THE STATUE OF SIR WILLIAM WALLACE.

UNVEILING CEREMONY.

Yesterday the trustees of the late Mr J Russell Thomson formally handed over to the citizens of Ballarat their trust as regards the bequest to the city This was truly

i grand one, and one that will justly perpetuite the memory of the heial donor and those who so ably carried out his wishes—Mes«rs J. Noble Wil son, H A Nevett, and Ihoinas Stodnart Hie lastmentioned gentleman's name is already perpetuated by a gift of statuary to the citizens Had Mr Thomson's beque-t consisted of only the Flight from Pompeii it would have a worthy one, but the foui single figures of Ruth, Rebecca, Susannah, and Modesty, inateri vily enh meed the v due of the gift, both artistically and intrinsically. W hen to these is added the in igmCeent statue of Sir Willnm Wall ice, that was un veiled vesterdvy, the whole comprises a collection of worbs of art such as is very seldom donated by any living man, or willed to any corporation. The statue of Sir Willon Wall ice, that was un veiled vesterdvy, the whole comprises a collection of worbs of art such as is very seldom donated by any living man, or willed to any corporation. 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His powerful figure is clad in a close fitting suit of chain armor, vv Inch well displays the inuscul ir development of the armor Both hands are grasping a representation of the immense sword th it in Wallace's hands wrought such havoc amongst his foes Over the figure is a light sur co vt, with lion of Scotland emblazoned on the bieast, and on the head is a simple morion, so that the features are not hidden by a vizor. These aremost expressive, representing a stern resolve to do or die, not nilmixed by anxiety, and full of vigilance and observation. The pose is uataial and effective, and the tout ensemble is pleasing to the eye The statue is one of which any sculptor might be proud, and will add no little to Mr Ball's already high reputation. It was arranged that the ceremony should have been performed by Mr Dugald Macpherson, president of the Me'bonrue C iledoman S-iCiety At the last moment, however, he was prevented from coming A special train from Melbourne, however, brought over a hundred visitors connected with the Caledonian Societies there amongst others the follow lug.—Mr D R M'Gregor (past Messrs John M'Donald and C. S Paterson (members of the Council), Robert F Gow (secretary), J vs. Lambie, Robt Mailler, J S Jenkins, Win. Harper, John Munro, Hugh C Gillies, Peter Mai tin, John Robertson, Ihos Napier, D M Ross, John Andiew, Win. Gow, M. Glassford, and Jas B Meiklejohn, membets of the Melbourne Caledonian Society; and Mr R Shirra, president of the communi na Feinne, Geelong, These gentlemen were met at the Western railway station by Mr Thos. Stoddart and at once proceeded to the gardens on tranicars and lit cabs by the Maevrthur street loutc On arrival there Mr Nevett met the paity and-escorted them to the enclosure round the statue About 20 of the party weie in Highland costume, among the tartans represented being the Ross, Lindsay, Gordon, Stuart, M'Keuzie, and Macbay They were headed by the Militia, who, uudei Lieut Col. Greenfield, mustered strongly, ihe Militia band was also in attendance, and during the period of waiting that pre ceded the commencement of the ceremony play cd a number of selections of music, to the evident satisfaction of the ceremony play cd a number of ladies, and the Hon fly Cuthhert, Minister of Justice; Messrs J. Russell, J W Kirtou, and M Butterly, M's LA; the mayors of the City aud Town; Arch deicon Julius, Messrs T. U Wanhss, T Bith, and J. Munay Over the statue floated a banner on which was emblazoned I the red lion of Scotland I The proceedings opened by Mr H A, Nevett giving an account of his stewardship He said the trustees of the Russell Thomson bequest wished to avail themselves of this oppoitumty to render to the citisens of Ba'-larat a short account of their tiust. The late Mr Russell Thomson by Ins will had directed his co trustee (Mr J Noble Wilson) and himself, after paying certnn legacies, to expend the residue in purchasing statuary for the gardens, aud for that purpose as acciated Mr Thomas Stoddart with them They hid expended m this way £3700 - an [imouut far larger than they at first thought they would have at their disposal. This was ow mg to the careful management and judicious realisation of the bequest, for which they gave £1500, and he thought it well vvortli the money, and that the citizens should be proud of hnv mg it. They then decided that they could not better do honor to their old fi lend than by electing a stytue of Vi allace, the hero of Ins country They were fortu nate enough to meet Mr Percivil Bill, a sculptor, formerly of London but now of Melb mrne, and to him they entrusted the vvoik It was Dow