

FIRST W.A. BUSHMEN.

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL.

SERVICE IN ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL.

When the first contingent of Western Australian Bushmen (Third Regiment Australian Bushmen) were returning from South Africa, one of their members—Private James Hume—became very ill. He subsequently died at Fremantle. His comrades, who held him in high esteem, formed a committee with the object of taking steps to perpetuate his memory in some way. The members of the contingent subscribed the sum of £60, £46 of which was spent in erecting a body-stone, containing an inscription, on his grave and in placing a railing round it. It was decided that the balance (£14) should be devoted to the erection of two tablets, one in the Anglican and the other in the Roman Catholic Cathedral, in memory of the members of the corps who had fallen in South Africa. Subsequently, it was found that the amount was not sufficient to erect the two tablets at the same time, and it was resolved to put up the first tablet in St. George's Cathedral and afterwards to place a similar memorial in the Roman Catholic Cathedral. This, it is hoped, the comrades of the dead soldiers will be in a position to do in the course of a few weeks. Mr. A. G. Russell, the Mayor of Victoria Park, kindly acted as treasurer for the fund, which was subscribed to by the Bushmen for the purchase of the memorials.

The tablet in St. George's Cathedral is erected near the entrance to the choir vestry. It is 4ft. by 3ft., with a white marble background and a raised shield of red marble in the centre. The tablet bears the following inscription in gold lettering:—"Erected by C Squadron, 3rd Regiment Australian Bushmen (1st W.A. Bushmen). To the memory of their comrades, Troopers W. J. McPhee, E. A. Hambly, J. Roscoe, T. Angel, J. Hume, who fell in South Africa, 1900-1901." The memorial is the work of Mr. W. Smythe, of Karrakatta.

Yesterday the ceremony of unveiling the tablet was performed during the morning service at St. George's Cathedral by His Excellency the Governor-General in the presence of a large congregation, including Sir Arthur and Lady Lawley and the vice-regal suites and the Minister for Defence (Sir John

and the Minister for Defence (Sir John Forrest) and Lady Forrest. A church parade of the various military forces was held in honour of the occasion, the parade being attended by the Headquarters Band, under Mr. Campbell; the members of the returned contingents, under Lieutenants Barnes and Chipper; No. 1 Battery of Field Artillery, under Major Hobbs; two companies of No. 1 Battalion, under Captain Collett and Lieutenant Teague; the Guildford Infantry, under Lieutenant Pretty; and the Fourth Battalion (Civil Service Corps), under Lieutenant Hope. The whole parade was under the command of Major Strickland. A large body of the police force, under the Commissioner (Captain Hare), also attended the parade.

The service was a most impressive one. Bishop Riley preached the sermon, Dean Goldsmith intoned the service, and the Rev. C. E. C. Lefroy read the lessons. Mr. A. G. O. Pain presided at the organ.

The Bishop preached from the first verse of the 12th chapter of Romans: "I beseech you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." He said that it was stated that when the British Army landed in Crimea, one of the colonels read that chapter to his soldiers, because it contained inspiration to the men to do their duty. The chapter taught some very important lessons not only to soldiers, but to persons in every walk of life. There was an exhortation to humility, to hopefulness, and to zeal. What was more important and more difficult, there was an exhortation not to give way to revenge. Soldiers must not go to war in a spirit of revenge. War undertaken in the proper spirit brought out some of the best qualities of those engaged in it. The last words of the chapter—"Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good"—contained a lesson for all, and if people would try to live up to the exhortation, they would be better and happier for it. In drawing the attention of the congregation to the words of his text, the Bishop said they had probably asked themselves at times whether men should sacrifice their homes, their pleasure, and their lives at the call of duty? That depended entirely on how they viewed life. If they, as Christians, believed in a future life, then they would have to believe that a life of sacrifice was the highest and noblest that a man could live. First of all, it had to be a living sacrifice, giving up that which they liked best for the sake of what they knew to be right. Then it was to be a holy sacrifice, and it was only holy when it was at the call of duty to God and their fellow-men, and not in the hope of gain. He had spoken on that subject that morning because they were thinking of those who had nobly

ject that morning because they were thinking of those who had nobly given up their lives for the good of their country. Though some might think that the lives of their soldiers had been wasted, yet surely that was not so. Most people would like to die doing their duty. Nobody could have a grander or a nobler end. What they wanted in a new nation was the inspiration of a noble example, and it seemed as if Providence, just as they were becoming a nation, had set before them the example of noble lives sacrificed for their country. The preacher dwelt on the warfare that was going on every day in the inmost hearts of all of us, and pointed out that the practice of self-sacrifice in that respect would earn us our reward hereafter.

