

thereby made to our knowledge of the interior; and having disposed of the historical portion of his subject, the lecturer proceeded to refer to the fluctuating fortunes of the Northern Territory, and the object of the recent Ministerial trip to ascertain the real resources of the country and the direction in which commercial enterprise might succeed best. In closing, he said the Northern Territory stood pre-eminent amongst the colonies of Australia as a field for geological, natural history, and botanical research; and in his next lecture he proposed to deal in detail with those matters. The physical, botanical, and geological characteristics of a country were in correspondence with its geographical position, and a knowledge of these was necessary in order that a proper idea might be formed of its capabilities and the future development of its resources. He need hardly say that the richness of a soil did not ensure a good crop any more than abundance of grass produced a good crop of wool; there must be other conditions. One of the most striking features about the Northern Territory was the sandstone tableland. This improved near the sea, but was connected in character with the great sand desert in the interior, and it was only because of its proximity to the sea that there were redeeming features in it near the coast. That tableland had been explored from various points, and some valuable knowledge of its nature gained. The character of the tableland modified certain phenomena somewhat abnormal for a tropical country. If there were a mountain range in place of it the conditions would be, of course, different. It was because of the sandstone tableland that the climate of Arnheim's Land was somewhat exceptional. It was because of that also that the mineral wealth was restricted to a limited area. This ended the first lecture, and Professor Tate took the opportunity of expressing his thanks to the Minister in charge of Northern Territory affairs for choosing him to accompany the expedition, and his gratitude also to the Council of the University for granting him the necessary permission to undertake the trip. In reference to his lectures, he said he would not invite discussion, but would be happy to impart information if questions were asked where explanation was deemed necessary. Hearty applause greeted the lecturer at the close of his discourse.

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A WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE.

The movement in favour of the establishment of a Working Men's College in Melbourne is already in a fair way of achieving success, as Mr. Ormond's generous offer of £5,000 towards the institution has, as was announced at the enthusiastic meeting held on Monday night at the Town Hall, been supplemented by contributions amounting to £1,700. The new College will most probably have an income of about £1,000 a year; and as the teaching imparted will all be given in the evening, and specialists of ability will easily be induced to devote an hour or two at night to the work of the College for a comparatively small remuneration, it is likely that a very good teaching staff will be brought together. There will be no lack of earnest students to fill the new institution if only moderate care be taken to prevent its becoming in any way fossilized. The working man is very jealous of any interference with the free workings of his own bent of mind. He likes to have the shaping of his own institutions, and, as

Judge Higginbotham remarks, he resents any appearance of authority in what should be left entirely to his own free will. There are many working men whose reading even without the aid of any evening college is most extensive. They have followed the stream of history at various portions of its course; they have dived into the mysteries of chemistry and electricity, and endeavoured to grasp the generalizations of mathematics. Yet in most cases they are unable, for want of sympathetic assistance, to connect together their scraps of knowledge in such a manner as to give them coherence, and to correct by one piece of information the prejudices or misconceptions which have been generated by another. It often happens that when two such explorers in the realms of knowledge come together they give to one another a new insight into the meaning of various portions of their studies, by discussing and elucidating knotty points and mutually imparting information. It is on somewhat the same principle that a Working Men's College should be organized. It should not be a place for working men to be lectured at. It should be a school in which their studies will be directed, and their self-suggested enquiries carefully answered. The ordinary conception of a working man's lecture is as far from the correct one as it could well be. Classes for artisans should not be conducted with any other idea than that of directing their reading and correcting any misconceptions which they may form. If a lecturer merely announces that he will discourse on some wide subject, and his hearers come unprepared by careful reading on the particular points which he is about to elucidate, he only gives them the most hazy and indefinite ideas on what he is talking about.

A Working Men's College is not necessarily to be defined as an institution exclusively devoted to the improvement of persons engaged in manual labour. The name merely implies that its classes will all be conducted in the evening, so as to give an opportunity to those who are engaged during the day to attend the lectures. It is impossible to say at any given time how many there may be in a city, such as Melbourne or Adelaide, who are anxious to improve their evenings by devoting them to reading and study, but it is probable that if the experiment of bringing them together by some means or other were fairly tried the number would be very considerable—probably larger in Australia in proportion to the number of the population than it would be in Great Britain. The main point, however, is to