

The Dedication of  
The Blacker Memorial Offering of  
in Seago Church,  
Friday, March 6, 1896.

An interesting service was held on Friday  
Afternoon, March 6, 1896, on the occasion  
of the Dedication of the Blacker Memorial  
Offerings, which consist of a stained-glass  
East Window, and a Memorial Brass.

At p. 359, <sup>in 1891</sup> on the occasion of the Re-opening  
of the Church, it was stated that, in addition  
to her other gifts and offerings, the Baroness  
von Stieglitz contemplated filling in the  
East Window with stained glass in me-  
mory of her relatives. This has now been ful-  
filled by her presentation of this Window  
in memory of her brother the late Major  
Stewart Blacker D. L. The subject is the  
Ascension of our Lord. It is a fine work of  
art and has been executed by Messrs. Heaton,  
Butter, & Bayne (14 Garrick Street, Covent Garden,  
London), under the instructions of Mr. Thomas  
R. A. A. - architect of the Church - at a cost of  
£300. It fills the five lights of the Window  
and has been thus described - "Our Blessed  
Lord, rising towards the glory which streams  
from above, occupies the centre; below, in the  
distance are the roof-tops of the city of Jerusalem.  
In the foreground are the Eleven in various pos-  
tures of devout wonder, gazing up into  
heaven. While in the tracery of the beautiful  
perpendicular stone-work, are angels and  
stars above the cloud, the apex being occupied  
by



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by a Crown, presumably that of glory. The colouring is delicate and subdued, and the drawing most life-like? (Irish Eccl. Gazette, March 13, 1896). The inscription across the base of the window, burned in the glass, is: -  
 - To the glory of God: In loving Memory of Stewart Blacker, D.D.; J.P.; Barrister at Law: Died Dec. 16, 1881. By his Sister, Hester Anna, Baroness von Steglitz: 1896.<sup>3</sup>

The Memorial Brass is presented by the Parishioners of Seago in record of the Benefactions of the Blacker Family, for 240 years, to the Church and Parish of Seago. Referring to the Vestry Minutes on p. 141, above, it is recorded that at a meeting of the Vestry on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1876, it was unanimously agreed that the Select Vestry should have a Brass Plate erected in the Church to record the liberal act of Major Blacker, who originated a plan which secured in perpetuity a sum of £365.10.4 as the commencement of a Parochial Re-wardment Fund - he himself contributing thereto the sum of £1000, and advancing a further sum of £1,600 to the Vestry as a loan. No further action in carrying out this Resolution is recorded. At a special meeting of the Select Vestry, held 1<sup>st</sup> October, 1895, after examining and approving the Design of the East Window which the Baroness von Steglitz proposed presenting to the Church, it was unanimously agreed that this was a fitting occasion to  
 carry



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carry out the proposition of the Vestry of 1876, <sup>at the expense of the parishioners of St. George's</sup> by now erecting an emblematical Torap, which should record the Benefactions of the Blacker family as well before as since the special act of Major Blacker in originating the Parochial Re-endowment Fund. At the same time the Dean of Down (Cheismen) submitted to the meeting a copy of the inscription which he had drawn up for engraving on the Torap, and which had been carefully revised by Mr. Drew, in accordance with the ancient form and use of such inscriptions.

By the advice of Mr. Drew - who furnished the design - the execution was entrusted to Messrs. J. W. Singer & Sons, Art Metal Workers, of Frome, Somersetshire. It has been placed on the North side of the Chancel. Its dimensions are 43" x 19". On the Dexter side are engraved the Blacker Arms - Crest, Shield, and Motto - and alongside the inscription as given on p. 381 above, the year "1896" being ~~twice~~ substituted for 1895, to mark the actual date.

