

THE ROBERTS MEMORIAL

By OLD BOY.

Old Carltonians mustered strongly on Friday, August 17, to witness the unveiling ceremony of the obelisk and tablet which they had erected to the memory of their old comrade, Lieutenant James Roberts, who lost his life in the Pink Hill engagement, near Rensburg, on February 12, 1900. The committee had worked well, and had raised such a substantial sum that the obelisk in the Royal-park and the tablet in Carlton College are both worthy memorials of one who was an ornament, not only to Carlton College and our University, but to any community to which he belonged. So much was Jim Roberts appreciated in his own district that his old company of Mounted Riflemen at Rushworth and Murchison were represented by Lieutenant Brisbane and a detachment of non-commissioned officers and men, who came down specially for the ceremony. Colonel Otter, as commanding officer of the Mounted Rifles, was there, and also Captain Patterson. Apologies for absence were received from Major-General Downes and the Headquarters staff, who were absent in the country on a tour of inspection, as well as from Dr. MacFarland, the master of Ormond, under whom Roberts had worked and gained University distinctions. Amongst Roberts's relatives who were present were his two brothers and his brother-in-law, George Moore, of the Lands department. Amongst others were W. P. Forlonge, LL.B., an old master of Carlton College, Drs. Maller, H. Hewlett, Wilkinson, and R. Strong, the Rev. T. K. Pitt, who was a boarder at Carlton with Roberts, and who spoke feelingly of their school friendship, E. Fletcher, M. Irwin, W. Warwick, H. Darvall, C. Morgan, Hearne, F. P. Hewlett, E. Braco, T. Henderson, and H. Pestell, who designed the obelisk and tablet, and superintended the carrying out of the work.

The obelisk stands at the entrance to Royal-park, at the rear of the college, and bears the following inscription:—"In this park played as a boy Lieutenant James Charles Roberts (a former pupil of Carlton College), who gave his life in the cause of Queen and Empire in South Africa at Rensburg, Feb. 12th, 1900." It is 17ft. high, and is composed of grey Harcourt granite, with a base and cap of granite from Gabo Island. The tablet, which is very handsome, is erected in the college-hall, and both memorials should have the effect not only of reminding Carltonians of the doings of one of their old boys, but also of stimulating an esprit de corps amongst the younger generation, so that at any time they will be proud to do their best for the school to which they owe their allegiance and from which they have derived benefit. Thus it is that Mr. Sutherland's idea of having the obelisk in the park was a splendid one, as all the young folk who visit the Zoological-gardens and the park may see what has been done. The old Carltonians are to be congratulated on having brought the matter to such a successful conclusion.