

A BELOVED HEAD MASTER.

The Rev. Canon Henry Girdlestone, M.A., whose death in London is announced to-day, performed no inconsiderable service in the building up of virile masculine character in men who to-day influence the business life and political destiny of South Australia and the Commonwealth. Although he relinquished the position of head master of St. Peter's Collegiate School 10 years ago, and soon afterwards took his departure from South Australia, Canon Girdlestone's 22 years record in our midst as a leading educator of boys placed the State under a deep debt of lasting obligation to him; and his successful ministrations will ever be associated with the name of the great college whose interests he so ably advanced. Canon Girdlestone was wont to say that the Bishop of Bath and Wells (Dr. Kennion), who had been Bishop of Adelaide, probably selected him for the head-mastership of St. Peter's mainly because he had twice stroked the Oxford Eight. Doubtless the good bishop keenly realized that the canon's proficiency as an oarsman and an athlete would be highly appreciated by pupils of the college; but Dr. Kennion was almost certainly influenced in his choice even more by the fine reputation earned by Mr. Girdlestone as a scholar, a teacher, and an English gentleman. A son of the manse, Mr. Girdlestone inherited qualities of mind and heart which are needful for eminently useful work for the Christian Church.

The family tree of the Girdlestons is an unusual one. His grandfather, a celebrated man and a brilliant scholar, was the author of "Charles Girdlestone's Biblical Commentary," a publication which a century ago was the only one of its kind, and found a place in practically every English home. A great uncle, also a canon, was one of the first who tried to improve the conditions of the agricultural labourers in the west of England, and proclaimed opinions which, while acceptable to-day, were then thoroughly heterodox. The ex-head master of St. Peter's College received his education at Bath College and Oxford University (where he graduated M.A.). He was a master at Bath College when, at the age of 32 years, he was nominated by Dr. Kennion for the post at St. Peter's. The wisdom of that choice soon became remarkably evident. There were 170 boys on the roll when Canon Girdlestone began his duties in 1894. Year by year the number increased until in 1916 it reached to 450. Endowed with a magnificent physique—there were few more finely built men in the State—the Canon was an admirable exponent of the gospel of the open air and the benefits of athleticism. He did much to popularise rowing as a recreation in South Australia, and he was always actively interested in the sporting contests of his college. But sport to him was a means to an end and never an end in itself; it promoted the development of strong and healthy bodies, and even more of the sterling virtues embraced in the word "sportsmanship." The Canon set chief store upon devotion to righteousness and the acquirement of habits born of strong religious faith and clear conceptions of duty to one's day and generation. His was a sturdy, vigorous and withal lovable and sympathetic personality, which left an abiding impress for good upon the lives of the lads who came under his tutelage.

stones recovery, and all who knew him will learn with sorrow of his death. He was a man of outstanding personality, with his own high ideals of what a public school and a public schoolboy should be, and there is no question that he left his mark upon St. Peter's College, and that many men in the State and city look back with gratitude to their time at school under his head mastership. I had the satisfaction of appointing him an honorary canon of the Cathedral, and he was always ready to help in the diocese; but his chief interest was in his boys.

Tribute from Staff.

Among the members of the teaching staff of St. Peter's College—10 of whom were personally associated with Canon Girdlestone—there were on Wednesday unanimous expressions of regret at the death of the famous "head," and of appreciation for his fine service at the school. The acting head master (Mr. F. A. Wyatt), who was with Canon Girdlestone from 1897 to 1916, said that he felt the loss deeply, from a personal point of view, as much as from the standpoint of the school. "He was a man of fine personality," he remarked, "and he exercised wonderful magnetism over the boys. He was a splendid speaker, and few will forget the addresses he used to give to the boys. There could be no more eloquent tribute to him than that supplied by the number (between 1,200 and 1,300) of men who volunteered for active service during the war. Most of those soldiers had been trained under Canon Girdlestone's care. For the staff he had always the utmost solicitude, and we feel his death very deeply." It is probable that a memorial service will be held in the college chapel on Sunday morning.

An Old Boy's Reminiscences.

