

Friday, April 11, 1890.

Laying the Foundation-Stone of the
Chancel of Seago Church

On Friday, 11th April, 1890, the ceremony of laying the Foundation-Stone of the Chancel of Seago Parish Church was performed by the Baroness Van Steglitz, of Carrickblackan. This is an important part of the extensive enlargement and improvement of the Church which is now being carried out by Messrs. Collier Bros., of Portadown, in accordance with the plans of Thomas Drew Esq. R. N. A., Architect. Besides this Chancel (which includes also an Organ-chamber and Vestry), Mr. Drew's plans provide for a South Aisle, which will accommodate 200 persons; a new roof, of great beauty of design, for the Nave; new windows corresponding to the ornate character of the new work; and the conversion of the present Vestry-room into a spacious and handsome Porch. The entire expenditure covered by the contracts is £2,832.

The day was eminently propitious. It was one of the finest of the season, bright and warm. Great interest in the proceedings was felt both by the parishioners and by their neighbors in Portadown and the adjoining parishes. At 3 o'clock P. M., when the service began, about 400 persons were assembled, among whom were the following:—

The Lord Bishop of Down (Dr. Wm. Reeves); the Baroness Van Steglitz and Miss Van Steglitz, Carrickblackan; The Dean of Down (Dr. Theo. Campbell), Mr. Campbell, Dr. Duncan, and Miss Dickenson, Dungan Rectory;

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Rev. A. Dawson, Miss Wade, Mr. W. R. Dawson, the Misses Dawson, League Rectory; Miss E. J. Dawson, Dingemanna; Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald and Mrs. Fitzgerald, Portadown Jubel; Rev. Canon Harding and Mrs. Harding, Gilford Vicarage; Rev. Canon W. D. Ponnicea, Lisburn Rectory; Rev. Canon W. Hayes, Drogheda Rectory; Rev. E. D. Atkinson and Mrs. Atkinson, Donaghcloney Rectory; Rev. J. W. Clarendon and Mrs. Clarendon, Maghera Rectory; Rev. Thos. B. Harpur, Mrs. Harpur, Mrs. Fair, and Miss Harpur, Admon Rectory; Rev. Hen. W. Leth and Mrs. Leth, Affleck Rectory; Rev. Edw. St. J. Corbett and Mrs. Corbett, St. Savin's Parsonage; Rev. Wm. P. Magee, Mrs. Magee, and Miss McKinstry Kilsnoe; Mrs. Oates and the Misses Oates Knocknamully Parsonage; Rev. Messrs. M. G. Austin, J. K. Barthele, W. A. Davis, L. A. Forde, Chas. T. R. Giverson, M. H. James, P. A. Kelly, A. Leitch, W. J. Munnice, D. M. C. McKerron, M. J. Palmer, Robert Quirk, G. A. Stephenson, George Vaughan, George Wade, and Robert White. The Misses Alexander, Acton; Miss Forde, Raughlan; Miss Corlett, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. M. Cracken, the Misses Bredin, Portadown; Miss Atkinson, Eden Villa; Miss Quirk, the Misses Collier, Mrs. Reid, Miss Robinson (Tyle), Miss E. Hart-Gorney, Miss Stanley, Mrs. Wallace, Thomas Drew Esq. R. H. A., St John G. Braddell, Mrs. Braddell and Miss Braddell, Woodbank Gilford; Chas. Johnston Esq. J. P., and Mrs.

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Johnston, J. Buckley & Steinson Esqs., James
 Morris Esq. (District Inspector R. I. C.), John Col-
 lins Esq. J. D., Wm. Callen Esq. C. E., W. Johns Esq.,
 Hugh Anderson, Esq.; Geo. Kinkead Esq.
 and the Misses Kinkead; W. J. Paul Esq.,
 Wentworth Paul Esq. B. L.; J. R. Macann Esq.
 Abraham Macann, Esq.; Rev. W. J. Ma-
 caulay, Dr. Clarke; Mr. Wm. Hall (Chair-
 man of the Putnam Loan Commissioners),
 Messrs. Mrs. Gilpin and David W. Walker,
 Churchwardens; Messrs. Jas. Atkinson, Jas.
 Albin, Geo. Calvert, Jas. Calvert, John
 McIntgomery, Joseph Morris, Wm. Whann,
 Jas. McKenzie, and John Watson, Select
 Vestrymen; Mr. Mrs. A. Wilson and Mrs. Wilson,
 Mr. John Walker and Mrs. Walker; Mr. Watson
 Walker and Mrs. Walker; Messrs. Joseph Collier,
 Thos. J. Collins, C. Courtney, John Gilpin,
 John Geo. Livingston, Jas. Magennis, Robert
 McIntgomery, Capt. W. Reid, Alex. Russell
 David Sherman, John Sinnaman, Chas.
 Wilson, Serjt. Wm. Ewing, R. I. C.

