

NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH: LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE

Rochester News and North Kent Spectator

19 NOVEMBER 1881

The New Church – We recently [5th November] gave a full description of this edifice, now in course of erection for the New Church Society at Snodland. On Friday, the 11th instant, the memorial stone was laid by Miss Agnes Hook, who represented on this occasion her mother, Mrs. Hook of Veles, who is the founder of the Society in Snodland, and has for the past twenty-five years, with her deeply-lamented son, the late Mr. Charles Townsend Hook, and her daughters, been the liberal supporter of the Church of the New Jerusalem at Snodland. Unfortunately, owing to serious illness, Mrs. Hook was unable to be present on this occasion; her youngest daughter, Miss Agnes Hook, was, however, deputed to represent her.

The service commenced (in the present church of this Society) by all joining in the following hymn [4 verses]:

“Lo! Jesus is our God!
We bow before his throne;
We lift our eyes to his abode,
And none beside him own.

Suitable lessons, psalms, and prayers followed, the silver trowel being during the service laid on an open Bible on the altar.

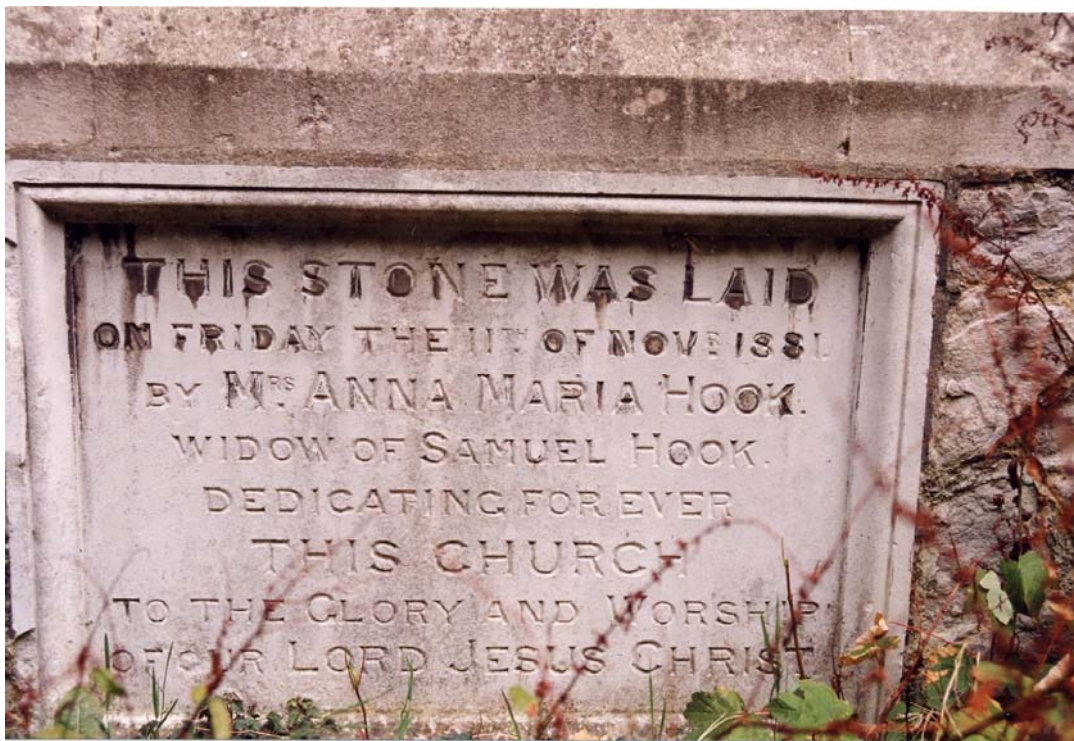
The congregation then proceeded to the site of the new church, where Mr. H. Bridge, the builder of the church, who had presented the silver trowel, addressed Miss Agnes Hook in a few appropriate words suited to the occasion; after which she, acting for Mrs Hook, went through the ceremony of laying the stone – a massive block of Portland stone – on which the following words had been neatly and clearly cut –

“This stone was laid
On Friday, the 11h of November, 1881,
By Mrs. Anna Maria Hook,
Widow of Samuel Hook,
Dedicating for ever
This church
To the glory and worship
Of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

After the stone had been lowered into its position it was firmly set on another stone which contained a copper box, with sundry coins of the present year, copies of the “Chatham News,” of London and Maidstone papers, and of the “New Jerusalem Messenger,” as also a copy of Swedenborg’s “True Christian Religion,” and the New Church Liturgy. Miss Agnes Hook then said in a low and clear voice – “I feel it a great privilege to stand here to represent my dear mother, whose absence, from suffering and illness, we all so deeply regret. We look up to her as the founder and the life of our New Church Society here. She is with us in spirit, and we also believe there are dear ones, never forgotten by us, whose angel presence is with us too. Let us ever remember that love to God and our neighbour is the foundation stone of all religion. And now I declare this stone to be well and truly laid, in the name of our only Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, whom we believe to be the one God of Heaven and earth, Father, Son,

