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S. MARGARET'S SUNDAY SCHOOLS & PARISH ROOM, ILKLEY,
From a Sketch Plan by the Architects, Messrs. JAMES & E. CRITCHLEY.

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In order to meet the increased and increasing wants of S. Margaret's parish, Ilkley, the more active members of the congregation have set themselves the task of providing a convenient Sunday School and Parish Room, in which to hold parochial gatherings, etc... The site of the intended new building is between the Grove and the new railway to Skipton, and it is therefore very central. The designs, which are by Messrs. J. & E. Critchley show a pleasing structure in the domestic Gothic style, containing a large parish room 82ft. by 40ft., with a series of six class-rooms of various sizes: four being 17th. 6in. by 16ft: one 19ft. by 17ft., and one 22ft. by 17ft. The cost of this-which is only a portion of the larger scheme-is £1,600. The ground cost £400, and to complete the building and the necessary furnishing a sum of £1,000 is yet required. The various works have been let to the following tradesmen: Masonry, Mr. D. Featherston: joinery, Mr. E. Stephenson: plumbing; Mr. Joseph Lawson; and plastering Mr. Richardson, all of Ilkley.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone was performed by Mr. F. S. Powell, M.P., on Saturday afternoon last, in glorious weather, and in the presence of a large number of spectators, amongst whom were:-The Rev. W. Danks, vicar of S. Margaret's, Mr. F.S. Powell, M.P., Mr. Francis Darwin, the Rev. Lucius Smith, the Rev. Mr. Hodges, Mr. C.M. Wilson, Mr. R.T. Haines, Mr. J.I. Kirby, Mr. W. Hartley, Mr. B. Gibbons, Mr. H. Greenwood, Mr. J.F. Rouse, Mr. J.H. Howson, Mr. A.T. West, Mr. W. Mitton, Major Rambotham, Mr. F.B. Muff, Mr. W Buck, Mr. B. Gordon, Mr. J.H. Knight, Mr. T. Coats, Mr. E. Fletcher, etc...

THE LUNCHEON

The proceedings commenced with luncheon at the Middleton Hotel, to which upwards of fifty of the more prominent members and friends of S. Margaret's sat down. At the conclusion of the repast, a short toast-list was gone through, the Rev. W. Danks acting as chairman.

The first toast was the of "The Church and Queen," proposed by the Chairman in a few well chosen remarks, and responded to right loyallt.

The CHAIRMAN said there was one toast which they would naturally think of, and that was the one which he wanted to propose—"The health of the patrons of S. Margaret's Church." He could not forget that the patrons-especially three of them who were more or less locally connected with the church-had not only been patrons in a financial sense, but had helped them in a practical and personal way in the early days of the movement. Nor should he forget his sense of relief when he heard of Mr. Powell's donation, which came in the old days, and which amounted to £530. (Cheers.) Altogether, the patrons had deserved well of their church. No one had cause to speak better of them than he, because they had a very especial claim upon his regard and esteem in that they had more than once appointed him Vicar of S. Margaret's. He believed the patrons had not seen any reason to regret the responsibility they then incurred. S. Margaret's Church, he said could say without any degree of affection, had justified the great efforts and large sacrifices which were made at and since its foundation. He might, perhaps, feel a little hesitation in saying that, as it sounded very like blowing one's own trumpet. But, as they knew, there were other trumpets than his: Mr. Crawley had several-(laughter)-and he therefore might be permitted to do a little. As they knew, ever since the movement started S. Margaret's had been well supported, and he trusted that it had not existed without accomplishing much good. He therefore hoped and trusted that looking back Mr. Powell would have no reason to regret the generous way in which he had helped them. S. Margaret's he had heard of north of Edinburgh, southward, in the Isle of Wight, and to-day the very undividedness of the efforts that had been put forth had made it necessary to do something by way of finding scope for friends, and for the work of the congregation. No church was ever a living church which was nothing more than a Sunday Church: and he felt that it was a great source of satisfaction to those interested in S. Margaret's to know that lay-workers had sprung up in every direction. Ilkley was not a place of great population, but they had found there enough people who needed light, training and instruction. They all knew how they had taught the children of the Sunday School in that "black hole of Calcutta" which they had occupied. They had given the scholars spiritual food at the great expense of carbolic gas, and he knew that those who worked with him in that Sunday School would experience a sense of relief in knowing that they would get into a better room by and by. They all knew of the congregational parties, and the inconvenience arising from lack of accommodation; they knew how they had been able to raise thousands of pounds from a bazaar, for the holding of which they had no room large enough and yet success had attended their every effort. They hoped that the drawbacks and inconveniences referred to would soon be at an end, for they had tried to formulate a scheme for satisfying the demands of the parish of S. Margaret's by building Sunday Schools and a parish room, a building which would be in use during the week as a centre of parochial activity and useful work, and which would set forth more clearly the ultimate objects of S. Margaret's Church. He asked them to drink the "Health of patrons," and coupled with the toast the name of their good friend Mr. Powell. – The toast was well received.

