

## YOUNG AUSTRALIA.

### THE HIGHEST TYPE.

#### TRIBUTE TO LATE CORPL. A. M. PEARCE.

In the course of an address given by the Rev. D. M. Deasey, incumbent of St. Columb's, Hawthorn, he selected the late Corporal Arthur M. Pearce, son of Mr. A. J. Pearce, of Bendigo, as representing the highest type of young Australia, as he stood for Christianity, and was notable for his prowess as an athlete and his all-round manly attributes.

Corporal Pearce was one of the heroes who gave his life at the landing on Gallipoli. He was best known as a member of the Melbourne Football Club. His fine, breezy dashes from the back line, and his fair, manly bearing on the field made him highly popular with the spectators. He was a worker at Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne, where a tablet to his memory has been unveiled.

Mr. Deasey, in the course of his remarks, said:—Among the many present perils there are two we must carefully watch. One is unconcern, while suffering and sorrow of the keenest is among us. We must beware of steering ourselves into indifference to misery and death lest we grow callous. Yet we must not sorrow overmuch. Let us not forget that One wept beside the grave of His friend, Lazarus, whom He was soon to call forth to life. The warning of the apostles is necessary for us as we mourn for our brothers who have fallen. We have before us the example offered by the life of Corporal Pearce, a loved friend of many of us. We still mourn for him, but we must not sorrow overmuch, for it is well with him. It was never better. As we honor his memory the note to be sounded is one of triumph.

Remembering his manner of life,

Remembering his manner of life, we claim that there are many reasons for saying, "Thanks be to God who giveth us the victory, through our Lord Jesus Christ." It was my privilege to know the late Corporal Pearce intimately, and I shall always remember him as a young man whose life is a shining example to all who have gone or are going to the front. This young athlete, who died glorious in the strength of a pure manhood, ever appeared to me as one who was master of himself. He had won that great victory. As a popular athlete he had to pass through an ordeal of temptation, strong and fierce. We knew him, however, as one who, by humble dependence on his Saviour, stood out unspotted.

He was brilliant in the athletic world. How often have we not seen him on the football field, saving his side by his sturdy, manly dash, cheered by an admiring crowd, and honored alike by team mates and opponents. His comrades made him their leader, and he well knew how

To set the cause above renown;  
To love the game beyond the prize.

We give thanks as a Christian community for such men as he. We can now obtain a true perspective of his character. Qualities which were accepted as normal stand out in relief, since he is no longer with us. Among those who are sorely missed will always be numbered those brave men who, before the battlefield claimed them, openly honored God in their daily lives, and were ready to meet Him face to face unflinchingly.

Such a man was the late Corporal Pearce. In his church life he brought inspiration with him, encouraged all to do good works, and kept the standard high. As a member of the Church of England Men's Society he advocated, not that it should be merely a social institution, but that, above all, it should be spiritual. If all members had this view its power for good would be illimitable.

Corporal Pearce was treasurer of

DE HUMILITY.  
Corporal Pearce was treasurer of Holy Trinity Church, East Melbourne, a member of the choir, superintendent of one of the Sunday schools, and a worker in the missionary organisations. The children looked up to him as an elder brother. He undertook duty at the church doors, so that he might meet the young men especially, and direct their footsteps to the Almighty God.

A few days before he embarked with the First Expeditionary Force he wrote to a friend: "I would shrink from the departure like a miserable coward were it not for the precious promise of strength and guidance which are assured to those who trust." From Egypt he wrote: "The call for a closer walk with God must be the marching order before beginning each day's work."

This young man, like many others, had his vision. He tells us how, before enlisting, he had been for days unable to sleep or work. In those hours he looked up for guidance and help, and he saw his Lord directing him to active service. He cheerfully submitted to the necessary discipline which would make him a good soldier, fit to work in the trench or to charge the enemy's position.

In going forth he realised that there would be great opportunities of pointing his comrades to Christ. There is no doubt that, through his influence, many of his fellows were better able to face the temptations of Egyptian life, and the wounds, and even death itself in Gallipoli.

Of the many thousands of gallant young men who are at the front or are training to go there those who have turned their eyes to God in faith are the most confident and hopeful. They can see beyond the best as well as the worst that this world has to offer, and can meet all the ordeals of the battle front with that calmness and courage which stamps men all the world over as the truest type of hero.