



BORDEN'S TRIBUTE TO DEAD HEROES.

Parishioners of Borden on Saturday afternoon paid homage to the memory of their young men who died for their country in the Great War, by taking part in the dedication of a cross that has been erected in the village churchyard in honour of the glorious dead. The memorial is of Portland stone, the column being surmounted by a Gothic cross. Around the base are engraven the names of the dead heroes, 19 in number. The memorial is surrounded by a low chain fence, and it has been set up close to the south porch, in full view of the main approach to the church. The memorial is of simple but effective character, and it was designed by Mr. Marshall Harvey, of Sittingbourne, the contract having been executed by Messrs. Millen and Chrisfield, Sittingbourne.

On Saturday the base of the memorial was draped with the Union Jack, and a chaplet of bay leaves was suspended about halfway down the column, placed there by the Memorial Committee.

A solemn dedication service took place on Saturday afternoon, when there was a large gathering of parishioners, among whom were the bereaved relatives. Here and there a khaki or a blue uniform told that some of Borden's sons still serving had attended to pay their last tribute of respect to their fallen comrades. The Parish Church was crowded to the doors, but the seating arrangements were admirably carried out by the Churchwardens (Messrs. A. E. Tidy and A. Hinge) and sidesmen. As the congregation were assembling, Miss Saywell, the organist, played appropriate music. Parish Councillors and Special Constables were present in force, and outside the flag flew at half-mast from the church tower.

The service was conducted by the Vicar, the Rev. C. B. G. Barrett. The hymn, "When I survey the wondrous Cross," was sung, followed by the singing of the 23rd Psalm, "The Lord is my shepherd: therefore can I lack nothing." The Lesson was taken from St. John xv. 13-21, and was read by the Rev. A. Sidwell Johnson, the junior Wesleyan Minister, Sittingbourne, who was taking part in the service.

The Vicar then said: Dearly beloved, whereas this Cross which is now to be blessed and dedicated to God, is set for a memorial of those who have died gloriously for their country, let us commend their souls to the mercy of God; and therefore I bid you have in special remembrance those whose names are graven on these stones:—

Sydney John Bentley
 Granville Dabson Flack
 Charley Wilfred Fuggla
 Sidney Honeysett
 Alfred Honeysett
 George Henry Jordan
 Edwin Thomas May
 George Daniel Mills
 Frank Norrington
 Charles Norrington
 George Percival
 Thomas Frederick Seager
 Horace Arthur Sellen
 Ernest Albert William Smith
 Alfred Steers
 Albert Edward Steers
 Hubert Mark Tyman
 Osbourne Ethelbert Winch
 Frank Young

The names were read in tense silence, with the congregation upstanding. Prayers followed and all joined in singing the hymn, "Jesus, pour Thy mercy On the souls of those Who, in faith gone from us, Now in death repose."

After the singing of this hymn the choir and congregation quietly walked out into the churchyard, and arranged themselves around the memorial.

Here Colonel J. P. Honeyhall, v.d., J.P., ascended a dwarf platform and gave a short but eloquent address. In impressive tones the Colonel said:—

We are met on an occasion of great solemnity; namely, to do honour to those of this parish, who for their King and Country, and therefore for us present here, fought and died. No memorial which can be raised can at all adequately express the sense of gratitude and admiration we, who are to-day reaping the benefits of their sacrifice, feel for our fallen heroes; yet in almost every parish in the land there has been the desire to raise some permanent evidence of gratitude, and that generations to come, by it, may be reminded of what they also owe to our heroes of to-day, and thus be themselves inspired to noble lives and deeds. So I hold you have done well to raise this monument, and also have chosen well in erecting a cross—emblem of sacrifice, of that perfect sacrifice offered on Calvary. These men sacrificed all for Country, for us. Let us remember also that not only those who fell have claim for our gratitude and regard; for besides the nineteen of this parish who nobly died, scores of other Borden men went through untold hardships on land and sea; them also we would not forget; and how, too, the women folk of the land rose to the mighty occasion, and in hospitals at home and abroad succoured the wounded and the sick, even to the sacrifice of life itself, as in the case of Nurse Owell, and in countless ways nobly aided against the foe. Borden women were not behind in such work. To all who died we raise this monument, and all who served we hold in honour in our hearts.

The Vicar then offered the dedicatory prayer, as follows:—"In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost we humbly offer this Cross to the Glory of Almighty God, and in sacred memory of the men from this parish, who at the call of duty and in defence of our homes went valiantly forth in the service of their King and Country and nobly laid down their lives in the faith and fear of God. Amen."

This was followed by a prayer, and the Rev. A. Sidwell Johnson offered special prayers, one of which ran:—"May this Cross, O Saviour, bear witness to all who pass by, declaring the protection of Thy strong right hand, uplifting the appeal of Thine outstretched arms, recalling to us our promise to fight under this banner and inspiring us to deny ourselves and to take up our Cross and follow Thee; that we too may be found faithful even unto death. Amen."

At the conclusion of the devotional service the hymn, "On the Resurrection morning," was sung, and the Benediction was pronounced by the Vicar.

Then four buglers from the Royal Marines (Chatham), who were standing on one side of the memorial, sounded the "Last Post" most effectively. The bugle notes rang out in the clear, cold air, and died away into silence, and many of the mourners were overcome by emotion at the impressiveness of the occasion.

Relatives who mourned a son or a brother reverently laid floral offerings around the base of the memorial, and a chaplet of bay (the guerdon of the victor) mingled amongst the white chrysanthemums.

Borden bells, half-muffled, rang out a solemn tone