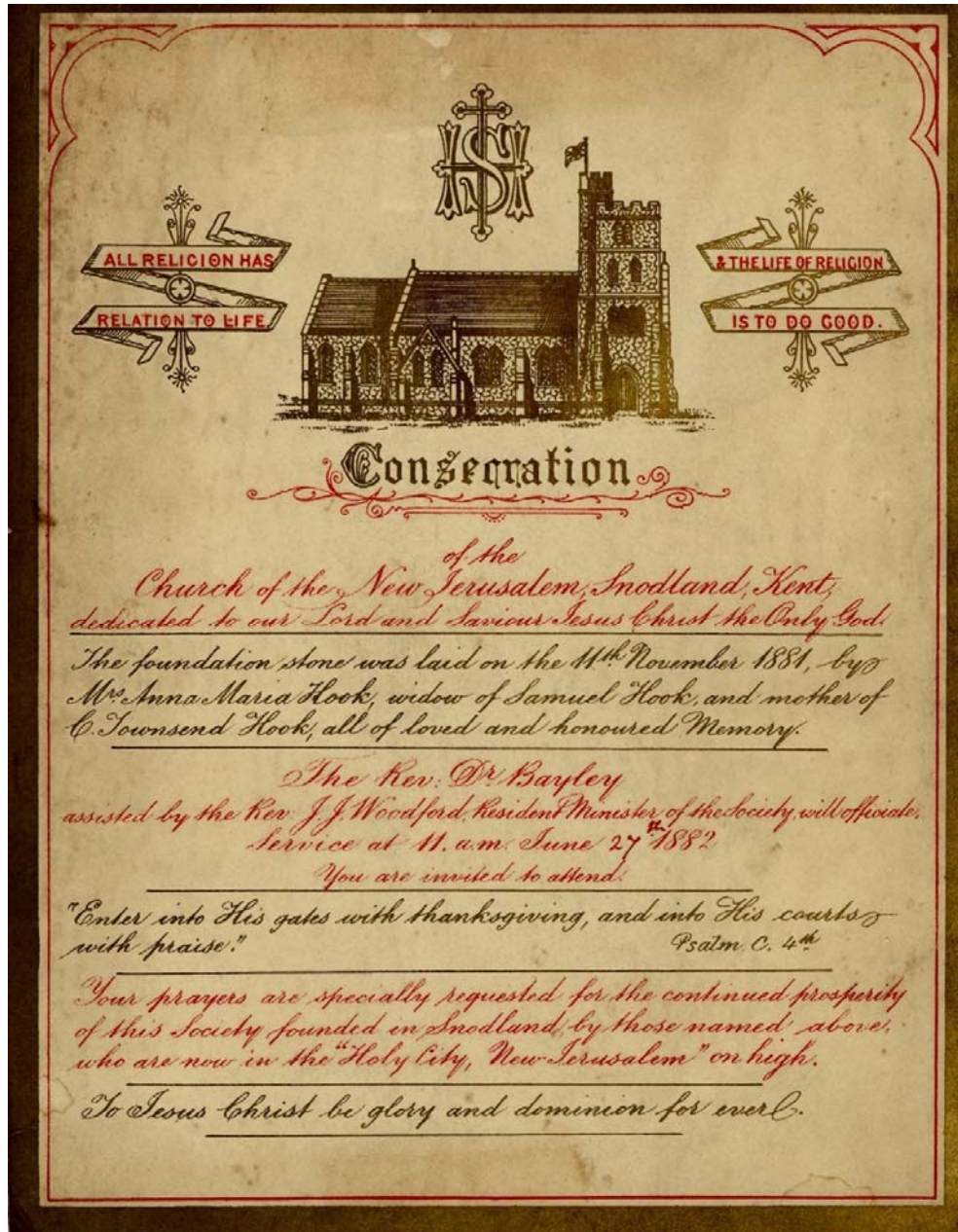
and Holy Spirit; and may his blessing rest upon our work!”. The Rev. J. J. Woodford then concluded this solemn and impressive ceremony by the following prayer, all present devoutly joining – “O Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we believe to be the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we ask Thy presence with us now, and entreat Thy blessing on this act of worship. May the laying of this stone mean for us all the abiding rest of Thee, the chief corner-stone in our souls, that there may through all our future ministrations in Thy name be the certain building up of the Temple of Thy Holy Spirit within us, where we shall offer upon the altar of a heavenward life our prayers and our praises for evermore. Amen.”

We were glad to see that the building of this church is progressing well, part of it being already up to the plinth. It is, we understand, intended to consecrate and open the church for Divine worship on the 10th of June next, when it is hoped that the Rev. Dr. Bayley, the Rev. Mr. Presland, and other well-known ministers of the New Church in London and the North, will be able to be present.



