

## UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

The commemoration in connection with the University of Adelaide was held on Monday afternoon, December 17. There was a very large attendance of ladies and gentlemen, sitting room being at a premium, and the audience was perhaps one of the most fashionable that has assembled in the University building. His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady Robinson, Mrs. Kenyon, and Mr. Julian Harper (aide-de-camp), arrived at half-past 3 o'clock, and was escorted to the upstairs hall by the Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A. (vice-chancellor), Sir Hy. Ayers, K.C.M.G. (treasurer of the University), Mr. W. Barlow, B.A. (Dean of the Faculty of Law), and Professor Kelly (Dean of the Professorial Board). The Hon. S. J. Way (Chancellor of the University) presided. The following candidates were presented to the Chancellor by the Dean of the Professorial Board, and received their respective degree:—Candidate Bachelors of Adelaide University—George John Robert Murray, University scholar; Walter Kingsmill, University scholar. Doctor of Laws—George Henry Farr, LL.D. of the University of Cambridge. Doctor of Medicine—Alfred Austen London, M.D. of the University of London. Master of Arts—George Wyndham Kennion, M.A. of the University of Oxford; Wm. John Young, M.A. of the University of Dublin. Bachelors of Law—Walter Ross Phillips, LL.B. of the University of Cambridge; James Hay, LL.B. of the University of Cambridge. Bachelor of Arts—James Hay, B.A. of the University of Cambridge. Bachelor of Science—Edward Hayley Wainwright, B.Sc. of the University of London. South Australian Scholar—George John Robert Murray, recommended to the Minister of Education. The John Howard Clark Scholar—William Fleming Hopkins. The Stow Prizemen—Thomas Hewitson, second year; Alfred Gill, first year. The successful candidates in the first class of the matriculation examination and in the first class of the junior examination were also presented and received their certificates. In admitting Dr. Farr to his degree, the CHANCELLOR said—Allow me to present to you my congratulations on the pluck you displayed in sitting for a degree during your recent visit to England. I am sure it will be a pleasure to many of your old scholars, some of whom have graduated with honors at the same faculty, to see you once more having deserved precedence of them. (Loud applause.) Addressing Mr. Murray relative to the South Australian scholarship, he said—I congratulate you sincerely on having obtained the most distinguished honor which can be obtained in this University. (Applause.) I have had the pleasure of watching your career since you were a small boy, and I remember you well as a prizetaker at St. Peter's College. I am sure at the end of your residence in England you will be able to give a good account of the way in which your time has been spent in that country. It was only the other day that it was announced that Mr. Percy Robin hand won the prize granted for an essay on the colonies by the Colonial Institute. However you may distinguish yourself outside your academical curriculum, it is in that direction specially that I wish you success. (Applause.) In referring to Mr. Hewitson, the Chancellor said—I congratulate you very sincerely on your being first for the Stow prize, and I do so with all the greater pleasure as I have heard from the examiners of the singular ability displayed in your examination papers. (Applause). The Chancellor also congratulated Mr. Gill, who he said had set a good example by graduating in arts as well as in law.

The CHANCELLOR, addressing the meeting, said—We have to-day taken a new departure in the history of the University in holding the principal meeting at the end instead of the beginning of the academic year, and it certainly will not tend to diminish the interest felt in the distribution of the degrees or in the advancement of the University that the candidates should be fresh from the examination, and still flushed with all the excitement of struggle and of success. The time has passed when it will be questioned—  
doing a great a

