

## THE MUSIC EXAMINATIONS.

## PARLIAMENT AND THE UNIVERSITY

## STATEMENT BY THE REGISTRAR.

## PROFESSOR IVES AND THE CHANCELLOR.

The controversy in connection with the failure of the third-year musical students to pass the examinations at the Adelaide University was advanced several important stages yesterday. In the first place the matter was discussed in the House of Assembly. In reply to Mr. Price, Mr. Brooker said that the registrar of the university promised to furnish a report by noon that day concerning the trouble at the Conservatorium. It had not been received. (Mr. Handyside—"And you won't get it either.")

Mr. Dixon, on a motion of adjournment, referred to the disagreement in connection with the musical examinations. He reviewed the circumstances as already set out in "The Register," and said it appeared that there was an "undercurrent" at work at the university which was detrimental to the working of the institution. Mr. Price agreed. The whole institution was in a state of ferment. It was time the Government looked into the whole matter. He was afraid that too much power had fallen into the hands of a few men there—especially one man. (Hear, hear.)

As the Government contributed some £6,000 per annum the House had a right to complain. The Minister of Education said they all regretted that there was so much discord in musical circles. (Laughter.) There always seemed a want of harmony. (Laughter. Mr. Price—"In church choirs.") He thought it a want of courtesy on the part of the university authorities that they had not forwarded the report as promised. (Cheers. Mr. Homburg—"I thought they had sent it, and I was going to complain, as you've no right to ask for it." Cries of "Oh, oh.") The Government thought it had a right, and the same right as was being taken in Victoria to have some representation. (Hear, hear. Mr. Homburg—"Don't make rash statements. The university is not a political institution, mind.")

At this stage a messenger entered the House and handed the Minister a large official envelope. Mr. Brooker—"Oh, here it is. (Cries of "Read it, read it.") He intended asking the university authorities to re-examine the students. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Archibald explained the relations existing between the state and the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and the Continent. (Mr. Homburg—"You're wrong.") He was not. He was speaking on the authority of Professor Max Muller, who had forgotten more German than Mr. Homburg ever knew. (Laughter.) The Chancellor of the University was too much of a "Pooh-Bah." He did not pretend, like Mr. Dixon, to be an expert in harmony. He knew most about the absence of harmony. (Laughter.) There was a "select official, shoddy aristocratic click," who tried to boss things in Adelaide. It was a matter of grace that other people were allowed to live. (Laughter.)

The Chief Secretary said he had just had time to briefly glance at the report, and he was not going to enter into the dispute. He laid the report on the table, and moved that it be printed. This was carried.

Mr. Homburg regretted Mr. Dixon had opened the question without having heard the other side. As far as he had read the report there was another side. The Minister had no authority to demand a report. (Mr. Brooker—"I know that, and said so.") Mr. Homburg then explained the relations of the university and the Government, and after Mr. Hutchison had defended the attitude of Mr. Brooker the motion was negatived.

## THE REGISTRAR'S REPORT.

The report by the registrar of the university referred to in the Assembly debate was tabled. After stating the issue and repeating the correspondence published, Mr. Hodge proceeds:—"On Tuesday, the 10th inst., Professor Peterson's report came to hand, and a special meeting of the education committee was held that afternoon. Professor Peterson was of opinion that question 4 was too hard, and should not have been set, and he also criticised some of the other questions, but he plainly made every allowance for the difficulty in which they were placed, and came to the conclusion that none of them were entitled to pass, and he advised that even the best student required another year's teaching. The following is a copy of the report of the education committee:—As directed by the council, the education committee met on the 2nd December and conferred with Professor Ives with respect to a divergence of opinion which had occurred between him and his co-examiner, Mr. W. H. Wale, in connection with the "harmony" and "instrumentation" papers for the third year of the Mus. Bac. degree. Your committee communicated with Mr. Wale, who readily agreed to the papers being submitted to Professor Peterson. Upon receipt of reply from Mr. Wale the whole of the papers were forwarded to Professor Peterson, who has forwarded the annexed confidential report. Your committee regret to report that the whole of the students of the third year have failed to pass the examination. In connection with this question the committee regret to report a divergence of opinion with Professor Ives. Upon receipt of a telegram from Mr. Wale consenting to the papers being forwarded to Professor Peterson, the whole of the data in connection with the examination were sent. Professor Ives, however, requested the registrar before sending the candidates' papers to rub out the pencil annotations made by Mr. Wale. Before the papers were sent the chancellor happened to come into the office, and directed the registrar that he was not to remove the annotations, but to send the whole of the papers and memoranda in connection with the examination just as they were. Professor Ives resented this having been done, and wrote to the registrar withdrawing his consent to Professor Peterson setting. On Friday, the 13th inst., the reports of the education committee, Professor Peterson, and Mr. Wale, and the

