

Register 14<sup>th</sup> April 1882

THE CHANCELLORSHIP OF THE  
UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—It has seemed to me very anomalous that the Chanchellorship of the University should be held by an absentee—one who has said his final good-bye to South Australia, viz., Bishop Short. My wonder respecting the wherefore of this is, I find, shared by others. Have we no men of sufficient social or literary distinction to be advanced to this eminence? Or is it the intention of the Senate to pass the office on in perpetuity to the head of the Anglican Church? For my own part I deem it undesirable that any cleric should hold this post. I believe this colony is singular in having placed one in such a position, and it is to be hoped that such a mistake (for such I deem it to have been) will not be repeated, or if repeated, then let the honour be conferred upon representatives of other communions in turn. The whole matter of this Chancellorship, looked at from the outside, wears an air of mystery, and I trust that this short communication may be the means of eliciting some information satisfactory to those who are asking—why should there be no occupancy of a post which is really vacant, and for whom is this honour in reserve?

I am, Sir, &c.,

ENQUIRER.

[Our correspondent will, we think, agree upon reflection that it is scarcely wise to canvass the qualifications of particular gentlemen for the office of Chancellor. It is on this score that we have omitted a sentence or two from his letter.—ED.]



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UNIVERSITY LECTURES AND DEGREES.—

The Council of the University have done well in defining the terms on which non-matriculated students will be admitted to attendance at lectures. These are—first, the signing of the roll and payment of fees; secondly, the being ready to satisfy the Professors or Lecturers of their competence to profit by the course of instruction given if called upon to do so; and, thirdly, recording the attendance of such students at each lecture, provided they have prepared the prescribed work for that lecture. Outside persons are already admitted to lectures, and in the session of 1881 there were as many as 59 of these non-matriculated students. If successful in passing their examinations at the end of the term, they may receive certificates showing in what subjects they have satisfied the examiners. It is obvious that with the new regulations settling the *status* of these students there will be every inducement for those who do not feel called upon to pass through a complete course for a degree to study at least one or two subjects. It appears from the report of the last meeting of the University Council that a committee recommended that various graduates of other Universities be respectively admitted on the following Wednesday *ad eundem gradum*. The committee also reported that a Bachelor of Medicine of the University of Melbourne had applied for admission *ad eundem gradum in absentia* and recommended that the application be not granted, because he is not resident in South Australia, and his only reason for asking admission to the degree is the erroneous one alleged by him that the degrees of this University are recognised throughout the British Empire and those of his own University are not. This report was adopted. Now, it would certainly be conducive to very great confusion if the Council of the University in conferring degrees *ad eundem* had no surer and better rule than that of enquiring into the motives which have prompted the application. As a matter of fact, the degrees of Melbourne University are entitled to equal recognition all over the British Empire with those of our own University, and no doubt the applicant, whoever he may be, has, as stated, been under an erroneous impression. But it is beneath the dignity of the governing body of the University to take any notice of such a matter, and, moreover, their action in refusing the application is a direct violation of the University Statutes. Rule 10 of Chapter VIII. enacts that "persons who have been admitted to degrees in any University recognised by the University of Adelaide, and who shall produce to the Council thereof satisfactory evidence of such admission, may be admitted to the same degrees in the University of Adelaide." With reference to such persons there is not a word said in the Statutes about residence within the Province, and as a matter of practice it would be utterly impossible to enforce any such proviso. To evade it the only thing necessary would be to pay a visit to the colony, and, after the degree had been conferred, to take one's departure again. But, independently of this, it is difficult to see what possible objection the University Council can take to members of other Universities recognised by that of Adelaide being admitted *in absentia*. The admission can do harm to no one, and may possibly have the effect of proving an additional attraction for men of college education taking up their residence within the colony. One would think that even if all the graduates in the Australian Colonies recognised by our own University applied for admission *in absentia* the only result would be a gain to the institution both in funds and in reputation.