CONSECRATION OF THE NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH

27 JUNE 1882



(The South Eastern Gazette, Monday, July 3rd, 1882)

Thanks to the liberality of the Hook family a very handsome Swedenborgian church, in the 14th century style of architecture, has just been erected at Snodland, and the building was consecrated on Tuesday last in the presence of many friends of the cause. The church is built of Kentish rag with Bath stone dressings, with an open roof and pews of pitch pine; it is cruciform in shape, having a nave, chancel, organ chamber, and vestry. It possesses a very handsome tower, finished with battlement coping, and

the building is certainly one of the most handsome for miles around. Internally, too, it is beautifully furnished, and everything appears to be complete. The east window is of stained glass, of very artistic design, and at the foot is the inscription—"Erected to the loving memory of father, mother, and brother; Henry Hook, died June 10th 1866; Charles Townsend Hook, died February 11th, 1877; Hannah Maria Hook, died Nov. 20th 1881; by Edith, Maud, and Agnes Hook. June, 1882." The remainder of the windows have been filled in with cathedral tinted glass. The floors are of handsome tessellated pavement, the lighting is provided for with a handsome corona and seven brass standards, and the heating will be by hot air on the Derby Foundry Company's principles. At present an American organ is in use, but a fine organ is being constructed by Messrs. Walker, of London, and will be placed in the church in the course of a month or two. The church which will seat 300 persons, has cost about £2,500, and the whole expense has been defrayed by the Misses Hook, of Veles, and Colonel Holland. The architect and builder is Mr. H. Bridge, of Maidstone, and the work has been well and expeditiously performed, as the site of the edifice was occupied by four cottages on the 18th September last.

The consecration took place at 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning, in the presence of a crowded congregation, and the Rev. Dr. Bayley, the head of the New Church Society in England, read the following address, which sets forth the articles of belief of the church:-

"Order requires that churches or houses of instruction and devotion should be erected and set apart to the service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the One only God of heaven and earth. We are therefore assembled together for the purpose of dedicating in the most solemn manner, to His honour and worship, this building. That the several religious uses and duties which are to be here performed may be conducted with becoming devotion and solemnity. These uses and duties may be all comprised under the following general heads:-

First, the worship of our adorable Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as the only God of heaven and earth. For we acknowledge Him to be Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in one glorious Divine person: the Creator from eternity, the Redeemer in time, and the Regenerator for evermore.

Secondly, the reading of the sacred Scripture, or Word of the Lord; together with the teachings of the true doctrines, and the unfolding of its spiritual sense, now revealed to men on earth. The opening of Divine Truth in the Holy Word, with its attendant reception in the minds of man, is what is properly meant by the Second Advent of the Lord. It will therefore be the endeavour of the minister who shall here officiate to make manifest that the Lord's second coming has actually taken place, and that it is still in progress by the building up and establishment in the understanding, the heart, and the life of those who receive it, of a new church called the New Jerusalem.

Thirdly, the administration of those sacraments which the Lord has appointed in His Word; Baptism, which is an introduction into the Church, and the Holy Supper which is an introduction into heaven. To these may be added the Consecration of Marriage.

Such are the important duties to be performed in this place, which we are now about to dedicate to the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, with one consent, lift up our hearts to this ever-blessed, ever-adorable God of the

universe, while we invoke His Divine mercy and presence to sanctify this house, and to bless His people now assembled in His holy name, together with all who should hereafter call upon Him within these walls.”

The service, in the course of which several anthems were admirably sung, was brought to a conclusion with a sermon by the Rev. Dr. Bayley.

In the afternoon the Misses Hook entertained a party of friends at Veles, the the banquet being presided over by Colonel Holland, C.B.

Dr. BAYLEY subsequently addressed those present and called on them to join with him in thanking the Misses Hook and Colonel Holland for their liberality in the cause of the new church, remarking that it was one of the most beautiful and artistic – externally and internally - he had ever seen. He also referred to the incalculable amount of good effected in Snodland by the late Mrs Hook and her son.

Colonel HOLLAND responded, saying that he thought it a great though sad privilege to speak to them on behalf of a church on which their thoughts and minds had been much occupied for many months past, as they had in turn planned out and designed every part of it till they were now able to see their united labour of love concentrated, completed, and consecrated that day in a beautiful building which, though made with hands, must in its grand purpose be eternal in the Heavens. He pointed out how the blessing of Heaven had invariably rested on all their work in Snodland, and that on this their consecration day the Great architect of the universe had sent them beams and rays of love in His glorious sunshine on the building that day dedicated to His service – a building beautiful in architectural design and proportions, and, owing to the many gifts of many friends, most beautifully completed within. This church they handed over in full faith in the doctrines they loved, and in all love and charity to their neighbours, who they trusted would often come and worship with them. They handed it over complete in every respect, free from all debt, and they hoped their One Lord and Master would bless their labour of love. Great, however, as was the privilege of speaking for such a work it was a sad, sad privilege, for the building they had consecrated was but the fruition of a grand work commenced many years ago and nobly carried on by those no longer with them, but more than all others they were now specially reminded of that one sweet smile and one all would have so desired to see among them that day – the one whose loving thought had commenced this very church, whose last earnest wish and desire it was to see it completed, one whose beautiful, loving, and Heavenly life on earth had shed blessings on all around her, but whose sweet, loving face they could in this life see no more. She, and those she had loved and longed to be with, were, however, all with them in spirit then, as they were, he felt sure, completing their Heavenly, blessed, loving wishes in the manner in which they would themselves have completed them had they been spared.

