

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

COMMEMORATION DAY.

The annual commemoration of the Adelaide University was held on Monday, December 17, in the library of the institution, North-terrace. The room was crowded, and the Chancellor (His Honor Chief Justice Way) presided. At half-past 3 o'clock His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by Lady Robinson and Mrs. Kennion, arrived at the building, and were received by a committee, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor (Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A.), the Treasurer (Sir H. Ayers, K.C.M.G.), the Dean of the Faculty of Law (Mr. W. Barlow, B.A.), and the Dean of the Professorial Board (Professor Kelly). His Excellency having been escorted to the dais the various recipients of degrees were conducted to the platform by Professor Kelly, and the degrees were conferred in the usual form.

CANDIDATE BACHELORS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

George John Robert Murray; Walter Kingsmill.

AD EUNDEM DEGREE.

LL.D.—George Henry Farr, LL.D. of the University of London.

The CHANCELLOR, in conferring the degree, said—Dr. Farr, will you allow me to present to you my congratulations at the pluck you have displayed in sitting for the degree of Doctor of Law during your visit to England. (Hear, hear.) I am sure it will be a great pleasure to many of your old scholars, some of whom have graduated with honours in the same faculty as yourself, to see you once more having deserved precedence of them. (Cheers.)

M.D.—Alfred Austin Lendon, M.D. of the University of London.

M.A.—George Wyndham Kennion, M.A. of the University of Oxford; William John Young, M.A. of the University of Dublin.

LL.B.—Walter Ross Phillips, LL.B. of the University of Cambridge; James Hay, LL.B. of the University of Cambridge.

B.A.—James Hay, B.A. of the University of Cambridge.

B.Sc.—Edward Hayley Wainwright, B.Sc. of the University of London.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOLAR.

George John Robert Murray.

The CHANCELLOR, in presenting the scholarship, said—Mr. Murray, I congratulate you very sincerely upon having obtained the most distinguished honour which can be procured in the University of Adelaide. I have had the pleasure of watching your career since you were quite a small boy, and I remember you well as a prizetaker at St. Peter's College. (Hear, hear.) I had the pleasure also of admitting you as the holder of one of the University scholarships, and I am sure you will be able at the end of your residence in England to give as good an account of the way in which you have spent your time in that country as you have done here. (Hear, hear.) I am sure that we shall hear of you just as we have heard of other South Australian scholars who have already distinguished themselves at home. It was only the other day when a telegram announced to us that Mr. Percy Robin had won the prize granted for an essay on the colonies by the Colonial Institute. (Hear, hear.) However

you may distinguish yourself outside of your academical curriculum, it is in that direction especially that I wish you success. (Cheers.)

THE JOHN HOWARD CLARK SCHOLAR.

William Henry Hopkins.

The CHANCELLOR, in presenting Mr. Hopkins with the scholarship, said — Mr. Hopkins, I congratulate you very sincerely upon your having obtained this distinction in the University. (Hear, hear.)

STOW PRIZEMEN.

Thomas Hewitson, second year.

The CHANCELLOR said — Mr. Hewitson, I congratulate you very sincerely upon your being the first Stow prizeman, and I do so with all the greater pleasure because I have heard from the examiners of the singular ability displayed by you in your examination papers.

Alfred Gill, first year.

The CHANCELLOR said — Mr. Gill, I congratulate you upon your having deservedly won the Stow Prize, after a competition with all the men of your year. I am not surprised at your success, because I remember that you were a University scholar, and that you graduated in Arts. I am sure the gentlemen who are studying in the same faculty as yourself will find it as much an advantage as you have already done to graduate in Arts as well as in Law.