complete, and hid cost £1000, when it was unveiled they would be able to say whethei it was worth the money When Mr Summers came from Rome he offered them some statues; some of these they approved of, but not all. They purchased four that were now to be seen in the pavilion—Susannah, Rebecca, Ruth, and veiled Modesty. For these £2500 had been paid The citizens had seen them, and could judge whether they were wise puichases. That expended tin ir fund" except a few pounds with which they intended to put a brass tablet in the pivihon, on which would be for them to say whether the trust had been well cyrnedout. (Cheeis] The Hon J Nimmo then pulled a string, and the drapery fell from the stitue of Sir William Wallace, revealing the figure in all its beauty Loud cheeis were given, and the bind played "Scots Win Hue" Mr Nimmo then addressed the assemblage as follows — "Mr Mayor, Mr Wilson, ladico and gentlemen,—1 feel very grateful to the people of Ballarat for having invited me to be present at the interesting ceremony of unveiling v splendid statue encted for them in honor of Scotland's noblest sou and greatest bene r actor. I feel, however, at the same time that it would be impossible fot me to find language that would adtquately express the m igntude and value of the dwmteitsted sen ices reudtied by Sir William Wallace to his native country when he 'dared to nobly d.e.' lu the sacred oaus of Scottish I freedom (Cheers) The gi indiui of his 1 moral nature, his rtisint<-i e-- cd md spotless chancier as a man, Ins inti pul valoi is a soldier, his wisdom in the counsels of his ha*iou, Ins skill and the mountain and the 11 od '(H ir, hear) At this distant penod of time wc cm form a very impel feet estimate of the dang rs Sir William W illace had to encounter, md the had to contend with one of the most powerful inon irehs in Europe, Edward the Ist of England, who though he was a biave soldier and an astute politician, he was at the same time a most aggressive and unscrupulous k.ng lu the next place Wallace hid to contend with a maji nty of the scions of the fame which his aidour as a pitnot aud provess on the battlefield had evoked from the breast of the nation. The disastrous consequences of that jealousy was made ap parent at the Battle of F ilkirk On that ooca sion, but for the treachery of these scions of nobility Scotland would have won the day, F ilkirk would have been a glorious repeti tion of the Battle of Stirling Bridge. (Cheers.) But although Edward was sue

cessful on that field, big. eye as an experienced andskilful general was not blind to the spirit evinced by the Scottish troop's and the never would be able to establish his authority permanently in Scotland as long as Sir William Wallace was alive, but he saw more, he saw the divisions in the Scottish ranks occasioned by the jealousy of her nobles, and he resolved to utilise that jealousy in fuithenug his own unjust and ambitious designs; ha teso'ved to bribe those nobles to aid him in securing the capture and by that base act be left a blot on the escutcheon of Scot lard that never mil be erased, and the re fined cruelty of King Edward when through treachey and villany he had Wallace secure in his power has left a foul blot on that monarch's character that tune will never obliterate Edward fondly imagined that the cause of Scottish freedom would die with the death of Scotland's noblest hero Edward did not know human nature—at any rate he was evidently ignorant of one grand characteristic of that uatuic which is truth fully described by one of England's greatest poets twhere he svys They never fall vylio die In a great cause, the lock may soak their gore. Their heads may sodden in the sun, their limbs Be strung to city gates and castle walls—But still their spiut walks abroad though years h lapse, and others share as dark a doom, They but augment the deep and sweeping thoughts Which ov erpow er all others and conduct The world at last to freedom (Cheers) The freedom (Cheers) The freedom enjoyed by at the piescut hour is directly traceable t° the patriotic efforts of Sir William Wallao 600 years ago; and his name, shrouded in * halo of honor and glory, his come down through that long vista of years, until here this day in the noble City of Ballarat I see before me thousands of her public spirited and high minded citizens met to do honor to the memory of that hrav e man who sti uggled, fought, suffered, and died as a patriot in irtyr in the cause of national liberty (Cheers) 1 am pioud to see amongst the audience Englishmen and Irishmen mingling with Scotchmen I have long been of opinion that Edward I was not a tme English man, and I am sure he did not repre sent the English that they are as a body high souled and honorable men, (Cheers) I am sare they were misled by Edward, and many of the hrav est men and women in London, we