

METHODIST LADIES' COLLEGE.

OPENING CEREMONY.

On Saturday afternoon a large and representative assembly witnessed the opening ceremony connected with the Methodist Ladies' College at Malvern. The building is pleasantly situated in the heart of one of Adelaide's prettiest suburbs, and is surrounded by beautiful grounds. It is a two-storeyed structure, contains 30 rooms, and for some years was used as Mr. J. H. Royce's "Malvern College." For many years a Methodist committee has been working to attain the end now accomplished. The late Mr. Charles Drew left over £1,000 for the purpose of erecting a ladies' college, and that amount, with accrued interest, eventually totalled £1,673. The committee, finding that they could secure the Malvern College on lease, decided to start work this year, and the school has been opened accordingly. There is accommodation in the building for 120 scholars and about 50 boarders. The rooms are all lofty and well ventilated, and they are bright and cheerful in appearance. The headmistress is Miss E. G. Edeson, M.A., and to her will be entrusted the entire direction of the girls' studies and the arrangement of the school. The services of such efficient teachers as may be necessary to assist her will be at once procured.

Saturday's gathering was of a pleasant nature. A very large number of people assembled, and heartily welcomed his Excellency the Governor, who drove down from the hills, accompanied by Colonel Makin as hon. aide-de-camp, to perform the opening ceremony. After an inspection of the building had been made, the Rev. J. Cowperthwaite requested his Excellency to perform the ceremony.

His Excellency said — Mr. President, ladies, and gentlemen, I thank you for your kind words, and very much for your cordial greeting to myself. I only wish Lady Tennyson could have been here to-day. I am sorry to say that she is in bed with a very bad headache, and therefore could not possibly come. She wishes me to express her very great disappointment at not being able to be present. It seems to me that among the many great social questions that are prominent in Australia, perhaps

that are prominent in Australia, perhaps the most prominent at the present time is the teaching of religion in schools, the better housing of the working classes, and improvement of their workrooms, and the technical and higher education of women. (Cheers.) I propose to make very few remarks on the last of these subjects. I daresay some of you, perhaps most of you, know there is a poem called "The Princess," which deals with that question, and most of my remarks will be founded on that. I think the sum of the whole matter is that "woman is not undeveloped man, but diverse," and it is upon this principle that the separate colleges throughout the British Empire, including those at Sydney, Melbourne, and Launceston, have been founded, and it is on this principle, I see by the curriculum, that you are going to establish this Methodist Ladies' College at Malvern. (Cheers.) I am glad to see high up in the curriculum that you are going to give scriptural instruction which is to be entirely unsectarian. (Cheers.) I have seen a good deal in the papers lately of deputations concerning the teaching of religion in schools, and I would like to ask one question of the ministers of religion in South Australia, a question I have wanted to ask for a long time. They have opportunity given them by an Act of Parliament to read the Bible out of school hours, and yet they do not take advantage of it. Why is it? I can see only one answer to the question, that they do not understand the Act of Parliament. I can understand this, because Acts of Parliament are very hard to understand. I was not certain about this Act, and the result of the debate in Parliament myself, so I asked the Premier if I was right in supposing that the Bible might be read without exposition out of school hours. He informed me that it might. I do not know why it is not done. This is a long digression. To come back to the subject. I understand that in February you were offered the lease of this building. I congratulate you upon having secured very suitable premises, and also upon having obtained the services as head mistress Miss Edeson, whose credentials and brilliant scholarship are well known. (Cheers.) I am glad to see that this syllabus of work is a very wide one, which will fit women for the very wide field of work which lies before them at this epoch of our history. I will not trouble to read the curriculum, but it includes music, singing, painting, cooking, and needlework, and I am sure many parents will take the opportunity to send their girls here. It seems to me that a girl above all things should cultivate

...and their girls here. It seems to me that a girl above all things should cultivate imagination in the highest phases, her understanding perhaps even more than her memory, her inborn spirituality, and her sympathy with all that is great, beautiful, noble, and true. (Cheers.) By this and this only I believe will she further the true progress of humanity. Then and then alone will men continue to honor her with that old-fashioned, chivalrous, shall I say magnificent, reverence which is her birthright. I declare the Malvern College for Ladies open, and wish it all possible success. (Cheers.)

The Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way, Bart., said that that occasion was great in the history of Methodism. The absence of such an institution as they had that day seen opened had long been a reproach to South Australian Methodists. He felt extremely glad at the interest shown in the ceremony by his Excellency—(cheers)—and to notice the very representative nature of the assemblage. He welcomed the Hon. F. W. Holder, the Hon. J. G. Jenkins, Mr. J. Darling, jun., and the Mayor of Unley (Mr. A. Mackie). He was one of those responsible for framing the original Education Act, which had given to ministers the great privilege referred to by his Excellency, of reading the Bible to children without explanation out of school hours. His colleagues and he had forgotten one thing, however—the nature of the schoolboy. He knew that when he was a boy he would not have remained voluntarily in school for an hour or a minute to have heard the most beautiful reader reading the most beautiful lessons. (Laughter.)

