

THE FIRST

100

YEARS



NELSON CATHEDRAL Centenary







# CENTENARY OF CHRIST CHURCH NELSON 1851 - 1951

Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the  
Opening of the First Parish Church erected  
on Church Hill, Nelson, December 14th, 1851.

## INTRODUCTION

*By the Dean of Nelson, the Very Rev. E. A. Gowing, M.A. (Oxon).*

THIS booklet commemorates a notable centenary. On the 14th of December, 1851, the first Church to be built on the summit of Church Hill, Nelson, was opened. In the pages that follow we do not give a formal history of "the Church on the Hill." This booklet is rather an historic pictorial portraying the successive stages in the story.

Those of us who have intimate associations with Nelson Cathedral have entered into a rich inheritance. As we turn the pages of the past we appreciate more fully the vision and the faith of the early settlers. What a wonderful site they chose for the building of their Church! And so to-day, above the city, its commerce, its administration, its pleasures, stands the House of God, an eloquent testimony to the importance of

the things which are eternal. We thank God for the faith, the self-sacrifice of our forefathers.

We are extremely grateful to the many without whose help this booklet could not have been published—to Mr. H. Hurst for much work and time in compiling the pictorial; to Dr. F. A. Bett for the generous loan of early photographs and to the Alexander Turnbull Library for a similar courtesy; to the "Nelson Evening Mail" for the loan of blocks and to a number of parishioners for their active help. Special thanks are given to Joan Deimel for searching early records and for writing the text.

May our response to what follows be the same as the Psalmist's of old—"Yea, we have a goodly heritage."



NELSON HAVEN AS IT APPEARED  
WHEN THE FIRST SETTLERS ARRIVED.

From a water colour by Charles Heaphy.

## THE FIRST SETTLERS ARRIVE

February 1st 1842 - "It was a Beautiful Sunny Morning"

Nelson has the distinction of having had a name before it had a site. The first emigrants left England without knowing where their future homes were to be, for at the outset the New Zealand Company—which organised the settlement scheme—had no definite plan as to which site in New Zealand would be chosen for Nelson.

A preliminary expedition was sent out by the Company in 1841. After many disagreements at Port Nicholson with Governor Hobson, the expedition

sailed for Blind Bay where the site on which Nelson now stands was finally chosen.

Meanwhile in England the sale of land and the recruitment of emigrants proceeded apace and married couples, single men and single women between the ages of 18 and 35 were offered free passages.

In England at the time there was much financial want and misery and the New Zealand Company's scheme seemed



to offer better living conditions. The response was therefore favourable and the Company was able to select emigrants of a very good type. The various classes were: first, the Company's own agents, surveyors and other servants; secondly, those settlers who purchased land; and thirdly, labourers, mechanics and artisans.

Such were the people who came out in the first four ships, the "Mary Ann," "Fifeshire," "Lord Auckland" and "Lloyds." Of these the "Fifeshire" arrived first—on February 1st, 1842. Many other ships arrived during the year and the Company was hard put to it to find accommodation and work for the increasing population.

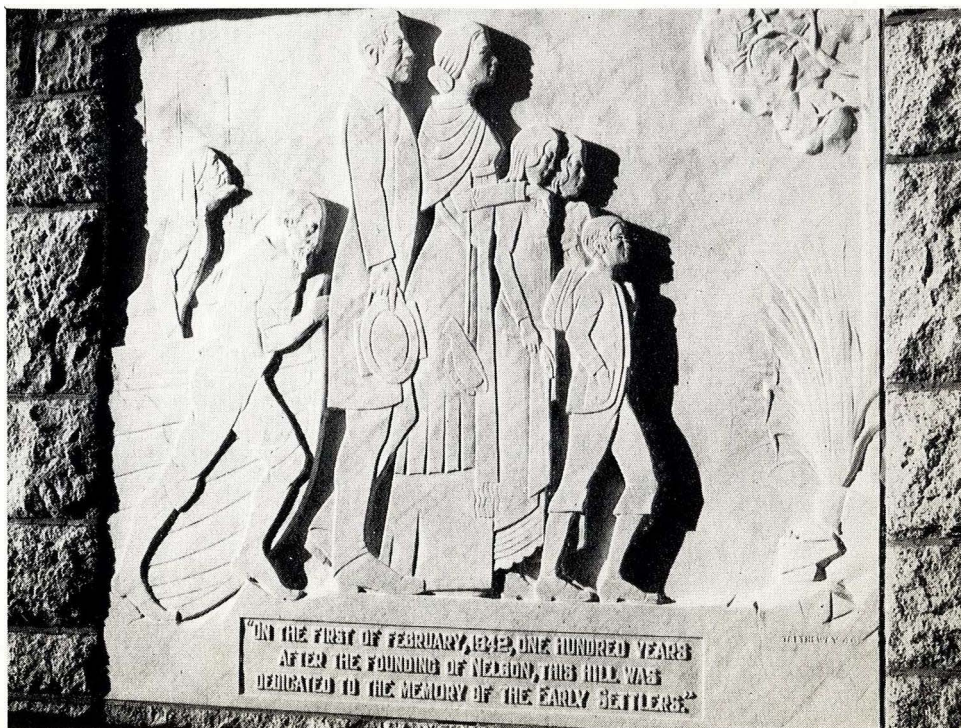
Few of us living to-day can conceive of the conditions which these first settlers found. Their first "houses" were tents or rough raupo or wattle huts and the native rats were a great plague. Moreover the surveys had not

been completed and there was much complaining about the Company's mismanagement and there was not always enough food.

But through the darkest days the religious life of the community went on and the settlers were sustained by high Christian principles.

Nelson's pioneers proved to be hardy, brave, courageous people and brought much credit upon themselves, for we are told that among Nelson's early settlers were many outstanding men. "It may be said that in those early days the most able colonists were Nelson men." After the Wairau tragedy in 1843 Nelson contained four of the future premiers of New Zealand.

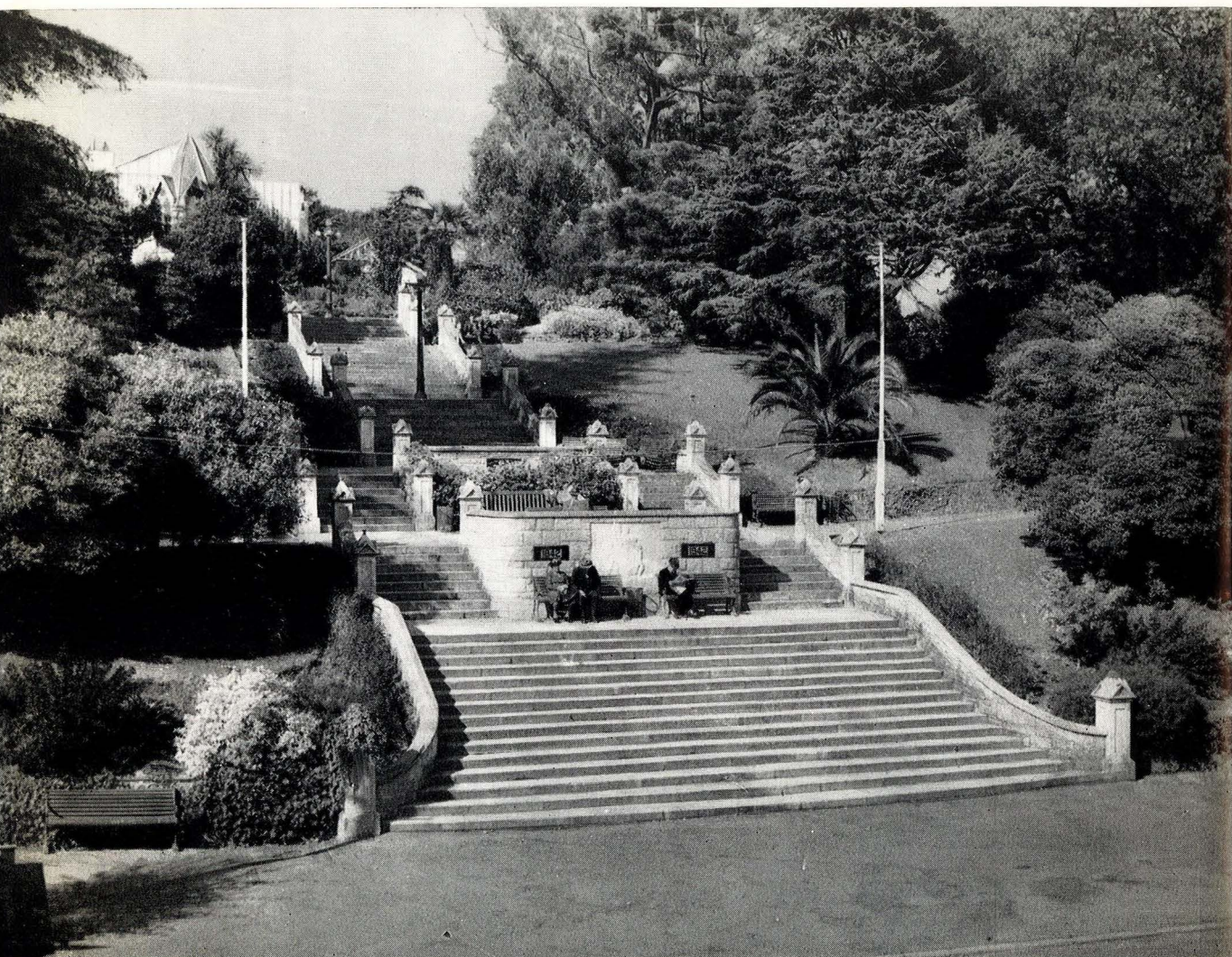
These were the adventurous people who "left England to face the dangers and difficulties of founding a new settlement and thus assisting to found a new nation in a land almost unknown."



