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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

AT THE LAYING OF

THE FIRST STONE

OF

ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, BIRCH,

Near Manchester,

ON WHIT-TUESDAY, A.D. M.DCCC.XLV.

MANCHESTER:

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1845.

REPORT, &c.

(Reprinted partly from the Manchester Courier.)

It is our gratifying duty to record another instance in which a church is about to be raised in this neighbourhood almost entirely by private munificence. The small old chapel at Birch, in the township of Rusholme, having been found inadequate to the accommodation of the growing community in that district, the proprietor of the estate, J. W. H. Anson, Esq., in conjunction with his brother, the Rev. George Anson, have determined on building an elegant church in its stead, towards which Mr. Anson has given £200 and the land, and also land for a church yard, and the Rev. G. Anson has contributed the munificent sum of £2000. In aid of these sums a grant of £500 has been made by the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society. The site selected for the church is a few yards to the east of the present chapel, which stands, as many of our readers may be aware, about a quarter of a mile on the left of the Withington road near to Brighton grove. The church will be in the early English style of architecture, that which prevailed about the middle of the thirteenth century. The

principal characteristics will be strength and solidity, with little of ornament; showing what may be done with very limited means, by paying due attention to masses and proportions,—upon which the architect, Mr. Derick, of Oxford, chiefly depends for success. The church will consist of a nave, aisles, and chancel, with a chapel on the north to contain the organ; a square tower, surmounted by an octagonal spire, will rise at the western extremity of the south aisle; the extreme height of the spire from the ground will be 128 feet, the height of the nave to the ridge 50 feet, and the elevation of the clerestory about 12 or 13 feet. The chancel will contain sedilia, and there will be a priest's entrance from the south. The pulpit, situate at the junction of the chancel with the nave, will be approached by a turret in the wall. Over the western entrance provision will be made for a gallery, to which access will be given by stairs in the tower. The whole of the roof will be of open timber to the ridge, without tie beams; it will spring from the walls at the angle formed by the sides of equilateral triangles, 60° , so as to diminish the lateral pressure. At the west end will be a large double window, surmounted by a quatrefoil, similar to the one in Stone Church, Kent. The east end will consist of a large triplet, with detached shafts inside, the tympanum filled in with a rose window of twelve divisions, and double windows will alternate with the buttresses on each side. The internal arrangements will be in keeping with the style of architecture chosen for the church. It will accommodate 700 persons, and 400 of the sittings will be free. It is expected to be completed in July next year; and the

estimated cost, exclusive of the spire, is £3500. The contractors for the building are Messrs. Hollins and Bramall, of Sheffield.

The first stone of the edifice was laid on Tuesday afternoon last, in the presence of a vast concourse of persons, including nearly the whole of the inhabitants of the district, and a great number of clergymen from Manchester and the neighbourhood, most of whom attended in their canonicals. Amongst them we observed: The Ven. the Archdeacon of Manchester; the Rev. Canon Wray, the sub-dean; the Rev. Canon Parkinson; the Rev. George Dugard, the present incumbent of Birch; the Rev. George Anson, the future incumbent; the Rev. W. Marsden, vicar of Eccles; the Rev. Thos. Todd, incumbent of Holy Trinity; the Rev. W. Hutchinson, incumbent of Newton Heath; the Rev. N. Germon, curate of St. Peter's; the Rev. W. F. H. Hooper, incumbent of St. Paul's, Withington; the Rev. T. Corser, incumbent of Stand; the Rev. Jos. Taylor, St. Thomas's, Stockport; the Rev. Dr. Warren, incumbent of All Souls; the Rev. W. Whitelegg, incumbent of St. George's, Hulme; the Rev. Richard Bassnett, incumbent of Gorton; the Rev. Hart Ethelston, incumbent of St. Mark's, Cheadle Hill; the Rev. Mr. Ludlow, of Cheadle; the Rev. G. Harter; the Rev. Mr. Willock, of Ware; the Rev. Mr. Whittaker; Messrs. R. Ogden, Edward Brooke, T. Crompton, J. Marsland, W. J. Tate, H. H. Grounds, W. Vernon, W. Robinson, T. Lucas, Elias Chadwick, Joseph St. John Yates, G. E. Marsden, George Lyon, G. Peel; Lieut. Archibald E. H. Anson, Royal Artillery; &c.

