

ADVERTISER, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1882.

## OPENING OF THE NEW UNIVERSITY BUILDING.

The most important academic event that has occurred in this city since the establishment of the University of Adelaide took place on Wednesday afternoon, April 5, when the Commencement held upon that day was distinguished by the opening of the new University building on North-terrace by His Excellency the Governor (Sir William Jervois, G.C.M.G., C.B.) The new edifice has been occupied by the University authorities for some months past, but the opening ceremony was deferred until the internal arrangements had approached to something like completeness. Of the building itself it is unnecessary to say anything at present, as we have already given a full description of its architectural characteristics and the accommodation it provides. The edifice is beyond doubt a very handsome piece of architecture, reflecting credit alike on the designer and on the contractors; but the opening ceremony on Wednesday possessed an importance not to be measured simply by the fact that it marked the completion of the University building, as it may also be regarded as giving prominence to what is expected to prove a new departure in the progress of South Australia in intellectual pursuits. On this account it was rightly determined that the proceedings on the opening day should be characterised with all possible *eclat*. Owing to the somewhat limited accommodation afforded in the beautiful library of the University, where the opening ceremony was appointed to take place, the number of invitations issued to the general public was not large; but the gathering was at any rate of a very representative character, a great many of our leading citizens attending, while the occasion was graced by the presence of numerous ladies. The learning of the colony was well represented by the attendance of those who enjoy academic distinctions in connection with our rising University. As the invited guests were specially requested to appear in morning costume, the scene presented in the library when His Excellency performed the opening ceremony, did not possess the same brilliance and variety as on the day when the foundation-stone was laid; but the spectacle was nevertheless sufficiently imposing, the academical costumes worn by the various graduates present, and the civil uniforms of a few others contrasting picturesquely with the quiet and sober dress of the rest of the assemblage. The seating arrangements were carried out with the aid of a plan showing the appropriation of the space afforded in a manner that left nothing to be desired, and the whole of the proceedings were marked by gratifying success. At the time of His Excellency's arrival in the library the assemblage numbered about 400 persons, including besides the council, the senate, the professorial board, and the officers of the University, many of our leading politicians, a goodly muster of ministers of religion, several prominent members of the civil service, and other gentlemen holding important positions in the colony. The Government were represented on the occasion by the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. C. Bray), the Treasurer (Hon. L. Glyde), the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. J. G. Ramsay), and the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. A. Catt).

The members of the council and senate, wearing the academic costume proper to their respective offices and degrees, assembled in the museum of the University a little after half-past 3 o'clock, and shortly afterwards a procession, formed in the following order, marched two abreast to the library upstairs:—

### THE COUNCIL.

The Vice-Chancellor, Hon. S. J. Way.

Hon. R. D. Ross, Speaker of the House of Assembly.	Hon. Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G., President of the Legislative Council.
Mr. W. Everard, J.P.	Mr. C. Todd, C.M.G.
Dr. A. S. Paterson, M.D.	Mr. W. A. E. West- Erskine, M.A.
Mr. A. von Treur, LL.B.	Dr. W. Gosse, M.D.
Dr. J. D. Thomas, M.D., F.R.C.S. England.	Archdeacon Farr.
Mr. F. Ayers, M.A.	Mr. E. C. Stirling, M.A., M.D.
Mr. J. A. Hartley, B.A., B.Sc.	Mr. W. R. Boothby, B.A.
Dr. E. W. Way, M.B.	Mr. D. Murray, J.P.

### THE PROFESSORIAL BOARD.

Professor Fletcher.	Professor Kelly.
The Dean of the Board.	
Professor Lamb.	
The Registrar of the University.	

THE SENATE.

The Warden of the Senate.  
Doctor of Medicine.  
Masters of Arts.  
Bachelors of Laws.  
Bachelors of Medicine.  
Bachelors of Arts.  
The Clerk of the Senate.

On reaching the library the council proceeded up the central aisle and ascended the dais at the western end. The warden of the senate also took a seat on the dais to the left of the vice-chancellor, and the doctors of medicine, masters of arts, and bachelors of arts, occupied seats reserved for them below the platform.