Mr. Hugh Crawford commented:—"The news of Canon Girdlestone's death will come as a shock to South Australians, and particularly to old St. Peter's boys of a generation back. One still seems to see in the mind's eye his burly figure strolling around his part of the garden, slowly swinging a pair of Indian clubs the while. Mr. Girdlestone, like many another who has taken vigorous exercise in his younger days, found that the disposition to put on weight had to be constantly combated. It is more on the athletic side that my memory dwells concerning him, although one cannot forget his uncanny knack of asking seemingly simple, but, in reality, most searching questions on some task imposed. As an oarsman and a rowing coach he stood alone in this State, and many very happy hours have old collegians, who indulged in this particular form of recreation, spent under his tutelage. One occasion I remember well. A new tub four had just been completed at Port Adelaide from designs he had, and the late Mr. Girdlestone arranged that a crew from the school, with himself as the fifth man, should go down and spend a Saturday on the Port River before bringing the boat to the college shed. The late Dr. Alexander Caw, afterwards on the H.M.S. Australia, Messrs. H. H. Dutton, C. T. Hargrave, and the writer each had an oar. A gentle admonition addressed to bow from the weighty coxswain, resulted in a "plonk," and a wad of chewing gum, then just come into vogue, were ejected to find a watery grave. Three other wads were also surreptitiously consigned to the same resting place. It was a delightful day, and 1 p.m. found the craft some miles down the river; and in a by stream our mentor suggested landing for lunch, as if all had naturally made provision for a mid-day repast. There was rather a suspicious silence about the landing, and a slight doubt in the minds of some about a long and much felt want, but when poor Mr. Girdlestone found he had suggested the partaking of food to four hungry and unforseeing youths, and there was only his small packet in the larder, I think he wished the age of miracles had not passed. He did not exactly give expression to his feelings, but he said enough. As the result of his tuition St. Peter's turned out some very fine oars, two of whom—Messrs. H. H. Dutton and C. R. Cudmore—attained the blue ribbon of the rowing world—a seat in the Oxford eight, which crew Mr. Girdlestone in '85 and '86 had stroked. The success which the Adelaide Rowing Club achieved about the beginning of the century was largely due to his good offices, and it is a thousand pities Adelaide is not more favourably situated as regards a river, for with the late head, Rev. E. I. Robson, Messrs. W. E. P. Austin, and B. P. Wait, there was a wealth of rowing talent, on the staff seldom equalled anywhere. The dear old days! Vale."

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THE UNIVERSITY BALL.

The University ball will be held this year on Friday, August 20. It is usual to hold the ball in May, but as the biennial celebrations of the University are being held in August, it was decided to postpone it till then. The secretaries will be pleased to receive the names of those wishing to be debutantes. Communications may be addressed to them at the University.

The committee consists of Mesdames Arnold Davies, Osborne, A. G. Price, Livingston Bonython, Harris, and Wallman, Meses Ina Davies, Mary Angel, Verna Ackett, and M. Finlayson, and Messrs. R. Wallman, A. Lendon, R. Krantz, C. Meaton, R. Pridmore, P. Angus Parsons, Glover, G. Litcher, K. Boykett, W. Morgan, and J. Irwin. The joint secretaries are Messrs. Malcolm S. Joyner and

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FINDING EMPLOYMENT FOR BOYS

When the battle of Protection was being fought one of the stock phrases was, "What shall we do with our boys?" The answer was, "Encourage Protection to give them local employment." The cause of Protection has been won, and it is now the accepted policy of Australia, but the finding of local employment for boys has been permitted to drift.

In a vast number of instances when boys leave school the line of employment which they will follow is not the result of any preconceived design, but is determined by the vacancies which occur at the moment. With the practical training which is now being afforded in State schools this may be obviated to a large extent, because some boys will have developed talents and tastes for particular avocations, but there will still be a considerable quota who will, in the usual haphazard way, take anything that is available at the moment. They enter into blind-alley occupations and uncongenial employment, which is unsatisfactory all round.

This hapless method, or lack of method, impressed one of the country schoolmasters of New South Wales, and he conceived the idea of establishing a local employment bureau for boys in connection with evening continuation classes. It was a good suggestion, and the employers of the district met and decided that they should co-operate with the schoolmaster. So far the experiment is in its initial stage, but good results should be obtained.

In connection with the universities in America a similar scheme has been found to be wonderfully effective. Encouraging results are also accruing from the recently established Employment Bureau in connection with Adelaide University. Of course, those bureaus are wider in their scope than is the New South Wales idea, which should create a sort of friendly family feeling and prevent in a measure the eternal flow of country workers to the capital cities.

