

The Late Archdeacon Child.

UNVEILING OF MEMORIAL TABLET IN ST. LUKE'S.

SHORTLY after the death, in August last, of the Rev. Coles Child, B.A., who for 17 years was incumbent of this parish, a movement was instituted here for the purpose of perpetuating his memory by the erection of a memorial of some kind in the Church. The late archdeacon, as most of our readers are doubtless aware, was the second incumbent of this parish, and ministered to the spiritual wants of his flock here between the years 1853 and 1870. He moreover was married to a daughter of the first incumbent, the Rev. John Morse, who began his labors in the parish as far back as 1840, and whose memory is kept green by a tablet in the Church erected by its early parishioners. It will thus be seen how closely the late Archdeacon Child was associated with the pioneering work of the Church of England in this parish, and we might add, of the diocese. The movement for the erection of the memorial was initiated by Mr. N. F. Asser, whose association with the Church dates back to the earliest times. To him and to the old members of the Church, the decease of Coles Child served to revive memories of almost half a century back, since when the changes in colonial life have been many and vast, and Scone itself has sprung from a forest with a few scattered dwellings to a full-blown municipality. To those early members of the Church still amongst us the life and work of the deceased minister is of peculiar interest, and to those of the present generation it is scarcely less when we learn and reflect on the changed order of things, the vicissitudes, and the trying conditions under which the ministers in those early days carried on their noble, self-denying work.

At a meeting of the parishioners of St. Luke's, held shortly after the death of the deceased archdeacon, it was decided that a tablet should be raised to his memory. The tablet, of marble, has now been placed near the door at the front entrance, and just over the font. The words are:

To the Memory
of
THE REV. COLES CHILD, B.A.,
of
St. John's College, Cambridge.

of
St. John's College, Cambridge,
Incumbent of this Parish from 1853 to 1870,
and
Afterwards Canon of Christ Church
and
Archdeacon of Newcastle, in this Diocese.

This tablet is erected by the Parishioners and friends at Scone.

Entered into rest, 20th August, 1898.
Aged 51 years.

[The tablet was procured from Messrs. Patton Bros., Pitt-street, Sydney.]

The unveiling of the memorial took place last evening in connection with the organ recital given by Mr. A. Linley Scott, organist of St. Paul's, West Maitland, on the completion of the repairs and renovations of the organ. The Bishop had been invited to perform the ceremony, but was unable to be present: and the Ven. Archdeacon White, of Muswellbrook, was present in his stead. There was a very large congregation, the sitting accommodation of the Church being taxed to the utmost. A portion of the Evening Service was gone through, and hymns sung, after which the Archdeacon advanced opposite the covered tablet, and pulling a string, unveiled it in the orthodox manner. The Archdeacon next ascended the pulpit, and taking for his text, Heb. xii, 1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," delivered a short address on the life and work of him whose memory the tablet was sought to perpetuate. He prefaced his remarks by expressing the pleasure he felt on learning of the large attendances at the eight-days' mission that had just been brought to a close. He hoped that the words of advice of the eloquent and earnest minister who had just been speaking to them would sink deeply into their hearts, and be fruitful. Speaking on the present occasion, he would have preferred that this memorial should be one of use or ornament to the Church. The memorial, he said, was one of a good and faithful servant of God—one of the earliest, most self-denying, and earnest ministers of God they had ever had in this diocese. Of the early life, up to 32 years of age, of Coles Child they knew very little. He was, he believed, born in that great city of London, and in his school days was a fellow pupil of good Bishop Boodle.

mon, and in his school days was a fellow pupil of good Bishop Boodle, and it was a remarkable coincidence that the same men should afterwards have again become closely associated in Church work out here, and in the same diocese. He took his B.A. degree at St. John's College, Cambridge, and for a time followed mercantile pursuits. The training he there got characerised his after life. He was the most methodical of men, the most methodical he (the Archdeacon) ever met; and the information he possessed and his perfect knowledge of everything relating to the early history of the Church in this diocese had often been of great value. He was ordained a deacon in 1849, and a priest on Sept 22, 1850. For three and a half years, during 1849 and 1852, he ministered in the Clarence River district, where in those early days, when the means of travelling were very different to what they are now, he endured many perils by land as well as by water in carrying on the work of his Sacred Master. In 1852, he was appointed to the parish of Scone, when he ministered among

his flock for 17 years. They must not think Scone was the same then as they saw it now. There were no railways, nor macadamised roads to travel upon; and the parish then was of vast size, reaching as far as Murrarundi on the north, Merriwa on the west, and took in Roushel, Gundy, and all the Upper Hunter. These places had all to be reached with means of travelling vastly different to what they now enjoyed. The method of living was different then. There were no paddocks, as now, and the sheep were tended by shepherds. There were no churches at the Wybong, Thornthwaite, Bunnan, Gundy, and such remote places in those days, and the minister had to visit the shepherds' huts, find out his flock, and under the blue canopy of heaven, hold his services sometimes to congregations of two or three. They had no idea of the difficulties and laborious work of clergymen in those days. Yet he did not think there was a part of the parish even to the remotest, that was not visited by their departed friend, nor one to whom he was not personally known. In those days they had to

attend to the schools as well. They had a flourishing parochial school here, conducted by a faithful teacher, Mrs. Ledger, with her husband, and he had no doubt many of their scholars were present there that evening. Verily, they owed much to their faithful pastor. For ten years or more, he was his (Archdeacon White's) neighbor in the adjoining parish of Muswellbrook, and they often visited each other. He always looked back with feelings of pleasure upon that acquaintanceship so many years ago. In 1870, he was removed to Morpeth, to a higher position of administration, though not a more important one. There he became the trusted friend and counsellor of Bishop Tyrrell, and the adviser of Bishop Pearson. Bishop Pearson often remarked that he owed much to him for his wide and perfect knowledge of the affairs of the diocese. At Morpeth he remained for 16½ years. He became canon and afterwards archdeacon, and was administrator in 1879 till the installation of Bishop Pearson. In 1886, he retired, but was spared to live twelve years longer. Though feeble in body, he continued active in mind, and till his dying day manifested a warm interest in the work of the Church, and his old parish. He continued their adviser on all matters relating to the early history of the Church in this diocese. If they required any information, they had need only to refer to him, when they would find he had it all noted in a book. He had now been called to a higher sphere, and there were several lessons that might be learnt from his life. Two of these were his truthfulness, and his unflinching courage. If that memorial led them to those two things, then it would not have been unveiled in vain. He could not conclude better than by quoting the last words of their Bishop at the grave. Taking as the basis of his remarks the words, "Stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord," he said, "those words well described the character and conduct of their dear brother departed. He had gone to his rest just before attaining the jubilee of his ministry, for he was ordained deacon in 1849; he had remained in the diocese, working for it and in it till failing health obliged him to retire; and during the whole time, whether at Grafton, or at Scone, or at Morpeth, he was the same tender-hearted, self-

he was the same tender-hearted, self-denying, painstaking and earnest Christian minister. And when in due time he was called to discharge higher functions than those of a parish clergyman, he bore himself with the dignity and self-reliance which were in his nature, proved himself a genuine ruler of men, and capable as well for the higher as for the lower offices which he filled. 'Stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord'—that was Coles Child."

Two hymns were sung by the congregation, and Mr. Scott played effectively several sacred pieces on the "king of instruments." Miss Moore sang beautifully the words, "Consider the Lillies," and Mr. Boulton, organist of St. Paul's Murrumbidgee, sang "It is Enough," and "Calvary," in good voice. Thus concluded, what with the mission, the unveiling of the tablet, and the organ recital, a busy week at St. Luke's.