

THE ORPHEUS MEMORIAL TABLET.

The memorial tablet commemorative of the heroic manner in which the officers and men of H.M.S. Orpheus met their death when shipwrecked on the Manukau bar on the coast of New Zealand in the early part of last year, now lies, as announced in yesterday's *Mercury*, in the Mariners' Church on the wharf the edifice destined to be its future abiding place. It is a plain but very tastefully designed and most skilfully executed piece of art workmanship of upwards of four feet in height, and rather more than half that width at the base. The slab bearing the inscription is of white marble, slightly veined and surrounded by a black border of the same description of stone. The base rests upon two corbels of the material of which the tablet itself is composed, and on the summit stands in bas relief a novel trophy, representing a collection of flags, cannon, and cannon shot, felicitously grouped around an anchor, the emblem at once of hope, and of the pursuit in which the brave men whose fate the monument is intended to commemorate passed their lives and met their untimely deaths. The manner in which the entire design has been carried out by the sculptors is in the highest degree meritorious and especially so when taken in connection with the circumstances under which the work has been done. The funds in the hands of the committee at the period when the monument was ordered did not exceed some £70, and for this amount a piece of art workmanship, such as we are now speaking of could nowhere in the ordinary course of business have been procured, but when the object sought to be attained, and the pecuniary means available towards its realisation were communicated to Messrs. Huxley and Parker of Melbourne, these gentlemen at once entered into the spirit which prompted the origination of the project with a most generous and patriotic zeal, and undertook to do their utmost to produce a work worthy of the intentions of the subscribers, and the event which it was sought to commemorate. We need scarcely add after what we have stated that this promise has been most honorably fulfilled. As to the inscription it is just what the epitaph of brave men should be, a simple unpretending record of how the officers and men of the Orpheus died, their last utterances being the cheer of valor undismayed by mortal and hopeless peril, and the prayer for mercy hereafter, when the world had all but ceased to exist for those who joined in it. In the memories of all who can appreciate heroism in its noblest development, the officers and crew of the Orpheus possess that monument of which the Roman poet spoke as more durable than brass, but in the little tablet, which shall we trust for many a generation, remind the worshippers in the Mariners' Church of the fate of these gallant men, as an incentive to the preservation of constancy in the moments of danger, there will also exist for them a not unworthy, though humble memorial, to record their manly virtue when no tongue now living can proclaim it. The following is a copy of the inscription on the Tablet:—

* Sacred to the memory of Commodore W. F. Burnett R.N.C.B., Commander R. H. Burton, W. F. W. Mudge, A. Jekyll, lieutenants, W. D. Strong, master, C. B. Haslewood, chaplain, S. Stevens, chief engineer, E. E. Hill, 1st lieutenant R. M. A., J. Clarkson, assistant surgeon, W. H. P. M. Gillham, assistant paymaster and secretary, W. T. Taylor, acting second master, A. D. Johnstone, assistant paymaster, H. M. Ayley, clerk, A. R. Mallack, T. H. Broughton, C. H. Verner, midshipmen, J. T. Toner, master's assistant, J. H. Adams, engineer, J. H. Vickery, E. J. Miller, W. Adamson, C. T. Gossage, assistant engineers, and one hundred and sixty-seven petty officers, seamen and marines, who perished in the wreck of H. M. S. Orpheus, on Manukau bar, New Zealand, on the 7th day February, 1863. The inhabitants of Hobart Town have erected this tablet to commemorate the heroic

February, 1863. The inhabitants of Hobart Town have erected this tablet to commemorate the heroic conduct of all on board, who under the most appalling circumstances preserved the strictest discipline to the last moment of their lives, when, the ship breaking up, the crew gave three parting cheers, and the last words uttered by the gallant commodore were "The Lord have mercy on us all."

LECTURE IN THE BAPTIST CHAPEL.—A lecture will be delivered in the Baptist Chapel, Harrington-street, to-morrow evening, on the subject, "Justification, not as Dr. Williams, one of the Essayists and Reviewers, alleges, a fiction of merit by transfer." The services will commence at half-past six, and close at eight o'clock.

St. GEORGE'S ASSOCIATION.—The monthly meeting of members of the above association was held last evening at St. George's School-room, Battery Point. There was a numerous attendance, and a very interesting and amusing lecture was delivered by Mr. John McIntyre on "Some of our modern Humorists." The lecture was well received, and at its conclusion a vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer.

LECTURE AT THE THEATRE.—A lecture will be delivered at the Theatre Royal to-morrow afternoon, by the Rev. J. Wilkes Simmons, on "Nobodies and Somebodies." The lecture will commence at 8 o'clock.