

LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE OF THE NEW WESLEYAN METHODIST CHURCH.—The Foundation Stone of the new Wesleyan Church, corner of Liardet and Courtenay-streets, was laid on Thursday the 13th instant, in the presence of a numerous and respectable assembly. The old chapel was filled soon after 1 p.m., when the business of the day commenced. The Rev S. Ironside gave out Hymn 699 which was sweetly sung to the tune "Luthers"; a number of gentlemen amateurs kindly lending their musical services for the day. Certain portions of Scripture were then read, and prayer offered. The congregation then proceeded to the site of the new building, where they were joined by a number of friends of all denominations. The Rev Joseph Long, Primitive Methodist Minister, gave out

"All hail! the power of Jesu's name," &c. and prayed. The Resident Minister, Mr Ironside, gave an address explanatory of the principles of Wesleyan Methodism, and afterwards stated the amount of receipts and subscriptions, and the estimated cost of the building, from which we learned that the purchase of the ground and the erection and furnishing of the new church, would involve an expenditure of £1,100. The receipts from all sources amounted to £800, leaving a deficiency of some £300, which it was hoped would not remain a charge on the building. J. Flight, Esq., Resident Magistrate, then laid the stone, and was presented with the tools used, as a memento of the occasion. During the lowering of the stone into its place the Doxology was sung. A bottle was placed in a cavity underneath containing a parchment record of the date

and circumstances of the building, a copy of the *Taranaki Herald* for the current week, and a copy of the Minutes of the 1st Conference of the Australasian Wesleyan Methodist Church held in Sydney, January 1855. Mr Flight addressed the audience on the moral, social, and political benefits which the proposed new church would confer upon the settlement. The collection was then made, and brought and laid upon the stone. The anthem "Denmark" was sung by the choir, after which Mr Long delivered an interesting address. The open air ceremony was concluded by the whole assembly joining with spirit in singing the National Anthem. The company afterwards adjourned to a large booth erected on the site, where a substantial luncheon was provided. The tables were tastefully laid out and decorated by a committee of ladies of the congregation, under the most able superintendence of Messrs Black and Lawrence. Upwards of 200 persons, besides children, were refreshed and regaled by the good cheer provided, which included nothing intoxicating. After the repast a number of loyal, national, social, and religious sentiments were given by the chairman and other gentlemen, and at 5 o'clock the assembly separated, everyone apparently interested and gratified. The collection at the stone amounted to the very handsome sum of thirty pounds and upwards.