The CHANCELLOR (Chief Justice Way) said: — Your Excellency, Ladies, and Gentlemen —

We have to-day taken a new departure in the routine of our University in holding the principal meeting at the end instead of at the beginning of the academical year, and it will certainly not tend to diminish the interest felt in the distribution of the degrees and distinctions of the University that their recipients come fresh from the examinations and flushed with all the excitement of the struggle and of success. The time is past when it can be questioned that the University is doing a great and valuable work in this colony, both directly in the classrooms and indirectly by raising the standard of education throughout the country by means of our examinations. If there were any person sceptical on this point I should like to have taken him during the last two or three weeks over this hall and the classrooms to have shown him ninety-six boys and girls who presented themselves for the junior and forty-four boys and girls who presented themselves for the matriculation examination. He would, I am sure, have been satisfied, as most of us are satisfied here to-day, that the time will soon arrive when we shall want a larger examination hall than the library in which we are assembled. I should also like to take my sceptical friend through the classrooms during the ordinary work of the year, and there he would find forty-six undergraduates working for their degrees, and 114 other students attending the various lectures of the University. These numbers, of course, may not appear large compared with those of other Universities, but their results appeared altogether beyond our reach a very short time ago, and I hope they are the promise of still greater succession in the future. We have not had the pleasure of admitting to a degree any "sweet girl graduate," but at all events we have had sufficient evidence in the distribution of certificates that unless the boys look very well to their laurels the girls of South Australia will run them very

hard in the educational race. (Applause.) I should like particularly to mention the Advanced School for Girls as having singularly distinguished itself during this examination—all the pupils sent up for the matriculation examination passed, and also all those in the junior examination, four out of seven in the first class. (Cheers.) There is another circumstance I may be allowed to mention, and that is that our solitary woman undergraduate who was admitted at the matriculation examination in March last was the only undergraduate student who passed in science, and she passed in the first class. (Applause.) On this occasion, as on every occasion of this kind, great has been the number of the slain—(laughter)—and I hope those who have been unsuccessful in the examinations will be nerved in their efforts and deserve success on further trial. It is manifest, of course, that if our examinations are to be of any value at all a high standard must be maintained. (Hear, hear.) Most of you are aware that at our examinations, besides having the assistance of the professors of the University, we call in the aid of outside talent as well, and on several occasions we have had the assistance of professors of the Melbourne University. This induces me to disinter on this occasion what has long been a favourite theory of my own—that it would be well if the Australian Universities would unite in a common examination for degrees and in a common Board of Examiners. I know there are many practical difficulties in the way of such a scheme as this, but we may hope for great things in these days of federation, and a step of this kind would undoubtedly add much to the prestige and value of the degrees of Australian Universities. (Applause.) The members of the Senate will remember that a modest little statute was sent for their approval at the last meeting of the Council. It was a statute providing for University examinations in other localities besides Adelaide. It may be said that this is legislation in anticipation of our present requirements; but I venture to hope the time is not far distant when there will be University examinations in all the principal towns of the colony in imitation of the Oxford and Cambridge local examinations which have been so successful in the old country. My friend the Vice-Chancellor is the author of this scheme, and I believe he entertains the hope of annexing Western Australia, in the sense of bringing that colony within the ambit of these proposed local examinations. The great event of the past year which will make the year 1883 always noteworthy in our University annals is the establishment of the Faculty of Law and of the Law School. (Applause.) When I mention that over thirty undergraduates are working for their degree in this faculty I think we must all admit that success has vindicated the action of those who advocated this step being taken, and I hope I may be permitted to express my opinion that for the considerable success which has attended the Law School we are very largely indebted to the pains and tact displayed by the Dean of the Faculty of Law, and to our good fortune in securing the services of the gentlemen who have been our lecturers. Like most other people, we in the University of Adelaide have been suffering from the bad seasons—they have diminished our rentals, and have caused a long accumulation of