The stone was laid, as is customary, under the altar; the dimensions of the stone were as follows: six feet six inches long by five feet wide, and about two feet in thickness, and its weight was between three and four tons. Opposite the east end was erected a platform for the accommodation of ladies, of whom a great number were present. The children belonging to the Birch Day and Sunday Schools arrived on the ground shortly before two o'clock, and were drawn up in line, under their teachers, on the north side of the ground. They were followed by the churchwardens, clergy and gentry in procession, who took up their station on the north and east sides. A large clear space was preserved around the stone, and, by the excellent arrangements which were made, all crowding and confusion were prevented.

The proceedings commenced by singing the old version of the 100th Psalm. Prayers appropriate to the occasion were then said by the Rev. G. Dugard. A silver trowel had been prepared for presentation to Mr. Anson, by whom the stone was laid: and the duty of presenting it devolved on the Rev. CANON PARKINSON, who, addressing Mr. Anson, said:

"Sir, I could have wished that the task now imposed upon me had been placed in other hands than my own; not, I am sure you will believe me, from any unwillingness to take part in the ceremony about to be performed, but from the circumstance that these ceremonies are now happily so frequent, that, though I have not certainly lost my interest in them, still every one might almost expect that such transactions do pall upon the imagination, and that in other hands than

mine this duty might have been better discharged. At the same time, having been called upon by friends whose wish I always respect to perform this office, I do it with great pleasure, and I may say with great gratitude. If we are to judge, sir, of the vitality of the Church of England by the number of shoots it is now putting forth, I think we have every reason to congratulate ourselves on the prospect that is extended before us; for not only is the vine of the church putting out new shoots, but the old stem itself is throwing out new branches. Only the other day, and at no great distance from this place, many of us who are now present were engaged in a similar ceremony, in laying the foundation-stone of a church at Longsight. Now we are assembled beneath the shadow of this ancient chapel, to assist you, and to congratulate you, sir, in laying the foundation stone of one better adapted to the exigencies of this locality, and more worthy, if I may use the expression, of the glory and honour of His Name to whom you are about to build it. I cannot commit you to the task you are about to perform without alluding, for the information of those here present, to the peculiar circumstances under which we are assembled. Every church has its own history, and this is one which I am sure will be gratifying to every hearer. The circumstance is recorded within the walls of the church, that when this property came into the possession of your ancestors, one of the first acts connected with this estate was to rebuild the church. (Hear, hear.) And it must be to yourself a circumstance of great gratitude, as well as satisfaction, that you are now instrumental, after the lapse of a century,

in rebuilding it once more, for the accommodation of this vastly increasing population. (Applause.) In addition to this circumstance I am bound to mention another, though I know it may be painful to the future incumbent of this living, who is now present, and who, I am sure, would wish to "do good by stealth," and would "blush to find it fame;" yet, after all, we are bound to let the world see our good works, that so they may glorify, not ourselves, but our Father Which is in heaven. It ought therefore to be known that of the sum of money contributed towards the erection of this church, £2000 is contributed by the Rev. George Anson, the future incumbent. (Loud applause.) Whatever, therefore, may be thought with regard to the younger clergy, as to the mode in which they discharge their duties, (and of course, amongst the younger, as well as the elder, there may be indiscretions,) yet, with regard to a transaction like this, I must say for myself, and I think my elder brethren will feel it too, that here we have an admirable example, which we should do well if all who can afford it would make haste to follow. (Applause.) You, sir, I believe, are a contributor of £200 towards this undertaking, as well as of the land for the church yard; and I must add that there can be no selfish motive mixed up with this transaction; it is not, as we have sometimes seen in instances, where an offering is made to God with the right hand, and a pecuniary return is expected with the left; for here I am proud to state that the number of sittings to be let in the new church will be actually fewer than the number of sittings which have been let in the old. The number of sittings, I believe, will

be 700, of which 400 will be devoted to the use of the poor. (Applause.) Under these circumstances the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society had great pleasure and great gratification in contributing their mite; £500 towards the cost of this erection has been contributed by that society. The rest is raised, or I am sure soon will be raised, by the inhabitants of the neighbourhood. I have mentioned these circumstances because they ought to be known; not, I am sure you will believe me, because I think that for a moment you look for or require that praise which is of men; you look for a higher reward; but I have mentioned these circumstances in order not only that they may be known, but that your example may be generally followed. And now, sir, I commit you to your task; and may the blessing of God be upon your undertaking, and upon all those who contribute towards carrying it into effect." (Applause.)

