

## Inglewood Presbyterian Church.

### Opened on Sunday Last.

An event to which the Presbyterians of Inglewood have been looking forward eagerly for some time was the opening of the new church. The various services in connection with the opening were conducted by Rev. R. Kerr, of Warwick, on Sunday last, 30th September. The special dedication service was held at 11 a.m., when the building was solemnly dedicated to the public worship of Almighty God. The showery, unsettled condition of the weather prevented some of the more distant friends from attending. But those living nearer were able to come and at the dedication service there was a good attendance. Services were held also at 3 p.m. and 7.30 p.m., and on each occasion the attendance was very satisfactory, being somewhat larger even than in the morning. There was no need to make any special appeal as there was more than enough money raised to meet all present claims. And no collection was taken beyond the usual offerings for the day. The building is a very neat structure, built of cypress pine, the interior measurement being 20ft. x 30ft., and it has accommodation for fully 100 persons. It was erected on a modification of plans originally prepared by Messrs. Wallace & Gibson for the Presbyterian Church at Thane's Creek. The contractor was Mr. J. Reeves, of Texas. The work reflects great credit upon the contractor and upon all concerned. Rev. A. Wood and the building committee are to be most heartily congratulated upon the successful completion of their undertaking.

The following is the financial position in connection with the work. The total amount received from subscriptions is £141 8s 6d; and the total expenditure to date for building, seats, fence, lamps, &c., is £133 11s 10d, leaving a credit balance of £67 16s 8d. In addition to cash contributions the following donations have been received:—The land donated by Mrs. Rowlings; Mr. Jopp, surveyor, surveyed the land free of cost; a table and chair from Mrs. Meech; a lamp donated by the young people of the Meech family; a damask table cover, two linen serviettes, for communion plate, and a collection plate from a friend in Brisbane, per Miss Sutherland; iron rods for hanging lamps from Mr. Heffernan; and labour of erecting 3½ chains of paling fence by Mr. Meech.

In connection with the opening a social meeting was held on Tuesday evening 2nd October. The day and evening proved beautifully fine, and advantage was taken of the fine weather to set the tea tables outside upon the sheltered side of the church. Upon these was spread a beautiful repast provided by the ladies of the congregation. When full justice had been done to the good things by a large and representative assembly from the township and district an adjournment was made to the church. Here the accommodation was taxed to the utmost, fully 150 persons being present. Rev. R. Kerr presided, and with him on the platform were Rev. A. D. Baker (Anglican), and Rev. A. Wood. After singing and prayer the Chairman congratulated the Inglewood Presbyterians and especially the Rev. A. Wood on the completion of the building. He also noted the friendly feeling which was exemplified in the meeting at which representatives of all churches were present. The church was there to foster that spirit and to help on the cause of righteousness. He trusted they would all have a very happy time in the meeting. The following programme was then presented:—Sacred chorus, "Only a Beam of Sunshine," some members of the Meech family; song, "The Holy City," Miss Stephenson; recitation, "Grumble Corner," Miss Emily Burns; sacred song and chorus, members of Meech family; song, Mrs. Wood; recitation, "Our Folks," Mrs. Comerford; song, "I'll live and ne'er grow old," Rev. A. Wood; sacred song, members of Meech family; recitation, "The Sprig o' Heather," Master Gordon Burns, who was dressed in full Highland costume; trio, "The Glory Song," Miss Stephenson, Miss Barnett and Mr. Dunston; song and chorus, members of Meech family; song, "The Better Land," Mrs. Goodrich; duet, Mr. and Mrs. Wood. The accompaniments were played by Miss Jones, Miss Stephenson and Miss Barnett. During the interval between the tea and the after meeting Master Colin Burns delighted the visitors by several selections on the bagpipes, admirably rendered in the open air. During the course of the meeting Rev. A. D. Baker gave a brief address. He congratulated the congregation on the excellent meeting and upon the erection of the church. He said his relations with Mr. Wood had been of the pleasantest, and he not only wished the congregation all prosperity in their new building but also wished Mr. and Mrs. Wood great happiness in the district to which they were going. Rev. A. Wood also spoke. He first presented a report on behalf of the building committee which, as shown by the figures previously given, was most satisfactory. From the fact that enough money had been subscribed to pay all costs no special collection had been asked for at the Sunday services. The collections taken would go to the ordinary stipend fund. No charge was

made at the social that evening, but the collection just taken amounted to £1 10s. A feature of special mention was that all the money was raised by straight giving. There had been no entertainments nor bazaars. For the success attending their labours they thanked God who had heard their prayers and blessed them. During the twelve months he had been in the district there had been given for the building, and for repairs and fencing at Kooroongarra, and for stipend fund a sum of over £210. He thought that was not a bad record. For himself, he could say, although he had been disappointed, because those from whom they had naturally expected help had failed them, yet he had had a year of happy service. He had learned some things. He had become what the Chairman called "a complete man," inasmuch as he was now a married man. He had seen the work in which he was engaged make decided progress. Now he was leaving for Tiaro because that district was one more suited for a married man, but he would always cherish the kindest feelings to the friends in Inglewood, Kooroongarra, and Silver Spur districts. He trusted that they would accord his successor the same loyal and cordial support he had himself enjoyed. Mr. Meech also spoke briefly, referring to some of their difficulties, which had, however, been overcome. He specially wished to thank the friends who had helped them by donation and the collectors who had done such splendid service. The singing of the Duxology and the pronouncing of the Benediction brought a most enthusiastic meeting to a close. Afterwards Rev. A. Wood and Mrs. Wood and Rev. R. Kerr set out upon the first stage of the journey to Thane's Creek, Mr. and Mrs. Wood being en route for Tiaro. Rev. Headley Baker is Mr. Wood's successor in the Inglewood district and he is expected to begin his work there to-morrow (Sunday).