that the University is doing a valuable work in this colony, both directly in the classrooms, and indirectly by raising the standard of education throughout the colony by means of our examinations. If there were any person sceptical on either of these points I should have liked to have taken him during the last two or three weeks through this hall and the classrooms, to have shown him the 96 boys and girls who presented themselves for the junior examination, and the 44 boys and girls who presented themselves for the matriculation examination. He would, I am sure, have been satisfied, as most of us are satisfied, that the time will soon arrive when we shall want a larger examination hall than the library in which we are now assembled. And I should also like to take my sceptical friend through the classrooms during the ordinary work of the year, and there he would find 46 undergraduates working for their degrees, and 114 other students attending the various lectures of the University. (Applause.) These numbers may not, of course, appear large when compared with the numbers of other Universities, but they are results which appeared altogether beyond our reach a short time ago, and I hope they are a promise of still greater success in the future. (Applause.) On this occasion we have not had the pleasure of admitting to any degree in this University any sweet girl graduate, but we have had sufficient evidence in the distribution of the certificates that unless the boys look very well to their laurels the girls of South Australia will run them very hard in their educational races. (Hear, hear.) I should like particularly to mention the Advanced School for Girls as having singularly distinguished itself during this examination. All of the pupils sent up for the matriculation examination passed, and every one of the pupils in the junior examination, four out of seven, in the first class. (Hear, hear.) And there is another instance I may allude to, and that is that our solitary woman undergraduate, who was admitted at the matriculation in March, was the only undergraduate student who passed in science, and was passed in the first class. (Applause.) On this occasion, as on every occasion of this kind, great has been the number of the slain, but I hope that those who have been unsuccessful will be nerved to renew their efforts, and will deserve success on a further trial. It is manifest of course that if our examinations are to be of any value at all a high standard must be obtained. (Hear, hear.) Most of you are aware that at our examinations, besides having the assistance of the professors of the University, we call in the aid of outside talent as well; and on several occasions, this like others, we have had the assistance of the professors of the University of Melbourne. This has induced me to disinter now what has long been a favorite theory of my own, that it would be well if the Australian Universities would unite in a common examination for their degree, and have a united common board of examiners. I know there are great practical difficulties in the way of such a scheme, but we may hope for great things in these days of federation, and a step of this kind being taken would undoubtedly add much to the prestige and value of the degrees of the Australian Universities. The members of the senate will remember that a

modest little statute was sent for their approval at their last meeting. It was a statute providing for University examinations in local centres. It may be said that this is legislation in anticipation of our present requirements, but I venture to hope that the time is not far distant when there will be University examinations in all the principal towns of the colony after the precedent of the Oxford and Cambridge local examinations, which have been so successful in the old country. The vice-chancellor is the author of this scheme, and I believe he has an ambitious project of annexing Western Australia to South Australia in the sense of bringing it within these proposed local examinations. The great event of the past year—an event which will make the year of grace 1883 always noteworthy in our University annals—is the establishment of a faculty of law, and of a law school. When I mention that between thirty and thirty-three undergraduates are working for their degree in this faculty, I think we must all admit that success has vindicated those who advocated this step being taken, and I hope I may be permitted to express my opinion that for the considerable success which has attended the establishment of the law school, we are largely indebted to the pains and tack which have been displayed by the dean of the Faculty of Law, and to our good fortune in securing the services of the gentlemen who have been our law lecturers. (Applause.) Like most other people we in the University of Adelaide have been suffering from the bad seasons. They have diminished our rentals, and have caused a long accumulation of arrears. Therefore we have not been able to accomplish everything we should have wished to accomplish during the past year. If I were asked to name the great want and the special want we have, I should say it was the separation of the chair of chemistry from the chair of natural science. We have made unsuccessful endeavors to obtain the assistance of the Government in uniting that professorship with the office of public analyst, and as we have not been successful with the Government, we can only hope that private munificence after the precedents set by Sir W. W. Hughes, Sir Thos. Elder, and Mr. Angus may enable us to add this much-wanted chair to the teaching staff of the University. (Applause.) When I last spoke from this platform I said something as to the establishment in this University of a chair of music. I know that this is a debateable question, and therefore in advocating it I shelter myself behind the examples of the University of Oxford, Cambridge, and London. Our

