

## CHAPTER X.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL WORK IN CLUTHA, SOUTH CLUTHA, AND PORT MOLYNEUX: INCH CLUTHA AND KAITANGATA: BALCLUTHA: WHAREPA: KAIHIKU: CLINTON AND WAIWERA.

THE first settlers in Clutha felt most keenly the want of the Gospel privileges they had enjoyed in the Homeland. Dr. Burns came on foot as far as Inch-Clutha to hold services, which were greatly appreciated, but his visits were few and far between. In 1854 the Rev. W. Bannerman was appointed to the charge of the Clutha District, his parish extending from Waihola to Riverton. For two years his home was on Inch-Clutha, but in 1856 he removed to Wharepa, to a house kindly lent by Peter Ayson, of Corydon, until the manse at Puerua should be ready.

The first service in South Clutha was held on March 19th, 1854, in the house of Geo. Hay, Hilly Park, whose son and daughter were baptised on that day. There were but five families in South Clutha at that time—Messrs. Hay, Mercer, Willeher, Archibald brothers, and Brugh. These, along with the Aysons (father and son), from Wharepa, Robert Christie, David and Mrs. Dunn, some fifteen in all, constituted the congregation.

Mr. F. S. Pillans piloted the Rev. Bannerman through Shaw's Swamp, which at that time was full of lagoons, and it was very necessary for strangers to have a pilot through it. When they came to the Puerua Stream, they had to cross at a special point, known as the Three Bushes. If people had not the pluck to cross there, they had to walk up the bank until they came to a ford. At that time there were no starched collars, etc., and people were thankful even if their boots were tied with flax laces. One of the Archibalds came to the first service dressed in sailor's duck pants and coat, with a sheath knife at his belt and a nightcap on his head.

The services were afterwards held every three weeks at Port Molyneux, Tokomairiro, and Inch-clutha. When a sudden rise in the Puerua rendered crossing impossible, the minister repaired to Wharepa, and by-and-by this service became a stated one. The South Clutha services were removed to Awakiki Bush, and for a short time to Underwood before the church was built. In 1856 efforts were made to build a church. The Hon. W. H. Reynolds and Mr. Arthur Burns afterwards came to the district, and Mr. Burns presented about eleven acres, adjoining the present cemetery, as a site and glebe, while Mr. Reynolds gave money to scrim and paper the church. Messrs. Hay (father and son) sawed the timber, carrying it out of the bush to where Mr. Brugh could reach it with his sledge, and that gentleman and D. Dunn sledged it to the site. Messrs. Begg and W. Hay cut the piles, and soon the framework of the first church was erected: that was in 1858. Mr. Archibald split the shingles for the roof, and Messrs. Hay built the chimney. When the building was completed, Mr. and Mrs. W. Perkins presented the congregation with a handsome pulpit Bible. The building was an unpretentious one, but it was the free will offering of a generous people.

Services were conducted regularly in this building until 1866, when churches were erected at Puerua and Port Molyneux. At the latter place the first services were held in Thomson and Mailer's store. The site for the new church at Puerua was given by D. P. Steel at a peppercorn rental, and was afterwards gifted by T. Ord, who had purchased Steel's property when the latter left New Zealand, the only condition being that a whole seat should be reserved for all time for the family, whoever it might be, that should occupy Underwood Farm. The new building was opened by Dr. Burns, and at a social meeting held during the week, the Rev. Bannerman was presented with a handsome pulpit gown.

In 1898 the present church replaced the old one, which was showing signs of decay. It cost £463, and was opened practically free of debt. In 1857 the present manse was erected by Thomas Tolmie and William Young. It was a neat weather-board building, and Mr. Bannerman made it more comfortable by adding a clay lining. A handsome addition was made to it in 1867.

The first office-bearers in the Clutha parish were Messrs. George Hay, James Johnson, and John Geggie.

who in 1858 were elected deacons, and a little later Mr. Johnson was raised to the eldership. In 1875 the deacons of the new church were Ben. Johnston, Robert Christie, John Geggie, A. Ledingham, James Marshall, W. Morton, and John Porteous. At the same time James Johnston and John and Jas. Somerville constituted the first session. At the present date (1910) the office-bearers consist of:—W. Paterson, Jas. Lamond, J. and A. Morton, J. Shields (elders), and J. A. Somerville, G. McKenzie, P. Renton, I. Dent, and R. J. Allison (managers).

