

Mr. W. H. Foote's Visit to Sydney.

Register 19.12.22

Mr. W. H. Foote, A.R.C.M. is like Kipling's famous mariner, "a man of infinite resource and sagacity," or, at any rate, of unbounded energy and enthusiasm. Since his arrival in Adelaide, not two years ago, he has contrived to identify himself very completely with Adelaide musical life, and to become most thoroughly a South Australian in sentiment. He believes in the central State most thoroughly, and claims that time has only strengthened the high opinions he formed on first arrival of the fine musical material available here. What is more, he is ready to testify most emphatically to his beliefs in this respect, and appears to have had an opportunity to do so during a brief visit to Sydney, from which he has just returned. During a chat with a representative of The Register on Monday he gave a brief but breezy account of his impressions, which included, besides the usual sight-seeing, an opportunity of meeting most of the prominent musicians of the harbour city.

When asked what he thought of Sydney itself, he said much as he had heard of it, his highest anticipations had been outdone. "It is a magnificent city," he remarked. "I do not suppose there is another so wonderful in situation in the world. Then the use that has been made of the natural advantages, that wonderful zoo with the animals, to all appearances, at liberty, and in their natural surroundings. I saw surf-bathing at Manly—that was on Sunday, the day we arrived. It was typically Australian, and most interesting. The wonderfully good methods of transit impressed me, too; especially those fast ferry steamers. I have never seen anything just like it elsewhere. And the effect, at night—the lights of the great city, with its brilliant electric advertising signs reflected in the still, deep water of the harbour, and the ferry boats darting across—provide a scene of unrivalled enchantment."

"You saw the Conservatorium?" "Yes, of course. It is ideally situated and well planned for its purpose, but it is not nearly so fine and imposing as ours. We have every right to be proud of the Elder Conservatorium, with its spacious dignity."

Concerning music itself, Mr. Foote said he considered that South Australia could hold its own, and that Sydney musicians were watching with interest some recent developments. An evidence of this was a luncheon party given by Mr. Octovius Beale at the Hotel Australia. Mr. Beale invited between 40 and 50 of Sydney's leading musicians to meet Mr. Foote, who found that a keen and appreciative interest was manifested in Adelaide, especially concerning music. Mr. Beale, in the course of a speech, had touched upon successes in regard to manufactures and exhibitions, and a strong movement for the forwarding of the cause of British music. The track had been blazed in Adelaide in the direction of more Anglicised, and less Germanised music. No one wanted Australian music Americanised to jazz time, but they might hope for the restoration of the English master composers of old time, with their charm of original melody.

"I see by the report of the luncheon in the Sydney Morning Herald that you stressed the disadvantage of depending upon foreign supervision and urged that the native-born musician could carry on alone, and instanced the value of the services of Professor Harold Davies, Mus. Doc. (principal of the Adelaide Conservatorium) and brother of Dr. Walford Davies, newly knighted, who had urged upon the people the value of the old English folk songs."

"Yes," replied Mr. Foote, "and I instanced, too, the South Australian-born musician, Mr. Reimann, who had done so much to build up piano playing in Adelaide. In fact, it was Mr. Reimann who engaged me in London to come here. The Sydney musicians seemed interested in what we were doing in wood-wind, both in our State orchestras, and in the instrumentation in our Tramways Band, which is designed on the model of the famous Garde Republicaine in Paris. And when you think of it, we have done a great deal this year. You remember, there were four civic concerts by the Tramways Band, three symphony concerts by the South Australian Orchestra, Dr. Davies's production of 'Hiawatha,' with the orchestra and the Bach Society, and, of course, the 'Messiah.'"

With all that, in addition to the Conservatorium work—which included orchestral music—Mr. Foote certainly did not exaggerate. He believes fully in rapid advance in music, and in the beauty of Australian voices, and was glad to have had the opportunity of stressing his opinion that the direction of Australian Conservatoriums should be in Australian or British hands. The amount of mobbing and sight-seeing got through in a few days by Mr. Foote and his friends seems to have been phenomenal. When asked whether the trip was just a holiday, he said, thoughtfully, "Well—it was intended as a rest. It didn't exact work out so, but was most enjoyable. I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

THE UNIVERSITY PROCESSION.

From "F.K.K."—The true significance of the expression, "excruciatingly funny," was never more forcibly illustrated than by the crude, child-like treatment accorded political, social, and religious subjects at the hands of those who, as students in a centre of learning and culture, people naturally expected to be possessed of loftier, nobler, and more logical conceptions of things in general. If it was the object of those young gentlemen to twit at what they considered abuse and absurdity in any particular case, they certainly succeeded with honors in making themselves thoroughly ridiculous and in aggravating and establishing to more than a suspicion of reality in the minds of the proletariat the very points that should have been their set object and aim to banish once and for all. I am surprised that "Loyalist" should have been disdained and annoyed at the omissions and commissions of anything he observed in the procession, for the absence of the Union Jack, topical allusions, and the costumes and settings of the various personifications, were quite in keeping with the approved vulgarity of the age and of Australia in particular. The effect of an upper portion of a two-piece bathing garment tucked into the nether one would be positively heroic in comparison with the atrocities evolved from the bits of stuff that barely covered the nudity of a couple of male-slappers. Some merciful person should really endow a chair of comedy ere the next students' day comes round, and so pave the way for an original, instructive, and less offending show next year. Perhaps Professor Darnley Naylor may be persuaded to officiate, and his subtle, erudite sense of humor could not fail to bring about an agreeable change from the nauseating larynx element which characterises almost every joke today, and which, unfortunately, played so important a part in the doings of men who will probably be called upon to fill responsible posts in public life.