Act of incorporation and Her Majesty's letters patent contemplate our granting degrees, and therefore the giving instruction in music, and for those who attach greater weight to the opinions of advanced thinkers than they do to precedent. I beg to mention the fact that Mr. Huxley includes the science of music among the subjects to be taught in the ideal University of the future. (Hear, hear.) And then there is the practical argument which was disclosed by the results of the recent examinations for the scholarship of music, founded by Sir Thomas Elder in the Royal College of Music in England, that we have a large amount of latent capacity for musical culture among the youth of this colony. So much was this so that the examiners had expressed themselves surprised. To turn from general to more personal topics, you will have been reminded, as I have been, by the fact of His Lordship the Bishop having accepted a degree in our University that it is only seven years ago that we had the honor of conferring the same degree upon his lordship's predecessor as bishop and my own predecessor as chancellor of this University. While the late chancellor was amongst us, venerated for his years, his character, his vast attainments, his more than youthful enthusiasm, and the achievements of a long and noble career, we all felt that his tenure of the chancellorship brought dignity to the office and honor to the University, and therefore we were naturally reluctant, even when he left the colony, that his official connection with the University he had served so well should be severed. And now in a ripe old age he has been literally gathered to his fathers. He has bequeathed to us a memory we shall not willingly let die, and an example, the influence of which will long be felt. The presence of the warden reminds me of the loss of one who was five times elected to fill the same honorable office by the suffrages of the senate, and who was elected a member of that University council at the first election of the body. It has well been said that the late Dr. Gosse was in the best sense of the word a gentleman of the old school, and both in the council and in the senate his name will always recall pleasant remembrances of his courtly manner, of his general thoughtfulness for others, and of his well-directed efforts for the advancement of the University. (Applause.) I shall presently call on Mr. Fletcher to bow to you in his official capacity. Mr. Fletcher has distinguished himself at the University of London, and he has also done good service in the council of this University, and in many other ways for the cause of education. On more than one occasion he has filled at much inconvenience but with equal honor to himself the office of Hughes Professor of English Literature in this University, and I am sure we all feel that his election to the office of vice-chancellor is an honor well bestowed and worthily won. I have specially left to the last the mention of the circumstance which we all feel gives special eclat to our meeting. It is the fact that we welcome here for the first time His Excellency the Governor as a visitor to this University. (Applause.) When His Excellency's late distinguished visitor, Lord Normanby, gets back to Melbourne he will have to exercise in the University there functions of a judicial character. I congratulate His Excellency that he has not been brought here upon any such difficult errand. Sir William is a sincere friend of the University, and is anxious to do all in his power to advance its interests and its usefulness. (Loud applause.)

His EXCELLENCY said when the vice-chancellor asked me a few days ago to be present on this commemoration I consented to do so on one condition—that I was not to be expected to make a formal oration. I told the chancellor my time was so fully occupied that I really had not the leisure to prepare a speech worthy of this occasion. Nevertheless, I could not refuse to be present, and I can assure you of the satisfaction it affords me to be amongst you. One of our ablest colonial Governors—Lord Dufferin—once remarked that the very particu-

tions of a Governor's s...

left unsaid. (Laughter.) A great deal of  
is great force and wisdom in that observa-  
tion. Extempore speaking is apt to be very  
dangerous when one has nothing to say, and  
there are times when I have spoken in public  
without due preparation when I very much  
regret having spoken at such length, and when  
I would have liked to have left unsaid many of  
the things I did say, and have said a great  
deal that I did not say. I wish to-day to say  
one or two words on a subject which has for  
some time occupied my attention, and which  
I venture to think will be of interest to you  
as it has been certainly so to myself. For  
some time past I have been endeavoring to  
collect subscriptions for the purpose of  
establishing in this University a chair  
of music. Your chancellor has re-  
ferred to this subject, and I may say  
that I am one of those who attach much im-  
portance to the establishment of this chair.  
We have in Adelaide a great deal of musical  
talent of a certain kind, but all those who  
have considered the matter must be perfectly  
well aware that there is a great necessity in  
this community for a recognised head of the  
musical profession. We want somebody in  
this University who will be able to give  
lectures on music, hold classes for the  
study of music, conduct examinations,  
and carry out those provisions of your  
charter which provide for the grant-  
ing of degrees in music. I feel certain  
that the establishment of such a chair  
would be a great stimulus to the musical  
talent of this city, and therefore it is with  
great pleasure that I have had the oppor-  
tunity of interesting myself in this matter.  
Persons equally interested in the scheme  
with myself have come forward and promised  
me subscriptions almost sufficient for the  
purpose I have in view. (Applause). My  
object is to secure promises of subscriptions that  
will enable us to guarantee the continuance  
of the chair for a period of five years. This  
will allow the University a means of testing  
the success of the movement, and to find out  
whether there is, as I believe there is, suffi-  
cient musical taste, talent, and ability, to  
make it worth while to maintain such a chair  
in the University. I believe it will be suc-  
cessful, and it will be a great disappointment  
to me if within the next few weeks I am not  
able to inform the chancellor that subscrip-  
tions amounting to the sum required have  
been guaranteed for five years, or for a  
longer period. When I am able to an-  
nounce this I trust there will be no  
delay in the establishment of the chair.  
(Applause.) I am glad to discover that  
this University is established on so firm a  
basis, and is doing so good a work in this  
community. History tells us that the Phoe-  
nicians were less successful in colonisation  
than the Greeks, the reason being that while  
the Phoenicians went out commercially the  
Greeks carried with them their arts, sciences,  
and literature; and we know the vast in-  
fluence the colonisation of the Greeks had on  
the literature and cultivation of Europe. It  
has always appeared to me that South Australia  
in its colonisation has approached more closely  
to the Greek plan than to that of the  
Phoenicians, but for the maintenance of  
learning it is absolutely necessary that there  
should be a centre of learning, and that  
centre we happily find in the University of  
Adelaide. This University finds men and  
means for the cultivation of the arts and