In 1863 Port Molyneux had advanced so much that steps were taken to build a church, and in 1864 Geo. Hay went round the district to see what support would be given towards erecting a building, which could be used as a school as well as a church. So successful was he that in 1865 a building on the site of the present church was opened free of debt. The first deacons in this church were Jas. Paterson and Geo. Hay, while J. W. Thomson was the first elder. In 1875 the present church was opened by the Rev. Dr. Stuart, of Dunedin, the old building being presented to the Alexandra Lodge of Oddfellows, who removed it to its present site. The present office-bearers in the church are Jas. Shiels, Adam Paterson, Wm. Peterson, A. Kilgour (elders), Wm. Hay, M. Jackman, and S. J. Harrison (managers).

Kaitangata and Inch-Clutha originally formed the ecclesiastical centre of the Rev. W. Bannerman, and services were first held in Redpath's house at the Head of the Island. There was an attendance of between 30 and 40 persons, some of whom had walked over ten miles, threading their way through tall flax and tussocks.

In 1863 these two places were erected into a parish, and in 1864 the Rev. Jas. Kirkland was inducted into the charge of the congregation. He laboured among the people with much acceptance till 1872, when he was succeeded by the Rev. J. M. Allan. Two churches were erected during Mr. Allan's incumbency—one at Kaitangata and the other on the Island. The bell on the Island church was the gift of Archibald Anderson, of Balmoral, one of the early settlers in the district. In 1889 Kaitangata was erected into a separate charge, the first minister being the Rev. Robert Fairmaid, who was succeeded by the Rev. Scott Allan, who was again succeeded by the present incumbent, the Rev. T. W. Currie. In Inch-Clutha and Stirling Mr. Allan was succeeded by the Rev.

W. Ramsay, who was translated to Napier, being in turn succeeded by the Rev. W. W. Brown.

The office-bearers in the Rev. W. Bannerman's time at Inch-Clutha were:—Messrs. Wm. Smith, John Darling, Alex. Grigor, Jas. Rolland, John Shepherd (elders), John Shaw, Archd. Anderson, Adam Rolland, Peter Smith, and D. McNeil (deacons). In Mr. Kirkland's time they were: Messrs. Wm. Smith, John Darling, Alex. Grigor, James Rolland, John Shepherd, Archibald Anderson (elders), John Shaw, Adam Rolland, Peter Smith, D. McNeil, Jas. Rattray, Donald Mitchell, Jas. Wylie, John McNeil, Duncan Ferguson, and James P. Maitland (deacons). Those now in office are:—Messrs. Edward Boyd, Senr., P. McSkimming, Senr., Robert MacKinlay, Thos. Parker, Jas. Lawson, Parker MacKinlay, Arthur Hislop, James Smaill, Wm. Sutherland (elders), P. McSkimming, Junr., Jas. Esson, Geo. H. Gilroy, J. G. Henderson, Geo. Harvey, Geo. Anderson, Senr., A. J. Bell, J. D. Willocks, Junr., and Alex. Renton (managers).

When Inch-Clutha was declared a sanctioned charge, the settlers in and around Balclutha were in the habit of worshipping in the old church across the river at Balmoral. In June, 1866, application was made to the Presbytery to have the district declared a preaching station. In 1867 it received full sanction, but for some time there was no ministerial settlement.

As far back as 1864 efforts had been made to erect a place of worship, and at a meeting held in the Court-house £140 was subscribed. Further subscriptions came to hand, and enabled the Committee to proceed with the erection of a building, the contract for which was let to Winchester and Clayton, of Dunedin, for the sum of £510.

