

The following general committee was appointed:—The Right Hon. the Chief Justice, Sir Edwin Smith, M.L.C., Sir Charles Todd, the Minister of Education (Hon. Dr. Cockburn), the Bishop of Adelaide (Right Rev. Dr. Harmer), the Hon. J. L. Stirling, M.L.C., J. Warren, M.L.C., J. H. Howe, M.L.C., Drs. Way, Marten, and Lendon, the Rev. Dr. Paton, Mr. Commissioner Russell, the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. C. Tucker), Messrs. W. B. Rounsevell, G. Wilcox, J. Darling, jun., M.P., A. McDonald, M.P., J. T. Scherik, M.P., P. McM. Glynn, M.P., H. C. E. Muecke, D. Murray, A. G. Downer, J. Langdon Bonython, W. P. Auld, M. Holtze, C. R. Wilton, J. Moule, A. Melrose, F. Chapple, A. M. Simpson, R. K. Thomas, T. Hardy, J. J. Virgo, J. H. Gartrell, R. T. Melrose, G. Flecker, J. W. Jones (Conservator of Water), J. Robertson, H. K. Wendt, H. J. Scott (Mayor of Brighton), G. Maslin, T. Gill, A. Melrose, G. W. Hawkes, W. P. Auld, N. Smith, and A. S. Davey. The original committee was appointed as an executive committee. A vote of thanks was accorded his Excellency for presiding.

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THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

To the Editor.

Sir—I rejoiced when first the subject of the musical scholarships came before the public to think that assistance would thereby be given to the development of special talent amongst the children of parents whose circumstances would otherwise preclude them from obtaining the necessary cultivation. Much talent that might blossom into perfection, if fostered by generous assistance and sympathy, exists amongst the children of such parents, and there never was a better opportunity of fostering native talent than there is now if our musical authorities make a wise disposal of the funds available. With the kindly help of the distinguished musicians that South Australia possesses what might not be done? "How many a gem of purest ray serene" might have been lost to the world but for a little timely help? Jenny Lind, Christine Nilsson, and many other distinguished musical stars came from the people, so called. The liberality of Sir Thomas Elder could not be better bestowed than in enabling the children of the "people" of South Australia to develop whatever special musical talent they may possess.

I am, Sir, &c.,
ESPERANCE.

THE LATE SIR THOMAS ELDER
PROPOSED STATUE.

LARGE AND INFLUENTIAL MEETING.

A meeting of gentlemen desirous of recognising the munificence and public services of the late Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G., to South Australia by the erection of a public statue in his honour was held at the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, on Monday, March 23. His Excellency the Governor, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, who was accompanied by Miss Buxton and Captain Wallington, A.D.C., presided over a large attendance, which included representative citizens.

His Excellency in opening supposed he was right in assuming that those present were either old friends or were intimately acquainted with the late Sir Thomas Elder. He was then the least qualified to take the post of Chairman. He might claim, however, by reason of his office, to be a representative of the community, and in that position he was fitted to state on behalf of the people of Adelaide how highly they esteemed the character of their late citizen and fellow-countryman, Sir Thomas Elder. They desired to recognise and acknowledge how they had benefited by his public spirit and munificence. Sir Thomas, having become acquainted with the great difficulties of overcoming the vast areas of barren country which South Australia possessed, set himself to experiment to find the best method of traversing those long distances. He tried with camels, and they knew the great risk he ran, not only to lose large sums of money, but of being called a gambler and actuated by the mean spirit of profit. But they were well aware of the wide spirit of sympathy with which he was endowed. He ever thought of those who were sick and needy. He had given large sums in support of hospitals and homes for those who were falling into old age and limited circumstances. He showed his appreciation for education, and his desire to bring it home to the whole community, and if he specially directed his gifts to the University it was because he appreciated and recognised that the University was an institution for the benefit of all the people. Then he gave large sums for musical training. He obtained pleasure and relief through music, and he so desired to encourage that art in our midst that it should still further be disseminated and brought home to the poor and the vast mass of the population. He gave largely to the Churches of his own denomination, the Scotch Kirk, but the other Churches were not forgotten, and those who belonged to the Church of England recognised how great and splendid was his munificence and how valuable was his gift to the Cathedral, which was a pride to them all. His gifts were appreciated by all, and they recognised with joy how manifestly the leaving of these legacies had been so heartily endorsed by the relatives. (Cheers.) Their sympathy was strongly marked and their interest had ever been conspicuous by

their own gifts. (Cheers.) It was gratifying to him to see how heartily the movement had been taken up, and it pleased him to have the opportunity to show his appreciation of one he had never known, but whose work he had learned to value since he had been in Adelaide. (Cheers.)

