

## **EIGHT HOURS MEMORIAL.**

### **THE MONUMENT UNVEILED.**

In that part of Melbourne sacred to Parliamentary institutions—in Spring-street, between Collins and Bourke streets—stands a piece of masonry, which was unveiled on Tuesday as a monument to the pioneers of the Eight Hours movement. It stands almost opposite the Grand Hotel, having as a near neighbor the statue of General Gordon, and being almost within hearing of the oratory that emanates from Parliament House. The monument stands about 25 feet high, and is decorated at the top with a gilt ball or globe, intended to suggest the world wide scope of the eight hours movement. It rests on a solid basis of grey granite, and for the rest consists of a rounded pillar of the same material, without figure ornamentation of any kind. The work is intended to be solid rather than showy. On the base is the following inscription:—To commemorate the Eight Hours movement. Initiated in Victoria 1856. Erected 1903.

There was a dense crowd assembled in Spring-street on Tuesday afternoon, when the unveiling ceremony took place. Most of the onlookers were of the working class, and to the number of over 1500 they crowded round the enclosure. On the platform in front of the monument were seated the old pioneers of the movement, each wearing a badge to proclaim his identity. Mr. Warde, M.L.A., president of the memorial committee, commenced the proceedings with a speech. He traced the history of the Eight Hours movement back to the Chartists of the early '40's, and mentioned that Victoria had been the first of the Australian States to take up the question in earnest. He was convinced that the movement, which had long been a growing one, would continue to grow and prosper. They ought never to rest until they had an Eight Hours day secured to them by legislation. He also mentioned that the memorial, which had cost £2000, had been subscribed to by all classes of the community.

The monument was then unveiled by the pioneers themselves, a detachment from whom pulled strings which released the drapery veiling its face. After this ceremony, Mr. T. Cochrane, president of the Eight Hours Pioneers' Association, said a few words.

Mr. Tom Mann, who also spoke, expressed his pleasure at being present. He was convinced that they should not rest satisfied with an Eight Hours day, but that the world would be better and happier if they could have a shorter working day—say, six hours. (Hear, hear.) The one object they must all have in view was to abolish poverty and do away with the unemployed, and the only means of accomplishing that was to have a shorter working day. This could not be effected locally, but he had great hopes that something could be done by means of an international convention of labor, such as had been con-

could be done by means of an international convention of labor, such as had been convened by Switzerland a few years ago. The regulation of the hours of labor by an international tribunal was something to be looked to with confidence for the future.