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and for whom, for all that, life was as tedious as a twice-told tale, because in their youth their only philosophy had been that of the lotus eater. They had failed to acquire any interest in or any capacity for the affairs of the mind. They had no refuge from that tedium and weariness which are too likely to overtake, like Nemesis, those who put behind them the tastes and interests and occupations by which human beings are distinguished from the beasts that perish, and by the aid of which alone we can lead the sort of life that best becomes a man. Choose out, therefore, some subject suitable to your tastes, to your opportunities, to your type of mind, and to your capacities. Follow it faithfully, and seriously and persistently, even if it never rises in your hands above the level of what your candid friends will call a hobby. You will find that it adds a new brightness and a new interest to your life. It will be a resource against what to so many men are the sordid details of their daily business, a place of refuge from the anxieties and the irritations of personal affairs. It is surprising how absorbing almost any subject will become so soon as you persistently study it and begin to feel your mastery over it. Yet different subjects differ greatly in the amount of permanent interest they afford, even to their most faithful followers, and I think that most men will find the most satisfying mental nourishment in some branch of those physical sciences, the development of which is so wonderful a feature of the times in which we live. I well remember my first introduction to those sciences. As a little boy of eleven or twelve I learned at school the elements of geology. I do not suppose that I penetrated very far into that science; but I acquired, I remember, a disinterested passion for fossils and minerals and samples of building stone, so that even now a visit to a museum recalls the feelings of my boyhood. At fourteen I became acquainted with the mysteries of chemistry and electricity. This was the revelation of a new world—a world in which I lived delightfully until a few years later the fascinating and inscrutable riddles of metaphysics and philosophy usurped the place of the problems of science. Since then I have wandered less in the somewhat arid wilderness of the law, not, however, without meeting an oasis here and there. But I still look with envious eyes on those whom fate is leading through the green pastures of the natural sciences. Let us have nothing to do, therefore, with the heresy of the lotus eaters. The happiest men are they who exercise to the full the highest faculties of their nature. Let us not suppose that intellectual effort will fail to add to the enjoyment of life. Let us work now, for there will be plenty of time to rest in by and by. The second kind of man who has neither rational enthusiasm himself nor promotes it in others, is the exclusively practical man—the man who wants to know what the good of it all is—he who thinks that truth is worth exactly what it will fetch in the market—he who believes that a man's brains are an instrument designed by Providence for the manufacture of money, and who views with a partly or wholly contemptuous indifference the proceedings of those who use them for any other purpose. What is the use of it all? That is the last question which the true scientist or philosopher ever asks himself, and rightly so. The gratification of a rational curiosity as to our own nature and destiny, and the universe in which we live, is an end in itself, apart altogether from any practical utilities that may flow from it. The science of astronomy is not dependent for its justification upon its uses in the practice of navigation. The reverence that we show to the memories of Copernicus and Galileo and Newton and Kepler has not its source in any practical issues of their genius and labors. It is the testimony of the rational soul of man to the self-sufficiency of truth itself, and to the honors of those whose keen and eager eyes are searching out for us the mysteries of the heavens and the earth. And even were it not so, even were theory merely subservient to practice, where is the man presumptuous enough to say of our smallest fragment of scientific truth, that it is of no use. Prophecy is a dangerous game at the best of times, and any prophet mindful of his reputation will speak respectfully of possibilities in this kind. How often before now have the seeming trivialities of theory grown into practical results of untold importance. The proper maxim is that all knowledge is potentially useful knowledge, and that all that is true is good and profitable also. After all it is the men who think that rule the world, the others do their bidding, and follow in their footsteps, though they know it not. It is often the dreamer of dreams who in the long run proved to have have been most wide awake. I have said that a rational interest is a valuable possession even if it never rises above the level of a hobby. But for all that you can tell beforehand, it may rise far beyond that level. It is a great mistake to suppose that all the original work in the world is being done by intellectual giants, and that there is no room or opportunity for men of average stature. A very large amount of genuine and valuable work is being done by men of little more than average abilities, because they are familiar with the proper methods and animated by the proper spirit. If any man is ambitious to take part in the great work of the advancement of knowledge, there are his chief requirements for him, which I may here merely mention. The first of them is specialisation—the concentration of mental effort upon some special and limited subject matter. This is the great secret of original work. This it is which alone brings such work within the reach of men of ordinary capacity. Let a man have sufficient humility to choose out a subject, which in extent and difficulty is proportionate to his capacities; let him have sufficient firmness of will to keep resolutely to that one subject, putting behind him all those temptations to intellectual dissipation which are so allurring and so fatal; let him persevere in his chosen task, till in that one department of thought, however narrow, he is entitled to speak with authority, and he will not miss his reward. It is to the specialist that the future belongs. The gigantic increase of knowledge in modern times has already rendered impossible that universal learning on which our ancestors used to prille themselves. Any man who fails to realise this essential condition or original work will have as his portion futility and commonplace and disillusion. The second requirement is youth. This is a work which a man must begin in the first freshness and vigor of his youth, or in all probability he will never begin it at all to any good purpose. The first few years after leaving college are of priceless value in this respect. It is then that his mind is most receptive, his memory most retentive, his strength, his enthusiasm, and probably his leisure greatest. It is then that he has his opportunity of becoming an expert; if he waits till later the chances are that he will never be anything more than an amateur. If then a man has in him the vigor of youth with some fire in his heart, and some brains of a tolerable quality in his head, and wisdom and patience enough to choose his course and continue in it, he need not despair of deserving well of the republic of science and letters. The fields are white to harvest, and for every man with scythe or sickle there is room enough and to spare.

