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UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

The annual extension lectures in connection with the University of Adelaide commenced on Monday evening, when Professor Mitchell delivered the first of a series of 10 lectures on "Hamlet." Besides the students of the University, there was a fair attendance of the general public. The lecturer, in commencing, intimated that the course he would adopt was to take the play scene by scene, and explain the text, and he would also give an explanation, by reference to other plays, of the general character of Shakespeare's dramas. There were several things it was necessary to take by way of introduction, and he began by giving an account of Shakespeare's life, with which it was necessary to be acquainted, to enable the student to gain a true knowledge of his plays. The lecturer gave an exceedingly interesting and complete account of Shakespeare's life, together with a classification of his plays, and an account of their chronological order. He concluded with an explanation of the metrical formation of the plays, and specially pointed out the difference between the form of the earlier and the later plays. Next week the lecturer will deal with the first act of "Hamlet."

choice, therefore, lies between the system of judging a Professor and his views and actions by a secret tribunal, and the continuance of something like the present mode of dealing with the staff. The Senate, wisely, is inclined to bear the evils that it knows rather than fly to others that it knows not of.

During the debate in the Senate the Adelaide University statutes were quoted by Mr. H. B. Higgins, M.P., in support of the motion for granting the larger degree of power to the Council; but if the speaker has been correctly reported in the Melbourne daily Press, he omitted to mention a qualifying circumstance which distinguishes the local statutes from that which he was championing in Melbourne. The rule in question provides that—

The Council may at its discretion dismiss from his office, or suspend for a time from performing the duties and receiving the salary thereof, any Professor whose continuance in his office or in the performance of the duties thereof shall in the opinion of the Council be injurious to the progress of the students or to the interests of the University; provided that no such dismissal shall have effect until confirmed by the Visitor.

—In other words, by His Excellency the Governor. It is evident that no Governor would give effect to a recommendation of dismissal unless on the express advice of his Ministers, and the latter would be subject to possible criticism by members of Parliament for the counsel tendered. Thus is removed what is perhaps the most dangerous feature of the secret tribunal system. Any Professor considering himself wrongfully dismissed might at least have a chance of having his case brought before a privileged arena of discussion. It may be regarded as a monstrous anomaly that even a reckless bully who secures the suffrages of a constituency can in Parliament assail the character of the best private citizen in the land, and shield himself under the aegis of Parliamentary privilege; but the existing arrangement, at any rate, has the compensating advantage that it provides one place, besides the Criminal or

Civil Courts, in which an insinuator may be challenged to speak out and formulate his charges, or else for ever hold his peace. In general, if a Professor was aware of justification for his dismissal he would not bring his cause before the Governor, but if he could find any reasonable proof for the suspicion that he was being driven from office through prejudice or sectarian bias he would have some means open to him of making the real state of affairs known to the public. We are not concerned to defend the Adelaide system in every aspect. All that we wish to point out is that when Mr. Higgins spoke of the local practice he ought at least to have added the proviso which takes away one of the most objectionable features of the power granted to the University Council.

Avowedly even those members of the Melbourne Academic Council who most strenuously advocated the proposed alteration of the statutes intended no specific reference to the case of Professor Marshall Hall and his much-debated literary folly in the book, which was at first entitled "Hymns Ancient and Modern." The peculiarities of his position, however, were undoubtedly present to the minds of the majority of those who discussed the intended innovations. The question whether some of the erotic passages in his verses might by any pure-minded reader be interpreted in an indecent sense has been mixed up not merely with that of the coarseness and levity of certain expressions used, but also with that of theological heresy. In fact, the Senate, by persistently shying the whole matter, is plainly acting under the impression that several clerical members of the University Council entertain an animus against the Ormond Professor of Music on account of his views on the subject of religion. One speaker pertinently suggested that in a conceivable case it might seem in the opinion of most of the Council injurious to the University that a Professor who had formerly been a Protestant should have turned Roman Catholic. Protestant parents, who are in the majority, would undoubtedly prefer that a professor of such a subject as moral philosophy should not be a Roman Catholic; but if the Council permitted such a consideration to enter into its deliberations regarding either the selection or the dismissal of any Professor the consequences would be disastrous. A few days ago the Senate postponed consideration of a proposed conference on the matter at issue, but the tone of the meeting was distinctly against making any compromise involving the principle in dispute. Professor Marshall Hall can be called to account for indiscretions, but in the meantime the elevation of his case into one turning to a large extent upon the right of free speech has done him more good than harm.

AUSTRALIAN STUDENTS.

HIGH HONORS.

London, June 13.
The results of the public mathematical honor examinations at Cambridge have been published. Two Australians have taken high honors, Samuel Bruce McLaren having been placed third wrangler, and Percy Vaughan Bevan fourth.

Register 16th June 1899.

A MUNIFICENT DONATION.

TEN THOUSAND POUNDS TO THE SCHOOL OF MINES.

THE NUCLEUS OF A BUILDING FUND.

The School of Mines and Industries has during its ten years' existence done good work. It has turned out several graduates who have become favourably known in the mining world, and its efforts to promote knowledge of geology and metallurgy must benefit a colony which depends so much upon its mineral deposits. Adelaide is pre-eminently a centre of mining investors, and the School has attracted their appreciative notice. An evidence of this fact is to be found in a donation from a gentleman, who desires his name to be kept secret, of the munificent sum of £10,000 as a nucleus of a Building Fund.

