

The Late Rev. Archibald Cameron.

UNVEILING OF THE MEMORIAL TABLET

It is written that a Christian is the highest type of man, so it is that the manhood of the late Rev. Archibald Cameron is the memory that the members of the family circles and the parishioners of St. Andrew's Church revere and cherish. As a fitting memorial of the great work of this pioneer clergyman, and something sacred to his memory, there was on Sunday morning a tablet unveiled in St. Andrew's Church, Glen Innes, bearing the following inscription:—"An earnest and learned pioneer minister, whose long life was filled with works for his God and unselfish love for his fellow man."

There were many in the vast congregation who can claim an association of many years standing with the old pioneer: there were old ones closer and dearer—the son, who had followed in the great calling of his father, occupied a position in the pulpit, while Mrs. Cameron, son, had a seat in front; as, indeed, the ceremony was a touching and impressive one. Those who had come a distance—Rev. Phillip Norman (Moderator of the Assembly) and Rev. John Walker (Commissioner of the Assembly)—to assist in the unveiling were fellow-workers of the late Mr. Cameron in God's great vineyard, and the tablet, yet veiled, was designed by Mr. Herbert Ross, architect, of Sydney, and son of the late Mr. Colin Ross, of Inverell, one of Mr. Cameron's earlier friends.

The service was inaugurated by the rendition of the hymn "Soldiers of Christ, Arise." Then followed the lessons of the day and the "Te Deum."

Rev. A. P. Cameron expressed the deep debt of gratitude he was under to the Moderator for his presence, and his intention to take part in the special service. He was deeply grateful to those whose efforts had placed in the "old church" a tablet to perpetuate the memory of his father, who had the laboring in the district long years ago.

The Moderator's subject of discourse was "The Christian Race," the preacher taking for his text the following passage from Hebrews: "Wherefore, seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." The preacher spoke eloquently and earnestly, comparing the Christian life to the Olympian games of Greece. "We have," said the speaker, "to run earnestly if we would obtain in the race for holiness," and, as sin is a cumbersome garment on the racer, we must throw it aside. There were many sacrifices to make if we desired to win, but it was well that we sacrifice all, if, by so doing, we won the "pearl of great price." He reminded the congregation that they had met to do honor to a beloved and revered pastor of the community, and one whose character was beautiful, a warm and loving heart, who labored long among them, and whose memory was very dear—

Oh! for a touch of a vanished hand,  
And the sound of a voice that is still.

He prayed that the influence which the late Mr. Cameron put forth in the district would never die, but that it would go on stimulating them to do better things for the Redeemer.

The Moderator then descended from the pulpit, and, pulling the cord attached to the covering, disclosed a tablet of white marble with a black marble background. On the top of the tablet, splendidly executed, there was depicted a profile of the late Mr. Cameron. In the centre the inscription, "Rev. Archibald Cameron," was embossed, while at the foot of the tablet a relief scene, depicting "Pioneer Life," was inserted, the figures representing the late Mr. Cameron

depicting "Pioneer Life," was inserted, the figures representing the late Mr. Cameron standing alongside his horse in conversation with a bullock-driver.

As a declaration of unveiling, the Moderator said: "As Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales, I consider it a great honor to be present among you here this morning to perform the duty



of unveiling the tablet to the memory of your late beloved and revered pastor, one of the pioneers and fathers of our Church in New South Wales, and whom the whole Church delights to honor."

Rev. John Walker, at the outset, said he was grieved at the inability of Rev. Dr. Johnstone, of Armidale, to be present. He also referred to the fact that Rev. Hubert Kay regretted not being able to be present to assist in the ceremony. The speaker gave an interesting account of the late Mr. Cameron's ministerial career from the year 1853, when the reverend gentleman was ordained, and instanced the commencement of his labors in New England in 1854, with Wellingrove as the headquarters of his extensive operations. Parish is altogether too feeble a word for the territory over which those pioneer ministers ranged, and Mr. Cameron preached frequently from house to house, and those were separated by miles and miles of lonely bush territory. The speaker sometimes thought, in these modern days, that that kind of ministry was becoming scarce. The speaker referred to the great assistance rendered in those far off times by the late Colin Ross, and fervently remarked, "Oh! God grant that the spirit of these old pioneers will rest in their children."

After touching upon many little matters, the Commissioner said, two years ago, this grand old man completed his ministry and sojourn on earth, and entered upon his sojourn in the other world. His career was marked with love and loyalty to Christ, and love to man, and, added the speaker, "there is nothing that will make a minister in the pulpit as endearing and noble as the spirit of love."

In referring to the tablet, Mr. Walker said its establishment was largely due to the exertions of Mr. John Sinclair, of Waterloo, who had a deep veneration for the old pioneer pastor.

In referring to the church where the late pastor had so long worked, the Commissioner said he had a feeling that the time was nearing that a new church, in keeping with the importance of this town, should be erected. Their hearts went out to Mrs.

the importance of this town, should be erected. Their hearts went out to Mrs. Cameron with great affection. He hoped she would long be spared, and that the evening of her life would be bright and beautiful.

"Oh, God of Bethel," by the choir, and the Benediction, closed the proceedings.

He sleeps in peace, a loved old pioneer,  
And memory e'er will his name revere.  
"For Jesus sake do all the good you can,"  
The motto of this grand old Christian man.

Thus his memory, like some holy light,  
Kept alive in our hearts, will improve them,  
For worth shall look fairer and truth more bright  
When we think how he lived but in love them!  
And, as fresher flowers the soil perfume  
Where buried saints are lying,  
So our hearts shall borrow a sweetening bloom  
From the image he left there in dying.