In front and at the sides were the interested spectators, forming a broad semicircle, while the privileged persons, members of the House of Parliament, prominent public officials, and other dignitaries of the two cities of Brisbane and South Brisbane, gathered on the platform, where they appeared in their academic robes, and were waiting with bated breath, the scene of the ceremony. Taking up a space directly in front of the seats were the ladies of the clergy, their positions being just in front of the dais, where a number of them sat in their official robes, who, according to the regulations, were to be present at the dedication of the building, which was advertised to take place at 2 p.m., but was not carried out, owing to the pressure of other engagements.

The ceremony opened with the reading of a prayer by the Bishop of Brisbane, and was followed by an address by the Governor of Queensland, Sir William J. H. Macquarie, who delivered a brief and appropriate address, in which he expressed his satisfaction with the enterprise and congratulated the committee on the success of the undertaking.

The Governor then presented the keys of the building to the Mayor of Brisbane, who, in return, presented the Mayor with a scroll containing the names of the contributors to the funds, and the names of the subscribers to the subscription list, together with a list of the donors of books and other gifts.

In conclusion, the Governor expressed his belief that the university would be a great benefit to the community, and that it would be a source of pride to the people of Queensland.