

## CHURCH CONSECRATION AT CAMBRIDGE.

ST. JOHN'S, HILLS-ROAD.

Last Tuesday morning the new church of St. John's, Hills-road, was consecrated by the Bishop of Ely. There was a large congregation. Among the clergy present were Archdeacon Emery, the Master of Trinity, Rev. A. Hughes, Rev. A. George, Rev. H. P. Stokes, Rev. Canon Churton, &c. The Bishop, attended by his chaplain, was received at the west door of the church, and the petition for consecration having been read and presented to him, and his Lordship having signified his consent to consecrate the church, the service was proceeded with in the form prescribed. The Rev. A. Hughes read the Epistle and Archdeacon Emery the Gospel. The hymn sung was "Christ is made the sure foundation." His Lordship took for his text St. Matthew xxi., 12. In the course of his sermon the preacher said they might rightly speak of that church as the House of God. As the presence of God made the second Temple of greater glory than the first, so His presence in that building would make it God's House as much as the Temple of old. He was there blessing them in their work, helping them in their duty, joining in their prayers and offering them to His Father on their behalf. They had great cause for rejoicing in having that fitting place of worship instead of the small, confined place they had hitherto used. He was told that they had assembled in the old place in such numbers that many were unable to obtain admittance; and he hoped now they had got their new church that they would continue to assemble there. But let them remember that while it was a great convenience to have a large place the great object and use of it was that they might meet Christ there. Therefore, he hoped that they would come constantly there, and pray constantly to Him. If they did that God would surely fulfil His promises, and their prayers would be heard.—At the conclusion of the service the Bishop seated himself in his chair, the sentence of Consecration was read and signed by the Bishop, and was by him ordered to be enrolled and preserved amongst the muniments in the Register.

The following particulars of the new church may be of interest to our readers:—It is now upwards of five years since the first steps were taken to promote the provision of a church for the needs of the new district, which consists for the most part of St. John's Ward, Cherryhinton. On that occasion a meeting was held in the Dining-hall of Cavendish College, which resulted in the subsequent formation of a General and Executive Committee. These bodies selected, the work has been steadily pursued, step by step, ever since. Besides the actual construction of the church, however, much has been done in the interim. About a year after the first meeting, Cavendish College having become vacant, the chapel of the college was lent for Divine service, and there the nucleus of the present congregation of St. John's was formed. The committee enjoyed the free use of this chapel for a year, and then the college, having passed into other hands, they constructed a temporary wooden church in Blinco Grove. In the meantime, viz., in May, 1893, the Rev J. George, of Bristol, very kindly volunteered to take charge of the district—an offer which was gratefully accepted by the then Vicar of Cherryhinton (the late Rev W. Beck). It is needless to dwell upon the self-denying labours and painstaking efforts which have marked Mr George's residence in the district. They are known and appreciated by all with whom he has been brought into contact in connection with this work, and it must be a matter of deep thankfulness and gratification to him to witness the accomplishment of this important portion of it. The build-

Report on the Consecration of the first part of the church -- Cambridge Weekly News, Friday 18 December 1896.

ing is designed in a simple adaptation of the Early Decorated period of Gothic Architecture. The complete design shows a well-proportioned nave, with two aisles and stone arches supported with stone columns, with moulded caps and bases. The roof is open timbered, with hammer beams and moulded principals, and lighted by a clerestory. The portion of the building now erected is the chancel with sanctuary and two bays of the nave. The walls are faced internally and externally with red bricks and stone dressings and stone arches. The floor is wood block upon concrete, and therefore noiseless; the chancel and sanctuary are paved with encaustic tiles of a handsome character. A temporary choir vestry is provided, and the heating and lighting is also provided. It will be observed that necessarily the general appearance of the building is much marred by the temporary enclosures of stock brick required by the partial carrying out of the scheme. The drawings for the church and spire are completely prepared, showing ambulatories, organ chamber, vestries, &c. The architects are Messrs Gordon, Lowther, and Gunton, of London and Cambridge, and the builder, Mr W. Saint, of Cambridge.