

REGISTER, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 1882.

AND ...

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT AND OPENING OF NEW BUILDINGS.

The commencement of the University of Adelaide this year, which took place on Wednesday, marks an event in the history of the institution, second only in importance to its establishment, inasmuch as this annual ceremony was made the occasion of the opening of the handsome new buildings on North-terrace, which have been built for the accommodation of the hitherto somewhat scattered classes of students attending University lectures. Probably every student who attended the classes of his Adelaide *Alma Mater* has learnt in his early school-days how great oaks from little acorns grow, and in a comparative degree the University of Adelaide as it at present exists, with its commodious premises and efficient professorial staff, has slowly grown to that position. It is now exactly ten years ago since the question of founding an establishment wherein the higher branches of education should be taught was taken into serious consideration by delegates appointed from the various religious bodies, the result of which was the foundation of Union College; but the gift of £20,000 by Captain Hughes, which was some time afterwards supplemented by a similar amount from Sir Thomas Elder, changed the current of opinion among men interested in education in the colony, and instead of establishing what would be a merely Theological College they determined to found a University. An Act of Parliament incorporating the institution was passed in 1874, and the Government endowed the institution with 50,000 acres of land, granted five acres on the Park Lands for a building, and undertook to supplement all private contributions to the extent of 5 per cent. Thenceforth the University has gradually grown into its present proportions, and can boast of powers in its charter which no other University in Australia possesses, namely, those of conferring degrees upon women and admitting graduates to Science degrees.

The following description of the design for the structure has been supplied to us by the architect:—The building occupies an area having a frontage to North-terrace of 84 ft. 2 in. by a depth on the western side of 135 feet, and on the eastern side of 151 ft. 6 in. The accommodation on the ground floor comprises a central entrance-hall 14 ft. 4 in. in width, and opening from it on the west or left-hand side is the Registrar's office, with strong-room attached. West of this is the lady students' room, with lavatory. On the east side of the entrance-hall is the male students' room, and adjoining this eastward the Professors' retiring-room, with lavatory. At the rear of the above rooms is a transverse corridor, 7 ft. 6 in. wide, from which access is gained to the Professors' and students' rooms. Opening from this by an arcade of three openings is the staircase hall, 35 feet x 25 feet, from the centre of which rises the

20 feet, from the centre of the first flight of the principal staircase, 10 feet wide, to the middle landing, with side flights above. Opening from the staircase hall and corridor on the west side is a suite of rooms for the Professor of Natural Science, consisting of a lecture-room 35 feet x 25 feet, and 20 feet high, with raised seats and platform, and affording accommodation for 150 students. Behind the lecture-room are the preparing and weighing rooms and the chemical laboratory, 40 feet x 25 ft. 6 in. East of the chemical laboratory is the Museum, 33 feet x 25 feet. On the eastern side of the building is provided a suite of rooms for the Professor of Mathematics, comprising lecture-room as above, 35 feet x 25 feet; physical laboratory, 40 feet x 25 ft. 6 in.; apparatus-room, 25 ft. 6 in. x 20 feet; and optical-room, 26 feet x 15 feet, at the rear of laboratory. Situated between the two principal corridors are lavatories for the students. A basement story occupies the spaces immediately under the laboratories and Museum, and it is intended to be used as workshops and storerooms. An electrical-room is placed under the optical-room, and is connected by a special staircase with the physical laboratory. The above suites of rooms have been arranged entirely in accordance with the requirements of the Professors of Natural Science and Mathematics. The first floor contains the library, extending entirely across the front of the building, its dimensions being 79 ft. 2 in. in length, 30 feet in width, 20 feet in height to the wall-plates, and 36 feet to the apex of the ceiling. The ceiling is elaborately panelled in wood, and has moulded and enriched ribs, with carved stone corbels with Irish-green marble shafts at the foot. This room will no doubt, from its ample dimensions, serve as an examination hall until the requirements of the University necessitate something more ambitious. Behind the library in the centre is the upper part of the staircase hall. This also has an elaborately panelled and enriched ceiling. On the western side of this is the lecture-room for the Professor of English Literature, 35 x 25 feet, and on the eastern side the lecture-hall for the Professor of Classics, 25 feet x 24 feet, and Professor's retiring-room, 16 ft. 9 in. x 10 ft. 3 in. The building is designed in the modern Gothic style. The principal front has an altitude of 46 feet to the top of the parapet, and of 66 feet to the ridge of the roof. The latter is high-pitched, is covered with slate of two different shades in alternate bands, and is surmounted by an ornamental iron casting. From the centre of the ridge springs a ventilating turret 35 feet high. The upper floor, or library front, has five large two-light traceried windows, with columns of red stone, which have been imported from Dumfries, Scotland. The central portion of the building projects slightly beyond the general face of the work, and is carried up an additional story, having a two-light window, with panelled spandril above, which is intended ultimately to be adorned by carving. The stonework of the front is finished with a cornice and pierced parapet above, the angles being marked by corbels carrying gabled and carved terminals. The front or ground floor has four two-light windows, with columns of brown-coloured stone, and the principal doorway in the centre is protected by an open stone porch, with clustered pillars of red stone at the entrance, and rich carved work on the cornice and elsewhere. The porch projects 12 feet, and forms a balcony above. The front or principal portion of the

