

## A MEMORIAL TO THE LATE CHARLES ARNOLD CAUST.

The readers of the *Australian Christian Commonwealth* will remember the tragic occurrence at Henley Beach in the beginning of 1906, which resulted in the death of Charles Arnold Caust, Superintendent of Ovingham Methodist Sunday-school. In order to perpetuate his memory, a monument has been erected at Chain of Ponds, his native village. The unveiling ceremony took place on Sunday afternoon, December 15. The weather was very oppressive, but between 200 and 300 people assembled as a token of sympathy with the object. The monument is 8 ft. high, of Italian marble, and is erected adjacent to the gate of the Methodist Church, in the main street.

Dr. J. R. Stephens, a local preacher of over 50 years' standing, acted as chairman. He knew the late Mr. Caust when he was quite a boy, and first met him in his surgery at Gumeracha. The doctor was quite taken with the boy's open countenance, and predicted a bright future for him. That prediction was being fulfilled in a marked degree when God saw fit to call him to higher service. Mr. Caust spent the first fifteen years of his life in Chain of Ponds, was a regular attendant of the Church and Sunday-school, well-known in the district for his cricket, and he was glad that in his native village the residents and outside friends had erected a monument to commemorate the brave deed which culminated in his death.

Mr. W. Jamieson, M.P., spoke on "Heroism." He referred to the heroic pioneers of South Australia, to the heroes of the Boer War, and said that the heroism of Mr. Caust was equally as great, and it was an evidence that the chivalrous spirit of our forefathers is just as strong in their children today. Every South Australian was honoured in the death of Mr. Caust, and he was glad to know that such heroism would be perpetuated in the public thoroughfare of his birthplace.

In introducing Mrs. E. Belcher, head-teacher of the Millbrook public school, to unveil the monument, Dr. Stephens stated that Mrs. Belcher had worked

with untiring energy in the cause of the monument, and she was justly worthy of the honour conferred upon her. Mrs. Belcher briefly referred to the noble Christian character of the deceased, and to the incident of his death. The gallant self-sacrifice of the act which terminated in his death was only characteristic of his life. While the large number present stood with heads bare, Mrs. Belcher unveiled the monument, and read the inscription: "A tribute to the heroism and self-sacrifice of Charles Arnold Caust, who was drowned on January 6, 1906, at Henley Beach, while endeavouring to rescue others in peril. Aged 27 years. He, being dead, yet speaketh."

The Rev. W. H. Cann spoke on behalf of Mr. Caust's work in the Hindmarsh Circuit. One evening, at a Christian Endeavour meeting in the Bowden Church, Mr. Cann put his hand on Arnold's shoulder and said, "You ought to be in the pulpit." Arnold was just waiting for the word. Mr. Cann suggested a text, and Arnold preached a sermon in the manse before Mr. Cann on the following Saturday evening. From thenceforth Arnold went forward to preach, and was received favourably. The little children loved him, and just as he was developing fast as a preacher and teacher, God called him to a higher sphere of action.

The Rev. T. B. Angwin, M.A., spoke in a similar way. He referred to the good influence that is still felt in the Ovingham Church, the result of the revival, and on one occasion he met a teacher and two scholars *en route* to the Hindmarsh Cemetery to plant flowers upon the grave of the late Superintendent. He trusted that the imposing monument would stand for all time, and be an impetus for all young men to emulate such a noble example.

Mr. W. W. Groves said he first met Mr. Caust on the cricket-field, and was at once impressed with his manliness. He made appreciative reference to his work in the Bowden and Ovingham Sunday-schools.

The Rev. T. McNeil and Mr. H. A. Allbright also spoke.

His Excellency the Governor, Sir George Le Hunte, sent the following message:—"I wish to convey to the relatives and friends of the late Mr.

message:— I wish to convey to the relatives and friends of the late Mr. Charles Arnold Caust my sincere sym-

pathy in the erection of a memorial to the brave act by which he lost his life in endeavouring to assist others in danger. I feel sure that such noble examples will not be forgotten in South Australia, and will stimulate others to follow when the occasion arises."

Mr. J. Symonds, J.P., returned thanks to the speakers, and the Rev. E. W. Caust responded on behalf of the family.