Advertiser R. H. Chapman, M.F. 20.12.22

At the University Commemoration, at the end of last year, the degree of M.E. was conferred upon Mr. R. H. Chapman, for a thesis dealing with the calibration of guns and Howitzers by the direct measurement of muzzle velocity. The thesis has now been published in book form by the War Office as a treatise by Major R. H. Chapman, issued by the O.C. Press. The book contains an account of the experimental work carried out in England in 1917 to determine the possibility of calibrating the field guns by firing trial shots through wired screens, so as to do away with the need of trial shots when the guns were placed in position in the field. The experiments were made by the author, who brought them to a successful finish after a great deal of painstaking labor, and he was afterwards entrusted with the duty of organising the calibration ranges on the coast of Belgium, where the guns of the British and Australian armies were all tried out. The guns were then sent back to their respective units, each with a table giving the angles at which it should be set for given ranges, thus avoiding trial shots in the field altogether. In some of the later battles of the war, as a result of this work, guns were massed in large numbers prior to an attack, and the first finding that the Germans had of their presence was when the guns all opened fire from a barrage. No preliminary trial shots had been necessary. This work had a very important influence on the later battles of the war, as Sir John Monash testifies in his book.

Rathleen O'Lea

Miss Kathleen O'Lea, a soprano of Adelaide, who has accepted an engagement to sing in opera at Naples, is a soprano of exceptional quality. She began her musical career by studying the piano at six years of age, but it was later discovered that it was in a development of her voice that her greatest possibilities lay. She sang the leading role in a performance of "Princess Zara," and in 1910 studied with Miss Gull Hack, and later with Mr. Winsloe Hall, at the Elder Conservatorium. Three years later she won the English Elder Scholarship, and availed herself of the three years' training at the Royal College of Music in London. There she studied with the famous basso, Mr. Plunkett Green, at the same time developing her piano technique with Mr. Franklin Taylor as tutor. In search of further training she went to Milan, where she accepted the offer of an operatic engagement at Naples.

THE UNIVERSITY PROCESSION.

From P. A. OHLSTROM, Hon. Sec. Adelaide University Students' Procession:—Our dear old friend "Loyalist" is at it again with his tin whistle (made in Japan) and his Union Jack from the same place. I regret there was no flag waving majestically at the head of our procession. It really was too bad of us ignorant, unrestrained young men, but if "Loyalist" could furnish his name and address to me, perhaps we could persuade him to walk at the head of next year's procession carrying the symbol of loyalty strapped to his manly frame. For we are ever on the look-out for absurdities for our procession. Neither make-up nor glad rags would be necessary. He would be quite funny enough as when abandoned by Nature as hopeless. To the other portions of his letter I just cry "Beaver." I am, indeed, happy to have the assurance of such a weighty authority as "F. K. K." that a "most forcible illustration of the phrase 'excruciatingly funny' was rendered by the procession." That has always been one of its main objects. I admit that "Varsity students are, on the whole, possessed of 'loftier, nobler, and more logical conceptions of things in general' than, say, 'F. K. K.' and his kind; but this fact does not prevent them—the students—from entering into the absurdities of farcical misrepresentation of topical subjects at least once a year. Is there a university in the world whose students do not have their annual rag or procession, or whatever form of amusement Father Time has handed down to them? 'Varsity men the world over have been called upon for hundreds of years to fill responsible positions in their various countries, and the fact that they, in their student days had succeeded in making themselves 'utterly ridiculous' made them not one jot less worthy or less competent to fulfill their national or other duties. Ask your doctor or your solicitor, 'F. K. K.,' unless, of course, you are much too wise to indulge in such things, when next you are in consultation whether he ever took part in his 'Varsity procession. If he admits the awful fact then rid yourself of his vile presence and search for one of 'loftier ideals.' Methinks you will be for many a long day minus these two necessities of life. As to the suggested endowment of chair of comedy. Yes, by all means let us have it, but only on the condition that the great comic-tragedian 'F. K. K.' is ensconced therein with due ceremony and processions.