above. The front or principal portion of the building has been executed in Sydney white stone, having rubbed surfaces. Bands of darker-tinted stone are introduced in the height and in the arches of the window openings. The dressings throughout the remainder of the building are to be of Sydney stone, the general face of the walls being built of pick-dressed freestone from Teatree Gully. The stone carving throughout the exterior and interior has been especially artistically carried out, being the work of Mr. W. J. Macwill, sculptor, whom, we regret to say, has been induced to remove to Sydney, where he has secured some very important commissions. The mantelpieces throughout are according to special designs executed in stone by Messrs. Anderson & Gibbs, of Glenelg. The gas-fittings are of polished brass, from the establishment of Messrs. Hart, Son, Beard, & Co., of London. The contract entered into originally by the contractors, Messrs. Brown & Thompson, was for the amount of £24,736. This amount has been largely augmented by supplementary contracts for work not included in the original contract, and for alterations in the material employed in the interior embellishments, freestone being substituted for plaster in all the important features, and cedar and kauri pine for the ceilings in lieu of painted deal. The total cost, including the furniture already provided, is between £31,000 and £32,000.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

As was expected the ceremony attracted a large number of spectators, and long before the hour fixed for His Excellency to arrive every available seat in the capacious library had been filled. Among those present were the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. C. Bray), the Treasurer (Hon. L. Glyde), the Attorney-General (Hon. J. W. Downer), the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. J. G. Ramsay), the Commissioner of Crown Lands (Hon. A. Catt), the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. E. T. Smith, M.P.), Mr. Justice Andrews, as well as a large sprinkling of professional and business men. Many ladies also brightened with their presence the hall of literature, but even their tasteful dresses faded somewhat before the magnificence of some of the costumes of the academical dons present. At a quarter to 4 the members of the Council and Senate assembled in the Museum, wearing the academic costume proper to their respective degrees and offices, and then marching two abreast ascended to the library in the following order:—

THE COUNCIL.

The Vice-Chancellor.
 Hon. R. D. Ross, M.P., Speaker of the House of Assembly.
 Hon. Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G., President of the Legislative Council.
 Mr. W. Everard, J.P.
 Mr. C. Todd, C.M.G.
 Mr. A. S. Patterson, M.D.
 Mr. W. A. E. West-Erskine, M.A.
 Mr. A. von Treuer, LL.B.
 Mr. W. Gosse, M.D.
 Mr. J. D. Thomas, M.D., F.R.C.S., England.
 Archdeacon Farr.
 Mr. F. Ayers, M.A.
 Mr. E. C. Stirling, M.A., M.D.
 Mr. J. A. Hartley, B.A., B.Sc.
 Mr. W. R. Boothby, B.A.
 Mr. E. W. Way, M.B.
 Mr. D. Murray, J.P.