That in itself will be of value from an economic standpoint, and also because young people when launched in big cities without the restraining influences of home, friends, and old associations often fail to become useful citizens.

Apart from all other considerations the interest displayed by employers in the youth of a district should lead to a more friendly feeling between employer and employed and a better industrial understanding. It should also assist in bringing about that personal friendship between worker and employer which Sir James Elder observed in the United States, and to which, among other things, he attributed industrial progress in that country.

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SCIENCE CONGRESS DELEGATES.

The secretary of the South Australian branch of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science (Mr. L. Keith Ward), yesterday completed a list of those who had intimated their intention of attending the congress of scientists to be held in Perth next month. The majority of the South Australian delegates will go to Perth by a special train leaving Adelaide on August 19 and arriving in the western capital on August 22. Provision is being made on the train for 63 travellers, but it is believed many of the delegates will travel by ordinary train prior to the departure of the special, and that by the time of the meeting South Australia may be represented by 80 delegates. The list so far, which may be added to at a later date, is:—Professors E. H. Rennie, Sir Douglas Mawson, J. B. Cleland, Kerr Grant, T. Harvey Johnston, F. Wood Jones, H. Darnley Naylor, T. G. B. Osborn, A. J. Perkins, and G. A. Prescott; Drs. W. T. Cooke, C. Fenner, W. T. Hayward, F. B. Hone, A. A. London, and S. W. Pennycook, the Revs. J. C. Jennison and G. H. Wright, Messrs. F. N. Bailey, J. F. Bailey, R. S. Burdon, G. A. Dick, G. R. Fuller, H. W. Gartrell, R. F. Gryst, M. F. Gryst, R. L. Jack, E. F. Lipsham, A. L. G. Mackay, C. T. Madigan, W. C. Hackett, E. Holle, F. G. Holdaway, E. H. Ising, M. R. Jacobs, R. L. Masters, A. McRostie, M. C. Moore, H. G. Oliphant, M. L. E. Oliphant, T. Paltridge, C. S. Piper, G. R. Piper, A. W. G. Pitt, L. K. Ward, F. J. Wauchope, E. C. Wilson, Lady Moulden, Mesdames Darnley Naylor, R. L. Oliphant, A. A. Woolnough, G. H. Wright, J. B. Cleland, C. Fenner, Kerr Grant, E. F. Gryst, M. F. Gryst, W. A. Hargreaves, E. H. Ising, J. C. Jennison, T. Harvey Johnston, J. C. McKail, and M. C. Moore, and Misses M. Burgess, I. Hackett, Hargreaves, E. D. Macklin, Rennie, V. Rogers, A. Simpson, A. Sprod, and J. Topperwein. Several others who will be unable to attend have enrolled as members. One of their privileges will be to receive a printed copy of the Proceedings of the congress.

WHAT IS MUSIC?

From EDWARD HOWARD:—"I was pleased to see that the principal of the Conservatorium could find time and inclination to address the children on the above subject. As to the answers—I have never heard music described as a "clever invention." That such an answer is stupid requires no demonstration. That, from the practical side, it is an art everyone will admit, but on its theoretical side it is equally a science, the question being not what is song, but what is music? In the third place, singing doubtless can "express something that words cannot tell," but on the other hand words by themselves can express many things that the most beautiful singing, or perfect orchestra, cannot express without them. Even the songs of uncivilised or savage races have words, though we may not understand them, and from the suggestions contained in these words comes the temperamental expression. It would have been good if Dr. Davies had pointed out the key whereby this "perfect language can best be unlocked."

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TRAINING RESEARCH WORKERS.

The Commonwealth Institute of Science and Industry, which is being reorganised, recently approached the University of Adelaide concerning nominations for appointments of research workers abroad. Two students are required to travel abroad to undergo training in food investigations, particularly as applied to cold storage problems, a third to enquire regarding fuel, and another concerning forest products. The venue of their investigations, which will extend over two years, will be either Great Britain or North America, and on their return to Australia they will give the institute the benefit of their services for two years. One of the conditions for nomination is that the students must have completed honor courses, and had at least one year's experience in post-graduate research work. The University of Adelaide is unable to make a nomination at present.