

CONSECRATION OF A NEW CHURCH AT RAVENSTHORPE, MIRFIELD. — Yesterday, the Lord Bishop of Ripon consecrated the new church of St. Saviour, Ravensthorpe, a hamlet in the parish of Mirfield. Nine or ten years ago Ravensthorpe contained only about three or four dwellings, now its inhabitants number two thousand, and there is every prospect that a large increase will soon be made, as new mills are being erected in the immediate neighbourhood. About three years ago a room in a small cottage was taken for the purposes of public worship by some persons, members of the Established Church, and they obtained the services of a clergyman. In a short time afterwards the Wesleyans left a small building they had used as a chapel and school, and entered upon a new chapel built in Dark-lane, and the old school was taken possession of by the church people. In this they laboured some time with much success, but it was found to be too small for the increasing congregation and school, and an appeal was successfully made to friends with the view of having a new church built. The foundation stone of the structure was laid in the summer of 1863, and yesterday the structure was consecrated by the Bishop, assisted by the Rev. Canon Fawcett, of Lowmoor; the vicars of Mirfield and Dewsbury; the Rev. George Ridley, incumbent of Ravensthorpe; and several other clergymen. The building is in the gothic style of the fourteenth century, and consists of a nave and chancel divided from an aisle by pillars supporting five arches. Both nave and aisle have high-pitched gabled roofs. The latter is continued to the extreme east end, forming an aisle to the chancel, in which the singers and Sunday school children are to be accommodated. A porch fronts the main road, and a bell turret with a spire occupies the angle of the nave. A vestry on the side of the aisle completes the design. The seats (which are open) are made of varnished pine, but the communion table and rails, the reading desk and the pulpit are carved oak. The latter is a donation to the church; it is the work of Mr. Moody, of Durham. The building has cost about £2,000, and is from designs by Mr. A. Corry, architect, of Carlisle. When the ceremony of consecration was over the majority of the people adjourned to a large room at Ravensthorpe, lent by Mr. Wilson, and there partook of luncheon. The Vicar of Mirfield presided. The Bishop of Ripon, in replying to the toast of his health, took occasion to speak of the Parish Church of Mirfield, and said that he hoped ere long the parishioners would rally round their Vicar, and aid him to build one worthy of the noble site they possessed—a temple worthy of the living God. Congratulatory addresses were delivered by other gentlemen, and then the proceedings closed.