

formed, and in the following month the new building was opened.

The next sign of progress was the formation of a City Mission, under the combined direction of the Pitt street and Redfern churches, but as applications were being received from different parts of the country for help to establish Independent churches, this Society was changed, in 1850, into the Home Missionary Society, and steps were taken for the importation of new ministers. The first public meeting of this Society was held in Pitt street, in July, 1850, the chair being taken by our late much beloved and honoured friend, John Fairfax.

For many years the records of this Society are the records of the history of Congregationalism in this colony. But it is impossible in the time allotted me to dwell on the details of the formation of each church. There can be only given a few facts and dates in due order.

From these records we learn that in 1851—the year, it will be remembered, in which gold was discovered in Australia, from which discovery sprang many important changes—in 1851 the Rev. J. Waraker arrived from Tooting, Surrey, bringing, it is recorded, most satisfactory testimonials. He was warmly welcomed, and finally settled at West Maitland, the church being formed in 1854, and the new building being opened in 1858, it having been erected at a cost of £4,800, built, indeed, in dear times. The Newcastle church was built about the same time, at a cost of £4,000.

In the year 1851, applications were received from Ipswich, and elsewhere for ministers, and instructions were sent to England to send more men out.

1853 was a more eventful year. South Head church, after being closed was re-opened, and the committee desired the congregation to invite the Rev. F. Tinning to become its pastor, but preferring a married man the choice of the people fell upon a Rev. Mr. Traveler. In this year we hear of denominational movements in Petersham and Parramatta. In Petersham services were commenced by Rev. Mr. Ridley, and followed up for eight months by Rev. A. W. Murray. Also Messrs. Gordon and Gibson were received into the service of the society, the one being placed at Balmain and the other at Newcastle.

In this year arrived the Rev. W. Slatyer. It was arranged that he should go to Bathurst, but not meeting with the support he expected, he returned to Sydney, and finally commenced services in a large room attached to the Happy Vale Hotel, near Surrey Hills. From this movement eventually sprang the Bourke street church. The present site was bought in Bourke street for £12 a foot, the new building was opened for worship in 1855—the first church being formed in the same year.

In 1854, the Rev. E. Griffith arrived and commenced his labours in Ipswich. In the same year the colony was visited by the Rev. J. L. Poore, the visit giving a great impetus to the denomination. The Rev. G. Charter also arrived from the Islands during this year, and first settled at Petersham, but soon accepted a call to the church in Wollongong.

In 1855, the Rev. S. C. Kent arrived, and towards the close of the year commenced his labours at Newtown. In the same year the Brisbane friends presented their claims for a pastor,—claims afterwards met by sending to them the Rev. G. Wright.

Also about this time, Dr. Ross being laid aside by illness, the Rev. W. Cuthbertson, B.A., arrived as the pastor of Pitt-street. Then follow names of men well-known to many here, some of whom are still amongst us, Revs. T. Arnold, J. E. Vetch, B.A., R. T. Hills, S. Savage, and T. Johnson. These all were duly settled in pastorates—some old and some new. It is needless to dwell further on the formation of churches well-known to most who are present, but I may here pause to notice a few other important events in the history of our denomination.

In 1866, the Congregational Union of this colony was formed, tending greatly to bind together churches which were only too isolated. The first chairman was the Rev. J. Graham, then pastor of Pitt-street, and the first secretaries the Rev. J. E. Vetch, B.A., and R. Nott, Esq. Last year, 1882, the union became incorporated.

Somewhat earlier than this, Camden College was founded. The first president was the Rev. John West; treasurer, J. Fairfax, Esq.; and secretary, J. Mullens, Esq. For many years the institution was based on the resident system, and occupied spacious premises in Newtown. More recently, the non-resident system has been adopted, and the college meets in rooms in the city. It is scarcely necessary to add, that by means of this institution many ministers of culture, power and great usefulness have been placed in some of our churches in Australia.

Another important, but more recent event, is the reconstruction of the old Home Mission Society, under the title of the Church Extension Society, and we recognize the valuable aid it has rendered in the last few years in commencing and sustaining new churches.

Nor should there be omitted a reference to the Sunday-school Union formed in December, 1879, which has rendered such valuable service to all our Sunday-schools.

In respect to the numerical position of our denomination, there are at present in New South Wales forty-eight Congregational churches, having thirty settled pastors, there being also twelve resident ministers without charges. There are 2,768 members in all our churches, and the average attendance at the services is 7,551. The total adherents in actual connection with our churches, including children, is 12,955.

From this return we arrive at some interesting figures. The latest estimation of the population of the colony gives 781,265. On this estimate we find we have one Congregationalist to every sixty of the population, or about one-sixth per cent. But the population of the colony may be taken thus, in round numbers: 240,000 in the city and suburbs, and 542,000 in the country. Now, our denominational returns show 10,790 in the city and suburbs, and 2,165 in the country; which reveals the proportion or disproportion of Congregationalists in the town to those in the country. In the city and suburbs we have one to every twenty-two of the population, or four-fifths per cent; and in the country we have one to every 250 of the population, or four per cent.—in other words, we can only claim in the country four out of every thousand.

In respect to our church properties, we have forty-eight churches, twenty-six separate Sunday-school rooms and thirteen ministers' residences, erected at a