

## HONOR ROLL.

### HERBERTON PRESBYTERIANS.

#### UNVEILING CEREMONY.

On Tuesday evening, 1st inst., a very interesting, beautiful, and impressive ceremony was carried through in the Herberton Presbyterian Church, the occasion being the unveiling of the honor roll. The necessary funds were raised and the honor tablet purchased, as also all arrangements for the unveiling well in hand, before the Rev. J. A. Sinclair left the charge. The great shipping strike, however, intervened, with the result that the tablet was very much delayed. Before Mr. Sinclair closed his ministry there, the church management committee requested him to return for the unveiling at some later date, which he willingly promised to do. Owing to his absence in Brisbane, however, the visit had to be postponed a little longer.

Tuesday evening of last week saw the promise carried through before an appreciative and well attended congregation. The Rev. Wm. McLaren, of Atherton, who meantime supplies Herberton pulpit owing to the vacancy, conducted service and preached a most appropriate sermon on "Sacrifice," based on the words, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." The choir rendered two sacred pieces at intervals entitled, "Beckoning Hands," and "When the Roll is Called."

A hymn followed the sermon, after which Mr. Sinclair proceeded with the unveiling ceremony. In the course of his remarks he said, "It is with mingled feelings one stands now before you, for one cannot but remember the four years of service spent in your midst. My going out and in amongst you was a pleasure and a privilege, and as I stand now facing you there are many pleasant memories and recollections. The fruit of that work, eternity alone will reveal. Although the largest part of those years were years of war, yet in every way the church had flourished and become prosperous, thanks to the hearty co-operation of the members. When I began my work amongst you the church was depleted of its young men, for the majority had gone on active service, and I was pleased it was so. Herberton Presbyterians had done nobly in every branch of war work. To any appeal made, there was always a liberal response, and you had continually manifested a keen interest in your brave boys.

The number of names on the honor roll speaks for itself; it is certainly highly creditable and reveals how willingly and bravely the lads went forward to suffer and to do. We met on many occasions during the four years to honor and to remember them, but we meet now in a very special way to do so. They did not ask for any memorial, yet they deserved it; they had not sought for

honor, yet surely they have won it. In performing such a ceremony we are only obeying the Scriptural injunction, "Render therefore to all their due, honor to whom honor is due." This tablet will ever serve to keep their memories fresh and green and will ever remind you of the great part they took in the war and of the victory gained.

Does it, however, require such as

this to remind us of them and their heroism? In one sense, and in a great sense, certainly not, for is there not one tangible memorial to them and their achievements? We still live in a free country. Ours is still a great liberty; we still glory in those things we hold nearest and dearest in life, and are not crushed under the heel of a cruel despotism, or the iron rule of militarism, and these ought to be everlasting memorials. Yet on the other hand we soon forget, but this honor roll will ever remind you, as you gather for worship, of the glorious living and the heroic dead, and of what they, under God, achieved, and the tablet presently to be unveiled is in every respect a worthy memorial. May we, may Australia, may all the Allied countries prove indeed worthy of their accomplishments, and of the sacrifice of those "who loved not their lives, even unto death."

For some of you now present this is a sad occasion, a sorrowful ceremony, for your loved ones who went out from you have not, and will not, return. The wound, somewhat closed perhaps, is being opened out afresh to-night. Yet let us rejoice as we think of why they went out, and of how they fell. "For how can men die better than facing fearful odds, for the ashes of their fathers, for the temples of their Gods."

As Mr. Sinclair let the flags fall which hid the tablet from view, he said: "To the glory of God and in honor of the men who voluntarily went forth at the country's call during the years of the great war 1914-1918, do I now unveil this honor roll." Immediately afterwards the names were read out, commencing with those who laid down their lives, of whom there are six.

Prayer was offered and a closing hymn sung, followed by the Benediction and National Anthem. Then the congregation gathered around to inspect the tablet, which had only been fixed into position that afternoon. It occupies a beautiful and central position in the lovely piece of architecture which adorns the pulpit background, while the tablet itself is a magnificent bit of workmanship. The lettering is done in gold, the tablet being of white Italian marble on a black marble background, and weighs upwards of 3 cwts.