

Chancellor beforehand, and was therefore officially ignored, ribald song and solemn function went on simultaneously, and the result was something very like chaos. The extra conferring of degrees in July was completely successful, there being a desire on all sides duly to honor the distinguished visitors, and the undergraduates' songs, which in many instances were really clever, contributed not a little to the pleasure of the occasion. Yesterday yet another plan was tried, the junior members being allowed the use of the hall beforehand, in consideration of non-interference with the official arrangements. The libretto of the "low comedy in four acts" then presented was—fortunately, perhaps—not to be obtained in print, but the freely-circulated list of Dramatis Personæ contained some rather scurrilous attacks upon leading officials. The contract for non-interference later on cannot be said to have been actually broken, but it came dangerously near to cracking at times. Undergraduate humor is, however, much the same all the world over, and the trouble with it here is as nothing compared to that in Sydney, where the conferring of degrees, which should be an honored ceremony, has ere now been carried through as a strict formality and in private. More serious is it when the governing body is in any way divided against itself. The time has not yet arrived for forming a conclusive opinion on the subject which caused yet another meeting in the Elder Hall yesterday. But the discussion which was almost simultaneously being conducted in the House of Assembly presents features of significance that cannot safely be ignored.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The University Commemoration, which took place in the Elder Hall on Wednesday afternoon, had no special feature in its regular programme, unless it were an address by Dr. Barlow, the Vice-Chancellor, in connection with the tablet placed on the wall in memory of the late Surgeon-Captain Hopkins, B.A., M.B. The students had the hall to themselves from 2 to 3 o'clock, and carried out their own programme. During the conferment of degrees and other formal proceedings some of the undergraduates went a little too far in working off their exuberant spirits by shying rolled-up newspapers from the back of the platform. One of these missiles struck a lady on the head, while another fell near the Governor's party. Cows' horns, whistles, and other strange musical instruments prevented many remarks which the Chancellor sought to make from being heard. The sting of the meeting came in its tail, for when Sir Samuel Way and the members of the council and senate had swept down from the platform in their many-colored robes, Professor Ives advanced to the table and made an explanation of the reasons which led to the severance of his connection with the Conservatorium and the University. His statements were of a sensational character, and as practically all the audience, except the governing body of the University, had remained to listen to him, he faced a numerous assemblage. He concluded by asking for a full enquiry into the inner workings of the University. Subsequently the professor was made the recipient of some farewell gifts from a number of graduates and undergraduates, and in his reply he again returned to the assault.

Advertiser 19<sup>th</sup> Dec. 1901.

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THE UNIVERSITY.

THE CHANCELLOR'S REPLY TO PROFESSOR IVES.

We have received from the Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, Sir Samuel Way, the following communication, dated December 19:—

In your report of certain proceedings at the Elder Hall after the commemoration yesterday Professor Ives is represented to have said:—"On a certain occasion the Chancellor asked me, as one of the examiners for the degree of Mus. Bac., to place a relative of his in the first class division of the pass-list I had issued. I refused to do so, although at a private interview he sought with me the Chancellor used all those subtleties of argument and persuasion of which he is so crafty a master. Fancy a mere University professor daring to oppose the Chief Justice." To this statement I give an unqualified denial. Every word of it is untrue.

As only one "relative" of mine has graduated in music I recognise the incident which has been tortured into this groundless aspersion. Miss Campbell, one of my nieces, graduated as a Bachelor of Music in 1897. To obtain that degree it is necessary to pass three yearly examinations, and afterwards to compose a musical exercise of the candidate's unaided composition. By the regulations the names of the successful candidates at the examinations are arranged in three classes, but there is no such classification for the musical exercises, nor indeed, for any thesis required for a degree. Miss Campbell passed each of her examinations in the first class, the final one in 1897.

In forwarding his approval of the exercise of Mr. T. H. Jones, our first graduate in music, the English examiner recommended his passing first class. The same course was adopted by the board of musical studies with respect to the exercise of Mr. E. Harold Davies, our second graduate, but without any such recommendation from the English examiners, who, however, highly commended his work. This mistaken construction of the regulations escaped notice on each of these two occasions.

Miss Campbell's and another candidate's exercises were approved by the English examiners in 1897, subject to certain requirements to be complied with to the satisfaction of the professor of music. This condition having been satisfied, the exercises were certified to the council by Professor Ives as having been approved with a classification by him of third and second class respectively.

My attention having been called to this fact, I pointed out to Professor Ives that the regulations did not authorise the classification of musical exercises, and that all that was authorized was that they should be "approved." Professor Ives agreed with my construction of the regulations, and subsequently himself struck out the classifications from his report on behalf of the examiners, and initialled the alterations he thus made, five in number.

From that time to the present the exercises of four other students have been "approved," and in every case the precedent established in 1897 has been followed—that is, the exercises have received the examiners' "approval" without being classed.