In 1870 the Rev. A. B. Arnott, M.A., was called and inducted to the charge, but after a pastorate of only two years he resigned. He was succeeded by the Rev. John McAra, during whose incumbency a new church was built, at a cost of some £3,000. Only a small part of this sum was immediately subscribed, and for many years the congregation staggered under a load of debt. In 1879 Mr. McAra was succeeded by the Rev. George Morice, who was drowned while bathing at Port Molyneux. During these terms services were conducted at Te Houka by the Balclutha ministers, previous services being held by Rev. J. Waters, who, in 1864, held the first service in the

district in Mr. Dallas's house. After the school was built (in 1869) services were held in it. Services were also held at Mt. Stuart and Lovell's Flat, the latter of which was soon placed under the care of a missionary, but is now a sanctioned charge, the Rev. P. B. Fraser, M.A. (recently resigned), being the first minister. Mount Stuart was added to the Waitahuna Parish, so the only remaining preaching station outside Balclutha is Te Houka.

On April 1st, 1885, after a few months' vacancy, the Rev. S. W. Currie, M.A., was inducted into the pastoral charge of the district. The first meeting of session was held on November 26th, 1866, when there were present—the Rev. Jas. Kirkland, of Inch-Clutha, Moderator pro tem., and Messrs. Duncan McNeil, Robert Renton, and David Todd (elders). The first Deacons' Court met on December 17th, 1866, the deacons being Messrs. D. Ferguson, John McNeil, Robert Houlston, and James Rattray. The present office-bearers are:—Messrs. James Clark, Charles Dallas, Andrew Hutton, Thos. McKee, Donald Ryrie, John Sandilands, Dr. Stenhouse (elders); Wm. Boyd, R. Campbell, Wm. Dallas, Junr., D. T. Fleming, Adam Houlston, T. A. Johnston, George Moffat, Wm. McElrea, and Wm. Stevenson (managers).

At Wharepa the first services were held in Gordon and Ross's hut, in front of the Wharepa Bush, by the Rev. W. Bannerman, who, however, could preach only once a month. By-and-by a little church, which did good service both as church and school, was built on the top of the Cemetery Hill. The timber was sawn by Peter and James Ayson, while the work of erection was done by the Aysons, father and son. When the minister was absent, services were conducted by the Rev. McNicol, an old Highland minister, Messrs. C. H. Kettle, Wm. Young, John Somerville, H. McLeod, Jas. Ayson, Senr., and T. B. Gillies. The singing was led in Gordon and Ross's hut by Jas. F. Ayson, who was thus the first precentor; others assisting at different periods there and in the first church were Messrs. Waite, Peter Ayson, and James Somerville.

In 1865 Wharepa was erected into a separate charge, the Rev. John Waters being called and inducted in October of that year. In December, 1865, a contract was let to Bain and Sanderson to build a manse, the price being £540, and the new building was completed and ready for occupation on May 31st, 1866. It lasted for some forty years, when a new manse was erected on the

same site, at a cost of about £600, R. Kerr being the successful tenderer. Towards the end of 1866 a new church in close proximity to the manse was built, the ground being donated by Geo. Munro. When this church was opened, a soiree was held, and is worthy of remembrance in that the refreshments were handed round in paper bags. Colin McKenzie and Jas. Falconer were the contractors for the building, and the settlers one and all gave their hearty assistance by carting the timber, helping to erect the frame, and in many other ways. It is said that when the new building was spoken of, Adam Borthwick offered, if the building were built of stone, £100 and all the stone from his Carterhope quarry. His offer was not accepted, and so a good donation was lost. The precentors in this church were Jas. Somerville, Jas. Wilson, Chas. Dallas, Geo. Munro for Gaelic services, T. H. Meeking, and Robt. Ayson, the latter of whom conducted the singing for about thirty-five years, with the exception of short intervals, when he was relieved by W. W. Mackie and G. B. Somerville. When Jas. Somerville retired to attend the Puerua Church, the Wharepa people presented him with a harmonium, as a token of the esteem in which they had held his services.

