

ADVERTISER, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1881.

native talent, and, moreover, it is only during the last few years that to make a British barrister any great knowledge of law has been required. We have to consider whether our own lawyers would or would not have been better for the scholastic preparation through which their brethren in the old country now pass, and whether the public would or would not benefit by the standard of attainments required of members of the South Australian bar being raised.

Following the example set with such signal success by the University of Melbourne our University Council has sought to place its splendid appliances for educational purposes and its rich endowments at the service of the legal profession. By the new charter which recently arrived from England power is granted to the council to grant degrees in law as well as in arts and science. It is suggested that there should be established a chair of law and some of its cognate branches, such as history or political economy, that this chair should be supplemented as may be required by one or more lectureships on legal subjects, and that the curriculum of study for the LL.B. degree should be arranged so as not to encumber the law student with too many subjects of a general character while giving him the necessary special training that is required for the degree, and to satisfy the Supreme Court. The Law Association has expressed its general approval of the movement, though qualifying its approval by giving it as its opinion that the co-examiners should be appointed by the profession. The advantages of this proposed change are great and manifold. It will bring to the University a considerable number of students, and will give our would-be lawyers the privilege of obtaining the very best teaching that can be obtained in the colony. The University, and the profession, and the public, will each and all share the benefit. It will save both time and trouble to the examiners hitherto appointed by the Supreme Court. It will also be much more gratifying to the students themselves. When a young man has obtained his degree, and has passed through the University into the profession, it will be much more satisfactory to himself than if he is simply called to the Bar on the expiration of his articles. Arrangements must of course be made so as to enable articulated clerks to pursue their university studies during the time over which these articles extend. This is done in Melbourne, and is found to work well. During the first year at the University the main attention of the student must be given to those general subjects which form the common trunk from which the various special lines of training afterwards branch out. After that first year the time-table could be so planned that the law lectures should be given either before or after office hours, and the student would be able to

carry on his studies at the University at the same time that he is learning the practical details of the profession in the office of his superior. This entire scheme has been objected to on the ground that we have quite enough lawyers already, and that it is not well to facilitate too much the ambition of young men desiring to become members of an already overcrowded profession. We very much doubt if the effect will not be exactly the reverse of what is feared; but whether this be the case or no, whatever tends to give a more definite status to the legal profession among us, and to raise the general standard of education among our youthful lawyers, will be at once a benefit to themselves and a benefit to the community on which they have to practice.

REGISTER, WEDNESDAY,

DECEMBER 14, 1881.

THE FINANCES OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—It is a source of some satisfaction to me to find that the protest I entered against the mode in which the Council were dealing with the trust funds of the University, and the agitation I commenced some time ago with a view of rectifying the error they had committed, are bearing fruit. I gather from your report of the proceedings in this morning's *Register* that the members of the Council have become fully alive to the danger of using the funds contributed by Sir Thomas Elder and Sir W. W. Hughes to the University in any other way than that provided for in the two original trust-deeds. I have no doubt a little reflection showed them that, however advisable it might be to erect a University building, it was yet highly injudicious to spend any portion of the principal money for that purpose without first obtaining a proper authority for doing so. It is to be hoped that the balance-sheet to be issued next month will show a more healthy financial condition than the one previously published, and will, moreover, be a little more explicit, as the public have been up to the present left completely in the dark as to the sources from whence the Council have obtained the necessary funds to erect the palatial structure on North-terrace.

I am, Sir, &c.,

G. A. LABATT,
A Member of the Senate.