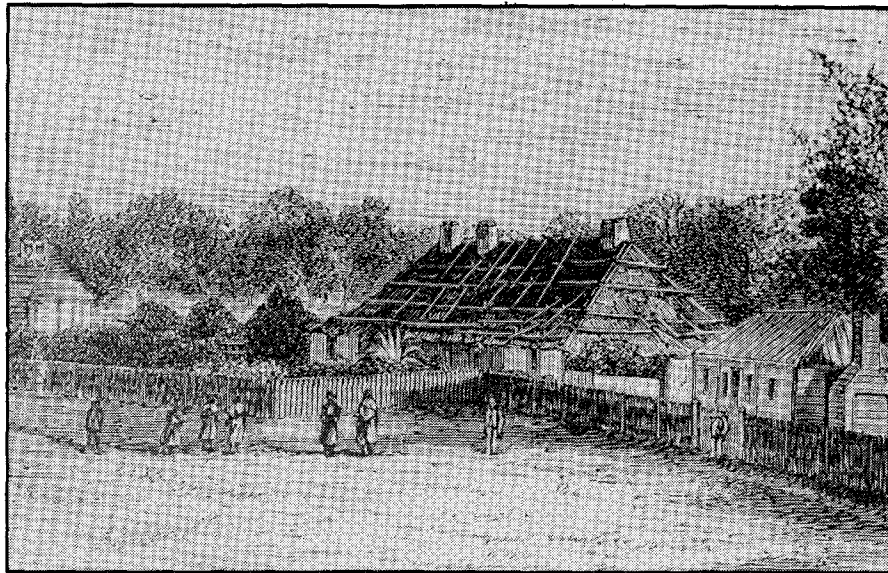




Rev Francis Hales (1822-1900), Anglican clergyman, was born in Co. Limerick, son of Francis Hales, quartermaster in the 40th Regiment, and his wife Catherine. He went with his parents to Sydney in 1826, Hobart Town in 1827 and Bombay in 1829. His father died in January, 1832, leaving an estate in Hobart valued at £144. Francis returned to Britain with his mother; they lived with his guardian, Henry Roche, on the Isle of Man. In 1842 Hales entered Trinity College, Dublin (B.A., 1846), became curate at Castlebar, and was made deacon and, in 1847, priested by the bishop of Tuam.

Hales and his young wife Ann Augusta, nee Stoney, sailed in the *Stag* with Bishop Perry's party and arrived at Melbourne in January, 1848. Sent on a missionary tour of scattered settlements in Gippsland, Hales returned after four months to take over the large parish of Heidelberg. 'Earnest, sensitive and spiritual', he was almost overzealous in his duties. At first he preached on alternate Sundays in the Presbyterian Chapel, but soon raised funds for building St. John's Church, which was opened on 26 October, 1851. At other centres in the parish he was less successful and became temperamental and tactless. After a row with his trustees over the site for a vicarage, he moved his family into part of the church, but, under pressure from the bishop, resigned in 1853. His parishioners gave him 350 sovereigns and bought his 'few sticks of furniture for fabulous prices'. With his wife and four

Rev. Francis Hales



Ebenezer Moravian Mission Station, Victoria, Australia (from illustrated Missionary News, May, 1872).

children he sailed in the *Clarence* and arrived at *Launceston* in November as chaplain of Trinity parish. The incumbent, Rev. John Yorker, who was also chaplain of the gaol with a government salary of £200, left in December on sick leave, privately agreeing to pay £150 of his salary to Hales as his locum. Despite many protests, the colonial secretary insisted that Hales was entitled to only half the salary. In February, 1856, Yorker resigned and Hales was appointed rector of Trinity and gaol chaplain, with the full salary. Later the colonial secretary found that Yorker had drawn only £50 each year and Hales was given the balance. He had more arguments with the government in 1867, when the gaol appointment terminated, and, as a public servant, he was superannuated at £18 a year.

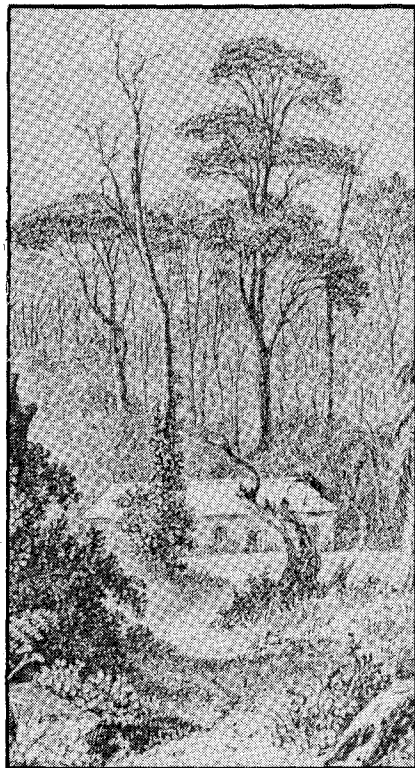
In his long years at Trinity Hales served under four bishops: Nixon in 1854-62, Bromby in 1864-82, Sandford in 1883-89 and Montgomery in 1889-1900. He became one of the first canons of St David's Cathedral, Hobart, in 1872, and archdeacon of Northern Tasmania in 1877; he represented Tasmania at General Synod in 1876, 1881 and 1888 and administered the diocese in 1882-83 and 1888-89. His grasp of financial matters and acquaintance with ever church property in his archdeaconry were immensely valued by synod. He was also a successful organizer of fund appeals for missions and church building, not least for replacing his old church by the new Holy Trinity in 1898. His preaching was expository and clear, though he preferred 'a feast of reason and flow of soul'

with friends in his study. He was an initiator of many public movements and opposed lotteries, capital punishment and government interference with church affairs. Although he had supported a 'university scheme' for Tasmania in 1857, he advocated 'a Hobart College affiliated with the Universities of Melbourne and Sydney' in 1889; after the University of Tasmania was created in 1890 he became a member of senate and was its warden in 1896-1900. At least six of his sermons were published, including a dissertation against marriage with a deceased wife's sister. For years he had suffered from asthma, but found 'the trip across Bass Strait a perfect cure'; for this reason he often sought leave to visit Victoria and in 1889 took three months' leave in New Zealand. Perhaps the highlight of his career was on 14 July, 1896, when, as a patriarchal figure, he presided over a large audience of Protestants and Catholics at the jubilee of his ordination. Aged 78, he died at his home in Launceston on 9 July, 1900, predeceased by his wife and survived by at least six of their nine children.

Sources

Cyclopedia of Tasmania, 2 (Hob, 1900); V & P (Tas), 1889 (145); *Church News* (Hob), 1 Aug. 1896, 1 Aug. 1900; *Examiner* (Launceston), 11 July 1900; CSO 5/175/4154, 24/241/9537 (TA); GO 33/26/953 (TA); CSD 1/53/1031, 4/99/1121, 13/48/710 (TA).

(Reprinted from the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*)



Forest Chapel in Little Island, north of Tasmania.