

Unveiling the Mort Statue.

(From the S. M. Herald.)

The ceremony of unveiling the Mort statue took place on Saturday afternoon in the presence of a gathering of several thousand people. The dense crowd extended from Pitt-street, up Bridge-street, past the Lands Office, and also a considerable distance along Macquarie-place. The steps of the Exchange were thronged with people half-an-hour before the proceedings commenced, and the windows and the balconies of the Lands Office were occupied by a large number of ladies, who thus had an opportunity of witnessing the ceremony without being jostled among the great crowd. Between the statue and the footpath in Bridge-street a platform capable of holding about 100 persons was erected. A carriage way was kept open along Bridge-street and Macquarie-place until after the arrival of the Governor, the guard of honour, and the trades procession. The general public were then allowed to come close up to the railings of the reserve in which the statue has been placed. Mr. Fosbery (Inspector-General of Police), Superintendent Read, and Inspector Anderson had a body of police present to regulate the movements of the crowd and maintain order, but there was a total absence of anything like crushing or disorder. During the delivery of the oration this immense concourse of people maintained such perfect order that the speaker could be heard in nearly every part of the crowd. The whole proceedings were carefully planned and well carried out; the ceremonial was of a pleasing character, and not too protracted, while the oration was a splendid oratorical effort, not only commanding the attention, but arousing the enthusiasm of the audience.

Shortly before 8 o'clock, a procession representing the iron and shipbuilding trades, and preceded by their banners and bands, arrived in Macquarie-place, and took up a position in front of the reserve. About 1000 men took part in this procession. We understand that the men employed at Mort's Dock voluntarily gave up two hours' work and two hours' pay in order to attend this demonstration. Precisely at 8 o'clock his Excellency the Governor arrived, accompanied by Lady Loftus, Lieutenant Loftus, A.D.C., and Mr. Unwin, private secretary. His Excellency was received by a guard of honor, consisting of 100 rank and file of the New South Wales Permanent Artillery, under command of Captain Murray and Lieutenants Baynes, and La Patourel. The vice-regal party were received by several

members of the committee, and escorted to the platform. The proceedings were commenced by a request made to Lord Augustus Loftus to perform the ceremony of unveiling the statue.

Sir Alfred Stephen addressing the Governor, said:—Your Excellency,—I have been honoured by the privilege of taking part in this ceremonial; and I venture to say, that among the many attached friends of the late Mr. Mort no one could have been selected who would be more gratified by assisting to do honor to his memory. Your Excellency has been for years among distinguished personages in Europe; you are familiar with the history of great events, and have known the men whose genius has contributed to them. But, if eminence does not alone consist in rank and station, and historic deeds, but may be claimed for one who through life adorned a private station, and was conspicuous in every attribute and quality which belong to a good citizen, your Excellency will not think this an unfitting occasion for your presence, and uniting with us in the tribute which we this day offer. Nor can the name and character of Thomas Sutcliffe Mort have been unknown to you. On the behalf and at the request of those who have erected the memorial, I ask your Excellency to be good enough to unveil this statue, dedicated by the citizens of Sydney to his memory. (Cheers.)

His Excellency then unveiled the statue, amid great cheering. He said:—Sir Alfred Stephen, ladies and gentlemen,—I consider it an honor to be invited to inaugurate this testimony to the worth of one of the greatest patriots this colony has possessed. (Cheers.) There is no stronger incentive to patriotism than the feeling that the good we do lives after us, and will be appreciated by future generations. This feeling was strongly exemplified in the character of the late Mr. Mort. He was one of those who, as the poet says, like to "do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame." (Hear, hear.) But unfortunately he was not permitted to see the great success which has since attended the enterprises which, on philanthropic grounds, had been among the dearest wishes of his heart. The late Mr. Mort was a self-made man. (Hear, hear.) He was a man with indomitable energy, with great sagacity, with never-failing patience, with a devotion to labour which has been rarely equalled and never surpassed, and he raised himself to the highest position among his fellow-citizens, and won for himself that respect and admiration which all classes have so nobly shown by raising this statue to perpetuate his memory. (Cheers.) Mr. Mort was also a true friend of the working man, for I believe he was the first capitalist in this

WAS ALSO A TRUE FRIEND OF THE WORKING MAN, for I believe he was the first capitalist in this colony who conceived and afterwards carried out that valuable principle of establishing a co-operative system under which the capitalists and his workmen are bound together by a common interest. (Cheers.) I will now read to you a short narrative of the origin of this statue, which has been kindly given me by a friend:—"Shortly after the death of Mr. Mort, in 1878, a meeting of the influential citizens decided to do honour to his memory by the erection of a statue as the most fitting form by which they could show their esteem for him. A large committee was formed to carry out the decision, of which Messrs. Saul Samuel and Metcalfe were honorary treasurers, and Messrs. F. H. Dangar and J. Street were honorary secretaries. Mr. Pierce Francis Connelly, a sculptor, from Florence, being then on a visit to the colonies, it was resolved to charge him with the execution of the work, the committee having learnt that some of his work in Florence had elicited very general admiration. Mr. Connelly, before leaving Sydney, executed at Greenoakes, under the immediate supervision of the family, a clay model, from a photograph, which gave very great satisfaction to the committee as also to the family. From this model Mr. Connelly prepared at Florence the larger one, from which the present bronze statue was cast. The pedestal was also designed by Mr. Connelly, and executed in Florence under his directions, the materials of which were marble, granite, and limestone. The centre block is of a marble known as Rosso di Levante, and is in one piece, and

of a size regarded in Florence as a maximum." Such is the origin of this statue, and I think on examination it will be found to reflect great credit on the artist, who has ably carried out the design, considering the many difficulties he had to surmount. (Hear, hear.) I will no longer detain you from hearing one who was a personal friend of the late Mr. Mort, who can enlarge more eloquently than I can on the high merits of this distinguished patriot to whom you have raised this testimonial as a mark of esteem and admiration; a testimonial which is as honourable to yourselves as it is just to the memory of one who was so deservedly respected by his fellow citizens. (Cheers.)

Mr. Dalley, who was received with cheers, then delivered a very eloquent speech.

Mr. Dalley then suspended on the face of the pedestal of the statue a beautiful wreath of Australian flowers, and over this Mr.

the pedestal of the statue a beautiful wreath of Australian flowers, and over this Mr. Laidley Mort placed a wreath of camellias and other choice flowers, entwined with the beautifully marked leaves of the *Oroton Mortii*. Similar wreaths, all of which were kindly furnished by Captain Bloomfield, were placed on the pedestal by other members of the late Mr. Mort's family.

His Excellency, addressing the Mayor, then said: Mr. Mayor, at the request of the committee I beg to hand this statue over to the care of yourself, Mr. Mayor, and of the Corporation of Sydney.

At the call of the Mayor cheers were given for the Queen, the Governor, Lady Loftus, and Mr. Dalley, and the proceedings terminated.