

THE VAGABOND'S MEMORIAL.

On Saturday, November 13th, at the Melbourne General Cemetery, in the Church of England division, a really beautiful and appropriate monument was unveiled to the memory of the late Mr Julian Thomas, better known throughout Australasia as "The Vagabond."

Mr Thomas died September 4th, 1896, and Mrs Thos. Kennedy, who knew him well and greatly respected him, determined that as a year had elapsed since his decease, and as apparently no effort was being made towards the erection of a tombstone, to devote her energies to the task of obtaining from friends the necessary sum to secure an honored grave from oblivion. So with the kind assistance of the Press she made her appeal, and followed it up by personal canvass. So successful was she that in two months from the first announcement sufficient moneys were obtained to warrant the selection of the monument and a date, as above, was fixed for its dedication.

Mr Henry Short undertook the position of hon. treasurer and also unveiled the stone. Prior to this he read a very touching and eloquent address, mentioning Mr Thomas' long connection with Australian journalism, his absolute fearlessness, his power to invest even small matters with a charm of expression which was all his own, his charitable impulses, and he paid a tribute to his qualities as a man.

Mr Zox, M.L.A., followed with a few words of sympathy and regret at the early death of Mr Thomas. He referred to his charitable nature, of which during the close contact he had with him as secretary of the Charities Commission he had ample proof. He (Mr Zox) felt it an honor to be present to pay the last tribute of regard to one he knew so well, and quoted Shakespeare's words, "The evil that men do lives after them; the good is oft interred with their bones," and concluded an eloquent address with the wish, "May his soul rest in peace."

This ended the ceremony, and opportunity was then afforded for an inspection of the stone and the inscription.

The monument is nearly 10ft. high, and is of pure white marble. A draped urn is at the top, then in relief a most appropriate symbol of the profession of The Vagabond—a hand grasping a pen, resting on a scroll, with palm leaves sculptured above and beneath. The inscription reads as follows:—

Erected by a few friends to the memory of

JULIAN THOMAS

"The Vagabond."

Died Sept. 4th, 1896.

At the base, "After life's fullful fever he sleeps well." On the reverse of the

monument appears the simple abbreviation, VAG. Another scroll tablet is fixed to the iron railing at the side, which bears the following words, "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." R.C.A.—R and T. K. A spray of marguerites is also represented.

Standing at the foot of the marble slab is an urn, with VAG engraved, which was on Saturday full of flowers, as was also the gravestone, which was almost covered with the offerings of friends who did not forget one who had been a good citizen, an honored journalist, and a man of many good deeds.

Nearly 100 were present, amongst whom were Lady Janet Clarke, Mrs Thos. Kennedy, Mrs Sahlberg, Mrs Eskel, Mrs Ward, Miss Cooper O'Brien and others; Messrs E. L. Zox, M.L.A., Henry Short, R. O. Anderson, M. L. Kreitmeyer, H. Britten, M. Chester, Arthur Fenton, W. R. Furlong, Thos. Kennedy and many others.

The monument is in the Church of England division compartment, very near to the Cardigan street gate of the cemetery.

The work was carried out in every detail, and with every satisfaction to all interested, by Mr M. Hughes, of Boutke street.