The only other speaker on the occasion was the rev. T. L. MARSDEN, who sincerely endorsed the remarks of the previous speakers, and expressed his personal gratification at the erection of the beautiful church which they had this day dedicated to the service of the one Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

An overflow banquet was given at the Queen’s Head Hotel, Snodland, to the many guests the Misses Hook were unable to entertain, through want of room, at

Veles, and the repast was admirably served by Mr. Wisdom. The Rev. J. J. Woodford, the pastor of the new church, presided, and before the friends separated submitted a number of sentiments. In proposing that of "Prosperity to the New Church," he said their desire and intention was to do good; that was their one great aim, and if they failed they would not follow their great Master, who went about doing good. They trusted that the new church would be a blessing to Snodland, and if all would only put aside personal feelings and work together with but one great aim – the glory of the Lord – much good would result [hear].

In submitting the next sentiment – "The Founders of the Church," the Chairman said that nobody could know the ladies of Veles very long without being convinced of their large-heartedness, open-handedness, and the looseness of their purse strings. They had among them in that village people, nearly every one of whom was able to say that at one time the Hook family had helped them, if not with money with kindly words and advice, or, even better, by giving employment, and he thought nothing could be said too highly in praise of the ladies, who, with Colonel Holland, had given them such a beautiful church.

The Rev. Mr. Story replied, speaking from personal knowledge of the highly Christian characters of the members of the Hook family.

The next sentiment was "The other donors to the building," and in proposing this the Chairman mentioned that the lectern was given by the workpeople at the mill; the pulpit desk by Miss Drummond; the reading desk by Mr. Rolls of Snodland, who made it with his own hands; the altar table by Mr Burgess, another builder; gas standards by Mr. Dann, of Maidstone, and other friends; a Bible by Dr. Johnson, of Maidstone; a handsome vestry clock by Mr. G. Cornell, of Maidstone; the chancel windows by Mr. Bridge, the builder; the large corona in the chancel by the school children; and an ancient sun dial (date 1417) also by Mr. Bridge.

Mr. Dann briefly acknowledged the compliment. There were several other sentiments, the Chairman, in proposing that of "the Architect," taking occasion to compliment Mr. Bridge on the beauty of the building he had erected.

A garden party at Veles, and a tea and public meeting in the new Sunday schoolroom brought to a conclusion the day's proceeding, which were throughout characterised by much heartiness. The musical arrangements were under the direction of Mr. S. H. French, the organist of the church, and were admirably carried out.

A DISTINGUISHED PAPERMAKER. – As noticed in these columns a short time ago the firm of Townsend Hook and Co., the world wide known paper-makers, have now taken into partnership Colonel Holland, and of this gallant soldier's distinguished career we extract the following from a trade journal. The writer of the letter, after denying that General Phayre ever acted as Quartermaster-General in Abyssinia, proceeds :-

From the commencement of the campaign he performed the duties of a Deputy-Assistant Quartermaster-General with the advance force, and it was as such that he prematurely brought on the battle of Arogee. He, like Roberts, sent all his reports to, and received all his orders from Trevenon Holland, who was throughout the campaign the able head and ruling spirit of his department. As to Trevanon

Holland's letter, it is like him – manly and modest – but for all that he has not disproved any of my statements; his name was not imported by me into the discussions for any invidious distinction. I have no wish to say a word against Sir F. Roberts, or General Phayre, or Burrows: I simply wished to give credit to whom credit was due. I have not seen nor heard from Trevanon Holland since we parted in Abyssinia in 1868; but will undertake to say that, like myself, every officer of the force will remember his genial, bright, and happy disposition in the midst of the greatest privations and hardships, and his clear, cool head in hours of anxiety and danger. He writes in his letter to you of Sir F. Roberts's excellent services in India before the Abyssinian campaign, but he does not mention his own. I remember being with him in Sir Hugh Rose's, or the fighting divisions," during the mutiny in 1858, before Gwalior. His midnight march, with a small escort, round all the enemy's outposts and back again, is a matter of history, and was one of the most dashing and soldier-like incidents in the whole mutiny campaign. But I was myself an eye-witness of one of his daring and kindly deeds, which he probably would never publish, and is unknown to many. Two Sepoys of the 25th Bombay Native Infantry, before Gwalior, were on the point of yielding, after a good tussle, to three stalwart mutineers of the Gwalior Contingent, when Holland, seeing the state of affairs, spurred his horse over a good stiff hedge and ditch, which alone would have stopped many a good horseman, and literally rode down the three mutineers; and then, when the Bombay Sepoys would have dispatched their former assailants, his hand was the one to spare them, and with his own handkerchief I saw him gently bind up one of their wounds, and send the men to the general as prisoners to be released as soon as Gwalior was taken. The gratitude of these three men to the victor was a sight that would have moved the hardest heart."