arrears. From these and other causes we have not been able to accomplish everything we could have wished to accomplish within the past year. If I were asked to name the especial want we labour under in the University I should say it is the separation of the Chair of Chemistry from that of Natural Science. We have made unsuccessful endeavours to obtain the assistance of the Government in uniting the former professorship with the office of public analyst, and as we have not been successful with the Government we can only hope that private munificence, after the precedent set by Sir. W. W. Hughes, Sir Thomas Elder, and Mr. Angas, may enable us to add this chair to the teaching staff of the University. When I last spoke from this platform I said something as to the establishment of a Chair of Music. I know this is a debatable question, and therefore in advocating it I shelter myself behind the example of the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London. Our Act of Incorporation and Her Majesty's letters patent contemplate our granting degrees, and therefore giving instruction in music. For those who pay more attention to the influence of advanced thinkers than to precedent I may say that Mr. Huxley includes the subject of music amongst those to be taught in the ideal University of the future. There is also the practical argument disclosed by the results of the examination for the scholarship of music founded by Sir Thomas Elder; while at the Royal College of Music in England the examiners found a latent musical capacity in the youth of the community which surprised them. To turn from these general to more personal topics, you will have been reminded, I dare say, by the fact of His Lordship the Bishop having accepted a degree in our University, that it is now nearly seven years ago that we had the honour of conferring the same degree upon His Lordship's predecessor and my own predecessor in the Chancellorship of this University. While the late Chancellor was among us, venerable from his years, character, and office, and distinguished by great learning, by more than youthful enthusiasm, and by the achievements of a long and noble career, we all felt his tenure of the Chancellorship brought dignity to the office and honour to the University. (Applause.) Therefore we were naturally reluctant when he left the colony that his official connection with the University he had served so well should be severed; and now, when at a ripe old age, he has been literally gathered to his fathers, he has bequeathed to us a memory which we shall not willingly let die, as well as an example and an influence which will, I am sure, be long felt. The Warden's presence in that chair also reminds me of one who was five times elected to fill that honourable office by the suffrages of the Senate, and who was elected a member of the University Council at the first meeting of that body. It has been well said that the late Dr. Gosse was in the best sense of the word a gentleman of the "old school"—(Hear, hear)—and both in the Council and in the Senate his name will always recall pleasant remembrances of his courtly manner, his generous thoughtfulness for others, and his well-directed efforts for the advancement of the University. I

shall presently have to call upon my friend the Vice-Chancellor to make his bow to you in that capacity for the first time. Mr. Fletcher brings to his office high distinctions from the University of London, and he has also done good service upon the University Council and in many other ways for the cause of education. On more than one occasion he has filled—at much inconvenience but with honour to himself—the position of Professor of English in this University, and I am sure we all feel that the election to the Vice-Chancellorship has been well bestowed and worthily won. (Applause.) I have purposely left to the last the mention of the circumstance which we all feel gives especial *éclat* to our meeting on this occasion—the fact that we welcome here for the first time His Excellency the Governor, the Visitor of this University. (Loud applause.) When our late distinguished visitor, the Marquis of Normanby, gets back to Melbourne, he will have to exercise visitorial functions in the University of Melbourne of a judicial character, and I congratulate His Excellency that he is not brought here on any such difficult errand, but that we have the pleasure of right loyally welcoming him as Her Majesty's representative, and as a sincere friend of the University, anxious to do all in his power to advance its interests and sphere of usefulness. (Cheers.)

HIS EXCELLENCY said:—Mr. Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, Ladies and Gentlemen—When the Chancellor asked me a few days ago to be present at this commemoration, I consented to do so on one condition and one only, namely, that I was not to be expected to make a formal oration to you to-day, for, as I stated to the Chancellor, my time was so fully occupied that I really had not the time to prepare a speech worthy of this occasion; nevertheless I could not refuse to be present, and I can assure you of the satisfaction which it affords me to be among you at this ceremony. One of the ablest and best of colonial Governors, Lord Dufferin, once remarked that the very best portions of a Governor's speech were very often those parts which he left unsaid. (Laughter.) I feel that there is great force and wisdom in that observation, and I recognise it all the more on such an occasion as this, when, unfortunately, I stand before you with no prepared speech. I therefore feel some difficulty in addressing you, and I think I ought not to detain you at any great length. Extempore speaking is apt to be very dangerous. When one has anything to say it is not difficult to speak, but when one has nothing to say the indulgence in platitudes which are difficult to understand is hazardous; and I sometimes feel after I have spoken in public without preparation that I have said too much and a great deal which I ought not to have said. Here I ought, in accordance with my bargain with the Chancellor, conclude my few observations; but I wish to say a few words on a subject which has for some time past engaged my attention, and which I hope will interest you to the same extent as it has interested me. It is that for some time past I have been endeavouring to collect subscriptions for the purpose of establishing in this University a Chair of Music. Your Chancellor has referred to this subject, and I, for one, attach very great importance to the establishment of the Chair. We have in Adelaide a great deal of musical talent of a certain kind; but all those who have watched the matter must be perfectly well aware that there is a great

