

## The Late Mr. W. Clendinning.

### Commemoration of His Services to the Town and District.

#### A Monument to be Erected.

A MEETING convened by the Mayor, at the request of the Council, for the purpose of considering the advisableness of commemorating the services of the late Mr. William Clendinning to the town and district, was held at the School of Arts on Monday night last. There was a good attendance, representative of the town and district, and the Mayor presided.

Apologies were tendered for the absence of Aldermen M'Intyre, Spratt, and Clarke, and Mr. Ed. Bowman, all of whom had expressed their sympathy with the movement; and letters favoring the proposal were read from Messrs. E. L. White and T. Cook.

The Mayor explained the object of the meeting, and said that all present knew that the late Mr. Clendinning's heart and soul were centred in Muswellbrook and the surrounding district, and he had devoted many years of his life towards forwarding the interests of that town and district, and all would remember the fearless manner in which he advocated those interests. He believed Mr. Clendinning was amongst the first batch of aldermen elected after this town was formed into a municipality; if not, he was amongst the second, and he occupied a position in the Council for many years, during which time he always used his best endeavors in the interests of the town. Like everybody else the deceased gentleman had had his faults; but he (the speaker) ventured to say that if those faults were placed in the balance with his many good qualities, there would be no doubt in his mind as to which side the preponderance would be on; and seeing that his many good qualities so far predominated over his faults, his fellow townsmen, being human, could forget all those faults in the remembrance of his good qualities. (Applause).

The Hon. R. G. D. FitzGerald said there are times when it is pleasant and others when it is unpleasant to rake amongst the memories of the past. It was sad for those present to have to

was sad for those present to have to meet for the purpose of marking the memory of the late Mr. W. Clendinning. But these sad happenings occurred every day in some part of the country, and could not be mended. There was, however, consolation in knowing that they could do their duty towards a deceased townsman whom he knew, during the last fifty years, had watched with great interest the growth and progress of the town in which he lived, and who took a prominent part in everything that was for the well being of the town and district. He possessed many good qualities, and his shortcomings, therefore, could well be allowed to lie. He was fearless and courageous in the expression of his opinions, and no one could help but admire the manly character he always displayed in matters of public concern. He was impulsive, but his generosity was beyond doubt, and he would shake hands with a person five minutes after their friendship seemed to have been severed by heated argument; and when once the hatchet was buried, he would be as good a friend as ever. He felt that it was an absolute duty which his fellow townsmen owed to themselves in recognition of an honorable townsman, that they should endeavor to perpetuate his memory to those who are to come after them, and as an incentive to them to so live that their services shall also deserve recognition. He moved, "That the memory of the late Mr. William Clendinning be marked by the erection of a monument over his grave, as a public expression of appreciation of the many and great services he has rendered to the town and district of Muswellbrook." No one would disagree with the appropriateness of the resolve there proposed. The townspeople could not do better than erect a monument and know that far ever afterwards it would be a recognition of his many good services, and also a token of the high esteem in which he was held by them; and he was sure all townsmen would willingly give of their means to make this such a suitable monument to the memory of their late friend that they would be proud to think there ever lived amongst them a man possessing the high qualities that merited such respect. (Applause).

Mr. J. W. Humphries seconded. He said he believed his acquaintance with

MR. J. W. HUMPHRIES seconded. He said he believed his acquaintance with their late friend was as lengthy as that of almost any other resident of the town, and he could certainly say that during those many years he was one of the most fearless and outspoken men whom he (the speaker) had ever met; and his chief object in all the public affairs in which he was interested was to do something for the benefit of the public generally; and it redounded to his credit that it did not matter whether his opinions were adverse to those who were in high positions or not, he gave expression to them, and he showed thereby that he was animated by the noblest and best feelings that could be possessed by anyone. (Applause)

Mr. P. Healy supported the motion, and mentioned a phase of the deceased gentleman's character which he thought should be of interest to all, and an example for the young. It was Lord Bacon who said that "reading makes a full man," and anyone acquainted with Mr. Clendinning knew that he was a most assiduous reader and had been for many years. Although he had only few opportunities of obtaining much education in his youth, he qualified himself afterwards by constant study and ceaseless reading; and there was always a desire by him to acquire general information, especially with regard to any new subject which appeared in the public press. If at times he was irritable, it was generally pleasant to meet him and converse with him. It was the duty of the townsmen to honor such a man, and to show people residing here that they always give honor where it is due,

and that merit always receives its due recognition. (Applause).

Mr. A. Southcombe spoke highly of the deceased gentleman for the hearty and firm support he had always given to the Saturday Half Holiday Association.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. R. T. Keys moved, "That a committee consisting of the Mayor and aldermen, the Hon. R. G. D. Fitz Gerald, Messrs. R. T. Keys, J. C. White, J. W. Humphries, W. Davison, Ed. Bowman and P. Healy be appointed to carry out the foregoing resolution, and that

Healy be appointed to carry out the foregoing resolution, and that Mr. Humphries act as Treasurer and Mr. Brecht as Secretary." He said that, sad though the duty may be, he was willing to join the meeting in carrying out the object it had in view, because it was the duty of residents to do something to perpetuate the memory of Mr. Clendinning, and recognise the work which he did during his residence of over forty years amongst them. During that time he gave everything that was brought forward for the advancement of the town and district his able and strong help. He had worked for various institutions in the town, including the Hospital and P. and A. Association, but it would be impossible to enumerate all the Associations he was connected with. It would also be impossible to adequately estimate his good qualities, because he often performed good and generous deeds which only very few people knew of. He (the speaker) had had 25 years' experience of the deceased gentleman's public actions, and as far as he knew his feelings for the town always remained unaltered. His love for Muswellbrook was unparalleled, and the place which came next in his affections was his own native country—Ireland. Although it may not be generally known, he often assisted families in Ireland who were in destitute circumstances by raising subscriptions, which he supplemented and remitted to them. His name would be remembered long in this district, and he (the speaker) expressed the wish that for the good he had done the residents of the town and district would be able to suitably perpetuate his memory. (Applause).

Mr. Alex. Weidmann seconded, and referred to the work which Mr. Clendinning had done in connection with the establishment of the School of Arts, and also spoke highly of him in other respects.

The motion was carried.

A subscription list was then opened.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the Mayor for presiding, on the motion of the Hon. R. G. D. Fitz Gerald and Mr. F. Budden.

The Mayor suitably acknowledged the vote, and stated that the sum of £21 5s had been promised in the room.