On April 19th, 1866, a handsome gift of £33 5s. 6d. was presented to the Rev. John Waters by David Weir, Peter Ayson, and Donald Sutherland, on behalf of the subscribers, for the purpose of buying a horse, saddle, and bridle. After fourteen years' service Mr. Waters resigned, being presented with a purse of sovereigns by his friends as a token of esteem. He was succeeded by the Rev. G. B. Inglis, who, for other fourteen years, prosecuted his labours with diligence and success, when he was translated to Ashburton. He was succeeded by the Rev. John Kilpatrick, now of Green Island, and he in turn was succeeded by the Rev. Jas. F. G. Orr, M.A., B.D., who, in 1909, resigned to proceed to the Home Country. During 1910 the parish was disjoined from Kaihiku, and, along with Puerua, erected into a new charge, called Clutha-Wharepa, which charge gave a hearty call to the Rev. A. Watson, of Alexandra South. The call was accepted, and the Rev. Watson duly inducted into the charge on October 27th, 1910.

The first Sunday School in the district was conducted in Wm. Young's old house by the first Mrs. Waters, who was exceedingly popular, and when she died very

genuine grief was felt by the children and everyone in the place. She had been their guide, philosopher, and friend, and round her grave the children sang the hymns she loved so well. A tombstone, erected in the cemetery over her grave by the ladies of the district, has carved on it a line from her favourite hymn, "Rock of Ages": "Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy Cross I cling."

The first office-bearers in the church were Wm. Young, H. McLeod, and Jas. Ayson (elders), and John Somerville, Jas. McNeil, and Jas. Hay (deacons). Those now in office are W. Marshall, J. Wilson, J. Sarginson, J. Gordon (elders), and J. E. Russell, T. Stewart, J. F. Ayson, R. Tweed, R. Somerville, and A. Marshall (managers) (1910).

The following account of Mr. and Mrs. Waters may here fittingly find a place. Mr. Waters being, as stated, the first minister of the Wharepa charge.

The pioneer ministers of the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand were resolute and hardy men, specially selected for the needs of a new Colony. The Rev. John Waters was an excellent specimen of the type. Strongly built and of iron constitution, he combined with the frame of the hardy North-bred Scotsman the enthusiasm of the scholar and the theologian. Born in the far Northern County of Caithness, the descendant of generations of tenant farmers, he had the fortune to be the one son selected for a University education, a much coveted distinction in those days of plain living and high thinking. After passing through the Edinburgh University Arts and Divinity Classes with some distinction, and, as was usual in those times, employing his vacations in teaching, he was duly licensed by the Free Church of Scotland, and shortly after sailed for Dunedin. Landing in July, 1865, he was called in October following to the new charge of Wharepa and Kaihiku, where he remained for fourteen years.

Mr. Waters threw himself with enthusiasm into the work of his parish and his Presbytery, and it is difficult in this generation of railways and motor-cars to realise what toilsome miles had then to be covered on horseback in order to attend even to the needs of a single district.

"I had Presbytery business in Invercargill once," said Mr. Waters. "I was in Dunedin, and the matter was urgent. I rode to Wharepa that day, spelled my horse that night and next morning, rode to Clinton in the afternoon, and on to Invercargill next day."



“What sort of roads had you?” queried the writer.

“Oh, just tracks,” was the reply, as if “just tracks” was a mere detail of no special significance.

In addition to his ministerial duties, Mr. Waters took an active interest in educational matters, and did all he could to help young men who showed an inclination to prepare themselves for entering the newly-fledged University of Otago. He also followed the politics of both New Zealand and the Homeland with great zest, and at the same time kept up his reading, theological and otherwise, with a student's enthusiasm.

Leaving Wharepa in 1879, Mr. Waters settled in Dunedin in order to secure educational advantages for his family, and for many years undertook pioneering work for the Presbyterian Church. The calls of duty took him far afield. From Stewart Island to North Canterbury he was well and widely known as a painstaking and earnest pastor, who was content to supply temporary vacancies or administer Church Extension charges; and, having planted and watered whatever corner of the Vineyard might fall to his lot, to silently depart, trusting that others would reap the harvest. A man and a minister of wide experience and liberal opinions, blessed with a genial and even temperament, a sympathetic listener as well as an interesting speaker, he engaged the liking and the respect of all classes. At the advanced age of 84 he passed away, full of years, and leaving behind him many gracious memories. Of his family three survived him—Professor Waters, of the Otago School of Mines; Mr. John B. Waters, of Waters, Ritchie, and Co.; and Miss Waters, recently principal of the Dunedin Free Kindergarten.

