

CHAPEL OPENINGS IN RETFORD BRANCH OF
SCOTTER CIRCUIT.

1. *Retford*.—Our society in this town had long laboured under inconveniences, the place they had hired to worship in being too small, and not in a good situation. At length it was put on sale, and we had either to purchase it or get another. But the society having frequently tried to do this, without being able to succeed, were discouraged; and no suitable place seemed to offer. But Divine Providence so ordered it that the *theatre* was to be sold. We purchased it for four hundred and twenty-five pounds. We fitted up the main part for a chapel, the stage for a Sabbath school room, and the four dressing rooms for a preacher's house. These alterations cost about one hundred and thirty five pounds, including the deeds; so the whole cost will be about five hundred and sixty pounds. It is in an excellent situation, in one of the principal streets called Carol Gate.

In this important undertaking, we have had both friends and enemies; but Providence has so opened our way, that we have got it completed and opened, and the preacher in the house; and now even our enemies say, it is an ornament to the street. We have put three large arched windows in the front next the street, and the door opens to the street. Also we have stuccoed the front, and over the door we have put the following inscription:

REHOBOTH.

PRIMITIVE
METHODIST
CHAPEL,
1841.

The chapel has two galleries in the front part, one above the other; and side galleries right and left. These were all fixtures in the place. The front galleries are each six seats deep and the sides one; the bottom, or what was called the pit, has a boarded floor, and fixed seats. The pulpit stands on what was called the stage; and behind the pulpit we have fixed up a temporary partition, dividing the remaining part of the stage from the chapel. This is our school room, which will hold about two hundred children; and at occasional services we take down this partition, and then we have accommodation for about eight hundred people.

This chapel was opened on the two last sabbaths in February, 1841, by Mr. Wm. Antliff, Mr. Wm. Garner, and Mrs. Longmires. The congregations were crowded, and the donations and collections at the opening services amounted to about forty pounds.

The debt on the premises is five hundred and twenty pounds, the interest of which, at five per cent, will be twenty-six pounds per year. Toward this there is six pounds, the rent of the preacher's house, the school four pounds, a cellar under the school room one pound ten shillings; making eleven pounds ten shillings per year. It has been well attended since the opening, and the sittings let tolerably well. But the best of all is, about twenty souls have been converted in it since the opening. To God be all the glory. Amen.

The following lines are very appropriate:

If, readers, you have time to spare,
Turn o'er St. Matthew's leaves;
You'll find that once a house of prayer
Was made a den of thieves.

But now the times are alter'd quite,
O, reformation rare,
This modern den of thieves is now
Become a house of prayer.

We commenced our sabbath school a fortnight after the opening of the chapel; and we had two excellent sermons preached on Sunday, July 4, 1841, for the benefit of the school. And the collections, with the proceeds of the tea meeting on the Monday, amounted to ten pounds and two shillings. Several of the children recited pieces to the great satisfaction of the congregation, and there was a good feeling.

We have fifty-two children, and a good supply of teachers; and we are thankful to God for the prospects we have. O may the great Head of the church smile on the labours of his servants, and prosper his work in this part of his vineyard.

I introduced the GOLDEN System after the tea. for the benefit of the chapel, and several came forward and took a card. Some engaged to raise one pound, some ten shillings, and some five, &c. against the chapel anniversary February, 1842. May the good Lord bless them in their work and labour of love. Amen.

I. BROADBENT.