sciences—men I trust and believe who are not mere bookworms, but who are capable of imparting to the students their own enthusiasm on the particular branches of education they have made their study. Just in proportion as the lines of thought and cultivation and education are now made broad, and deep, and good, so will the future of this colony be solid, substantial, and successful or the reverse. I need not tell you how ardently I hope that every success may attend the work of this University in the future as I feel certain it has done in the past. (Applause.) In conclusion I should just like to allude to one personal circumstance. It is not my rule to make personal observations, but I trust I may be pardoned now for so doing. I wish to express the satisfaction I feel at finding in the chancellor's chair a gentleman who is, I think I may say, a son of the soil. I am not quite sure whether the chancellor was actually born in the colony. He may possibly have been born in England. If so, it is South Australia's misfortune and not his fault. (Laughter.) I am quite certain, however, that the greater part of his life was been spent in the colony, and I am proud to recognise him in the high position he occupies. It must not be forgotten that it is the duty of this University to so educate others that when the time shall come—I hope it is far distant—when the chancellor shall have passed away from that chair, another son of the soil may occupy the same dignified and honorable position. (Hear, hear.) I thank you for listening to my few remarks. I may some other time be able to indulge myself with one of those carefully-prepared speeches which sometimes pass for impromptu speeches when well delivered. I am glad indeed to have been present to-day, and I wish this fine institution every success.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR (Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A.) then delivered an address upon the general position and work of the University. After alluding to the origin and growth of such institutions generally, he said—The functions of a University seem to me to be these:—1. To afford opportunity for bringing together those who have an especial interest in the cultivation of learning. 2. To enable those who desire to obtain more or less of learning to have the best possible opportunities for being taught. 3. To test the acquirements of those who are anxious that their studies should be thorough and complete. 4. To assist in education generally by putting before the community a standard of educational proficiency, which the schools can aim at reaching, and by advice, by examination, or by any other suitable means guiding the elementary education of the community into proper channels. I have named

these in the natural order of their importance, but in their chronological development the first and the last must change places. The desire for a high-class education is not an indigenous growth. It must be fostered. It is a vigorous plant which, like the wheat, which is the source of so much of our wealth, will easily be acclimatised under careful farming. But, though vigorous, it will not take root of itself; the ground must be prepared, the seed must be sown, and the harvest carefully gathered in. As the schools develop in efficiency our students will increase in number. As the students increase, and as the literary wants of the community become more clamorous, one faculty may be added to another, and the list of professors and lecturers be proportionally augmented, until education is provided not only in the seven liberal arts, but in all those branches of experimental and technical science which are so conspicuous a feature of the intellectual aspects of the age. During this year the Faculty of Law has been inaugurated by mutual arrangement between the judges of the Supreme Court on the one hand and the council and senate of this University on the other. In this faculty care has been taken to provide for such practical teaching as may be required for the mere practitioner as well as that higher and more scholarly instruction which is preparatory to graduation. Most of the students have, however, enrolled themselves as "studying for a degree in law," a symptom of scholarly enthusiasm which every member of the University will be glad to recognise. The number of students in law is now twenty-nine—that is twenty-seven studying for a degree, and two whose ambition does not aspire so high. It is difficult and dangerous at all times to assume the rôle of a prophet, but I venture to anticipate that probably the next faculty that will be established will be one for the encouragement of the study of music, and for granting degrees in that ornamental branch of science. Her Majesty has delegated to us the power to confer degrees in music, and the council hopes that this power may before long be something more than an inoperative clause in the charter. In due time this University may attach to itself a medical school, as has been done by the sister University in Melbourne. The cost which such a step would entail in the providing of suitable buildings and the endowment of various chairs, together with the consideration of the smallness of the population of this colony as compared with Victoria, render it unlikely that any active steps can be taken in this direction for some years. In the meantime it is to be noted that a lectureship in elementary physiology has been appointed, and that Dr. Stirling, as lecturer, has as his reward the largest class in the University. I venture to call the attention of the public to a statute very recently adopted by the council and the senate, which has for its object the extension of the operations of the University to remote places in the colony and to places outside the colony altogether. The details of the necessary arrangements for giving effect to this statute have not yet been considered, but it is proposed that the junior and matriculation examination should be held wherever a sufficient number of candidates who would otherwise be precluded by distance or expense from attending in Adelaide can be secured to cover the additional cost of the examination. It is to be hoped that the neighboring colony of Western Australia may in time have a University of her own, but in the meantime the council of this University will be glad to assist in fostering a taste for sound learning in that colony, and in preparing the way for a University by holding examinations in Perth as elsewhere under such arrangements as may be mutually satisfactory to the council and the Government of Western Australia. I cannot but think that it is a mistake to measure the usefulness of a University by the list of its graduates. To confer degrees is, as I before said, only one of the functions of the academic body. This University has paid a large number of students who have completed its teaching, and have