KENT MESSENGER July 1st 1882

THE NEW CHURCH AT SNODLAND

CONSECRATION SERVICE

The consecration of the above church, which has been completed within the last few days, took place on Tuesday. The building which was erected by Mr Bridge, Maidstone, is situated in the High-Street of this town, and is undoubtedly the finest and handsomest in the neighbourhood. The style of the building is Gothic, with a slight admixture of the Lancet. The walls are of Kentish ragstone, with Bath stone dressings, chamfered angles, Bath stone plinth, weatherings, strings and copings. The tower is finished with battlemented coping: the octagon staircase leads to the ringers' floor, thence to the battlements. The gables of the nave are finished with crosses. Most of the windows are filled with cathedral glass, diamond-leaded, with amber borders. The chancel window, which consists of painted glass, is very pretty, and on a tablet under it is the following inscription:

"Erected to the loving memory of father, mother, and brother, Henry Hook, died June 16th, 1866; Charles Townsend Hook, died February 11th 1877; Hannah Maria Hook, died Nov. 20th, 1881; by Edith, Maud, and Agnes Hook. June 1882." The roofs, which like the seats are open work, are of the best pitch pine, the principals being supported by carved brackets and hammer-beams on stone corbels. The plan of the church is cruciform, having nave, chancel, organ chamber, and vestry. The floors of the aisles, nave, chancel, and tower are all of handsome tessellated pavement. The building is heated by hot air on the Derby Foundry Company's principle. The interior is lighted by means of a massive brass corona in the nave, the gift of the children of Snodland, and seven full-sized brass standards of seven lights each. The fittings of the church, including the reredos, pulpit, lectern, font, altar table, and reading desk are elegant and substantial, and greatly enhance the appearance of the interior of the

building. The cost of the church has been defrayed entirely by the late Mrs Hook and the Misses Hook of Veles, conjointly with Colonel Holland, C.B. of Ivymeth, Snodland. It may not be out of place to mention here that this handsome building will add another to the many benevolent acts of the late Mrs Hook and her family to the village of Snodland. It is perhaps not generally known that not only are the streets and several public buildings in the town lighted by gas as a free gift bestowed by the Misses Hook, but that the British School in which some 300 children are educated is the property of, and supported by, these ladies, and also that it is to Mrs and the Misses Hook that Snodland is indebted for a new and capacious temperance hall in May street, a lofty and commodious Sunday School near the parish church as well as for the artistic and ornamental clocktower on the Holborough road, erected some three years ago in memory of the late Mr Charles Townsend Hook.

The consecration service was announced to commence at eleven o'clock, and long before that hour people began to flock into the church. A large number of applications had been made for admission, but as the building has accommodation for only 300, that number of invitation tickets only could be issued. The ministers present were the Revs. Dr. Bayley (the head of the New Church Society in England), J. Presland, T. L. Marsden, R. Storry, W. O. Mant, J. J. Woodford (the resident minister), J. R. Boyle, C. Collingwood, and R. Laver of Maidstone. Dr. Bayley opened the service by saying "The Lord is in His holy temple: let all the earth keep silence." The introductory psalm, cxxxii, was then read, commencing with the words, "Lord, remember David and all his afflictions: how he swore unto the Lord, and vowed unto the Almighty One of Jacob." Dr. Bayley next delivered the following address to those assembled :-

"Order requires that churches or houses of instruction and devotion should be erected and set apart to the service of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the One only God of heaven and earth. We are therefore assembled together for the purpose of dedicating in the most solemn manner, to His honour and worship, this building. That the several religious uses and duties which are to be here performed may be conducted with becoming devotion and solemnity. These uses and duties may be all comprised under the following general heads:-

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Secondly, the reading of the sacred Scripture, or Word of the Lord; together with the teachings of the true doctrines, and the unfolding of its spiritual sense, now revealed to men on earth. The opening of Divine Truth in the Holy Word, with its attendant reception in the minds of man, is what is properly meant by the Second Advent of the Lord. It will therefore be the endeavour of the minister who shall here officiate to make manifest that the Lord's second coming has actually taken place, and that it is still in progress by the building up and establishment in the understanding, the heart, and the life of those who receive it, of a new church called the New Jerusalem.

Thirdly, the administration of those sacraments which the Lord has appointed in His Word; Baptism, which is an introduction into the Church, and the Holy Supper which is an introduction into heaven. To these may be added the Consecration of Marriage.

Such are the important duties to be performed in this place, which we are now about to dedicate to the worship of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, with one consent, lift up our hearts to this ever-blessed, ever-adorable God of the universe, while we invoke His Divine mercy and presence to sanctify this house,

and to bless His people now assembled in His holy name, together with all who should hereafter call upon Him within these walls.”

A hymn, generally used at the opening of the Swedenborgian places of worship, was then sung, the first verse of which was as follows :-

O, thou whose own vast temple stands,
Built over earth and sea!
Accept the walls that human hands
Have raised to worship Thee.