THE PROFESSORIAL BOARD.

Professor Fletcher.
 Professor Kelly.
 The Dean of the Board (Professor Lamb).
 The Registrar of the University.

These officials were followed by the Warden and other members of the Senate as follows:—Doctors of Medicine, Masters of Arts, Bachelors of Laws, Bachelors of Medicine,

Bachelors of Art, and the Clerk of the Senate. On reaching the Library the Council proceeded up the central aisle, and ascended the dais, the members of the Senate occupying the seats allotted to them on the left hand side of the hall.

His Excellency the Governor, accompanied by his Private Secretary (Mr. Pennefather), and Major Fergusson, D.A.A.G., arrived at the entrance of the buildings punctually at 4 o'clock, and were received and conducted to the Library by Professor Lamb (Dean of the Professorial Board), Sir Henry Ayers, K.C.M.G., P.L.C., and Mr. W. Barlow, M.A. (Registrar of the University). As His Excellency passed through the Library all present stood up until he had reached the dais and taken his seat.

The VICE-CHANCELLOR, addressing the Governor, said—Your Excellency, on behalf of the Council and Senate of the University of Adelaide, I very respectfully request that you will do the University the honour of declaring this building open.

HIS EXCELLENCY, who was received with applause, acceding to the request, then delivered the following address.—Mr. Vice-Chancellor, Ladies, and Gentlemen—Less than three years have passed since we met together close to this spot on the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of the University of Adelaide. It was a great pleasure to me then to be called upon to lay the first stone of this University; it has been a great pleasure to me since to watch the buildings gradually rising and approaching completion; and it is a great pleasure to me now to preside at the first public meeting held in this hall, and to be present at the conferring of Degrees. I cannot but express, however, the deep regret I feel at the loss of some who were with us at the time this building was commenced—amongst whom I would specially mention the late Professor Davidson, who was removed by death last winter, and our honoured and venerable Chancellor, Bishop Short. I am glad, however, still to see the Bishop's name in the University Calendar as Chancellor, although the state of his health has rendered his absence from the colony necessary. There is, I think, much in the buildings whose completion we are here to-day to inaugurate that fairly calls for praise and congratulation. A time may come—and I hope it will soon come—when they will be found too small for the requirements of the University, but they are admirably suited to present needs. Large, well-planned, and well-ventilated lecture-rooms, convenient class-rooms, a handsome central staircase, and the spacious library in which we are now assembled, supply all that can be desired in the way of buildings; and, although the style is of an ornate and somewhat elaborate character, I am glad to see that our architect has avoided the temptation to modern designers of sacrificing internal utility to external effect. But although these buildings are now complete from basement to roof, we are still only laying the foundations of the University of Adelaide. Lecture-rooms, class-rooms, examination halls—all very necessary though they be—no more form the real University than the empty shelves around us form a library. The real University of Adelaide consists not in these, but in the Professors, in the lecturers, and, above all, in the

