

THE LATE PERCY McNAB.

Unveiling A Memorial.

A very large gathering of sportsmen and the general public assembled at the Presbyterian compartment of the Dubbo cemetery on Sunday afternoon, to witness the unveiling of a memorial stone over the grave of the late Percy John McNab, who died on the 11th of December last. The stone is in the form of a white Italian obelisk, with scroll tablet suitably inscribed, and with another inscription on the face of the pedestal. The memorial, which was from the yard of Mr. W. Larcombe, was described in a recent issue. The funds for its erection were subscribed by the members of the Dubbo Football Association, the Dubbo Bicycle Club, and others.

The Rev. J. C. W. McNeill, M.A., opened the proceedings with the reading of a passage of Holy Scripture and prayer, after which he delivered an address.

He reminded them that they were gathered there to pay the last tribute of respect to the memory of their young friend, who was so suddenly called to his rest last December; and they were also gathered for the purpose of witnessing the unveiling of this memorial, which had been erected by his friends and acquaintances in this district. The late Percy McNab was a young man known to almost all of them, and held a high place in the affection of all who knew him, and his influence was for good in the many circles in which he was known. It was not for him (the speaker) to mention the various circles in which his influence was felt, but as minister of the church to which Mr. McNab belonged to speak a few words in memory of a young man of sterling character, whose influence was felt in his own church, and whose character told with all with whom he was brought into contact—not only in the wider circles of business and sport, but also in the inner circle of church fellowship. His interest in religion, and in the influences that surrounded a spiritual life, was deep and sincere; and it was manifested in many ways. It was manifested in a Christ-like life and character, and it was manifested in a deep interest in the welfare of the church. It was always and when such an one was cut down; but there was a note of joy mingled with their sorrow when they remembered that the influence that their young friend exerted was always on the side of good; and the affection in which he was held by all was shown by this memorial which was shortly to be unveiled. He was sure that all who had had the privilege of knowing the young man would thank God for a consistent life, whose memory would never be forgotten, and would pray that his influence would continue to be felt in the lives of all those young men, with whom he was brought into contact, and raised him this memorial of their affection and esteem.

Mr. G. H. Taylor, president of the Dubbo

their affection and esteem.

Mr. G. H. Taylor, president of the Dubbo Cricket Union, was called upon to perform the ceremony of unveiling the memorial.

In the course of a short address, he said that it was with pleasure that he had consented to undertake the task of unveiling this memorial. As president of the Union he testified to the esteem in which Mr. McNab was held by him, and their departed friend's interest in sport, as well as his services as secretary of the Macquarie Football Union. He paid a high tribute to Mr. McNab's personal worth and character, and then unveiled the monument.

Mr. J. A. Hives, president of the Half-Holiday Association, said that on behalf of the Dubbo Football Association he had been asked to say a few words to those assembled. As they all knew Mr. McNab was the ~~celebration of their association, and he~~ a very active member in all other branches of sport, and took a warm interest in them. He very much regretted the sad death of their friend which necessitated the present ceremony. As they all remembered that two or three months ago their friend was taken from them suddenly, and they all regretted the severe loss which cast such a gloom over the district, when it occurred. It was then agreed that a tribute of their esteem and respect in which Mr. McNab was held should be made. He did not propose to deal lengthily with the merits of their friend, but he most heartily agreed with the references made to his character by the previous speakers. Mr. McNab was an intimate friend, and it had been agreed by a few friends that they ought to commemorate him in some adequate way, and so this memorial had been erected to perpetuate that feeling. Mr. Hives concluded by expressing his sincere sympathy with the parents and family of the late Mr. McNab.

The Rev. E. H. Lea, as president of the Football Union, said that Mr. McNeill had addressed them as "men and women," he would take the privilege of addressing them as "friends," for he believed that day they felt that "one touch of nature which makes the whole world kin." He believed that they were all touched by the common touch of sympathy and respect and esteem—sympathy for those whom Mr. Hives had just spoken of—the mother and family of Mr. McNab, and respect for the memory of one who was cut down last December—and esteem for Percy McNab and his special work in Dubbo. What he (Mr. Lea) had to add to the other speakers' remarks, was to congratulate them on the way they put before their hearers Mr. McNab's character, and he now had to call attention to the great note of unselfishness in the young man. He had been cut off at the early age of 23 years, but he had set before the young men of this district a great example of unselfishness, and his chief mark was his thought for others, and the last thought was of himself or his own position. The great note of his life was unselfishness, and as they would go back from this ceremony after having erected a memorial of stone—to the city beneath the hill let them erect in their lives a memorial of the unselfish-

to the city beneath the hill let them erect in their lives a memorial of the unselfishness of the friend they mourned. As had already been said, they thanked God for such a life, and asked their young men to follow in his steps. They thanked God for this permanent expression of sympathy, and they rejoiced to know that the taunt which was sometimes made that their sorrow was but a nine days' wonder was not deserved there; for this stone would stand in fair weather and in foul, in sunshine and in shade, as a perpetual memorial of what had been said of the splendor of a young life spent in unselfishness. Though the setting sun cast his beams around them where they stood in the solemn silence of the dying day; yet they knew that on the morrow the sun would rise in all its glory; and although a life had been cut off, that life had not been lost. He believed that in the lives of those who listened to him that day there would be a truer manliness by reason of the life of Percy McNab, to whose memory their presence that day was a tribute of their esteem.

The Rev. J. C. W. McNeill then led in the Lord's Prayer, and the Benediction having been pronounced, the ceremonies closed.