necessity in this community for a recognised head of the musical profession. We want some one who will be able to give lectures in music, hold classes for the study of that art, conduct examinations in it, and so give effect to the provisions of your charter, which provides for the granting of degrees in music. The establishment of such a Chair would be a great stimulant to those who are talented in music, and therefore it is with great pleasure that I feel I have had an opportunity of exerting myself in the matter. I am glad to tell you that persons who are equally interested with myself in the subject, have promised me subscriptions which are almost sufficient for the purpose which I have in view. My object is to offer the University the promise for subscriptions of the sum required for the establishment of the Chair, for a certain guaranteed period, say five years. If that is done it will enable the University at all events to test the success of the movement, and to find out whether there is, as I believe there is, sufficient musical talent and ability in Adelaide to make it worth while to maintain the Chair in the University. I feel sure that the effort will be successful, and it would be a great disappointment to me if within the next few weeks I am not able to inform your Chancellor that subscriptions amounting to the sum required have been guaranteed for five years to come. (Hear, hear.) If I am able to do that there need be no delay in the establishment of this Chair, which I feel sure will tend to popularize the University, while it will at the same time be a manifest advantage and a stimulant to the profession. (Hear, hear.) It has afforded me a great deal of satisfaction to attend here to-day, and to find that this institution is established on so firm a basis, and to know that it is doing such a good work in the community. History tells us that the Phœnicians were less successful in colonizing than the Greeks, the reason being that while the Phœnicians only devoted their attention to commerce the Greeks carried with them their arts, science, politics, and their literature; and we all know the vast influence the colonization of the Greeks had upon the literature and education of Europe. It has always appeared to me that South Australia in its colonization has approached more closely to that of the Greeks than to that of the Phœnicians. (Hear, hear.) But for the maintenance of learning, and the maintenance of the type on which I consider that South Australia has been founded, it is absolutely necessary that there should be a centre of learning, and the centre of learning we find in this University. (Hear, hear.) This institution provides men and means for the cultivation of the arts and the sciences. Men whom I trust and believe are not mere bookworms, but who are capable of imparting to the students their own enthusiasm for their own particular branch of education; and I cannot doubt, as has been said by the Chancellor, that this University is doing a great work in the community, and that the results of its operations will be apparent so long as this colony shall last. We must remember that it is by our schools and our Colleges and by this University that we are forming the future character of this colony. (Hear, hear.) Just in proportion as the lines of thought and cultivation and edu-

cation are now made broad and deep, so will the future of this colony be solid and successful and substantial, or the reverse. I need not tell you how ardently I hope that every success may attend the work of this University in the future, as we feel certain that it has done in the past. (Hear, hear.) In concluding, I would like to refer to one personal matter. It is not my rule to do this, but I am sure that you will pardon me if I do so on this occasion. It is to express the satisfaction I experience on finding a gentleman occupying the Chancellor's Chair, who, I think, is a native of the soil. (Hear, hear.) I am not quite sure whether the Chancellor is a South Australian born. He may possibly just have been born in England, and if so it is South Australia's misfortune, and certainly it is not his fault, for we cannot hold him responsible for anything that happened at that time of his life. (Hear, hear, and laughter.) But the greater part of his existence has been spent in this colony, and I feel proud to be here to recognise him in the high position which practically as a son of the soil he occupies in this University. (Hear, hear.) It must not be forgotten that it is the province of the University to educate others to hold when the time comes—and I hope it may be long distant—the same honourable and distinguished office which the Chancellor now so ably fills. (Hear, hear.) In conclusion, I thank you for having listened to me so patiently. I hope that on another occasion I may be able to give one of those carefully prepared speeches which sometimes pass for impromptu if they are well delivered, and I trust that you will hear me with the same degree of kindness that you have done this afternoon. I am glad to be here on this occasion, and I wish this fine institution every possible success. (Hear, hear.)

