

# PIONEER BISHOPS

## Sublime Faith and Courage

### ANGLICAN ACTIVITIES

(By Rev. C. H. Nield)

Anglicanism in South Australia shows many signs of increasing ardor and activity. The recent well-organized, well-attended, and highly successful missionary Exhibition, the festival services in connection with the jubilee of the opening of St. Peter's Cathedral extending into the present week, together with other events of a minor character, such as the jubilee of the Mothers' Union, serve to bring into public prominence the manifold activities of the Adelaide Diocese.

It is natural that just now thought should centre largely on the noble and stately edifice which is one of the beauties of Adelaide, and in which, although in an unfinished state, the first service was held 50 years ago on St. Peter's Day, 1876.

The Rev. Philip Carrington, M.A., preaching at the Cathedral last night, paid a deserved tribute to the noble vision and sublime faith and courage of Bishop Short and others in entering upon so great an enterprise at a time when the population and the resources of the church seemed so unequal to sustaining it.

#### Great Administrator

Bishop Short was a great scholar, a great administrator, and eminently qualified to lay securely the foundations of a great church in a new land. Among his pupils at home was William Ewart Gladstone, afterward Prime Minister of Britain, and one of those he examined was young Tait, afterward Archbishop of Canterbury.

In accepting the call to Adelaide he forsook a path that would almost certainly have led to eminence, comparative ease, and substantial emoluments, for one that involved the trials, labors, and hardships of a pioneer bishop under primitive conditions.

The diocese then included Western Australia. Accompanied by Archdeacon Hale, who subsequently became the first bishop of Perth, Bishop Short went in a small schooner to Western Australia, and visited not only Perth and neighborhood, but more remote parts of the colony.

Dr. Short was a brave, steadfast, true-hearted man, and a leader of men, who won the esteem and admiration of persons of every type. Influenced by Dr. Pusey and the tractarian movement, he was not perhaps as broad in his ecclesiastical views as some would have wished.

When the Rev. Thomas Binney, the eminent Nonconformist divine, was in South Australia Governor McDonnell was anxious that Mr. Binney should preach in an Anglican Church, but this was farther than the Bishop was prepared to go.

Mr. Binney was, however, entertained at Bishop's Court, and the relations between them were eminently cordial. They were seen, in spite of any theological or ecclesiastical differences, walking arm in arm as if they had been brother bishops of the same church, to the very great gratification of some well-known citizens of that day.

#### Took Wrong Hat

Leaving Bishop's Court, Mr. Binney, in forgetfulness, took hold of the wrong hat, and noticing it was the bishop's, playfully asked if he might have it. "Certainly," replied the Bishop, "if I may have Mr. Binney's head."

Pioneer bishops became acquainted with all kinds of hosts, hostesses, and accommodation. One of his hostesses felt embarrassed at the idea of entertaining a bishop with her limited accommodation, lack of help, and manifold duties, but was as much reassured as surprised to find that the good bishop had thoughtfully made his own bed.

After serving the diocese with signal ability for 34 years Bishop Short resigned the see in 1881. Judge Stow paid a well-deserved tribute to Dr. Short on his retirement—as "a ripe and cultured scholar, an able and highly successful administrator, a polished, manly, and thoroughly English gentleman." Although a vigorous man at 70 years of age, the bishop did not live long after reaching England, as he passed away in 1883.

His successor, Bishop Kennion, was only 12 years in the diocese. Lord Rosebery, at the time Prime Minister of Britain, offered him the Bishopric of Bath and Wells. Lord Rosebery and he had been fellow-students in their school days, and this was the outcome of the school friendship.

#### Universally Liked

There was much disappointment in this State at the time, I remember, and many heartburnings in the community. Dr. Kennion was universally liked, and was a popular and eloquent preacher. He was always bright, genial, and sympathetic.

I met him in the north and traveled with him. His cordiality and kindly disposition made conversation with him a great pleasure. His chaplain, the late Rev. B. C. Stephenson, M.A., was his friend. They were more like older and younger brother than bishop and chap-

lain. In their intimate and private relations I believe they were just "Ken and Steve" to one another.

When the chaplain, who was of delicate constitution, was nearing his end the bishop had great difficulty in conducting the service in the Cathedral on the preceding Sunday, and the congregation, who knew how closely they were knit together in friendship, were almost equally moved. The bishop had no family, but took a great interest in the poorer boys of the city. He formed the Boys' Brigade on behalf of newsboys and others of that type. He was a man of athletic build and fond of swimming. Stories are still told of his prowess at Port Elliot and of his swimming out to the Pudding Rock and back.

#### Picnics for Boys

He organized picnics for boys and was sometimes seen in the Onkaparinga and other waters surrounded by merry and delighted boys, and often with a little fellow on his back as he swam.

Dr. Kennion passed away in 1922. Of the four who have held the See of Adelaide two remain—Bishop Harmer, now Bishop of Rochester, and Dr. A. Nutter Thomas, the present bishop, who was enthroned in 1906 and to whose manifold labors during these 20 years I have no space in this article to refer.

