

London Letter

Advertiser July 20 1891.

From an Australian point of view the event of Wednesday's commemoration at Oxford was the conferring of the degree of Doctor of Laws on Chief Justice Way, immediately after Mr. Balfour, by Dr. Bryce, the Regius Professor of Civil Law. You are certainly justified in crowing over your neighbor, Victoria, whose representative for this honor a few years ago was the millionaire baronet, Sir William Clarke. It was said at the time that the public orator had some difficulty in shaping words which would explain why Sir William was signalled out for the honor. Yesterday Dr. Bryce was able to describe Chief Justice Way with perfect truth "as a distinguished Australian judge who had won respect, not only by his legal eminence, but by his services to the new University of Adelaide." I should add that your Chief Justice received his degree in very distinguished company. Mr. Balfour was of course the lion among the new doctors, and his appearance was hailed with yells of delight mingled with the usual undergraduate outbursts of somewhat personal humor. In addition to Mr. Balfour, the degree was conferred upon the Duc d'Aumale, Lord Halsbury, better known as Sir Hardinge Gifford (Lord High Chancellor of England) Sir Donald Stewart, the most distinguished of Indian generals after Sir Frederick Roberts, Professor Jebb, who divides with the master of Balliol the honor of being the first of living Greek scholars, and Mr. Briton Réviere, R.A., the animal painter. As I have said, the noise from the upper galleries was almost entirely aimed at Mr.—or as we should now call him Dr.—Balfour, who was sarcastically requested to sing "God save Ireland" and also to give a speech. This, however, was all in thoroughly good temper, for it may safely be said that Mr. Balfour at the present time is about the most popular man in England, especially among the "classes," who of course predominate at Oxford and Cambridge. In fact on his appearance the roof shook with applause, and when he went up to the Vice-Chancellor the entire assemblage broke out into the chorus "For he's a jolly good fellow." I should remark that when the Duc d'Aumale was introduced to Dr. Bryce an undergraduate with a very shrill voice told him to give it to the gentleman in French or he might not understand it; while in the case of Mr. Briton Réviere it was suggested that a pencil and paper should be handed to him, so that he might make a sketch of the scene—a suggestion that laid the undergraduate open to the retort that the artist was purely an animal painter. Your Chief Justice being comparatively unknown to these noisy youths escaped without much chaff, but one absurd question as to "Who stole the kangaroo?" evoked much laughter. Such nonsense as "What price federation?" and "Don't you be frightened, Bryce won't eat you," were audible, whilst several humorists amongst the elevated portion of the audience seemed solicitous of learning whether your Chief Justice "knew his Way about." Mr. Way did not appear much affected by these polite insinuations.

During the past week Sir Arthur Blyth's health has not, I regret to say, shown material signs of improvement. He thinks himself a little better; but Miss Blyth's opinion is unfavorable, and the doctors express themselves in rather guarded terms. Mr. Deering, in addition to being very full of work, has been suffering from neuralgia this last day or two.

The Lord Chief Chancellor entertained a select company of distinguished people at dinner the other day, among the guests being Chief Justice Way.

The University of Edinburgh has conferred the degree of Doctor of Medicine on Mr. Thos. Borthwick, of your city. The subject of his thesis was "A Contribution to the Demography of South Australia."

Chief Justice Way was the guest of the warden of All Souls at Oxford, and amongst the Adelaide folk present in the theatre during the conferring of the degrees were Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Horn, and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Clarke. Mr. Way sails for America by the City of Rome on September 24.

Dr. Pennefather, of Adelaide, took the degree of LL.D. at Cambridge yesterday.

The Hon. G. M. Waterhouse came up to town the other day from Torquay and is staying at the Metropole. Mr. Turnbull has been very unwell, but is now better. Mr. Sanderson did not start for Norway till yesterday; he continues in capital health and spirits. Mr. and Mrs. Fred. B. Burden left on Thursday for Paris and propose to spend three weeks or a month on the Continent.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge having received from the Chancellor of the University of Adelaide an application for the affiliation of that University to the University of Cambridge, the council of the senate have drawn up a report in which they state:—"The council find from the letter of the Chancellor and from the calendar of the University of Adelaide that persons must have reached the age of 16 years before being enrolled as matriculated students, and must, after matriculation, complete three academical years of study and pass the examination proper to each year in order to obtain the degree of Bachelor of Arts, or Bachelor of Science, or Bachelor of Laws. For the degree of Bachelor of Medicine or Bachelor of Surgery five academical years are required. There is in each case an entrance examination before matriculation. There are no residential colleges. Terms are kept by attendance at lectures." The council accordingly recommended—"That the University of Adelaide be adopted as an institution affiliated to the University of Cambridge; that graduates of the University of Adelaide who have satisfied the examiners in Latin and one other language, not being English, in any one or more of the examinations held by that University be entitled to be admitted to the privileges of affiliation."

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University Scholarships and Working Men.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I understand that the Minister of Education, who has been placed in the position he occupies mainly by the votes of the working men, seeks by inserting a clause in the new Education Act to deprive the sons of working men of one of the very few privileges they now hold in connection with the University. I allude to the doing away with the chance that working men's sons now have of obtaining a scholarship in the University. Some time ago, when working men were agitating for a site for a Trades and Labor Hall, they used the argument that the University was provided for the education of rich men's sons, and were met by the statement that the University was open equally to the sons of rich and poor men, and that lads could if they strove for it obtain a three years' scholarship in the University. Now, sir, one of the first acts of the working man's champion when he obtains the position of Minister of Education is to deprive the sons of working men of obtaining any more of these scholarships. Under the present Education Act any boy who has merit can gain a scholarship at our public schools, as there are six scholarships provided for annually by the Education Act for three years at £20 per annum, and any lad winning one can receive three years' education at any of our colleges—no matter of what denomination—or at any of the higher schools. There are also three scholarships every year provided by the present Act at the University at £50 per annum, and any of the boys who have previously won scholarships at the public schools can compete for them, and I know the sons of several poor men who have gained these scholarships that would never have seen the inside of the University if these scholarships had not been provided by the present Education Act. And this chance for a poor man's son is now to be done away with—by one of the working men's choice! Save the mark. I hope, sir, some of the working men's champions now in Parliament will see to this, and if not too late get the matter righted, but if too late for the House of Assembly, that the honorable gentlemen who have lately been elected by the working classes to the Legislative Council will see that the sons of working men are not deprived of one of their very few privileges in this matter. I see by your issue of July 17 that the Rev. F. S. Poole has given notice of motion in the Senate *re* this matter, and I trust that the Trades and Labor Council will look into the subject before it is too late. I am reluctant to take up your space in going more fully into the matter, but can assure your readers that I have not the slightest personal interest in the subject.—I am, &c.,

B.J.M.

July 20, 1891.

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SUCCESS OF AN ADELAIDE LAWYER.

Mr. W. J. Isbister, LL.B., of the Adelaide University, who recently resigned his position of Associate of His Honor Mr. Justice Bandedy to proceed to England to gain admission to the English Bar, has met with gratifying success. He competed for and won the 100 guineas scholarship of the Inner Temple, offered for knowledge of Common Law.