Mr. W. J. Walker, R.A., of Port Adelaide, who is at present studying for the medical profe...
Adelaide: Monday, May 13, 1889.

The University Ceremonial.

The large attendance at the Town Hall on Saturday night must have been very gratifying to the Chancellor and the governing body of the University. Of course it would have been appreciated if all who were present felt a special interest in the progress of higher education in the colony. A very unusual hour was fixed for the ceremonial, which precluded the attendance of many who live at a distance from Adelaide, although it was executed conveniently for others. Saturday night is an off night with most persons; but even on that night something more than an ordinary attraction is needed to draw them away from their homes. The special attractions were that the Governor and the departing Prime of Australia had been assembled in the University, and that addresses were to be given by both of them. Former Governors have taken an active interest in the work of the University, but the present Governor is the first who has been so closely identified with it as the Earl of Kintore now is. It is not unreasonable to expect that he will certainly honor his connection with the University will not be merely honorary; and, indeed, so much may be inferred from his desire to become a graduate, for the admission of a Cambridge Master of Arts degree to an old colonist like Adelaide can scarcely be said to confer distinction upon him.

As we know from our experience of former Governors, it is not necessary for Her Majesty's representative to be identified with the University in order that his sympathy with its aims and objects may be manifest, and it is undoubtedly an advantage that he should be a member of it. Lord Kintore has already, during his brief sojourn here, manifested a practical and intelligent interest in many of the important questions that have engaged the attention of the colony, and it is an encouraging omen that at this early stage of his residence he should have an opportunity of satisfying his desire to help on the work of higher education.

The announcement that a degree was to be conferred upon Bishop Barry caused some curiosity. It is rare for a member of an English University not living in the colony to be willing to accept a degree from a young University such as Adelaide, and that Dr. Barry was willing to do so on his departure from Australia must be accepted as a pleasing evidence of his practical interest in University work in these colonies.

Bishop Barry can confer no distinction upon him, while it gives the Council a sort of claim to his kindly co-operation if at any time it should be needed. It is not an easy matter for a stranger to command and keep the attention of such a mixed audience as our students have. The subject that was assigned to him is one upon which it is difficult to say anything new, and even cooly easy to utter dull and pompous commonplace. The Bishop succeeded in interesting his audience by his forcible and impressive utterances, and though the debt was considerable.

The Register.