

## CHAPTER XVIII.

*Churches Continued—St. Mary's, East St. Kilda—Sacred Heart of Jesus—The Church of Holy Angels—Methodist Churches—St. Kilda Hebrew Congregation—The Building of the Synagogue—Some Notable Jewish Citizens of St. Kilda—Moritz Michaelis—Michaelis Hallenstein—Sigismund Jacoby—First Jewish Rabbi at St. Kilda, Rev. Elias Blaubaum—St. Kilda Jewish War Record—Sir John Monash—St. Kilda and Brighton Ladies' Benevolent Society, 1863, and Others—The St. Kilda Day Nursery—South St. Kilda Baptist Church, 1915—The Congregational Church, 1857—A Notable Man and Congregationalist, Thomas Fulton, of St. Kilda—The Salvation Army.*

**I**N the year 1853, the Roman Catholic community erected a small brick church, which was used also as a Roman Catholic school, in Dandenong Road, capable of seating 250 persons at a cost of over £4,000. That building was the commencement of the foundation of the well known church of St. Mary's, East St. Kilda, the oldest Roman Catholic Church in St. Kilda. A report, which appeared in *The Argus* newspaper, under date, February 28, 1859, states:—

"The foundation stone of the Roman Catholic Church for the united parishes of Prahran, and St. Kilda, was laid yesterday, by the Very Rev. Doctor Fitzpatrick, Vicar General of the Diocese. Mass was said, on the occasion, by the Rev. P. Niall, the priest of the parish, and the sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dean Hayes of Geelong, in the absence of Dr. Geoghegan, V.G., who has not yet returned from Sydney. The chapel is to be erected of Blue-stone, with freestone dressings, and is to the design of Mr. W. W. Wardell, lately appointed to the office of Inspecting Clerk of Works of the Colony. It is being built, within the reserve, situated south of the Dandenong Road, and east of Chapel Street, and faces the Church of England reserve, on which the foundation stone of a new church (All Saints' St. Kilda) was also lately laid. Divine service has hitherto been performed in the school house, which only accommodates about 250 persons, whilst the chapel, about to be

erected, will contain several times that number, although even then it will not do more than meet the growing wants of the parishioners."

It was found, after a few years, that the materials used in the construction of the church were so defective, and the workmanship so bad that Mr. W. W. Wardell, architect, was asked, and did, prepare further plans for a more commodious church of St. Mary. On May 1st, 1869, the Sunday after the close of the Provincial Synod, held at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne, the Very Rev. the Bishop of Melbourne, Dr. Goold, attended at the church to lay the foundation stone of the additions, comprising transept, and chancel, in the presence of His Grace, the Archbishop of Sydney, Archbishop Polding, the Very Rev. Dr. Fitzpatrick, V.G., and Dean Fitzgibbon of Adelaide. The chaplains, the Rev. V. Colletti, and J. P. O'Sullivan, were in attendance on the Archbishop and Bishop. There was a large attendance of worshippers at the ceremony. After High Mass, and Archbishop Polding had blessed the corner stone, that prelate, with Bishop Goold, and the Rev. J. F. Corbett, moved in procession to where the foundation stone of the addition to the church was to be laid. When that ceremony was over the clergy in procession made a circuit of the place of the proposed addition. The Rev. W. Kelly preached to those assembled from the Chapter 1, Verse 48, St. Luke. The collection taken up amounted to £100.

It was stated that the church, when completed, would be 136 feet in length, and 44 feet in its greatest breadth, with accommodation for 1,000 worshippers. When the ceremony connected with the new building took place St. Mary's Church was only 64 feet in length and held but 500 people. The additions comprised the extension of the chancel, the erection of a sanctuary, and vestry. Originally it was intended to add only to the main body of the church. The cost of the additions to the church was estimated at the sum of £3,800, of which sum £1,400 had been collected. The Rev. J. F. Corbett was the pastor of St. Kilda, and to his efforts were due the extensions of St. Mary's Church. The completed St. Mary's Church was dedicated on Sunday, November 26, 1871. The organ in St. Mary's Church is the one that was erected for, and was used at the opening, and during the continuation of the first Melbourne Exhibition. The presbytery of St. Mary's was commenced in October,

1866, and was ready for occupation at Easter, 1867. St. Mary's was consecrated by the Bishop of Sale on Rosary Sunday, October 2, 1887, being the first church consecrated in Victoria, and the second in Australasia. On that occasion, Dr. Corbett made a financial statement of his pastorate of twenty-four years, and announced that St. Mary's Church, in which a large congregation was assembled, the presbytery, and the Christian Brothers' house, were quite free from debt. Up to that time £50,000 had been expended on buildings, and of that amount no less than £25,000 was disbursed on buildings, in connection with education, in which was not included the maintenance of the teaching staff.

More church accommodation being required, a site was purchased in Gray Street West for £1,000. Archbishop Goold laid the corner stone of the church, dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, on Sunday, July 13, 1884, and on Sunday, December 7, following, the nave, sanctuary and two sacristies being completed, at a cost of £3,300, His Grace dedicated the church. After the appointment of Dr. Corbett to the bishopric of Sale, St. Kilda mission was divided into the missions of St. Kilda East, St. Kilda West, and South Yarra, and the Very Rev. James L. Hegarty, Rev. W. H. Quirk, and Rev. John Fitzgerald, obtained respectively the pastoral charge of these missions. Later on, in November 1892, a further division of East St. Kilda was made, when the Malvern district was handed over to the care of the Vincentian Fathers.

