

CUI BONO?

"The windy affairs of men
Rise like a cloud of dust,
And are as quickly laid again."

THE UNIVERSITY MUDDLE has become a little more complicated. It seems that for the last couple of months Samuel Way, Esq., Chief Justice, has been acting as Chancellor of the University without having any better title to the office than the Town Hall porter or Hopkins, M.P.

This must have been an accident of the purest kind; because when a person is elected to an office for a term which is distinctly specified, it is neither his business nor that of anyone else to know when that term expires.

So Sammy served out the University degrees just as if nothing had happened, and the lucky recipients did not care a brass farthing where the aforesaid degrees came from as long as they got them. They need not care, for Adelaide degrees are not worth a great deal at any time.

But what about the law lectureship? That is a very different thing from a degree. Pennefather is supposed to have been injected into the billet by the casting vote of the erudite Chancellor and Chief Justice, and if so, Pennefather runs the risk of being sold.

Because, if Sammy Way was not the Chancellor, he had not any right to vote as such, and consequently Pennefather was not elected at all. Thus there might be a chance for

Cullen after all, if he thought it worth while to make a bobbery about it.

But it is not worth while, for the spirit of muddle has extended to the term for which the office is to be held. It was intended to be a permanent billet; but after the shindy that has been made over the jobbery that was perpetrated in preferring Pennefather to much better men, the term is now reduced to a twelvemonth—

And then the English briefless barristers are to be raked over in the old country in order to find somebody who may be supposed to know enough to earn his screw, or some of it.

The business looks shady from every point of view; first the favoritism of the C.J.; then the treatment of Mr. Cullen, who was lugged over from Sydney only to find out that he was made a fool of; then the vote of the Chancellor when there was no Chancellor; and finally cutting the job down to a year's engagement, thus selling poor Pennefather, who, however ignorant he may be, is at least innocent.

Of course, he cannot help being patronised by the Chief Justice; but if he could have foreseen how shabbily he would be treated after all, he most probably would have let the law lectureship slide.

We understand that it is in the power of the University Senate to confirm all that has been done by the Chancellor when he was not Chancellor. Perhaps that may be the case; but there is one thing they cannot do, and that is to make a very shady transaction look O.K.

And then came in applications from the excellent, the good, the bad, and the indifferent, and after looking wise and consulting his brothers in the Faculty, he and they agreed upon the indifferent, because he had been a briefless barrister and a private secretary to a governor, and had not practiced for many years—if ever he did at all.

But the indifferent did not suit everybody. It looked as if a small quantity of backstairs influence had been at work, and the man and not the merits had won the prize.

Then arose a howl from the profession, from the public, from the disappointed, and from people who don't like law, but who detested the backstairs influence as much as a loafer detests work.

So Samuel Way, Esq., Chancellor of the University of Adelaide and Chief Justice of South Australia, with his faculty made a show of reconsidering the matter, and in order to show that the prosperity of the Alma Mater in general, and the Law Lectureship in particular, would benefit by doing the thing in a proper way.

They sent for the excellent Mr. W. P. Cullen, from Sydney, because he was the best man out, and having put him to the expense of coming here, and having raised his hopes, they quietly preferred the man who did not know to the one who did, and Cullen was left out in the cold.

Pennefather was again selected by the casting vote of the C.J., so it is said, and the last was made first, and the foregone conclusion was worked out in its entirety, for the advertisement was a farce and a delusion. The Pennefather was to have the job, for job it was.

The large institutions of Little Pedlingtons are apt to become close boroughs. A friend at Court is worth all the learning in the colony, and whether Pennefather knew or did not know—or whether anybody knew more or not—he was the man for Galway.

Thus were Cullen and the other candidates shown the University door. They can now contemplate the majestic proportions of the building on North Terrace with the deep conviction that the meanness of its look outside is well matched by the ditto that is inside.

S. Way, Esq., C.J., in his judicial capacity is bound to do justice without fear or favor. He is not sworn to the like effect as Chancellor of the University, though as a matter of propriety that might be expected from him. In this case he has acted without fear certainly, and equally certainly *with* favor.

He has not done justice to the University. Indeed, the whole of the process and the performance of appointing the law lecturer can scarcely be considered to have been worked out with regard to common decency.

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An addition to the statuary which now graces the staircase at the University of Adelaide has been made in the shape of a bust of his Excellency the Governor. This will be an acquisition from an artistic point of view, and will serve as a memento of the services rendered to that institution by Sir Wm. Robinson during his occupancy of the position of Governor of the colony. The busts already there are those of Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G., the founder of the chairs of mathematics and natural science, and the late Sir Walter Watson Hughes, the founder of the professorships of classics and English literature. As his Excellency has been mainly instrumental in founding the chair of music his bust will be an appropriate addition to the two already there. The sculpture is the one sent by Messrs. Grant, Brown, & Co., of Genoa, to the Adelaide Exhibition, and is executed in white marble on a revolving bust of Verdi di Prato marble. The Mayor (Sir E. T. Smith, K.C.M.G.) purchased this bust, and presented it to the Adelaide University—"not only as a souvenir of the Exhibition, but as a slight recognition of the many valuable services rendered by his Excellency to South Australia, more especially in connection with the foundation of the chair of music at the University." The bust is considered to be a very good piece of work, and to embody an admirable portraiture of his Excellency's features. The Chancellor of the University (his Honor the Chief Justice) accepted the gift on behalf of the council.

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UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Will you kindly permit me space in your valuable columns to call the attention of the University authorities to a want that is greatly felt among many who have to earn their living, and are at the same time anxious to prepare themselves for the University junior and senior examinations? Many such as these would be glad of the 3s. to purchase some book absolutely necessary for their study which must now be spent in the purchase of a University calendar, which contains far more information than they require, and which is therefore comparatively useless to them. Let me suggest that our University adopt the plan which is employed by the Oxford and Cambridge Universities, viz., that of publishing a pamphlet each year containing the regulations for their junior and senior local examinations, and which can be obtained personally or even by post gratis on application. This same plan is also adopted by the London University for its matriculation examination. These facts are of course fully known to the Professors on North-terrace. Such a plan adopted here would be a great boon, and appreciated as such by many

STUDENTS.