

HONOR ROLL UNVEILING CEREMONY.

(From our Queanbeyan Correspondent)

On Sunday afternoon, 4th inst., upwards of 300 persons were crowded into the Methodist Church to witness what proved to be a spectacular ceremonial unprecedented in Queanbeyan's ecclesiastical demonstrations. The attraction was the unveiling, by Brigadier-General Spencer-Browne, of the new honour roll erected to perpetuate the names of the young men of the Queanbeyan Methodist Church who had joined the colours. The parents and other relatives of the enlisted reside in many instances in the rural centres of this district, and they came into town from many converging roads in such numbers that in some instances the vehicles that bore them formed quite long processions. The military and cadets, of whom there was a good sprinkling present, occupied reserved seats in close proximity to the pulpit. The interior of the church was amply beflagged and otherwise decorated. In compliance with an invitation from the minister General Spencer-Browne withdrew the flag, and exposed to view an artistic piece of carved work in highly-polished maple wood, which, in letters of about an inch in depth, were emblazoned the names of the following thirty members and adherents to the church, three of whom were for a while ministers officiating here (the names of those who have fallen being distinguished by the letter "K" in parenthesis), viz., E. Morris (K.), R. F. J. Boyer, M.A., R. D. Moore, J. Southwell, C. Southwell, J. Kannaff, M. Cantle, G. Jordan, A. J. Gifford, A. Fitzgibbon, T. E. Capes, B. S. Roffe, E. Roffe (K.), T. Roffe, S. D. Chopin (K.), T. Warren, T. Woodger, J. Woodger, J. E. Murphy, L. W. Walker (K.), A. Warren, V. W. Thompson, B.A., S. Churchward, M.A., C. E. Bingley (K.), E. G. Bingley, N. D. Bingley, T. W. Harman, A. H. Harman, J. J. Harman, T. H. Cooper (K.).

Following the act of unveiling, the General, ascending the pulpit, said: "Mr. Mills,—To the committee of this church and to you, please let me give thanks for the honour you have done me in asking me to unveil this roll of honour to-day.

me to unveil this roll of honour to-day. Perhaps it is not inappropriate that a three-years' comrade of these lads should perform that task. The day is most appropriate for a function which is an appreciation of Australian service in this war, being the anniversary of our Empire's declaration of sacrifice for the preservation of all that is best and most just in national life. The roll of honour of this church shows how faithfully the Christian men of Queanbeyan have responded to their country's call. It shows, too, that the old militant spirit of Methodism lives in our land. Long may it flourish and give Australia brave, stalwart men to fight for right in our earthly kingdom as in the greater kingdom of our spiritual life. The roll of honour is a roll of sacrifice. Many tears have been shed by loving ones at the partings, and many prayers have ascended to our Great Father for the safety of those who have gone out—to die, if need be. But in days such as these a man fit to fight belongs not to his family or his friends, but to his country and his God. And, looking at the names of heroes here inscribed, it will be found that some have returned. May Australia do her duty by them. There are some still fighting. May we learn, as we think of them, to say, 'God's will be done.' There are some who have given their lives. Their names are imperishably recorded as heroes, and may the Merciful Father hold them in His keeping. I unveil this honour roll in the strong hope that future generations looking upon it will thrill with gratitude in full appreciation of the fact that the names there emblazoned are of men, like the martyrs of old, cheerfully prepared to lay down their lives for right. 'While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars be not darkened,' they will be held in loving remembrance.'

At the conclusion of the General's address, "Lead, kindly light," was sung, followed by an address by Rev. Mr. Mills. "The song of a soldier" was rendered by the choir, after which the minister read the list of the names of "the fallen," followed by the sounding of "The last post," by a bugler from the Concentration camp, in honour of the dead heroes.

Before pronouncing the Benediction, the officiating minister tendered the thanks of all concerned to Brigadier-General Spencer-Browne for his valuable contribution to

Browne for his valuable contribution to the day's proceedings, and to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Shaw for the efficient and artistic decorations of the church, the result of their laborious and voluntary exertions.

When old age comes, what then? The preparation for it is a pure life, and faithfulness to duty now. First of all, try to make the best of it; not the best of what is bad at the best, but of what is, if I will but understand it, the best of my whole life, because it is the last.