On Sunday, November 30, 1913, His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne, the most Reverend Dr. Carr, blessed, and opened brick additions, to the Church of the Holy Angels, Balaclava. The parish had, at that time, only been about a year in existence, and the brick building was superseding a wooden one. The Archbishop was welcomed by the pastor, the Rev. John Barry, and also by members of various societies, and Roman Catholic fraternities. The boy guides formed a guard of honor. A procession of the Archbishop, clergy, and acolytes, was formed, and the church was blessed inside, and outside, after which the Litany of Saints, with versicles, and prayers were recited. The interior of the church is impressive. The high altar, and the side altars of the Sacred Heart, and Our Blessed Lady, are aids to devotion. There are beautiful decorated statues of the Sacred

Heart, and the Blessed Virgin, adorning the side altars. The altar rails are artistic, with a rich carpet, and a massive candelabrum; these, and other furnishings, it is said "make the Church of Holy Angels, Balaclava, the most devotional one outside of Melbourne." There is also a beautiful stained Gothic window placed over the main entrance, and another window at the end of the choir gallery. A commodious parish hall in, connection with the church, has been built in McWhae Avenue, on the spacious grounds adjoining the Presbytery. The hall will seat 400 people, and it was constructed from the timber that had formed the old church building. The new church cost £11,000, and with total furnishings the cost is estimated at £12,000.

At Elwood, St. Columba's Church School was opened on April 29, 1918, and it was attended to by the priests of the Sacred Heart Church, Grey Street, St. Kilda till March 10, 1919. Elwood was then formed into a separate parish and its first parish priest was the Rev. J. J. MacCarthy. On January 6, 1922, the Rev. M. F. McKenna became the parish priest of Elwood. In 1929, the present church of St. Columba was commenced. The memorial stone bears the inscription, "This memorial stone was blessed and laid by the Most Reverend Daniel Mannix, D.D. L.L.D., Archbishop of Melbourne, 12th May 1929. Reynolds Bros. Builders, A. A. French F.R.V.I.A, architect." The church was completed on December 8, 1929.

On Tuesday, March 29, 1869, the foundation stone of a new chapel, the United Free Methodist Church, St. Kilda East, was laid in Packington Street by Mr. Orr. A newspaper report states that—

"For some time the United Free Methodists have been holding preaching services in a house lent by a friend. The congregation increasing, it was necessary to erect a chapel, and Henry Jennings, Esq., kindly gave the land for that purpose. The chapel is to be built 30 feet by 26 feet."

With regard to the Methodist Church, at the corner of Chapel and Carlisle Streets, Balaclava, early in the years of the seventies, various members of the St. Kilda Wesleyan Church, who were living in East and South St. Kilda, resolved to have a church in their neighbourhood. Some opposition was shown by residents living in the vicinity of the Wesleyan Church in Fitzroy Street. They feared a church in the southern portion

of St. Kilda, would be a continual burden on the finances of the circuit. The proposal was strongly advocated by its supporters, and in the end, the circuit quarterly meeting gave its necessary consent. The Rev. John Cope, the superintendent of the circuit convened a meeting of those interested in establishing the chapel. The meeting was held on July 13, 1874, and the sum of £95 was promised towards the building fund. The amount formed a nucleus, and it was added to until on December 22, 1876, during the superintendence of the Rev. W. A. Quick, a contract to build a church to cost £850 was signed. On the morning of Christmas Day, the position of the building was marked out at the corner of Carlisle, and Chapel Streets, where it now stands.

It was due to the exertions of the Rev. D. J. Draper, who was the chairman of the Melbourne District of the Wesleyan Church, that the land for a church site at South St. Kilda was secured from the Government in the year 1859. On May 23, 1877, the church was opened and 58 seats were taken. The building was designed to accommodate 220. It measured internally 45 feet by 27 feet 8 inches. The turret at the south-east angle rises to the height of 95 feet, and is surmounted by an ornamental vane, and when built was regarded as a good landmark for the neighbourhood. The windows were described as being "glazed with cathedral and ornamental stained glass by Ferguson & Wise. The cost of the building including seats and pulpit was about £1,060. More than half of that sum was received from contributions made when the church was opened. The architects of the building were Crouch & Wilson.

At first no ministers were appointed to the church, but upon the Rev. J. C. Symons coming to reside in South St. Kilda, he was appointed to the pastorship of the new church. The church building was enlarged in 1885, and a pipe organ was installed. The school, built in 1879 was enlarged in 1887. In May, 1888, the church authorities celebrated the coming of age of the church. Up to that time the capital expenditure had been £3,850, and the church debt stood at £1,150. Since that time a separate brick building has been built. It contains a large room for use as a kindergarten, and several class rooms. When the Jubilee of the church came, 1927, a sum of £200 was subscribed to put the church, and its buildings, in repair.

Owing to the itinerant changing system of supply of ministers to various circuits which obtains in the Methodist Church, the pastorate of the United Free Methodist Church has been occupied by a long succession of ministers. Among the number the Rev. A. T. Holden, C.B.E., B.A., and the Rev. D. Ditterech have been chairmen of the Victorian and Tasmanian Conferences, while one, the Rev. P. Knight, B.A., has occupied the position of President of the New Zealand Conference.

