

St. George's Church.

CANON COOMBS MEMORIAL WINDOW.

On Wednesday afternoon another was added to the list of striking ceremonies which mark the history of St. George's Church—a history unique in many respects in the annals of the Anglican Church of South Australia.

In all the incidents which St. George's has furnished to the historical record of the diocese the late Canon Coombs' name has figured prominently, and that on Wednesday was no exception, but with it the chapter closes. The occasion was the culmination of an effort prompted by affectionate reverence on the part of his parishioners to perpetuate his memory, and although the pleasure had a tinge of sadness about it, great satisfaction was felt by many of the oldest friends and members of the flock of the late Canon Coombs that so handsome a tribute to his memory as the strikingly imposing east window then unveiled had been provided.

A detailed description of the window has already appeared, and it only remains to be said that there was general admiration of excellence of the design and workmanship. The window is distinctly one of great beauty and artistic merit. In treating the subject of the ascension, the artist, in simply delineating the figures of the three apostles, has avoided overcrowding and left scope for the natural play of the imagination. As regards colour the subjects are very rich and deep in tone, the surrounding ornamentation being lighter but translucent, with sparkling pieces of color here and there. The window reflects great credit upon the establishment of Mr. E. F. Troy; reveals the capabilities of colonial industry, which in this branch labors under certain disadvantages; and above all it enhances the reputation of the artist, Mr. Herbert M. Smyrk, who has left Adelaide for London, where he intends to pursue his profession.

The unveiling ceremony attracted a large number of the clergy of the diocese, a full attendance of the congregation of St. George's, and many townspeople outside the pale of the Anglican Church. The building was comfortably filled, and great interest was taken in the impressive service. Amongst those present were the Rev. E. K. Miller, a companion of Canon Coombs in his student days, and a firm friend thereafter till death, and Mr. John Harvey of Salisbury, who was a resident of Gawler when the lamented rector arrived, and who met him on the first day, and had many pleasant associations with him both here and at Salisbury. Others present were such old friends and parishioners of the late Canon as the Hon. James Martin, M.L.C., Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Bright, Mrs. James Harris, Mr. Wm. Ayling, Mr. Wm. Barrett, Mrs. G. Warren,

Mrs. E. Filsell, Mrs. Korff, and Mrs. Michael. It was a matter of general regret that Mrs. Coombs, although in Gawler, was too unwell to be present at the ceremony.

The clergy present were:—His Lordship the Bishop of Adelaide (Dr. Harmer), Dean Marryat, Archdeacon Dove, Canon Green, Pollitt, Samwell, and Field, and the Revs. Procentor Milner, E. K. Miller, A. W. Clampett, W. A. Swan, S. S. Monorieff, W. G. Marsh, J. Hussey, H. A. Brooksbank, and the Rector of St. George's (Rev. J. Lumsden).

The services commenced with the processional hymn "Pleasant are Thy courts above," followed by shortened evensong intoned by the Rev. Procentor Milne, the special lessons being read by Dean Marryat and Archdeacon Dove. After the third collect the Bishop, assisted by the Rector (Rev. J. Lumsden), solemnly unveiled the window, and afterwards preached an appropriate sermon. The offertory hymn was "For all the Saints who from their labors rest." The service concluded with the benediction pronounced by the Bishop, the hymn, "The Church's one foundation," being sung in recession.

HIS LORDSHIP'S discourse referred entirely to the life and work of the late Canon Coombs. He traced the history of St. George's Church from its small beginnings fifty years ago to its present position, and paid an eloquent tribute to the late rector and to the parishioners for the splendid work that had been achieved. Mr. Coombs was eminently fitted for the work which lay before him. Mentally, as evidenced by the success with which he passed his examinations; physically, in that he was never laid by through illness except as the result of accident; and spiritually, as those could attest who knew him during his devoted ministry. Though he had entered into his rest behind the veil they must not consider him as separated from them. Let them still think of him as being very near and as praying for them to Him he now knew more fully. When their eyes alighted upon this fine east window let them picture him in his heavenly home, calling down upon them the blessings of unity and peace.

At the conclusion of the service afternoon tea was provided in the Schoolroom by several ladies of the congregation.

The RECTOR (Rev. J. Lumsden) briefly returned thanks to His Lordship the Bishop and the clergy for coming to Gawler and taking part in the service.

BISHOP HARMER, on behalf of the clergy and himself, expressed great gratitude to the congregation of St. George's and all who had given them such a hearty welcome. The beautiful decoration which they had placed in their church was a crowning testimony to the esteem in which Canon Coombs would be held always in memory by Gawler

would be held always in memory by Gawler people. He was always very glad to come to Gawler, and on this occasion he was particularly glad to have the opportunity of attending.

Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Harris very hospitably entertained the visiting clergy and Mr. W. S. Douglas (late of Gawler) to luncheon. Their kindness was much appreciated by the visitors.

A telegram of congratulation was received by the Rector from Mr. H. E. Bright of Kunalling, Western Australia.