

FOREST HILL.

HONORING LATE LIEUT. HOWARD M. LYONS.

The little church at Forest Hill was never so crowded as it was on Sunday last when it was known that a "told Jesus" (St. Matthew, 14th memory of a late respected member and soldier, the late H. M. Lyons, son of Mrs. W. H. Lyons, of Sackville, would be formally unveiled. A long list of vehicles including two cars drew up in the lane adjacent to the church, showing that despite the

extreme cold a large number of visitors from the surrounding parts and from Wagga had driven to take part in the service, which was held at 3 p.m.

Among the visitors were three sisters of Mrs. Lyons, the Misses Thomson, from Beechworth, Victoria. Captain Gregory, an English officer on leave, who is visiting Wagga, and had met a brother of the deceased soldier in London, was present to pay a visit to Mrs. Lyons and to attend the service. Mr. and Mrs. Higgins (Wagga) and Mrs. Barnes, of Mosman, Mr. Tyson and Miss V. Oates, and several other Wagga residents also attended. The Rev. W. H. Pennington conducted the service, preaching from the text, "And they went and told Jesus" (St. Matthew), 14th ch. 12 verse). Reviewing the circumstances preceding the tragic death of John the Baptist at the instance of Herodias and the strong ties of affection between the dead saint and his disciples, the clergyman dwelt on the distress of the band of followers at the news of his death, and their subsequent resolve to "go and tell Jesus." This was, to their mind, the only thing to be done. He would calm their troubles and direct their future. So, the rev. speaker pointed out, He still is the fountain head of all comfort and solace to those in trouble, in difficulty and in distress. In all times of stress, in our joys as well as our sorrows, but more especially in the bitterness of our bereavements, He will be our comfort, our helper, and our everliving friend.

As an in memoriam service had been held, the rev. gentleman said it was not his intention to dwell on their memories of their deceased brother's virtues, but he would read the

ther's virtues, but he would read the testimony of those in touch with him at the front. He then read letters addressed to the bereaved mother from Lieut. Lyons' Major, from a brother Lieutenant, and from his chaplain, extolling his bravery and coolness in the field and his clean living and integrity as a soldier and a man.

Mrs. A. Brunskill then stepped up to the tablet, which was covered with the Union Jack, and addressing the gathering, said "The memorial tablet I am about to unveil has been erected by loving friends and neighbors to the memory of one whom we all love and who was once a regular worshipper in this little church. Had he turned a deaf ear to the Empire's call for men, he might have been with us to-day. But that he could not do, for he was a true man, and deeply realised that every British subject was required to do his duty; and so he left home and friends that he might share in the terrible struggle that is now being waged. His brother officers and others who were associated with him at the war have testified to his sterling qualities and the high esteem in which he was held, and there appeared to be a career of usefulness and honor before him. But on the 26th of February he fell while doing his duty on the battlefields of France.

He is worthy to be held in remembrance as a brave hero, and a true Christian, and so with loving hearts we have erected this tablet to his memory." Mrs. Brunskill then drew aside the flag. The tablet is a massive one of white marble erected on the further wall facing the entrance.

The inscription reads as follows:—
"Sacred to the memory of 2nd-Lieutenant Howard Maitland Lyons, of Sackville, Forest Hill. Who won his commission on the battlefield of France, and in the flower of his fine manhood was killed in action in France on the 26th February, 1917; aged 26 years. This tablet is erected in his honor by his friends of Forest Hill."