The Wesleyan Chapel in Fitzroy Street was opened on June 3, 1853. It was a small iron building, of the class that was then being freely imported into the Colony. The Rev. Robert Young preached the opening sermon. A news note of the day stated that the chapel was about sixty feet in length, and forty in width. An iron building of much larger dimensions had been ordered from England, and when it arrived it was proposed that the old building should be converted into a residence for the minister. Arrangements had been made to hold regular meetings, and evening services, every Sunday. Sabbath and Day Schools were also to be opened. The Honorable Alexander Fraser, councillor of the municipality of St. Kilda, on Tuesday afternoon, October 27, 1857, performed the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda. A large number of spectators was present. The usual formalities were observed. Hymns were sung, and prayers offered up, responsive to the occasion. When the 84th Psalm was read, the stone was laid. In the evening, a tea meeting of adherents of the church was held. We quote from a contemporary report:—

"Wesleyan Church, St. Kilda.—This place of worship was opened on Sunday, September 19, 1858, by the Rev. W. Hill of Geelong, preaching in the morning, Rev. James Ballantyne in the afternoon, and the Rev. I. New in the evening, when the congregations were excellent. On the following evening 20th, a service was held in the school room adjoining, the party adjourning after tea to the new church, Peter Davis, Esq., presided, and the meeting was addressed by the Revs. D. J. Draper, R. Fletcher, J. Ballantyne, Walter Powell, Esq., and others. The collection, and promises, amounted to about 2350. The building is an oblong gothic structure, with narrow lancet windows, side

buttresses, a square tower, &c. It is built of blue stone, with white stone facings, and has a neat appearance. It will accommodate 500 adults besides Sunday School children. The cost will be between £4000 and £5,000, towards which £1,500 has been granted by the trustees of Collins Street, Melbourne, out of the sale of the chapel there."

On November 26, 1859, the annual tea meeting of the Wesleyan congregation, in St. Kilda, took place in the wooden chapel, and then those present adjourned to the new church to listen to the opening address of the Rev. D. J. Draper who presided, and the Revs. Fletcher, Williams and others. A collection was taken up for the building fund, the debt on the church at that time being the sum of £3,000.

The history of the St. Kilda Hebrew Congregation from 1871 to 1921, has been prepared by the Rev. Jacob Danglow, M.A. From this history, we learn that there were in 1871 nearly fifty Jewish families, residents in St. Kilda, and the surrounding neighbourhood. For some years, before 1871, services were held on the New Year, and Day of Atonement in the Wesleyan Church Hall, Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda. On Sunday morning, September 3, 1871, Jewish residents, to the number of about twenty, met at the residence of Mr. Israel Bloomington, Chapel Street, St. Kilda, for the purpose of considering the best means of obtaining "a permanent place of worship." Mr. Abraham, Benjamin was voted to the chair, and Mr. Hyam E. Hart undertook the duties of honorary secretary. After an exhaustive discussion, in which Messrs. Israel Bloomington, Julius Salenger, Hyam E. Hart, Angel Ellis, Nelson Marks, Henri J. Hart, Michaelis Hallenstein, Moritz Michaelis, and S. De Beer took part, it was resolved, with one dissentient vote:—

"That the Jewish residents of St. Kilda and neighbourhood form themselves into a congregation to be called the St. Kilda Hebrew Congregation."

The following honorary officers, and committee, were then elected, President Mr. Moritz Michaelis, Treasurer Mr. Israel Bloomington, Hon. Secretary, Mr. Hyam E. Hart. Committee, Messrs. A. Benjamin, D. Rosenthal, I. Jacobs, A. Ellis, M. Hallenstein, N. S. Marks, and D. Abraham. The first services held by the newly formed congregation were those conducted on the New Year, and Day of Atonement in the St. Kilda Town

Hall, Grey Street, and the services commenced on the evening of September 15, 1871. The attendance averaged about one hundred worshippers. The second services that year were held in the New Hall, now Hampton House, Grey Street, St. Kilda.

On October, 15, 1871 a general meeting was held, at the residence of Mr. M. Michaelis, Acland Street, St. Kilda, to consider the advisability of purchasing a piece of land, which is now the site of the old Synagogue, in Charnwood Grove. The land was described as having two frontages measuring 66 feet, and 87 feet respectively and two depths one 97 feet, and the other 114 feet. The land was bought, and on February 19, 1872 a general meeting of the members of the congregation was held, to consider the advisability of erecting a Synagogue. A motion was passed, at that meeting to the effect, that "the committee be empowered to at once adopt steps for the erection of a suitable Synagogue and for the engagement of a minister." It was further resolved to expend one thousand pounds in building a Synagogue. On June 16, 1872 the Synagogue plan submitted to a general meeting was approved. The architects were Messrs. Crouch & Wilson, and the contractor for the building Mr. H. S. Gardner.

On July 1, 1872 the foundation stone of the St. Kilda Synagogue was laid by Mr. M. Michaelis assisted by Mr. I. Ploomington. On September 29 the Synagogue was consecrated, in the presence of a large gathering, including many persons who were not Jews. The officiating clergy were the Rev. Moses Rintel, son of the Rev. Myer Rintel, and he was born in Edinburgh in 1824. At the time of the consecration he was the minister of the East Melbourne Hebrew Congregation. He emigrated to Sydney in the year 1844, and when in Victoria the Jewish Philanthropic Society was established he was appointed minister of the community.