MEMORIAL PLAQUE  
ON THE CHURCH  
STEPS TO COM-  
MEMORATE THE 100th  
ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE SETTLEMENT.

Photo:  
Tourist Department.





CHURCH HILL FACING NELSON'S MAIN THOROUGHFARE.  
The granite Steps were the gift of the late Thomas Cawthron.

Photo: A. B. Hurst.

## HISTORIC CHURCH HILL

“The Site for a Church is Singularly Beautiful”

To the first settlers, as to Nelsonians to-day, the Church Hill has been, and remains, the heart of religious and civic life. Many are the historical associations which connect it with the city. Captain Wakefield pitched his tent there on Friday, 5th November, 1841. Two

days later he held divine service in the tent. He used the summit of the hill for the erection of the pole which marked the base of his survey and laid off from it Trafalgar and Nile Streets to be the two main thoroughfares. The New Zealand Company's storerooms and



barracks were built there, as were also the "Examiner" Offices, the Courthouse and the Literary and Scientific Institute. In 1843, when the news of the Wairau Massacre was brought to Nelson, the settlers hastily built a fort on the summit of the hill and for some months retired there with their families at nights.

From the time of that first service in Wakefield's tent the hill has been used for religious services. At first the surveyors' mess room was used. Later the Church acquired two huts inside the fortification and, in these, services were held from 1843 to 1851, until the first

Church was built on an acre of land acquired from the New Zealand Company by Bishop Selwyn who, as early as August, 1842, had visualised it as the perfect site for a Cathedral. His vision has materialised through the last century. The first Church, which was built in 1851, was altered in 1859, in 1866, and again in 1886, when it became the first Cathedral. To-day on that site stands another Cathedral, worthy in its conception of Bishop Selwyn's dream, but not yet completed.

Thus from the beginning the Church Hill has played a great part in



TRAFALGAR STREET IN THE EARLY '60s, SHOWING THE FIRST CHURCH ON A BARE CHURCH HILL.



TRAFALGAR STREET  
TO-DAY.

A view from the top of  
the Church Steps.

Photo: A. W. Wright.



the life of the city. It has always been the natural meeting place for open-air gatherings. There distinguished guests are welcomed, important occasions celebrated. It is natural therefore that many Nelsonians should have helped to beautify the Hill. Alfred Domett and Joseph Webb worked together on the planting of the Hill in the 1860's; Thomas Cawthron donated the steps in

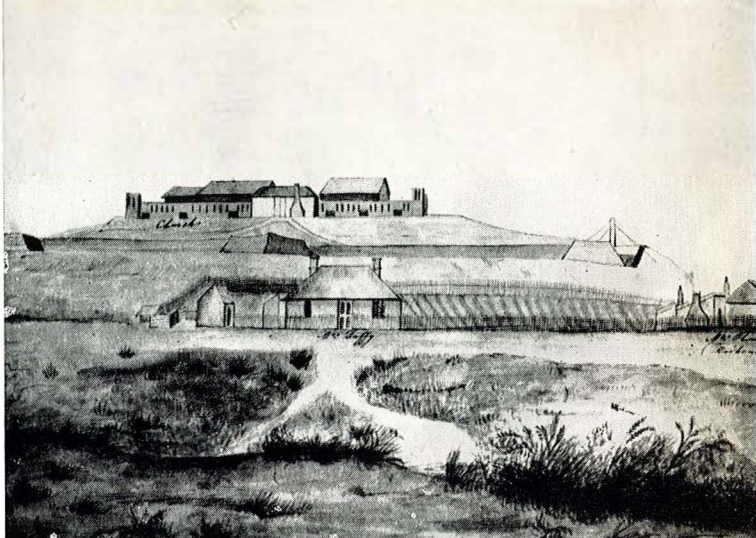
1913; and in 1942, when Nelson was celebrating its centenary, the people decided that further beautification of the Hill should be their memorial to the pioneers. The paths and gardens were laid out and a memorial plaque erected on the steps. To-day, it is a public reserve much used and well loved by the citizens of Nelson and their visitors.



## THE FORT ON CHURCH HILL

"In the centre of the town is an isolated hill on which stands the battery or fort which was erected for the protection of the settlers." This from an early writing. But fortunately it was never necessary to use the fort as such.

The Church of England became associated with the fort when Bishop Selwyn purchased from Captain Wakefield two of the Company's buildings inside the fort. These were converted into a temporary Church and School and were in use for several years.



## THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH

In time sufficient funds were raised, partly by subscription and partly from Endowment Funds, to commence the building of the first Parish Church on the site of the old fort.

The foundation stone was laid on the 26th June, 1850, and the Church was opened by Bishop Selwyn on the 14th December, 1851. "The Church," we are told, "is a neat wooden building in the early English style of the form of a cross, but 40 feet has yet to be added to complete the design."



## THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH

The first Parish Church, however, was considered unsatisfactory, and in 1886 it was decided to remodel and enlarge the building. Mr. W. B. Mountfort, of Christchurch, was the architect, and the improved building was opened on 16th February, 1887. The Parish Church now became the Cathedral Church of the Diocese and will be long remembered with affection by many Nelsonians.

But about the year 1916 the state of the fabric gave rise to uneasiness and it became clear that the building must soon be demolished.

Plans were therefore prepared for a new Cathedral to be built in Takaka marble. The first portion of this was opened in 1932.







THE FIRST PARISH CHURCH ERECTED ON CHURCH HILL. This shows an extension to the nave and the addition of a door at the south end.

Photo loaned by Mrs. C. H. Mackay.



# A PARISH CHURCH IS BUILT

"A neat wooden building in the early English style"

Although divine service had been held on Church Hill since the first days of the settlement, there seems at first to have been no idea in the minds of the people of building a proper church. The first reasonably permanent home of the Church was the building converted from the two huts inside the fortification which were purchased by Bishop Selwyn from the New Zealand Company in 1843. This, however, was clearly intended as only a temporary measure for the Bishop later described it as an "incongruous place of worship where we are surrounded by cannon with a powder magazine close to the entrance." Some of the settlers, too, apparently began to feel the same incongruity as the Bishop, for, after the opening of the Church at Waimea West in 1843, the editor of "The Nelson Examiner" wrote: "Are there not resident in the town a sufficient number to secure the commencement and gradual progress of an edifice which shall at once advance our town and be one of the bulwarks of our land?" There was no immediate response to this challenge, and services continued to be held inside the fortification. In 1848 Bishop Selwyn again took the initiative and acquired for the Church the acre on the summit of the hill on which the Cathedral now stands. Subscription lists were opened in 1849 and it was decided to proceed with the building of the first Church.

Plans were drawn by the Rev. M. Thatcher of Auckland, and it was his design, with some modifications, which was followed. The building was to be in the form of a cross, surmounted by a

spire 75 feet high. The extreme length was to be 100 feet, the width of the transept 60 feet, and the width of the nave 21 feet. The contract was let, not for the whole building, but for only 60 of the 100 feet of its length as there were insufficient funds to permit the erection of the whole church. The foundation stone was laid on June 29th, 1850, by the Rev. H. F. Butt, the incumbent of the parish, assisted by the Rev. E. Wheeler and the Rev. T. L. Tudor. At the conclusion of this ceremony a collection was taken, another £25 towards the Building Fund thus being raised.

Work on the Church continued over the next eighteen months and by December, 1851, the building was ready for use, with the exception of the internal fittings. Temporary seats for the opening had to be hastily erected. Originally it had been planned to open the Church on Christmas Day. However, Bishop Selwyn arrived in Nelson earlier in the month and on Sunday, December 14th, 1851, he opened the first Church to be erected on the site now occupied by the Cathedral. It is this event which we now celebrate and as our minds turn back to that opening, we recall the account of it which appeared in the "Nelson Examiner."

"The Church, which has been erected partly by subscription and partly by the Church Endowment Fund at a cost of about £800, was opened for Divine service on Sunday morning last by the Bishop of New Zealand. His Lordship took for his text James v. 7,





A VERY EARLY PICTURE OF THE FIRST CHURCH TAKEN FROM SHELBOURNE STREET.

By courtesy Dr. F. A. Bett.

"Be patient, therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain," and, in the course of an eloquent and impressive discourse, showed the difficulties which had stood in the way of building a suitable Church in the settlement at an earlier period. The building was very crowded, and it was supposed to have contained about 600 persons. In the evening the Rev. H. F. Butt preached also to a crowded congregation, and after each service a collection was made in aid of the Build-

ing Fund, which realised £25. The best feeling, we are glad to say, was shown by both Presbyterians and Wesleyans on the occasion, for the places of worship belonging to these bodies were closed for the day to enable the respective congregations to join in worship with their Episcopalian brethren. The Church is a neat wooden building in the early English style, of the form of a cross, but 40 feet has yet to be added to its length to complete the design. It will at present accommodate from 300 to 400. The north window contains a piece of stained glass presented to the Building Committee by Mr. Campbell."

