

THE BURKE AND WILLS' STATUE.

[From our own Correspondent.]

The ceremony of unveiling the statue of Burke and Wills took place yesterday afternoon, in the presence of an unusual concourse of spectators. The proceedings were of a very simple character, the principal portion of the ceremony consisting of an oration delivered by His Excellency, the Governor. A temporary platform was erected in front of the statue, reserved for the members of the Board of Design, Professor Wilson, Dr Gilbee, Dr Fisher, Messrs Williamson, Smith, Wardell and Archer, and for others connected with the ceremony. Chairs were placed for Lady Darling, and other members of His Excellency's family. About half-past 3 o'clock, the Castlemaine Volunteers, told off as a guard of honor around the statue (in commemoration of the command once held in the corps by Burke), preceded by their band, took up the position allotted to them, whilst detachments of the Melbourne and Williamstown Volunteers, including the Naval Brigade, were drawn up on each side of Collin's street, extending from Swanston-street to the Treasury. A strong body of police, foot and mounted, were also in attendance, for the preservation of order amongst so dense an assemblage converging upon one particular spot with the object of obtaining a view of the proceedings. At 4 o'clock a salvo of artillery announced that His Excellency had left the Treasury, and in due time the Castlemaine Light Horse appeared, escorting His Excellency, who was in full uniform and occupied a close carriage. Along the line of approach to the statue the volunteers presented arms, and the band played the National Anthem. His Excellency was received at the foot of the statue by the Board of Design, and was introduced to King, the companion of Burke and Wills, and the witness of their death, and His Excellency complimented him on his being present at the proceedings of that day. Professor Wilson, on behalf of the Board of Design, made His Excellency acquainted with the origin of the movement which had led to the erection of the statue, and formally handed it over to His Excellency for and on behalf of the public of Victoria. His Excellency thereupon took hold of the string which bound the covering of the statue, and with a slight effort cast it

statue, and with a slight effort cast it off, amidst the cheers of the spectators, the band playing a martial strain. His Excellency then advanced to the front of the platform, and, uncovered, delivered an oration, which was at times interrupted by applause. The oration occupied forty minutes in delivery, during which he gave a slight sketch of the history of the earliest explorers of the continent, drew a picture of the advantages to colonisation of the peaceful and brave efforts of these explorers, passed some slight criticism upon the management of the expedition, and paid a compliment to the art which had raised such a statue, and which was an evidence that genius and art had sojourned in the land, and that at some future day in contemplating the work an artistic taste would become domiciled amongst us. At the conclusion of the oration three cheers were proposed by the Governor in honor of the occasion. Mr King proposed three cheers for His Excellency, which were lustily given. The Governor proposed three cheers for King. Three cheers were given for Lady Darling, and, at His Excellency's request, three cheers for the artist, Mr Summers, were also cordially given. The proceedings then terminated with the band playing the National Anthem, on His Excellency retiring from the platform.