At the conclusion of this a prayer was offered and then followed the anthem, “Arise, shine, for Thy light is come.” The first lesson, taken from the 8th chapter of the first book of Kings, verses 22 to 61, having been read, another anthem, “Oh, Lord God, hear the prayer of my servants,” was sung. The second lesson, consisting of the 21st and 22nd chapters of Revelations, was next read; this was followed by a hymn, commencing :-

Lead, kindly Light, amid the encircling gloom,
Lead thou me on;
The night is dark, and I am far from home,
Lead thou me on;
Keep thou my feet; I do not ask to see the distant scene:
One step enough for me.

The Rev. Dr. Bayley then delivered an eloquent and thoughtful sermon from the words contained in the 7th verse of the 56th chapter of Isaiah. Having dwelt upon the prophetic assurance that the kingdom of God shall at last be obeyed over all the earth, and pointing out that the true conception of the Lord is that He is infinitely tender and good, the rev. gentleman concluded as follows:- Great harm has been done to religion by making it seem to be an enemy to innocent joy, and a disposition to a morbid delight in mumbling about miserable sinners. The true spirit of religion is a course of cheerful goodness, that delights to do right. Life will of course have its times of trial, difficulty, and discipline; but those things can be endured and overcome by faith in the Lord and His word. Sorrow may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. For one affliction to make us mourn, we have a thousand comforts for which to be grateful, and to make us joyful in the house of prayer. Our burnt offerings and sacrifices are to follow and imitate our Lord, always taking care that the fire on our altar never goes out. Come to this church especially on the Sabbath Day, with hearts warmed by the spirit of self-sacrifice, and lovingly ask, Lord what wouldst thou have me to do? Your burnt offerings, and your sacrifices and thanksgivings, will then always bring down a blessing. They will be accepted upon the altar, as surely as were those of Elijah. Love to the Lord, too, will abound in love to man. No condemnation of others, for opinion's sake will be heard here. Loving advice, opening of the heavenly beauties of the Divine word, earnest help and encouragement will be offered to all who come, and where these do not succeed a spirit of patience will work and wait for a more convenient season, still saying “This house is to be a house of prayer for all people.” Here should the workman come to pray that he may be directed and strengthened to do his department of life's labour sincerely and truly, whether with the spade or the machine as a work of religion, that he may become that noblest work of God, an honest man. Here the employers will come seeking aid to be just and generous, and pour the means of comfort into hundreds of cottage homes. Here should the thinker come to pray, that his thoughts and efforts may ever be upward and onward, Zion-ward, ever resting on the High and Holy One that inhabits eternity. Here should come the tempted and tried, weary with life's troubles, to accept the daily bread which will strengthen them in their troubles, and help them experimentally to know the blessings of having a house of prayer for all people. Even in life's deepest sorrows, in sad moments when we have to part at least from the visible presence of those we have loved

with a life-long affection, in the house of prayer we can learn how grand the kingdom is of which both they and we form a never dying part. Here the curtain can be drawn and the radiant realm of life be disclosed into which our dear ones have entered. One blessed friend, who has gone before, and to whose dear memory many a heart will fondly turn today, would have greatly rejoiced to witness the completion of this monument of gratitude to the Lord and charity to man. May it not be that her dear Saviour may permit her to blend her praises and her prayers with ours, and, grateful that this new centre of goodness and truth is now completed to the headstone, she will say with us grace, grace upon it. Her noble son, too, Mr. Charles Townsend Hook, respected and beloved by all who knew him, who, following in the footsteps of his worthy father, widened so much the stream of prosperity in this spirited little town, will he too not rejoice with us. Would he not have said, "Yes, let it be a house of prayer for all people?" There is rejoicing in Heaven, our Saviour said, over one sinner that repenteth. Do the angels then not rejoice when they see opened new fountains for good where the young can be instructed in the true way to be happy, where the misguided can be reclaimed and, by repentance and faith, be raised to a purer life, and by regeneration be perfected for their heavenly home, where earth can be brightened by the glory of Heaven, and all can learn to strive to bring the Lord's kingdom upon earth, and do His will in daily work and daily duties lovingly and justly as it is done in Heaven.

The service was brought to a close by the singing of a hymn.

At two p.m. the Misses Hook entertained about thirty of their friends at Veles. Colonel Holland, C.B., presided at the banquet, and the party consisted among others of the Rev. Dr. Bayley, the Rev. Mr and Mrs Presland, the Rev. T. L. Marsden, Dr. and Mrs Mackechnie, Dr. J. Johnson, Mr. E. Austin, Dr. Collingwood, Mr Machlachlan, Miss Bateman, Mrs Woodford, Mr Green, Mrs Jollife, Miss Drummond, Miss Dunn, Mr Gunton, Miss Barnes, Mr and Mrs Bunn (of Ashford), and Mr Webb.

