

undertook to collect the weekly and quarterly subscriptions. At a later meeting of the building committee several sites were suggested as suitable for the meeting-house and a burial ground. Eventually the choice fell upon a piece of land in Steelhouse Lane twenty yards in width and seventy yards in depth, which was purchased for £1,100 from Mr. Bourne of Dudley. Subsequently the area was enlarged by the purchase of an adjoining property for £1,000 with costs. The value of the total site was, for 2,155 square yards, £2,228, 1s., 7d., (or about 2s. 8d. per sq. yd. in the centre of Birmingham 120 years ago).

The lowest tender, that of Mr. Thomas Lee for £4,195, was accepted. The sum of £21 was paid to Mr. Bennett for plans and specifications ( $\frac{1}{2}$  of 1 p.c.). Mr. Charles Glover, a long experienced builder, not only inspected the plans and specifications but gratuitously superintended the erection of the building, thus saving the expenses of a surveyor.

October 22, 1816, it was resolved that the new meeting-house should bear the name of Ebenezer and that this name should be inserted in the trust deed.

The trust deed bears date 21st November, 1816. There were 16 trustees who held

Upon trust to permit the said meeting-house to be used as a place of religious worship by the said Society of Protestant Dissenters of the Independent or Congregational persuasion holding the tenets of Calvinism and infant baptism.

The Sunday schools were held upon trust forever afterwards occupied and enjoyed as and for a school or place of useful and religious instruction, with power to the majority of the Trustees and of such members of the said church as are subscribers to the school to make and vary the regulations for the conduct of such school.

The foundation stone of the new chapel was laid by Rev. Mr. Brewer 4th June, 1816, and the earliest church book contains the following record in the handwriting of John Dickenson: "On the 24th August, 1817, died the Rev. J. Brewer, whose faithful and valuable labors had been enjoyed by the church and congregation assembling in Livery street for 14 years. His loss they deeply bemoan and for his memory they will ever retain an affectionate remembrance. The funeral was solemnized on the following Saturday when upwards of one hundred of the church and congregation united to testify their regret for his loss by following in procession his remains to the front of the New Meeting-House in Steelhouse Lane and with a multitude of spectators witnessed their deposit in the spot that was chosen by himself."

The chapel and schoolroom were insured for £2,000 in the Norwich Fire Office in the names of the trustees. Vaults were made under the portico of the Chapel at a cost of £40, and regulations that each interment therein should be in a leaden coffin, that a fee of 3 guineas should be paid for the interment of an adult, and a fee of 30 shillings for every child not exceeding ten years of age, subject to the former restriction of the trustees. Further regulations were made by the trustees restricting the use of the burial ground to members of the congregation and their relatives and fixing the fee for each grave at five guineas.

On the 30th January, 1818, the Rev. Timothy East of Frome accepted the pastorate and commenced his labors 22nd February, 1818. (It is probable he was well known to Mr. Silcox, who founded the church in Frome, Canada.)

On October 5th it was decided to accept the offer of Mr. Gostling to light the chapel with gas. The cost of estimate was, exclusive of scaffolding, 130 guineas. The gas company charged 15 shillings per 1,000