

exhausted. The most gratifying circumstance in connection with the winding-up of the College, should it be wound up, is that the proposal to do so is not due to any weakening of the sentiments of union which led to its establishment, but is altogether the outcome of the changing conditions of colonial life. For the rest, whether it continues its career or not, it will ever be kept in memory on the ground of its having been the real founder of the University of Adelaide.

Register December 9th 1886

DISESTABLISHING UNION COLLEGE.

As the above-named educational institution, which started with a most laudable object and has had an eminently useful career, is, as our readers know, about to be closed, it may be interesting to give a few facts relating to its history. Union College was originated in 1872 with a view of affording an opportunity for young men carrying on their education beyond the ordinary school course, and especially of providing the means of suitable training for those desirous of devoting themselves to the work of the Christian ministry. At a meeting in March of that year, attended by representatives from the Baptist Association, the Congregational Union, and the Presbytery of South Australia, arrangements were made for united action in the establishment of a College. A fair measure of pecuniary support was given by some of the wealthier members of those Churches, and when in May classes were opened in mathematics and natural science, in English literature, and classics for the literary course, and in Greek Testament as the commencement of the theological course, the number of young men who enrolled themselves as students far surpassed the most sanguine expectations of the projectors. In the course of that year Sir W. W. Hughes offered to present the College with the munificent sum of £20,000, but the members of the Council after mature consideration felt that so large an endowment and the attendance of so many students rendered it desirable that the basis of the College should be thoroughly altered. They therefore invited leading ministers and laymen of other denominations to meet with them in their classroom on September 17 in order to discuss the subject, and

it was ultimately resolved, in accordance with the recommendation of Union College Council, that a University should be established in Adelaide, an Association being at once formed to take steps for carrying that resolution into effect; and Sir W. Hughes's gift was, with his assent, transferred to that body, which at the commencement of the following session undertook all the secular classes, leaving to Union College the prosecution of its primary object—the training for the Christian pastorate—to which end the attention and energies of the Council have since then been devoted. The rules originally prepared for the government of the College had been in the first instance approved of generally without being formally adopted. The present Constitution was framed and formally adopted in 1876, and at the same time the College was incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act of 1858. In 1877 the Bible Christian Churches of South Australia, under resolution of their Conference, formally associated themselves with the College, supported then by four denominations of the Christian Church universal. It may be stated in evidence of the unsectarian character of the instructions given by the Professors that the classes have at different times been attended by members or adherents of the Baptist, Bible Christian, Congregational, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, and Wesleyan Churches. The liberality of the late Mr. G. F. Angas and of other friends having in 1877 and 1878 provided the College with an endowment fund of £3,000 the Council felt themselves in a position to make alterations as important as they had been long desired in the mode of instruction, by holding classes during the day instead of in the evening only; and in order to enable students who might not be in independent circumstances to attend those day classes without following secular pursuits, a series of by-laws was framed, under which a certain amount of pecuniary assistance should be given to two students recommended by each of the four denominations associated in the College, such students in-

tending to devote themselves to the Christian ministry, submitting themselves to a preliminary examination, and placing themselves so far as the curriculum was concerned under the entire control of the Council. The object of the College has been to provide instruction upon an unsectarian basis for ministerial students and others, and the management of the institution has been vested in a Council composed of twenty-four delegates, exclusive of the Professors, who have been *ex-officio* members. The Professors have been the Revs. S. Mead, M.A., LL.B., W. R. Fletcher, M.A., and Dr. Paton. Without a distinct building in which the students might assemble, as in the case of Prince Alfred and St. Peter's Colleges, they have been accustomed to meet at the Professors' residences at appointed hours, except for Latin and elementary Greek which were taken at Prince Alfred College. Up to May of last year sixteen students had left the institution. Of that number seven were from the Presbyterian denomination, four each from the Congregational and Baptist, and one from the Bible Christian. At present there are three Presbyterians, two Congregational, two Baptist, and one Bible Christian ministerial students in the College, besides seven gentlemen who do not aspire beyond being laymen. For the retirement of any of the bodies the rules provided that six months' notice should be given, and at the end of that term if the notice was insisted upon the Council had to accept it. A proportion of the funds settled by two arbitrators had to be handed to the resigning member of the College. The Presbyterians having given due notice of their intention to retire, the question of dissolution has for some time anxiously engaged the attention of the various denominations. Power being given by the rules to the Council to dissolve the College, a special meeting was held on November 29 to pass a motion thereon. Seventeen delegates attended, and the proposition to do so was carried by a majority of two votes. A resolution for winding-up must be confirmed, and this afternoon the Council will meet for the express purpose of sanctioning or rejecting the motion referred to. If the confirmatory resolution is approved, as no doubt it will be, matters of detail—as, for example, the division of the property—will only remain to be dealt with before the College ends its existence.

The Advertiser

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1886.

AMONG the useful public institutions which, having served their purpose, are now numbered with the things that have passed away must be placed the Union College of South Australia. A meeting of the governing council was held yesterday evening, which finally confirmed the motion for dissolution. This step was taken most unwillingly by all those who have for so many years been working harmoniously together. It has been forced on the council by circumstances over which the individual members had little or no control, and which afford more matter for satisfaction than for regret. The college originated in the year 1872. Its moving spirit was Dr. Jefferis, of Sydney, who at that time was located in North Adelaide. The promoters had a twofold object in view. They wished to provide some means by which young men who had left school might pursue their education, and also to afford an opportunity for those who wished to study for the ministry to obtain the needful qualification for such a calling. Three denominations united to found the college—Presbyterians, Congregationalists, and Baptists. The classes were not, however, confined to the members of those bodies of Christians. They were attended by students who belonged to all the Protestant churches. The subjects taught included not only theology and Biblical criticism, but also mathematics, natural science, classics, and history. The number of students who entered upon the different classes was much larger than was anticipated. The college was ushered into being amid so much enthusiasm that