Mr. POWELL, in responding, said he should be guilty of what he might almost describe as an outrage if he detained them more than a very short space of time indeed, as the sun was rapidly setting, and they had an outdoor ceremony to perform; but he must say one word, thanking them most heartily on behalf of the patrons of S. Margaret's for the compliment so kindly paid them with such unanimous

cordiality. Their fortune as patrons had been twice happy. Happy was the board of patrons who elected a good man as vicar once; and twice happy the same board who elected the same good man twice over. That the patrons of S Margaret's had done with Mr. Danks.

He had had sufficient experience of the anxiety which belonged to the office of patron to know what a comfort and satisfaction and joy it was when they felt certain that the selection of a vicar would be one which would not only be agreeable to those who made it, but beneficial to the parish. They had felt that in the case of Mr. Danks and we felt it that anxious moment when the selection was first made, they felt it not less now that the wisdom of their choice had been justified. Their choice had not only been gratifying to a great parish, but, he ventured to say, to the whole diocese; for although Mr. Danks had not only done his duty to his parishioners at Ilkley, he had found time, without neglecting his own duties, to perform offices in other parts of the diocese which had made his name familiar as household words with regard to his (Mr. Powells) contribution to the funds, he really had forgotten for the moment that he had been able to offer any gift, but if he did so, there was no thanks due to him, but to Mr. Frederick Fison for the efficient manner in which he had solicited his cash. He was sure they would all wish him that Mr. Frederick Fison would be for long, in some place and in some manner, become the representative of an enlightened and intelligent electorate, (Cheers). He thanked those who had proposed his health, and those who had responded to the proposal, and he thanked them once more on behalf of his coat patrons. He assured them that although the real reward must be found in the altered and improved condition of the parish, still there was gratification in having a formal compliment paid to them at a meeting such as that. He concluded by proposing "The Vicar S. Margaret's, which was duly honoured, Mr. Danks briefly responding.

Mr. R. T. Haines proposed the next toast. He said they in Ilkley knew how much they were indebted to outside help for enabling them to do what had been done in providing for Ilkley and its visitors an ecclesiastical equipment such as they now possessed; they knew too, that a large amount of work remained to be done in the future. Besides what they had now in hand, he hoped they might at no very distant date complete the equipment by erecting a vicarage house, providing an organ, and substituting stained glass for the present plain glass in some of the windows of the church. They had been so very much indebted to outside help, that they could not but appreciate what had been done. As recognising that outside help, he asked them to drink to the toast of "Our Guests". He was very sorry there was not a larger number of them present. Notably there were two absentees who we should like to have included - Mr. William and Mr. Frederick Fison. They remembered what those gentlemen had done in the past. With the toast he coupled the name of a gentleman who was a household word in this part of Yorkshire; he meant Mr. Francis Darwin they were very proud and pleased to see him present and especially so since Mr. Darwin had brought with him one who was a near neighbour. (Cheers)

Mr. F. Darwin said he did not know exactly whether he was competent to represent the position in which he had been placed. He supposed he was to reply on behalf of the visitors who occasionally went to Ilkley, made a temporary stay and then retired his first visit to Ilkley was a good number of years ago. At that time the vicar of Ilkley Mr. Beuton - resided at Otley, so they could understand that then the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of Ilkley differed widely from what it was now. The vicar was a great friend of his father's- a man of much wit and humour-and if time had allowed, he could have told many interesting anecdotes showing the humour and ability of the then vicar of Ilkley. But he felt himself that there was not the best opportunity to tell anecdotes of that character and that he would reserve himself entirely to the position in which they had placed him as representing that large body of visitors whom they had at Ilkley were so happy to receive during the summer months, whom they greeted kindly, treated kindly, and were very glad when they left behind them some of their metallic resource

