

Unveiling a Mural Tablet.

AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY.

At the Methodist Church, Queanbeyan, on Wednesday evening last, a most impressive function took place. It was the unveiling of a mural tablet erected to perpetuate the memory of the late Rev. Alfred Brown, whose death, it will be remembered, occurred at the Methodist parsonage in this town about a year ago. Mr. Brown was cut off in the midst of his days, and his decease was deeply lamented, not only by the members of his own church, but by the entire community, by whom he was beloved and esteemed for his great worth as a man and Christian minister; and the idea which found its culmination on Wednesday night was suggested as much by others of the community as by his own flock.

There was a very large gathering present to witness the ceremony, and it would have been much larger but for the heavy rains which fell during the day and which had the effect of keeping away a number of country people who otherwise would have been in attendance. As it was, at the last moment a considerable number of people from out Hall way, amongst whom were several of the deceased minister's near relatives, added to the already assembled congregation, though the devotions had commenced.

As an indisputable evidence of the esteem in which the subject of the ceremony was held, the ministers of the other local Protestant churches were present and took part in the service. Representing the Royal Military College at Duntroon, of which establishment the deceased gentleman was one of the chaplains, Professor Hebblewhite was present, the present chaplain, Rev. R. J. Boyer, being absent in Sydney; Senior-sergeant Wood and Mrs. Wood were also in the congregation, the senior-sergeant representing the police of the district; and prominent members of the sister churches of the town and district were noticeable in the congregation. There was a large choir in attendance, Mrs. Noble in the capacity of organist, Messrs. R. Moore and Mr. Potiri

ist, Messrs. R. Moore and Mr. Potiri assisting as violinists; and the musical feature of the service was of a very high order, the hymns and anthem sung being an appropriate selection.

After the singing of an opening hymn, the Rev. D. C. Hughes, minister of the church, offered prayer, the Lord's Prayer which followed being repeated by the congregation. Another hymn was then sung, after which the first Lesson from Scripture (90th Psalm) was read by the Rev. Gordon H. Hirst (Church of England). The choir then sang an anthem, "The Son of God goes forth to war," the Rev. A. G. McIntosh-Carter, B. A., (Presbyterian) reading the second Lesson. (Joshua, 4 1-9)

The ceremony of the unveiling followed, Mr. Hughes stating that this honor had been conferred by the relatives of the deceased minister on his nephew, Ross Brown, son of Mr. E. Brown of Hall. The position chosen for the tablet was the gothic recess in the wall behind the choir. By pulling a cord the cloth which had screened the tablet dropped, revealing a simple design in white marble standing out in relief on a ground of black marble, this again edged by a light staining. The inscription is as follows:—

SACRED TO THE MEMORY
OF THE
REV. ALFRED BROWN,
WHO DIED
NOVEMBER 19TH, 1913,
AFTER A FAITHFUL MINISTRY
IN THIS CIRCUIT OF 18 MONTHS
AND OF 22 YEARS IN THE
CHURCH OF GOD.

"Peace, perfect peace, in this dark
world of sin? To do the will
of Jesus, this is rest."

Immediately following the disclosure of the tablet, the Rev. Mr. Hughes said, the hymn now about to be sung was a favorite one of the deceased minister's and was sung at his request just before he passed away, and the first two lines of it are inscribed on the tablet. The hymn (404 in the Methodist hymn book) was sung with a manifestly deep feeling by the congregation.

The address, or, rather, sermon, for the occasion was delivered by the Rev. D. C. Hughes, and was based

for the occasion was dictated by the Rev. D. C. Hughes, and was based on Joshua 4, 9—"And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood; and they are there unto this day." The gist of the discourse was a justification of the custom of the erection of lasting monuments to the glory of God and the memory of persons who had distinguished themselves in the service of God and of their fellow-men; and the distinguishing characteristics of the late Alfred Brown were portrayed with a fidelity easily recognised by all who knew him—goodness rather than greatness being his cardinal virtue. The stone erected and that day unveiled to his memory would, like the twelve stones referred to in the text, bear witness to future generations of the career of a truly good and faithful man.

A concluding hymn, its theme being the church triumphant, having been sung, the Rev. G. H. Hirst pronounced the benediction.

The singing of the first stanza of the National Anthem brought to a close one of the most impressive religious ceremonies ever witnessed in Queanbeyan. At the conclusion of the function a large number of the congregation remained to more closely inspect the tablet, which is a beautiful specimen of monumental masonry, the lettering being chaste and faultless. It is from the well-known monumental works of Turner, Goulburn.

It's a short way to Buckley's.
It's a short way to go.
It's a short way to Buckley's,
To the cheapest shop I know.
Good-bye to Sydney orders,
Good-bye to dearer ware.
It's a short way to Buckley's
And I'm going right there.