The VICE-CHANCELLOR (Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A.) then delivered an address upon the general position and work of the University. After relating the origin and growth of such institutions generally he said:—The functions of a University seem to me to be these:—1. To afford opportunity for bringing together those who have an especial interest in the cultivation of learning. 2. To enable those who desire to obtain more or less of learning to have the best possible opportunities for being taught. 3. To test the acquirements of those who are anxious that their studies should be thorough and complete. 4. To assist in education generally by putting before the community a standard of educational proficiency, which the schools can aim at reaching, and by advice, by examination, or by any other suitable means guiding the elementary education of the community into proper channels. I have named these in the natural order of their importance, but in their chronological development the first and the last must change places. The desire for a high-class education is not an indigenous growth. It must be fostered. It is a vigorous plant which, like the wheat, which is the source of so much of our wealth, will easily be acclimatized under careful farming. But, though vigorous, it will not take root of itself; the ground must be prepared, the seed must be sown, and the harvest carefully gathered in. As the schools develop in efficiency our students will increase in number. As the students increase, and as

the literary wants of the community become more clamorous, one faculty may be added to another, and the list of professors and lecturers be proportionally augmented, until education is provided not only in the seven liberal arts, but in all those branches of experimental and technical science which are so conspicuous a feature of the intellectual aspects of the age. During this year the Faculty of Law has been inaugurated by mutual arrangement between the Judges of the Supreme Court on the one hand and the Council and Senate of this University on the other. In this faculty care has been taken to provide for such practical teaching as may be required for the mere practitioner as well as that higher and more scholarly instruction which is preparatory to graduation. Most of the students have, however, enrolled themselves as "studying for a degree in law," a symptom of scholarly enthusiasm which every member of the University will be glad to recognise. The number of students in law is now twenty-nine—that is twenty-seven studying for a degree and two whose ambition does not aspire so high. It is difficult and dangerous at all times to assume the rôle of a prophet, but I venture to anticipate that probably the next faculty that will be established will be one for the encouragement of the study of music, and for granting degrees in that ornamental branch of science. Her Majesty has delegated to us the power to confer degrees in music, and the Council hopes that this power may before long be something more than an inoperative clause in the charter. In due time this University may attach to itself a medical school, as has been done by the sister University in Melbourne. The cost which such a step would entail in the providing of suitable buildings and the endowment of various chairs, together with the consideration of the smallness of the population of this colony as compared with Victoria, render it unlikely that any active steps can be taken in this direction for some years. In the meantime it is to be noted that a lectureship in elementary physiology has been appointed, and that Dr. Stirling, as lecturer, has as his reward the largest class in the University. I venture to call the attention of the public to a statute very recently adopted by the Council and the Senate, which has for its object the extension of the operations of the University to remote places in the colony and to places outside the colony altogether. The details of the necessary arrangements for giving effect to this statute have not yet been considered, but it is proposed that the junior and matriculation examination should be held wherever a sufficient number of candidates who would otherwise be precluded by distance or expense from attending in Adelaide can be secured to cover the additional cost of the examination. It is to be hoped that the neighbouring colony of Western Australia may in time have a University of her own, but in the meantime the Council of this University will be glad to assist in fostering a taste for sound learning in that colony, and in preparing the way for a University by holding examinations in Perth as elsewhere under such arrangements as may be mutually satisfactory to the Council and the Government of Western Australia. I cannot but think that it is a mistake to measure the usefulness of a University by the list of its graduates. To confer degrees is, as I before said, only one of

