen families settled in what was then called 'The Flagstaff.' In those days a clergyman from Auckland paid occasional visits to the residents of Devonport, and, as there was neither school nor church, services were held in the houses of the settlers. The excellent ferry service of to-day was not then, nor for many years after, in existence. Communication with Auckland was by sailing boats.

A change, however, came when the shipbuilding industry was established on the North Shore in 1860. The population of the district was considerably increased, and it soon became necessary to make some suitable provision for religious worship. But the difficulty then as now was to raise the money required for the purpose. The early settlers, however, were not easily discouraged. They set to work and collected enough money to add to the little building, which then served the purposes of school and church. Subsequently a more ambitious scheme was mooted. This was the erection of a church. A canvass of the district was made and promises of subscriptions received. The estimated cost of the new church was £500, but the lowest tender was £600. However, in various ways a sufficient sum was collected to justify the church committee in proceeding with the work. The result was the erection and dedication of a handsome little church in 1865. It was duly announced that the church would be opened on September 3rd of that year by Bishop Selwyn. The morning was very stormy. St. Paul's choir was brought over in the ferry steamer Waitemata, the first to ply between North Shore and Auckland. But no Bishop Selwyn was with them. The wind was rising, and it seemed hopeless to expect the Bishop that day. Just, however, as the clergyman, Mr Kerr, was preparing to take the whole service himself a whaleboat was despatched leaving Judge's Bay. A few minutes afterwards the Bishop was seen steering a boat manned by a crew of Melanesians, and literally 'riding upon the storm.' He was joyfully welcomed when he drove the boat hard up on the beach and leaped ashore to avoid the surf. The church was crowded, the Bishop more than usually impressive, and the choir gave a rare musical treat. Such was the opening service in the first church of the Holy Trinity. In the roll of seat holders the following well-known names occur:—Captains Burgess, Wynyard, and Filder, Messrs Duder, O. Mays, W. H. Brown, Seaman, Alison, and H. M. Jervis.

The present church is a large and substantial building erected within the last twelve years, and seated for nearly five hundred worshippers. Devonport, which thirty-five years ago had a population of fifteen families, has now a population of five hundred families. It was necessary to keep pace with this growth of population by building a larger church. This was accordingly done at a cost little short of £2,500. An excellent design was prepared by Mr

E. Bartley, architect, and the work was most faithfully and ably executed by Mr W. Philcox.

The following are the names of the clergymen who successively have had charge of the parish up to the present time:—Revs. E. H. Heywood, Thomas Kerr, B. G. Ash-



REV. MR. BATES.

well, and J. Bates. The last-named is the present incumbent, and was appointed in October, 1872.

This church is one of the best buildings in the diocese and is exceedingly well appointed. There is ample accommodation for a choir of thirty voices, a handsome pulpit of rima and puriri, font, prayer desk, and a beautiful brass lectern, presented by the widow of the late Captain S. J. Williams.

**THE LAMBING SEASON.**

(SEE FRONTSPICE)

OUR artist has, as may be seen on our front page, been devoting his attention to the lambing season, which is now fairly under way. The pictures themselves, with the title lines affixed, need little explanation. Most New Zealanders know something of the joys and sorrows of the lambing season, fraught with such hopes and fears, such desperate anxieties and difficulties. In a country like ours, where the number of sheep is 18,475,500 and the increase 1,721,748, lambing time assumes a national importance. The work of lambing time consists mainly of unceasing vigilance, and especially on smaller farms or runs, the tender care of orphans. This year the early season is somewhat cold, but otherwise satisfactory, and a big increase will, it is hoped, be chronicled in the blue books.

**IN FANCY DRESS.**

A MONSTER JUVENILE BALL IN AUCKLAND.

THE fashion for dressing up is inherent in children, and there is probably no greater pleasure in child-life than a fancy dress ball, especially if it be one approaching in success that given in the Choral Hall, Auckland, one day last week. It is to be doubted whether the three hundred and fifty or more smartly befooled young dancers or the six hundred spectators most enjoyed themselves. The children, big and little, appeared to have a most thoroughly good time. Laughter seemed light on every lip, and joy and excitement sparkled in every pair of eyes. Yet they could not have enjoyed the function more than the onlookers, who were frankly surprised and unfeignedly delighted with the beauty of the ever-changing picture. The hall was most effectively decorated with flowers, hunting, and Chinese lanterns, the stage, doorways and gallery being masses of arched filices and prettily arranged foliage. The hostesses—Mrs Hay and Miss Snell—utterly disclaimed any credit when commented in this direction. The entire decorations were the work of the children themselves. Ordinarily cold, cheerless, and unfriendly looking even on the most festive occasion, the Choral Hall could not have looked brighter, and certainly it never contained a more brilliant, or be it said gayer, assemblage. Fancy dress balls are usually remarkable for the unintentional humorosity of many of the dressed up men and women. Grown people not unfrequently look ridiculous in fancy dress. Children appear to escape the danger. Of the three hundred and fifty dresses there were not more than half a dozen or so sufficiently unintentionally comic to cause a smile. All were pretty and suitable, and not a few beautiful beyond the average. The grand march, when all the gaily bedizened children marched round in intricate figure movements, is not one of those things that can be aptly described, but was one of the prettiest sights possible. In and out in serpentine, mazy lines marched the children, and the blending of colours, the variety and tastefulness of the dresses, and the grace of the youthful figures as they trod the intricate measure, made a *tout ensemble* worth going a long way to see, and once seen not easily forgotten. The handsomeness and character of the dresses could be more easily judged, perhaps, in the cotillon and lancers than at any other time. Undoubtedly, the queen of the evening was a roite of a child exquisitely dressed in a white satin Court costume with powdered hair, low necked dress with pink roses in a spray from the centre of the dress to the shoulder. The little lady, who looked like one of Gainsborough's pictures, danced with great spirit, and the manner in which she managed her long train was perfectly irresistible. An Ophelia had a dress covered with real clematis and looked extraordinarily pretty. A girl Mulshippite looked so like the real article that one was completely astounded to see the skirt! Flower girls and fairies galore amongst the girls, Court gentlemen, of various periods amongst the boys made up a vast contingent. There were Italians, Gypsies, Nighits, Mornings, Forget-me-nots, Buttercups, Daisies, Tulips, Snowdrops, flowers without end, in fact. Where the idea was not new there always seemed some novelty in the carrying out. The *minuet* was a decided feature of the evening, and was danced just before supper.