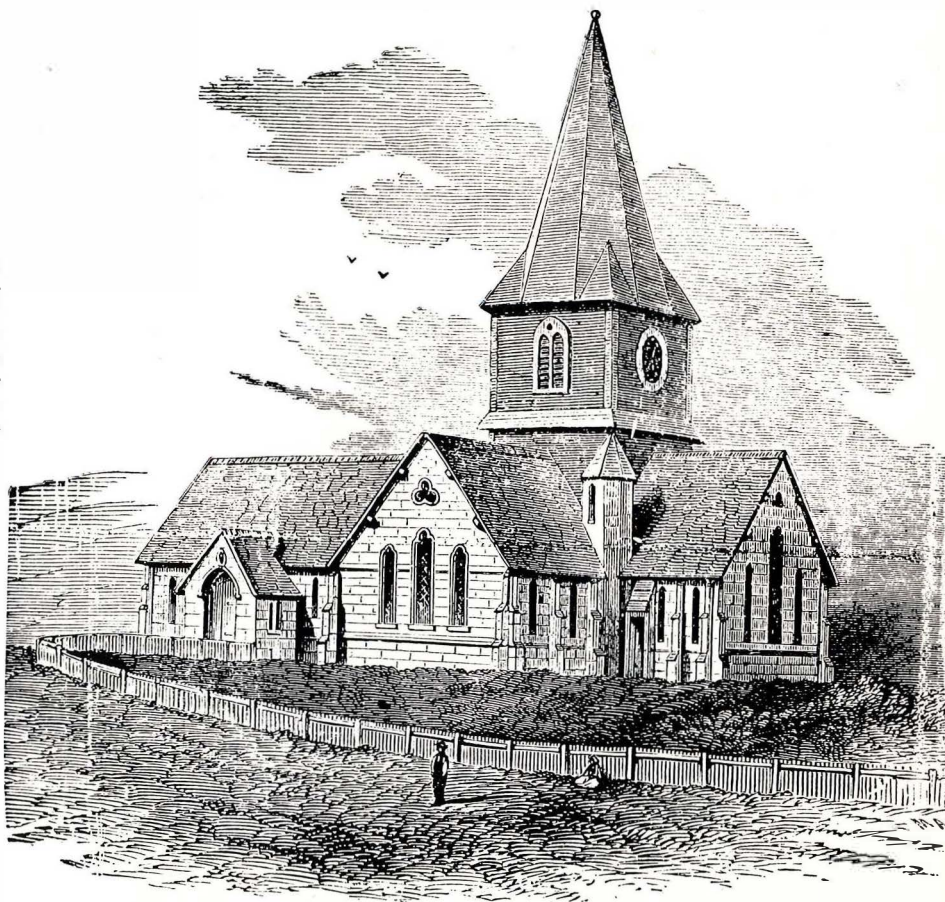


This building served the Parish of Christ Church for 36 years, during which time various alterations and enlargements were made to it. The first of these was in 1859, another being in 1866, when the nave was extended to provide more accommodation for the rapidly increasing congregation. The result, in the words of a worshipper of that time was "that it was at once converted into one of the most uncomfortable churches that is to be found in the

colony, or perhaps anywhere." The cost of these alterations had to be met, and many efforts were made, especially by the ladies of the parish.

Although this Church was used by two bishops, Bishop Hobhouse and Bishop Suter, it was never known as the Cathedral, this honour being first bestowed on the reconstructed Church of 1886.

Reproduction of an engraving from "Bazaar Gazette," a hand-bill issued on Friday, March 22nd, 1867. The Bazaar was held, before the arrival of Bishop Suter, to raise £400 owing on the Church.







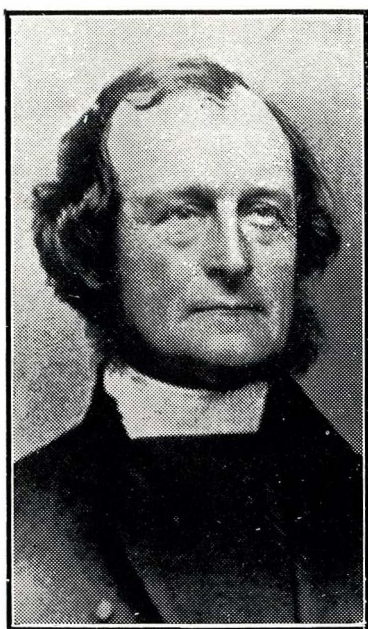
Judging from the tree growth, the top photograph was taken shortly before the first Church was demolished.

The lower is an earlier photograph taken from Nile Street East. It shows clearly the extensions to the nave.

Photos by courtesy of Dr. F. A. Bett.







BISHOP SELWYN.

THE COMMEMORATIVE STONE AND TABLET near the spot where Bishop Selwyn erected his Church tent on Church Hill in 1842.



# THE BISHOP OF NEW ZEALAND

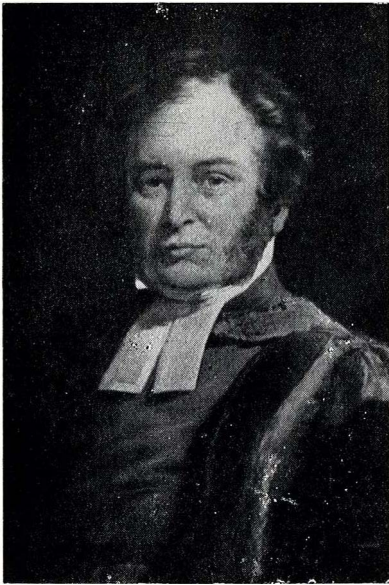
George Augustus Selwyn

Educated at Eton and Cambridge, George Augustus Selwyn was curate in the Parish of Windsor when he was offered the post of Bishop of New Zealand. After his consecration at Lambeth on October 16th, 1841, he departed with his wife and clergy in the vessel "Tomatin" on Boxing Day of the same year. He landed at Auckland on May 30th, 1842, established his headquarters at Waimate and two months later journeyed south to visit Taranaki, Wellington and Nelson. His work in New Zealand included the establishment of a college at his headquarters, the giving of a constitution to the Church in New Zealand with a Synod to govern it, and the division of the country into six Sees.

Indefatigable in his journeyings, zealous in his work for the Church, it is to him that Nelson must give much of the credit for the foundation of its religious life. It was he who, on his first visit in August, 1842, realised the possibilities of the Church Hill as a site not merely for a church but for a cathedral. It was he who in 1843 bought from the New Zealand Company the two huts inside the fortifications for use as a Church and a school. He was also responsible for the acquisition of the site on which the Cathedral now stands and it was, in part, his enthusiasm which encouraged the settlers to proceed with the building of the first Church. That the first parish Church should have been dedicated by Bishop Selwyn on December 14th, 1851, was therefore very fitting and as we celebrate the centenary of that dedication our minds, in thanksgiving, will turn back to his leadership and vision.



# THE EARLY VICARS OF CHRIST CHURCH



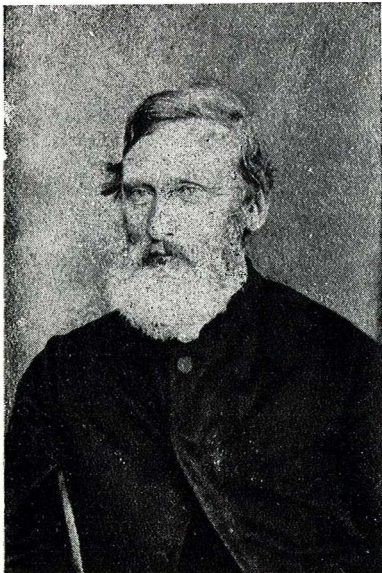
THE REV. C. W. SAXTON.

## THE REV. C. W. SAXTON.

With his wife and their infant son, who had been born during the voyage, the Rev. Charles Waring Saxton arrived in Nelson on the "Clifford" in May, 1842. He came as a settler, but finding no Vicar in the young settlement he began almost immediately to conduct services and minister to the spiritual needs of the people. His work for the Church continued even after the arrival of the Rev. C. L. Reay and ended only with his own return to England in 1844.

## THE REV. C. L. REAY.

When Bishop Selwyn visited Nelson for the first time in August, 1842, he brought with him the Rev. C. L. Reay to be its first resident clergyman. Mr. Reay, a C.M.S. missionary, undertook long missionary journeys and it was during his ministry that the first church outside Nelson, erected by the Maoris at Wapping Point, Collingwood in 1843, was opened. He also established the Bishop's School and saw other churches established at Waimea West and Wakefield before his failing health forced him to leave Nelson on the 2nd April, 1847, only a year before his death.



THE REV. H. F. BUTT.

