outbreak of fire destroyed the vestries and young men's class-room (July 18th, 1879). Four new rooms were then begun on the ground floor.

Church buildings are at best but the scaffolding of the true temple of God. Amid all his labours the pastor found means of erecting a new preaching-centre for the southern part of the town, beginning in the spring a series of services in the Oddfellows' Hall, Montreal Street. Within six months the group of members attending these services lived off to form the Sydenham Church (represented to-day by the congregation that worships in Colombo Street South); to it there were transferred in all some twenty-seven members of the City Church and a balance of 1800 seats were begun in a hall in Woodston, with fifty persons present. A year later the Hereford Street Church resolved to build upon the site in Oxford Terrace, a tender was accepted, and a loan of £3,000 raised, hearing interest at 7 per cent. The next stage is best described by a contemporary writer: "On Friday, the 14th of October, 1881, at half-past four, our pastor, the Rev. Chas. Dallaston, laid the foundation stone of the Oxford Terrace new Baptist Church. Upon the plinth were numerinous ministers and friends of not only the Baptist but other denominations, who by their presence and assistance in parts of the ceremony testified their cordial sympathy with us in the work. Agreements and papers bearing a record of the occasion and names of the various officers concerned were deposited under the stone. A silver trowel was presented to the Rev. C. Dallaston, having upon it an inscription referring to the circumstance and date of presentation. Three memorial stones were then laid one by Mrs. Smallwood, on behalf of the members of the Church, one by Mr. Chidgey (Sen.), the Superintendents of Saturday School, and one by Mr. Chivers as representative of the congregation. In response to an appeal for insurance the church was insured, and it was added that help a considerable sum of money was collected and laid upon the foundation stone, in addition to some hundreds of amounts payable during the succeeding twelve months. A adjournment to the old church was taken place, where tea was provided, to which about 300 sat down." A public meeting followed. The account concludes with grateful reference to the sympathy and help received from members of all denominations.

While the walls of the Church were being erected an earthquake took place that removed the top of the cathedral spire, but left the Baptist Church unharmed. A truly prophetic text inspired the opening sermon of July 9, 1882: "The glory of this latter house shall be greater than that of the former, saith the Lord." When opened for public worship the building was the largest Baptist church in New Zealand. It seats 680 persons, and on special occasions has accommodated 1,000; its acoustics and heating have in time proved problems, but they are happily surmounted. For a long time the financial burden of the large interest payable on the building weighed heavily upon the Church. Old records abound in references to bazaars and special efforts. Mr. Dallaston made a tour of Australia in search of financial aid, contracting on the way an illness that led to a furlough in England. Subsequent ministers also felt the pressure that led to a furlough in England. Subsequent ministers also felt the pressure of all denominations, who by their presence and assistance in parts of the ceremony testified their cordial sympathy with us in the work. Agreements and papers bearing a record of the occasion and names of the various officers concerned were deposited under the stone. A silver trowel was presented to the Rev. C. Dallaston, having upon it an inscription referring to the circumstance and date of presentation. Three memorial stones were then laid one by Mrs. Smallwood, on behalf of the members of the Church, one by Mr. Chidgey (Sen.), the Superintendents of Saturday School, and one by Mr. Chivers as representative of the congregation. In response to an appeal for insurance the church was insured, and it was added that help a considerable sum of money was collected and laid upon the foundation stone, in addition to some hundreds of amounts payable during the succeeding twelve months. A adjournment to the old church was taken place, where tea was provided, to which about 300 sat down." A public meeting followed. The account concludes with grateful reference to the sympathy and help received from members of all denominations.

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