

## UNVEILING THE MOORE STATUE AT BALLARAT.

THE unveiling of the Tom Moore statue at Ballarat took place on Tuesday, in the presence of about 8000 persons. Prior to the opening of the proceedings Prout's band paraded the streets of the city playing airs appropriate to the occasion. The movement, having for its object the erection of a statue of the celebrated Irish poet, was started in April, 1887, shortly after the Burns statue had been raised. Messrs. G. G. Morton, of Labona, D. Brophy and T. Bury initiated the movement, and on the 28th April the first meeting of the admirers of Moore was held, and a working committee elected. Mr. Martin Loughlin, J.P., was appointed president, Messrs. Brophy and Butterly, M.L.A.'s, vice-presidents, and Messrs. J. M. Bickett and W. M. Acheson, J.P., joint secretaries. Signor Udny, of Italy, is the sculptor of the statue and pedestal, which stand 25 feet high. The site is at the intersection of Sturt and Armstrong streets. The foundation of the statue is 5 feet (cement concrete), 10 feet square, and the sub-base, which surmounts rubble work of Ballarat bluestone, is cut in Malmesbury bluestone 1 foot thick. The base is of Stawell freestone, 3 feet 6 inches high; the plinth, which is 2 feet thick, is of black polished marble, and is surmounted by a shaft 6 feet 7 inches high of yellow polished marble. The frieze above the shaft is of Genoa green marble 8 inches thick. Dove coloured marble 1 foot 10 inches high has been used in the cap, and on this rests a slab of blue limestone, obtained from the quarries of Tullamore, Ireland, on the suggestion of Mr. T. D. Sullivan, M.P., ex-Lord Mayor of Dublin. On all sides it is admitted that the Moore statue is a beautiful work of art. The sculptor, who also formed the figure of the poet Burns, which adorns the lower portion of Sturt-street, near the post-office, says in a letter to the committee that it is the best piece of work of the kind that has ever left his studio. Moore is supposed to be attending a party given by the Countess of Blessington on St. Patrick's night, and having been asked to sing, he is inquiring of the company which of his melodies they would prefer to hear. The right hand of the poet rests on one of his books, which he is holding edgewise on several other volumes. The right hand also holds a scroll of music, while the left hand of Moore grasps the collar of his dress coat, on which appears a bunch of shamrocks. The pose of the figure, which is 9 feet in height, is natural and extremely graceful. It should be added that the statue was designed by Mr. George Grant, a native of Ballarat, while the pedestal was formed from a drawing by Mr. Andrew Lorimer, who also first saw the light in this city. The total cost of the work has been £1400, nearly £1200 of which sum has been already subscribed.

The unveiling ceremony was performed by Mrs. J. P. MacPherson, who had been briefly

Mrs. J. P. MacPherson, who had been briefly introduced by Mr. M. Butterly, M.L.A., chairman of the statue committee. A choir, under the guidance of Herr Carl Hartmann, then sang "Dear Harp of My Country," and Sir Bryan O'Loughlen—who, with the misses O'Loughlen, arrived last night—was called upon to deliver the usual oration.

Sir Bryan O'Loughlen, who was vociferously cheered on stepping forward, said—I have to acknowledge the great honour that has been conferred upon me, of which I am justly proud. We are 12,000 miles away from Ireland, and 10 years beyond the century of the great Irish poet's birth. He has been dead 27 years, and I have now the privilege in Ballarat of publicly commemorating his genius and worth. I do so on behalf of Irishmen, Englishmen, Scotchmen, Welshmen, and Australians, all of whom have joined in erecting this enduring monument to Moore's memory. This is, in my opinion, an evidence of the present, and, I hope, a happy omen of the future, unity of these races in blessed Australia. I hope that the various branches will transmit to their Australian sons the best attributes of each race, and that in the time to come a great Australian nation will be formed with the heritage of free and self government. May I phrase one sentence of personal tribute to the public spirit of the citizens of Ballarat, who have adorned this noble street with the statue of another great poet—Burns—and have also beautified their gardens with marble statuary? Ballarat is a leading city. It led in gold mining, in engine making, and in even politics, and is now taking the lead in fine arts. (Cheers.) Thomas Moore claims our love and admiration as a man, a writer, and a poet; but there is one aspect of his life work which always challenges in my heart the warmest sympathy and recognition, and what that aspect is let him speak in his own words:—

"Dear harp of my country, in darkness I found thee,  
The cold chain of silence had hung o'er thee long,  
When proudly, my own island harp, I unbound thee,  
And gave all the chords to light, freedom, and song.  
The warm lay of love and the light note of gladness  
Have wakened thy fondest, thy liveliest thrill,  
But so oft hast thou echoed the deep sigh of sadness  
That o'en in thy mirth it will steal from thee still."

"Dear harp of my country, farewell to thy numbers,  
This sweet wreath of song is the last we shall twine;

Go sleep with the sunshine of fame on thy stumbers  
Till touch'd by some hand less unworthy than mine.