REG. 6-4-26

The Ven. Archdeacon Whittington, of Hobart, who is visiting Adelaide, was ordained in this diocese nearly half a century ago (writes "Ecrivain.") He was then about 24 years old. Previously he had been on the literary staff of The Register, and was for sometime sub editor. While engaged in journalistic work he studied for the church, and afterwards graduated in laws in the University of Adelaide. The genial archdeacon was actively engaged in this diocese altogether for 14 years, and wrote an admirable life of Dr. Short, Adelaide's first Bishop, published in 1888; he also edited a "Memoir of the Good Dean Russell," which was published the previous year. The literary instinct has always been strong in the visiting archdeacon, who is author of a work issued in 1910, entitled "Ancient and Modern Church Law." It is 35 years since Archdeacon Whittington left this, his native State for a wider sphere of work and influence. In 1891 he accepted a position on the cathedral staff at Brisbane. The following year he was appointed by the Bishops of Australia, the first general secretary of the Australian Board of Missions. To him, therefore, fell much of the organizing work in connection with the inauguration of what has become a highly important institution. The archdeacon visited New Guinea in connection with the great missionary enterprise. In 1893 he was appointed to the cathedral staff at Hobart, and two years later he was made archdeacon, holding the additional offices of Vicar-General and Administrator of the Diocese of Tasmania in absentia Episcopi. The archdeacon, who was born in South Australia in 1853, is a younger brother of Mr. Peter Whittington, formerly Commissioner of Audit, and son of that fine old South Australian pioneer pastoralist and merchant, the late William Smallpeice Whittington, who came of splendid English stock of grit, determination and high character.

#### ECONOMIC SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand (South Australian branch) will be held in the Prince of Wales Lecture Theatre, the University, on Monday evening, July 12, when Mr. H. S. Taylor, editor of The Murray Pioneer, will deliver an address upon "The future of the Australian dried fruit industry." The lecture will be followed by questions and a discussion. Members have the privilege of bringing friends; it being understood that the desire of the committee is to build up the membership from people who are interested in the study of Australia's economic problems. The present membership of the branch is 70, and it is hoped to reach an enrolment of 100 by August.

REG. 6-7-26

# MUSICAL MOMENTS

(By "Staccato")

The week's musical events began with a student concert at the Conservatorium on Monday evening, which attracted a large and enthusiastic audience. Except for two piano concerto numbers, in which the orchestral part was played on a second piano by the teacher of the performer, the programme was all student work, and reflected credit on pupil and teacher alike.

A number of young cellists are coming forward at these concerts, and some fine voices are heard. On Monday evening the most successful vocalists were Miss Marjory Walsh, who exhibited a pure soprano voice in David's "Charming Bird," with flute obbligato by Miss Constance Pether; Miss Valda Harvey in Weber's "Softly Sighs," and a promising young soprano, Miss Blanche Schneider, who with a voice in no way exceptional, gave three difficult modern songs in a manner which speaks well for her intelligence and temperamental gifts.

Tuesday was the children's night out, and long before the South Australian Orchestra appeared on the platform the Exhibition Hall was crowded with high school and primary school children, their teachers and parents, to hear the first orchestral concert given specially for their benefit. Any coldness which the building was responsible for was largely compensated by the warmth and lively interest of the audience.

The programme was well chosen on the whole, though, considering the size of the audience and the auditorium, a few more robust numbers might have been more arresting for children. With smaller audiences it would be possible to get into closer touch with those who were obviously closely interested, as some of the children's faces were a study.

Dr. Davies spoke briefly and to the point, showing the difference between amusement and enjoyment in pictures and music, and advised the children to vary "Comic Cuts" with the Art Gallery, and jazz tunes with good music.

Illustrations of the various wind instruments proved absorbing, but Mr. Foote's descriptions of the character of the music lacked somewhat in an understanding of the child's powers of receptivity. There must have been many present who had no conception of muted strings, the Coda, or the terpsichorean art, but few who could not instinctively feel the appealingly physical rhythms of the various dances played. Simplicity is the first objective in descriptions for children, and it is not everyone who can become as a child for the purpose.

The concert was a fine object lesson of what can be done to bring the best music to young people, and it is to be hoped that further co-operation between the South Australian Orchestra and the Education Department will result in other concerts being given, though Saturday afternoon seems a much more suitable time than night.

#### Two Stars

Fedor Chaliapin, Russia's greatest bass-baritone, who is on the mail steamer Ormonde, is to open his Australian season in Melbourne on July 10. His life story reads like a romance. Of peasant birth, he worked from early childhood, according to his own telling, as shoemaker, carpenter, bookbinder, pawnbroker, clerk, errand boy, chorister, gardener, theatrical super, roustabout, and Volga barge hauler. To his mother he owed all the sympathy and encouragement which his youth contained, and when at the age of 17 he left home to join a travelling company as singer and dancer, his father averred that he had "become a servant of the devil at last." His success is due to his own unflinching labors, his virile voice, and his power of emptying himself of his own personality to throw himself into the demand of the musical situation.