So far, then, from my having "asked Professor Ives, as one of the examiners, to place a relative of mine in the first class division of the pass-list," and his having "refused to do so," my "relative" was placed in the first class in the pass-list for each of her three yearly examinations. If, however, Professor Ives based his statement on the musical exercises of 1897, I not only did not "ask that a relative of mine should be placed in the first class division of the pass-list," but I pointed out that classing the exercises was contrary to the regulations—a view in which Professor Ives then concurred and acted upon, which he has never disputed, and which he has followed ever since.

THE PROFESSOR OF MUSIC.

To the Editor.

Sir—In your report of certain proceedings at the Elder Hall after the commemoration yesterday Professor Ives is represented to have said—"On a certain occasion the chancellor asked me, as one of the examiners for the degree of Mus. Bac., to place a relative of his in the first-class division of the pass list I had issued. I refused to do so, although at a private interview he sought with me the chancellor used all those subtleties of argument and persuasion of which he is so crafty a master. Fancy a mere university professor daring to oppose the Chief Justice." To this statement I give an unqualified denial. Every word of it is untrue. As only one "relative" of mine has graduated in music I recognise the incident which has been tortured into this groundless aspersion. Miss Campbell, one of my nieces, graduated as a bachelor of music in 1897. To obtain that degree it is necessary to pass three yearly examinations, and afterwards to compose a musical exercise of the candidate's unaided composition. By the regulations the names of the successful candidates at the examinations are arranged in three classes; but there is no such classification for the musical exercises, nor, indeed, for any thesis required for a degree. Miss Campbell passed each of her examinations in the first class, the final one in 1897. In forwarding his approval of the exercise of Mr. T. H. Jones, our first graduate in music, the English examiner recommended his passing first class. The same course was adopted by the board of musical studies with respect to the exercise of Mr. E. Harold Davies, our second graduate, but without any such recommendation from the English examiners, who, however, highly commended his work. This mistaken construction of the regulations escaped notice on each of these two occasions. Miss Campbell's and another candidate's exercises were approved by the English examiners in 1897, subject to certain requirements to be complied with to the satisfaction of the professor of music. This condition having been satisfied, the exercises were certified to the council by Professor Ives as having been approved with a classification by him of third and second class respectively. My attention having been called to this fact, I pointed out to Professor Ives that the regulations did not authorize the classification of musical exercises, and that all that was authorized was that they should be "approved." Professor Ives agreed with my construction of the regulations, and subsequently himself struck out the classifications from his report on behalf of the examiners, and initialled the alterations he thus made, five in number. From that time to the present the exercises of four other students have been "approved," and in every case the precedent established in 1897 has been followed—that is, the exercises have received the examiners' "approval" without being classed. So far, then, from my having "asked Professor Ives," as one of the examiners, to place a relative of mine in the first-class division of the pass list," and his having "refused to do so," my "relative" was placed in the first class in the pass list for each of her three yearly examinations. If, however, Professor Ives based his statement on the musical exercise of 1897, I not only did not "ask that a relative of mine should be placed in the first-class division of the pass list," but I pointed out that classing the exercises was contrary to the regulations—a view in which Professor Ives then concurred and acted upon, which he has never disputed, and which he has followed ever since.

I am, Sir, &c.,

S. J. WAY,

The University of Adelaide, December 19.

Some misapprehension having arisen regarding the third year Mus. Bac. examinations, which have been the subject of dispute, we give below the "history of the examination and subsequent proceedings" as related by Mr. C. R. Hodge, registrar of the university, in a report to the Minister of Education:—

"1. The examination was held in November, and in due course the papers on harmony and on form and instrumentation were dispatched to Mr. Wale. 2. On November 25 the papers, marking sheets, and a report that all the candidates had failed were received from Mr. Wale, and the papers handed to Professor Ives, who also read the report. 3. On November 28 Professor Ives wrote a letter to the council stating that there were serious divergences of opinion between his co-examiner and himself, and asking that an additional examiner, either Professor Peterson or Mr. T. H. Jones, might be appointed. This letter and Mr. Wale's report came before the council on November 29. After very full discussion the council referred the question to the education committee for consideration at a special meeting to be held on Saturday, November 30. Professor Ives could not be ready with his marks on the 30th, accordingly the meeting was not held until Monday, December 2. Professor Ives attended at the invitation of the committee. At this interview the professor reported that in his opinion four of the candidates were entitled to pass, and that two had failed. He further stated that question iv. in the harmony paper was too long and difficult, and would take any of the candidates at least four hours to answer properly. When asked by the committee why he did not object to the question at the time it was set, and before the paper was printed, the professor stated that he did not like to interfere with his co-examiner's questions. The committee determined to write to Mr. Wale, explaining the facts, and asking if he had any objection to the papers being submitted to Professor Peterson, of the University of Melbourne.