

Register August 4th 1886

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE CENTRAL
LITERARY SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Is it right that the University lecture-rooms and apparatus should be given for the purposes of a merely private Society and as a source of gain to that Society? I do not in the least degree desire to reproach Dr. Rennie, who has kindly consented to lecture for a Literary Society, but on public grounds I beg to be permitted to protest against such a use of the property of a public institution like the Adelaide University. If the admission be free and open alike to all, or if the charge made for admission be wholly at the disposal of the Council for University purposes solely, then of course all objection to the arrangement should be waived. In granting the rooms the influential character of applicants ought not for a moment to be considered.

I am, Sir, &c., W. H. A.

Register August 6th 1886

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE CENTRAL
LITERARY SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In to-day's *Register* a correspondent signing himself "W. H. A." asks—"Is it right that the University Lecture-rooms and apparatus should be given for the purposes of a merely private Society, and as a source of gain to that Society?" This of course refers to the sanction given by the Council that the lecture promised to the Central Literary Society by Professor Rennie might be given in the Professor's Lecture-room instead of in the Society's Room at the Y.M.C.A. Your correspondent is wrong in both of his objections. First, the Society make no gain by Professor Rennie's lecture or any other meeting at present arranged for, the object of the Society being simply for refining and educational purposes. The only reason we asked permission to use the University Lecture-room was the convenience of the lecturer; second, admission is free to the public, both for that particular lecture and at all ordinary meetings. Members and associates only can take part, but we are glad to welcome visitors to all meetings, whether lectures, debates, Shakspearian readings, or paper and discussion nights.

I am, Sir, &c., SEC. PRO TEM.

Register August 6th 1886

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE CENTRAL
LITERARY SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I beg you will allow me, as one of the oppressed taxpaying public of South Australia, to repeat my protest against the use of the University rooms by any private and select Society whatever. The University has been built by public money, and costly apparatus has been provided also at public expense, for the use of students of the University, who may come from “all classes and denominations of Her Majesty’s subjects,” but if the Council of the University grant the use of the property held upon trust for the purposes of a University to Mutual Improvement and Literary Societies, I care not who the managers of such Societies may be, then I am constrained to say that the said Council in my opinion betrays its trust, and allows a precedent of a dangerous and highly improper character to be established. Why should not the University make a charge if one of its Professors lecture? Why should the building, or any part of it, at any time be given up to a Society unconnected with the institution for the purposes of a meeting in which it is said “members and associates only can take a part?” But what is to be said of those who ask the favour? Is it because the Warden of the University, the Vice Chancellor, and Bishop Kennion are members of the Young Men’s Association Board that the favour has been asked for and obtained? In an Adelaide Young Men’s Christian Association one might naturally expect to find a delicate and even chivalrous regard for things that are honest and of good report, after the sad events of the past few months; but, no, it seems that without scruple all connected with it are ready to act as parasites upon a costly public institution. If the object of the Society be a high and worthy one, such as superior “refinement and educational” advancement, surely it stultifies and degrades itself by seeking its refinement at public cost. This is false refinement. The nobler the aims the more sensitive should be the principle of honour. A sturdy spirit of independence that will not lightly accept gratuities from anybody and everybody would be a splendid acquisition for our young

men. I heard Mr. Charles Goode speak of honesty in vulgar money traffic as a cardinal virtue of Christian young men at the last annual meeting until I was ashamed. We want a few decent heathens to come among us to teach us that abstinence from pilfering and a refusal to betray one's trust are only of the very lowest order of right actions. Have not the guides and friends of the members of the Young Men's Christian Association an opportunity just now of giving a lesson to their disciples of a most refining and elevating character in respect to their duty concerning the use of public property and kindred matters? I have reasons for peculiar feelings of warm regard for the present Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., and if he be the same who is "*Sec. pro tem.*" of the Central Literary Society, I trust that my opposition to the request of that Society for the use of the University will not be regarded as having any personal animus in it whatever. I seek the good of this land and its people as truly as he does. We cannot be too watchful where so much is seriously astray.

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. H. A.

Register August 11th 1886

STATE SCHOOL PUPILS AND UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.—A return was laid before the Assembly on Tuesday, showing:—“(1.) That the number of the public school pupils who have passed the Primary, Junior, and Matriculation Examination was as follows:—Primary.—Grote-street (Central)—1878, boy 1, girls 6; 1879, boys 3. Norwood—1879, boys, 2; 1880, boy, 1. Kapunda—1880, girls, 2. Totals—1878, boy, 1; girls, 6; 1879, boys, 5; 1880, boy, 1; girls, 2. In 1881 and 1882 none passed. Junior.—Norwood—1883, boy, 1; 1884, boys, 3; 1885, boy, 1. Port Adelaide—1883, boy, 1. Totals—1883, boys, 2; 1884, boys, 3; 1885, boy, 1. None passed in Matriculation. The above figures show pupils only. Some names of teachers also appeared on the lists. (2.) University Scholarships (£50 per annum granted in each year) — 1876, 3; 1877, 1; 1878, 1; 1879, 2 (the latter two years were supplementary examinations); 1879, 1; 1880, none (the date of examination in this year was altered from December to March); 1881, 2; from 1882 to 1886 inclusive, 3 passed in each year. In 1877, 1878, and 1879 the other candidates did not reach the required standard of proficiency. In 1881 the third candidate retired during the examination. (3.) Number of pupils from the Advanced School for Girls who have passed the Primary, Junior, and Matriculation Examinations—No one passed the Primary. Junior—1880, 5; 1881, 4; second pass, 2; 1882, 6; second pass, 1; 1883, 7; 1884, 19; 1885, 7; totals, 48; second pass, 3; Matriculation—1882, 2; 1883, 5; 1884, 10; 1885, 10; second pass, 1; 1886 (March examination), only 2; totals, 29; second pass, 1. (4.) Bursaries—Number awarded, 1879, 5; 1880, 7; 1881, 3; 1882, 3; 1883, 1; 1884, 6; 1885, 4. In 1879 two of these did not attend the school. The number of these who passed the University examinations were:—1879, 3; 1880, 4; 1881, 3; 1882, 1; 1883, 1. (5.) So far as the Inspector-General of Schools is aware, no girls have left the Advanced School prepared to enter the Arts course at the University. The reason is that “Greek,” which is compulsory at the University, is not taught in the schools. (2.) Twenty-two girls who have been at the Advanced School are known to have entered the department as teachers.