

in 1868. How long the teachers were in charge I do not know, but the one who was my first, was the third that had <sup>had</sup> control. I have ~~but~~ no knowledge whatever, beyond hearing that at its opening different folks of the district made speeches, & some crude remarks were made as to the wild state of society, from the lack of a place of worship. I cannot give this as a certainty but I think that the Minister who conducted the first services & also occasionally, was the Rev. Chas. Fraser, then in charge of the St Andrews Church in Christchurch. I used often to hear his name mentioned. The leading ~~or~~ persons in charge & the Elders, were from amongst the following John Cunningham, John Boag, Samuel McLeary, Robt. Stewart, R. Graham, Mr McLaughlan, Andrew Stirling. Mr Stirling, I have been given to understand, was <sup>at</sup> a teacher by profession, in Scotland. I can call to mind attending ~~at~~ the Church on the ~~sun~~ Sunday, and the service being taken by Mr S. McLeary and Mr Stewart. There was no such thing as instrumental music used in the service, and I call to mind a very serious division in the Church, <sup>some years later</sup> when a harmonium <sup>or organ</sup> was purchased; "the hat of whistles" was not by any means appreciated. It was in the year 1869 that a day school was erected in the district.

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And a Mr Elman was appointed <sup>minister</sup> in charge. It was under his jurisdiction that a great awakening took place, under his preaching, the Gospel, very many were those who were led to change their course of living & he, although a Wesleyan preacher changed the course of the lives of some in other denominations. The story goes that one man in particular a Scotchman, was so changed that he threw aside his copy of "Bobby Burns", but that one of his workmen picked it up & kept possession - having no scruples about "Bobby". It was at this period that the Wesleyan Church was <sup>established</sup> erected and the congregations grew rapidly, but so it was that as the population increased, so did the congregations at the Scotch Church and it was not long before the building was enlarged to twice its original capacity. The charge of the Presbyterians was under the Rev. J. Cree <sup>who</sup> & he kept that for a good many years. Other members of the Presbyterian Church were J. Donald, W. Baxter, J. Corbett. Robert & Archie McGee (These two latter, had a farm & lived on the opposite side of the Selwyn River.) The road across the river went by their name. Geo. Kidd & D. Robt. Blacksmiths and also Jas. Petrie & Robert Oakley. It was in the year 1870 that the Wesleyan Chapel was built. At that time all the places of worship under & erected in any district under that denomination.