

"In pursuance of that resolution the Council have directed that a continuation of your present appointment of Hughes Professor of English Language and Literature and of Mental and Moral Philosophy be offered you in terms of the above resolution, under which, if accepted, your engagement will be terminable only on December 31, 1889, or in some subsequent year after six months' notice on either side.

"The Council desire me to add that in their opinions the post of examiner in English History is part of the duties attached to your chair, and that this offer is made on that understanding.

"I have, &c.,

"J. WALTER TYAS, Registrar.

"E. Vaughan Boulger, Esq., M.A., D.Lit., Hughes Professor of English Language and Literature and of Mental and Moral Philosophy, Jeffcott-street, North Adelaide."

From Professor Boulger to the Registrar of the University of Adelaide:—

Adelaide, January 20, 1888.

"Dear Sir—In reply to your letter of January 11 I beg leave to decline the offer of the Council to retain me in office liable to dismissal on six months' notice.

"I am, &c.,

"E. VAUGHAN BOULGER.

"To the Registrar of the University of Adelaide."

The Register.

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, FEB. 4, 1888.

PROFESSORSHIPS IN THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

A correspondence, which we publish in another column, exhibits the Council of the University of Adelaide as the originators of a remarkable course of dealing with their Professors. Some of the Council are graduates of Universities and some are not University men at all, and a perusal of the list will satisfy the academical reader that there are few members of the Council who have had much, if any, previous experience in the management of a University. This may account for their invention of a new tenure for Professorships, analogous to the position of a tenant from year to year, who is liable to be turned out at six months' notice. That such a tenure is contrary to all experience and to the practice of the English Universities is a thing known to all children of any alma mater, and is, therefore, within the knowledge of some members of the Council. At Oxford, Cambridge, and Dublin the Regius Professors are appointed by the Crown during good behaviour, that is for life, if they can so long perform the duties, and they may retire upon a pension after twenty-three years' service. The Professors elected by the Universities themselves usually hold office for a term of five years, and if re-elected continue for a like period again. The Professors of Logic, of Greek, of Poetry, and others at Oxford and Cambridge are in this position. The University of Adelaide has seven professors, of whom two—the Professor of Classics (Mr. Kelly) and the Professor of Geology and Physics (Mr. Tate)—hold office during good behaviour, that is for life, and the others were appointed for a term of five years, "renewable at the pleasure of the Council." Professor Boulger therefore,

when he threw up, as he did, the life appointment of Regius Professor of Greek in the Queen's College, Cork, and forwent the pension attached thereto in order to become a Professor of English Literature and Moral Philosophy in Adelaide, presumed that if his office were to be renewed at all at the pleasure of the Council it would be renewed for another term of five years. The use of similar language would, no doubt, produce a similar impression on the minds of all the other gentlemen accepting five-yearly appointments, except in the case of the Professor of Music, for whom no extension was provided. Professor Boulger, finding his five years coming to an end, wanted to know whether he was to be employed again or not. If he was to be employed again he thought he ought to have "a good-behaviour" appointment, for after five years experience the Council would know what he was good for; but if he was not to have such an appointment he objected to be engaged for a shorter term than would be offered by the advertisement to a wholly new Professor. If a new man of whom the Council had had no personal experience was to have the place for five years, surely he, if he had given them satisfaction, should be reappointed, if at all, for a term of equal duration. After waiting some time, however, he received a letter, stating that the Council had resolved that, if any of the five-yearly Professors continued in office, it would be on the footing of being dismissed at the pleasure of the Council by a six months' notice ending with the current year. The letter offered a re-engagement on these terms, and also alleged it as the opinion of the Council that it was part of the duty of a Professor of English Literature and of Moral Philosophy to examine in history. Passing over the latter expression of opinion by an academical body, which might appear too ludicrous for notice, the Professor simply declined the offer.

It will be observed that the Council were quite satisfied with Professor Boulger, or they would not have offered to continue him as a yearly tenant; it seems strange, therefore, that they should offer him a far shorter term than they would have to offer to a new man coming from Great Britain or from another colony. It is still more surprising that they should have selected a gentlemen of Professor Boulger's attainments on whom to try their first experiment in this novel mode of depreciation. He was not only Senior Classic of his year at the University of Dublin, but was awarded the gold medal—the highest possible honour, and rarely given—in history, political science, and English literature. He was successively master of three endowed schools, and then became Regius Professor of Greek and Assistant Professor in Latin at the Queen's College in Cork. Not only did he thus possess in an unusual degree those classical attainments which are of such value in English as in other literature, but he is acquainted with the French and German languages, which he has taught in Ireland and here, and is what a true philologist ought to be, an Oriental scholar also. He is at present doing Professor Kelly's work during his absence, in teaching Greek and Latin, and is probably the only Professor we have who would venture in giving lessons in French