At the conclusion of the sermon, the Bishop descended from the pulpit, and addressing the Governor-General from opposite the tablet said:—

"Your Excellency.—In February two years ago an appeal was made for men to form a Bushmen's contingent for service in South Africa. The response to this appeal was eager and immediate, for the Bushmen sailed on March 13. The strength of the contingent was seven officers, 100 of other ranks. The contingent returned in June last year. During the time these men were in South Africa, they marched thousands of miles, and were often continuously fighting. The principal engagements in which they took part were the Koster River on July 21, 1900, Elands River, August 4, 1900, Rhenoster Kop, on November 29, 1900, and De Berg's Pass, April 7, 1901. It is a great delight to us to know that the contingent distinguished itself. This is proved by the fact that not less than four of its members received marks of honour from their Sovereign. Lieut.-Colonel Vials was made a C.B., Lieut. R. Vernon a D.S.O., Sergeant W. George and Private Angel received the medal for Distinguished Service in the field. Such a record speaks for itself. Five of the men received an honour which will not fade. They fought for and died for King and country. Such a death is full of honour and glory. Their memory will ever be kept fresh in the hearts of their comrades and in the annals of this the most extensive of "all the Britains." It is to the memory of these heroes that their comrades have

erected this tablet. It is hoped that when men look at it, they may be inspired by the remembrance of the brave deeds of Troopers McPhee, Hambly, Roscoe, Angel and Hume, to sacrifice much—life itself if need be—for the sake of the land of their birth or their adoption. I have to thank Your Excellency on behalf of the comrades of these fallen soldiers for consenting to unveil this memorial. We ask you to

these fallen soldiers for consenting to unveil this memorial. We ask you to do it as our Commander-in-Chief, and the representative of His Majesty, who, like his mother of ever-blessed memory, forgets not his soldiers, and as one who comes from a land where every man is valiant and dauntless, and knows how to honour the brave."

His Excellency addressing the assembled troops said: "It is a source of sincere though melancholy satisfaction to me to comply with the request made to me by the Lord Bishop of Perth, and I count it a fortunate accident that I, His Majesty's representative in the Commonwealth, and therefore the titular Commander-in-Chief of the forces in Australia, should be here to perform the ceremony of unveiling this tablet which has been erected by you to the memory of your fallen comrades. When you and they made up your minds to go to South Africa, you took upon your shoulders the highest duty which it is possible for a man to assume—the duty of fighting for your country, the duty of defending the great Empire handed down to you by your forefathers at the risk of your lives and persons. This is not an occasion for many words. I am not going to speak of your own gallant deeds, because I know you would not wish me to do so; but I will assure you that the work which you have done for the Empire is deeply appreciated by your King and by your brethren, not only here in Australia, but also in the dear old motherland from whose loins you have sprung. We believe that we have right on our side in this terrible quarrel in South Africa. While, therefore, we sincerely mourn the death of those of your number who have died in this quarrel, we cannot believe that God will allow their blood to have been shed in vain. We know that this blood has done much to cement the Empire. We pray, too, that when this war is over, a brighter and a better and a more peaceful condition of things may exist in South Africa than has existed in that distracted country for many years past. We believe that the great Empire, for whose sake your comrades have laid down their lives, is a great instrument in the hands of Providence for peace and Christianity. We believe that the flag, to keep which bright and unsullied, you and they have fought so gallantly is the emblem of freedom, progress and civilisation. This flag which now covers the memorial it is my duty to draw aside. It is a flag honoured and respected all over the world, a flag worth living for, a flag for which it is the highest honour to die." His Excellency then unveiled the tablet, the playing of "The Last Post" by a trumpeter completing the ceremony.

After the Bishop had pronounced the benediction, the whole congregation sang "God Save the King," and the service concluded.

On the military forces re-assembling

On the military forces re-assembling in St. George's Terrace, they were inspected by the Governor-General, who complimented Major Strickland and the men on the smartness of the turnout. Lieutenants Barnes and Chipper and Regimental-Sergeant-Major Woods were presented to Lord Hopetoun, who congratulated them on their safe return from South Africa.