The St. Kilda Council has a link with the early efforts of the Jews to follow in season the religion of their fathers. The first Jewish divine services were held in the stores of Benjamin, Collins Street in 1840, ten people attending, but in 1841 twenty five persons commenced to hold services on the Rosh Hashana (New Year) in the Port Phillip Club Hotel, Flinders Street, services being performed by the lay members of the Jewish

community. One of the most distinguished municipal councillors of the Jewish race and faith was Sigismund Jacoby. He was one of the original members of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works, and he was also, which brings us to our point, the licensee for years of the Port Phillip Club Hotel wherein those first Jewish services were held.

A contemporary newspaper paragraph (November 29, 1873) states "The ball given on Wednesday night in the Melbourne Athenaeum partly in aid of the funds of the St. Kilda Synagogue was largely attended and proved a very successful, and pleasant affair."

At the consecration ceremony the Rev. M. Rintel recited the special Dedication Prayer, and the Rev. A. F. Ornstein, minister of the Melbourne Hebrew Congregation preached the sermon. In September 1873 the Rev. Elias Blaubaum of Cassel, Germany, was appointed the first minister of St. Kilda Hebrew Congregation. He arrived by the steamship "Great Britain" on December 27, 1873, and shortly after the vessel anchored Messrs. Michaelis, Jacobs, E. Samuels, Bloomington and Davies, accompanied by the Revs. M. Rintel and A. F. Ornstein, went aboard the ship, and offered him a welcome on behalf of his new congregation. After cordial greetings, Mr. Blaubaum was taken to Mr. Jacob's residence in St. Kilda.

In an advertisement appearing in The Australian Israelite of January 23, 1874, it was announced that a Hebrew School at St. Kilda was to be opened on February 1, 1874, and the school was to be divided into two classes, no class to contain more than twenty five children. The Rev. E. Blaubaum married, in 1877 Miss Rebecca Cohen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Cohen, of St. Kilda. A portion of the St. Kilda Cemetery was set apart for Jewish burials, and Mr. Moritz Michaelis was the first Jewish trustee appointed to take part in the management of the cemetery. A Hebrew school building was erected on the grounds of the Synagogue in 1896. In November 1902 Moritz Michaelis, the principal founder of the congregation, died at the age of 82 years. He was a sturdy champion of Judaism, and a whole hearted citizen of St. Kilda of the very highest integrity. In 1904 structural alterations under the direction of the Hon. Architect Nahum Barnet were carried out in the Synagogue. A sum of £500 was bequeathed by the Michaelis

will for that purpose. On April 21, 1904 the Rev. E. Blaubaum died. He had served the congregation faithfully for thirty years. The Rev. Jacob Danglow was appointed on December 11, 1904 to succeed him.

On February 28, 1926, the Foundation Stone of the new St. Kilda Synagogue situated almost opposite the old edifice, was laid by Mr. F. D. Michaelis, the eldest son of the late Mr. Moritz Michaelis, the principal founder of the Congregation who, as President in 1873, laid the Foundation Stone of the first St. Kilda Synagogue. The ceremony, which was conducted by the Rev. J. Denglow, MA., assisted by the local Jewish Clergy, took place in the presence of a large assemblage of Jewry. The Mayor of St. Kilda and other prominent citizens were also present at the ceremony.

On March 12, 1927, the last service was conducted in the old Synagogue by the Rev. J. Danglow and, on the following day, the beautiful new Synagogue was impressively consecrated. The new building, which is an imposing structure of Byzantine design, can accommodate nearly 1000 worshippers. The architect was Mr. J. Plottel, A.R.I.V.A., and the contractor Mr. H. H. Eilenberg.

On September 15, 1930, the Rev. J. Danglow, M.A., completed 25 years of service as the Minister of the St. Kilda Hebrew congregation.

During the Great War 113 of those belonging to the congregation gallantly responded to the call of duty and of that number nineteen were killed. Among those who enlisted for active service was the Rev. J. Danglow M.A., who succeeded the Rev. D. I. Freedman B.A. of Perth, as Jewish Chaplain A.I.F. The Rev. J. Danglow left for the front on May 6, 1918, and after serving in France, and England returned to St. Kilda, in July 1919. On Chanukah, 1920 the Congregation's Roll of Honor was unveiled in the Synagogue by Lieut. General, Sir John Monash, in the presence of a large assembly of worshippers. In 1920 Sir John Monash became a member of the congregation, and also joined the Board of Management.

The first annual meeting of the St. Kilda Ladies' Bible Association was held on Tuesday, October 8, 1857, in the Rev. R. Fletcher's Congregational Church, Alma Road. His Honor Judge Pohlman occupied the chair, and in his address, congrat-

ulated the meeting upon the establishment of a branch of the Victorian Bible Society, and that the ladies of the neighborhood had formed the society, and more especially on the fact that individuals connected with various denominations were about to take part in their proceedings. The Rev. David Seddon of Christ Church, Acland Street, read the report, which showed that the ladies of St. Kilda had collected about £170 during the year to be appropriated for the purchase of bibles from the Victorian Society. The Rev. R. Fletcher read the Treasurer's report, which was considered highly satisfactory, after which the Very Rev. the Dean of Melbourne proposed the adoption of the report. The Revs. J. P. Sunderland, C. Searle, T. Harding, W. R. Fletcher M.A., and Messrs. J. T. Hoskins (deputation from the Melbourne Society), Frederick Haller and H. Jennings severally addressed the meeting.