The day of the Dedication was cold and stormy, frequent squalls of rain succeeding each other. The severity of the weather considerably abated in the afternoon, and though the wind was still high the sun shone out at the time of service, 3 o'clock, and the church was filled with a congregation of about 500. Among those present were - The Bishop of Down & Connor & Down (Dr. Mrs. Geo. Welland); the Baroness von Stieglitz, Miss von Stieglitz, and Miss Belcher, Carrickblacket



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Carnideblacker; Rev. Canon R. S. L. Blacker,  
 Woodbrook, Camisorty; Mrs. Reeve and  
 Miss Reeves, Monkstown, Dublin; Mrs. Johnston,  
 Kilmac House, Richhill; Mrs. Grew, Wood-  
 ville, Turgan; Miss Forde and Miss Rankin,  
 Raughlan, Turgan; Mrs. Brooke & Miss  
 Brooke, Drumna breege, Turgan; The Dean  
 of Dromore, Miss Wade, and the Misses Dawson,  
 Seagoe Rectory; the Archdeacon of Dromore, and  
 Mrs. Harding, Gilford; Rev. Dr. Fitzgerald and  
 Miss Fitzgerald, The Glebe, Portadown; Rev. Dr.  
 O'Donoghlin and Mrs. O'Donoghlin, The Rectory,  
 Turgan; Rev. Dr. James, Tartaraghan Rectory,  
 Longgull; Rev. Canon Wade, and Mrs. Wade,  
 Magherally Rectory; Rev. Canon Hayes, Dromore;  
 Rev. H. W. Leth, and the Misses Leth, Aghaderg Rec-  
 tory; Rev. Thomas B. Harpur, Mrs. Harpur, and  
 the Misses Harpur, Ardmore Rectory; Rev. E. D.  
 Atkinson, The Rectory, Waringstown; Rev. Wm.  
 McEudoos, Mrs. McEudoos, and Mr. C. Croker,  
 Ballymore Rectory, Tantrage; Rev. F. W. Austin,  
 Mrs. Austin, Drumman Rectory; Rev. W. L. Barber, and  
 Mrs. Barber, Kildorney Vicarage; Rev. W. J. Coburn,  
 Drumgoatland; Rev. R. B. Cooke, Dromaghy Rectory;  
 Rev. M. Foley, Dromane Rectory; Rev. Joseph A.  
 Stewart, Pond Park, Lisburn; Rev. R. R. Thacker,  
 St. Saviour's Parsonage, Portadown; Rev. F. J. Naha-  
 han, Mullaghglap Rectory; Rev. P. A. Kelly, Scawn  
 Rectory; Rev. Thos. R. Scallan, Sunacloe Rec-  
 tory; Revs. Robert Quirk, D.D.; J. B. Teolis, A. F. B.  
 Tunstall, John C. Oates, J. Parry (Magheralin),  
 F. Medcalf, and E. F. Allworthy. Rev. W. J.  
 Macanney



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Macaulay, and Mrs. Macaulay, Thullhouse, Edenderry; Mr. Richmond Pepper, Ballygowan, Portadown; Mr. J. Buckley Atkinson, Mrs. Sloan, and Miss Violet Wilson, Portadown; Mr. Maxwell Braddell and Mrs. Braddell, Woodburn, Gilford; Miss Atkinson, Windsor Terrace, Edenderry; the Misses Kirkcaldy, Portadown; Mrs. Elias Johnston, J. P., and Mrs. Johnston, Portadown; Miss Johnston, Turragh; Mr. John Collier, J. P., Mr. Joseph Collier and Mrs. Collier; Messrs. W. E. Hadden, M. D.; Geo. Dungan, M. D.; J. P. and Mrs. Dungan; Mrs. J. D. Atkinson, Mr. Jas. D. Riggs and Mrs. Riggs, Mr. H. Anderson, Mr. J. R. Maccorn, Miss Bigley, Mrs. A. G. Sloan, the Misses Oates, Knocknamachly; Messrs. Wentworth Paul, B. L. James Atkinson, William Brown, George Calvert, James Collins, C. J. Collins, Thos. H. Collins, Thomas Gilpin, John Gilpin, Robert Gray, James Maginnis, Thomas Martin, A. Maccorn, Joseph Murray, Mrs. Montgomery, John Lavery, Geo. Robinson, W. Mrs. Watson, &c.

