

mortalised in connection with the University, and to give the council the means of making these desirable additions to the teaching power of the University. Action must be swift and prompt, for the necessary arrangements must be made in good time to commence the suggested classes next year. Some students have already been lost to the colony and the University on account of the incomplete character of the arrangements and the uncertainty of any advancement or improvement. We hope that this reason for students seeking elsewhere the highest medical distinctions may very speedily be done away with.

Registrar June 7th 1886.

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARSHIP.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I sincerely trust that the proposal to abolish this scholarship may fall to the ground, and that if economy in the University finances is necessary that some other method of curtailing expenditure may be found. The advantages which this scholarship offers are so obvious that the mere mention of them should be sufficient to ensure its continuance. Every year a picked man is sent home to mature and ripen under the generous influence of an ancient University, comes back with honour to his native land, and gives the result and benefit of his increase of learning and experience. It is extremely undesirable that there should be an end put to the possibility of this in the future by the abolition of this scholarship.

Again, is it right to break faith with those who have already for years been preparing their sons so that when their time shall come they may send them in to compete as candidates? There is supposed to be a certain fixity in respect to scholarships connected with a University, and if alteration is necessary it should only take place after long notice. Common fairness suggests this. To my mind if any reform is necessary it should be in the direction of enlarging the number of these scholarships. It is perhaps too late to suggest the reduction of our University to a smaller scale. The gross expenditure compared with the actual work done hardly warrants its continuance, but it is unfortunately too late to recede. If, however, four scholarships of £200 per annum were offered for competition an increased number of candidates, and therefore of students would result, and the Professors might be spared the frequent pain which they suffer of having to deliver lectures to empty benches. If, however, it shall be decided by the Government that this scholarship shall not be continued, I trust that the Council of the University will take immediate

steps to provide the necessary funds for its perpetuation, even if it should be found necessary in order to do it to spend less on the staff and appointments of the institution.

I am, Sir, &c., M. A.

Register June 7th 1886

OUR JUBILEE YEAR.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The approaching jubilee of Her Majesty's reign, as well as that of our establishment as a colony, affords a fitting opportunity for ornamenting our city with one or more memorial statues. The most appropriate would be one of Her Majesty, placed in the centre of the square bearing her name, and as it would come with better grace from the people, I would suggest starting a fund for the purpose of purchasing a suitable monument to be unveiled on the same day as our Exhibition is opened. Perhaps the promoters of our Jubilee Exhibition will take up the idea and receive subscriptions.

Writing of the Exhibition reminds me of the suggestion to build the Art Gallery at once. Why not do so, and also let the present unsightly fence in front of our University be replaced by one in keeping with the handsome building that adorns North-terrace? Local-optionists and teetotallers generally should bestir themselves and start a good central coffee palace. I say central because I consider that imperative for a first-class trade; and some one suggested to me how would Murray's old warehouse suit? My only fear is the rent. One thing is certain, Exhibition time would give it a grand start. I make these suggestions hoping they will lead to further action.

I am, Sir, &c.,

June 7.

OBSERVER.

Register June 8th 1886

THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCHOLARSHIP.

The Government is credited with the intention of abolishing the South Australian Scholarship of £200 a year for four years. Naturally this proposal is regarded with disapproval by many people, some of whom have given expression to their feelings in these columns. And, indeed, it is no light matter this discontinuance of an arrangement which has come to be regarded as a feature in our educational system. It means that "the blue ribbon of South Australian scholarship" is to be taken away, and with it what is doubtless an inducement to some parents to send their sons to the University. And, again, injustice may be done by the abolition of the scholarship to those who have trained their sons with a special view to their competing for this prize. We assume, however, in this connection that due notice will be given of the intention of the Government, and it must be remembered besides that no individual is directly injured, because no individual was sure of the prize. It may be further contended that the abolition of this scholarship will remove a link which binds our educational system to that of the mother country. The picked men go home from here and mix with those who will be the foremost men in Great Britain. They return filled with the influence of an ancient University and with minds sharpened by competition with the keenest intellects. Arrived here they teach others what they have learnt, and thus keep South Australian education in touch with English. In these considerations there is great weight, and they ought not to be lightly dismissed; but there are reasons on the other side that deserve to be calmly weighed. There are three main objections to the retention of the scholarship. First, that the South Australian scholars need not return at all. They probably will, because their relations and friends

are all here ; but it is not improbable, especially if they distinguish themselves, that they will receive some appointment at home. Secondly, it does not follow that residence at Oxford, say, implies intercourse with the best men. If our scholars do not compete for high honours, they will probably mix in society which has no tendency to enlarge their powers ; and if they read for high honours, they will probably mix in no society to speak of. Thirdly, it must be remembered that we do not rely solely upon returned South Australian scholars to keep us in touch with English systems of education, for every Australian University has professors and every high-class Australian school has masters who have taken high degrees in British Universities.

We have not concerned ourselves with the financial aspect of the question, for it does not seem to us that the State would be warranted in looking too closely into an expenditure of £800 a year if it were sure that the cause of education were materially advanced by it. The question that claims notice is not so much whether it is right to give the money or not, but whether the money cannot be better employed—still for educational purposes—in some other way. We think the time has arrived when the granting of the scholarships may fairly be reconsidered. It must be acknowledged that in paying the best