Mr. Parkinson then presented the trowel, which was accepted by Mr. Anson.

The stone being fixed, Mr. Anson applied the trowel to the mortar, and went through the accustomed formalities; and kneeling down upon the stone, he struck it with the mallet three times, pronouncing with an audible voice the following words:

"Thus do I lay the foundation stone of St. James's Church, at Birch, In the name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST."

A square cavity was formed in the upper surface of the stone, in which coins of the present reign were deposited. These were covered by a zinc plate, over which was placed a small stone, fitting into the cavity,

which was soldered down, and another large stone was then placed over the whole. The zinc plate bore an inscription commemorative of the date when the church was founded.

The Rev. GEORGE ANSON then, standing upon the stone, spoke as follows:

"My Christian friends, this stone is now laid, and it is my happy privilege to be allowed to address a few words to you on this interesting occasion, the importance of which it is impossible to over-rate. Every one must be interested in a work which is undertaken for the glory of God and for the good of our fellow creatures; and this work has no other object, it has no other claim, it could have no higher claim, upon your regard and sympathies than this. This stone is now laid; but let us not think merely of the stone; we are not assembled merely to see a stone placed in a certain position in the ground; but we are led to think of what that stone is intended for. We are led to look forward to that temple which is to rise, as it were, from that stone; and we are led to look still further, to that temple which is in heaven, for which we hope souls will be prepared by the temple that is on earth. I say this is a temple to be built to the glory of God. We see around us buildings rising to man; and shall it be that man shall build to man, and shall he not build to God? Can there be anything so high, so glorious as the privilege of giving even the least in the world to the great cause which is so dear to every heart? Indeed we have now a great fight before us; the struggle becomes very strong; and we must do all we can to

maintain that great cause, the glory of God. Indeed we may say,

'Is this a time to plant and build,
Add house to house, and field to field;
When round our walls the battle lowers,
When mines are hid beneath our towers,
And watchful foes are stealing round,
To search and spoil the holy ground?'

Is this a time

'For fancy with her shadowy toys,
Aerial hopes and pensive joys;
When souls are wandering far and wide,
And curses swarm on every side?'

A real work must now be undertaken; this is but the commencement of that work which we hope will be found to be still more real. And we must not keep our thoughts fixed down to this earth; but let us look from this stone to that Real Stone Which is laid in Zion, and on Which whosoever believeth shall not be offended. That is the Corner Stone; that is the Head Stone; that is the Stone Which is to unite us together as Christians. It is on that principle that this work has been undertaken,—that we must realize that brotherhood which we ought to form on earth,—that we may really feel and believe that we are fellow citizens of the saints; it is that we may altogether have a share of that blessed promise and hope which is held out to us in the gospel. And let us each remember too that, whilst there is an outward temple, in which we are all to unite together in the worship

* *The Christian Year*—Eleventh Sunday after Trinity.

of God, each individual is a temple in himself; and as we hope that this temple will be built in fair and good proportions, showing all the excellencies that art can bring, so in like manner the temples of our bodies must be purified and sanctified, in order that they may be fitted for that house which is not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. My Christian friends, I have not more to say. It is to me a subject of most heartfelt congratulation, and most sincere thankfulness to ALMIGHTY GOD, that He has allowed me this great privilege of standing here and addressing you, and of seeing this stone laid; it has given me the hope that, if His blessing be continued, this building will be raised a fair fabric to His worship, and that the souls for whom we are endeavouring to do our utmost, will be blessed through these means, and the means which He has vouchsafed to us to use for Him. I will add one thing more. The service is not yet over; may I ask you, then, to join most fervently in the prayers that are yet to be offered up to the throne of God. We stand in great need of His assistance; and, indeed, it is only the reliance of firm faith upon the assistance which He gives us that would enable us to do anything at all, or to stand one moment against the coldness and the battling of the world. I would, then, conclude by simply exhorting you earnestly to join, now and hereafter, in prayer that the church which is now promised by the laying of this stone, may rise up, and that in it numbers may assemble continually with one accord, with one heart, with one mind, and with one soul, realising the brotherhood of Christians, and that they may there be

prepared for that immortal temple which is far above us, but which we see by the eye of faith."

The anthem, "LORD of heaven and earth and ocean," was then sung. The Rev. G. Dugard again offered up prayer, and the ceremony concluded with the national anthem.