In May, 1873, there was formed the St. Kilda Bible and Evangelical Union, and the Union's meeting was first held in the Wesleyan Church, Fitzroy Street. Its objects were shown by a motion moved by the Rev. John Stanley Low—"That the Protestant Evangelical Churches of St. Kilda as under do hereby agree to unite together to provoke one another to love, and good works, and to adopt means to extend their common Christianity to all in the neighbourhood under the title of "The St. Kilda Bible and Evangelical Union viz., Christ Church, Acland Street, St. Kilda, Rev. J. S. Low, Minister; Presbyterian Church, Alma Road, Rev. Dr. Cameron, Minister; Wesleyan Church, Fitzroy Street, Rev. J. Cope, Minister; Congregational Church, Alma Road, Rev. A. Gosman, Minister; Trinity Church, Brighton Road, Rev. Dr. Boake, Minister; Baptist Church, Alma Road, Rev. G. P. Lush, Minister; Congregational Church, Balaclava Rev. H. W. Bradney, Minister, and such other churches as may hereafter agree to join." This newly organised social movement in St. Kilda decided to co-operate with the St. Kilda Ladies' Bible Association, and also with the St. Kilda Ladies' Benevolent Society, and also to inquire into cases of destitution, of sickness, and to afford relief, and to give spiritual comfort. We do not know what particular good the members of this association did, except, perhaps, among themselves, unconsciously, in stimulating the growth of fraternal Christianity in the sphere of evangelical activities in St. Kilda. Otherwise the aims of these

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bodies were not far enough asunder to avoid overlapping in unrelated acts of eleemosynary relief, and in that respect it is clear that the union of ministers essayed to occupy a field of charitable effort that was already occupied, and well served by the ladies of St. Kilda.

The ladies of St. Kilda were energetic workers in causes that appealed to their sympathies, and among such causes, was the plight of poor people, who struggled for a livelihood, on the margin line, that divides penurious existence from actual want. Any temporary cessation from daily employment, any visitation of sickness upon the breadwinner, and such families became distressed ones needing help in money or kind. Then too there were the families who suffered from the improvidence of the breadwinner brought about maybe by intemperance. Be the cause what it may have been, the ladies of St. Kilda were of that charitable nature, that they could not allow the children, and wives, to suffer, without making an attempt to succour them. It was adjudged that the best method wherewith to deal with such cases was to establish a Ladies' Benevolent Society, and a meeting of ladies was held at the residence of Mrs. Purchase on October 11th, 1859, for that purpose. Two resolutions were adopted:—

1. That such a Society was necessary for the purpose of visiting and relieving the poor and 2. that the Society be designated "The St. Kilda Ladies' Benevolent Society." Mrs. A'Beckett was elected to fill the office of President, Mrs. Cooke that of Treasurer, and Mrs. Shaw that of Hony. Secretary. A code of rules was drawn up for the guidance of the Committee. A second meeting was held on the 25th, at which Mrs. Alicia Jennings acted as President in the absence of Mrs. A'Beckett."

The Society's first report gives a glimpse into the necessities of the poor in early St. Kilda. Indigent persons to the number of 58 were relieved, and assisted, during the first year of the Society's existence. Some deserted wives were given the means to earn money by presents of mangles. The receipts for the year from charitable people (including £50 from the Council) were £230, and the expenditure in relief £365/12/1.

The committee of the St. Kilda Ladies' Benevolent Society was in the the habit of distributing bread, groceries,

clothing, and firewood. Many poor people also had assistance given to them to enable them to pay their rent. In 1863, the society advanced money to two poor women for the purpose of buying sewing machines. Several individuals, sick and poor, had been sent to the hospital, and some old people to the Benevolent Asylum, wholly through the efforts made, and the influence used by the ladies of the society. Numbers of children in St. Kilda, whose parents were too poor to pay for their education, were sent to school at the Society's expense. The committee of the society established friendly relations with the authorities of the Melbourne City Mission. At the society's request, a missionary visited St. Kilda, once every week to visit the poor. For this service the committee paid to the mission the sum of £10 per year. The society afforded help to all indigent persons, without distinction of creed. The only limit to its bounty was the extent of its resources. In the report issued, by the Society in November, 1863, acknowledgement was made of the generous way, in which the residents of St. Kilda, had supported the Society. The cash account showed that the Society had commenced its year with a balance of £35/3/74, and that the subscriptions had totalled £73/7/- and the donations and payments £172/3/- making a total of £280/13/7½. The expenditure for the year had been £257/17/6, leaving a balance in hand of £22/16/1½. The cash receipts were swollen by the receipt of £50 from the Municipal Council of St. Kilda, a body of men who had the highest opinion of the St. Kilda Ladies Benevolent Society, an opinion that still lives in the corporate mind of the St Kilda Council towards the present members of this very useful society. The £50 was handed to the secretary of the Society, to enable the ladies to arrange that the children of the poorer classes should participate in the rejoicings at St. Kilda in celebration of the marriage of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales. After the business of the annual meeting was concluded, a lecture was given to a large audience upon the subject of "Prehistoric Man." The lecturer was Dr. Bromby, head master of the Church of England Grammar School. The Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor B. F. Bunny presided.

For many, many, years the St. Kilda Ladies' Benevolent Society meant to hundreds of people, philanthropists, poor people, and newspaper editors—the Misses Jennings. If ever

women deserved to be honored for fealty to a charitable society, for ceaseless work, for untiring faith, then among those women must be placed the names of the Misses Jennings, of the St. Kilda Ladies' Benevolent Society.

