

MEMORIAL SERVICES.

ST. PETER'S, EAST MAITLAND.

A special service in memoriam of Captain Malcolm J. Cotton was held in St. Peter's Church, East Maitland, at morning prayer 11 a.m. on Sunday morning. There was a very large congregation present, including the Mayor (Ald. W. M. Porter) and several of the aldermen. A contingent of local cadets attended, accompanied by members of the bugle band. Beautiful purple flowers were very tastefully arranged on the holy table, with ribbons of purple and green, the late captain's regimental colours, draped in front. A large cross of similar flowers was laid on the steps of the sanctuary and surrounded with the Union Jack. Appropriate hymns were sung most feelingly, and the beautiful church burial service was used in part with very solemn effect.

The rector, Ven. Archdeacon Tollis, officiated and preached the sermon, basing his discourse on 2nd Timothy, 2nd chapter, 3rd verse, "As a good soldier of Jesus Christ." The speaker pointed out that the object of the early Christians was to spread Christ's Gospel of peace and salvation. St. Paul presents to us the life of a Christian as a fight, which must be pursued to the end with determination and courage. He tells his young converts to stand fast, and quit themselves like men: "Fight the good fight," but to do all to the glory of God. Paul was acquainted with human nature, and knew there were bad soldiers in all ranks, and so he enjoins his people to "put on the whole armour of God." In no other way could a soldier win a fight worth the winning. A good soldier had to be self-denying and prepared to make a sacrifice. Such a fighter could stand as firm as a rock. Paul could say after a life of strenuous battle, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course." Military service appealed to the Christians of old with a force that did not appeal to everyone in these days. Service means work and push, and devotion to duty, and when good work was to be done it could only be done successfully by avoiding unnecessary waste, because waste meant loss of energy, and all energy used in a proper cause should be directed in its legitimate course. This could only be done by organisation. Our every ounce of gold and every pound of flesh, and every spark of spirit must be used, and that without delay, in fighting the demons of darkness and cruelty, which have let themselves loose on inoffensive people, whose right to live and be happy is as great as any Kaiser or monarch that ever lived. He appealed to the young men in this fair land of Australia to rise with the spirit and determination of a Paul, and, clothed with the armour of God, fight their good fight. They had met that day to honour the memory of one of their boys, Mac Cotton, as he was affectionately called by his many young comrades. They all knew him to be a good soldier, and a good son, and he had died as a hero. He fell in defence of right and liberty as against a determined and tyrannical foe. He was the son of a true Britisher, and had proved himself

brave and upright too. He was the son of a true Britisher, and had proved himself also entitled to the good name held by his patriotic father. If the speaker had six sons they should all go to do battle for England and her home of freedom if his word could do it. The man who shirked his plain duty and failed to go to his brother's aid was a coward. Such men may not have cold feet, but they have cold hearts. He pleaded with all to fight for God and the right, and God would surely say "Well done." To the sorrow-stricken parents they offered their sincerest sympathy, and he hoped and prayed that God would bless them, to meet their dear one again in a brighter and better world.

Miss Eva Tollis presided at the organ, and played the "Dead March" in "Saul" with much effect, while the congregation stood with bowed heads. The solemn service was brought to a close by the buglers playing "The Last Post."