which had enabled the visitors to come to Ilkley. (Laughter). But he was not entirely a visitor. He was born in Wharfedale; he had lived a great part of his life here and hoped to reside here for many years still. Besides it had been intimated that there had been a closer connection affected during the past few months, which took him still more out of the category of being a visitor; and therefore, whilst he thanked them on behalf of the visitors, he would recall to them the fact that he was not perhaps the most suitable person to be called upon to return thanks to this toast. He was glad that Mister Powell had referred to the services Mr. Frederick Fison had given in the interest of S. Margaret's church, and he would recall to Mr. Powell's recollection that though Mr. Fison had ceased to reside at Ilkley, still he represented the voice of the freeholders and electors of the Ilkley division on the County Council, and the effective aid which Mr. Fison had given to S. Margaret's on past occasions might in the same way in the future be used in their service Mr. Fison had evidently produced a very good influence upon the mind of Mr. Powell and when a man had been successful in a thing, and knew that it was engaged in carrying on the work of very great difficulty, might suggest that Mr. Fison should try the same thing on again; And if the same success attended him again, he (Mr. Darwin) would feel a sort of credit attaching to himself for having made the suggestion. (Cheers)

The CHAIRMAN said he had received letters of apology for non-attendance from Mr. D'Arcy Wyville, Mr. Frederick Fison, Mr. Kempson (who was absent through illness and who regretted his inability very much), Mr. Arnold-Forster, Mr. Bracken, and several other friends.

THE CORNER-STONE CEREMONY

An adjournment was now made to the site of the new schools. Here a large number of people had gathered together. A short form of service, consisting of hymns, psalms and prayers, was first gone through by the vicar and choir, and Miss Olive Danks then stepped forward and presented Mr. Powell with a silver travel, which bore the following inscription: "presented to F. S. Powell, Esq., M.P., In commemoration of his laying the cornerstone of the Parish Room and Sunday school, S. Margaret's Ilkley November 16th 1889".

Mr. Powell having formally declared the stone to be well and truly laid, said he should speak but a few words that afternoon, because they would not but know, as some of them would feel as well as know, that the sun had already departed from the heavens, and the brief hours of a November day were, so far as that day was concerned, past and gone. At the same time he would not deny himself the privilege of expressing to them the gratification which he had engaged with the honour laying the cornerstone of that building he must however, remarked that although it was his hand which had laid the stone under the guidance of the architects the hearts of his colleagues, the patrons of S. Margarets, were associated with him in the work; their wishes mingled with his, and their spirit was associated with his spirit when he expressed the most fervent prayer that the blessing of Almighty God might descend upon that work, the aim and the object, the meaning and intention of which was to promote the parish of S. Margaret's and in Ilkley so much that was beautiful, good and religious. As regarded the work itself, the first thought which occurred to his mind was this-that that undertaking was a remarkable illustration and evidence of the new life which beat in the Church of England, and of that power which we now had of adapting ourselves to new circumstances-a strange contrast indeed from the hapless immobility and fatal rigidity which in years now gone so much hindered the progress of the church in this country. His thoughts, as he stood there again, carried him, strange to say, across the Atlantic Ocean. When he first visited America, now near 20 years ago, he found that the parish rooms and places for gathering were much more frequent in America than in England; but in this particular, without following the example of our brethren in this aim, we must take diligent heed at least a knowledge of religious subjects was driven out of the field by that competition. One of the objects of the building was, he understood, that there should be laid up in the minds of young people,

on Sundays and on weekday evenings a knowledge of religion- sound, solid, real knowledge-so that what was taught there on religious subjects would assimilate with the instruction given respecting secular affairs, and by that means they would develop all the faculties of man; we would not have a mere secularist with his dry bones of knowledge, and we should be saved from the more ignorant enthusiasm which was often the parent of great mischief. But in that building, they did not intend to seek for knowledge alone, but for amusement in combination with knowledge he believed that religion was meant to make a man happy, and to enable him, with sobriety, with prudence, and with temperance, to indulge in innocent and joyous amusement. He thought that feature of the work in which they were engaged was highly to be commended and worthy of their interest, for gatherings of a social character, gatherings the object of which was to give amusement in connection with the purely instructive and religious side of the work could not help but be beneficial. That union of the purpose gave a completeness to the proposal, the like of which he had never before seen. He had seen many other undertakings having for their object the amusement, instruction and relaxation of the people, but he knew none more worthy than this. Here all the objects were combined together, and the union, he was certain, would be a happy one, and he believed it would be a prosperous unsuccessful combination. Nothing now remained for him to say except once more to express to them his gratitude for the invitation with which he had been favoured, and his earnest hope was that that building might reward those who were interested in its direction, and remained during many generations and evidence of how earnest was the endeavour of those who resided in Ilkley that there should be in that town all that could make a community civilised, religious and prosperous.

The Rev. W. Danks having thanked Mr. Powell for his presence and services that day, the proceedings terminated.

The collection at the ceremony realised £26 15s 7d.