

Register May 29. 1882.

UNIVERSITY LECTURES.—The Council of the University have made arrangements for the delivery of evening lectures during the second and third terms of the current year. This is a step in the right direction, and will, we believe, be hailed with pleasure by the general public. In past years various courses of public lectures have been delivered in connection with the University, and some of them were exceedingly well attended. At that time, however, the University laboured under the very serious disadvantage of not having rooms of its own suitable for such a purpose. That disability has now been removed, and if efficient arrangements are made we have no doubt that the promised series of lectures will prove specially attractive. It has long been a ground of complaint that the educational influence of the University is too restricted; and the resumption of evening lectures, open to the public, on topics of general interest, will, we are confident, go a long way towards producing a more widespread feeling of sympathy with the work of our highest educational institution. The subjects named for the three series are just now attracting a good deal of attention, and are likely to draw larger audiences than would be induced to come to listen to lectures on more abstract topics. One of the objects to be served by a University in a young community where almost all the inhabitants have to work hard for their daily bread is to show how the results of thought and research can be made useful in the ordinary work of everyday life. We do not advocate that men should be taught to value culture simply for the gain it may bring; but, human nature being as it is, there is no doubt that it is an important step in advance to be able to show that education has a direct bearing upon practical life. Those who have been denied the benefits of more than an ordinary school education in early life will probably be stimulated to value culture for its own sake when they discover that it is not a merely ornamental appendage, but a direct help to the wise and skilful discharge of daily duty. From the report of the proceedings at the last meeting of the Council of the University, which appears in another column, it will be seen that the admission to the lectures is to be free. We do not know that any valid objection could be urged if a small charge had been made. But in making the lectures free the committee have adopted a wise course, because by doing so they will bring them within the reach of the poor as well as of the rich. The precise hour for the lectures is not yet fixed, but we take it for granted that a

time will be selected which will be convenient for those who are engaged in work during the day.

PUBLIC MEETING AT PALMER-  
STON.

PROFESSOR TATE AND THE  
NORTHERN TERRITORY.

[From our own Correspondent.]

A public meeting was held at the Exchange Hotel on Saturday, May 13, to consider a report which appeared in the *South Australian Register* of April 14 of Professor Tate's speech at the reception given to the Ministerial party on their arrival in Adelaide from Port Darwin. There was a large attendance. Mr. V. V. Brown was voted to the chair.

Mr. BROWN explained the object of the meeting, and said that he felt very much hurt on reading Professor Tate's speech, which he stated was cowardly and uncalled for. He then called for Mr. Adcock to read the extract from the *Register*, which ran as follows:—"One other drawback to the progress of the Territory was the pauperizing of the white population there. There was no self-reliance among them, and all the industries, except digging for gold, were in the hands of the Chinese. The white people lived from hand to mouth, and seemed to be constantly seeking for the Government to relieve them from one tax or another. His present opinion was that a clean sweep should be made of them, and that the white population there should begin *de novo*. Then the Territory would have a fair chance."

Mr. MELDRUM, on rising, said that he was pleased to see such a numerous and representative attendance present on the occasion. He thought that after hearing the insulting and uncalled-for remarks made by Professor Tate on his arrival at Port Adelaide, it was due to their self-respect as citizens and pioneers of this Territory that such statements should not be allowed to pass unchallenged. He did not know that Professor's Tate's words would carry any great weight in the southern colonies, but he certainly thought the words used were unfair, and that the Professor had taken advantage of his position to vent his private feelings. So long as the Professor had confined himself to giving his opinion as a scientific man upon the resources of the country he thought great latitude should be allowed him, but he should not take upon himself to suggest the extinguishing of our present European population, many of whom had proved themselves plucky and enterprising pioneers of the colony. He also said that whatever the Professor's private opinion of our population was he should not have forgotten that he had been well received by the residents of the Northern Territory, and had been treated like a gentleman.

Messrs. J. SKELTON and A. A. LEWIS concurred in the remarks made by Mr. Meldrum, and were at a loss to understand what could have prompted the Professor's attack.

Mr. V. L. SOLOMON said he felt proud that at such a short notice so many had gathered to vent their disgust at the ill-advised and spiteful remarks contained in the speech under discussion. At the same time he was perhaps in a better position to understand the feelings by which it had been prompted than many of those present. He had a resolution to propose to the meeting later on, but before doing so he would trespass on the patience of his hearers for a few minutes, so that he might show some justification for the motion. It was well known to those present that he (Mr. Solomon) was largely interested with Messrs. Tennant, Miller, and others in the Mount Wells discoveries, and he would content himself by stating briefly that on Professor Tate's arrival in the Territory, he (Professor Tate) made an offer to himself and partners to report specially on their tin properties in consideration of his being granted an interest with them; he could so word his report and confine himself to generalities as not to advance the interests of private claimholders unless it was made worth his while. He also made a similar proposition in his presence to Mr. E. Marker in reference to his copper property, and, although he (Mr. Solomon) would not for a minute have the meeting imagine that there was the slightest idea of anything