attended some of its courses or lectures, but who are not able to devote themselves entirely to study. The number of such students during the year has been no less than 114, of whom 50 entered for physiology, 10 for logic, 17 for English literature, and 22 for physics. All the friends of education in this colony will be glad to welcome any attempt to extend the system of evening lectures. The success which has attended the evening lectures at Owens College, and the popular courses of lectures delivered under the auspices of the University of Cambridge, will be a warrant for adopting some similar method here. Such lectures to be really useful should be of a strictly educational character, and not a mere opportunity for dilettante amusement, or for boys and girls to play at being students. In the arrangements for such lectures at Owens College a fee is charged for each course. A course consists of twenty lectures. An examination is held at the end of each course, and the results are publicly announced, and the courses are so arranged as to meet the requirements of students wishing to matriculate or to proceed to degrees. The number who avail themselves in Manchester of these evening classes is more than equal to the students of all the regular classes added together. Moreover, these classes act as feeders to the regular classes, for I am informed that many of the youths who begin by trying to unite business with education pass upwards into one or other of the faculties in the college. All who carefully consider the difficulties that attach to the founding of a colonial University will come to the conclusion that our University has made satisfactory progress. I hope that the day is not far distant when colleges for residence may be established in Adelaide, not perhaps in organic union, but associated with this University, and when we may see institutions analogous to the "halls," not of modern, but of olden times rising among us. The Owens College has special arrangements for the licensing of such halls of residence, and several have already been established. Parents have frequently complained to me of the difficulty and risk of allowing young students that measure of liberty which belongs to a University. A clever boy say matriculates at fifteen or sixteen. He has reached the highest position in his day-school. His father would like him to become a student, but the boy is too boyish to have the general direction of his own studies, and, rather than run the risk of making so young a man master of his own time, the father puts him to business. I hope that the experiment being tried at some of our public schools of affording residence and supervision to boys who have passed upwards into the University may lead to some further results in the same direction. And now, in conclusion, I can only give voice to our common hope that this University may grow in efficiency and usefulness. It is second to no other institution in its importance, and is the friend of all. In this colony we have to educate legislators, and raise up a race of native-born lawyers. The different Christian churches are all anxious how to fill up the recurring vacancies in the ranks of their religious teachers, and to provide for continual increase in the number of the clergy. In this



almost untried field for the botanist and the zoologist it is of vast moment that capable young men should arise who can interpret the secrets of our flora and fauna, and thus assist in the practical development of the resources of the colony. As time goes on we shall want more and more engineering skill to meet the peculiar circumstances of this country as it becomes more populated. In proportion as the University prospers may we expect to find a Parliament continually composed of statesmen, our pulpits filled by educated gentlemen, and our schools animated by wholesome literary enthusiasm, our public works carried out efficiently by those who have been born in our midst; and if due care be taken to extend the means of education to those who are unable to aim at becoming finished scholars, all classes of the community may consciously as well as unconsciously share in the advantages of the University.

Cheers for His Excellency and Lady Robinson closed the proceedings.

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