

## MEMORIAL UNVEILED

Late Mr. Will Thomson

### AFFECTION OF HIS FELLOWMEN

The late Mr. Will Thomson had the esteem and affection of his fellowmen, which was the greatest thing in life, said the Rev. A. J. Doig, in St. Andrew's Church last night when he had unveiled a tablet erected in the church in memory of deceased and which bore the inscription: "In loving memory of William Thomson, an esteemed elder of this church, who passed away June 6, 1933. This memorial is erected by the members of the congregation of the Yass Charge."

It is estimated there were 270 people in the congregation and seating accommodation was so much overtaxed that chairs had to be placed down the aisles. Mrs. Thomson, her three sons and Miss Ettie Thomson were present.

Of some folk one occasionally heard it said that he or she was "an institution in a town," and such a man was deceased. This phrase was expressive of very high and fine things—suggesting that in the life of the community those to whom it was applied were felt to be in some way almost indispensable. The community turned to such people in emergencies and needs of one kind or another. Sometimes such people held an important place in the community life because they were trusted and their opinion was awaited and valued

in connection with affairs of public and community interest. "Our friend was one who took his place and rendered faithful service in ways familiar to those who knew him and worked with him in this sphere." If the speaker (Mr. Doig) was asked the way in which Will Thomson was what that phrase was meant to suggest, he would not so much turn to the sphere of public duty as to that of the more intimate and personal relationships in which they all came into contact with each other day by day.

#### A Clearing House

Could any of them, asked the speaker, who knew Mr. and Mrs. Will Thomson during the many years they were at the "shop on the corner," fail to recollect the calls made upon their generous spirit in all kinds of ways? Messages were left at the shop to be passed on and parcels entrusted for delivery. It was, in fact, a clearing house for a hundred little attentions year in and year out. This surely was a field of service than which none could be finer, for it was well

none could be finer, for it was well worth while to keep the wheels of life running smoothly by such kindly deeds.

Continuing, Mr. Doig referred to his personal friendship with deceased. He was a member of the church from boyhood and was an elder and office-bearer. He was a true friend. When he saw the speaker's horse was getting too much driving, he would say, "You had better take my horse next week"—that was the way Will Thomson lived. He did his bit all the time. That memorial tablet was something deceased would least expect and would deem himself unworthy of. "He was a true friend and a good comrade who stood by me, as by other ministers of this church along the course of the years," said the speaker.

The inscription of the tablet bore testimony to the service their friend rendered, not only to the congregation at Yass, but to the Presbyterian cause throughout the district. They were honouring themselves by their association with that action, showing that they were not unmindful of what deceased had done. The Rev. Doig concluded his remarks by commending the late Mr. Thomson's relatives and all who were present to the continued guidance and blessing of the God, who had proved Himself the God of our fathers and would ever be the God of their succeeding race.