

## A SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL.

DEDICATION AT ST. JOHN'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

UNVEILED BY SIR JOHN GELLIBRAND.

The ceremony of the dedication of a memorial font to those of the congregation of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Macquarie-street, who enlisted and fell in the Great War, was held in the Church yesterday morning, the unveiling being performed by Major General Sir John Gellibrand, K.C.M.G., D.S.O. The Rev. F. E. Oxer, M.A., officiated, and there was a large congregation. The memorial, which takes the form of a baptismal font, is of bronze, with an inside cup of silver, made by Mr. Harold Sargison, of Hobart, to a design by Mr. Bernard Walker, of Hutchison and Walker, architects and engineers. Although not a large piece it is of pleasing proportions, being in the form of an octagonal bowl surmounting a square base, and covering the whole top of the wooden pedestal. Bearing the inscription "To the Glory of God. Lest we forget those who served in the Great War, 1914-1918." It has on its front and two sides the names of 45 men who enlisted for active service, and in addition, on its base is the following:—"In memory of those who fell in the Great War, 1914-1918; Arthur Fleming, C. S. Fuller, H. T. Scott." It was the desire of the Church committee not to have anything very conspicuous or showy, but rather a permanent memorial of good design in harmony with the remainder of the Church, and this they believe they have got.

Private H. T. Scott, son of Mr. and Mrs. Newton Scott, who for some time was secretary of the Sunday-school, was reported missing after the landing on Gallipoli; Private Arthur Fleming, son of the late Mr. A. C. Fleming and Mrs. Fleming, fell in action on the Western front, and Flight-Lieut. C. S. Fuller, who enlisted in England, and served in more than one branch of the army, winning the Military Cross, lost his life in action with the Air Service Corps.

Opening the service with the singing of the National Anthem, to the accompaniment of the North Hobart Band under Bandmaster Caddie, the Rev. Mr. Oxer said prayers, and hymns were sung by the choir and congregation.

The Rev. Oxer in his sermon said one of the objects of the Church was to preserve the spiritual treasures of life, and the memorial they were dedicating represented one of the greatest of these treasures. The men whose names were inscribed had followed in the footsteps of the Lord and Master and with others had gone out with their lives in their hands that the world might be saved. No more Christian-like act than that had ever before been performed in Australia, and if the people as a Church did nothing in the midst of their worship to have before their eyes something to remind them of the meaning of that sacrifice they were neglecting their opportunity and their duty. They wanted something in the Church that would preach to them every time they came to worship the message that was conveyed through the very heart of

they came to worship the message that was conveyed through the very heart of that great national sacrifice. To the ordinary man in the street the rites of the Church often appeared empty and meaningless, or were never known at all, but to those who knew the history of religion these rites or forms were vital in every way. There was the baptismal rite, for instance, which represented the deepest principles of human life. The Lord baptised not by means of water, but by tempest and fire, and every man and every nation had to undergo this form of baptism. Australia up to the present had been merely an infant nation, as it were. The people had lived here for a hundred years or longer in enjoyment of peace, quite free of care, and allowed others to foot the bills, while elsewhere the world was struggling and fighting. Such a position could not last for long. Australia was growing out of her happy childhood, and the time was coming when she, as a "grown-up" nation would have to stand upon her feet and face wholeheartedly matters of vital importance to her welfare. Surrounded by jealous Powers, her security would be threatened, and the people would soon know what real life and its responsibilities meant. Our bravest and best had gone through their baptism of tempest and fire in the war, and we, too, in common with all humanity, would experience that baptism, and the resultant discipline, for it was only in that way that Australia could rank with the other great nations of the world.

Sir John Gellibrand, in unveiling the memorial, said it was gratifying that

the Church should fulfil the time-honoured precedent of committing to memory the names of those men who went out of fight. The men offered their lives, and offered them handsomely, for our sake, and it was with a cheerful, undaunted determination to see things through with which they went, a determination that all men could apply to their lives. The memorial served three purposes, namely, the commemoration of the glory of the Gospel, a hope for the future, and a warning as to the present. The men who went out to fight set an example to us, and that example must be followed, self-interest must be replaced by self-sacrifice, problems must be faced, and Australia in the future would attain to nationhood. The position which the great Commonwealth of Australia occupied in the world to-day, out of all proportion to her population and strength, was due to the gradual building up of the country's character and temperament, and it was with such qualities that the people in time of war were capable of proving themselves worthy of the burden of nationhood which they had inherited.

At the conclusion of the service the "Last Post" was sounded.