At 4 o'clock a committee deputed for the purpose proceeded to the entrance of the building to receive His Excellency the Governor and conduct him to the dais. Soon after the hour appointed His Excellency arrived, and conducted by the deputation walked to the dais at the end of the library, where he took his seat at the side of the vice-chancellor. His Excellency, who wore the cross of the order of knighthood to which he belongs, was accompanied by Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G., the Private Secretary (Mr. Pennefather), and Major Ferguson, D.A.A.G. Sir Henry wore his academical robes and decorations of his rank in the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR said—Your Excellency, on behalf of the council and senate of the University of Adelaide, I very respectfully request that you will do us the honor of declaring this building open. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCY then addressed the assemblage as follows:—

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, ladies, and gentlemen—Less than three years have passed since we met together close to this spot on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of the University of Adelaide. It was a great pleasure to me then to be called upon to lay the first stone of this University; it has been a great pleasure to me since to watch the buildings gradually rising and approaching completion; and it is a great pleasure to me now to preside at the first public meeting held in this hall, and to be present at the conferring of degrees. I cannot but express, however, the deep regret I feel at the loss of some who were with us at the time this building was commenced, amongst whom I would specially mention the late Professor Davidson, who was removed by death last winter, and our honored and venerable chancellor, Bishop Short. I am glad, however, still to see the bishop's name in the University calendar as chancellor, although the state of his health has rendered his absence from the colony necessary. There is, I think, much in the buildings whose completion we are here to-day to inaugurate that fairly calls for praise and congratulation. A time may come—and I hope it will come soon—when they will be found too small for the requirements of the University; but they are admirably suited to present needs. Large, well-planned, and well-ventilated lecture-rooms, convenient class-rooms, a handsome central staircase, and the spacious library in which we are now assembled, supply all that can be desired in the way of buildings; and although the style is of an ornate and somewhat elaborate character I am glad to see that our architect has avoided the temptation to modern designers of sacrificing internal utility to external effect. (Applause.) But although these buildings are now complete from basement to roof, we are still only laying the foundations of the University of Adelaide. Lecture-rooms, class-rooms, examination-halls—all very necessary though they be—no more form the real University than the empty shelves around us form a library. The real University of Adelaide consists not in these, but in the professors, in the lecturers, and above all in the students themselves. The staff of teachers must be complete, the examinations must be thorough and searching, and the class-rooms must be filled before it can be said that the University is completed. A foundation has been laid, and well laid. It was begun in 1859, under the late Sir Richard MacDonnell, when the Board of Education was established; another course was added some years afterwards by the princely liberality of Sir Walter Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder. Next the colonial legislature, desirous then as ever to do all in their power to promote the welfare and advancement of South Australia, took up the good work, and gave evidence of their zeal, not only by the passing of the necessary Acts of Parliament, but also in a more substantial way by liberally voting funds and granting land for the endowment of the University. And a final stage was reached last year, when Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to grant a charter willing and ordaining that degrees in arts, medicine, law, science, and music, conferred by the University of Adelaide on any person, male or female, should be recognised as academical distinctions and rewards of merit, and be entitled to rank, precedence, and consideration in Her Majesty's United Kingdom and in her colonies and possessions throughout the world, as fully as if the said degrees had been granted by any University of her United Kingdom. I regard it as a most valuable provision—and it is one which I am proud to have had a share in obtaining—that women as well as men should be enabled to compete for all the honors and distinctions of the Adelaide University. (Applause.) With regard to the work which the University has already done, the number of undergraduates and other students has not been so large as might have been wished, possibly not even as large as might have been expected; but there seems every reason to hope that each term will bring an increase, and that the young men and young women of Adelaide will learn more and more to appreciate the advantages which the University presents to