By permission of the Bishop, (as in the case of the Re. Opening, sub. 344), the Dean of Down compiled a complete Service to be used on the occasion, including the Gloria, Hymns and Anthem, printed and pointed in full. The service began at 3 o'clock, when the Bishop and his Chaplain preceded by about twenty clergymen entered the Church of the North Porch, during the singing of Hymn 347 ("For all Thy Saints Who from their labours rest"). The service was said by the Dean of Down, Rev. Dr. Quirk, and Rev. Jas. B. Leslie. The  
Lepans



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Lepsons were read by the Ven. the Archdeacon of Down and the Rev Canon Blacker. During the service the following Hymns were sung:-

H. 535. "Golden harps are sounding."

H. 537. "See the Conquerors march in triumph;"

H. 569. "Ten thousand times ten thousand:"

The last was sung whilst the Bishop and Clergy were retiring from the choir, the people remaining in their places. The Anthem was taken from Psalm lxxviii, 18 - "Thou art gone up on high." Immediately after the Creed, the Bishop, standing within the rails, near the East Window, with uplifted hand, pronounced the formula of dedication, saying - "We dedicate this Window to the praise ~~of God~~ and glory of God, and in sacred Memory of Stewart Blacker; in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen." This was followed by the Lord's Prayer, and the Prayers of dedication (3).

The Sermon was preached by the Bishop from S. Luke xiv, 2 and 3: - "In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you; and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you into myself, that where I am there ye may be also." In his introductory remarks he made the following touching allusion to the occasion:-

"We have assembled here to-day upon a very



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a very interesting occasion. We have come to take our part in the commemoration of those who are worthy of commemoration, and to take our part in a memorial of them, which is worthy of them. This Church - this parish - is a very ancient one. The history of our Church goes back for centuries. We cannot tell when first the light of the Gospel of Christ dawned in this distant land, but in this particular place one of those Saints whose lives adorn the early history of the Church of Ireland, placed his settlement - no doubt in that adjoining ground where the ruins of the old Church now stand - Saint Gobhan (died A.D. 639), from whose name this parish derives its title. The very name of the land itself which forms the parish is taken from him. It was formerly called The House of Gobhan - Suidhe Goba, and the name in time was transformed into the word Seagoe. So we go back for centuries in thinking that the Church of God was established in this place, and that the Gospel of His grace resounded from hence as a centre. In our land there has been a constant change and vicissitude of War and strife, and confiscation and destruction, and so it is that the ancient spot was over and over again destroyed. Then it was that above two hundred years ago, an ancestor of that ancient and noble family, in



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connection with whose name and actions we have met together to-day, re-erected for the inhabitants of this parish the Church which had been ruined in the Rebellion of 1641. Again, when it was found necessary to build a new church, about eighty years ago, the help of members of this family was also given. More recently still, it was desired that this church should be improved, enlarged, and beautified, and made more worthy in its external appearance of what the house of God should be, and once more their assistance was generously given. Beautiful gifts were given by them and others to equip and adorn the house of God; and now to-day, as we have been dedicating that beautiful East Window, which is a memorial erected by the same loving hand, it is fitting that we should do this with prayer to Almighty God, with reading of His Word, and singing of His praise, because it is done in reference to Him, and for the glory of His holy name. His deeds of this kind that draw men together, and draw heart to heart; and if we remember those who have gone before us, those who have taken part in the history of our country - if we remember them, whose should we remember them more worthily, and more suitably than in God's house. They have offered the same prayers that we have prayed to-day, they have professed the same faith, and their lives have set us an example.

Their



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removal from us must always be a source of sorrow, where does the light of consolation more sweetly break in upon the gloom than in God's holy house, where we have the Divine promises of grace, love, and protection for the present, and a glorious Kingdom which awaits us hereafter. Here we meet in common worship, with the common needs of humanity, seeking the help of our Heavenly Father. Therefore, it appears to me to be in every way a most worthy and fitting act that we should have assembled here to-day in connection with this commemoration.

The service throughout was hearty, bright, and most impressive. Rev. Charles Wilson, organist of Downpatrick Cathedral, presided at the Organ, and the Choir, conducted by Rev. Mrs. Henry Wilson, organist of the Church, rendered the musical portion of the service with precision and feeling.

At the conclusion of the service about ninety guests were received to tea at the Rectory.