

in possessing in its ranks a gentleman capable of delivering such a lecture, and he wished to express regret at his having been prevented from being present at any of their previous gatherings. He had missed, what he believed, was one of the greatest intellectual treats of the year, viz, Professor Boulger's lecture — (hear, hear) — but he was bound to say that on the present occasion, he—and he supposed there were many others with him—had had his thoughts drawn more closely towards the study of Shakespeare than he had for a considerable time past, through listening to Mr. Fletcher's interesting lecture. As to the questions the lecturer had brought before them, he (the speaker) felt that he was not the proper person to speak upon them, and he preferred to listen and learn rather than attempt to discourse upon a subject of which his knowledge was somewhat limited. He was sure that any churchman would profit by Shakespeare's teachings, for it was obvious that the great dramatist had learned much from the Church, for about the time when he was studying, the Bible began to be circulated, and there could be very little doubt that he himself studied it very carefully. He thought Shakespeare's moral plays were the outcome of the old miracle plays, which gave way to his and other dramatists' works of the same period. That being so he could not help thinking that many of these plays were based on facts introduced in plays of an older date. He believed that even in Adelaide we had a remnant of the old "Passion Play," in the shape of the Punch and Judy shows, which were formerly known as "Pontius et Judæus," whilst Tobias had at length come to be represented in the "Dog Toby." (Laughter.) The minds of the people used to be reached by means of these plays, but the facts that they were intended to represent in course of time got very much perverted. In the character of Hamlet there was a very great deal to study, but he had not come that evening prepared to discuss it, in fact, the little he had learned respecting it, was from a personal friend of his, whom probably many of them had heard of, he referred to Mr. George McDonald—(hear, hear)—and he was sure Mr. Fletcher would be pleased to learn that he had adopted very much the same line of teaching as himself. He thought if there was anything in which the wisdom of Shakespears was apparent it was in the the mode in which he had drawn the veil of death over his principal characters, and he had done so in a manner that no one but a Shakespeare would have dared to. In conclusion he would merely say that he felt sure in moving this vote of thanks, that he had the sympathies of every one present with him. (Applause.)

The Rev. D. PATON seconded the motion. Their chairman had said something in his opening remarks about their vice-chancellor going out of his ordinary groove of thought, and for his own part he did not believe in any professional man who did not take excursions, if he might so speak, into others fields than his own. Every one knew that his Honor did not limit himself strictly to professional work, and he was glad to see him present that evening occupying the chair—not as Chief Justice, but as Chancellor of the University. (Applause.) He (Mr. Paton) had been both instructed and entertained that evening; but with respect to the precise decision they might arrive at, if the questions were put before them in a purely legal and evidential form, that was quite another matter, and though he was of opinion that the lecturer had made out a thoroughly good case, yet he felt that in such a large audience there would be considerable diversity of opinion as to the character of Hamlet. But be that as it might, he was sure that there was only one feeling as to the graphic delineation of his character which had been presented to them by Mr. Fletcher. He had great pleasure in seconding the motion. (Applause.)

The CHIEF JUSTICE in putting the motion, expressed, on behalf of the society, the hope that that would not be the last appearance of his lordship, Dr. Kennion, among them, and trusted that the time was not far distant when he would have to welcome him, as well

as the Rev. Mr. Paton, in the character of lecturers upon that platform. (Applause.)

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Mr. FLETCHER, in returning thanks, said that he had endeavored to make it apparent to them that evening that there was something to study in the character of Hamlet. There was a great deal to study in any character of Shakespeare's, and it could not be understood in a night, or even a term. Though he was president of the society he regretted to say that he could not manage to be present at their meetings on Wednesday evenings and take that interest which he should like to, and he resigned all his influence and power to Professor Boulger, who was the real figure-head of the society.

Professor BOULGER said he had much pleasure in moving a vote of thanks to the chancellor for taking the chair that evening. Since he had been connected with the University he had always found that gentleman ready and willing to encourage any literary movement in the colony, and he wished to acknowledge His Honor's kindness in throwing open his private library to him. That library was a most valuable one to any Shakespearian student. With respect to the Rev. Mr. Fletcher's lecture, it was very difficult to say anything fresh upon the subject, as all acquainted with it would acknowledge. He was not certain that it was possible to lay down any decided view as to Hamlet's character, and it was impossible to come to decided conclusions in respect to Shakespeare's characters, without the greatest thought and study, for there had been a most artistic growth in the mind of the great dramatist as his play writing developed. He thought the more they studied, the more they would appreciate and value the works of Shakespeare. (Applause).

Mr. G. S. BOWYEAR seconded the motion, and in doing so gave a short resumé of the work that had been carried out by the society so far. Its first meeting was held on May 6, and on June 27 Professor Boulger delivered the inaugural lecture. Since then they had read five of Shakespeare's plays, and adopted the plan of assigning different parts to different readers, and with some few necessary omissions, had read the plays straight through. People were continually asking what good the society was doing, and he thought there was not much difficulty in answering the question. It might be that reading the plays in public gave some people an inclination to act, but whether that was any great misfortune or not he should not attempt to say. He thought that by reading Shakespeare's plays the members improved one another, if they did not improve anybody else, and he could only say that there were many points in these plays which did not come out, unless they were read aloud. Though at present they were confining their attention to reading the plays, they hoped by-and-by to have discussions upon them. The society now numbered 105 members, and he hoped to see double that number belonging to it at no distant period. With respect to the admirable lecture they had listened to that evening, he thought it would have the effect of inducing them to study the play of "Hamlet" more than they had hitherto done. In conclusion he asked them to carry the vote of thanks by acclamation.

The motion was carried with acclamation. [The CHIEF JUSTICE, in returning thanks, said he took an exceedingly hopeful view of the operations of the society. He supposed they were aware that a similar institution had been established in Melbourne, and it had received a very flattering recognition from the new Shakespearian Society in England. He was sure that the meetings for discussion, which it was contemplated to hold, would be exceedingly useful, and as instancing what might be done by similar societies he referred to the recent valuable discovery in natural history made by a member of the Royal Society of South Australia. He looked forward to a bright future for the University Shakespeare Society, and begged to thank them for the compliment they had paid him.

The proceedings then terminated.