can be did not represent the English that they are as a body high souled and honorable men, (Cheers) I am sare they were misled by Edward, and many of the hrav est men and women in London, we can be did not represent the English that they are as a body high souled and honorable men, (Cheers) I am sare they were misled by Edward, and many of the hrav est men and women in London, we hen Wallace vv is diagged at the heels of horses to the sc vffold, shed honest tears of pity and indignation, and implored the king to have man and spare a brave man and spare a brave man and spare a brave man whose only fault was that he had fought for the heels of horses to the sc vffold, shed honest tears of pity and indignation, and implored the king to have man and and and a regards fair and honorable dealings between man and and a regards fair and honorable dealings between man and and a regards fair and honorable dealings between man and a regards fair and honorable dealings man, and for hiavery and generosity I thank God that England and Scotland have shaken hands, and fnr many years have united in fighting for the tight little island side by side (Cheers) Ipi ay that this state of things may long continue, and that the noble and glorious Queen who now reigns over us may long continue to do so (Renewed cheers). The Irish, too, lam pleased to see here They are a brave and noble race - a little impulsive, perhaps, but amongst them I have found as much geuume manliness and leal good feeling as I have amongst the Scotch. (Cheers) It is a cold day, and Ido not intend to keep you here long But I cannot deny myself the pleasure of repeating a stanza from the Bard of Scotland (Laughter.) I cannot conclude my remaiks better on this contagion weak and vile. Then, howe'er crowns aid coronets be rent, A virtuous populace may rise the while, And stand a wall of fire around their much leved isle. O Thou who poured the patriotic tide That streamed thro' Wall >ce s und muted heart. Who nobly dared to stem tyrannic pride Or nobly die—the second glorious part, Tho patriot's God peculiarly Ihou art. His f lend nispirer, guardian, and reward, Onever, never Scotia's realm desert. But still the patriot and the patriot bard In bnght succession raise, her ornament and guard "Mr J Noble Wilson expressed Ins regret, which he was sure would be shared, by many, that the old chief of the Ballarat Caledonian Society—Mr Dugald Maepherson — was not present to take pait in the cere many He then asked the mayor of the city (Cr M'Donald) to relieve the tiustees of the late Mr J Russell lliomsou of then trust, and take over, on behalf of the citizens of Balia rat, for the veiy handsome present He was sure everyone would feel proud of such a statue To speak of public gardens vv ith out stituary was in his opinion a misnomer. Owing to the bequest of the noble minded and liberal hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell 'lhomson, and their hearted man, the late Mr Russell' 'lhomson, and thearted man, the late Mr Russell' 'lhomson, and thearted man, the late Mr Russell' 'lhom men iu Ballarat, who, if they were asked, or even unasked, would supply more. He thanked the citizens for their attend nice and the good order they had can led out then trust. Iliey had now statuary in Ballarat that was not second to any in the southern clime Many visitors had compli mented Ballaiat on her attiactive gardens, hut more particularly on the statue was an after thought of the trustees — it was a statue of a man the like of whom would be seldom, if ever, seen again The mayor then, amidst cheering, introduced to the assemblage Mr Percival Ball, the sculptor from whose chisel this noble statue was turned out The first time he (the mayor) entered Mr Bill's studio in Collins street he was struck with the expression of the features of the statue, which he hoped would long stand in the garden®, and was obliged to the trustees forgiving him the opportunity ot chiselling it, md thus enabling him to produce the most impirtant work iu marble that heio He trustees and T D. Wauliss—for their kindness and assistance in trying to make the statue a true representation of the Scottish heio He trusteed with them. it would long ic mama monument to the munificent donor. (Cheeis) Mr Nimmo called for three cheers for Ins Wot ship the Mayor, the trustees, and the irtist He said he had never seen the pio duction of any work of art that had given him such pleasure is the one before him It was a complete embodiment of what he h id concluded Ins great countryman was He was a magnificent man. physically, mentally, and morally It seemed as though the artist must have lovingly studied his char icter The cheers called for having been lustily eiven, the hind played "Lod saie the Qiuen," and the asa»mbldge dispersed after singing i verse of "Auld Lang Sync"