

The Register.

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 1883.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS.

The Chancellorship of the University has been conferred upon His Honor the Chief Justice, and the anomalous state of things which for over a year has existed in that important institution has thus been brought to a close. It is somewhat strange that the public were given to understand in various ways that the office of Chancellor of the University was not "vacant," when in reality the resignation of the late Chancellor, Dr. Short, had been handed in, and could at any time have been accepted. It was known that the late Bishop of Adelaide had no intention of ever returning to the colony, and when he had given in his resignation it certainly was stretching a point to assert that the office which he had resigned was not vacant. That, however, is a matter upon which we need not now dwell. The value of the services as Chancellor of the late Bishop of Adelaide has already been recognised, and will be long held in grateful remembrance. He was eminently qualified to grace the position, and his retirement from it was a source of general regret. The appointment of Chief Justice Way to the vacant office will excite little surprise, and we believe will be hailed with almost universal satisfaction. That the action of the Council in electing him will conduce to the best interests of the University does not admit of doubt. His Honor has been a member of the Council of the institution from the beginning of its career in 1874, and he has been Vice-Chancellor since April, 1876. He is thus intimately acquainted with the wants and capabilities of the University. Not only has he taken a warm interest in it, but he has spared no pains to promote its progress. As Chancellor he will be able so to guide its affairs as to keep it clear of legal difficulties, as a lawyer, and especially a Judge, is better suited for such a post than any one belonging to the other learned professions. His periodical vacations afford him an opportunity of devoting time to the duties of the office without feeling that his attention is being unduly distracted from his ordinary work. A medical man rarely has a week which he can call his own, so long, at any rate, as he remains in town. A minister of religion is apt to be still more preoccupied with his multifarious duties. But a member of the legal profession, however busy he may be at times, has his stated periods of leisure, some of which he can devote to his hobby, whatever that may chance to be.

Law studies intended to prepare students for the amalgamated legal profession as it exists in this colony have recently been added to the curriculum of the University. The new Chancellor will probably take a special interest in the working of the rules adopted in connection with the School of Law, and as he has been one of the principal framers of these rules he will no doubt continue the working out of the scheme so as to give to it a fair prospect of success. The duties pertaining to the office are not of a merely formal character, as in the British Universities. The Chancellor of a Colonial University is not simply expected to preside and make a speech on commencement or inauguration day. It is necessary that he should be the most active, as he is the chief member of the Council.

Next to him the Vice-Chancellor exercises the greatest influence, and as this post has now been left vacant by the appointment of the Chief Justice it is of the highest importance that a successor should be found, who will not only discharge the duties appertaining to the office with intelligence, zeal, and fidelity, but who will command the confidence of the public, and especially of those more directly concerned in the work of education. There are other departments of the University besides that of law which require the special attention of members of the Council. It is necessary, for instance, that the scientific branches of study should in all respects be as fully attended to as those pertaining to literature or to law. It would be well, if it could be so arranged, that science should be represented in the person of the Vice-Chancellor as law is now represented in the Chancellor. Of course, this view should not be strained so far as to give to a scientific man, not otherwise eligible, the preference over a man possessing high general qualifications, but it ought not to be overlooked.

The new Hughes Professor of English Literature and Mental and Moral Philosophy is Mr. Vaughan Boulger, M.A., who has been for over seven years Professor of Greek at Queen's College, Cork, in connection with the Queen's University in Ireland. This College possesses faculties of Arts, Medicine, and Law, and the teaching staff comprises seventeen Professors and four lecturers. It is expected that the new Professor will begin duty in July, and it is to be presumed that the University has secured the consent of the Rev. W. R. Fletcher, M.A., to discharge the work of the office until then. The appointment of Mr E. E. Morris to a professorship in Melbourne after his acceptance of a position in the Adelaide