The following children taking part:—Master J. Caldwell and Miss Whitelaw, Master D. Hay and Miss Kisting, Master M. Hales and Miss Lennox, Master P. Upton and Miss Goodwin, Master A. Upton and Miss Binney, Master C. Hay and Miss Hay.

Supper was served in the annexe, and needless to say was promptly and frequently patronised by the guests, who showed a most lively appreciation of the good things provided.

Girls:—Misses Daere, Moonlight; G. Whitelaw, Arch-in-a-Bogue; H. Wors, Fairy; W. Gresham, Jolanthe Fairy; Thomas, Red Riding Hood; Rees, Lily of the Valley; T. Binney, Greek Girl; A. Whitelaw, Comin thro the Rye; E. Atkinson, Court Lady; Langston, Colleen Bawn; M. Trevithick, Fairy; E. Cameron, Schoolgirl; W. Trevithick, Turkish Lady; Goodwin, Court Lady; Louis N.Y., Time; Hales, Court Costume; R. McIntyre, Eschete; Madden, M. Peacock, Snow; M. Daere, Mother Hubbard; A. Stewart, Scotch Lassie; A. Oxley, Tamboorine Girl; N. Hay, Fairy; Larkins, Oriental Dancer; M. Sloan, The Maiden All Forlorn; B. M. James, French Repeater; McMurray, Moorish Maiden; J. Paterson, Swiss Peasant; M. Whitelaw, Court Lady; M. Rees, Gipsy Fortune Teller; M. Atkin, Fairy; James, Jolanthe Fairy; Carter, Flower Girl; Conolly, Red Riding Hood; Nelson, Bohemian Girl; Fenwick, Winter; Atkins, Star ght; Thomas, evening dress; Haven, Ivy; A. Goodwin, Cleopat's Congo; Reuter, E. Hart, Male; Stanley, G. Atkins, Fairy Godmother; Cooper, Bohemienne; M. Cooper, Flower Girl; F. White, Court Lady; E. A. Peacock, Turk; A. Fenwick, guerite; Calvert, Bohemian Girl; A. Fenwick, Witch; L. Close, Swiss Peasant Girl; M. Close, Red Riding Hood; Steadman, Spring; G. Rees, Bonnetmaker; B. Trevithick, Oriental Lady; Van Shane, Fair Rosamond; Harris, Spring; Van Sturmer, Fisher Girl; Meta Aickin (Epson), Ophelia; Flora MacCormick, The Prairie Rose; Flora Sloman, Nancy Lee; Connie Sloman, Snowdrop; A. Caldwell, Katoctromaway Girl; E. Howard, Buttercup; Miss Habazin, white satin and tulle evening dress.

Boys:—Masters C. Trevithick, French Clown; A. Upton, sir Oliver Surcoat; L. Hales, Gipsy King; F. Binney, Page; K. Gorrie, John Gilpin; A. Hay, Turk; A. Heany, Don Cesar; F. Gillilan, Sailor; A. Lennox, Engineer; H. M. S. Nelson, P. Upton, Home Rule; W. S. Cooper, Court Costume; L. Atkinson, Mikado; Noble, W. Ross, Pombury Footballer; R. Binney, Little Boy Blue; Harris, Bunthorne; Foster, Neapolitan Boy; P. Atkins, Dick Whittington; Daere, Grasshopper; Paterson, Tom; Poyser, Atkin, The Clown; G. Thomas, Lord Rainsbury; Langston, Court Boy; W. Daere, Court Page; Cooper, Page; Close, Cowboy; G. Trevithick, New Zealand Herald; Goodwin, Captain Corcoran; H. Binney, Fisher Boy; Haven, Tennis Player; S. Atkinson, Tennis Player; A. G. Cameron, Tennis Player; R. Raabe, Sailor Costume; D. Fenwick, Garibaldi; W. MacCormick, Hamlet; L. Morton, Cowboy; G. W. Owen, Buffalo Bill; M. M. Orbell, Mexican Cowboy; A. G. Bennett, Brigand; Fleet Heath, Red Indian.



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