The Chancellor, on behalf of the University, thanked Professor Salmond for his thoughtful and encouraging address.

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GRADUATES AND UNDER-GRADUATES.

THE proceedings at the Commemoration of the Adelaide University yesterday were more than usually enjoyable to all concerned. In the first place, the fierce heat proverbially connected with this annual function was for once wanting, and such warmth as was observable during the ceremony was of internal origin. Some of the more obvious defects of the University Library in the matter of ventilation have indeed been corrected, but the room is not by any means an ideal one for the bringing together of a packed gathering. Thus the question of temperature must always be an important one. The popularity of the Commemoration has steadily increased, to say nothing of the fact that the number of past and present students is necessarily each year added to. It may not be possible, as in the cherished joke handed down from a Cambridge of long ago, to find children examining the notice-boards, and exclaiming tearfully "Oh mother! father's plucked!" But there is no doubt that the inclusion in the University of lady students tends to the drawing together of crowds on all occasions; since the studious woman is not free, any more than her unlettered sister, from that unwritten rule of the sex which demands that every action of life shall be carried out in the presence of friendly witnesses. Then nearly all the students have their homes within easy distance of their *alma mater*, and hence the gathering of sisters, cousins, and aunts on the one occasion of the year when the University has something of a social nature to offer. The Chancellor encouraged his hearers to hope for a larger hall of audience on future occasions, and this will be absolutely necessary unless the popularity of the gathering is to be restricted.

The Governor was necessarily absent from Commemoration this year, as in 1896; but the other deficiencies which gave that function so negative a character were fortunately not to be observed. It is true that the Chancellor dispensed with any formal oration, but he was at his best in the varied and well-chosen phrases of congratulation addressed to the various candidates. Nor was there any lack of graduates, more or less distinguished, from other Universities, who sought to proceed to an *ad eundem* degree here. The presence of the Rev. F. J. Jervis-Smith was taken advantage of, as the Chancellor pointed out, to reciprocate to some slight extent the honours which Oxford has been generous in heaping upon Adelaide men, notably upon the Chancellor himself in 1891, and upon the Premier last year. Mr. Kingston duly made his appearance yesterday as a D.C.L. of Oxford, and was admitted to the corresponding degree of Adelaide. Cambridge and Dublin, St. Andrew's and Melbourne, were also represented, the last-named in the usual fashion by young doctors who have there completed their course. It was notable that no echo was expressed on the present occasion of last year's hope and expectation that matters might be so arranged as to restore Adelaide's Medical School to its former state of efficiency. It appears to be recognised now that only time can heal this matter. There were several minor incidents of interest. The Warden of the Senate saw pass before him the third, fourth, and fifth members of his family who have trodden that platform with distinction, one figuring as an M.B. of Melbourne, another as a B.Sc. of Adelaide, and the youngest as winner of the Angas Exhibition. Nor was there any want of students who had shown conspicuous merit in more than one branch of study. The Chancellor was specially congratulatory to several who now took a degree in law, after having previously taken one in Arts or Science. The old-world practice which allows the man distinguishing himself in law to style himself a Bachelor of Arts also is very properly non-existent here. And, though it may make a man no better lawyer to be skilled in what used to be termed "the humanities," it must undoubtedly raise the tone of the whole profession if it be constantly recruited by those who have made profitable study in other fields as well.

Of this particular truth, as it happened, the professorial address of the occasion proved to be a general application. Professor Bensly's absence in 1896 caused a regrettable break in the series of these orations, which make for culture and instruction in a manner too valuable to be disregarded. He spoke last year, though at no great length, on the functions of Universities, emphasising the desirability of Chairs of history and modern languages in Adelaide. Professor Salmond yesterday addressed himself to both sexes and all ages, though he vigorously vindicated the special claims of youth. What he urges upon all is to have some intellectual interest outside the daily work, something that will take the mind out of the dangerous groove of accustomed occupation, and cause it to expand. He condemns alike the lotos-eater, whose tranquillity is that of mere laziness, and the money-grubber whose first question is of what practical advantage any step will be. As he implied, we honor Galileo, Kepler, and Newton none the less because their researches and discoveries were not so immediately profitable as those of Edison. But the world still knows very little, Professor Salmond thinks. We are not so much the heirs of all the ages as pioneers; the riddle of the universe is still in the main unread. And he distrusts the often-vaunted superior wisdom of age, whose impartiality is too often but indifference, its moderation mere dullness. From the young, in those valuable years which immediately follow the University career, he hopes many things and much. His address was in fact calculated to appeal to no small extent to the undergraduates, and it is the more to be regretted that these gave him such poor attention. It is exceedingly probable that at the extreme end of a room not too well designed the greater portion of what was said might in any case have been inaudible; the running accompaniment of yawns, whistles, and other unmannerly interruptions made this a matter of certainty. The undergraduates have for the last year or two contributed to the proceedings a musical programme, printed details of which are now circulated among the audience. The business of conferring each degree is allowed to stand still till a verse upon the personal characteristics of the graduate has been sung; and it may be said at once that much ingenuity and some wit is displayed in the allusions made. The toleration thus given certainly demands a return. When the programme prepared by the students themselves has been rendered in full there should be no impromptu additions to it. A distinctly offensive placard was suspended at the top of the hall, and the persistent interruption of any speaker is simply ungentlemanly. Humor is an excellent thing, but it is possible, as the immortal Trilby phrased it, to be funny without being vulgar.