

**BAPTIST CHAPEL.—LAYING THE FOUNDATION STONE.**—The ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the first Baptist Chapel in New Plymouth, took place on Wednesday afternoon, in the presence of several ladies and gentlemen, who had assembled to witness and assist in the proceedings. Shortly after 3 o'clock several ministers of other denominations arrived, amongst whom we noticed the Rev. Mr. Whiteley, Rev. Mr. MacNicol, and the Rev. Mr. Waters; Josiah Flight, Esq., having been requested to preside, he called upon the Rev. Mr. Whiteley to open the proceedings with a prayer. The Rev. gentleman then descended from the platform and approaching to where the stone lay, he was handed a bottle containing a parchment bearing the following inscription:—"On the 11th March, 1868, the foundation stone of this Chapel was laid by the Rev. J. Whiteley, intended for the use of the Baptist denomination. The building is held in trust by Josiah Flight, William Bayly, T. G. Billing, Richard Hart, and George Hoby." The rev. gentleman then placed the bottle in a hollow cut in the stone, and after applying the cement to the sides, laid the covering stone on the top, saying at the same time "I lay this bottle between these stones, there to remain." The ceremony having thus concluded, several of the Rev. gentlemen addressed those present, and J. Flight, Esq., thanked the ministers and visitors in the name of the Baptists of New Plymouth, for attending and contributing their support to the proceedings. He likewise was happy to say that the ground was paid for, and ~~the~~ funds for the building ~~now~~ collected, so that by the time they should be able to enter the Chapel they would be out of debt. The Rev. Mr. MacNicol then closed the proceedings with prayer, and the company dispersed. The site chosen for the Chapel is at the corner of Gill and Liardet streets. The building in course of erection is unique in design and roomy in construction, and will be capable of holding about 130 persons.