

## UNVEILING A MEMORIAL TABLET.

TO MAJOR BARTON AND  
DR. LINTON.

The Mayor (Ald. M. M'Leod) presided over a large gathering of parents and senior pupils at the District School, on Monday afternoon, the occasion being the ceremony of unveiling a brass mural tablet to the memory of the late Major C. H. Barton and Dr. Linton. The proceedings took place in the main classroom, and the tablet was erected in a prominent position in that room.

### APOLOGIES.

The children having sung two verses of "Lead Kindly Light," very sweetly, the Mayor read two apologies. The first was from Mrs. Barton, in the following terms:—"Would you please convey to the committee of the Wellington Parents and Citizens' Association my sincere thanks for kind thought in inviting me to be present at the unveiling of the tablet at the school on Monday. While feeling deeply touched, I think it better not to be present at the ceremonial, but I hope to call and see it at a later date, before leaving for England."

Mr. E. Webster, the former headmaster of the school, thus apologised for his inability to accept the invitation on behalf of himself and Mrs. Webster:—

"Will you please convey to the Parents and Citizens' Association, the thanks of Mrs. Webster and myself for its invitation to the unveiling of the tablet to Major Barton and Dr. Linton. We regret that it is impossible to be present, as the two whom you are honoring were men for whom we had a very high regard. Though very different in some respects, yet they were alike in this—they unselfishly spent themselves for the good of others, and each was of that modest nature that never pushes itself into the limelight.

"Personally, I am sorry that I cannot be with you to-day, for, modest though the tablet is, its erection had for me a special significance. The number of men who give their energies and abilities for the public good is all too small; but they deserve the best thanks of those for whom they labor. This little tablet will at least ensure that the names of two good men—two good, self-sacrificing friends to the Wellington School—shall be preserved as long as the building lasts."

### THE MAYOR'S TRIBUTE.

The Mayor remarked that if he said that it was a source of pleasure to be present, his hearers would understand that it was not wholly so; but he felt

present, his hearers would understand that it was not wholly so; but he felt in a sense that in his official capacity he ought to be present. However, he did not think that any man in this district had as much reason to be grateful to the late Major Barton as he (the speaker) had. He had not the slightest doubt that if it had not been for that gentleman, he would not have been in Wellington. The late Major Barton was the first one to advise him of Wellington's possibilities, that he could not make a mistake if he started business in it, and that its possibilities were far ahead of any other part of the State, and, said the speaker, with evident emotion, "I shall ever look back upon him with loving remembrance." With reference to the late Dr. Linton, the Mayor said that he had a regard for the doctor as a "brither Scot," and appreciated his kindly and unselfish nature and his love for the boys and girls. He thought that all would feel that they had lost two thoroughly honest and fine gentlemen in the deaths of Major Barton and Dr. Linton. They were doing themselves honor by erecting this tablet, and he could honestly say that there were other persons, who were comparatively wealthy men to-day, who owed their success to the kindly advice and financial aid received from the late Major Barton. He felt, therefore, that the townspeople and others living in this district should have done something as well as the school children to perpetuate the memory of Major Barton. He felt that there was something lacking in this respect, for the children were showing the others what the latter ought to have done. The Mayor closed by again briefly expressing his pleasure that the tablet had been erected by the efforts of the school children.

### CANON BROWN'S ADDRESS.

The Rev. Canon Barry Brown said that, like the Mayor, he felt pleased in one sense at being present; there was also a certain degree of sadness in connection with the event, yet it was also a matter of duty. He had known both their departed friends intimately—both were church wardens of his church, and both took an active part in all matters connected with it. There were differences in these two men, as Mr. Webster remarked in his letter—they were two men of opposite extremes, still in other respects their lives and characteristics were such that they could be set before young people as an example to follow. The Canon here narrated an instance of the late Major's sympathy with boys.—He was going along Percy Street one day when he saw some boys with a football that had burst, and who were doing

ball that had burst, and who were doing their level best to mend it. He said: "What's wrong?" and the youngsters told him that it had burst, whereupon Major Barton told them to go to a shop and get a new one, and put it down to his account. That was the sort of man he was, and whether helping the boys, or the general public, they did not realise until he had been laid to rest that Wellington had lost such a good citizen and friend. Dr. Linton was a very retiring man, but he took a great interest in the cause of education, and in the public school at Wellington, and did his best for it. He took a warm interest in the cadets, and when they were sepa-

rated from the school, and he was appointed medical officer for them, he still continued to take a warm interest in them, as well as the girls of the school up to the day when he breathed his last. The speaker then made reference to the way in which the late Dr. Linton gave his services in cases of sickness, wherever they were required, and he always felt perfectly satisfied if he had done his duty, and never troubled himself whether he would get his fee or not. They were, therefore, in erecting this tablet setting it up to the memory of two good men. In Major Barton they had one who strove hard to improve Wellington and the surrounding district, and in Dr. Linton one who was a friend to the poor, and who did not do his duty merely for pounds, shillings, and pence. Canon Brown concluded his eulogy of the late Major Barton and Dr. Linton by impressing upon the children the lives of these two gentlemen to whose memory they were erecting this tablet—as worthy examples to follow.

### THE UNVEILING.

The Mayor then called upon Miss Daisy Schumack to perform the duty of unveiling the tablet, and the young lady came forward, pulled the cords that held the draping, and uncovered the tablet to view.

### THE REV. W. G. SHARPE'S EXHORTATION.

The Rev. W. G. Sharpe said that he was very glad to be present, for this reason, that they had met to do honor to the memory of two good men—two men of character—and though perhaps Major Barton and Dr. Linton had been forgotten by some, they had not been forgotten in the school. He should just like to base his remarks upon what the boys and girls had done, because this tablet was from them and the Parents and Citi-

from them and the Parents and Citizens' Association had had nothing to do with it, excepting arranging for the afternoon's ceremonies. It came from the boys and girls of the Wellington School; and he thought that it was fitting that such a memorial of interest in the affairs of the school should be erected in such a position. As the pupils now had before their eyes, when they were hard at work, or passing through the room, the names of two good and upright Christian gentlemen, who whenever they had an opportunity of doing so, did many kindly deeds. Mr. Sharpe impressed upon his young hearers that when their eyes rested upon these two names, it would help them to seize every occasion they could to do kindly deeds, and to never lose sight of the fact that such acts added to the sum of happiness of the whole world. He asked the children to remember that these two departed gentlemen during their lives did whatever they could for the happiness of their fellow human beings; that they worked for the town and district; this was the lesson that he would like to impress upon the scholars that they should take an interest in their town and district, wherever they might be living. After dwelling upon the excellent qualities of the late Major Barton and Dr. Linton, Mr. Sharpe concluded a very interesting address by again reminding the children of the lesson that the erection of the tablet expressed.

"Peace, Perfect Peace," was sung by the children under Mr. Cameron's conductorship, and the proceedings ended.