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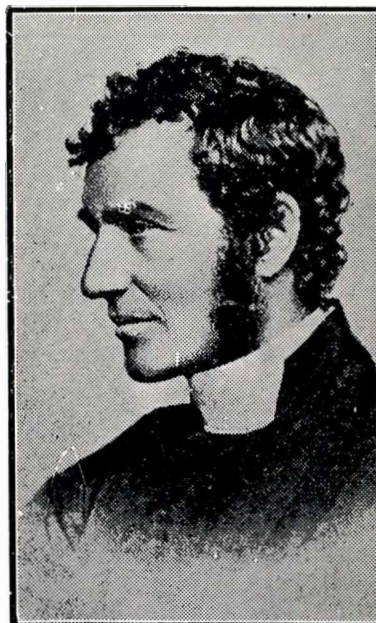
The Rev. H. F. Butt, who laid the foundation stone of the first building known as Christ Church, Nelson, came to the settlement with Bishop Selwyn in December, 1843. He assisted the Rev. C. L. Reay and took charge of the Bishop's School. After Mr. Reay's retirement he carried on alone for more than a year, being made incumbent of Christ Church in 1848. He held this position until his appointment as first resident clergyman of the Wairau on 2nd December, 1857. There he continued to labour zealously, establishing churches at the Wairau Valley, in Blenheim and in Picton,



# THE FIRST BISHOP OF NELSON

As the first Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Hobhouse holds a unique place in the annals of the Church in Nelson. Arriving in Nelson on the 19th February, 1859, he was installed in Christ Church, Nelson, on the 28th April, and immediately began to set his Diocese in order. The foundation for most of the Diocesan organisation was laid at his first Diocesan Synod held on August 9th, 1859, and completed in the 1860 Synod, though not without much controversy and many misunderstandings. Work in the parishes expanded and the Bishop visited the whole of his diocese, often on foot, in spite of ill health which forced him to resign from his charge on December 11th, 1865.

Nelson will remember him for his generosity, for it is to him that we owe Bishopdale, and the establishment of the Pension Fund, the Clergy Replenishment Fund and the Archdeaconry Fund.



BISHOP EDMUND HOBHOUSE, D.D.

BY ROYAL WARRANT OF 29th SEPTEMBER, 1858, NELSON BECAME A BISHOP'S SEE AND A CITY.

The Letters Patent of Queen Victoria read: "We do further by our Letters Patent ordain and constitute the town of Nelson, in the province of Nelson, to be a Bishop's See and do ordain that the said town of Nelson be a City."



By courtesy of the Diocesan Office.





By courtesy Alexander Turnbull Library.

FOR 46 YEARS THE OLD CATHEDRAL HELD A  
VERY PRECIOUS PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF ITS  
CONGREGATION.



# CHURCH INTO CATHEDRAL

The old Church remodelled and enlarged to become  
a Gracious Cathedral

"It has been the spiritual home of many generations and very tender indeed must be the thoughts of many here to-night."

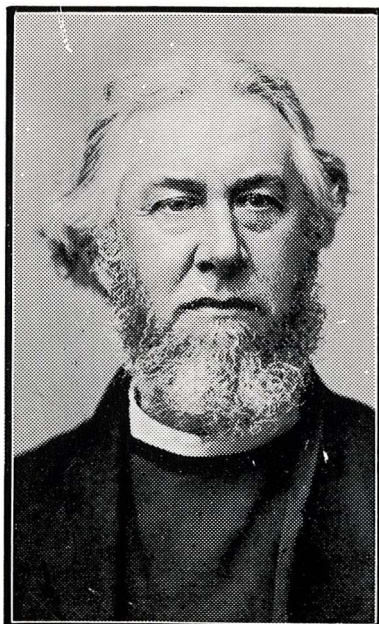
Such were the words of Bishop Sadlier at the last service held in the old Cathedral in 1932, and indeed that Cathedral, which had served both as the mother church of the Diocese and as the Parish Church for the parish of Christ Church, Nelson, for 46 years, held a very precious place in the hearts of its congregation.

Consecrated on Wednesday, February 16th, 1887, the Cathedral was not a new building, but a reconstruction of the first parish church. In 1883 meetings had been held to discuss the desirability of enlarging the old building but it was

not until 1885 that more serious action was taken. At first there was much controversy. Should it be a new building in wood at a cost of £5000, or in stone at a cost of £10,000, or should the old building be altered at a cost of £2000? The exponents of alteration won the day. At meeting after meeting in 1885 the vestry considered details of porches, nave, transepts and chancel. Money was raised, and Mr. Somerville, the Nelson architect, was asked to draw up plans for the proposed alterations. Tenders for his plans, however, were considered too high and as a result Mr. Mountfort, of Christchurch, was asked to submit plans and specifications. These proved more satisfactory and on July 20th, 1886, tenders were called by Mr. Mountfort for alterations to Christ

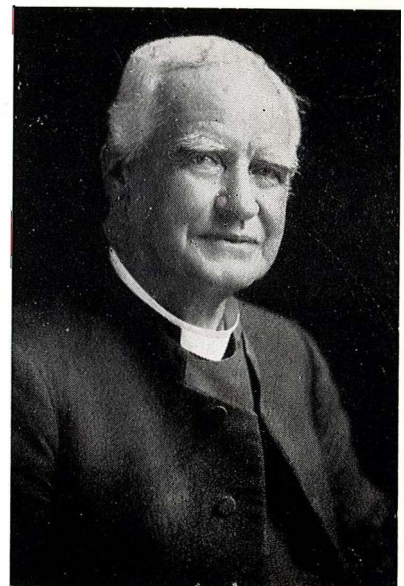
(Left)

ANDREW BURN SUTER,  
D.D. The second Bishop of  
Nelson. Consecrated by the  
Archbishop of Canterbury,  
August 24th, 1866. Resigned  
1892.



(Right)

THE REV. J. P. KEMPTHORNE, L.Th., Vicar of  
Christ Church, 1886 to 1916.



LEADERS IN EARLY  
CHURCH BUILDING.



Church. That of Mr. Andrew Brown was accepted and work began almost immediately. Discussion at vestry meetings for the next few months centred round the progress of the work, the financial arrangements, the furnishings, and, finally, the arrangements for the opening of the Church.

Progress had been made in another direction in 1886, for Bishop Suter made arrangements with the Parish of Christ Church for the use of the Parish Church as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese, and this was submitted to the Synod for its approval. That the Synod was agreeable may be judged from a paper still extant which reads:

“Order of Service for the Consecration of Christ Church, Nelson (the Cathedral Church of the Diocese) on Wednesday, February 16th, 1887.”

The opening festivities had actually begun two days earlier on Monday, the 14th, when the Primate of New Zealand and other distinguished guests were welcomed in the Provincial Hall. Meanwhile an army of workmen were still working on the Cathedral and, by labouring throughout the previous night, they managed to have everything ready for the opening and consecration on the morning of February 16th. Services were again held on that evening and on each succeeding day until February 21st, when the Bishop of Nelson read the prayers and lessons at the last of the opening services.

From that historic week until 1932 the old Cathedral was used by four successive Bishops, and there many of the clergy of the Diocese were ordained, as was also Bishop Bennett, first Maori Bishop.

TRAFALGAR STREET, CHURCH HILL AND CATHEDRAL.

A photograph taken during the Jubilee Celebrations on January 31st, 1892.

