

Not all the apologists in the world can explain away the position. Two books which are "set" the students to cram—if the word be not too unpalatable—are not to be obtained at the principal booksellers, and the suggestion is calmly (and, as QUIZ thinks impudently) made that the students—of whom, by the bye, there are 200—should go to the libraries, and so get the means for preparing themselves for the examinations. If any but a University man had put forward such a paltry proposition he would have been written down as an ass. But how could anyone possessing a vast store of classical knowledge possibly be a nincompoop?

If the members of the University Council, instead of dividing themselves up into petty cliques, will deign to be as practical as under Providence it is possible for them to be, there is a chance of the institution whose destinies they control being of some use to the community. At present it offers nothing but barriers to the clever poor, and places undeserved advantages in the way of the unappreciative rich. The Council should bear in mind that this is a Democratic community, and if they are wise they will not be averse to yielding to such common sense as they may muster among themselves, even though common sense may be flying in the face of antiquity.

"Quiz" 11th July 1890.

"Hitch on to the University, and ask for Mr. Registrar Tyas. Ah! here he comes. I seem to hear his quick energetic step. Give you good day, Mr. Registrar. I'm QUIZ, and I've

come to have a chat with you." "Go away. I decline to hold any communion with any such disreputable individual."

"So, I heard that I had been boycotted by the bigwigs of the University, but I get there just the same. By-the-bye I understand those books that all the trouble was about have arrived after all." "Of course they have. You had made a fuss about nothing, as you are very often doing."

"Oh, no; you don't get out of it in that way. There was a mess which you or some one else was responsible for. I don't care who it was. It is no excuse to say that the books have come to hand now when half the year has gone." "I decline to enter into any controversy with you. Ring off, please."

Register July 12th 1890.

S.A. SCHOOL TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION.—

On Friday evening Professor Boulger addressed the School Teachers' Association on the subject, "Our Schools and our University." His remarks, which were for the most part extempore, referred to the training, the duties, and the grievances of State school teachers, and the defects evitable and inevitable connected with our State school system generally. He compared the present training of a model school with that of a theological seminary, and took exception to both. A teacher like a cleric should be a man of the world, and should not lead a cloistered youth. He strongly recommended a free arts course at the University for all pupils of the Training College and all State school teachers. We should furnish our educational militia with the best possible weapons for contending against the ignorance and concomitant vice of the masses, and we cannot expect them to pay for such weapons out of their slender means. Passing on then to the children in State schools, he observed that the Education Department seemed to forget sometimes that it had to deal with children and not with adults. The reason in children should not be prematurely forced by such exercises as "analysis" and arithmetical problems. Observation and memory were the special faculties of childhood. Let us not harass it by what Milton called "preposterous exactions." State schools had to be worked by a department, and a department implied red-tape, routine, and the crushing out of all originality, but schools not connected with the State system need not voluntarily submit themselves to a bondage equally rigorous. If a pupil must, in accordance with existing regulations, pass certain examinations in order to qualify himself for admission to a certain profession, or to obtain valuable help in the form of a University scholarship, let the schoolmaster prepare him for such examination, but let him think more of the general, moral, and physical development of his pupils than of any examination. Good work is generally slow work. Work done for examinations is often hurried, and sometimes leads the worker to think too much of the means and too little of the end. A discussion ensued, and a vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Boulger by acclamation.

Register

August 1st 1890

THE UNIVERSITY AND THE SPIRIT DUTY.—

On Thursday morning a deputation, consisting of the Chancellor of the University (His Honor Chief Justice Way), Dr. Stirling, Professor Rennie, and the Registrar of the University (Mr. J. W. Tyas) waited upon the Treasurer (Hon. F. W. Holder) and asked that the duty on spirits used for chemical and pathological work at the University should be remitted. Professor Rennie said the question would never have arisen if they could get good methylated spirit here. If they could not get the rectified spirit here they would have to import it from England. They used several quarter-casks every year, at a cost of about £20, but the duty on that amounted to over £100. The Chief Justice said that until recently the University had not been charged duty on spirits, and he pointed out that the concession formed a part of the basis on which the University was formed. The Medical School had been endowed by Sir Thomas Elder and the Hon. J. H. Angas, but it could not be said that it was richly endowed for they needed every pound that they had. The resolution of the Government to charge duty on goods used by Government departments was just enough, but the University could hardly be said to come under that head. In the Government departments it was simply a matter of book-keeping, but that was not so with respect to the University,

which if the duty were charged would have to pay the amount out of their revenue. The Treasurer said the duty had not been levied for the protection of any industry, and the Government had decided to charge the departments so that the Estimates might show not only what revenue from Customs was received, but what was received as an equivalent for cash. He recognised the strong claim the University had, and was with the Chief Justice when he pointed out that the University had been founded on certain concessions made by the Government, as well as the endowments. He promised that either the duty would be remitted, or that the Government would see that the University received an amount of money sufficient to cover the duty.