S. A. Register
27th June 1889.

SENIOR PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I notice in this morning’s paper a letter signed by “S.” in reference to this subject. I can corroborate his statements with regard to those who have to pass this examination after they have left school, and the hardship and loss it entails upon such. I have in my mind a young man, who has risen by his own ability to a position of trust, and has merely to pass this examination to enter upon a course of legal study. This, however, he has not yet been able to do owing to the insufficient time he can spare in any one year to prepare the set books for that year. This year he has been unable to begin study until just lately on account of having a growth upon his eye, caused by studying in the evenings, which he has had to cut off. If he is unable to present himself in November he will have to pay a fee of £77 5s. for March or take up a new set of textbooks prescribed for the following year. Having left school at an early age he, no doubt, lacks the groundwork that is now so well supplied by our Colleges and schools. The time is not the only thing which such a one lacks, for fees are required for coaching and books in addition to the examination fees. It has been suggested by some members of the legal profession that an exception should be made in such a case as this, and allow articles to be entered into on showing a competent knowledge of English subjects and the rudiments of other necessary subjects, the candidate’s knowledge of the practice of law to be considered as equivalent for any lack on other subjects. I would not allow any clerk obtaining such a certificate to enter as a matriculated student for the LL.B degree, but would confine him to the subject required by the Court for a pass certificate. Should he require a degree, which of course is not necessary for admission as a practitioner and is merely honorary, it is only fair that he should pass the full examination. If such a course were opened up it would confer a boon on many who would in time be a credit to the profession, but are now doomed to a life of clerkship merely because they have not the time and money to spend in studying for the Senior Public Examination.

I am, Sir, &c.,

GRADUATE.
A CONTRAST.

TO THE MUSEUM.

Sir,—Two years ago I was appraising myself at the Exhibition Grounds one pleasant after- noon, listening to the harmonious recitals of two young ladies seated themselves on the bench beside me, and, ignoring my insignificance, talked. They seemed to know most of the visitors, and as they discussed the steps from the main building that was in progress, there was a running commentary, not ill-timed, but rather charming. The fashion of their dress, their musical style, the neatness of their appearance, the effective beauty of their harmonies (or other-wise) of colour, how long it had been dirty, where made, and numerous other details, were discussed in a manner that was as amusing as it was thorough.

Two weeks ago I was travelling by rail, and again on one occasion of a conversational character by the window, a young lady talked enthusiastically of her musical studies, of the classes at the University, of harmony and counterpoint, of Professor Bray's liere, and Professor Ives' lecture-day and Macfarren, and of her hopes of becoming a Baccalaureate of Music. The first conversation, as usual, was close, the second was interesting, and I wished for more. But there was a cloud on the horizon. Professor Ives' liere was nearly up, and it was feared he would go. In these days, what a change! Is there now one connected with the University who will make a mistake? Not in the person of the late Sir W. Hughes and Sir C. Eddle, but I found a Faculty of Music! Or, failing this, will not the University supply a Musical Professor and the relatives and friends of the pupils by concert and instruction. And the libraries here offer already, and put the Chair of Music out of jeopardy? Better, perhaps, that the University do its share, instead of leaving the matter with the private, that so South Australia may prove that her asserted love of art is more than empty boast. —I see, Sir, &c.,

SEMITECH.