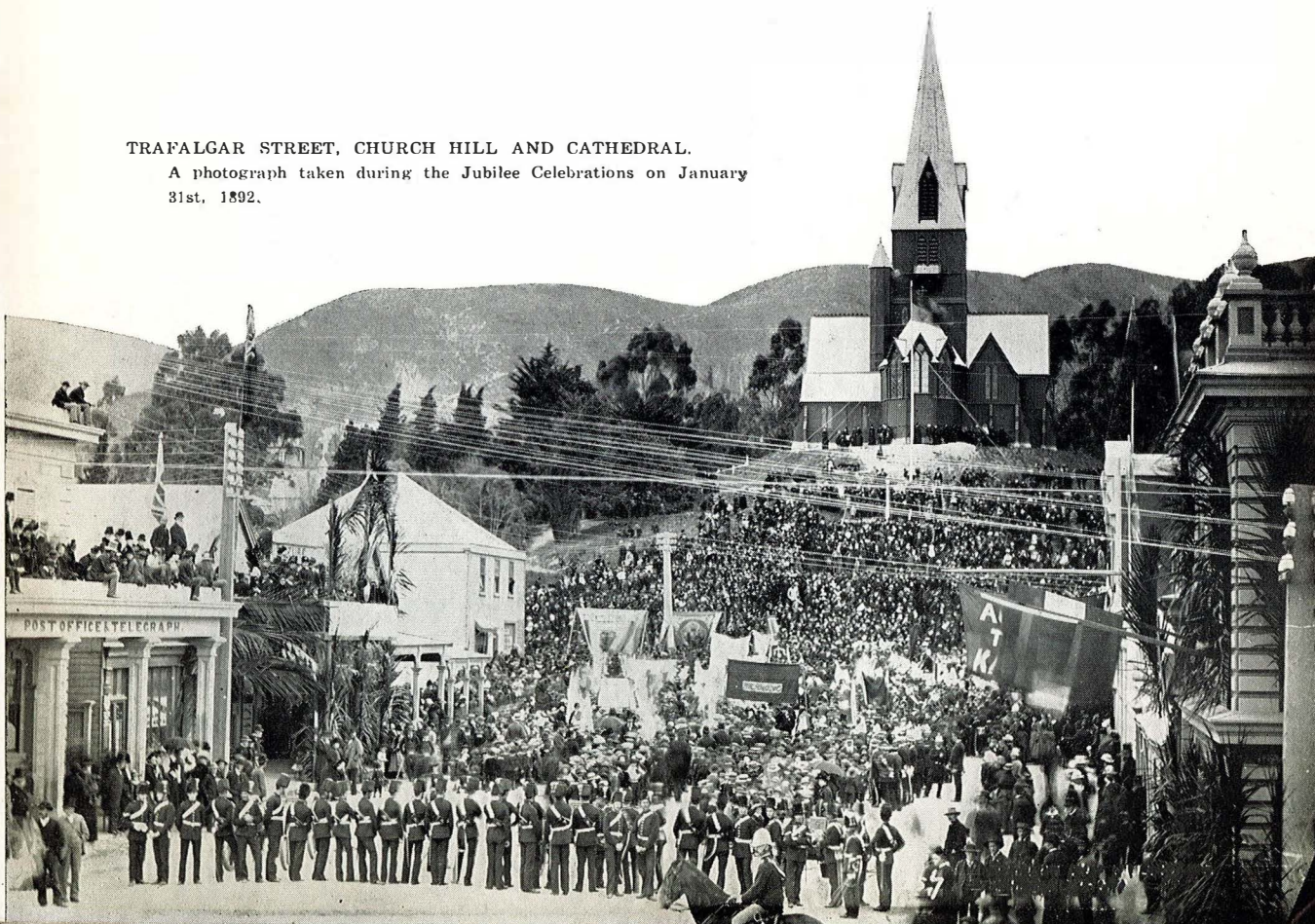




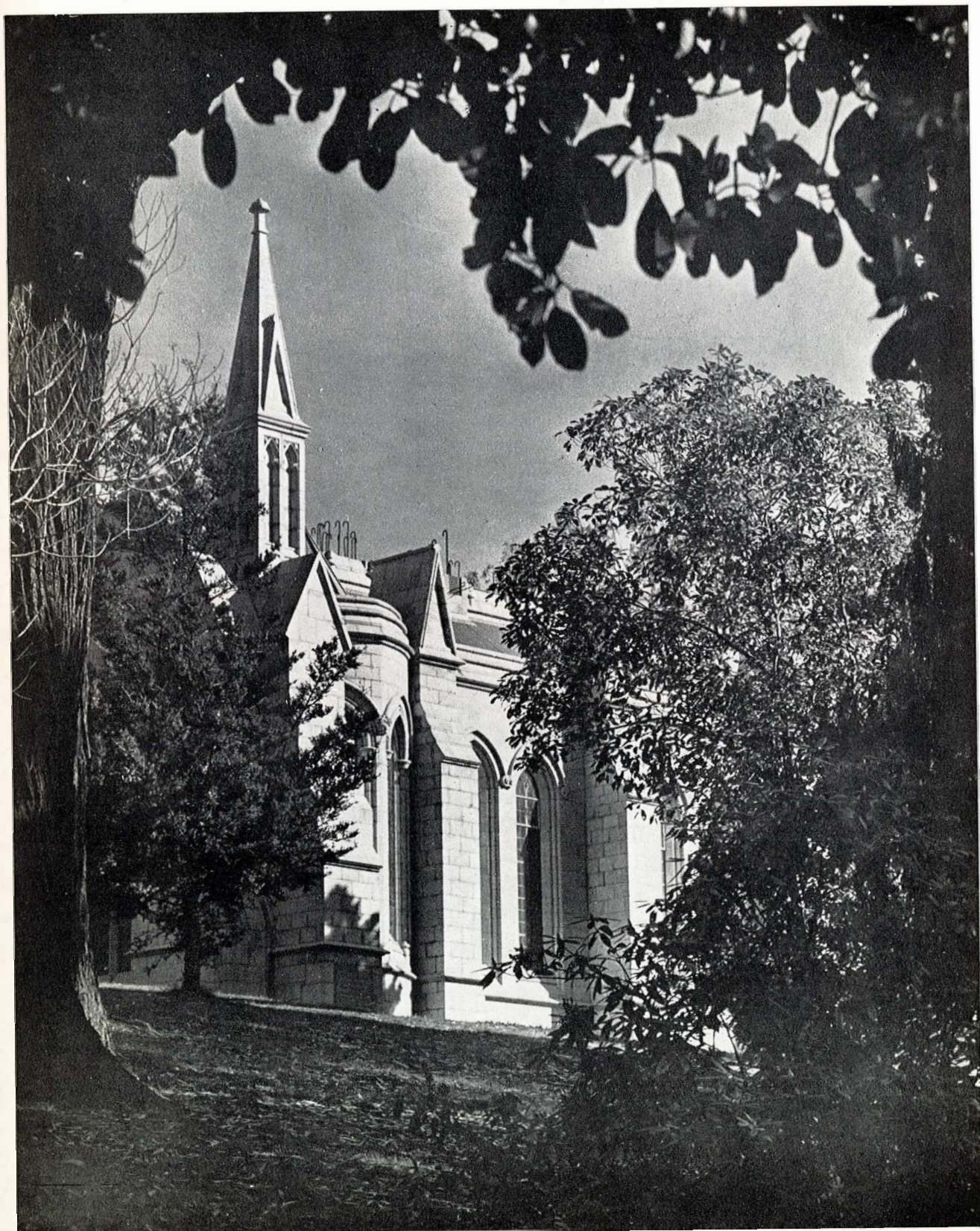


Photo: A. R. Kingsford.

A profile that will revive many tender memories as will also the interior view of the old Cathedral. The Chancel is still in use temporarily in the new Cathedral.







THE CATHEDRAL CROWNING THE SUMMIT OF THE HILL.



# THE NEW CATHEDRAL

**"The Cathedral stands as a visible Symbol of Faith"**

"I know how the building of a new Cathedral has long been a dream in your hearts, and I think your first feeling to-day must be one of thankfulness that your dream is now beginning to come true and your aspirations fulfilled."

In speaking thus on the occasion of the laying of the foundation stone of the Cathedral on 2nd August, 1925, the Governor-General, Sir Charles Fergusson, aptly described the feelings of those present, closely attached though they were to the old Cathedral. That a new

Cathedral would be necessary had long been recognised by the Church authorities, who were concerned about the stability of the old building. As a precaution the tower and steeple were removed and in November, 1916, the Synod agreed that a new Cathedral should be erected. To agree was one thing, but to carry out so enormous an undertaking was another, even though the old building was actually condemned by the City Council in 1921. Much more patient work had to be done and large sums of money raised before work could be commenced.

Although still unfinished, the new Cathedral, on a perfect site, is an imposing building well deserving of all efforts that can be directed towards its completion.



Photo: Tourist Department.





THE SERVICE AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW  
CATHEDRAL ON JULY 31st, 1932.

Photo: A. R. Kingsford.

Mr. Frank Peck, F.R.I.B.A., was engaged as the architect, and the material chosen for the new Cathedral was Takaka marble, which was to be hand worked. Robertson Bros. Ltd., and later J. D. & L. Robertson Ltd., supervised by the Erection Board, undertook the contracts for the successive stages of the work. Many difficulties in the working of the marble were encountered and by 1932, with only the nave partially completed, work had to cease, as there were insufficient funds to proceed further. A temporary roof and ceiling were added to the nave, enabling the Cathedral to be used for the first time on July 31st, 1932. The chancel of the old Cathedral was moved to serve the new building and much of the church furniture, including the stalls, desks and pulpit, also came

from the old Cathedral. Thus were preserved the tradition and memories of the past.

The Cathedral was consecrated on December 3rd, 1932, by His Grace the Archbishop of New Zealand in the presence of Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Bledisloe, and a great congregation, including the members of the Diocesan Synod.

Since that day the completion of the Cathedral has been in the minds of all connected with the Church in Nelson. Funds have been collected over the years and at the 1951 Diocesan Synod Bishop Stephenson, appealing for a more determined spirit of giving, announced that an architect had been consulted and it is hoped that decisions on future work will soon be made.





THE SOUTH APPROACH, SHOWING  
MAIN ENTRANCE.

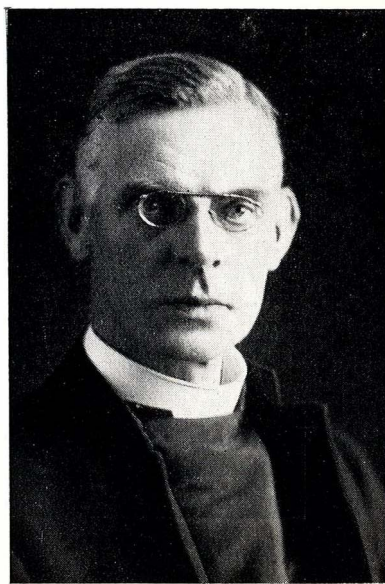
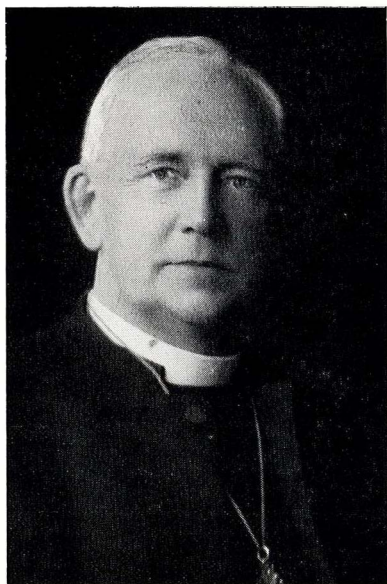
Photo: Geoffrey Wood.

(Left)

WILLIAM CHARLES  
SADLER, D.D. The fourth  
Bishop of Nelson. Consecrated in Nelson Cathedral,  
July 21st, 1912. Resigned  
1934.

