

Memorial Plaque To Wakefield Unveiled

Edward Gibbon Wakefield was a warm-hearted man of great public spirit, the Governor (Sir Willoughby Norrie) said in unveiling a bronze memorial plaque in front of Parliament House yesterday morning.

"I am particularly pleased to perform this ceremony in honor of a man who did so much for the State and who was, in fact, the father of self-government in South Australia.

"Realising the drawbacks of penal settlement and the absence of systematic effort at colonisation in the grants of large areas of landed estates, Wakefield proposed to encourage settlement by the sale of land in small freehold blocks at sufficient price to provide funds to finance the immigration of free settlers and laborers," His Excellency said.

"These views he expounded in his 'Letter from Sydney,' published while in prison there in 1829.

"It is clear that we owe to Edward Gibbon Wakefield a debt of gratitude for the State in which we live and the self-government we now proudly enjoy."

The Governor said that besides formulating the plan to colonise SA, Wakefield was the prime mover in 1837 for the settlement of New Zealand.

His Excellency paid a tribute to Mr. George Morphett, president of the Pioneers' Association, who had worked enthusiastically towards creating a permanent Wakefield memorial, and to Mr. Harold Pinnis of the Royal Geographical Society. Both had done much to perpetuate the memory of our pioneers, he said.

Mr. Morphett said it was hoped eventually to raise funds to erect a statue of Wakefield in Adelaide. Two links with Wakefield's family were present at the ceremony, he added. They were Mrs. Charles Wake-

field, widow of a great nephew, and Mrs. Alan Wood, a great niece.

His Excellency congratulated Mr. J. P. Choate who modelled the plaque, "and the SA Brass Founders who

modelled the plaque, "and the SA Brass Founders who completed the work.

Among those present at the ceremony were the Premier (Mr. Playford), the President of the Legislative Council (Sir Walter Duncan), the Speaker of the Assembly (Sir Robert Nicholls), and the Lord Mayor (Mr. Arthur Rymill).