The committee and their friends, including most of the clergy present, then adjourned to the school-room, where a handsome luncheon was provided by the committee, to which nearly one hundred persons sat down. J. W. H. Anson, Esq., presided. Grace was said by the Rev. G. Dugard. After the luncheon,

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The QUEEN," said that all would anticipate the toast, and he knew that all would gladly respond to it with loyalty and enthusiasm. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said the second toast was "The healths of the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese;" to himself, personally, it was a subject of congratulation that the happy event that had brought them together this day had been the means of introducing him to many of the latter, whose acquaintance he was proud to make, and whose healths he had individually great pleasure in drinking.

The Venerable the ARCHDEACON OF MANCHESTER returned thanks for the manner in which the toast had been received, and expressed himself as highly gratified with the proceedings of the day — proceedings which to him were peculiarly and especially gratifying, as he felt the liveliest interest in the erection of churches; and he could not refrain from wishing every success to the good work in which they had

been engaged, and prayed that God's blessing might rest upon it; and, with the permission of the Chairman, he would propose —

“Prosperity to the structure, the first stone of which has now been laid.”

The Rev. G. DUGARD, in acknowledging the toast, said : — “I avail myself of this opportunity to say a few words with reference to the toast which has just been given. Although allusion has already been made to the circumstances which have led to the good work in which we have this day been engaged, it may be satisfactory to offer a few more remarks upon the subject, in order that every one now present may be made acquainted with the plain facts of the case, which indeed well deserve a better and more permanent record than any I can pretend to give; however, I feel it to be my duty, as the present incumbent, to make this statement. I must, therefore, request your patience a few seconds; I will endeavour not to be too tedious, and will use as little circumlocution as possible, confining myself to a bare recital of the circumstances which originated the work in which we have this day been assisting.

“It is pretty well known, I believe, that the position which I hold in this place as the spiritual person of the district, I hold only for a limited time, and that at no very distant period I shall make way for another, who for a long period, even from his youth upwards, has been looking forward to it. At the time I was appointed to the curacy, which was early in the year 1841, the population of the district amounted to nearly 2000, and has been since then rapidly increasing.

About three-fourths of this population consist of the labouring poor; for whom and for whose children there were no schools — there was no church; for the only church accommodation within the district is at Birch, which is at present merely a private chapel, with not a single legal free sitting, and which, therefore, offers no benefit to the poor. New and spacious schools have recently been erected, in which there are now in the course of education, both daily and on Sundays, nearly three hundred children. These children, on Sundays, cannot all be taken to church, on account of the want of room in the chapel, — those who *are* taken being obliged to sit in the aisle and other places in great discomfort to themselves, and much to the inconvenience of the adult worshippers.

“I should state, that it was by the special appointment of the Bishop of the diocese and the Rectors of the parish, that the district which comprehends the whole of the township of Rusholme and a part of Moss Side was recently attached to Birch chapel; and, therefore, the incumbent of Birch is responsible for the spiritual care of all those comprehended within these limits; and it is, moreover, the special desire of the Bishop — a desire which his Lordship himself expressly stated to me a few months ago, when I consulted him on the propriety of rebuilding Birch chapel — that a population of 2000 souls should always be attached to Birch, and that he should not consent to any division of the district which would tend to diminish that number. His Lordship thought that for this number of souls church room ought to be provided for one-third, or about 700, and at least half of the space

should be free; while at present we have room for only 350, and none free.

"Under these circumstances, the individual to whom I have alluded, and who is to succeed me, felt that his ministry here would necessarily be much let and hindered, if he could not offer accommodation in the church for the poorer classes of the district; and, although I believe by no means rich, he resolved to set apart from his own private and limited patrimony, the sum of £2000 for this sole purpose—I say *for this sole purpose of providing sufficient accommodation for the poor of the district for ever*. The chapel, as I have said, has hitherto been strictly a private chapel; by the present arrangement it will be thrown open; but the income arising from the rental of pews will not be increased one farthing—I doubt whether it will quite reach its present amount. The patron gives a new site and a handsome donation besides; the Church Building Society gives £500, on the condition of there being 400 free sittings for the poor for ever; and we have undertaken to raise £1000 in the neighbourhood. But the sole originating cause was the sum so generously and freely given by the future incumbent;—given, as I have said, not to improve his future income, given, not expecting or wishing any pecuniary return—but *given to God*, in the prayerful hope that by His blessing upon the willing effort it may be instrumental in preserving within the fold of CHRIST those who shall be brought to Him in Holy Baptism.

"Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall abstain from any expression of praise;—it is unnecessary, as I am sure it would be most unacceptable to the feelings of the

amiable and excellent person of whose acts I am now speaking, for me to say one word by way of amplification or eulogy. I would rather, if he will allow me, congratulate him on the auspicious commencement of his career as a vowed servant and minister of God, in that ALMIGHTY GOD has been pleased to put it into his heart to build a house to the honour of His Name, and that He has inclined him in his youth to dedicate his worldly goods to the service of his heavenly Master. But although I feel that it would be out of place to bestow injudicious because *unwelcome* praise, at the same time I am sure this company would scarcely excuse me if I did not afford them an opportunity of expressing their good wishes, their cordial congratulations, and their sincere prayers for his continued health and happiness. I will, therefore, if you please, without further comment or preface, propose the health of the Rev. George Henry Greville Anson." (Loud applause.)

The Rev. G. ANSON immediately rose and said:—"My Christian friends; I am very sensible of your kindness, both of him who has done me the honor of proposing my health, and of those who have so kindly expressed their approbation. I cannot be slow to respond, for I am very glad to have the opportunity of speaking to you more freely and particularly on that which has been the subject of our especial consideration and prayers this day, and has so long engaged my deepest thoughts and most earnest solicitude. We have just been witnessing a most interesting ceremony. The laying of the first stone of a church is not a common thing—rather, I would say, happily at this

time and in this neighbourhood it is a common thing—but I mean it is not a commonplace thing—it is not a worldly thing. My kind friend Mr. Dugard has very clearly and simply laid before you the reasons for undertaking this work, namely the actual want, which it was felt a duty as far as possible to supply. I thank him for the very kind, calm, and considerate manner in which he has done so. He has left me but little to say; but I feel a great joy in being able now, in the presence of you all, to maintain and assert that principle which I believe, yet most humbly, to have been the moving power from the first—that principle which I know will strike to the heart of every one of you assembled here, and will find an echo there—the principle of charity—the principle of love; love to our good God, to Whom we owe every thing we have; love to our fellow creatures, heirs of the same promise, the same hope, the same kingdom with ourselves. The principle of love;—*there* is something for one's soul to grasp, something to raise us from this cold earth, and fill our heavenward yearnings; *there* is the fountain of everything high, and noble, and pure, and holy; and as it is the spring of every good work, so it cheers and sustains under every trial, and never fails to bring peace and comfort, let the world around be as hard and faithless as it will. Sure I am that they who walk along that way, find their path at every step easier and brighter, and will learn more and more the exceeding blessedness of the labour of love.

“This is no time for compliments, yet I cannot refrain from expressing my most sincere thanks to those who have so cordially assisted in the work, and

my thankfulness that I found so many,—I do not mean that I found, as if I had any thing to do with it, but I would express my joy that there were so many ready, I may say anxious, to receive and take a part in a work of so great benefit—hearts that welcomed the means which enabled them to give some real tokens of their love.

“My friends, I have spoken to you before, and do not wish to press myself upon your attention; but before I sit down I would again ask you for your assistance. There is one way in which all may assist, in which I am sure many will—by your prayers. We cannot tell how great efficacy our prayers may have—neglect them, and how can we hope for any blessing? I am very much obliged to you.” (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN:—“Ladies and Gentlemen, I have to propose to you for our next toast, ‘The Dean and Canons, as Rectors of the Parish;’ and most happy I am sure we all feel at seeing two of their number amongst us on this joyful occasion.”

The Rev. CANON WRAY said he was much obliged by the honour done to the dean and canons. It was always very gratifying to be present on occasions like these, and certainly on no similar occasion had he derived greater satisfaction. He had been much pleased with every thing that he had witnessed that day; the church, the first stone of which had just been laid, bid fair to be a beautiful structure, and would match well with the spacious school room in which they were then assembled, which, in respect of ventilation, and in other points, was certainly one of the best he had seen in the parish; and he was most agreeably

surprised to find a room so well adapted to the use to which it was put, and he wished every success both to the church and schools. He begged to propose a toast; it was one which he felt much pleasure in proposing, and was sure it would be well received by the present company—it was the health of their Chairman, John William Hamilton Anson, Esq., the Patron of the church. (Applause.)