them. I regard with special pleasure the increasing number of candidates at the matriculation examination. This not only promises well for the University in the future, but shows that one good work is *being* done by it for education in the colony, as the various schools are learning to regard the University matriculation as the point to which they must work up; and thus the University is promoting not only energy in the schools separately, but also a unity in the system and object of all. At the same time, I regard a large number of candidates for this examination not without some fear; for I see the danger before us lest—as has happened already in other parts of the world—the rising generation of South Australia should think that their education was completed when they have done with school, and passed this (to them) final examination. In the widest and truest sense, of course, education can only begin with the cradle and end with the grave; but even in the narrower and more technical sense an education that ends with matriculation must be incomplete and unsatisfactory. The more suitable the matriculation is as an entrance test preparatory to a University course the less fitted will it be for a final examination, and the idea that the passing of it is the goal of education must be detrimental to the University, detrimental to the schools, and detrimental to education throughout the colony. But a question may be, and sometimes has been asked—“What is the use of a University in a community of busy men like that of South Australia? What do the young men and women of our colony want with a training such as you propose to give them?” Now the answer to this is twofold. First, I admit that South Australia is a community of busy men, and long may it continue to be so. But are not Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Bristol, Nottingham, Sheffield, and Liverpool, communities of busy men; and of men too who know very well what they are about? Yet those are the very places in which the movement for University extension recently started by the older Universities of England has made the greatest progress. The Newcastle College of Science, an offshoot from the University of Durham, has been in existence only ten years; University College, Bristol, was opened in 1876, under the auspices of the University of Oxford; the Cambridge University extension scheme has resulted already in the founding of University College, Nottingham, in 1877; Firth College, Sheffield, in 1879; and University College, Liverpool, in 1881. Nor has the work been left to the older Universities alone. Whilst the University of London has been extending its influence throughout the British Empire—at Manchester, the metropolis of manufacturing industry, Owen’s College, which had already taken its place amongst the great educational institutions of the land, has now become the centre of a new University for the north of England. I do not think there is a more healthy sign in the present march of intellectual culture than this fact—that it is not merely the aristocratic few, not merely the men of learned leisure who are seeking to extend University education and University training, but it is the business men—the men who (many of them) have made their own way in the world—the men who form the backbone of England’s strength and prosperity. (Applause.) But there is another and a fuller answer to the objection—viz., that it proceeds from a total misconception as to the functions and objects of a University, or at least of the University of Adelaide. That we shall never succeed in drawing away any large number of young men from a life of business or commercial activity to one of study and research I admit; and, to some extent, I regret it; but may not much of University culture and training be brought to the men of business? That the theological faculty must be wanting in this University I accept as a necessity, but, with that exception, there is not one of the sciences, and there are none of the arts which usually form part of an academical course, that may not flourish beneath its shelter. It is a matter of the highest importance for the welfare of the community that law should be treated, not as a trade, but as a science. The law student should commence his professional studies in a scientific manner before he becomes lost in the intricacies of practice. Such training is exactly what can be afforded by a University, and I hope we shall soon see a complete

course of lectures on jurisprudence and the philosophy of law established here, an institution which would, I feel sure, be furthered and assisted ably and energetically by my friend the vice-chancellor. And it is, I think, a subject for consideration whether it would not be well to make the attendance at such a course of lectures compulsory on all students before admission to the bar of South Australia. Again, the hospitals of this rapidly growing city may afford an admirable field for a medical school. Can such a school do better than place itself under the wing of the University? In this respect I am glad to see that efforts are being made, and I trust that the lectures which Dr. Stirling is now giving, and which promise so well, will be but the beginning of a regular course of a University training under the direction of the faculty of medicine. In a young country like this, where new mines are being opened, where extensive engineering works are in course of construction, and where agriculture demands more scientific treatment than it has hitherto received, it is unnecessary for me to point out the advantages of the study of geology, mathematics, botany, and chemistry; all of which are included in the subjects for examination in the regular University course. And whilst these studies point to material wealth in the future the rich stores of bygone ages are opened out to the students through the classical literature, not only of Greece and Rome, but also of their own nation and of other countries of Europe. And I trust that, in a community of which the fellow-countrymen of Strauss and Wagner form so large a part, the musical faculty of this University will not long remain dormant. (Applause.) The library of the Adelaide University is in a somewhat exceptional position. Placed side by side with the South Australian Institute, with which indeed the University is officially connected, in the same city as the Parliamentary Library and that of the Supreme Court, it would be a waste of funds to endeavor to establish an extensive collection of general literature. But I hope to see the shelves around us filled with all the latest editions of standard authors and the most recent text-books, so that the undergraduates and other students shall have every possible facility for study without the necessity of spending a large sum of money in text-books or works of reference. But it is not merely in professional matters that the University of Adelaide may have a great future before it. It is for those who represent the highest culture in the colony to use every effort to promote the higher education of the rising generation around them. Much may be done (as has been proved in several English towns) by evening lectures and evening classes, which will afford to young men who are engaged during the day the healthiest of all forms of amusement—pleasure of self-improvement. I should like to see many of such young men, not merely attending the lectures, but entering for the examinations; and not resting content until they have won the distinction of a University degree. Such a training is the opening out to them of new fields of interest, new means of progress, new ways, not only of improving themselves, but also of doing good to those around them. Nor is it only to those who expect to spend their lives in the city that I would press the advantages of a University education. Many of the young men who leave school every year, in a community like this, look forward to passing years on distant stations, or in remote parts of the country, exposed to the dangers of solitude, or with none but the limited amusements of a country town. It is to them that a taste for literature is the greatest possible blessing. The man who can feel that he is never alone, because he can make his books his company, has acquired a fortune that no money can ever buy. (Applause.) And I speak not only to the sons, but also to the daughters of South Australia. They, the mothers of the next generation, will have committed to them the charge and the responsibility of the earliest, and therefore the most important, part of the education of the future men and women of this important province; and I earnestly call upon them now, whilst they have the opportunity, the leisure, the youth and energy for the work, to take advantage of the means of self-improvement that the University of Adelaide affords, and, by elevating themselves, to spread culture and education through their homes, their family circles, the neighborhood around them, and throughout the length and breadth of the land. Mr. Vice-Chancellor, ladies, and gentlemen, I now declare this building open. (Loud applause.)