the functions of the academic body. This University has had a large number of students, who have coveted its teaching, and have attended some of its courses of lectures, but who are not able to devote themselves entirely to study. The number of such students during the year has been no less than 114, of whom 50 entered for physiology, 10 for logic, 17 for English literature, and 22 for physics. All the friends of education in this colony will be glad to welcome any attempt to extend the system of evening lectures. The success which has attended the evening lectures at Owens College, and the popular courses of lectures delivered under the auspices of the University of Cambridge, will be a warrant for adopting some similar method here. Such lectures to be really useful should be of a strictly educational character, and not a mere opportunity for dilettante amusement, or for boys and girls to play at being students. In the arrangements for such lectures at Owens College a fee is charged for each course. A course consists of twenty lectures. An examination is held at the end of each course and the results are publicly announced, and the courses are so arranged as to meet the requirements of students wishing to matriculate or to proceed to degrees. The number who avail themselves in Manchester of these evening classes is more than equal to the students of all the regular classes added together. Moreover, these classes act as feeders to the regular classes, for I am informed that many of the youths who begin by trying to unite business with education pass upwards into one or other of the faculties in the College. All who carefully consider the difficulties that attach to the founding of a Colonial University will come to the conclusion that our University has made satisfactory progress. I hope that the day is not far distant when colleges for residence may be established in Adelaide, not perhaps in organic union, but associated with this University, and when we may see institutions analogous to the "halls," not of modern, but of olden times, rising among us. The Owens College has special arrangements for the licensing of such halls of residence, and several have already been established. Parents have frequently complained to me of the difficulty and risk of allowing young students that measure of liberty which belongs to a University. A clever boy say matriculates at fifteen or sixteen. He has reached the highest position in his day-school. His father would like him to become a student, but the boy is too boyish to have the general direction of his own studies, and, rather than run the risk of making so young a man master of his own time, the father puts him to business. I hope that the experiment being tried at some of our public schools of affording residence and supervision to boys who have passed upwards into the University may lead to some further results in the same direction. And now, in conclusion, I can only give voice to our common hope that this University may grow in efficiency and usefulness. It is second to no other institution in its importance, and is the friend of all. In this colony we have to educate legislators, and raise up a race of native-born lawyers. The different Christian Churches are all

anxious how to fill up the recurring vacancies in the ranks of their religious teachers, and to provide for continual increase in the number of the clergy. In this almost untried field for the botanist and the zoologist it is of vast moment that capable young men should arise who can interpret the secrets of our flora and fauna, and thus assist in the practical development of the resources of the colony. As time goes on we shall want more and more engineering skill to meet the peculiar circumstances of this country as it becomes more populated. In proportion as the University prospers may we expect to find a Parliament continually composed of statesmen, our pulpits filled by educated gentlemen, and our schools animated by wholesome literary enthusiasm, our public works carried out efficiently by those who have been born in our midst; and if due care be taken to extend the means of education to those who are unable to aim at becoming finished scholars, all classes of the community may consciously as well as unconsciously share in the advantages of the University.

The CHANCELLOR said—Your Excellency, on behalf of the Council and the Senate, I beg to tender to you our sincere thanks for the honour which you and Lady Robinson have done us in attending here this afternoon, and we beg also to thank you for your admirable address, and for the efforts you have been making on behalf of the institution.

The gathering then dispersed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "REGISTER."

Sir—At the University commencement this afternoon the Chancellor inadvertently gave me the credit of having originated the scheme for the establishment of local examinations. Let honour be given to whom honour is due. The honour is really due to Professor Tate, who brought forward the scheme at a meeting of the Professorial Board. I only brought it before the Council.

I am, Sir, &c.,

WM. ROBY FLETCHER,
Vice-Chancellor.