

## OAKRIDGE WESLEYAN BAZAAR.

The Wesleyans of Oakridge have long been in need of a new chapel, the old one being in a ruinous and unsafe condition; in fact, it has been found necessary to use props and rods to keep it together. A bazaar was held in September last, and strenuous efforts have been put forth to obtain the necessary funds for the building. The sum actually in hand for the purpose is £262, and there are additional promises to the extent of £55. The estimated amount needed is £550, after allowing the value of the present old chapel, on the site of which the new one will stand. There is a firm resolve not to commence operations until there is such a sum in hand as to render it certain that no heavy debt will lie as a burden on the trustees. The present bazaar, which was opened on Good Friday and continued open during Saturday, Easter Monday, and Tuesday, was a supplement to the one above referred to, and exhibited in a very marked manner the intelligence and zeal of its conductors and contributors. It was very evident that the "useful" department was studied far more than the "fancy," though the latter was not neglected—a pleasing contrast to some meetings of the kind. Some of the more noticeable articles were sewing machines, stationery of various kinds, useful drapery, Darlow's and Pulvermacher's magnetic appliances, sundry kinds of pills, cough emulsion, sarsaparilla, washing powders, pea flour, biscuits, cattle spice, saws, table salt, knives, caps, towel horses, walking sticks, some beautiful fowls, 70 sorts of potatoes, a dish of fresh fish, &c. The stall-keepers were Messrs. Stevenson, Maggs, and J. Whiting, Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Blanch, Misses Carpenter, Lean, Drew, Reynolds, Shaylor, M. A. Gardiner, Fawkes, M. Whiting and Blackwell. A case of stuffed birds, &c., done by one of the Sunday scholars, was exhibited, and also some of Mr. Lee's mechanical models.

J. H. CARPENTER, Esq., of Longcourt, presided at the opening of the bazaar on Good Friday morning. After the devotional exercises he addressed those present in an easy conversational style, saying he must first find fault—"How is it that three or four do all the singing? Were you singing Jabez?"—"Yes." "How is it? Have you been up all night preparing?"—"Not quite." He thought all should have joined in singing their beautiful hymn. He had heard that they were discouraged. ("No, sir".) He hoped they should have a profitable gathering. Twenty or thirty of their people from Randwick were coming up presently. Why should they come? Why should all the outlying districts help Oakridge? He could tell them. It was because they had a good name. They had been doing a good work many years, and "precious ointment" smelt a long way. Oakridge ointment had reached Randwick, and so twenty or thirty of their scholars had laboured hard and liberally and made sacrifices on their behalf, never having seen their faces. They were coming to-day to see what they looked like. He hoped they would like them. He hoped they would spend the day pleasantly. Some objected to holding a meeting like that on Good Friday. He respected such objections, if sincerely felt. Perhaps he had some himself, but as he came along he saw people digging and planting their ground, and he thought to himself that there was a garden at Oakridge, fruits and flowers to cultivate. They were working for God. He could not see any harm in it. It was Good Friday, and they were doing a good work. Their object was to build a house of prayer, in which the glorious gospel should be proclaimed, and what better day could they have than the day our Saviour died? He hoped all they did would be pleasing in God's sight, and that His blessing would be on all, that there would be no improprieties, that all would be done wisely and well. God's blessing has rested here, has it not? (Yes.) It rested now and would till the chapel was built. He found

people out. They had one at Randwick at the same time, and the same number present. There should have been more. He had told the Randwick people that the Oakridge friends were distinguished for early rising and morning prayer. He thought they needed no more words but now the eloquence of the counter, doing not talking, the eloquence of buying. He had come away with a little money, and hoped to leave it behind him. He hoped by Tuesday night, when they closed, they would have got the value of their goods. He should not trouble them with more words, but hoped God's blessing would rest on them and that he should leave Oakridge charmed, and that the other friends from Randwick would also.

Mr. LEWIS said that in all his labour for the new chapel and bazaar he did not know that he had received an unkind word, and that they saw the result before them, and if anything had been done in connection with prayer it was the present bazaar.

The business of buying and selling was then proceeded with. Dinner was provided on the premises for those who stayed, and a tea meeting was held in the evening, after which a public meeting took place, opening with devotional exercises, conducted by Mr. Magga. G. Ford, Esq., of Ryeford, presided, and said he came to Oakridge with pleasure, having heard about it before. He was a stranger there, and had to enquire his way several times. He rejoiced to find those present of the same brotherhood, and urged the necessity of prayer and perseverance on the part of all, the object being not merely to build a house of prayer but to secure the salvation of souls. The love of God to man was commemorated at the present season.

The Brimscombe Choir, who were present in force, led by Mr. Dean, gave "When the Lord hath built up Zion."

Mr. T. LEWIS gave the financial statement as above, and spoke of the necessity of building free of debt.

Choir: "Thine, O Lord, is the greatness."

Mr. WESTON spoke of the unity of heart and effort at Oakridge, and urged the duty of praying for ministers and preachers, they being "men of like passions" to others. He pressed those present to give themselves to God and unite with his people.

Choir: "Come unto me all ye that labour."

The Rev. D. R. MORGAN said it gave him great pleasure to meet such a goodly number. Their purpose was good, to further the cause of Christ, and he delighted to help those who wrought for such a good cause. He admired the energy of Mr. T. Lewis, and wished him success. Their motto must be "Go on, and God would help." There were different kinds of professed sympathy, some people trying to injure, others giving discouragement. What they needed was true help. He hoped all present would help by prayer, sympathy and exertion.

Choir: "Let every heart rejoice and sing."

Mr. COOMBS hoped this Good Friday would prove a good day to all. God manifested his love to man by giving his Son to die for a guilty world, and the day was kept in memory of that.

Choir: "Lord of all power and might."

Mr. H. BLANCH said they greatly needed the new chapel, and had felt it for many years. He believed the time was come to arise and build. He hoped their primary effort would be to have a spiritual church, and the material would follow of necessity. A great variety of work needed doing. All could do something, and all should work while it was day.

Choir: "Hear my prayer, O Lord."

Votes of thanks to the Chairman, the Brimscombe Choir, and other helpers were cordially passed.

Choir: "Jerusalem my happy home."

Prayer was offered, and afterwards business in the bazaar was resumed. The bazaar continued open on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, as advertised, the proceeds altogether amounting to about £50.