

Advertiser
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UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

Commemoration at the Adelaide University yesterday was remarkable for an exhibition of attempted humor on the part of the undergraduates. Long before the Chancellor took his seat there were not wanting evidences that the students were bent on a display that would outdo all previous efforts. They gathered at the eastern end of the library and were flanked by a banner bearing as a device a skull and crossbones. Perhaps this was a schoolboy emblem of piratical intentions; perhaps it was meant, like the skull on the Epicurean banquet-table, as a reminder of the ultimate destiny—well, no doubt, of the humorists. The “undergrads.” did not condescend to explain. They opened by singing a number of popular songs of the music-hall type, and sandwiched in some numbers which were by no means unpleasing. The students were accompanied by a pianist, but if they had mapped out a programme they sadly needed a director, as snatches of choruses would give way to some inane screeches and cat-calls, displaying a marked lack of talent—they were neither witty nor rational. Credit, however, must be given to the “undergrads.” for the tuneful way in which they rendered a portion of the “Song of Australia” and the “Marseillaise.” “There’s one more river to cross” was another ditty which went with great swing. Had the entertainment ended here perhaps no one would have complained, but the entrance of the Chancellor was the signal for some alarming noises. A little while before his Excellency the Governor walked into the hall the boys commenced to sing “God save the Queen.” One by one the audience, thinking no doubt that Sir Fowell Buxton was entering, rose from their chairs, and when they were all up the students suddenly stopped and laughed long and loudly. As the Chancellor started to confer a degree on Dr. Jefferis the students interrupted by singing “Good old Jeff, he’s gone to rest.” Nor did they omit to honor his Excellency the Governor, who, when he ascended the platform, was met with the National Anthem. Then came the Bishop of Adelaide, and his advent was the signal for the order from the boys’ leader, “Now, then, ‘The Alabama coon.’” “No, no,” said the Chancellor, “I ask you not to.” His appeal not to be interrupted in the execution of his duty had the desired effect. Professor Bensly was greeted with a song—or rather a portion of one—and the Chancellor had to wait until this was over.

"Oh where has my Highland laddie gone" assailed all ears when Professor Mitchell stepped on to the platform, and Mr. W. J. Coneybeare was met by the song "Drink it down." The good-natured Government House tutor stood and smiled until the "music" ceased. Despite an appeal made by the Chancellor to grant Professor Mitchell a hearing the undergraduates were responsible for frequent interruptions. The first came in the shape of an alarm clock, which appeared to be concealed in the book-case, close to where the representatives of the daily press sat. At any rate that seemed to be the idea of the registrar, as he walked to the case amid the guffaws of the boys, only to return disappointed. The address throughout was punctuated by stupid interjections. One will serve as a bright example of the wit of the 'Varsity undergrad. The

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professor made some remark about an apology. "Oh, don't mention it," cried out one lad. Prior to declaring the commemoration closed the Chancellor made some caustic remarks at the expense of those who had, with such startling lack of brilliancy, so little reason, and so little consideration for the ladies and gentlemen present, disturbed the proceedings.

LITERARY ADELAIDE.

"Before leaving London," said Professor Mitchell in his address at the University yesterday, "I was told that Adelaide, in proportion to its population, might claim to be the most literary city in Australia." Such a reputation is of course very flattering, and it is still more flattering to find that the professor does not appear to be disappointed. "As I have not even an American's acquaintance with the other cities," he said, "I can say nothing about the comparison; but it does appear to me that in Adelaide there is a widespread interest in literature. This has been shown by the large attendance at the public lectures—the so-called extension lectures—though in all four courses the subjects were entirely by way of instruction and had nothing exciting or amusing about them. It is shown still better by the very large number of literary societies in the town, though I have no idea of the work that is done at the majority of them, and I am rather averse to the competitive aspect of it for the usual reason. But the most important means of securing a literary interest in any community is not the University, nor those societies, but the schools. I have now examined several hundreds of their pupils in English, and the results were highly gratifying." The professor proceeded in his address, which was deeply interesting, to review the state of the study of literature and philosophy in Adelaide, and spoke at length in vindication of the philosophical side of his chair. "All who are not students," said the Chancellor in thanking the professor, "will agree in envying the students of his class the pleasure of listening to a teacher who can make so difficult a subject so plain, so interesting, and so persuasive."

15th Dec 1895

THE UNIVERSITY.

The commemoration in connection with the University of Adelaide will take place tomorrow afternoon, with the Chancellor (his Honor the Chief Justice) presiding. The candidate bachelors who will receive degrees this year are:—Messrs. Julian Ayers, James Frederick Downer, and Carl Louis Spehr, LL.B.; Mr. James Atkinson Bonnin, M.B. and Ch.B.; Messrs. John Benbow and Isaac Herbert Solomon, B.A.; Messrs. Edward Vincent Clark, Oliver Leitch, and Edward Joseph Stuckey, B.Sc. The graduates of other Universities who are to be admitted *ad eundem gradum* are:—The Rev. James Jefferis, LL.D., Sydney; his Excellency Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, M.A., Cambridge; the Right Rev. John Reginald Harmer, M.A., Cambridge; Mr. Edward von Blom-