

few years. The evening classes are founded upon a misconception of the true work of the institution, and upon a strained and false interpretation of certain expressions in the aforesaid Act concerning "the promotion of sound learning," and that "the University at Adelaide is open to all classes and denominations of Her Majesty's subjects." Studies prosecuted in the University with a view to subsequent matriculation are clearly not contemplated in the Statutes, nor in any of the original provisions of the University, and for a Professor to examine persons engaged in such studies at the matriculation examination in his own subject, as has been done, is manifestly improper and unfair to the pupils taught in the schools outside, which are the true feeders of the University.

If the University grasp at the preparatory work, and in this little community monopolize it, how are the graduates and legitimate students of the University to find employment if they contemplate teaching as their life-work? For what are they taught and trained if they find the avenues to success closed by what ought to be an *alma mater*, a true fosterer of her children, rather than an opponent stopping their way and competing with them in their first efforts to obtain a share of the emoluments which every true-hearted and earnest worker may justly hope for in life. The Council of the Adelaide University stultifies itself by this new-fangled enterprise, which is the result of a purely factitious agitation. It is said by the advocates of these classes, first, that "The University can do the work 'cheaper' than teachers outside;" and, secondly, that "Those persons who attend would not attend classes elsewhere or under other auspices." Now let us examine these arguments. As to the first, is it fair? is it commonly decent? is it honest? The answer, after a little reflection, must be No. It is not fair that public money should be employed in enabling one section or class in the community to undersell other members of the State in that commodity which the latter deal in, whether it be labour, or knowledge, or merchandise. There must be schools to teach the subjects which are taught in a higher way in the proper classes of the University; there must be teachers outside who have to obtain their living by their work, and not a few of them have to keep up large and expensive establishments, and until the policy is adopted of taking the whole of the education under the care of the Government it is manifestly unfair to interfere with them. The business of the University is to promote sound learning in its higher forms which cannot elsewhere or otherwise be done, but it is not an elementary charity school. It is indecent to wring taxes, direct and indirect, from a useful and most respectable and numerous class of citizens, and then to use their money in opposing them in their own occupations, and twit them with the pert but inapt remark, "The institution endowed with public money can do the work more cheaply." It is insufferable that such assertions should be made by respectable men, occupying distinguished positions in the State. Our intelligence and our honesty are at present on trial before the civilized world, and I hold that the Act of Incorporation of the Adelaide University cannot be honestly interpreted so as to



warrant an application of the public revenues to such purposes as teaching people the simple rules of arithmetic, the elementary definitions of Euclid, and the simplest exercises in algebra, the declensions of Latin nouns and adjectives, and the elements of the French language. But, further, I deny that the University can do the work more cheaply than it might be done outside if the Young Men's Societies and clubs were wisely directed and advised. Concerning the second argument which is quoted above, what, it may be asked, is to be thought of those persons who will only learn from University Professors and lecturers—of men who are so conceited that they would rather continue in their ignorance than have that ignorance removed by any teachers, however competent, who do not hold chairs in the University? These moral cowards are ashamed to have it known or suspected that they have not yet acquired the rudiments of useful knowledge or that they have forgotten what they once knew, and so it is only as "students of the University" that they will be taught their elements of Latin and arithmetic, for it is the general belief that an advanced kind of teaching goes on there, and as students of such a place they hope for more consideration from their contemporaries than if the bare truth were known. But do the men who form the Council of the University of Adelaide desire indeed to patronise and propagate such wretched poltroonery as is implied in this argument for their night-school? I deeply regret that I have to write with such plainness and directness. I write, however, as a warm friend of the University, and in its true interests, desiring its honour and success, but as a friend firmly possessed of the belief that by the formation of these classes the University degrades itself and is retarding the higher educational progress of the country. What is good in them is not new, and what is new is not good, for there have been popular University lectures delivered on a basis against which no sound argument could be advanced. I regard the evening-class movement as an "abuse" of the



University in the same sense as that in which it may be said to have been an abuse of a useful instrument for the lady to open a tin of preserved something with her husband's razor. It was an abuse of the razor, a diverting of it from its proper use—it did the business effectually perhaps, yet other implements would have done it better without being damaged thereby; the razor was injured. Our University is a choice instrument, but it is being abused. The interests of the higher education in South Australia demand a great change in, if not the abandonment of the evening classes, and justice forbids the employment of public money for such a purpose.

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. H. A.

*Register April 10<sup>th</sup> 1886*

**EVENING CLASSES AT THE UNIVERSITY.—**

We are informed that already fifty-one names have been entered for the various evening classes at the University. We would remind all who are intending to take advantage of the establishment of these classes to enter their names without delay. There is an abundant choice of subjects for all who wish to carry forward their education in the spare evening hours. Mathematics, senior and junior, are in the hands of Professor Bragg and Mr. Churchward. Mr. Byard has charge of senior Latin, and Professor Boulger of junior. Greek is entrusted to Professor Kelly. Modern languages are committed to Herr Kirchner and Mons. Aucher, who take German and French respectively, while Mr. Byard lectures on our own language. Professor Tate announces a course on geology and another on mineralogy. As a minimum number of students has been fixed in most of these classes, it is imperative that a very much longer list of intending students should be enrolled if all the classes are to be formed. Lectures will be commenced on Monday, and all who wish to join these classes should visit the Registrar's office at the University without delay. The time-table has been before our readers in our advertisement columns, and all further information may be found in the Calendar of the University.

*advertisement April 10<sup>th</sup> 1886*

The new evening classes at the University commence work on Monday evening. The range of subjects is a wide one, embracing both Greek and Latin, besides French, German, and English. A junior and senior class in mathematics will enable those who like that abstruse subject to choose whether they will enter among beginners or those more



advanced. Mineralogy and geology are especially interesting to those who wish to know something about the sciences which underly all mining enterprise and searches for underground water sources. These classes are entrusted to the ablest teachers that this colony can produce, and ought to attract a large number of students. The registrar has already enrolled 51 names, but many more are required if all the classes are to be formed. It is to be hoped that our ambitious young men will not let such a golden opportunity for self-improvement pass disregarded and neglected.