The letter which conveyed this pleasant intimation to the President of the Council, Sir Langdon Bonython, stated: "You will remember some months ago calling on me with reference to the need of a new building for the School of Mines. I have thought the matter over, and, as I consider the School is doing a good work for the young people of South Australia, and that the privileges offered are open to all, I have pleasure in handing my cheque for ten thousand pounds in favour of the Hon. the Treasurer as a nucleus to the Building Fund. I will be glad if my name is not mentioned as the donor if any reference is made in the Press."

Directly Sir Langdon received the money he paid it into the Treasury, and Mr. Holder promised to allow 3 per cent. upon it. The need of a new building has long been felt by the Council of the School, and no doubt now that the Council has received this money an edifice will be erected as soon as possible on the ground on the east side of the Jubilee Exhibition Building, where the Eastern Annex stands.

The School, which has a portion of the Jubilee Exhibition Buildings for its operations, was started in 1888 as the outcome of a report of a Royal Commission. The first members of the Council were the Hon. Dr. Cockburn, President, Sir Langdon Bonython, Sir Charles Todd, Messrs. T. Scherk, M.P., A. Adamson, J. W. Bakewell, R. E. E. Rogers, S. Solomon, Dr. E. C. Stirling, Professors Rennie and Tate, and Captain Warren. From the first the School was largely attended, and each year has brought a greater number of pupils to it. In 1886 there were 803, in 1897 637, and last year 1,041, and the number of subjects taught in 1898 was thirty. The Council has all along felt the need of extra accommodation, and at the present time it has been compelled to refuse a number of applicants simply because of the inadequate space at its disposal. Speaking on this very subject at the last demonstration, the President said:—"But to every one who knows anything of the facts it is distressingly apparent that the School has outgrown its present home. Much has been done during the past twelve months in the way of providing increased accommodation for different classes, but the limit of what is possible in this direction has been reached. Nothing more can be done, as must have been apparent to our visitors this evening by the way we have encroached on the corridors. There must be a new building, and in saying this the Council are not unreasonable. Hitherto the School has never had anything beyond a small maintenance grant—at no time more than £3,000 per annum. In the other colonies immense sums have been expended on technical education. The Council would be happy to know that it was intended to place Adelaide in this matter on an equality with such provincial towns as Bendigo and Ballarat. We do not ask for the exclusive use of the Exhibition Buildings, because we do not think the Government would be justified in depriving the public of the main hall, but some of the uses for which that hall is let make the effective carrying on of a great School in the basement an impossibility. Besides, the dim light there renders it a very unsuitable place for chemical and other work. From what I have said it will be seen that there are two reasons why a special building should be erected. The first is that we have outgrown the present location, which has admirably served its purpose; and the other is that the position and surroundings are by no means ideal conditions for a School of Mines. Our case to-day is much stronger than it would have been had the Council asked for a new building when the School was opened. Then it might have been said fairly enough that its success remained to be proved. Nothing of the sort can be urged today. The school has become one of the best in the world."

Music June 1899 ✓

A NEW UNIVERSITY GUIDE.

Mr. Chas. R. Hodge, the energetic Registrar of the Adelaide University, will still further enhance his reputation for thoroughness by his compilation of the new "Guide to the University of Adelaide," which has just been published by permission of the Council, and a copy of which "Music" has been favoured with. Comprised within its thirty-six pages is a large amount of information of just the precise kind for students about to enter upon a University course, or for parents and guardians contemplating sending their children or charges to attend the many classes and lectures connected with the University scheme for higher education. There are directions as to public examinations in general education and in music, degree courses, evening classes, the basis and scope of the Elder Conservatorium, scholarships and prizes, instructions re Army Commissions, hints to students proceeding to Oxford or Cambridge, and the local extension lectures for this year. Mr. Hodge's pamphlet is in no sense intended to supplant the University Calendar, but for the general public it will be more generally useful.

Register 12th June 1899.

A DISPUTE ABOUT PROFESSORSHIPS.

The power of summarily dismissing a University Professor without assigning a definite reason should not be lightly conferred upon any man or body of men. Galileo lost his professorship for asserting that the earth went round the sun; and in more recent times, during the heated controversies of the last generation on the Darwinian theory, an adherence to philosophical opinions now very generally held has been on more than one occasion counted as some justification for getting rid of a University teacher. In the Melbourne University Senate the other day Professor Allen denounced the proposal to give summary powers of dismissal to the Council as being "outrageous," and he roundly declared that the movement initiated by some members of that body was simply an attempt to "gag the professors and to prevent freedom of thought and of speech." This remark fairly indicates the motive for the strenuous opposition now being shown in the more popular University body against a proposal by the chief governing academic power. At a previous meeting of the Council it had been resolved by a majority of only one, both the Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor being in the minority, that any Professor should be removable for conduct adjudged by the Council to be injurious to the University. The reluctance of so many even of the Council to claim the suggested power of dismissal is very natural in the circumstances. The older professorships are held by their occupants "so long as they behave themselves," and until a Court of law pronounced that any of them had been guilty of at least a misdemeanour it would be personally safe for members of the Council to publicly aver that he had misbehaved himself. More recently created professorships are generally renewable at the end of each term of five years, but during their currency the good behaviour principle applies to them as well as to the others. In the existing state of the law of the