The Right Hon. S. J. Way said His Excellency's presence was another example of the interest he manifested in anything which affected the welfare of South Australia, and his readiness at all times to be the leader in a good work. Their gratification was enhanced by the graceful presence of Miss Buxton, which indicated two things—that His Excellency's sympathy was shared by every member of his family, and that the subject of their meeting was also a ladies' question. His Excellency was accompanied by a distinguished visitor from the ancient City of Norwich, Captain Barkley, who would not be prepared to dispute that the City of Adelaide was the admiration of all beholders. If the federal capital were to be fixed on the score of beauty the golden apple would fall into the lap of fair Adelaide, but there was just one want that frequently attracted the notice of visitors to the city. That was the absence of large statues. His Excellency had travelled in both hemispheres, and would bear him out that in every city in the old world and in the new world across the Atlantic they would see monuments to those who had done great service to the country. In the City of Adelaide they had three such monuments. There was the truncated monument to Colonel Light, who laid out the city, and it was their only ruin; the monument to Robert Burns, which they owed to the Caledonian Society; and the splendid monument to Her Majesty the Queen, which they owed to the patriotism of his friend Sir Edwin Smith. (Cheers.) They were not met to supply that want. The services of their late fellow-colonist, Sir Thomas Elder, would mark him out for distinguished recognition even if their Pantheon were crowded with memorials of the illustrious dead. If he had to describe the late Sir Thomas Elder in a word he would call him a merchant prince. If ever there were a man who could have claimed to be his own executor in gifts to the public it was the late Sir Thomas Elder, and yet when his will was opened about twelve months ago, shortly after his lamented death, it was found that he had given £155,000, which, free of legacy duty, meant £170,000 to those public bodies which during his long life had shared so largely in his generous munificence. It had always appeared to him that that last act of Sir Thomas Elder was like placing the capitol on the finished and symmetrical column of his noble life, and certainly gave a beautiful after-glow to the whole of his patriotic efforts. It might well be said that the institutions which Sir Thomas Elder founded and which he contributed to so liberally were his best and most enduring monuments. It might also be said that he was a man who did good for its own sake, without any thought of reward or reputation or fame. But his acts did not escape the notice of his sovereign. They received her gracious approval, and was it not due to themselves that they should show their appreciation and their gratitude to their late distinguished fellow-citizen? Was it not due to posterity that they should hand down to them a monument of one who had set an example for all time of patriotism and munificence? He would come down to practical matters. A private citizen, Mr. George Wilcox, not connected with any of the institutions which had shared so largely in Sir Thomas's generosity, himself set to work to obtain some recognition of the great benefactor. He nominated a small committee, but Sir Edwin Smith, Mr. Muecke, and himself (the speaker) felt that the honour of a task of such a character ought not to be monopolized by a few, and ought to be taken up by the general body of the public, so they determined to enlarge the committee. They were confident that the result of the movement would be the erection of a splendid monument to record the gratitude of South Australia to Sir Thomas Elder. He moved—"That it is desirable to recognise the munificence and public services of the late Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G., to South Australia by the erection of a statue in his honour." (Cheers.)

Mr. F. Chapple seconded. He shared with all in the room the admiration which had been expressed concerning the life of the lamented Knight. It would interest those who came after them to know that South Australia was grateful to one who had done so much for her. The thought which had culminated in that meeting had been in the minds of many for a long time. The institutions which had been so assisted had all felt that in some way more than mere words they should acknowledge the obligation they rested under. Through ages yet unknown the benefits bestowed by Sir Thomas Elder would be felt.

The Hon. W. B. Rounsevell supported. Sir Thomas was a man of many phases. In commercial circles his guiding hand was seen in the business which he made such a success, and in daily life all who touched him found that they were dealing with no ordinary individual. While unpretending in his public acts no one with a good case ever appealed to him in vain for help, and his last act was the coping-stone to the arch. A noble life like Sir Thomas Elder's would speak for all time, and South Australia would be lacking in gratitude and due respect if they did not contribute in some public way to its recognition. He had been assured by several residents of Glenelg that they would gladly contribute their portion, and as he had a good deal of leisure at the present he would be pleased to help in every way he could. (Cheers.)

The Hon. J. H. Howe, M.L.C., appreciated the movement. It was his privilege about forty years ago to travel in the bush with the late Sir Thomas Elder, and he never met a shrewder man of business or one with greater foresight. It was on that memorable trip that he decided to import camels to cross the long stages. He was a typical Scotchman, loving the land of his fathers, but attached also to the country of his adoption.