Creches are among the ordinary social conveniences of a well ordered city in these days of infant welfare. These quasi-philanthropic aids, to enable poor mothers, who have to leave infants in charge of somebody, while they go out to work, are a great convenience to such mothers, and they relieve them of much anxiety, because they know their infants will be well cared for during the day. Creches did not exist in the same way today as they did fifty three years ago, though the want of a place where infants could be left by working mothers was, in degree, just as pressing as it is today. The St. Kilda Ladies' Benevolent Society recognised the want, and the ladies of that society, made provision to meet it. On April 8, 1875, they opened, what they called, "The St. Kilda Day Nursery" in Somerset Street. The nursery, it was stated, was for "the benefit of the working women to enable them to leave their children, from the age of one month to six years, during their necessary absence from home." Advertisements were inserted in the newspapers, informing the mothers, that full particulars could be obtained from the nurse on the premises, from the honorary secretary of the Society, Miss Robertson, Acland Street, Mrs. Landale, the former honorary secretary having left the colony, or from the ladies of the Committee.

Twenty years ago, mainly through the instrumentality of Mrs. Davenport and Mrs. Frank Grey-Smith, ably assisted by a Committee, a Free Kindergarten was established, and in 1925, a handsome and commodious edifice was erected in Nelson Street, Balaclava.

A notable Methodist preacher, in Early St. Kilda, was the Rev. James Bickford, who was, in August 1853, selected by an English Conference, and sent out from London to be a minister of the Melbourne Circuit. He voyaged to Sydney, and from there, with his wife, sailed for Melbourne in 1854. He says in his autobiography, published in 1890, that "It was on July 8th that we, early in the morning, passed through Port Phillip Heads, and made our way up the Bay for Cole's Wharf. We overhauled an emigrant ship, and took from her as many pas-

sengers as crowded our deck in every part. This was far from being agreeable, but we had to submit. On reaching the worldwide reputed Coles' Wharf, how was I disappointed to find that it was only a bank of hardened mud, shaped by the ebb and flow of the Yarra Yarra, and flattened on its surface by the tread of many thousands of immigrants."

Mr. Bickford went to the Brighton Circuit on July 13, and he states:—"On the 17th I opened my commission by preaching at East, Little and Great Brighton." He speaks of going across country to visit his brother, Nicholas, at Gardiner's Creek. On December 3 he preached missionary sermons at St. Kilda, and gave the Lord's Supper. He records that the Hon. A. Fraser, and Mrs. Fraser, were his hosts.

In 1861, Mr. Bickford, after being stationed at the Ballarat and Bendigo goldfields, resumed his ministry at St. Kilda. He states in his diary that he received a "warm welcome from the Hon. A. Fraser M.L.C., Mr. John Whitney, Mr. T. J. Crouch, and other officials, and friends" On April 14 he began his ministry by preaching at St Kilda and Prahran on 1 Thess. III. I.

An interesting historical note is made in the diary on November 24, 1861, when Mr. Bickford writes :—"John King, the only survivor of the Burke & Wills party, came to St. Kilda tonight. He was a mere shadow, and his whole nervous system was unhinged. On December 5th, I accompanied Mr. King to Melbourne, and introduced him to Sir William Stawell, the Chief Justice, who received from him Mr. Burke's note-book. His last record was, "King has acted nobly." Sir William appeared to be deeply affected. He made many enquiries of King, to whose reply he paid the closest attention. I then went with King to the Parliament House, and left him there for examination before the Committee of Enquiry. On the 6th I went to the house of Henry Jennings, Esq., to meet several ladies and gentlemen who were favourable to the establishment of a Moravian Mission at Gipps Land."

Again, on May 20, he says "I called on Sir Henry Barkly and informed him that John King, the explorer, wished to have granted to him six hundred and fifty acres of land on the Flinders River."

The Victorian Government granted King an annual pension of £180. He died on January 15, 1872. King's sister was a

member of the Wesleyan Church in Fitzroy Street, and at her request a special service was held "to entreat the Almighty for His help and protection" over the expedition of Burke and Wills.

Resuming Mr. Bickford's diary, he states:—

"Dec. 18th—I attended the funeral of the late Rev. William Richard Fletcher. The Rev. R. Connebee gave the address in the church. 'A good man and a just' has just gone to his reward, and the church-life of St. Kilda is all the poorer for his removal."

Mr. Bickford writes, in 1862, March 15:—

1862. "March 15th—Mr. John Whitney informed me that Mr. Walter Powell, now in London, has engaged to give £500 towards the reduction of the debt on the St. Kilda Church, on condition that we raise £500 ourselves. We gratefully accept the condition."

1863 "May 19th—A grand commemoration day on the marriage of the Prince of Wales with the Princess Alexandra. There were about a thousand children of St. Kilda assembled at noon to partake of a sumptuous treat."

Mr. Bickford was the secretary of the Wesley Grammar School Committee, and he says, with other secretaryships, it gave him much clerical work to do. On December 28 he concluded the St. Kilda Church Anniversary, the result in cash and promises was £379.1.2. On April 6, of the following year, he leaves St. Kilda, and is presented, by his flock, with "a massive inkstand of silver," and Mrs. Bickford is given "an elegant desk." Mr. Bickford's good St. Kilda friend, The Hon. Alexander Fraser, presided over the farewell gathering.

