

CHALMERS CHURCH.

A DECEASED PASTOR HONOURED.

In the presence of a large congregation at Chalmers Church on Sunday morning a brass memorial tablet to the late Rev. John Davidson, formerly a pastor of the church, and a member of the professorial staff of the University of Adelaide, was unveiled. In performing the ceremony the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way) paid an earnest and eloquent tribute to the memory of the deceased, and spoke of his high personal qualities and scholastic gifts. The tablet was inscribed:—"To the memory of the Rev. J. Davidson, M.A., minister of Chalmers Church, 1870-77. Born at Kinghorn, Fifeshire, July 1, 1834; ordained by the Presbytery of Dumfries, March 17, 1864; first Hughes professor of English language and literature and mental and moral philosophy in the University of Adelaide. Died July 22, 1881. A loyal friend; an eloquent preacher. Also, Hanna, his wife, daughter of Hugh Miller, of Cromarty; died December 21, 1883."

Sir Samuel Way said he had attended Chalmers Church at intervals for more than 38 years, but remembered no more impressive gathering there than at the service held at the time of Mr. Davidson's death. Seven years after he had succeeded to the pastorate the deceased accepted a professorship at the University. He was reluctant to give up active ministerial connection with the church, but subsequently wrote as follows:—"I do not feel, and have never from the beginning felt, that my work as a professor interferes with my work as a preacher. God forbid that a more close study of the profound truths of philosophy, or of the outcome of human culture should lead the mind away from Him who is the source of all culture, and to Whom all philosophical speculation can only lead us in humble adoration, as the great first cause; rather have I found that my studies during the week have helped and not hindered my preparation for the pulpit." The Chancellor referred to the intimate relationship which had always existed between prominent members of Chalmers Church and the University. Sir Thomas Elder endowed the institution to the amount of £100,000, and among the members of the present congregation were Professors Rennie and Darnley Naylor.

The pastor of Chalmers Church (Rev. A. I. Wade) occupied the pulpit, and the subject of his address was "The ministry of good report."