

outbreak of fire destroyed the vestries and young men's class-room (July 18th, 1879). Four new rooms were thereupon built 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 opening 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 hived off to form the Sydenham Church (represented to-day by the congregation that worship in Colombo Street South): to it there were transferred in all some twenty-seven members of the City Church. About the middle of 1880 services were begun in a hall in Woolston, 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, bearing 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 platform were numerous 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. The usual documents 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 Superintendent of the Sabbath School, and one by Mr. Chivers as representative of the congregation. In response to an appeal for immediate or future help a considerable sum of money was collected and laid upon the foundation stone, in addition to many promises of amounts payable during the succeeding twelve months. An adjournment to the old church adjoining then took 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 650 persons, and on special occasions has accommodated 1,000; its acoustics and heating have in time past presented 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 of the burden, which was increased when in 1903 the old chapel—then used for the Sunday School—was completely destroyed by fire. Happily the Jubilee witnessed the total extinction of all debt both on the Oxford Terrace premises and on the daughter-church at St. Albans.

In July, 1891, the Church learnt with regret that Mr. Dallaston was about to leave them, having accepted a call to the smaller congregation of Wellington. "You have had my best," he wrote, "both in the pulpit and in pastoral work. A much stronger man is needed." At an earlier stage Churches in Geelong, Dunedin, and Launceston had made overtures to him in vain. Well might the Church he had fostered place on record its "high appreciation of the singleness of purpose evinced by Mr. Dallaston," . . . "a friend tried and proved through many years." In fourteen years and eight months he had seen the membership rise from 98 to 352, a large proportion of whom he had himself won and sealed for Christ.

Early in Mr. Dallaston's ministry he welcomed to the membership of the Church Mr. T. Wagstaff from Sunder-



MINISTER AND OFFICERS OF THE OXFORD TERRACE BAPTIST CHURCH, 1931.

Front Row: Messrs. H. W. Fife, A. R. Jordan, H. A. C. North (Treasurer), H. Burgess (Secretary), Rev. L. A. North (Minister), Messrs. A. Chidgey (Life Deacon), R. Nettleton (Life Deacon), A. Mander (Life Deacon), Rev. A. W. Stuart, B.A.
 Middle Row: Messrs. H. Odell, G. A. Fraser, G. Reddell, C. C. Holland (Minute Secretary), A. W. Nicol, E. J. D. Hercus, M.A., J. Rodger, T. E. Dench, L. B. Thompson,
 Back Row: Messrs. W. Weckesser, J. H. Wilton, W. Adie, T. W. Voller.
 Absent: Hon. Mr. Justice A. S. Adams (Life Deacon), Mr. A. F. Carey (Life Deacon), Mr. J. A. Pannett (Life Deacon), and Mr. G. Wilfred Drayton.

land, and Mr. Ingold from New Barnett, Herts., England. In 1883 the latter was made deacon, and then secretary in succession to Mr. Price, thus beginning a long and intimate connection of loving service which ended only with his life. Mr. Ingold's father was an original member of the first Y.M.C.A. founded by George Williams, and like the old drapers of that generation our Mr. Ingold may be said to have "lived in" for over forty years. He travelled hardly ever, spent forty-two years in Christchurch and never saw the North Island, but within its self-chosen grooves his soul dwelt deep. He knew everyone, welcomed everyone, was sedulous in kindness, a constant encourager. When they reached their silver wedding he and Mrs. Ingold gave to the Church a sum of money to purchase the site of the present St. Albans building. Once, about 1890, he moved some distance out of town, and thought he must give up his duties as secretary. His fellow-members gave him an illuminated address, but found no

right successor for him, so in the end he "carried on." Towards the last, his powers failing, he stood one day amongst some fellow-officers who were counting a collection and said, half humorously, half wistfully: "I can't help you now." They knew better, for he had reached the stage where his very presence sufficed. "Learn by doing, teach by being"; he teaches still.

As if to emphasise by contrast the wise leadership the Church had enjoyed under Mr. Dallaston came next to its ministry Pastor William Birch. He was a man of good presence and long service in England, mostly, we gather, in work of the mission-hall type. Coming at a fairly advanced age to Auckland he had there revealed an infirmity of temper which threatened the Church with disruption. After little more than a year in Christchurch he repeated the same melancholy performance, and involved all concerned in many and painful vexations. Thereupon the office-bearers wrote to the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, seeking his good