No notice of the first minister of Wharepa and Kaihiku would be complete without some mention of the first lady of the manse. Mrs. Waters came of an ancient and honourable Edinburgh family, and accompanied her husband to New Zealand in 1865.

Scotch folk, especially those of the stern and serious type who formed the majority of the early Clutha settlers, are not easily impressed, and, having been impressed, do not readily admit the soft impeachment. Nevertheless, it remains apparent even after this lapse of time that the Wharepa and Kaihiku people, both young and old, fell in love with Mrs. Waters. This is a serious statement to make about folk of the dour Covenanting and Free Kirk





REV. JOHN AND MRS. WATERS—1865.

breed, but it is true, and, what is still more astonishing, those who remember the minister's lady glory in it yet. Her husband commanded respect, sympathy, co-operation, but his wife ruled in the inmost hearts of the people; and when she died, after guiding all things at the manse wisely and well for seven busy years, she left a blank which the years somehow never seemed to fill.

Highly educated, widely travelled, with a charming personality, Mrs. Waters brought to these early colonial days a gracious and refined sympathy, which left an undying impression on all who met her.

And so they pass, the minister and his wife, across this brief stage. "I am called away," said Sheridan on his deathbed; "I am called away to keep an imperative engagement, but I leave my influence with you." So may it be.

For some years the settlers in Kaihiku attended the church services at Wharepa, but in 1864 regular services were conducted in a vacant house at Kaihiku Bush, formerly belonging to John Barr, of Craigielea, Otago's first poet. As the Rev. W. Bannerman had by this time withdrawn to the Puerua, supply was given by various preachers. Kaihiku formed part of the Wharepa parish, and remained so until 1910, when it was disjoined and added to Waiwera. The first Sunday Schools in the district were held in Craigielea House, and at the house of M. Paterson, near the lower end of the district, the teachers at the former being Miss Dalrymple and Mr. T. H. Meeking; at the latter Mrs. Paterson. Miss Dalrymple, whose people occupied a farm at Kaihiku, receives the honour of having been the means of establishing the Otago Girls' High School in Dunedin.

The first office-bearers in this congregation were:— A. D. and John Johnston (elders), J. Hay, M. Paterson, and J. Watt (deacons). Those at present in office are:— T. Tait, W. B. Anderson, J. F. Ayson (elders), Geo. Johnston, W. Nicol, M. Tait, R. Sutherland, John and Thos. Fleming (deacons).

Clinton originally formed part of the extensive parish of the Rev. Jas. Urie, of Tapanui, or Pomahaka, as it was then called. In course of time (1868) it was constituted a new charge under the name of Popotunoa, and in May, 1869, the Rev. C. Connor became its first minister. His parish included Waiwera, the stations on the Pomahaka, and the lower Mataura District. A church was

erected at Wairuna, and the services at Clinton were held in the schoolhouse until a church was built.

Mr. Connor was succeeded by the Rev. D. Gordon, who was in turn succeeded by the Rev. J. U. Spence, now of Waihola, he being followed at Clinton by the Rev. R. H. Blair, the present incumbent. During Mr. Spence's incumbency Waiwera was made a separate charge, the Rev. J. F. McAllister being its first minister; but he remained only a few years, when he was succeeded by the present minister, the Rev. W. W. Williams. The first services in Waiwera were held in a barn belonging to David Ballingall. Campbell Thomson, manager of Ashley Downs Estate, did much to advance the evangelistic work of the district, and later John Gibson for thirty-five years proved a keen worker in church and Sunday School.

The first session of the Popotunoa parish consisted of Messrs. Peter Clark and Wm. Irvine, and was afterwards strengthened by the addition of John Cumming, J. W. Thomson, and Jas. Taylor. The present session consists of Jas. Taylor, Jas. Roy, Jas. Cockburn, John Clark, John Campbell, Geo. B. Watt, the managers being Messrs. Gordon Sheed, John Davidson, Peter Clarke, Urwin Roy, Wm. Robb, Robert Luke, John Beattie, Peter McG. Murray, Alex. Orr, and Thos. Erskine. The elders in the Waiwera Parish, exclusive of the Kaihiku portion, are Jas. Fyfe, John Edwards, John Cawley, and Wm. Mackenzie; while the Management Committee consists of Messrs. Wm. Sutherland, Jas. Sutherland, John Wright, and Robert Tait.

