

## MEMORIAL TABLET

THE LATE MR. ANDREW BROWN

REMINISCENCE OF YEARS AGO

Though the event recorded in the following report was staged some 37 years ago (as it appeared in the "Mercury" of February 22, 1895) it will doubtless be read with interest by residents of to-day, in view of the fact that the gesture did honor to one of the founders and pioneers of Lithgow:—

A memorial tablet to the late Mr. Andrew Brown was unveiled on Sunday, February 17, in Bowenfels Presbyterian Church. The tablet, which is of white marble on a black background, is of a simple and chaste character, and is placed on the right hand of the pulpit just above the seat occupied by the Brown family.

The Rev. W. Anson Smith conducted divine service, and after some preliminary exercises proceeded to draw attention to the tablet and to expatiate on the worth and works of the deceased elder, whom he declared to be a model man, and whose loss they would continue to feel for long. While the late Mr. Brown had left many monuments of his character, it had been felt by a number that some memorial of him should be placed in the church of which he had been so long an elder; and contributions had been received from many in the congregation and friends outside. The inscription on the tablet was then read, and is as follows:—

In memory of Andrew Brown, Born at Tibbermoor, Scotland, November 5th, 1797. Died at Coerwull, April 2nd, 1894. He was a justice of the peace, a councillor of St. Andrew's College, Sydney, and for forty years an elder of this church. He always took the deepest interest in religious and educational matters. He was a generous supporter of the church of his fathers, and was foremost among the few who began services in this place of worship. He erected Coerwull public school, and was founder of Coerwull Academy. He was universally esteemed for his piety, charity and integrity.

"The memory of the just is blessed."

Erected by members of this congregation and other friends.

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Hymn No. 360 of "Church Praise" was then sung, the first verse of which is:—

Go labor on, spend and be spent,  
Thy joy to do the Father's will,  
It is the way the Master went:  
Should not the servant tread it still.

Thereafter the reverend gentleman delivered a practical discourse on the text, "Build thou the walls of Jerusalem."

(The late Mr. Andrew Brown was indeed an Australian pioneer, who was not afraid of work. He realised that there was no royal road to affluence and position in life, and shaped his life accordingly. He was a familiar figure—being a man of fine stature—in Lithgow in the early days, and many interesting incidents could be recorded of his life's work. It will be seen that the late Mr. Brown was making well for the century when the call came.—Ed. L.M.).