(Right)

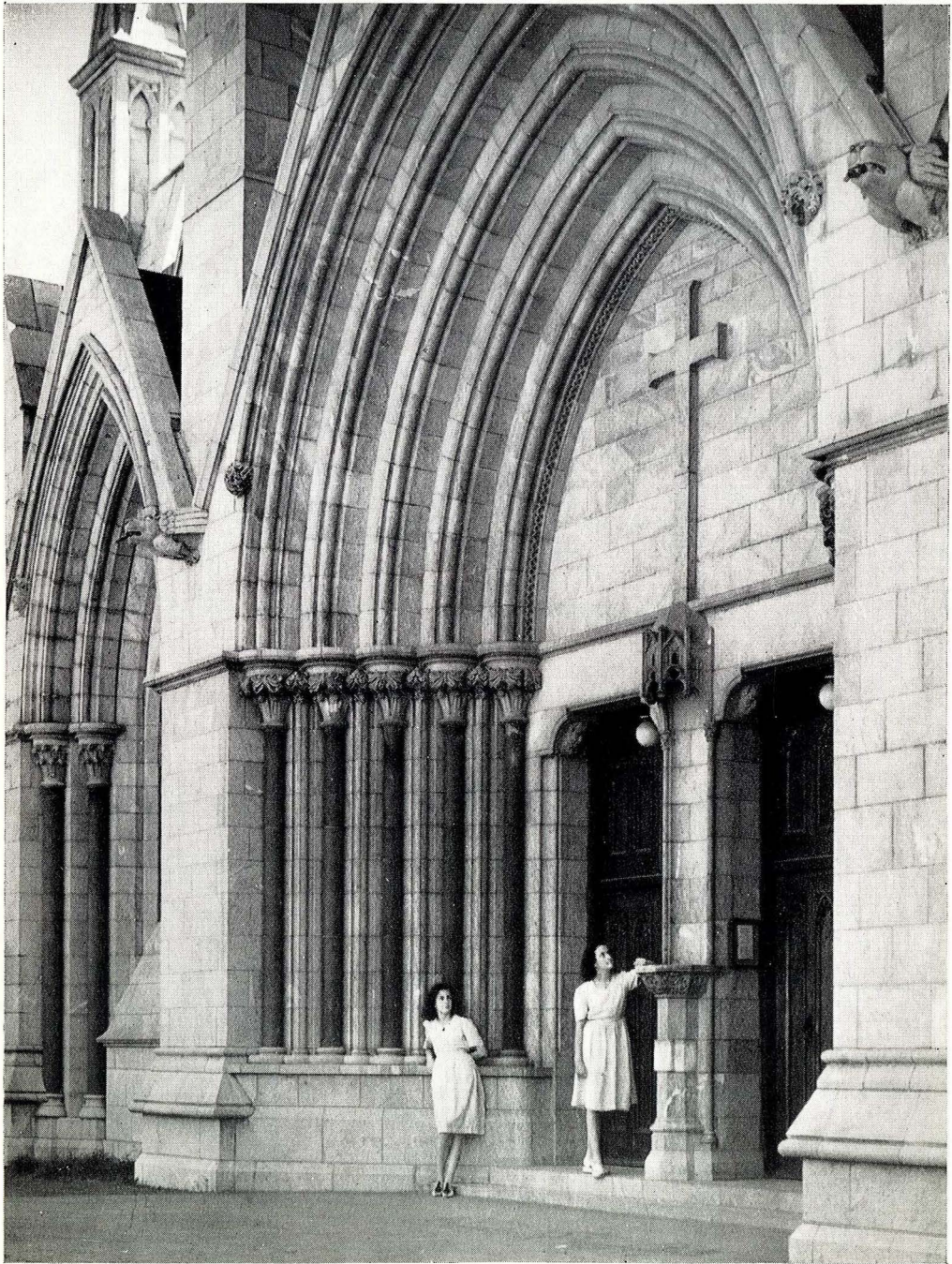
THE VERY REV. C. F.  
ASKEW, M.A., Vicar of  
Christ Church and Dean of  
Nelson, 1923 to 1933.



THEY SAW THE VISION OF A NEW CATHEDRAL.



# ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES



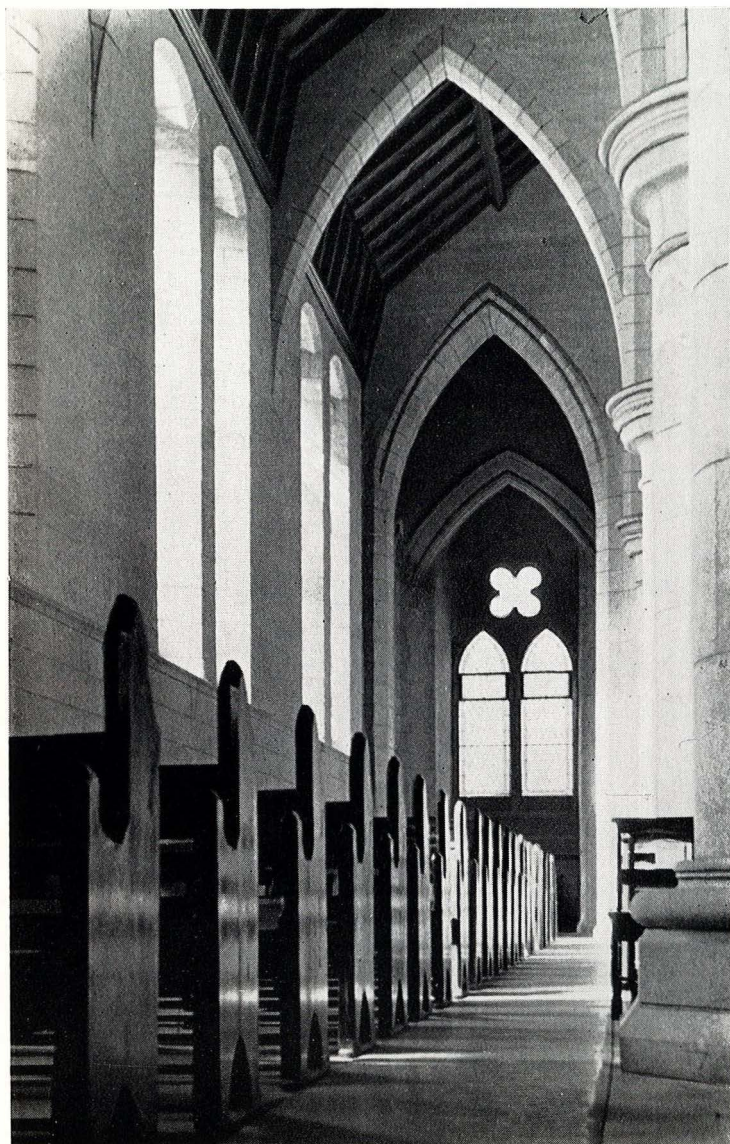
SHOWING THE NOBLE PROPORTIONS, CLASSICAL  
DETAIL AND FINE WORKMANSHIP OF THE MAIN  
ENTRANCE.

Photo: Tourist Department.



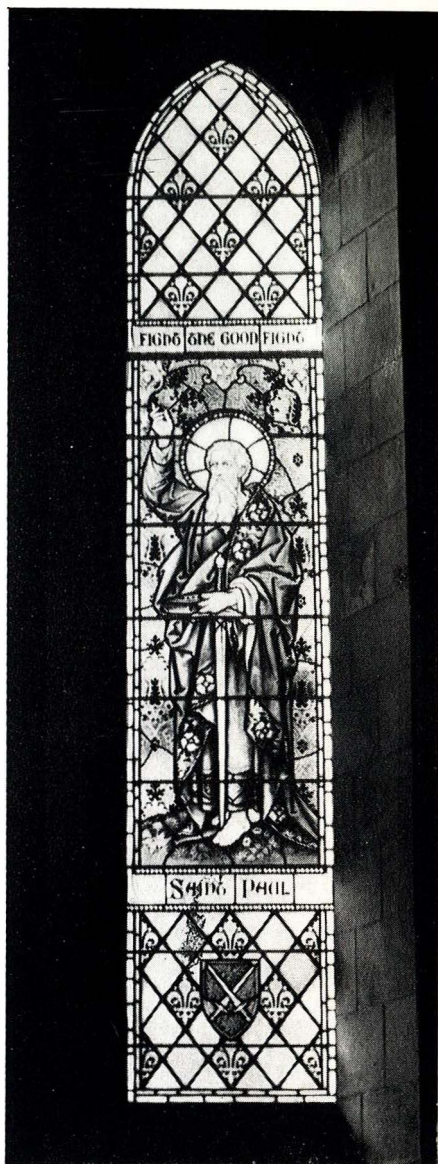
The design of the Nelson Cathedral is based upon the "Lancet" or First Period English Gothic of the 12th Century. It features the plain pointed windows, rose windows and plate tracery of that period. Although the interior arches are "Semi-Gothic" in design, a decided Norman influence is noticeable in the pillars and in the lower arches.

The building is designed to seat a congregation of 1000.



INTERIOR DETAIL—One of the Side Aisles.

Photo: Richard Blick.



ONE OF THE PLANNED SERIES OF STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.