The Rev. Dr. Bayley, in a few appropriate words, referred to the incalculable amount of good that had been effected in Snodland by the late Mrs Hook and her son the late Mr Charles Townsend Hook, and he said that the erection of the very beautiful structure they had that day dedicated to the worship of the one Lord Jesus, for which they were indebted to the liberality of Colonel Holland and the Misses Hook, was no ordinary work, and would, he felt sure, do more to further the cause of the New Church in Kent than anything that had yet been done. He added that the church just consecrated was one of the most beautiful and artistic, internally and externally, he had ever seen, and that he had been particularly struck with the order of the service that day under very trying circumstances. It showed how perfectly all had been arranged; there was no running and rushing about here and there. All was managed quietly and in order as it ought to be in the house of God and clearly demonstrated that it had been excellently organised in minute detail. He then specially alluded to the excellent singing of the beautiful anthems that day and to the choral service generally, and concluding with asking all present to join him in thanking Colonel Holland and the Misses Hook for all they had so liberally and well done in the cause of the New Church at Snodland.

Colonel Holland responded remarking that he thought it a great, though sad, privilege to speak to them on behalf of a church on which their thought and minds had been much occupied for many months past, as they had in turn planned out and designed every part of it till they were now able to see their united labour of love concentrated, completed, and consecrated that day in a beautiful building which, though made with hands, must in the grand purpose be eternal in the heavens. He pointed out how the blessings of heaven had invariably rested on all their work in Snodland, and that on this their consecration day the great Architect of the universe had sent them beams and rays of love in His glorious sunshine on the building that day dedicated to His service, a building beautiful in architectural design and proportions, and owing to the many gifts of friends most beautifully completed within. This church they handed over in full faith in the doctrines they loved, and in all love and charity to their

neighbours, whom they trusted would often come and worship with them. They handed it over complete in every respect, free from all debt, and they hoped their one Lord and Master would bless their labour of love. Great, however, as was the privilege of speaking for such a work, it was a sad, sad privilege, for the building they had that day consecrated was but the fruition of a grand work commenced many years ago and nobly carried on by those no longer with them, but more than all others they were now specially reminded of that one sweet smile which one and all would have so desired to see among them that day – the one whose loving thought had commenced this very church, whose last earnest wish and desire it was to see completed, one whose beautiful, loving, and heavenly life on earth had shed blessing on all around her, but whose sweet, loving face they could in this life see no more.

The Rev. T. L. Marsden said he was deeply overcome by the truly touching words just spoken by Colonel Holland. Every word he had said came evidently from his heart, or his words could not have gone as they had done to the hearts of his hearers. He felt that no one in that room had ever heard truer words spoken with more touching eloquence than they had just heard. He most sincerely from his heart endorsed everything that had been said both by Dr. Bayley and Colonel Holland. It was most gratifying to him personally to find such a grand work so well carried out by those, who not only had the means but the liberality and talents to develop those means in the erection of such a truly great work, and one so much required as that of the beautiful New Church at Snodland, dedicated that day to the service of the one Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Shortly after the Rev. T. L. Marsden had concluded his remarks, the party adjourned to the lawn and gardens where they were joined by those who had been entertained at the Queen's Hotel, and all spent a very pleasant afternoon till six o'clock, when the tea meeting in the Sunday Schoolroom took place.

As the Misses Hook could only receive a limited number of their guests at Veles, they kindly provided an excellent luncheon at the Queen's Head Hotel, where the Rev. J. J. Woodford presided, and was supported by the Revs. Storry, O'Mant, Gunton, and Laver.

The Chairman, after luncheon had been partaken of, proposed the sentiment "Prosperity to the new church," and observed that many persons had very strange ideas of what they were going to do now that the new building was constructed. To such he would say "We are going to do good, and this will be our great aim; for the church is consecrated for ever to the worship and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ." (loud applause). They trusted that the new church - and they would work as well as trust - would be a blessing to Snodland (renewed applause). If they in Snodland would work together and set aside all personal feelings and have one aim, viz, to work for the glory of God, he was sure that it would not be long before great good would be accomplished in the village (applause).

The Chairman said the next sentiment he had to propose was "The founders of the Church" (loud applause). Anyone could not know them - he meant that excellent family, the Hooks, without being convinced of their large heartedness (loud applause). He got a reply a short time since from a gentleman to whom he had made application for a donation towards the organ fund and in his letter he said "I am very glad to help you, but I think it is like sending coals to Newcastle" (laughter). How many people in the parish of Snodland were there who had not been helped by these good people with money, kind advice, or by finding them employment (loud applause). In conclusion he said that he was unable to adequately express his feelings for the great generosity of the Misses Hook and Colonel Holland in erecting the beautiful church (loud applause). The sentiment was coupled with the name of Rev. Storry. The latter, in responding, said he had had a long acquaintance with those excellent people the Hooks. It had been his lot to see them in the quiet retirement of private life, and he could not speak too highly of their Christian characters (loud applause).

The chairman next proposed the sentiment "The other donors to the Building." He said the excellent example set by the Misses Hook and Colonel Holland had induced other persons

to come forward and say, "We should like to give you something." He then mentioned that the lectern was the gift of the workpeople employed at the mills, the pulpit desk was given by Miss Drummond, the reading desk by a builder of the village, the altar table by another builder, the lights by Mr. Dann, of Maidstone, the bible placed on the lectern by Dr. Johnson, of Maidstone. All of these gifts were sent in as surprises to them, and they could only be deeply thankful to the donors (applause).

