

LATE REV. R. MURRAY

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL

On Sunday last at the local cemetery the ceremony of unveiling the monument erected to the memory of the Rev. B. Murray, the widely esteemed pastor of the Cecil street Presbyterian Church, subscribed for by the citizens of the town, was performed.

Cr Liston, chairman, read an apology from the Rev. Father T. F. Brazil, of St. Mary's Church, regretting his inability to attend.

The Chairman thanked the subscribers for their presence, also for their generosity. They were honoring the memory of a man who had endeared himself to all sections of the community. The respect and esteem in which he was held by his own denomination was equalled by those who were outside. The immense amount of work done amongst the poorest sections of the community by Mr Murray was appreciated by those who took an interest in the charitable and philanthropic movements in the town. He was not one of those who sought the limelight, but did what he deemed to be his duty in an unostentatious way. The lives of such men and the many acts of kindness done by them merited the esteem of everybody. He (Cr Liston) acknowledged indebtedness to Cr Woods and Mr Jenkins for the work they had performed as joint honorary secretaries of the movement. The monument had been erected under the direction of Mr Thomas Crockford, and although that gentleman was extremely ill it was a tribute to his energy that the work had been completed within the prescribed time.

The Chairman then called upon the Mayor to unveil the monument.

The Mayor said he remembered with pride and gratification attending the service in the North Presbyterian Church many years ago at which the Rev. Mr Murray preached, and the simple homely manner in which he conveyed his message was edifying, in the highest degree. Amongst the great orators of the world there was always something of the egotist peeping out at intervals; but there was no sign of that in the late Rev. Robert Murray, who had endeared himself to everybody by his simple unaffected manner. He had very great pleasure in unveiling this memorial to the memory of their dear friend.

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The Rev. John Caldwell said that for over twenty years the late Robert Murray was a personal friend of his. He was a man of extreme culture, and although of slight physique was one of the strongest men whom he had ever met. When engaged in any cause which he considered was morally sound there was no shifting him from this edifice. The base of the pillar was a stone from Aberdeen, which all knew to be of very strong and enduring quality in that it resembled the quality of the mind of their dear friend, who although enfeebled by ill health had a mind as strong and unfaltering in all matters that he considered right. For twenty years he had labored amongst the people of Williamstown; no task came to him too early and none too late. He had spent himself in doing good for the people, counselling the distressed, consoling the afflicted, and bringing comfort and consolation where ever there had been sorrow. Those who were associated with him in the work of the Presbyterian Church were impressed at all times by the culture he exhibited on many occasions.

Mr J. Hall, on behalf of those representing the South Williamstown Presbyterian Church, testified to the sterling merits of the late Mr Murray. His kindness to students who had to take a course of classics was appreciated by many of the young men. His own son was instructed by the reverend gentleman, and Robert Murray refused to accept a fee for his services. In all things, he was a man.

Cr Liston then handed the memorial over to Mrs Murray.

Captain James Mitchell, on behalf of Mrs Murray, thanked the citizens of Williamstown for their great and generous gift. He had been associated with the Rev. Robert Murray for many years, and he was the embodiment of kindness and charity. The good feeling that existed between him and the Rev. Father Brazil was an indication of his magnanimity and broad-mindedness. There was nothing mean or little about their late friend; he never sought to accentuate the differences, religious or political, that existed amongst people of a town such as this. (Hear, hear.)