

to an open Bible, were called in to aid the work of devotion. The name of Isaac Watts is musical with the tones of the tens of thousands who have trod the heavenly road singing the "Psalms and Hymns, and Spiritual Songs" which God enabled him to write for the benefit and blessing of his Church to all time. And now, at this long interval, one hundred and twenty-three years after his death, a period which the writings of one man out of a hundred do not survive, the admiration and love for Watts has culminated in a noble statue to his memory, which his native city has done itself the honor to erect in its public park. Churchmen and Dissenters joined together and vied with each other, in celebrating the service rendered to the Christian Church by a nonconformist Minister; the old lines of demarcation had faded out, and christian men looking back upon the great poet of the Sanctuary could see only the Christian man. The Earl of Shaftesbury accepted the invitation to inaugurate the Statue, and the whole ceremony appears to have been interesting and imposing. The *Hampshire Independent* says—

It was meet and proper that such a benefactor of his race should have a statue in this his native town, and there was an additional appropriateness in having the good and benevolent Earl of Shaftesbury to take the chief part in the inaugural ceremony. No man could have been more in his proper place than he was in Wednesday's proceedings. We congratulate our fellow-townsmen, of all classes, from our worthy and esteemed Mayor downwards, on the signal success which attended the inauguration of this noble work, and for their hearty co-operation in carrying out all the details. It was a most gratifying event to see men of various opinions in religion and politics uniting cordially together to celebrate the services rendered to the world by a Nonconformist minister, and we chronicle the fact with more than ordinary pleasure. The speeches were all to the purpose, and the interesting festivities at the Mayor's residence at Woolston will long be remembered. Of the Committee we need only say that they have every reason to feel proud of their labours. They have, by the aid of a generous public and the sculptor's genius, erected a monument worthy of the man and the town, and we trust it may remain undimmed from age to age, a perpetual proof that the works of the great, the wise, and the good shall be held in everlasting remembrance.

The statue thus inaugurated has been erected in the western public park, and forms a beautiful ornament to that picturesque part of the town. The whole monument is rather over 19ft. high, and is of the finest white Silician marble. There are three basso-relievos, also in Silician marble, on three sides of the shaft of the pedestal. The pedestal itself is of the finest polished grey Aberdeen granite, and has been executed by Messrs. Macdonald & Co., of Aberdeen. The statue and basso-relievos are by Mr. R. C. Lucas, an artist residing at Chilworth, a few miles from the town. The statue is an expressive likeness of Dr. Watts, obtained from the most authentic sources, and represents him in the attitude of a preacher of the Gospel proclaiming its divine truths. The monument is erected at a total cost of about 850*l.*, raised by voluntary contributions from the inhabitants of Southampton and other parts of the kingdom.

The following is the inscription on the Statue :—

A.D. 1861

Erected by voluntary contributions,
IN MEMORY OF ISAAC WATTS, D.D.,
A Native of Southampton.
Born 1647 ; Died 1748.

An example of the talents of a large and liberal mind
wholly devoted to the promotion of Piety, Virtue, and Literature.