

## A YIELIMA SOLDIER'S MEMORIAL.

### The Late Private E. Rowe.

On Sunday last an interesting service took place at the Yielima Wesleyan Church, when the memorial tablet erected to the memory of Private Ernest Rowe, killed during the disaster at Wilmansrust, was unveiled by Captain Betheras. The church, which has recently been enlarged, was crowded to the doors, and aisles, there being fully 200 persons present. A detachment of riflemen from the Yielima and other clubs, numbering about 40, attended in uniform, and the preacher himself was attired as a captain, so that the scene was a very striking one. After the hymns and a lesson had been rendered, the Captain spoke a few appropriate words with reference to the deceased comrade, and then declared the tablet erected, the Union Jack being pulled aside, disclosing a beautiful tablet of granite and marble, measuring 2ft x 2ft 6in. After this Mr Beere sang the beautiful hymn, "On the Resurrection Morning." The inscription runs thus:—"To the memory of Ernest James Rowe, a member of the Yielima Rifle Club, who was killed in action at Wilmansrust, South Africa, on June 12th, 1901, whilst serving in the Fifth Contingent, age 23 years. 'Faithful unto death.' Erected by his comrades and friends." Above this is beautifully carved out a helmet and rifle, the whole design being neatly and tastefully executed. After a hymn, Captain Betheras gave a stirring address on "Heroes," pointing out what a hero was, and was not, referring to Jesus Christ and Martin Luther as typical heroes in and out of the Bible. At the close of the address, Mr G. R. Beere sang feelingly the beautiful solo, "He Wipes the Tear from Every Eye." During the service, at the bidding of

wipes the tear from Every Eye." During the service, at the bidding of the captain, the riflemen rose solemnly in their places, and, turning towards the tablet, saluted it and resumed their seats. Altogether the service was a fine, impressive one. The congregation remained seated whilst the riflemen filed out to a march played by Mr Beere on the organ. In the evening the re-opening service of the church took place, Captain Betheras again preaching to a good congregation, taking his text from the Book of Revelation, "The voice of Jesus as the voice of many waters," being attentively listened to. The choir rendered the anthem, "O, Gather Them In," in good style. Mr Beere sang the sacred solo effectively during the service.

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