With the sanction of the Bishop a special
 Order of Service had been arranged and printed
 by Rev. A. Dawson, by whom a ^{handwritten} ~~printed~~
 bound copy of the Service book, suitably
 lettered, was presented to the Baroness von
 Steglitz. The trowel presented to her by the In-
 tractor was supplied by the well-known house
 of Messrs W. Gibson & Co. Belfast. It is of solid
 silver, elaborately wrought, with carved ivory

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handle, and is quite a work of art. It has two inscriptions; that on the front is as follows:-
 "Presented to the Baroness von Stieglitz, formerly Bleeker, on her laying the Foundation-stone of the Church of League Church, April 11th 1890; by Messrs. Collier Bros. Contractors, Putnam." On the reverse is inscribed:- "This Church is built in loving memory of Stewart Bleeker, D.D. & S.P., formerly Bleeker."

About half-past 2 o'clock the Bishop and Clergy began to assemble in the Parochial School-house, where they robed, and whence they went in procession to the site. When the procession was within the Church-gate, the 84th Psalm ("O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of Hosts."), was repeated by the Bishop and Clergy ~~respectively~~ responsively. Inside the Church, Hymn 42 ("We love Thy Kingdom, Lord") was given out by Rev. R. Quirk, Curate, and sung by the Choir and congregation. The first part of the Special Service was then said by Rev. A. Dawson, Rector. Then was sung Hymn 418 ("This stone in faith, to Thee we lay").

Rev. A. Dawson then mentioned that the glass jar, which would be placed beneath the foundation-stone, contained the following papers:-

1. Placard concerning meeting of Parishioners to promote the proposed enlargement of the Church, July 24, 1889.

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2. Handbill announcing same.
3. History of the parish, creed & statement of the proposed enlargement and improvement of the Church.
4. First list of subscribers, July 25, 1889.
5. Second list of subscribers, Nov. 25, 1889.
6. Handbill announcing the proposed laying of the foundation-stone.
7. Form of Service used on the occasion.
8. Copy of the Port a Down and Turgarr News, of Saturday April 5, 1890, containing an article on the History of Seagoe Church, and the details of the enlargement of the same.
9. Document expressed on parchment recording the laying of the foundation-stone of the Church. This is as follows:-

"This Document records, that on Friday, April 11, 1890, the foundation-stone of the Church of Seagoe Parish Church, which is now being enlarged, was laid by the Baroness von Stieglitz, of Carrickblacker; at whose sole charge the Church is being built, in loving memory of her brother, the late Stewart Blackett, D.D. and J.P., of Carrickblacker; by whose munificence and pious care the Endowment Fund of the Parish was formed in 1876, in addition to many other parochial benefactions.

"We Praise Thee, O God."

"The Right Reverend William Reeves, D.D.
Bishop of Down and Connor and Dromore.

"Rev. Abraham Dawson, A.M., Rector of Seagoe

"Rev. Robert Curran, A.B., Curate

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- "Thomas Gilpin, of Blamolla, Clerkenwarden,
- "David Wm. Walker, of Tower Seaport, do
- "John Buckley Atkinson, Treasurer of
Seaport Church Educational Fund
- "Thomas Drew, R.H.A., Dublin, Architect.
- "Colleen Bros., Portadown, Contractors."

The Rev. A. Dawson, on behalf of the parishioners and subscribers, then asked the Baroness von Stieglitz to lay the foundation stone. Mr. John Colleen, the senior member of the firm of Contractors, presented her with the silver trowel for the ceremony.

The Rev. A. Dawson deposited the glass jar containing the documents & papers above specified, in the cavity made for it in the concrete course, at the North-east corner of the Chancel, adjoining the baptistery. The bed of the stone to be laid above it was then prepared and the stone - a block of red Dumfriesshire sandstone 2.6 square 9' - was lowered to its place, and squared and levelled by Mr. Drew, assisted by the Messrs. Colleen. Mr. Drew having certified to the Baroness von Stieglitz that the stone was well and truly laid, she then, touching the stone, repeated with deep emotion, the appointed form: -

"To the glory of God, and in loving memory of Stewart Blacker, we place this foundation stone; in the faith of Jesus Christ, and in the Name of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost. Amen"

Leaving The Foundation Stone.

The Lord Bishop addressed the assembly. Hymn 419 ("Christ is our Corner Stone") was sung, and the concluding part of the Service was said by Rev. A. Dawson. The Benediction was pronounced by the Lord Bishop.

The musical portion of the Service was conducted, with great ability, by Mr. Char. Wilson, of Downpatrick (the organ, assisted by Mrs. Hen. Wilson, and the parochial choir).

The flags of G. O. G. Nos. 26, and 41 (Barrickblades), in the charge of their respective Masters, Messrs. Richard Atkinson and John Montgomery, graced the scene, and gave a fitting tribute of respect to the memory of one of the most honoured Chiefs and devoted friends of the Orange Institution.

Besides this Chancel (which includes also an Organ Chamber and Vestry), Mr. Drew's plans provide for a South Aisle, which will accommodate 200 persons; a new roof for the Nave; new Windows, corresponding to the orate character of the new work; and the conversion of the present Vestry-room into a spacious and handsome Porch.

Mr. Drew has supplied the following notes on the general character of the alterations & additions:-

The first care in the improved Church has been to provide a worthy Chancel. It has been devised by extending its Eastern wall as far as the Churchyard boundary would permit, and by taking some length from the Nave. The plans