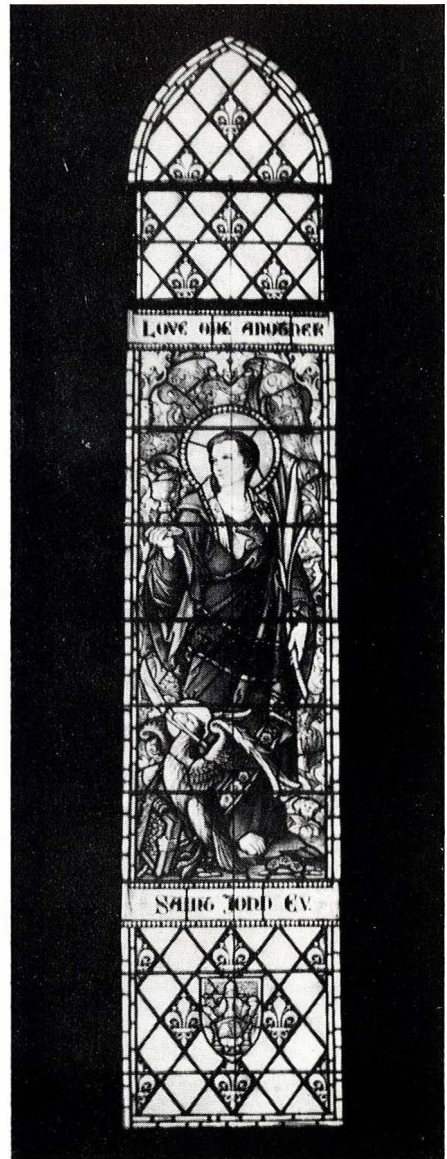
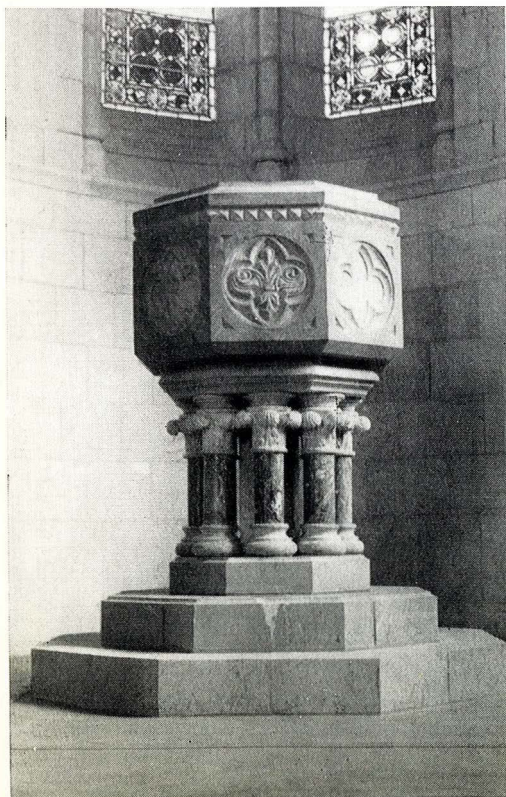


Photo: A. R. Kingsford.

ONE OF THE BEAUTIFUL  
STAINED GLASS WINDOWS.

The top picture shows the Guide and Scout Corner and the lower the Font in memory of Frances Woolfreyes and Hayward Pitts-Brown.





THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL,  
SIR CHARLES FERGUSSON,  
LAYING THE FOUNDATION  
STONE ON AUGUST 2nd, 1925.

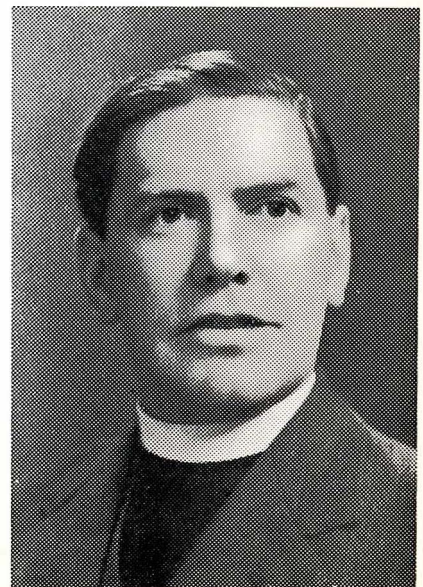
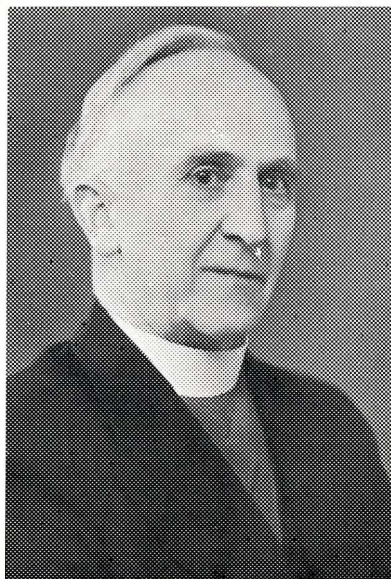


THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL,  
LORD BLEDISLOE, AT THE  
OPENING OF THE NEW  
CATHEDRAL, DECEMBER 3rd,  
1932.

{Left}: THE RIGHT REV.  
PERCIVAL WILLIAM  
STEPHENSON, D.D., pre-  
sent Bishop of Nelson.  
Consecrated in Nelson  
Cathedral, November 1st,  
1940.

{Right}: THE VERY REV.  
E. A. GOWING, M.A.  
(Oxon.), the present Vicar  
of Christ Church and  
Dean of Nelson. Inducted  
and installed July 20th,  
1950.

THEY LOOK TOWARDS THE  
FUTURE BUILDING.





# THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY

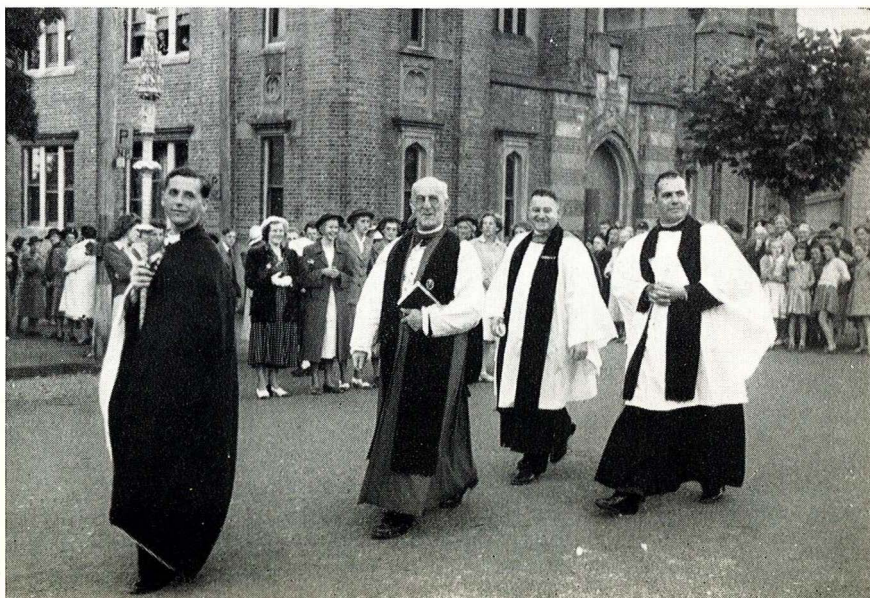
(The Most Rev. and Right Hon. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, D.D.)

## An Important Visitor to Nelson



Photo: A. R. Kingsford.

The Archbishop is escorted in procession to the special evening service in the Cathedral.



The Archbishop and Chaplains leave Church House in Nile Street.





The Archbishop talking to school children at the foot of Church Steps.

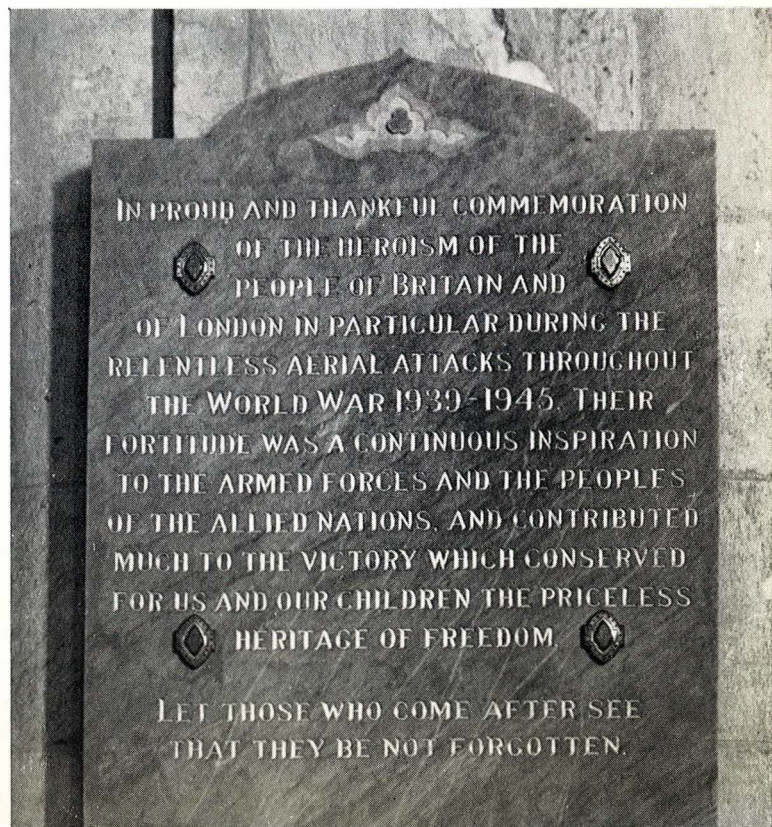
The day of December 12th, 1950, will long be remembered in Nelson as marking one of the most important occasions in the history of the Church. This was due to the presence in the city of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Primate of All England, in the course of the first visit that the head of the Anglican Communion had ever paid to New Zealand. The Archbishop and Mrs. Fisher gave of themselves to the utmost during their one-day visit. The

morning was taken up with a press conference and photographs; they attended a civic reception at mid-day; during the afternoon they each met informally the clergy and members of the Mothers' Union, and in the evening took part in the special service at the Cathedral where the Archbishop preached the sermon. The Cathedral was filled to capacity and the service was relayed to an "overflow congregation" in the Marsden Hall.