From "SANCTIMONIOUS":—In these days of such general inclination to evil and thoughtless disregard of all the finer feelings it is refreshing to find one at least amongst Adelaide's citizens in whom the spirit of virtue is personified. Such is "Loyalist." Not only is this champion of glorified sanctity moved by the holy instincts of a self-sanctioned modesty, but there moves within him such transcendent patriotism and dignified conventional loyalty that the future prosperity and integrity of our country is assured. Here is a voice crying, not in the wilderness of a scoffing unbelief, but finding its echoes in the deep, moved disapproval of great crowds of people who scorn to lend themselves as parties to the unbecoming hilarity of ill-advised young men. The silent anger of those watching multitudes should convince these ribald revolutionaries that their depraved attempts to unsettle the peaceful atmosphere of our sacred city must forever fail. Let them know that the wages of sin is death; that they who come to scoff remain to pray. Let them know that their attempts to heap ridicule upon our disinterested high-minded politicians will not be sanctioned by their fellow-citizens. Let them become aware that an enlightened maturity of years will not bear with the contemptible insolent behaviour of youthful folly. How unfortunate that "Loyalist" had not unburdened himself of these hallowed sentiments of propriety before Adelaide had already been made the slaughter-house of good taste and decency! The very pavement blocks of the streets would have stood upon their ends to endorse the lofty thought and vigorous denunciation of so public-spirited a man, and the very horses of the procession would have turned back upon their drivers moved by the fire of his indignation.

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Mr. J. F. Ward, M.A., and his family arrived by the Melbourne express on Tuesday morning from Northern Queensland, where he has resided for three and a half years. He successfully established in that State Shornburgh College, under the auspices of the Presbyterian and Methodist denominations. Mr. Ward is an old Prince Alfred Collegian, and a graduate of Adelaide University. He will spend a few weeks in Adelaide prior to taking up the position of head-master of Wesley College, Perth.

THE UNIVERSITY PROCESSION.

From "F.K.K."—It is more than regrettable, in fact, positively shameful, that the Hon. Sec., Adelaide University Students' Procession, did not infuse a little more of that jovial disposition of his, which betrays itself so startlingly in the sweet, polite, inoffensive, and wholly impersonal bribe he makes out for our instruction, in the 150 odd myrmidons trained for a week by him and other satraps for the grand finale at the end of a tiresome, humdrum year's prodding! Perhaps a week was too short a period in which effectively to inoculate the participants in the pageant with the right quantity and quality of the prescribed humor; otherwise no notice would have been taken of the disappointing results, had not the fluid just the strength to affect those within range. I would willingly fill the Chair of Comedy were I at all certain that I would survive the painful ordeal of rehearsing (or rehearsing, is it?) minutely, as I would insist upon, every item on the late programme, if only to demonstrate what a thundering ass one clown could make of himself, in the full presence of the other clowns, by slavishly following hoary, time-decayed academic traditions. I would, I am sure, have a splendid opportunity during my self-inflicted incumbency to induce my medical adviser and man of business to cheer my fleeting moments, while drawing up my last will and testament, with bland and bashful accounts of their experiences in University processions. Well, anyway, I wish Mr. Ohlstrom and his followers the compliments of the season and will clinch my best wishes at an opportune time with a barbaric, ear-splitting "Boomalacca!"

From "HORRIFIED":—I beg permission to express with "Loyalist" and others, my abhorrence regarding the annual procession of the University students. I was passing through town at the time, and every delicate sensibility of my nature was shocked—may outraged. The idea of young men parading the streets in attire as scanty as that which youth of the same age, but opposite sex, adopts when attired for a dance or the theatre! Others ridiculing our politicians (as if they're not ridiculous enough as it is, at times) by really witty sallies at their little failings. Insulting the King, too, by not flaming a Union Jack carried at the head of the procession by a clown on a donkey. Others in costumes nearly as sparse as a footballer's filled me with disgust, though I don't mind seeing that sort of thing on the football field. And to think that Adelaide craned its neck from shops and balconies and sidewalks to see this. Shame on you young city. You should have pulled down your blinds and turned your backs on this thing, but you didn't. Oh, Adelaide, Adelaide, thrice depraved thou must be, for you actually seemed to enjoy it.

OBITUARY.

Register 21.12.22

The announcement that Dr. W. Theodore Shanasy, of Childers street, North Adelaide, a well-known Adelaide dentist, had died from heart failure early on Wednesday morning, caused widespread regret among the dental and general community. He had been in failing health for about two years, but had recently rallied. The deceased, who was 57 years of age, was born at Nuriootpa, and commenced the study of dentistry in conjunction with pharmacy when 18 years of age. In 1891 he was registered by the Dental Board of Victoria, and passed the qualifying examination at the College of Pharmacy, Melbourne, in 1892. He then devoted all his time to the practice of dentistry. For a short period he was at Mount Gambier, after which he removed to Stawell, Victoria. He subsequently came to Adelaide, where he remained in practice until ill health forced him to retire. In 1901 he went to America, and graduated Doctor of Dental Surgery, at the University of California, in 1904. Three years later, having returned to Adelaide, he was a member of the first Australian Dental Congress, held in Sydney, in February, of 1907, and in which he took an active part, and was a prominent member of all subsequent Australian dental congresses. A few years ago Dr. Shanasy was appointed a lecturer of the dental faculty at the Adelaide University, but had to relinquish the post at the same time that he ceased active work. He proceeded to London in 1914, to participate in the International Dental Congress, but the advent of the European war broke up the deliberations of the delegates, and they had to disperse to their respective countries. He had been prominently associated with the Odontological Society since its inception. He has left a widow and one son, Dr. Bonwill Shanasy, of Tea-tree Gully.