The foundation stone of a Baptist church was laid in Crimea Street, St. Kilda on April 8, 1876 by Sir James McCulloch, who was careful to explain, that he was not a Baptist. The church was designed to seat 400 worshippers, and its cost including ground was £2,000. Thomas Matthews was the architect. The ministers present were the Revs. W. Jones, pastor, P. Bailhache Poole, Lush, Lewis and Moss. Early in 1922 the edifice was purchased by the Balaclava Lodge of Freemasons, and having been remodelled for masonic purposes, became "The Balaclava Masonic Temple."

The ceremony of laying the memorial stone of the new building of the South St. Kilda Baptist Church in Pakington

Street took place on March 27, 1915 in the presence of a large gathering, presided over by the Rev. J. H. Coble. Among the visitors were the Mayor of St. Kilda, Councillor J. H. Hewison and the Mayoress. Mr. McCutcheon, M.L.A. and Mrs. McCutcheon, and the Town Clerk of St. Kilda, Mr. Fred Chamberlin. The Rev. J. R. Bradbury read Psalm CXIVII and the Rev. W. T. Hughes Jones engaged in prayer, after which an anthem was sung by the choir. Pastor H. R. Stewart told the story of the effort he had made. For three years after he had taken charge of the mission at the A.N.A. hall, though the work had gone but slowly there was evidence that they were to become established, and the deacons agreed to deposit £25 on the land, and to pay the balance in eight years. They started to raise the money, and on July 10, they paid a deposit of £50. A donor offered £50 if they could raise the balance by the end of the year 1913. The period was extended for three months, and the money required was raised. The land cost £410. W. Rain, of Collingwood, prepared the plans for the building, and the tender of J. H. Britt was accepted at £890. Various efforts have resulted in the money required for the building being obtained, a part by a loan of £600. The property is estimated to be worth £2000.

When this Baptist church started there were ten members on its register, and at the first service held there was only Pastor Stewart, and R. D. J. Christie present, and five scholars at the opening of the first Sunday school. At the time of laying the memorial stone, there were 150 scholars at the Sunday school, and 58 church members. Mr. George H. Doeny, President of the Baptist Union of Victoria, laid the stone, and the Rev. Professor Wilkin M.A. B.D. in an address he delivered, stated that the most important buildings in St. Kilda were its churches. That statement is quite true, so far as groups of buildings are adjudged. Nor is it surprising to find beautiful churches in St. Kilda, when we know that the spiritual forces in St. Kilda, from the first days were very active. People who did not regularly attend churches for worship, be their religion what it was, were not looked upon with any *eye* of favor by those who, each Sunday, wended their way to church or chapel. We have read somewhere that the ringing of church bells, in Early

that the day of rest was kept strictly sacred, and no profane work, or play, was permitted.

In August, 1857, the authorities of the St. Kilda, and the Brighton Congregational churches, entered into an arrangement with the Rev. Richard Fletcher, pastor of the St. Kilda church and his son, the Rev. W. Roby Fletcher, M.A. who had recently arrived in Melbourne from England, to supply the two places alternatively for a period of six months. The Rev. Richard Fletcher loomed large in church affairs at St. Kilda. Judging from his actions he was a man of liberal ideas. Throughout the records of the churches doings in St. Kilda his name is frequently met with in connection with ministers of other denominations to his own. Indeed this church brotherhood was a characteristic of early St Kilda churchmen, outside the rift that had occurred in the Presbyterian fold. An instance is seen in the list of ministers of St. Kilda of different nominations associated together to forward the work of the St. Kilda Ladies' Bible Associations.

The annual social meeting of the Congregational Church adherents was an event of social importance in Early St Kilda. A report of one held on November 24, 1858, is before us wherein Robert Smith, treasurer and deacon, states that the congregation had raised and distributed, throughout the year the sum of about £1,000. Of that sum £133 had been paid to the Home Missionary Society. The Rev. Thomas Burney presided at the gathering, and the speakers included well known St. Kilda residents of those days, G. Rolfe, Thomas Fulton, and the Revs. A. Scales, J. Sutherland, and W. B. Landells.

The Alma Street Congregational Church was reopened November 15, 1874, after undergoing extensive repairs, £1000 being spent on the improvements which included a new front, choir gallery and organ. The opening services were performed by the Rev. W. R. Fletcher M.A. in the morning and in the evening the Rev. J. J. Halley officiated.

Thomas Fulton was a most worthy resident of Early St. Kilda, and a pillar of the Congregationalist Church. Fulton Street running between Hotham and Westbury Street recalls his name to memory. The first iron foundry and engineering shop, in Melbourne was started by him, and Robert Langlands. A record states that, "all the ship, carriage, and dray work, the