Mr. Dann, whose name was associated with the sentiment, briefly responded.

The Chairman then proposed "The architect, (Mr Bridge) and remarked that the latter deserved great praise for the handsome building he had erected. A gentleman who had travelled in a great many countries of the world, and who recently visited Snodland, said that the new building was not a cathedral, but it was one of the most perfect churches that he had ever seen (applause). He hoped the architect would receive that as a well-deserved compliment for himself.

Mr Bridge briefly expressed his acknowledgements.

The sentiment of "The absent friends" then followed, being proposed by the Chairman, who briefly alluded to the late Mrs Hook, of whom he spoke in the highest terms.

The sentiment of "The visitors and ministers of other churches" was then submitted by the Chairman, and coupled with the name of the Rev. R. Lave, of Maidstone.

In responding, Mr. Laver expressed the great pleasure which he had experienced in attending the consecration service, and went on to speak of the generosity of the Misses Hook and Colonel Holland in providing the funds for the building. The Misses Hook, he said, had shown great kindness towards the congregational minister of Snodland, Mr Storey, and he wished he had been present to speak for himself. He did not think that Mr. Storey could have continued as minister if it had not been for the excessive and disinterested kindness of the late Mrs Hook (loud applause), who had oftentimes made his life brighter and happier.

The remaining sentiments were "The musical friends" proposed by the Chairman, and responded to by Mr Bevis and Mr. S. French, of Maidstone, and "The Chairman."

At 6 p.m. a tea was held in the new Sunday School, to which about 200 sat down. The tea was provided by Mr. A. Middleton, of the Temperance Rooms, Snodland, in a very efficient manner, the tables containing a nice lot of flowers and fruit, kindly presented by the Misses Hook. After tea the tables were cleared, and at 7 p.m. a public meeting was held, the room being crowded to excess, and many being unable to obtain admission. The Rev. J. J. Woodford presided. The proceeding commenced with a pianoforte solo by Mr S H French, after which Mr Bridge spoke for a short time in a rather humorous style. Mr G Wakeford then sang in good style the "Little hero," and after a few remarks from the Chairman Mr S H French gave another pianoforte solo. The Chairman then called upon Dr. Bayley to describe a few of the incidents connected with a journey that gentleman has lately made to the East and the Holy Land. Dr. Bayley, who spoke at considerable length, related many amusing anecdotes as to the natives of Eastern countries and after this clever and instructive address, Miss Bevis sang with much feeling and taste, "The better land," which so delighted the audience that they recalled her, in response to which she gave "The lost chord" which was equally well rendered and received. Mr W. A. French then gave a very amusing reading, after which the Rev. Rd. Storry, of Heywood, made some appropriate remarks. Mr Woodford then gave short closing address, and after singing the Doxology, the Rev. R. Storry pronounced the benediction, and thus terminated one of the most eventful and memorable days known in the history of the New Church Society at Snodland.

We must not omit to mention that Mr S H French ably presided at the organ (an American one, which will be used in the church for several weeks) during the morning service. We may add that the new organ will in all probability be erected about the beginning of August, and that it will be enclosed in an ornamental Gothic case, divided into three compartments, with two frontages of decorated speaking pipes.

[Unidentified cutting] 24 September 1882

Appended is a description of the splendid new organ which has been placed in this church by Messrs. Walker and Sons of 27, Francis Street, Tottenham Court Road, W.C. Messrs Walker have erected organs for churches in almost every part of the world, and they are now building one in the church at West Newton, Suffolk, given by Her Majesty the Queen, while about three years since they supplied one for His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales for the church at Sandringham. The instrument at Snodland, which cost a very large sum [£275], is enclosed in an ornamental Gothic case, with front decorated speaking pipes and a frontage facing west, also with decorated pipes. It was opened on Sunday last [24 Sept 1882], the church both morning and evening being crowded :-

Great Organ, - CC to G in alt., 5 notes, - 1. Open diapason. 2. Dulciana, tenor C, grooved for bass. 3 Stopped diapason bass, Wald flute treble. 4. Principal. 5. Flute. 6. Fifteenth. 7 abd 8. Space slides

Swell Organ, - CC to G in alt., 56 notes. – 1. Keraulophon, tenor C. 2. Stopped diapason. 3. Principal. 4. Hautboy, tenor C, prepared to CC.

Pedal Organ, - CCC to F, 30 notes. 1. Bourdon

Couplers – 1. Swell to Great. 2. Great to pedals. 3. Space left for coupler, swell to pedals. 3. Composition pedals.

Summary

Great Organ	8 stops, 384 pipes
Swell Organ	4 stops, 200 pipes
Pedal Organ	1 stop, 30 pipes
	12 554

W. R. Hodgkinson was appointed organist from 24 September 1882 and served until 1924