The Dean of the Professorial Board presented the candidates for degrees to the Vice-Chancellor, who, in the absence of the Chancellor of the University, and by virtue of the authority conferred on him, admitted the following candidates of the University to the rank and privileges of a Bachelor of Arts:— Alfred Gill, University scholar; Sydney Ernest Holder, ex-University scholar; Richard Sanders Rogers, ex-University scholar; George Donaldson; Edwin Canton Moore, ex-University scholar.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR, addressing Mr. Holder, said— I take this opportunity of congratulating you on the probability— I may almost say the certainty— that in a few days you will be in possession of the proudest academical distinction which South Australia can bestow. (Applause.) His Honor added— Mr. Holder is a gentleman whose name will be reported to the council for recommendation to the Government for the grant to him of the South Australian scholarship; a scholarship which is tenable for four years, and which has annexed to it the emolument of £200 per annum. (Applause.) Addressing Mr. George Donald-

son, the vice-chancellor remarked—I take this opportunity of congratulating you on being the first holder of the engineering scholarship, founded by the munificence of Mr. John Howard Angas. The examiners inform me that they will report to the University council that you are the successful candidate for that distinction. The scholarship is tenable for three years, and is accompanied by an emolument of £300 per annum. (Applause.)

Mr. William Clare was admitted to the B.A. degree *in absentia*, and the following graduates of other universities were admitted *ad eundem gradum*:—Doctor of Laws, James Walter Smith, LL.D. (1876), of the University of London; Doctor of Medicine, Edward Charles Stirling, M.D., of the University of Cambridge; Masters of Arts, George Sutherland, M.A. (1879), and F. H. Rennick, M.A., both of the University of Melbourne; Bachelor of Arts, George John Shirreff Bowyear, B.A., of the University of Cambridge; and James Thomas Hackett, B.A., of the University of Melbourne. The VICE-CHANCELLOR addressing Dr. Smith, said—I congratulate you on being the first doctor of the faculty of law in this University. (Applause.)

Having conferred the degrees, the VICE-CHANCELLOR said—Before this meeting of the University breaks up, I am authorised by the council and the senate to convey our grateful thanks to His Excellency, and to express our sense of the honor he has done to the University by opening this building and by honoring us with his presence at the conferring of degrees. (Applause.) This is not the first occasion on which we have had to thank His Excellency for signal services to this University. We are not likely soon to forget the laying of the foundation-stone of this building, or the eloquent and masterly address on the object and scope of university work which His Excellency delivered on that occasion. During the past year owing to the direct intervention of Sir William Jervois difficulties have been removed, and we are now—through His Excellency's kind, valuable, and influential assistance—in possession of royal letters patent from Her Majesty authorising this University to grant degrees, which will be recognised all over the British dominions. Those letters patent confer higher privileges upon this University than are enjoyed by our sister Universities in Australia. The Universities of Melbourne and Sydney can grant degrees in law, arts, medicine, and music; but they are unable, like this University, to grant degrees to women and degrees in science. The fact that we have been so largely indebted to His Excellency's kindness and assistance during his residence in this colony adds very largely to the pleasure which we feel in welcoming His Excellency for the first time in our new home—in the permanent and beautiful home of the University; and we all feel exceedingly gratified that His Excellency recognises in this building one well adapted for the practical business of a hard-working University. We have all heard His Excellency's admirable and eloquent address to-day with the utmost interest; and I am sure I may say on behalf of my fellow-members of the University council, and I believe I may say the same thing on behalf of the senate, that we share the views which have been so well expressed by His Excellency as to the desirableness of extending the usefulness of this University, and making its doors the portal to all the professions. The advantages of the University are already largely availed of by the scholastic profession, for the teachers of the Training College attend its lectures in considerable numbers. We have already shown that we appreciate the exceptional privilege granted us by Her Majesty of granting degrees in science by framing a complete curriculum for that degree, and, as His Excellency has pointed out, although the time may not have arrived for the establishment of a school of medicine in Adelaide, we have the nucleus of such a school in the lectures of Dr. Stirling on physiology—lectures which count as part of the curriculum in the medical schools in England. As to His Excellency's observations on the establishment of a school of law, I may perhaps be permitted to mention that if the gentlemen who are studying for the legal profession in this colony became students of this University we should add at least 50 and

