

Advertiser March 23/87

UNIVERSITY MATRICULATION EXAMINATION.

The following are the names of the students who passed the March Matriculation Examination in connection with the Adelaide University. Where asterisks are placed they indicate that the subjects in question were passed with credit:—

FIRST CLASS (in order of merit).

T. H. Trewin (P.A.C.), Latin**, Greek**, Mathematics, French; F. W. Wheatley (P.A.C.), Latin, Mathematics**, French, German; F. J. Chapple (P.A.C.), Latin**, Greek, Mathematics, French; F. W. Kay, (P.A.C.), Latin, Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy.

SECOND CLASS (in order of merit).

F. Lathlean (P.A.C.), Latin, Mathematics, Chemistry, Natural Philosophy; E. Barr Smith (Mr. D'Arenburg's tuition), Latin**, French, Music**; H. Valentine (S.P.S.C.), Latin, Mathematics, German; A. M. Cudmore (S.P.S.C.), Latin, Mathematics, Chemistry; Mabel Shorney (Advanced School), German**, English, Physiology**; R. Hourigan (Christian Brothers'), Latin, Mathematics.

THIRD CLASS (in alphabetical order).

C. A. Bloxam (S.P.S.C.), Latin, German, Chemistry; R. Boucaut (Mr. D'Arenburg's tuition), Mathematics, Chemistry; C. Bronner (Training College), German, Natural Philosophy, Geology**; ~~C. G. Cave~~ (private tuition), German, English; A. C. Davis (P.A.C.), German, English; J. E. Good (Mr. D'Arenburg's tuition), Latin, French; Lena Henrietta Graham (Advanced School), German, Physiology; Ida Hill (private tuition), French, Music; P. F. Shanahan (Christian Brothers'), Latin, Mathematics; Florence N. Shepherd (Advanced School), German**, Botany; W. Tassie (private tuition), Latin, English.

J. Cleave and H. O. Giles passed in Chemistry only, and H. A. Powell in Greek only.

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Reporter's error*

Advertiser March 25 1857.

"THE UNIVERSITY OF THE BUSY."

[By the Rev. W. ROBY FLETCHER, M.A.]

The title which I have placed at the head of this paper is the name by which a recent writer in the *Spectator* designates the new Victoria University in the grimy and busy city of Manchester. That University and its great adjunct, the "Owens College," have a peculiar interest to the colonists of South Australia, inasmuch as they were the innocent means of tempting away our late brilliant fellow citizen, Professor Lamb, who now holds the chair of mathematics and a position of much influence in the "University of the Busy." His friends in Adelaide were all sorry to lose him, but it was felt at the time of his removal that it was no small honor to the colony that one of its professors should be selected above all other candidates for so conspicuous a position. This "University of the Busy," like the University of Adelaide, is one of the youngest of the world's seats of learning. It arose, like the universities of India and the colonies, from the energetic aspirations of this liberal century, and, like our own institution on North-terrace, owes its existence in part to the benevolence of a wealthy private citizen, and in part to the influence of those religious bodies who not long ago were shut out from the venerable and historic halls of Oxford and Cambridge. What Sir W. W. Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder have done for South Australia that eccentric gentleman John Owens did for Manchester, and the "dissenting" colleges of that city, by their sympathy and co-operation, did almost as much to aid in this good work as Union College did in Adelaide.

There has recently been published in Manchester a history of Owens College by Mr. Joseph Thompson, an alderman of that city. I have not yet seen the book, but from the copious notices and extracts that have been sent to me, aided by my own recollections of its early experiences and difficulties, I am in possession of more than sufficient details to make what I hope will be an attractive and stimulating picture of the early struggles of the prosaic people of the cotton metropolis of England to obtain the advantages of the very best education. The full title of the book is "Owens College: its Foundation, Growth, and its Connec-

tion with the Victoria University. By Joseph Thompson." Its price is 13s. 6d., and it is announced as adorned with seven illustrations, representing the two buildings in which the college has been located and the portraits of Mr. Owens and others of the founders of the movement. I well recollect Mr. Thompson as among the first students of the college, and since then he has occupied an honorable position on the council, and has taken an active part in all the difficult negotiations that have resulted in the formation of the Victoria University.

The movement for the extension of University privileges to Manchester is only 50-years old. At that time Manchester had the credit of producing men of energy and wealth and practical common sense, but its sympathies were deemed to be as far removed as possible from literature or art. The world looked to it for new improvements in spinning machinery, or fresh developments in politics, not for new books or learned distinctions. The common talk of that day spoke of Liverpool "gentlemen," Bolton "chaps," Wigan "fellows," and Manchester "men." The citizens had the reputation of having their ears so stuffed with cotton that they could hear nothing that did not tell of improved yarns and high percentages. What wheat, copper, and wool have been to South Australia calico and steam-engines were to the great ugly busy capital of South Lancashire. They were the staple sources of wealth, but were a drag upon the intellectual and artistic aspirations of those who had a dim feeling that the world contains some things that are better than wool or cotton, and are not to be gotten for gold or silver. In the year 1836, when the colony only existed on paper, a pamphlet was published bearing the title of a "Plan of a University for the Town of Manchester." The scheme was admirably conceived. It was the outgrowth of that awkward radical spirit which has made Manchester on more than one occasion a difficult factor in the Conservative politics of Britain. Such a university, says this pamphlet, to be "worthy of its name should dispense knowledge in all its branches. Its communication must be kept as free as possible, and not degenerate into a mere system of authority, but the student's own intellectual labor should be called into constant and active requisition, and he should be subjected to frequent examinations to test what he had acquired." This scheme passed away into thin air. It had two difficulties to contend with, and went to pieces on the rocks. These

two rocks were want of money and the rivalries of the various medical schools. After a great deal of talk and correspondence the city of the busy was again left to pursue its noisy career of politics and money making without being disturbed by scholarly ambitions or questions of academic distinction. Meanwhile the religious bodies were not idle in the matter of education. The Unitarian Academy, upon whose teaching staff were to be found the Rev. Jas. Martineau and Professor F. W. Newman, was removed to Manchester in 1840. The Lancashire Independent College was transferred from Blackburn to one of the suburbs of the northern capital in 1843, under the presidency of the Rev. R. Vaughan, D.D. The Royal Institution and the Mechanic's Institute were also doing much to keep alive an interest in practical and scientific learning. All things were ripe for a great movement, but no one knew whence the originator was to arise, or what like of man he could be.

Meanwhile there was residing in a quiet street called after Admiral Nelson, in the suburb of Charlton-on-Medlock, a solemn and eccentric old bachelor known to his neighbors by the name of John Owens. He had few friends, rarely spoke to anyone, and had no reputation save one for being fabulously rich. Rumor, of course, spoke of this strange man in most exaggerated terms. He was deemed wealthy as Aladdin, and was supposed to have vast stores of gold hidden away in his cellars. Those who were more