The Rev. CANON PARKINSON begged also to add his thanks for the kind feeling which had been just shown towards the body to which he belonged, and at the same time to offer some apology, which he felt to be due to the chairman and his brother, for the language which he had felt it necessary to adopt in performing the gratifying task which had that morning been entrusted to him. It was painful to speak, in the presence of right-minded and sincere persons, even the language of truth, while it necessarily involved the praise of good men in their presence; and so highly did he appreciate the motives of these brothers, in their liberality towards this church, that he believed nothing could be more painful to their feelings than to hear that liberality duly mentioned. The reward to which they looked was not of earth. Still it was due to the cause in which they were assembled, that such acts should not pass unnoticed; and with that feeling he had been induced reluctantly to notice them. What he now observed to be going on in the Church convinced him more and more that in carrying on her good work they must look not so much to public as to private and individual liberality. Joint-stock companies for the purposes of charity might be very useful

in their sphere, and such they had been often found to be; but all really great and liberal acts had been done not by public bodies but by benevolent individuals. Look at that great foundation of which he was an unworthy partaker—the great ecclesiastical establishment of Lord De la Warre. Look at the Grammar School founded by Bishop Oldham—the Hulmean exhibitions, Mrs. Hall's Charities, Henshaw's Blind Asylum, and the successive liberal acts of the house of Byrom and Atherton. (Much applause.) All these, and they are the great foundations of the town, were effected not by public efforts, but the free spontaneous acts of private individuals. Why do not the rich men of the present day more extensively follow these noble examples? Why will they ask their neighbours for their paltry ten or twenty pounds, when they "have it by them?" One would expect that when a successful merchant or speculator has made his ten or twenty thousand pounds during the past year, he might resolve, by way of variety in luxury, to try the to him no very expensive pleasure of building a church. He trusted this day was not far distant. Men were beginning to view wealth in its true light, as a means, rather than an end; and, so viewing it, he hoped they would soon trust more to themselves and less to others, in doing acts of charity and liberality. (Applause.)

The CHAIRMAN said:—"In rising to return you, sir, my very best thanks for the kindness with which you have addressed me, and you all, ladies and gentlemen, for the honour you have done me in drinking my health, I must endeavour to express to you the

very great pleasure the proceedings of this day have given me, and how delighted I am to have had it in my power to take the part in them the committee so flatteringly requested me to perform; I hope that all here present to-day may be re-assembled at the consecration, some months hence, and that the hopes we now entertain of its progress and completion may be happily realized. (Applause.)

"Before I sit down I will give you another toast, although I am afraid that in doing so I shall be treading upon delicate ground; but, ladies and gentlemen, notwithstanding what you have just heard from Mr. Canon Parkinson, I hope that you will agree with me in the toast which I have now to propose. I feel it to be worthy of a far more eloquent eulogist than I am, and I only regret that its claims upon your attention are brought forward by a comparative stranger to the neighbourhood like myself; you, however, all know and appreciate the excellent management and judicious application of the funds of the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society, to which we are indebted for a liberal grant in the erection of our church, and will, I am sure, gladly unite with me in drinking to its continued prosperity and success."

The Rev. G. DUGARD, as one of the secretaries of the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society, felt it to be his duty to acknowledge the kindness of the company in wishing success and prosperity to the society's efforts; and although he subscribed entirely to Mr. Canon Parkinson's remarks respecting the free and spontaneous liberality of individuals, and its superiority over the acts of public bodies, still he could

not but think that even "societies" were not without their good points, and the Manchester and Eccles Church Building Society, in particular, he was sure had done good service in stimulating private liberality, and setting an example which he was happy in saying had not been without its effect. He had been connected with the society from its commencement, and he could speak from his own experience that the public feeling in respect of church building has very much improved within the last ten years, and he was well persuaded that the society had been mainly instrumental in exciting this improvement.

After a few words of explanation from the Rev. Canon Parkinson,

The CHAIRMAN proposed "The health of the Incumbent and of the Building Committee, and success to their labours," which was acknowledged by the incumbent on behalf of himself and fellow labourers, to whose kindness and ready assistance on all occasions he felt himself much indebted.

The CHAIRMAN then proposed "The health of the architect, Mr. Derick," to whose highly cultivated talents they were indebted for the designs and drawings of the new church.

The health of "The Ladies who, always forward in acts of charity and benevolence, have graced with their presence our happy meeting of to-day," was then proposed and received with acclamations. It was replied to by the Rev. J. Wilson, B. D., of the Grammar School, after which the company broke up, agreeably impressed and highly edified with the whole proceedings.