If the pulse of the patriot, soldier, or lover  
Have throbb'd at our lay, 'tis thy glory alone;  
I was but as the wind, passing heedlessly over,  
And all the wild sweetness I wak'd was thine own."

(Cheers.) In that pathetic lyric, Moore disclaims the wild sweetness of his melodies as his creation, and claims to be but the wind passing heedlessly over the strings; but all men must recognise that the wind was heaven-born, and appealed by its magnetic sympathy to the finest chords of self-sacrificing patriotism, manliness, love, mirth, and

sadness that thrill the human heart. Moore was a lad when Ireland was free, but between his 17th and 20th years came a reign of

was a lad when Ireland was free, but between his 17th and 20th years came a reign of terror, when Castlereagh's schemes steeped the land in blood, and caused the overthrow of that system of self-government which was the true constitutional law of the land. The school and college days of the poet, and his friendship with and for Robert Emmett, were next touched on by the speaker, and Sir Bryan said, if any man ever died willingly for Ireland it was Emmett, and Moore, on his death, wrote the most mournful dirge that ever was written—

"Oh, breathe not his name, let it rest in the shade,  
Where cold and unhallowed his relics are laid."

(Cheers.) Moore had always the true spirit of patriotism. In June, 1868, he resigned his connection with the *Times* because the latter adopted an anti-Irish attitude, and Mr. Barnes, the editor, could not prevail upon him to continue his contributions until he had journeyed to Ireland, and become a convert to Moore's own ideas. Oh, that we had another Moore to convert the *Times* of to-day to the justice of the Irish cause—that is if the *Times* is not already beyond redemption. (Laughter.) Moore showed that he had hopes of the restoration of the Irish Parliament when he wrote—

"Erin, old Erin, thy winter is past,  
And hope that lived through it shall blossom at last."

But had he written nothing else he would have been remembered by his melodies. He was a worker from 18 to 70 years of age, during which time he, with his poetical works, filled 10 volumes, with his satirical and political poems two or three volumes, and with his prose works 30 to 40 volumes; and in addition he was historian, biographer, and theologian. This day is the Eureka Stockade anniversary, the precursor of free institutions. Moore was a man of the people, and ever continued such. He never swerved from his fidelity to the Irish cause, and the same cause is the cause of the people all over the world. I hope the young men of Ballarat will realise the lessons taught by Moore, and they will never be found wanting. (Applause.)

The statute was then formally handed over by Mr. Butterly to the mayor and citizens, and cheers were given for Mrs. MacPherson and Sir Bryan O'Loughlen.

In the afternoon a banquet was held at Craig's Hotel, which was well attended. Mr. Butterly occupied the chair, having on his right Sir B. O'Loughlen, and on his left Prince Bhaiwighji. A number of apologies were received, and the usual loyal toasts were duly proposed and responded to.

Mr. W. Anderson, ex-M.L.A., in proposing "The Parliament of Victoria," referred to the closing legislation of the past session, and paid a high compliment to the Upper House for the check which it had placed on several measures. He also referred to the unsatisfactory state of the finances, and said he hoped that Colonel Smith would now come forward with that £2,000,000 which he had saved, and make up the equivalent

he had saved, and make up the equivalent deficiency to the present Ministry. (Laughter and applause.)

Mr. Cuthbert, M.L.C., Minister of Justice, responded. A challenge having been thrown out regarding the finances, he would not now discuss the question, but he asserted that a satisfactory reply would be given. The work of the previous session must commend itself to the country.

Colonel Smith intimated that he would take the opportunity after the holidays of addressing his constituents, when he would tell them where that deficiency had gone. Neither Mr. Murray Smith nor any other writer in the *Argus* could tell them, but he (the speaker) could and would. He thought, however, that the power of the purse should ever remain with the popular Chamber.

Mr. J. P. MacPherson, M.L.C., also responded.

"The Memory of Tom Moore," proposed by Mr. G. G. Morton, was feelingly responded to by the Rev. Fr. Rogers, who sat down amidst great applause.

A number of other toasts incidental to such occasions were also proposed and duly responded to.

In replying on behalf of Mrs. MacPherson, Mr. MacPherson said he would promise on his own responsibility that a statue of the poet Gordon should be promptly erected in Ballarat.

The toast of Sir Bryan O'Loughlen, which was very cordially received, was responded to by that gentleman at length. Referring to the financial controversy, he said he believed the finances of the colony were thoroughly sound, and the only mistake Mr. Gillies had made was in not taking the country into his confidence as early as possible. He did not think the finances should be made the subject of any party question, and although he and Mr. Gillies were opposing Treasurers, he would say of the latter that he was careful and capable.

In the evening a concert was given in the Academy of Music, at which Moore's melodies were sung, Herr Carl Hartmann acting as conductor.

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SIR HENRY ATKINSON, Premier of the New Zealand House of Representatives, says:—  
"I am fully convinced that not only is Home Rule required in justice to the Irish people, but also as the first great step towards the federation of the British Empire in lasting form."

THE Lady Toku Masuda, belonging to one of the chief families of Yokohama, has gone to Europe to take the veil in a convent at Munich, with a view to returning later on to found a convent of the same order in Japan.