whole of the correspondence, together with an application from the students for a fresh examination, were anxiously considered by the council, who passed the following resolutions:—(a) That the council see no reason for departing from the result that the candidates have not passed. (b) To inform Professor Ives that the referee who was appointed at his request has reported unfavourably, and the council regret that all the students in the third year for the Mus. Bac. degree have failed. The council further directed that Professor Ives be requested to at once forward the results of the examination for the first and second years. The students also were informed that another examination at an early date could not be granted, as the council were of opinion that they would be better for another year's study. (Then follows correspondence already published). The registrar continues:—In conclusion, I desire to call your attention to the following points:—Firstly, none of the candidates could pass without satisfying both examiners. The co-examiner, Mr. Wale, was nominated with Professor Ives's acquiescence, and had acted with him on several previous occasions. Secondly, it is unfortunate that Mr. Wale should have set and Professor Ives should have passed without objection a question in one of the four papers set which both Professor Ives and Professor Peterson now consider too difficult. No objection to this question, however, was made until the examination was over. Thirdly, Professor Peterson, who was referred to for advice, agrees with Mr. Wale, that none of the candidates were qualified to pass, and that even the best student needed another year's study before being fit to be examined for the degree. In coming to this conclusion, Professor Peterson made every proper allowance for the disadvantages under which the candidates were placed by the question to which he objected. Fourthly, the education committee and the council carefully considered the advisability of having a fresh examination, and came to the conclusion, upon the evidence before them, that in the students' own interests it was better that they should have the advantage of another year's teaching before being examined for the degree. The charter of the university requires the maintenance of a proper standard of knowledge as a condition for obtaining its degrees.

## STRONG STATEMENTS BY THE PROFESSOR.

## PRESENTATION BY THE STUDENTS.

The following announcement, which appeared in "The Register" on Wednesday, caused much comment and curiosity:—"Professor Ives wrote to us yesterday as follows:—'In justice to myself, my position, and my numerous friends, I have intended to make some explanation of the reasons that have led to my retirement from the university. This I shall do at the close of the commemoration at the university tomorrow afternoon. Will those interested wait a few minutes after the ceremony?'"

At the conclusion of the commemoration proceedings in the Elder Hall on Wednesday Professor Ives advanced to the table on the platform. The chancellor, followed by the members of the council and senate, immediately retired. The greater number of those in the body of the hall remained in their seats, while the undergraduates gathered round the professor.

Professor Ives said—Members of the University of Adelaide, fellow-workers in the

cause of education—I made a promise some time ago that I would make some explanation as to the reasons which have led up to my leaving the university. On this, my last appearance on this platform, I feel it my duty to myself, to my art, to the position I have held so long in this university, and to the public, in whose interests this institution has been established, that a true answer to the question should be given. (Hear, hear.) Probably Chief Justice Way, the chancellor of the university, and his faithful henchman, Dr. Barlow, our vice-chancellor, could better answer the question. For a long time past these gentlemen have done all they could in their position to hinder me in my work at this university. That work, I need hardly say, has not been light. To bring the school of music to its present self-supporting position, to found and organize a conservatorium such as this we have here, needed much anxious thought, tact, and judgment. And when this had to be done in face of the secret but ceaseless hindering of the university's two highest officials, who abused the privileges of their office in order to satisfy their personal feelings against me—(cries of "Shame")—when, I repeat, my work had to be done under such conditions, you can understand that my task has not been a light one. But I flinched not; I dared to do right. The offices to which the chancellor and vice-chancellor have been elevated are positions of great honour. To those who accept them belongs the responsibility of using their office for the furtherance of the welfare of the university. The true interests of the university and its various schemes of work should be the ruling motive of these officers. One department of the university work that has been singularly successful in its operations is that over which I have presided. I do not need to recapitulate the chief features of that success—the increase in the roll of students from some 20 to over 300, the place it has gained in public favour, the popularity of its concerts, the influence it has had on the development of musical taste, and the position it has gained in Australian educational circles. Nor do I need to remind you that the artistic success thus shown has been won without financial cost to the university; that for once my pleasing artistic dreams have not been followed by unpleasant financial awakenings. For does not its income from all sources exceed its expenditure by some £300 per annum, thus giving artist and treasurer alike reason to rejoice over those things the professor of music has done for the university. Have I, amid the anxieties and perplexities attendant upon the organization of this school, received from the chancellor and vice-chancellor that moral support and assistance I had a right to expect? I answer, no. Those who have