He is said to be of herculean virility, with the sad and tragic patience and powers of endurance of the Russian peasant, of childlike simplicity, and of a humor frank and infectious. In his singing perfect diction is allied to that beautiful "bel canto" which is often missing in a heavy voice, and he can finish on a pianissimo note which would do credit to a soprano or lyric tenor. He bases his whole system of singing upon perfect breath control.

Mr. Percy Grainger will arrive in Adelaide on Tuesday and will open his series of pianoforte recitals in the Town Hall on Saturday, July 10. Although born in Victoria, and resident many years in Europe and America, Mr. Grainger makes a peculiar appeal to the people of South Australia, with whom his family has been for so long associated, and though his mother died in America it was to Adelaide that he reverently brought her ashes to rest in the family grave, where he intends that in the natural course of things his own will some day be placed beside hers.

At present Percy Grainger is instinct with the joy of life and creation. His is no narrow art, and he is the friend and patron of many an erstwhile unknown artist and composer whose work has been made known to the world

through Grainger's enthusiastic introduction. His own works are dedicated to his mother, to Delius the Yorkshireman, whose John the Baptist he has been, to Cyril Scott, and many a modern whose works stand side by side with his own upon his programmes. A comprehensive mind and art write "bigness" on Percy Grainger's life and work. He has opened his heart to the world of nature and of men, and a great breadth of vision lies within his horizon. His visit will possibly be the most personally acceptable to Adelaide audiences of the year's musical fixtures.

The programme for the opening concert on Tuesday evening will combine classic and modern compositions. Among the latter will be Grainger's "Country Gardens," "Julia," a composition founded on negro characteristics, by Nathaniel Dett, a Canadian; and "Birds at Dawn," a bird ensemble, by Fanny Dillon, an American composer.

MAIL 3-7-26

#### Canon Poole

On Friday Rev. Canon E. Slaney Poole, M.A., of Prospect, will celebrate his eighty-first birthday. He is the father of Mr. Justice Poole. The Canon, who is a fine type of the cultured, courteous Englishman, is a man of Kent—he was born at Maidstone—and his connection with the Diocese of Adelaide goes back nearly 60 years to the time of Bishop Short, the first occupant of the See.

Canon Poole graduated in arts at St. John's College, Cambridge, in 1866. His first teaching appointment, after leaving the University, was at Stockport Grammar School, where he corrected exercises by Horace Lamb, who in 1875 became Professor of Mathematics at the University of Adelaide, and went thence in 1885 to Manchester University.

It was a coincidence that two or three years after Professor Lamb (now F.R.S. and a most eminent man) took up his duties in the University of Adelaide, Canon Poole should be temporarily occupying the chair of Classics at that University. The Canon was again acting professor of Classics at the Adelaide University in 1894.

From 1869 to 1871 the Canon was Incumbent of St. Peter's, Robe. On his return to South Australia in 1872 from England, whither he went to be married, he was for two years Incumbent of Christ Church, Strathalbyn. From 1874 to 1895 he was rector of St. John's, Adelaide, and was a force in the religious life of the city. He was honorary Canon of St. Peter's Cathedral from 1887 until 1895, when he left Adelaide to become vicar of St. Peter's, Ballarat. There he spent more than three years, and then returned to Adelaide.

Reciting his experiences of that time the Canon has remarked:—"I should have returned to the Diocese of Adelaide six months after I left it. Circumstances were against my doing so. My deafness was a hindrance in securing a settled cure in Adelaide, and I was compelled to fall back on my calling as a teacher. I carried on a private school with profit to myself for some 10 years."

For a great many years the revered clergyman took an active part in Freemasonry. He was chosen first Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge, established at Adelaide in 1884, and for several years thereafter held office either as Grand Chaplain or Grand Lecturer. He has now the rank of Past Deputy Grand Master.

MAIL 3-7-26

#### Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C.

Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., M.B.E., son of the late William Isbister and brother of Dr. J. L. Isbister, a leading physician in Sydney, was born at North Adelaide on July 7, 1866. He was educated at St. Peter's College and Adelaide University, where in 1887 he graduated in laws, taking a first-class and the Stow Prize. Five years after he was called to the South Australian Bar, he was admitted to the English Bar, having been awarded in 1892 the first Common Law Prize of the Council of Legal Education. He practised in Western Australia till 1901, and then returned to his native city, where he has been in practice ever since. Mr. Isbister was appointed K.C. in 1916. He is a member of the Council of the University of Adelaide. For his Red Cross service in Egypt during the war he was made a member of the Order of the British Empire.

MAIL 3-7-26

The University Ball will be held on Friday August 20. The committee comprises Mesdames Harold Davies, T. G. B. Osborn, A. G. Price, Layington Bonnyton, Harris, and Wallman, Misses Ina Davies, Mary Angel, Vera Hackett, and M. Finlayson, and Messrs. R. H. Wallman, A. Lendon, R. Krantz, C. Smeaton, R. Pridmore, P. Angus Parsons, J. Glover, G. Letcher, K. Boykett, W. Morgan, and J. Irwin. Messrs. M. S. Joyner and H. Leader are joint secretaries.