

ship's Greek Testament prize, the marks of the two best candidates were respectively 92 and 89 out of 100. If this should be thought practically a tie, I would suggest that the papers should either be re-examined by yourself or that the prize should be divided. This year the Council of Governors have offered free education for three years to the best boy from schools of which the Bishop of Adelaide is *ex officio* Visitor. Seven boys competed. The best is Harold Wilkinson, from Pulteney-street school. About seven years ago W. F. Wilkinson, from the same school, won the same scholarship. During his stay here he won three other scholarships, and in due course a University scholarship, and the day before yesterday he took his B.A. degree. I can scarcely frame a better wish for his younger brother than that he may follow in the same track with the equally successful results. For two vacant Farrell scholarships an examination was conducted by examiners from outside. They have selected as the two best boys those whose papers were marked A and C respectively. The Council of Governors ratifying their decision ask me to announce Irwin 2 and Gibbes as the new scholars. So much for scholarships to be given to-day. This morning's post brings me a letter saying that the committee of the St. Peter's Old Collegian's Association have determined to establish a scholarship to be called the Adelaide S. Peter's Collegians' Scholarship, to be of the annual value of £50 a year, tenable for three years at the University of Adelaide. The old scholars are thus at last in a position to carry out an object they have had much at heart for some years. I heartily congratulate them and the school upon such a fruit of their liberality and of their devotion to their school, and I sincerely trust that the very large powers they entrust to the Head Master of seeing that their scholars use their scholarships wisely and well may never need to be called into exercise. It remains that I shall say very briefly that the general outdoor life of the school has been healthy and vigorous. As usual, this term cricket has dwarfed all other games in interest. In the first of the three matches of which we make most account—those with The Wanderers, the Old Scholars, and the Prince Alfred College—we tied; in the second and third we won. The third showed us to have a stronger eleven than we have had for some years. Much of the credit of that is due to excellent teaching from Mr. Goodfellow, but much also belongs to the Secretary, who has spared neither time nor pains to keep us all up to the mark. I must not sit down without grateful mention of what in point of manliness, orderliness, and elevation of tone the school has during the past year owed to the boys in the upper sixth. Some of them leave us to-day, and it is only fair that I should say to them before they leave that I have never before realized so fully as in them what I take to be the ideal relation that should exist between the masters and the prefects in a public school. They have been to me not so much my pupils, bound to me by ties of obedience and discipline, as real friends, linked by ties of mutual trust, and working with me for the same object—the good of each other and the younger boys below them. I add one word, the heartiness of which must not be measured by its necessary brevity, of very sincere thanks to all my colleagues for all the cordial and valuable assistance they have given me in our common labours, and I wish to all a thorough enjoyment of our six weeks' holiday.

*Advertiser Dec 20<sup>th</sup> 1884*

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THE prominence that has lately been given to public discussions on the range of attainments appointed for candidates for matriculation could hardly have escaped the notice of those who conduct or influence the work of education. Mr. Chapple, the headmaster of Prince Alfred College, and Dr. Kennion, the Bishop of Adelaide, have placed their views before the public, and it is refreshing to observe such a complete correspondence of opinion between two such competent authorities. Both are equally pronounced in representing the danger of reducing the standard of matriculation, so that pupils may pass it with ease at too early an age, and thus suddenly terminate their school career, which might wisely be continued for a year or two longer. For to deny that this would be the result of such a change would be overriding the facts supplied by experience, which conclusively establish that the standard arranged for matriculation is the one which the majority of boys will accept as an intimation that their studies are sufficiently advanced for them to run the risk of average competition in the business of life. Of all the evils that have been attributed to a growing craze for examination tests this is one of the most serious and alarming. It is frequently urged, not without a considerable degree of reason, that much mischief is done to the pursuit of useful and solid instruction by the showy devices of formal and defined examinations. Their tendency is to place at a disadvantage steady and industrious study, and to induce youths not to employ themselves on what it is desirable to know, but simply to get up what is likely to be set. One notable characteristic which can always be traced in a capable examiner is that he has endeavored to frame his questions so as to defeat cram.

The extensive exercise of this peculiar art points to the existence of a disorder in educational systems which it is certainly not desirable to nourish. If the rigor of the test be relaxed the greater encouragement will be given to the vicious practice of youths being primed with elementary parrot-like knowledge, to the neglect of more advanced reading and wholesome mental training. The consequence will be that at each periodical matriculation trial there will be an exodus from the schoolroom to the avenues of commercial life of large numbers of ill-educated boys. Few of those who successfully pass that ordeal will be fired by a desire for the benefits of a University course, and the more laborious intellectual exertion it implies. It is worthy of special mention, by way of illustrating this assumption, that at the present time, if we except the case of one girl, there is not a single student in the arts curriculum at the University who is not in the enjoyment of a scholarship. This may simply be stated as a fact, without attempting to draw the inferences.

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*The Advertiser Dec 22/84*

## THE UNIVERSITY AND ITS BENEFACTORS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I was pleased with the address of His Honor the Chief Justice at the University on Thursday, and thought his remarks on the liberality of Sir Thos. Elder, Sir W. W. Hughes, and Mr. J. H. Angas were deserving of attention. His Honor expressed the hope that such noble examples would be followed by other wealthy men in the colony. His Honor himself is far from being a poor man, and is generally considered one of the greatest favorites of fortune whom we have amongst us. Could he not give practical effect to his hopes by himself making a handsome donation to the University? I beg to make this suggestion as probably the idea has not occurred to His Honor, though if it had no doubt he would have acted upon it.—  
I am, &c.,

W.M.