The want of educational facilities was greatly felt by the early settlers, and as settlement increased great was their anxiety about their children. In some places small private schools were set up, but were seldom a success. Meetings were held in the different districts, and strong representations made to the Education authorities of the day for the establishment of public schools. These representations were uniformly successful, and as years advanced facilities were so quickly supplied that all anxiety soon disappeared.

The first school at South Clutha was near the cemetery at Puerua, the first teacher being a Mr. J. Brydone, but he remained for only three years, and then shifted to Wharepa, where he had, before starting teaching, a section in the bush. The Education Board then appointed Mr. D. McEwan, but he died, his brother James

taking the vacant position. James McEwan taught for a number of years, ultimately retiring to go north. He was succeeded by Mr. James Rix, who in turn was succeeded by the present teacher, Mr. S. J. Harrison.

Port Molyneux did not possess a school till 1865, when a building was erected which served both as school and church. The first schoolmaster was Mr. John Steven, afterwards the Rev. John Steven, of Papakaio, who opened a school in a cottage belonging to a Mr. Binnie, in R. L. Begg's private township. When the new school was built, Mr. Steven was appointed teacher, but in 1866 he left to go to Waihola. Mr. J. Forbes was the next teacher, but he remained for only a year, when he left for the Home Country. Other teachers in regular order were:—Messrs. G. B. H. Hewitt, Geo. Wilson, T. D. Thomson, Wm. Miller, Wm. Hay, A. Purves, W. Waddell, Jas. McNeur, Miss Greig, and Miss Grono. In 1874 a new school was erected, but owing to the decrease in children was closed for about three years, from 1901 to 1904, when it was reopened, Miss Grono being the teacher. Further along the beach was the Maori school, the first teacher of which was Miss Jones, afterwards Mrs. G. B. Inglis. Other teachers were Mrs. McGavin and Miss Vanderhoven, afterwards Mrs. Carrick.

In 1858 the Provincial Government sent Home for some teachers, among whom was Alex. Grigor, who arrived in the "Three Bells" in 1858. Immediately on arrival Mr. Grigor was sent to Inch-Clutha. The first school was held in the little church at the head of the island, and was attended by from 10 to 15 children. In 1859 a new school building, consisting of school and dwelling-house, was built by W. Willocks and A. Begg, and in 1875 a separate school was erected. Shortly afterwards this Mr. Grigor went to Balclutha, and Mr. Jas. McNeur took his place. The last school building was swept away in the 1878 flood, but the second one still remains, being leased to a Mr. Henderson. In 1903 another school was built at the foot of the island, and was taught by Mr. Grigor, who had been transferred from Balclutha.

Wharepa was the first district in the Clutha to be blessed with the benefits of a school. At a very early date (1855) a Mr. Waite, who had a section at the west end of the Wharepa Bush, opened a private school. For some time he taught in his own house, and when the first public school was built, he was appointed the first teacher.

The school was built in front of the bush, and did duty for several years, until the attendance increased so much that the school was held in the first church, the school building being then used as a dwelling. Before this change came, Mr. Waite resigned, and Mr. H. McLeod was appointed teacher. He held office till April 5th, 1866, when he was succeeded by Mr. Ings, of Arrowtown, who was still in office when the school was shifted to the present site, the new building being erected by one McKinlay, a carpenter from Stirling. In 1866 Mr. Ings resigned to go to the West Coast, and Mr. T. H. Meeking, the teacher at Kaihiku, succeeded to the position. He retired in 1877, and was succeeded by Mr. W. Waddell. In 1881 Mr. Waddell resigned, and Mr. Huie was appointed. He resigned in 1885, when Mr. Wilson received the position, which he held until June, 1911, when he was transferred to Awamoko, North Otago, being succeeded by Mr. McLay, the present teacher.

