

**AN ACCOUNT OF THE
PROCEEDINGS AT KEBLE
COLLEGE IN THE OCCASION OF
THE OPENING OF THE CHAPEL ON
ST. MARK'S DAY, 1876**

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KEBLE COLLEGE

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KEBLE COLLEGE.

St. Mark's Day,

1878.

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS AT KEBLE COLLEGE

ON THE OCCASION OF THE
OPENING OF THE CHAPEL

AND THE
*LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION-STONE OF THE HALL
AND LIBRARY*

ON
St. Mark's Day, 1876

WITH THE
SERMONS AND SPEECHES THEN DELIVERED

AND A
DESCRIPTION OF THE CHAPEL



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INTRODUCTION.

THE account of the proceedings on the occasion of the laying of the first stone of Keble College, which was published in 1868, contains a narrative of the early history of the College, and of the hopes with which its promoters entered upon their undertaking.

The dedication of the new Chapel, and the laying of the foundation stone of the Hall and Library, on St. Mark's Day, 1876, form a new landmark in that history, and one of the earliest fulfilments of these hopes: and it has accordingly been thought fit to publish an account of the proceedings of that day. Such a publication will have a permanent value among the documents from which the history of the College can be gathered; and many, whether present or absent, have expressed a wish to have some lasting record of the speeches and sermons then delivered.

The sum originally subscribed to the memorial fund, which amounted to £50,025 10s. 10d., was expended in the purchase of a freehold site and the erection of rooms for a hundred undergraduates and six tutors. It was impossible at that time to build any of the chief public buildings of the College on a permanent scale, but for immediate

needs a temporary Hall and Chapel were erected and the College was opened at once, in October 1870, the Warden and Council feeling confident that if their work was done to the best of their power and in loyalty to the motives of the founders, they could trust to the liberality of English Churchmen to supply such needs as were still lacking.

That confidence was not misplaced. Far sooner than the most sanguine anticipations could have predicted, they have received a substantial acknowledgment that the work which the College is attempting to perform does meet with approbation. In the summer of 1872 the munificent offer of a permanent Chapel was made on the suggestion of Sir J. T. Coleridge by Mr. W. Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, and three years later, in the summer of 1875, a similar offer was made through a member of the same family by two anonymous donors, of a building which should contain both Hall and Library. It was with the combined object of the opening of the new Chapel and the laying of the foundation stone of the Hall and Library that the friends of the College met on St. Mark's Day.

It should be stated that the Chapel was not then consecrated. Some legal questions had been suggested as to the possible effect of the consecration in restraint of powers given to the authorities of the College by its Charter. It was agreed therefore between the Bishop of Oxford and the Council, that the consecration of the Chapel should be deferred. The services will be performed under a licence similar to that which the Bishop

has already given for the use of the temporary Chapel.

The foundation stone of the new Chapel had been laid by Mr. Gibbs himself on St. Mark's Day, 1873, amid many eager, though scarcely sanguine hopes, that he might be spared to see the completion of the work. That, however, was not to be. He entered into his rest in 1875, full of years and honour, and leaving many a memorial of himself in deeds of love and kindness and substantial testimonies to his munificence in many a Church built in various parts of England, in none perhaps more beautiful than this his last gift to the Church.

The Chapel, which has occupied rather more than three years in building, has been erected by Messrs. Parnell, of Rugby, from the designs of Mr. Butterfield, the architect of the whole College. It stands in the north-east corner of the principal quadrangle, the east end facing the Parks, and the western window rising above the roof of the northern block of the College buildings to which it is attached. The western doorway of the Chapel is approached through a short cloister within this block of buildings. Like the rest of the College, it is built mainly of red brick, very largely relieved with features of Bath stone. It forms a lofty mass, and is flanked with heavy buttresses on either side, which end in stone pinnacles above a stone cornice and parapet. Externally, as internally, the wall is divided into three horizontal spaces, the lower one being arcaded in stone, the middle relieved by surface pattern work, and the

highest space filled with a range of large and lofty windows. The window sills are at a height of 40 feet from the ground, in order to leave room for the interior decoration. The height on the outside is 90 feet from the ground to the ridge of the lead roof; the width internally is 35 feet, and the length 124 feet. On the south side, which faces the quadrangle, the line of building is broken by the organ chamber treated as a large south transept, with a sacristy adjoining its east face, and by the richly ornamental entrance porch in the westernmost bay, which rises to the top of the building. Immediately above its entrance is a representation of the *Agnus Dei* within an arch, while higher still a pelican feeding its young forms the finial of the lower stage of this porch, and symbolises the sacramental union of Christ with his people. The gable of the entire porch at its full height is finished by a figure 9 feet high of the Archangel S. Michael with the dragon under his feet. In each of the buttresses is a niche. These niches are filled with statues, the westernmost of which on each side, as far as the transepts, represent Old Testament, and the easternmost ones, New Testament saints. Beneath this range of niches at the eastern end are two larger niches with statues representing the Annunciation, the Angel Gabriel on the left, the Blessed Virgin on the right, with figures of SS. Peter and Paul in the smaller niches above them. At the western end, the large southern niche is occupied by a statue of Archbishop Longley, in cope and mitre, carrying a crozier. As Archbishop of Canterbury he laid

6'. He was born in 1811

the first foundation stone of the College on S. Mark's Day, 1868. In the northern one will probably be placed a corresponding figure of the Marquis of Salisbury, the Chancellor of the University who officially attended the opening of the same College buildings at the time of his installation in 1870, and who on last S. Mark's Day laid the first stone of the new Library. In the interior the Chapel is divided into six bays, of which the first three form the nave, and the fourth the choir, and transepts, which rise two steps from the nave; the last two bays are devoted to the sanctuary, which rises gradually six steps to the level of the foot-pace of the altar. In the nave are oak seats upon an oak floor, calculated to hold 212 undergraduates. In the arrangement of these seats the ordinary tradition of College Chapels has been departed from, and they are arranged so as to face eastward. That tradition arose at a time when all the members of a College were on the Foundation and remained life members of it: consequently, permanent stalls were assigned to them in the Chapel, as in Cathedrals to members of the Cathedral body. The existence of undergraduate commoners was an excrescence upon each foundation: it was a gradual growth, and accommodation was gradually provided for them out of the space made available by the non-residence of Foundationers, until they came to form the main body of worshippers. Thus the state of things which gave rise to the ordinary arrangements has been considerably modified in other Colleges: in Keble College it does not exist at all. The main body of those who