

**CHRIST CHURCH, BEECHWORTH.****DEDICATION OF NEW CHANCEL WINDOW.**

It will be remembered that some months since the window at the extreme end of the chancel of this church was destroyed by a furious storm, which shattered it to pieces. The aperture was boarded up until the window could be replaced, and after a while the task of collecting contributions from the parishioners was initiated by Mrs. A. A. Billson, who with the aid of some other ladies were very successful in raising the required sum, the estimated cost for a stained glass window, worthy of the edifice, being about £40. A design was selected, and Mr. W. Montgomery, of Melbourne, undertook the task of reproducing, with some improvements, resulting in a beautiful window which is a rare specimen of careful and artistic construction, being composed of a large number of pieces of colored glass fitted closely together to form the design. The window is lancet shape, with a border of different colors. The principal figure represents Christ seated upon a throne, crowned and wearing a white robe ornamented with golden sprays, over which is a scarlet mantle. The face is a triumph of artistic expression, wearing a majestic but benignant look. In a circle above the letters I.H.S. appear on a blue background, surmounted by a golden crown, and beneath the figure another design represents a lamb bearing the cross, while at the base appears the inscription, "Presented by the parishioners." The contrast of bright colors in the principal figure is pleasing to the eye, and the soberer tints of the background render the whole composition one which is impressive by its absence from all florid or gaudy ornamentation. The delicate task of raising the window to its destination and placing it securely in position was entrusted to Messrs. Hardy and Kyle, who carried it out with entire satisfaction.

A special service for the unveiling and dedication of the window was arranged by the incumbent, the Rev. Geo. Pennicott, which was held on the morning of Sunday last, the tenth Sunday after Trinity. The service commenced with the singing of hymn 142, "We love the place, O God," and subsequently the following prayer was made previous to unveiling the window:—"Almighty God, who hast called us out of darkness into Thy marvellous light, mercifully accept our service, and graciously receive at our hands this window which we offer and dedicate to

graciously receive at our hands this window, which we offer and dedicate to beautify the place of Thy Sanctuary, and in honor of Him, the brightness of Thy glory, whom thou has given to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, even Jesus Christ, who with Thee and the Holy Ghost ever liveth one God. Amen." The minister also thanked the parishioners who so freely and generously subscribed for the window, also the lady who had collected the same. The veil before the window was then drawn aside, and the rays of the midday sun streamed through, displaying the beauty of the design to its fullest advantage. The following was sung immediately after the unveiling:—

This window—gift of love—  
Within Thy Temple set;  
We now unveil in song  
And sacred worship met.

Accept it, Saviour God,  
In plenitude of grace,  
And grant to us in bliss  
The vision of Thy face. Amen.

The text for the discourse was taken from the 2nd verse of the 6th chapter of the second book of Chronicles: "But I have built an house of habitation for thee, and a place for thy dwelling for ever." The minister commenced with a graphic description of Mount Moriah, the site of the Temple at Jerusalem, how it was levelled at the summit to prepare for the erection of the sacred building, and the procedure of the work in total silence, the stones being hewn and the timbers shaped in readiness, so that no sound of an implement was heard; but "like some tall palm the fane in silence grew." Then came a vivid description of the gorgeous and most imposing ceremonies at the dedication of the Temple, the grand procession of King Solomon with his bodyguard bearing their 500 golden shields, preceded by the priests and Levites, ascending the massive stairs and halting on each landing, where were stationed musicians, with trumpets and psalteries, who joined in the sacred songs. Then the entering into the Temple, the king seated upon his brazen throne, the placing of the Ark and sacred vessels in the Holy of Holies, and the awe-inspiring circumstances by which God signified his presence in the magnificent building reared to his honor and worship. The decline of the Jewish monarchy, the last siege of Jerusalem by the Romans, the destruction of the Temple, and the dispersion of the Jews as a nation, were eloquently depicted, also the affection which they still cherished in all ages and in all countries for the splendid Temple of their forefathers. The reverend gentleman

countries for the splendid Temple of their forefathers. The reverend gentleman then proceeded to show that though Christianity supplanted the Mosaic dispensation, and was adopted by all European nations, the idea of raising grand edifices specially devoted to His worship was retained and gave rise to the magnificent cathedrals, many of which still remain to inspire awe and respect for the piety and genius of their builders, while other sacred buildings which have suffered from the ravages of neglect or violence are still beautiful in their ruins. He then spoke of the churches in the old land, which many present might recall as having attended in their childhood, and touched upon the reverential affection with which they were regarded. In the magnificent fanes referred to the perfection of art and the lavishness of wealth were combined to make them superior in ornamentation to any secular building as a tribute of human devotion in the honor of God. The same spirit should be shown in any building devoted to His service. They had here in Beechworth a building which testified to the piety and liberality of its founders, and they should be careful that in its adornment they should endeavor to let it be of the best, and nothing mean or paltry. The beautiful window unveiled that day was a proof of the continuance of that spirit, and would long remain as evidence of their pious generosity. But while thus working for the adornment of the House of God, they should also strive to build up a spiritual temple within themselves, and to make themselves worthy to stand face to face with the Creator in the glorious hereafter.