

Register, September 27th 1886

THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MEETING.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—May I be allowed a short correction of the otherwise admirable report of the debate at the Adelaide University contained in your issue of to-day? Mr. Hartley is made to say that I “had referred to the deterioration of the Prince Alfred College boys.” Allow me to assure you that he did not say anything like that. I had said that if two boys equal in diligence and ability came to me, one of them expressing his wish to enter for these proposed examinations in Greek and Latin, and the other desiring to go up in French and German, I should be bound to say to them that the latter’s chance of passing with “credit,” and so securing a first class, were as three to one. Mr. Hartley humourously criticised my expression “three to one” as a betting phrase, and said that the morals of Prince Alfred College must have been deteriorated since his day if the Head Master gave to the boys the “state of the odds.” I by no means think that the boys have deteriorated; indeed my whole contention was that under the scheme introduced in 1882 and now abolished better work was being encouraged, because the severer studies received more adequate recognition. They will now be, as they were five years ago, placed at a great disadvantage. The other piece of banter about “the craven terror felt as to the influence of petticoats” may be fairly left to your very faithful and clear report of what I said. I had never either expressed or felt it. I wonder he thought I had. Apologizing for trespassing thus upon your kindness,

I am, Sir, &c.,

FREDK. CHAPPLE,

Prince Alfred College, September 25.

The Advertiser

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1886.

THERE was an unusually large attendance at the meeting of the Senate of the University on Friday afternoon to discuss the proposed changes in the examinations which are held for the benefit of the schools of the colony. It is no uncommon thing for the meetings of that august body to fail for want of a quorum, but the crowded benches and the keen discussion gave evidence of the great interest which this new scheme has excited among all sections of the community. The code of regulations was carried by a large majority, but it is to be regretted that it was not carried unanimously. It is especially to be deplored that so many of the practical educationists were found voting in the minority; for it is desirable, and even necessary, that their hearty concurrence should be secured if the new scheme is to have its full effect. Any one, however, who carefully studies these regulations will see that they will be a great gain to the various schools. They leave the schools free to follow what course they like, and offer to all alike the opportunity of testing the work done by a University examination before the pupils go forth into the world. Neither classical "colleges" nor commercial "academies" have any special advantages. If the managing committee of a grammar school prefers to train its scholars in Latin and Greek, or if a ladies' school gives its main attention to French and German, or if any other establishment devotes its principal strength to mathematics and science, each may have the satisfaction of having its work properly tested and rewarded by the highest educational authority in the land. The moving principle of this scheme is to give the schools as much freedom as possible, and to place all branches of education upon an equal footing. Hitherto this testing process has been complicated by being mixed up

with the idea of matriculating. Matriculation is henceforth to be, as its name implies, a genuine entrance into the University. The old matriculation examination has been done away with as the common entrance gateway to all the degrees that the University is empowered to grant. This was a very needful change, and it has not been made before it was required. The development of the University has rendered this change absolutely necessary. At the time when the now discarded arrangement was made no degrees were given except in arts. There was no power to give degrees in science, and the University was too young and feeble to attempt to give degrees in law, or medicine, or music. Now that there exists a flourishing law school, and that definite arrangements are being made for giving a complete medical education, and that even degrees in music may be obtained, it is manifest that some change was needed. The matriculation examination was too difficult for students who did not intend to study for their B.A. degree. Students ambitious of distinguishing themselves in law or music complained of the time and energy required to pass in subjects which they would forget as soon as they had got safely through the reefs and rocks of the examination which guarded the entrance to the harbor of academic honor. Already some concession has been made in the interest of the school of music. Professor