The Minister of Education and Agriculture (Hon. Dr. Cockburn) said as one who was interested in the institutions towards which the greater portion of their late colonist so largely contributed—the educational institutions—he thoroughly agreed with the noble oration by the Chief Justice. They owed it to themselves and to those who now took their places in those institutions to show a just appreciation of the work of Sir Thomas Elder. A wish had been expressed to him that country institutes and their members individually would be allowed to share in the work. His colleagues in the Ministry and himself wished the movement every success, and they would do all in their power to assist it. (Cheers.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

The Mayor of Glenelg, Mr. G. K. Soward, moved—"That a committee be formed, including the Provisional Committee, to carry out this object, and that the Right Hon. S. J. Way, M.L.C., Chief Justice, be Chairman." He said that the Town of Glenelg had greatly benefited by the munificence of Sir Thomas

Elder. The movement would give the citizens an opportunity to erect a monument which they would all be proud to possess. When he saw the beautiful statues in the cities of the other colonies he felt that all that was possible should be done to provide such memorials in Adelaide.

The Hon. Sir E. T. Smith, M.L.C., in seconding, remarked that it was his pleasure to know Sir Thomas Elder in the early fifties, and as a warm friend he was anxious to put with those who desired to perpetuate his memory. They must get a statue worthy of the man, one that would cost about £1,200 or £1,500 at least—(cheers)—and he knew no better place to erect it than in the reserve opposite to the University. Were they to place a number of similar memorials in the reserve from Government House to the Botanic Garden it would be much better. He knew that they could rely on the sympathy of friends to help on the movement. He had one suggestion to make. The institutions which had benefited by Sir Thomas Elder's will had received their grants free of duty, and it would be a graceful act if they donated 1 per cent. of the amount to the Memorial Fund. The Blind and Deaf and Dumb Institution had been enriched to the extent of £2,000, and the committee had gladly fallen in with his suggestion and voted £20. He was sure it only required mentioning for the other legacies to do the same. They had now in promises and cash about one-sixth of the total amount.

The proposal was adopted. On the motion of Mr. John Darling, M.P., seconded by Mr. H. C. E. Muecke, a special vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. George Wilcox for the warm interest which he had evinced in the movement.

Sir Edwin Smith was appointed Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. John Moule Hon. Secretary. It was resolved that all present should constitute the committee, and that they have power to add to their number. The following are the names of the committee:—Right Hon. S. J. Way, Sir E. T. Smith, Sir Charles Todd, the Minister of Education, Hon. Dr. Cockburn, Hon. J. L. Stirling, J. Warren, and J. H. Howe, M.L.C.'s, and W. B. Rounsevell, Messrs. P. McM. Glynn, J. Darling, T. Scherik, and A. McDonald, M.P.'s, His Honor Mr. Commissioner Russell, the Mayor of Adelaide, Mr. C. Tucker, the Bishop of Adelaide, Right Rev. Dr. Harmer, the Revs. Dr. Paton, Drs. Way, Lendon, and Marten, Messrs. G. Wilcox, H. C. E. Muecke, A. G. Downer, R. T. Melrose, A. Melrose, T. Gill, Under-Treasurer, J. W. Jones, Conservator of Water, J. H. Symon, Q.O., R. K. Thomas, W. J. Sowden, F. Chapple, T. Graves, A. M. Simpson, T. Hardy, G. K. Soward, H. J. Scott, D. Murray, M. Holtze, Director of the Botanic Garden, J. J. Virgo, J. H. Gartrell, W. P. Auld, J. L. Bonython, C. R. Wilton, G. W. Hawkes, G. Flecker, J. Robertson, H. K. Wendt, N. Smith, A. T. Magarey, A. E. Davey, and J. Moule.

The Provisional Committee was appointed as an executive head, and an enthusiastic meeting closed with a vote of thanks to His Excellency.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Sir Charles Todd, the Mayor of Adelaide, the Bishop of Adelaide, the Rev. Dr. Paton, His Honor Mr. Commissioner Russell, Hon. J. L. Stirling and J. Warren, Drs. Way, Lendon, and Marten, Messrs. R. K. Thomas, J. L. Bonython, G. Wilcox, D. Murray, J. H. Symon, C. R. Wilton, A. G. Downer, and M. Holtze. Dr. Harmer wrote:—"The great munificence of the late Sir Thomas Elder appears to me to thoroughly deserve the recognition of a public statue, and I shall esteem it a privilege to help forward the movement in any way in my power. You may put down my name as a subscriber of £10, and my only regret is that owing to the variety of claims upon me I am unable to be a contributor to a larger amount."

COLLEGIATE SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Collegiate Schools' Association was held at the Training College, Grote-street, on Tuesday evening, the president (Mr. F. Chapple) presiding over a good attendance of members. The new rules were presented by the rules revision committee and adopted. An interesting discussion took place upon the relation of the Collegiate School to the University examinations. The CHAIRMAN mentioned that he had been asked in the University council why the association did not represent its views on the question of junior and senior public exams. It was resolved that the following suggestions be made to the University council:—1. In the senior public exam. (a) that a short separate English paper should be set on the credit books; (b) that the papers in Latin, Greek, French, and German are too long and difficult; (c) that the history should be omitted from the papers in Latin, Greek, French, and German. 2. In the junior public exam, physical geography should be omitted from the English paper and classed amongst the science subjects.