

## THE LATE MR. JAMES HUTCHESON.

### A MEMORIAL WINDOW.

The Kyneton Independent Church owes its origin to the late Mr James Hutcheson, and to him owes obligations which have no end. It may be said that in laboring for the church he did no more than his duty as a Christian man, but unfortunately the majority do just about as little as they can. Mr Hutcheson's labors for his beloved church were the outcome of intense love for it and the feeling that too much for it he could not do; too much to it he could not give. His entire interest in the welfare of the church ceased only with his death. He ceased at once to work and live. As founder, as pastor, as private member, he was always on the alert to advance the welfare of the church. The members of the church and congregation have shown their love for the memory of Mr Hutcheson in a very pleasing, permanent, and practical manner, and yesterday we had an opportunity of inspecting the memorial, which takes the form of a stained glass window in the building. This method of perpetuating the memory of Mr Hutcheson was determined upon some time ago by the congregation, who supplied the necessary funds, with contributions from friends of other churches on whom the excellence of Mr Hutcheson's Christian character and large charity had made a deep impression. The window was placed in position yesterday.

The memorial window has been placed in the centre window aperture — the western side of the church, perhaps the most prominent position possible. The window consists of hundreds of pieces of antique stained glass cleverly set in lead grooves, and making a complete picture, the central figure in which represents the Apostle St John, whose characteristics were prominently reproduced in Mr Hutcheson. At the south head is the sentence "The memory of the just is blessed," below which is an urn emitting flames of sacred fire. Two festoons of myrtle hang above St John's head, and he is shown holding the sacred volume in his left hand, while with the index finger of his right hand he points to some particular passage. Running across the window are the words "God is love, and at its foot is "In memory of James Hutcheson."

The window is a splendid piece of workmanship, producing fine effect and in every way appropriate. It requires to be seen to be appreciated, and we understand that an opportunity for inspection will be afforded the public some day next week. On the wall below the window is a tablet of solid brass, resting on a slab of black marble. Engraved on the brass is the following inscription:—

"This window was erected in the year 1894 by the congregation and other friends. Mr Hutcheson was for 39 years a devoted member of this church, and for 20 years its honorary pastor, during which time this building was erected. He was an earnest and faithful preacher of the Gospel. He died in 1894, aged 72 years, and is held in grateful and loving remembrance."

The window was supplied by the firm of Brooks, Robinson, and Co., Melbourne, and the total cost approximates £100.