probably of students to our numbers. I for one am not inclined when speaking of the University of Adelaide to adopt the tone of an apologist. The story of the University of Adelaide is, in my opinion, a chapter of our colonial history of which as South Australians we have no cause to be ashamed. We may well be proud of the splendid munificence of Sir Taos. Elder and Sir W. W. Hughes, and we may be proud also of the generous assistance and endowment which we have received at the hands of the Government and the Legislature. To me it seems no small thing that the members of our senate, to the number of 70 or 80, should be banded together with the patriotic intention of advancing in their adopted land the culture which they have received in the universities of Europe. Without referring in this particular connection to the direct results of the teaching of our professors it may certainly be claimed on behalf of the examinations of the University of Adelaide that they have had and will continue to have the effect of raising the standard of instruction in our public and private schools. Our Government schools also are indirectly benefited by the University lectures in consequence of the attendance of the teachers at the Training College. His Excellency has shown us very conclusively that the objection—which we hear rather too frequently, I think—that the establishment of a University in Adelaide is premature is groundless. People who make that objection appear to me to forget that in South Australia we build not merely for the present, but also for the future. They forget the conclusive arguments which have been given in His Excellency's address in answer to that objection, and they overlook another—an arithmetical answer which I will give. In Scotland the attendance at University lectures is one in every thousand of the population. If the attendance at our University classes were in the same proportion to the population of this colony, we should have the respectable number of 300 students in this University. But of course it will be said that we cannot expect such results in a busy hard-working community like South Australia; that Scotland attracts to her venerable Universities students from distant countries, and sends out to all parts of the world her sons to earn the distinctions for which they have prepared themselves in their Universities. And of course it will be said that South Australia has within her own boundaries plenty of room for her sons. Will you allow me therefore to put the figures in another way. The figures I am about to quote are of course approximate, and they are not brought up, as far as England and Ireland are concerned, to the latest date. I obtained them from a speech of Sir Hercules Robinson's, who pointed out that the attendance at University lectures in England was in the proportion of one to every 4,000 of the population. In Ireland it reaches the higher standard of one in every 3,000. Now, if we are not merely to maintain a higher standard for our degrees, but also to make our University useful—not only to persons obtaining degrees but to the general community as well, we are entitled to include in our numbers the non-matriculated as well as the matriculated students. Last year the attendance of students of both classes at our lectures was 74. This year it has already reached 87. This means that last year we had in attendance at our lectures one in every 3,900, and this year an attendance of one for every 3,300 of our population; it means that last year we had passed the English standard of attendance at University lectures, and that this year we are rapidly approaching the standard in that respect of Ireland. I will not venture to suggest that the University has accomplished all that it ought to have accomplished; that it has made no mistakes, or that we have not been guilty of any shortcomings. We should be more than human if such were the case. But it has been established that the University is not merely an ornamental excrescence of our social organism, but that it is a much more important factor in our educational system than is generally supposed. His Excellency has well pointed out that we are only laying the foundation of this University. I trust that year by year the superstructure will grow in magnitude, in symmetry, in completeness, and in usefulness. I trust, also, that for many years to come we shall have the countenance, the presence, and the encouragement of His Excellency at Commencements like these. I trust that long before His Excellency leaves our shores he will have the gratification of seeing this University in a much higher and in a much more useful position than it yet occupies. But I am sure I have detained you too long for the business I rose to transact. I rose as the mouthpiece of the University, and I now, on behalf of the University, express our grateful thanks to His Excellency for honoring us with his presence on this occasion, and for the able, instructive, and eloquent address we have had the pleasure of listening to, and for opening this building. (Applause.)

His EXCELLENCY replied as follows.—Before I leave this room I beg to thank you most heartily for the kind reception you have given me, and it will be, I again assure you, the greatest pleasure to me to give in the future any assistance I can to further the prosperity of the University of Adelaide. (Applause.)

His Excellency then left, and the formal proceedings closed, but at the invitation of the vice-chancellor a number of the ladies and gentlemen present spent some time before leaving the building in an inspection of the internal arrangements of the edifice. It should be mentioned that His Excellency

presided up to the period of declaring the building open, and then vacated the chair in favor of the Vice-Chancellor.