students themselves. The staff of teachers must be complete, the examinations must be thorough and searching, and the classrooms must be filled, before it can be said that the University is completed. A foundation has been laid, and well laid. It was begun in 1859, under the late Sir Richard MacDonnell, when the Board of Education was established; another course was added some years afterwards by the princely liberality of Sir Walter Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder. Next, the Colonial Legislature, desirous then as ever to do all in their power to promote the welfare and advancement of South Australia, took up the good work, and gave evidence of their zeal not only by the passing of the necessary Acts of Parliament, but also in a more substantial way by liberally voting funds and granting land for the endowment of the University. And a final stage was reached last year, when Her Majesty the Queen was graciously pleased to grant a charter willing and ordaining that Degrees in Arts, Medicine, Law, Science, and Music, conferred by the University of Adelaide on any person, male or female, should be recognised as academical distinctions and rewards of merit, and be entitled to rank, precedence, and consideration in Her Majesty's United Kingdom and in her colonies and possessions throughout the world, as fully as if the said degrees had been granted by any University of Her United Kingdom. I regard it as a most valuable provision—and it is one which I am proud to have had a share in obtaining—that women as well as men should be enabled to compete for all the honours and distinctions of the Adelaide University. With regard to the work which the University has already done, the number of undergraduates and other students has not been as large as might have been wished, possibly not even as large as might have been expected; but there seems every reason to hope that each term will bring an increase, and that the young men and young women of Adelaide will learn more and more to appreciate the advantages which the University presents to them. I regard with special pleasure the increasing number of candidates at the matriculation examination. This not only promises well for the University in the future, but shows that one good work is being done by it for education in the colony, as the various schools are learning to regard the University matriculation as the point to which they must work up; and thus the University is promoting not only energy in the schools separately, but also a unity in the system and object of all. At the same time, I regard a large number of candidates for this examination not without some fear; for I see the danger before us lest—as has happened already in other parts of the world—the rising generation of South Australia should think that their education was completed when they have done with school, and passed this (to them) final examination. In the widest and truest sense, of course, education can only begin with the cradle and end with the grave; but even in the narrower and more technical sense, an education that ends with matriculation must be incomplete and unsatisfactory. The more suitable the matriculation is as an entrance test preparatory to a University course, the less fitted will it be for a final examination, and the idea that the passing of it is the goal of education must be detrimental to the University, detrimental to the schools, and detri-

mental to education throughout the colony. But a question may be, and sometimes has been asked, "What is the use of a University in a community of busy men like that of South Australia? What do the young men and women of our colony want with a training such as you propose to give them?" Now the answer to that is twofold. First, I admit that South Australia is a community of busy men, and long may it continue to be so. But are not Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Bristol, Nottingham, Sheffield, and Liverpool communities of busy men; and of men too who know very well what they are about? Yet those are the very places in which the movement for University extension recently started by the older Universities of England has made the greatest progress. The Newcastle College of Science, an offshoot from the University of Durham, has been in existence only ten years; University College, Bristol, was opened in 1876, under the auspices of the University of Oxford; the Cambridge University extension scheme has resulted already in the founding of University College, Nottingham, in 1877; Firth College, Sheffield, in 1879; and University College, Liverpool, in 1881. Nor has the work been left to the older Universities alone. Whilst the University of London has been extending its influence throughout the British Empire—at Manchester, the metropolis of manufacturing industry, Owen's College, which had already taken its place amongst the great educational institutions of the land, has now become the centre of a new University for the north of England. I do not think there is a more healthy sign in the present march of intellectual culture than this fact—that it is not merely the aristocratic few, not merely the men of learned leisure who are seeking to extend University education and University training, but it is the business men—the men who (many of them) have made their own way in the world—the men who form the backbone of England's strength and prosperity. But there is another and a fuller answer to the objection, viz., that it proceeds from a total misconception as to the functions and objects of a University, or at least of the University of Adelaide. That we shall never succeed in drawing away any large number of young men from a life of business or commercial activity to one of study and research I admit, and, to some extent, I regret it; but may not much of University culture and training be brought to the men of business? That the Theological Faculty must be wanting in this University I accept as a necessity; but, with that exception, there is not one of the sciences, and there are none of the arts which usually form part of an academical course, that may not flourish beneath its shelter. It is a matter of the highest importance for the welfare of the community that law should be treated, not as a trade, but as a science. The law student should commence his professional studies in a scientific manner before he becomes lost in the intricacies of practice. Such training is exactly what can be afforded by a University, and I hope we shall soon see a complete course of lectures on Jurisprudence and the Philosophy of Law established here, an institution which would, I feel sure, be furthered and assisted ably and energetically by my friend the Vice-Chancellor. And it is, I think, a subject for consideration whether it would