

IN MEMORIAM OF THE JUBILEE OF THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL CROWLAND,

FROM ITS

Foundation, July 29th, 1831, to the Jubilee, April 6th. 1882.

In the year 1831, a Copyhold in South-st belonging to Mr. Renow, was Enfranchised, and was sold in Allotments, No. 1, was bought by Mr. Abram Fillingham, the house now occupied by the Wesleyan Minister. Lot 4. (by desire) was purchased by Mr. Wm Smith, (*Father of Mrs Harker, was one of the first Methodists in Crowland; also Mrs Jackson, Mother of the late Mrs Fox, Mrs Zillah Cherrington, and others.*) who had to endure jeers, cruel mockings, pelted with rotten eggs, as they went to their meetings, this was about 80 years since, but they obtained a better inheritance. Mr. Smith, Mr. Eakins, Mr. J. Ashby, Mr. W. Harker, Mr. Edwards, and others started a Subscription, of £10. each, W. Whitsed, Esq., and Mrs. Casswell, sen. of Postland £20. each; Mr. Smith also went into Lincolnshire to Mrs. Brackenbury, of RAITHBY HALL, and Collected about £50. They formed a Board of Trustees, and did arise to build this House for GOD, & Methodism: and it has been a means in the hand of GOD, of lifting Crowland out of very low degradation. On July 29, 1831, the *Foundation Stone was laid by Mr W. Smith, the oldest Wesleyan, here, at the front corner, toward South-st., 5 feet deep on a gravelly bed, (containing a bottle with Plan, name of Trustees, &c.* The Rev. Peter Wilkinson, Super. gave an Address to a large audience. Built by Mr J. Gilbert, and Mr Edwards, carpenter. April 6th, 1832, (*Fifty years this day of Jubilee,*) the Rev. THEOPHILUS LESSEY, opened the Chapel, and the Rev. LEONARD POSNETT, on the Friday, and Sunday, each of them. About 1838, Side Galleries were erected at a cost of about £150. by Mr T. Fillingham. In 1862 the Chapel was enlarged 30ft., at a cost of about £400 In 1871, a New Sunday School 75ft. long, built at cost of £300 And in 1875, the Chapel was Reseated with Pitch Pine, by Mr T. Godwin, and Heating Apparatus, Gas &c., at a cost of about £400. A great deal of the later improvements were greatly aided by the Ladies *Sewing Meetings*, under the direction of Mrs. W. Ashby. And now the same Ladies in this year of JUBILEE, (in which the Trustees will hold future Services, in addition to the Children's Tea, belonging the Sunday Schools.) are still working to Complete the round of Improvements by adding a noble ORGAN,* which will better assist the Congregation to "*Sing Praises unto God their Strength.*"

* A Subscription of £10. for the Organ Fund, has been Received from his Lordship the EARL of NORMANTON.

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April 6th. 1882.

THARKE'S PRINTER.