#### THE MEMORIAL TO THE PEOPLE OF BRITAIN IN NELSON CATHEDRAL.

"In proud and thankful commemoration of the heroism of the people of Britain and of London in particular during the relentless aerial attacks throughout the World War 1939-45. Their fortitude was a continuous inspiration to the armed forces and the peoples of the Allied Nations, and contributed much to the victory which conserved for us and our children the priceless heritage of freedom. Let those who come after see that they be not forgotten."

Photo: A. R. Kingsford.





# THE CHURCH IN ACTION



AFTER MORNING SERVICE.

Photo: A. R. Kingsford.

## The whole work of the Church

We have been thinking of "the Church on Church Hill." The various buildings that have stood on the summit of the Hill have been portrayed. The effect, perhaps, is to leave an impression of a series of Church buildings. But the Church in essence is much more than a building. Without men and women, boys and girls, the Church would not exist. The Christian Church is, therefore, all those who have been called by God into membership of His Church. Having been baptised in the faith of Jesus Christ, it is their vocation to be the Body of Christ in the world. As St. Teresa said long ago—"Christ has no body now on earth but yours,

no hands but yours, no feet but yours; you are the eyes through which is to look out Christ's compassion to the world, yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good, and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now."

And so the Church, where it is truly the Church, is a body of people, dedicated to the service of God, showing forth in their life in the world something of the Spirit of their Lord and Master, seeking to win every department of human life for Him. To this end all the work and worship of the Church is finally directed.—E.A.G.





Photo: F. T. Hall.

## EARLY RECORDS

The first entry in the Baptismal Register of the Diocese, dated January 19th, 1842, is that of Charles Clifford, son of Charles Waring and Mary Saxton (born at sea on "Clifford").

The next is July 10th, 1842, Elizabeth Maria, daughter of John Mordaunt and Emily Brook.

There were four Baptisms on the opening day of the first Church on December 14th, 1851, all conducted by the Rev. H. F. Butt:

Ellen Lucy, daughter of William and Harriet Haliard.

Clara, daughter of Richard and Mary Richardson.

James, son of James and Elizabeth Rattan.

Henry John Fraser, son of Henry Stroud and Marjory Martin.

The earliest marriages in the first Church were:

January 29th, 1852, John Woodruff and Eliza McKay.

February 24th, 1852, Charles Empson and Louisa Howard.

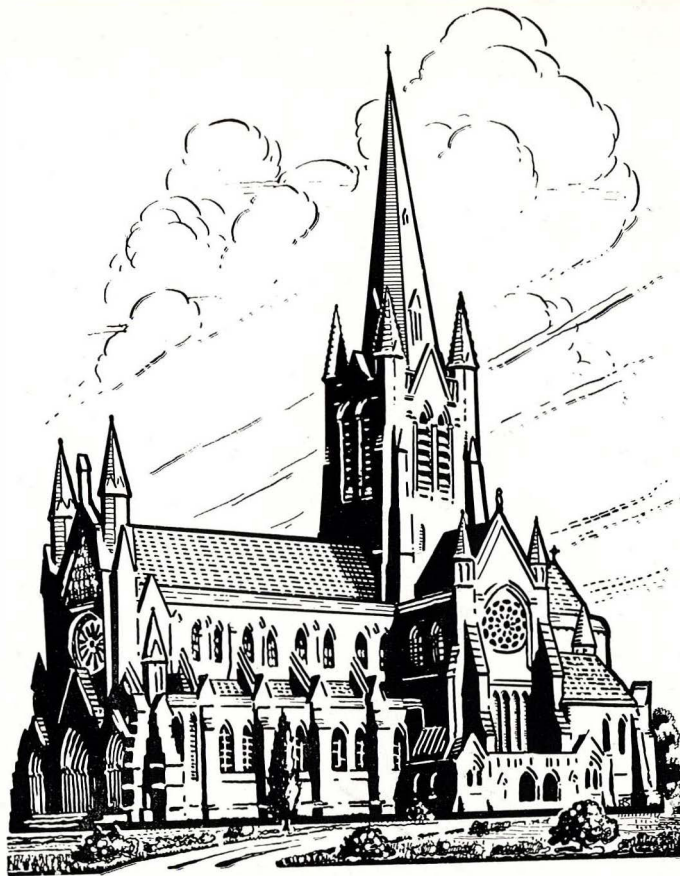
February 28th, 1852, Charles F. Willet Watts and Elizabeth Nixon.

The Scout and Guide Leaders receive their colours at the Altar rail.



Photo: A. R. Kingsford.





## WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

We have been told the story of a century. But the story of a century can never be fully told. Much will always be shrouded in the mists of obliquity—the faith and the devotion, the generosity and the sacrifices of the common people. For the building of the Church on the Hill the incident of the widow's mite has surely been re-enacted many times.

What will be the story of the next one hundred years? That depends in part upon us. An eminent ecclesiastical architect has recently advised that we should keep as closely as possible to the original designs in our future building. When the Cathedral as planned is completed, Nelson will have reason to be proud of its House of God.

A most promising start has been made. Visitors from many lands are impressed. The

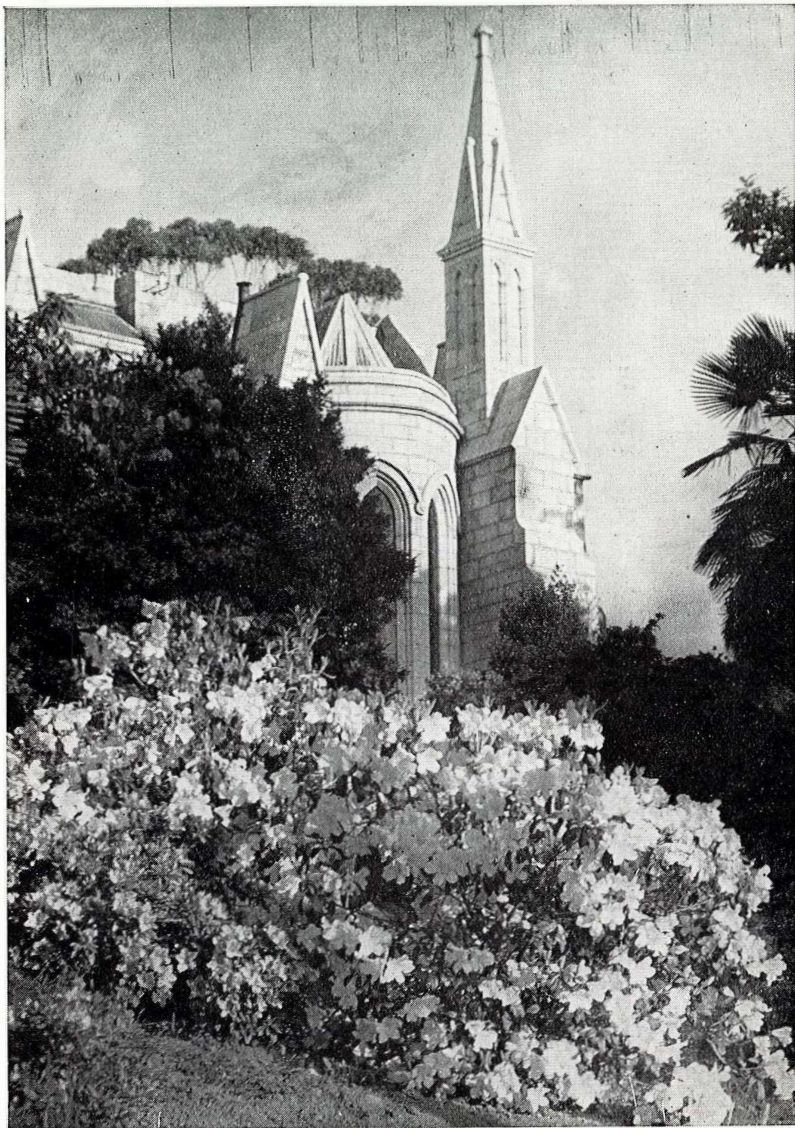
Archbishop of Canterbury during his visit in 1950 expressed great satisfaction with it. In a letter to the Dean in March, 1951, he said that the interior of the Cathedral, as far as it is finished, had greatly impressed him.

It is now 19 years since the builders ceased working. Many hope that builders will soon be at work again. Before this can happen there has to be much generous giving. We must not be content with saying that most of the work of completion will have to be done by succeeding generations. Let us remember that there are many to-day who took no part in the building of the Cathedral in the past.

As we can look back with gratitude to the past, let those who come after us have reason to be thankful for what was achieved in the latter half of the twentieth century.—E.A.G.

Gifts (Great or Small) May be Sent to  
THE DEAN OF NELSON,  
The Deanery,  
NELSON, NEW ZEALAND.





The proceeds from the sale of this Pictorial are  
for the Cathedral Building Fund.