been my fellow-workers will tell you no; nay, even the casual observer has been able to hazard an emphatic no. On the contrary, I have for some time past—the time of my greatest trial—had nothing but ill-will and hindrance from these gentlemen. (Hear, hear.) And what was the motive of this ill-will displayed towards me by the chancellor and vice-chancellor? I will tell you briefly. On a certain occasion the chancellor asked me as one of the examiners for the degree of Mus. Bac. to place a relative of his in the first-class division of the pass list I had issued. (Loud cries of "Shame.") Because that relative had not won that position I refused to do so—(hear, hear)—although at a private interview he sought with me the chancellor used all those subtleties of argument and persuasion of which he is so crafty a master. (A voice—"Fetch him in.") Fancy a mere university professor daring to oppose the Chief Justice! On another occasion the chancellor sought to hand over to a foreign institution the highest function of the university—that of encouraging the study of music by means of its already established system of examination. I felt it my duty to oppose so undignified and unwise a step, a step, too, which involved a loss of some £300 to £400 per annum to the university. And again, because I dared to be true to my office and to my conscience, I offended this mighty man. (Hisses. Cries of "The all-mighty atom," and laughter.) But my conscientiousness did not meet that reward which we are told right doing merits. (A student—"There'll come a time some day.") I had opposed the chancellor's wishes—I must pay the penalty—and I have been paying the penalty ever since; and not only I, but the office I hold. Indeed, so vindictively and maliciously has the chancellor pursued his purposeful course that my students also have at the recent examination been made to feel that man's awful power. Of Dr. Barlow, the vice-chancellor, I need say little. His old-fashioned mind has not been able to contrive original methods of torturing me, so he has had to rely upon his wily chief, and be a faithful jackal to the lion. And a sagacious jackal he has proved, hunting for food to supply the treacherous lion's revengeful hunger, and when it could not be found, digging it up from the shallow ground of his own imaginings, inventing flimsy complaints. Poor, illogical, scantily clothed mind! I pity it more than I heed it. Dr. Barlow has been at least a faithful servant to the chancellor, if a somewhat foolish—I almost said stupid—one. Why a university council composed as ours is should be found so plethoric and indifferent as to permit its most active members to work out their designs under the influence of ex parte statements and subtle innuendoes surprises most right-minded people. I do not believe one-half the members of the council have been aware of what has been rilly going on. The chancellor has had their ear at the various meetings from which I have been carefully excluded, he has made statements with none by to refute, and they could only arrive at their decisions by the evidence so laid before them. Evidence for the prosecution has been plentiful—that for the defence has been carefully shut out. (Cries of "Shame.") The chancellor's well-earned reputation as a clever lawyer has been well sustained. But has it been honourable? (Cries of "No.") These cases I have mentioned are but examples. Many other instances of wrongdoing on the part of these officers I could mention, among others the attempt they made to stop the performance of my symphony two days before the date announced for its production. So flagrantly purposeful have they been that I demand, in the best interests of this young university, that the fullest enquiries should be made into its inner workings. I court those enquiries. Will the chancellor, the vice-chancellor, and the university council assist in this being brought about? Surely so, if they have nothing to hide. (Loud cheers.)

An adjournment was then made to a lecture room in the basement, where, in the presence of a large number of graduates and undergraduates of the university, two presentations were made to Professor Ives.

The first speaker—said they were quite familiar with the melancholy occasion. They were losing their professor, and more than professor, their friend, Professor Ives. Those of them who had been intimately connected with Professor Ives during the last two years had become acquainted with all his traits, and they felt that they were losing a very great friend, and one who had taken a great interest in all their work. He had never spared any trouble to push them forward, and he had really done far more than was his duty. When this unfortunate occasion arose the Mus. Bac. students met, and unanimously decided that as a small token of their esteem for Professor Ives they should make this presentation. Then, on behalf of the first, second, and third year musical students, he asked Professor Ives to accept a traveling bag.

The second speaker, on behalf of the students generally, said that they felt they ought to show their deep appreciation of the way Professor Ives had treated them during the years he had been at the university. The professor had gone to considerable trouble with the students, and had given valuable aid in arranging the programmes for the commemoration. He had often taken them in choruses, and in fact given them a regular musical training. (Cheers.) He then banded Professor Ives a silver flask and writing case.

Professor Ives, received with cheers, said:—Graduates and Undergraduates of the University of Adelaide—The very good nature you have displayed on this occasion almost overcomes me. Most of you know I have had a very trying 12 months. It has been a year full of perplexities, when a little sympathy at any moment would have been most welcome. It has been a year when the assistance which these highest in office in our university could and might have given to me would have been most acceptable. During these months of anxiety and grave perplexities I only had my students, and the heartiness with which they have worked, and the goodwill they have shown me in