manufacture of wool-presses, bullock yokes etc. of the colony were done by them in those days." Thomas Fulton was married in Dundee, and his daily work took him to places where he saw the terrible conditions, under which children were compelled to labor in factories, mines, and other places. He made up his mind that no child of his should suffer in such ways, if he could prevent them. He and his family sailed for Port Phillip from Scotland in 1841. The voyage lasted six months. The ship was on one occasion pooped by a huge wave. When the ship righted itself, the Captain was clinging to the riggings, having been washed up there. In February, 1842, the ship arrived at Melbourne. Soon afterwards Thomas Fulton started as an iron founder, and the times being favourable for such an enterprise as iron founding he made money. Though Congregationalism in Victoria dates back as far as 1837 it is convenient for our purpose to say that by the year 1853, churches were formed, and settled at Prahran, Richmond, Brighton, St. Kilda and Geelong and Kyneton. The influx of emigrants seeking gold, and work, into Victoria was of such proportions that the Colonial Missionary Society of England, decided to send an additional supply of ministers to Victoria. To do so required £5,000, and subscriptions were taken up for the purpose in Victoria. To that fund Thomas Fulton subscribed £1,000. Among the ministers sent out were the Revs. Richard Fletcher, J. L. Poore, and E. Day, and later there came Mr. Fletcher's son the Rev. W. R. Fletcher M.A. The Rev. Richard Fletcher was appointed to take charge of the Congregational Church at St Kilda. Writing in the Southern Spectator of Thomas Fulton, his pastor, the Rev. R. Fletcher says "The foundation of the church at St. Kilda is mainly owing to the princely liberality of Mr. Fulton, Mr. (Robert) Smith, and Mr. Sargood, who defrayed out of their own pockets the greater part of the costs, and he, in conjunction with the gentlemen named, and others, acted for that church as deacon till he was called away to his heavenly rest. He served his generation by encouraging the building of places of worship, and he spent freely, thousands of pounds . . . ."

When quartz mining developed the firm Fulton & Lang- lands made a great deal of the machinery used for that purpose. In pursuance of an order it became necessary for Fulton to visit Bendigo, which he did taking his foreman with him. They were

descending a mine when the rope unwinding on the drum, in the machinery house, was checked in some way. The rope jerked the platform in the shaft upon which Fulton stood and he was thrown to the bottom of the mine. His body was brought to Melbourne, and his funeral took place on February 22, 1859. A report of the funeral states it was the most remarkable one seen in Melbourne up to that date. The hearse was followed by relatives, then by the pastor, the Rev. Richard Fletcher, the deacons of the St. Kilda Congregational Church, and most of the Congregational ministers of Melbourne, the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Melbourne and St. Kilda, by old colonists and by representatives from the mercantile, and manufacturing interests of Melbourne. Some of the mourners were on horseback, others in carriages, while there was a long procession of various vehicles. Other mourners followed on foot, including the workmen of the foundry. The funeral exceeded a mile in length. Along the route shops and offices were closed, and *flags* were flying at half mast at the Town Hall, and other places. The Rev. R. Fletcher, his pastor, and the Rev. T. Odell, his past pastor, conducted the service at the grave in the Melbourne General Cemetery where the remains of Thomas Fulton were buried.

Miss Fulton, the daughter of the late Thomas Fulton, was one of the best-known of St. Kilda workers in the cause of charity. She was actively associated with the Ladies' Benevolent Society for over 50 years, and on the retirement of Mrs. Stanley-Lowe was President for nearly 20 years. She retired from the position in 1923, at the age of 86 and was succeeded by Miss Fanny Knox.

In the days before the municipal authorities and, the leaders of the newly arrived gospel messengers of the Salvation Army understood each other there were several unpleasant episodes, due to the fact, that the local leaders of the Salvation Army, were not inclined to render unto Caesar the obedience that was due to Caesar, and they would persist in marching through the streets, without permission, in contravention to the ordinances of certain municipal by-laws, made for the benefit of the community, regulating street traffic. Clashes between marching Salvationists, and the police, took place in several suburbs, and one of these regrettable incidents occurred at St.

Kilda. Captain Ebenezer Phillips of the Salvation Army was charged at the St. Kilda Police Court on May 27, 1884, with insulting behaviour, a very elastic term covering a multitude of technical offences. Sergeant Theophilus Howall, and Private Jacob were charged with marching in the streets of St. Kilda, and thereby breaking a municipal by-law. Evidence was given that two horses had been frightened, and bolted, to the danger of all concerned. There was no desire on the part of the prosecution to press home the charges, provided the Salvationists would obey the by-laws. The charges against Howell and Jacob were withdrawn. Captain Phillips was fined 10/- with 10/-, in default of payment to be gaoled for 24 hours. The Captain decided to go to gaol. His release was made the occasion of a demonstration at the Melbourne gaol gates. Two hundred adherents of the Army, headed by Major Barker, the Rev. J. F. Horsley, Chief of the Staff, Staff Officer Coles, Captains Berkinshaw and Shepherd, and other officers marched, with a Salvation Army band playing, and carrying two banners, round the gaol walls, thence to Russel Street, where the Army was joined by 400 members of the Prison Gate Brigade, and so to the Temperance Hall, where a meeting was held.

Since that time the Salvation Army authorities have observed the traffic laws and conformed to the mandates of Caesar. A very appreciative understanding of the excellent work done by the Army is to-day shared by everyone. The branch of the Army in St. Kilda is honored for the work it does. Since the year 1884 it has made progress, and is now recognised in St. Kilda as one of the many active social forces in the city. The Salvation Army Barracks are in Camden Street, Balaclava. It has two memorial stones with the following inscriptions: "This memorial stone was laid to the Glory of God by Peter Cousin, Esq., November 16th, 1892. Wm. Booth, General, Thomas B. Coombs Commissioner." "This memorial stone was laid to the Glory of God by Staff Capt. Saunders, November 16th, 1892. Wm. Booth, General, Thomas B. Coombs, Commissioner."