

MARCH 2, 1882.

## THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The *Register* of the 25th ultimo contained an advertisement from the Senate of the University of Sydney, inviting applications from persons qualified to fill the positions of lecturers. In the *Register* of the 28th ultimo was a communication from the Senate of the University of London with respect to the degree examinations of that University. A few years since the majority of the Senate of the Adelaide University, on the motion of Professor Lamb, declared that the Senate of this University has no administrative power. Since then resolutions and questions by Mr. Labatt have been nullified, either from want of a quorum or by evasive answers. From the above a few important facts are established—namely, that the Senates of the London and Sydney Universities have administrative powers which are denied to the Senate of the Adelaide University, and also that the Sydney University believes in local government, and seeks its lecturers from Australian sources. My object in writing to the *Register* is to have the question ventilated whether the constitution of the Adelaide University be superior to the London and Sydney Universities, and if not, that it be remodelled, as it appears almost certain that unless some great improvement be quickly effected our South Australian youth who can afford it will seek Melbourne or Sydney in preference to remaining here.

I am, Sir, &amp;c.,

PROGRESS.

## The Advertiser

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1882.

UNIVERSITY affairs are attracting at present more than their ordinary share of public attention. The new building, which has been for so long a time in process of construction, is now ready for occupation. The calendar for the current year has been issued, and contains the details of the newly-arranged curriculum. The chancellor has gone to England, leaving his resignation behind him to be used when required. The registrar has resigned, and our columns have contained advertisements for applications from candidates for the vacant office. A committee is deliberating as to the best means to give effect to the commonly-expressed wish that the professors should give courses of evening lectures to the public. Hints have been given that the council is endeavoring to establish a law faculty which will come into existence next year, and a small beginning of what may ultimately develop into a school of medicine is about to be made this year in the lectures of Dr. Stirling. Thus in many ways the University is challenging public attention and public criticism to a greater degree than usual. It is easy to find fault with some of the details of the management of the council, but it would be ungenerous to do so until sufficient time has elapsed to test the wisdom or the folly of the plan that has been sketched out.

It is to be hoped that some opportunity



may be afforded the citizens of Adelaide of seeing and inspecting these new halls of learning. The council of the University must not forget that though elected by the senate they do nevertheless represent the general public. The purse of the country has been largely drawn upon to provide funds to found this University, and every facility ought to be afforded to the people of seeing this new building and making themselves familiar with its arrangements. The external design of the architect has been criticised both favorably and adversely, but no judgment ought to be formed upon his performance until the premises have been seen from within. The new building strikes everybody as being very small for a University, but it must be borne in mind that it is not placed in the centre of the the reserve but at the western side, so that ample room is afforded for future extension when the time comes for the erection of a central hall or a medical school. The entrance hall is very chaste and provokes few if any adverse criticisms. The library is a beautiful room, occupying the whole of the front of the first floor, and for some time to come this room will have to serve for examinations, and public assemblages as well as for the custody of the books. The lecture-rooms of the professors of chemistry and

physics are of themselves well worth a visit. We know of no rooms that are better fitted up or are better adapted both for original research and for the instruction of students. We venture to think that no citizen of Adelaide can walk through this conspicuous addition to our public institutions without feeling proud that this colony should have contained two such far-seeing public men as the munificent founders of the University, and that our highest educational school is lodged in a building worthy of the name of a University.

The building may not be large, but it is more than large enough for the students that are at present enrolled on the books of the University. In fact, the great want of the University is more students. Doubtless they will be forthcoming as the standard of educational efficiency rises in the public and private schools of the community. The University was founded, not so much to satisfy a commonly felt want as to create that want. This cannot be accomplished in a year, but must be the result of time. The appointment of a new registrar is one of immense importance in the development of the University. The present registrar has done good service to the public by the way in which he has wrought for the furtherance of high-class education during the initial years of the existence of the University, but the council has done wisely in deter-