

## SOUTHAMPTON CITY LIBRARIES CLIPPINGS FILE

| CLASS  | HEADING                       | SOURCE                   | DATE       |
|--|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| H5<br>J (4)  | Churches<br>(Anglican)<br>H-R | Hampshire<br>Independent | 22.08.1857 |
| DESCRIPTION  | NOTES                         |                          |            |
| Laying the foundation stone<br>of St. James's Church | (ps)                          |                          |            |

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE OF ST. JAMES'S CHURCH.—By the advertisement it will be seen that the first stone will be laid on Monday next, by Mr. Weguelin, our member, at three o'clock. Archdeacon Wigram, and the incumbent, the Rev. W. H. White, will conduct the religious service on the occasion. The Mayor and Corporation, the Magistrates of the Town and Borough, the Members for the County, and leading Directors and Managers of the Companies, are expected to be present. We are glad to find that so great an interest is manifested by the townspeople in the erection of this church. But one feeling seems to prevail in the matter, and that is that the measure is absolutely necessary. St. Mary's parish, previous to Archdeacon Wigram being appointed to the rectory, in 1850, contained but one other church (Trinity) besides the parish church, and this with a population of 20,000 people, and annually increasing. Five separate parishes now exist, where there was but one some few years ago, and where there were but two clergymen to attend to the religious wants of so vast a population, there are now nine or ten. The other three new parishes are now provided with churches and schools, but this church, though evidently required the most, has been the longest in building. The fault, however, does not rest with the present Incumbent, as since his appointment, about a year since, he has left no stone unturned to have matters brought into proper shape and readiness for proceeding with the work. Very great difficulties have had to be encountered with regard to the site, the plans, and the funds. These are now so far happily removed that the Incumbent feels himself justified in entering upon the execution of the design. Messrs. Hinxes and Bedborough were the successful competitors in the fifty architectural plans of churches submitted to the choice of the Building Committee. This church, designed by them in the early English style, will, we believe, prove an ornament to the town, besides affording that amount of accommodation needful for a population already amounting to nearly 7,000 souls. We have said that there is a great want of such a religious provision as this for the locality. This parish of St. James's includes the Docks and all the surrounding parts as far as East-street, and those between Canal Walk (upper and lower), and Marsh Lane to the Itchen Bridge. The inhabitants are principally composed of shop keepers, agents, persons employed in the different Companies, sailors, and Dock labourers. The Directors of Companies and captains of their large vessels live, without an exception, out of the parish. It is hoped, however, that, deriving so much wealth from the works carried on in the parish, they will liberally help in the promotion of so good a measure as this, which will secure to the working classes of this seaport similar religious privileges as other parishes of the town already enjoy. £1,500 are still wanting to complete the building. We trust that parties will come forward on the occasion, and subscribe handsomely to the funds. Mr. Willcox, as the senior Member for the Borough, was, we learn, first invited to perform the ceremony of laying the stone, but was prevented, owing to his heavy duties this session in Parliament, added to his other duties as Director of the P. and O. and other Companies. He has kindly promised, if spared, to be present at the opening of the Church, as he takes a great interest in the undertaking. It was principally owing to his suggestion that Mr. Weguelin was asked to lay the stone.