

to come here when they are liable to a six months' notice to quit. A man leaving home leaves also his reasonable chance of promotion, and, in some cases, his certainty of a pension. He is out of the running; younger men press forward and occupy chairs, so that when the man who has lost his position here goes back to Europe he finds himself behind in the race. One would think that the Council, taking such things into consideration, would be careful not to alter the tenure of office except when there was a vacancy or for good cause shown. Such carefulness has not been shown, and the Senate very rightly passed a resolution regretting that a course of action which had already been condemned by it had been adopted. And, again, the Senate was perfectly justified in refusing to appoint a committee which should give reasons for its objection to the action of the Council, inasmuch as such a Committee as was proposed would only ensure delay, and would hold out no hope of any proper settlement. The next resolution declares the opinion of the Senate "that no Professor or lecturer should be invited to contract to become, at any period of his career, liable to dismissal on six months' notice without cause assigned." To the Council belongs by law the manner of appointment and dismissal of Professors, who can be appointed for a year or for five years. It is an unwise course to propose such terms in the first instance, but even this is better than proposing them later. It is only fair that the unfortunate person appointed should know that his tenure of office after a certain period depends upon the goodwill of the Council, determined by his popularity or by its good nature. If candidates for appointments know this they can act accordingly, and if we have to put up with inferior Professors we can at least rejoice in that they are subject to our caprice. The best men will stay at home, and we can chop and change about with others as long as we like.

Two personal matters formed the groundwork of the last two resolutions passed yesterday. The Senate thinks that the Council ought to register its attendances. Well, to this the Council demurs. It is true that there is a register kept of the attendance of such bodies as the Executive Council, the Legislative Council, the House of Assembly, the Hospital Board of Management, the Presbyterians, Anglican, and Methodist Churches—and even of the Judges in our own and the British Courts of Law. But the Council of the Adelaide University is a cut or two above such bodies, and it simply declines to say how many members attend—that is "on compulsion," for, like Sir John Falstaff, knight, the Council draws the line at compulsion. Possibly if the Council is approached prettily in the shape, say, of three inquisitors, the whole difficulty will vanish. The other personal matter relates to the Hughes Professorship of English Literature. It is now no secret that Professor Boulger has declined to accept the terms of the Council, and that the official relations between him and the ruling body of the University are strained. This is very much to be regretted. The Council is fully persuaded of the worth of Professor Boulger, and the only difference between them is the settlement of

terms. The Council proposes one sort of terms; the Professor holds out for the terms under which he accepted his appointment. Surely the thing is easy enough of arrangement, and even at this late hour we would urge upon the Council the advisability of settling things amicably. We can scarcely expect to have a better man here—one who is, like Dr. Boulger, equally at home in ancient and in modern literature, a ripe scholar, and an enthusiastic teacher. The janglings of conflict and the *cacoethes scribendi* have brought to the surface phrases and expressions which should have been left unsaid, and which might well be forgotten. When all is said and done, the position is that we want a Professor of English Literature, and that we have a better one to our hand than under ordinary circumstances we are likely to find elsewhere. Let us keep to our best; let bygones be bygones, and let the Council join with the majority of people here in an effort to retain as a teacher amongst us the man whom better men than he or any of us have delighted to honour. There is no hiding the fact that in its latest proceedings the Council of the University, actuated although it doubtless has been by the best motives, has not carried with it public sympathy, and yesterday's meeting of the Senate was a direct vote of censure upon its proceedings. In this serious crisis in the history of the University it becomes the ruling body to take care lest an undue inflexibility should create an obstacle to the advance of the higher education which it will take years to overcome. A concession now would be of more value than complete surrender at a later stage.

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