

## CUI BONO?

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

WHEN SOUTH AUSTRALIA began to cut its wisdom teeth it suddenly woke up to the consciousness of the beastly state of ignorance in which she and her children were wallowing. They knew nothing, and there was no one to teach them.

A beggarly knighthood or two or a shabby C.M.G. decoration might be had for toadyism or for any or no service, but a B.A. or an M.A. degree was not to be had in the colony at any price.

It had to come from the other side of the herring pond, and anyone who wanted it was bound to go to fetch it, to work for it, and to bring it home in his pocket, where it might be a nine days' wonder and then of no use at all.

Therefore, South Australia started a new idea, she would have a University of her own. Such things are costly, but where ignorance is wealth money can be of no object, so some of the upper crusters dobed down their twenty thousands and the Government followed suit with their forty thousand or so of acres with an annual grant.

So the University came into existence. It was based on the soundest of principles. Men of large degrees, of small degrees, and of no degrees at all were jumbled together just to show that South Australia could do something in the erudition line.

Professors were appointed at a thousand a year *per cap.* when there were no pupils. That was natural. We must begin at the bottom of the ladder. Like the good saint in the dark ages, they preached and lectured to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field, much to their mutual edification, until some humans who hungered and thirsted after knowledge came along. Meanwhile, the Professors took the thousands and stuck to them.

Then the University awoke to the fact that law was a solemn thing, and it wanted a Faculty, and it made one accordingly, with a Chancellor as its head, because he was styled His Honor, and wrote C.J. after his august name.

And then a lecturer on law and jurisprudence generally got tired of teaching too many pupils. They swallowed the learning so greedily as he pumped it out that they drained him clean dry, and so he gave up his billet and left the C.J. in a quandary as to how he could supply legal lore to the hungry pupils in the future.

So he bethought him of a Solon, and in order to make sure of getting an out-and-outer he advertised in the papers for a suitable man, having his Solon in the meantime comfortably laid out in the University cupboard ready for use when required.



the Council since November 9 which has given rise to a good deal of dissatisfaction. We refer to the appointment of Mr. Pennefather as Law Lecturer. It is said the appointment is for one year only, and that it is probable the Council will determine to get some one from England to fill the position afterwards. But if there was among the applicants a thoroughly qualified gentleman willing to accept the permanent appointment, why should the position be filled for only one year? This is one of the subjects which the Council will have to reconsider, and it is to be hoped that it will be considered on its merits, and not with the idea that the Council have merely to confirm what has already been done illegally.

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*Advertiser January 9<sup>th</sup> 1888*

## THE LAW LECTURESHIP.

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TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—It seems that the members of the council, and more especially the Chief Justice, Dr. Barlow, and Mr. Frederick Ayers have no explanation of their extraordinary action in this matter to offer. If they have any explanation, or if upon any ground they can support their action in this matter, then in my judgment (and I may add in the judgment of many other members of the University) they are bound to give reasons for what they have done. It is no ordinary administrative matter, as to which there might be a difference of opinion. Here is an appointment to the teaching and examining staff—nothing more important lies within the powers of the council, and nothing can be more open to criticism than the teaching and examining element in the University. Here is a man appointed without any credentials, and we as members of the University and others who are members of the public and help to support the University require to know why Mr. Pennefather was elected. We wish to know why Sir Wm. Jervois's private secretary should be elected, having no qualifications, when there were other well-qualified candidates to choose from. In the face of the indignation which has been excited—an indignation far more widespread than the council are probably aware of—is it the intention of the council to offer no explanation of their proceeding?—I am, &c.,

BACCALAUREUS.

January 7, 1888.

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