native talent, and, moreover, it is only
during the last few years that to make a
British barrister any great knowledge of law
has been required. We have to consider
whether our own lawyers would or would not
have been better for the scholastic prepara-
tion through which their brethren in the old
country now pass, and whether the public
would or would not benefit by the standard
of attainments required of members of the
South Australian bar being raised.

Following the example set with such
signal success by the University of Mel-
bourne our University Council has sought to
place its splendid appliances for educa-
tional purposes and its rich endowments at
the service of the legal profession. By
the new charter which recently arrived from
England power is granted to the council to
grant degrees in law as well as in arts and
science. It is suggested that there should
be established a chair of law and
some of its cognate branches, such as
history or political economy, that this
chair should be supplemented as may be
required by one or more lectureships on
legal subjects, and that the curriculum of
study for the LL.B. degree should be ar-
ranged so as not to encumber the law
student with too many subjects of a general
character while giving him the necessary
specialist training that is required for the
degree, and to satisfy the Supreme Court.
The Law Association has expressed its
general approval of the movement, though
qualifying its approval by giving it
as its opinion that the co-examiners
should be appointed by the profession.
The advantages of this proposed change
are great and manifold. It will bring to
the University a considerable number of
students, and will give our would-be
lawyers the privilege of obtaining the very
best teaching that can be obtained in the
colony. The University, and the pro-
fession, and the public, will each and all
share the benefit. It will save both time
and trouble to the examiners hitherto ap-
pointed by the Supreme Court. It will
also be much more gratifying to the
students themselves. When a young man
has obtained his degree, and has passed
through the University into the profession,
it will be much more satisfactory to him-
self than if he is simply called to the Bar
on the expiration of his articles. Arran-
gements must of course be made so as to
enable article clerks to pursue their uni-
versity studies during the time over which
these articles extend. This is done in
Melbourne, and is found to work well.
During the first year at the University the
main attention of the student must be
given to these general subjects which form
the common trunk from which the various
special lines of training afterwards branch
out. After that first year the time-table
could be so planned that the law lectures
should be given either before or after office
hours, and the student would be able to
carry on his studies at the University at the same time that he is learning the practical details of the profession in the office of his superior. This entire scheme has been objected to on the ground that we have quite enough lawyers already, and that it is not well to facilitate too much the ambition of young men desiring to become members of an already overcrowded profession. We have much doubt if the effect will not be exactly the reverse of what is feared; but whether this be the case or no, whatever tends to give a more definite status to the legal profession among us, and to raise the general standard of education among our youthful lawyers, will be at once a benefit to themselves and a benefit to the community on which they have to practice.

REGISTER, WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 1881.

THE FINANCES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—It is a source of some satisfaction to me to find that the protest I entered against the mode in which the Council were dealing with the trust funds of the University, and the agitation I commenced some time ago with a view of rectifying the error they had committed, are bearing fruit. I gather from your report of the proceedings in this morning's Register that the members of the Council have become fully alive to the danger of using the funds contributed by Sir Thomas Elder and Sir W. W. Hague to the University in any other way than that provided for in the two original trust-deeds. I have no doubt a little reflection showed them that, however advisable it might be to erect a University building, it was yet highly injudicious to spend any portion of the principal money for that purpose without first obtaining a proper authority for doing so. It is to be hoped that the balance-sheet to be issued next month will show a more healthy financial condition than the one previously published, and will, moreover, be a little more explicit, as the public have been up to the present left completely in the dark as to the sources from whence the Council have obtained the necessary funds to erect the palatial structure on North-terrace.

I am, Sir, &c.,

G. A. LABATT,
A Member of the Senate.