

CROWTHER MEMORIAL STATUE. (1889, January 10). *Launceston Examiner (Tas. : 1842 - 1899)*, p. 2. <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article38341957>

CROWTHER MEMORIAL STATUE.
(BY ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.)
HOBART, JAN. 9.

The ceremony of unveiling the statue of the late hon. W. L. Crowther took place this afternoon at Franklin Square. There was a very large assemblage of the public in the square and Macquarie-street. On a small extemporised platform were the hon. the Premier, members of committee, the hon. T. Reibey, W. Moore, B. S. Bird, A. I. Clark, A. T. Pillinger, G. P. Fitzgerald, H. I. Rooke, M's L.C.; Messrs. H. E. Lette and H. Conway, and several other members of both Houses of the Legislature.

The Rev. J. W. Simmons, chairman of committee, read the report and statement of accounts. The former showed that after arrangements had been completed for procuring a statue the execution of the order was entrusted to Messrs. Gilbert M'Call and Co., London, who instructed Signor Racci to carry out the work. The statue was landed in Hobart in January, 1887, and is stated to be in the artist's best style.

Mr. T. A. Reynolds, a member of the committee, was requested to erect the pedestal— a service faithfully performed, rather as a labour of love than a matter of business. It is simply an act of common justice to record the kindness of Messrs. Gilbert M'Call and Co. in shipping the statue free of freight and commission ; and the warmest thanks of the committee are due to Mr. J. Hamilton, the hon. treasurer, and to Mr. H. W. Bayley, the hon. secretary, upon whom the burden of the work has rested, and whose untiring energy has brought to a successful issue the event of to-day.

This memorial may remind future generations that even monuments may perish, but deeds— good or bad—never die.

The receipts and expenditure from April 20, 1885, to January 9, 1889, are as follow : —
Receipts— Public subscriptions, £703 3s 6d ; interest, £65 12s 6d ; total, £768 15s.
Expenditure— Statue and erection, etc., £729 5s 8d ; sundry expenses, £39 9s 4d ; total, £768 15s.

The hon. P. O. Fysh then addressed the assemblage, and said he was present to discharge a most pleasing duty, vze., unveiling the statue of an old, well, loved true friend, and whose name was a household word with the citizens. The bunting that covered the figure was then drawn aside, and as the crowd caught sight of the face and form a spontaneous cheer of gratification and recognition arose.

Mr. Fysh, continuing, said all were indebted to the sculpture artist for producing so faithful a likeness. The man whose memory they had to-day met to perpetuate was associated with men who had passed away, but whose memory lived on, such as Sir Richard Dry, T. D. Chapman T. G. Gregson, Sir J. M. Wilson,, Chas. Meredith, and latest of all, Judge Giblin, men who had left their mark in the history of the colony and the time. It was not by their mortal parts of flesh and failure that men were to be judged, but by those which were immortal—their good deeds, kind words, and sympathetic thoughts and actions.

All civilised nations delighted to render honour to whom honour was due. In some countries abbeys, columns, and halls were erected to perpetuate the names of men who had wrought nobly for their fellows, and in this colony by building a Giblin Memorial Hall, then erecting a fountain here, and now a statue, we were preserving and handing down to posterity memories of those whose deeds lived deep in the hearts of our people.

In commemorating the qualities of Dr. Crowther they furnished a lesson by which parents could instruct their children. Pointing to this statue as a memorial of so much that was

admirable, bodying forth a man of indomitable energy and courage, who was thorough in all his actions, whose philanthropy was broad, who devoted himself to the poor, the suffering, and the sorrowful, who found his happiness in doing the most good, and who did the most good when he did it not for money or reward.

He was not a perfect man, but he strove after what he believed right, and his time was constantly being spent in doing good. One lesson was taught to everyone present, and that was in the words, " Go thou and do likewise."

At the conclusion of his very eloquent and apposite oration, Mr. Fysh called for three cheers for the memory of the grand old doctor, which the crowd gave with great enthusiasm.

The first verse of the National Anthem was then sung by the assembled concourse, and three cheers having been given for the Premier, the proceedings terminated.

The statue, which stands on a pedestal about 7ft high of Tasmanian freestone, which is in the rough except that side of it which contains the gold lettered inscription, is entirely of bronze and 8ft 6in in height. It is undeniably a most striking likeness of the deceased and is regarded by his relations and all who knew him as an excellent representation. The attitude is easy and natural and is said to be one frequently assumed by the departed statesman.

The monument stands at the corner of Franklin Square near Macquarie street and the Government Buildings, the aspect being towards Mount Wellington.

The inscription is as follows :—" Erected by a grateful public and sincere personal friends to perpetuate the memory of long and zealous political and professional services rendered in this colony by William Lodewyk Crowther, F.R.C.S., England, sometime Premier of Tasmania. Born 15th April, 1817, died 12th April, 1885."

15th of 56 premiers
20 Dec 1878 - 29 Oct 1879
10 months