Mr. F. Chapple said it was unnecessary for him to attempt to justify the existence of the school or to argue for the higher education of girls. (Cheers.) That institution was, however, to be somewhat different from others in South Australia. The State had its public schools and its private schools for girls already, but the Malvern College would be the only example of the public-endowed school which depended upon those who felt the necessity of education. He defended the principle of government of a school by a committee, and alluded to the grand work done by the late Sir J. Colton for Prince Alfred College, and for Way College by Sir Samuel Way. (Cheers.) Malvern College already had such friends, and the name of Mr. Charles Drew would never be forgotten there. When the school had proved its *raison d'être* he believed that the whole community would realise its value. (Cheers.) He was privileged to say on

behalf of the headmistress that she entirely approved of the outlines of the work to be done mapped out in the prospectus — to train the whole being, to make the girls strong by games and calisthenics, and to educate the mind and artistic tastes, and also teach such useful arts as might be required. He heartily congratulated the committee on having secured the services of Miss Edeson, of whom he felt that in a few years her pupils would say, "To love her was a liberal education." (Cheers.)

The Premier (Hon. J. G. Jenkins) in a humorous speech, congratulated the committee and the prospective pupils on the turn of fortune's wheel, which gave them so fine a school. He pointed with pride to the Chief Justice as a representative of the boys who went to school before Bible reading was allowed in them. Public opinion as to the education of girls had undergone a great change recently. He remembered reading a lecture by Henry Ward Beecher, in which that great writer referred to the question, "What shall we do with our boys?" He dismissed the girls by saying, "Of course they will get married." (Laughter.) He did not suppose the girls would mind that, but they recognised now that a girl should be educated as highly as possible before marriage. (Cheers.)

The Speaker of the House of Representatives (Hon. F. W. Holder) expressed his pleasure at being present. He referred to the change which had come about in consideration of the education of women, and reminded his audience that only a few years before it had been considered almost a reproach to a woman to be versed in any of the higher branches of study. To-day women claimed the right to think for themselves and not by proxy, to speak for themselves, and even to vote for themselves, and the right was cheerfully conceded. (Cheers.) There was not the slightest doubt that there was plenty of room in the State for the school just opened, and he prophesied for it a long career of success. (Cheers.)

The Mayor of Unley (Mr. A. Mackie) offered the committee the best wishes of the council and himself in a congratulatory speech, and

The President of the College (Rev. R. S.

Casely) moved a vote of thanks to his Excellency. This was seconded by Mr. R. H. Lathlean and carried amidst cheers.

The building was then thrown open to the visitors. Afternoon tea was served, and a pleasant hour spent in wandering over the grounds and through the

and a pleasant hour spent in wandering over the grounds and through the rooms, and listening to the Central Mission Band, which was stationed on the lawn throughout the afternoon.

The officers and committee of the school are as follow:—Chairman of committee, Rev. J. Cowperthwaite, B.A. (President of the Conference); President of the college, Rev. R. S. Casely; headmistress, Miss E. G. Edeson, M.A.; hon. treasurer, Mr. R. H. Lathlean; hon. secretary, Mr. J. W. Gillingham; committee, the Revs. J. Cowperthwaite, B.A. (President of the Conference), T. Piper (ex-president), H. J. Pope (secretary of the Conference), H. T. Burgess, LL.D., R. S. Casely, E. Gratton, O. Lake, W. Howchin, J. Berry, W. Jeffries, P. C. Thomas, C. H. Ingamells, J. D. Langsford, W. H. Rofe, W. Reed, W. A. Langsford, E. T. Cox, A. J. Burt, I. Perry, H. Howard, W. A. Potts, S. Rossiter, C. Martin, B. Wibberley, W. T. Shapley, and the chairmen of districts; Sir S. J. Way, Bart.; Sir Langdon Bonython, Hons. Alfred Catt and F. W. Holder, Drs. R. Brummitt and A. H. Gault, Messrs. J. Ashton, A. C. Catt, J. H. Chinner, E. B. Colton, G. F. Claridge, A. E. Davey, A. W. Dobbie, T. Drew, J. Gartrell (treasurer of the M.L.C. building fund), J. W. Gillingham, F. H. Griffiths, T. Hack, J. H. Hobbs, A. Langman, A. Langsford, R. H. Lathlean, M. M. Maughan, E. E. Mitchell, John Mitchell, D. Nock, J. F. Palamountain, T. H. Prosser, T. Rhodes, F. W. Richards, F. H. Snow, T. W. Wilkinson, Lady Bonython, Lady Way, Messrs. James W. B. Chinner, C. Drew, T. Drew, A. H. Gault, J. Hill, F. W. Holder, H. Thomas, and Miss Colton.

Miss Olive Newman has been appointed an assistant mistress of the college. For some years Miss Newman has had charge of the Parkside High School.

Mr. W. W. Lewer, the post and telegraph master at Alberton, resumed his official duties last Monday after an absence of 13 months on sick leave.