Of the early Wharepa scholars, some have made their mark in the professional world, one especially being worthy of mention—viz., Dr. W. L. Christie, who was the first New Zealander to gain the M.B. degree. Dr. Christie was almost a native of Wharepa, and is now practising as a physician in Bristol, England.

The first school in Waitepeka was opened on the 24th February, 1868. The building was built of wattle and dab, and cost £30. W. Harry did the woodwork, and Jas. Marshall the clay work. It was built near the Main road, leading to Port Molyneux. By 1870 the school had become too small, so the Education Board had a new one erected on the present site, at a cost of £175, and shortly afterwards an addition was made to it. In 1871 a dwelling-house was erected, at a cost of £250. The first teacher was Mr. John Porteous, who held office for nearly twenty-seven years, resigning in 1894, when he was succeeded by Mr. L. Pope. Mr. Pope remained a very short time, being succeeded by Mr. J. Davidson, on whose death Mr. Bringans received appointment, and after a few years was succeeded by Miss McCallum, who resigned to take up a position in the North-East Valley School. Miss Reid was the next teacher, and was succeeded by Miss Long, from Matakanui, who in turn was followed by a Miss Masters.

On June 15th, 1865, a public meeting was held in Balclutha to arrange for the selection of a separate school

district, the children up to that time having attended the Inch-Clutha School. Mr. Hislop was present, and it was arranged that a side school should be established, the Education Board offering a salary of £50 and £15 in aid of the rent of a building. Later on steps were taken to raise the status of the school, and the forerunner of the present building was erected. A Mr. Hall was appointed the first teacher, but his services were lost to the district, and Mr. Todd was appointed. Some years later Mr. A. Grigor, of the Inch-Clutha School, was transferred to Balclutha, and occupied the position for many years, when, owing to failing health, he was transferred to the Matau School. He was succeeded by Mr. Pope, who was in turn succeeded by the present teacher, Mr. W. McElrea, B.E. At Te Houka a school was opened in 1869, Mr. James McNeur being the first teacher.

The first school in Kaihiku was a private one kept by Mr. T. H. Meeking. In 1864 the Education Board was approached, and granted a salary of £75 a year, which was supplemented by the school fees. A small sum was also given as the rent for a building. Mr. Meeking then built a small addition to his house, about 16 ft. square, as a schoolroom. This room had the ground for a floor, covered with rough slabs, while round logs were used as seats. In 1866 Mr. Meeking was appointed to Wharepa, and in 1868 a more central school building was erected, Mr. T. Paterson being placed in charge. One of the Kaihiku scholars, Peter S. Hay, went to the University, and was the first student in New Zealand on whom the degree of M.A. was conferred. Mr. Hay became Engineer-in-chief to the Colony, and very general regret was expressed at his early death.

Ill-health compelled Mr. Paterson to resign his office, and in 1875 he was succeeded by Mr. W. J. Moore. Other teachers in Kaihiku were Messrs. Auger, Clark, Mitchell, Methven, Menzies, and Misses Grigor, Anderson, and Hammond, the last of whom now occupies the position.

In Waiwera District no steps to build a school were taken until 1868 or 1869, the pupils attending the Wharepa and Kaihiku Schools. In those early days distance and want of roads formed no such bugbears to the people as they are in these advanced times. The first school was on the Main South road, and was at first in charge of a Mr. W. Hay, who was succeeded by a Mr. W. Chisholm. Mr. Chisholm was followed by Mr. Wright,

now the Rev. W. Wright, of Oamaru. Some years ago this school was closed, a more commodious one having been erected at the Waiwera township. This school is at present under the charge of Mr. W. Appleby.

Clinton was still later than Waiwera in having a school, as it was not till 1874 that one was established. The first teacher was a Mr. Anderson, who was succeeded by Mr. McVie, who, after a very short term of service, died. Other teachers were: Messrs. J. N. Stewart, W. W. Mackie, and J. Beattie, the last of whom now occupies the position.

The Wairuna School was first opened about 1869, when Mr. James Roy was appointed teacher. Other schools in the neighbourhood are Taumata, Clydevale, Pomahaka Downs, and Popotunoa Gorge, but all these are of a much later date.