THE UNIVERSITY AND THE COUNTRY.

"If ever there were a people and an age that needed the higher education," said Mr. Augustine Birrell, "it is our country and the people, and we live in that age." His phrase was Imperial; but, applied to Australia only, the sentence might have even stronger force. An old country with fairly expanded and well-organized institutions of secondary and higher education, and a sense of greatness and power acquired by small continual accretions during centuries of progress, with a dense population and an enormous reserve of primary and secondary educated men, is no longer a brawny arm to perfect its upbuilding. It has an insurmountable advantage when compared with a newly settled territory. With a smaller number of people, the sense of its sparsely occupied, and a history of little more than a single century, Australia had in its earlier years a special need of muscle and backbone. The Amateur Leagues from long stretches of unknown country, and to subdue its vast spaces to the plough. The land wrested from its native waste manage by brawn.

EXTENSION LECTURES AT COUNTRY CENTRES.
The University of Adelaide has formulated a scheme for the delivery of courses of extension lectures by its professors and lecturers, and a schedule of lectures and dates within which they may be arranged has been printed, and is available to the public. The scheme is based on the following points:

1. The system of extension lectures has been worked successfully in Adelaide for the last few years. It is important that the rural centres will be warmly welcomed by many who have not been able to attend the University and the rural country is a market which it has been proved. The proposed will combine the efforts of three important agencies—the University, which, through the services of its lecturers, the rural centres, and the professors of the University have voluntarily consented to give up part of their time to the extension work; and the Extension Lecture Group (No. 4), which is invited to the present.

2. The extension work is to be conducted by Professors Brown and Naylor, and the extension group will receive the service of the University as a whole.

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In the magnificent generosity of wealthy Canadians such as Lord Strathcona, Lord Mountstewart, John Macdonald, Sir William MacGregor, and MacPherson, there is no end to the enthusiasm of patriotism. We have no greater resources than Canada, but the translation of potentiality into actuality demands, as a necessary preliminary, that we should make the best of ourselves by every means in our power. Hence the all-importance of education—of the best education. Love of country can find no worthier expression than in an endeavour to lessen ignorance and to widen knowledge. True, though the saying be, knowledge is power—power for good, power to win toward the noblest ideals of beauty, no less than power to direct that enthusiasm for truth which is the soul of progress. The possession of wealth implies a duty to the community which has rendered its acquisition possible, a duty which cannot be absent from the mind of him who has developed a social conscience. The duty of our wealthy citizens should also be that of a worthy ambition. How can a man forget those illusory number of those whose efforts in the cause of learning will make their names live while yet man shall strive—

"To follow knowledge, like a sinking star, Beyond the utmost bound of human thought."—and that is an eternal quest. A university education is not bought by students' fees—it is not the privilege and monopoly of the rich; indeed, the state pays more than half the expenses of the University of Melbourne. The expenditure in 1906 was about £237,000, of which £21,000 was met by Government grant. In the very nature of the case a university cannot be made to pay from a financial point of view. Receipts from students' fees never can and never should meet the expenditure. Efficiency demands a highly-trained staff, with adequate teaching facilities, in suitable buildings furnished with modern equipment. The necessary means can be provided only by a substantial and generous endowment which will make the University independent of casual conditions, and enable it to maintain that constant and progressive development which constitutes its very life. For such assistance we naturally turn in the first instance to the state, as representing the community in matters of public import. The present Government has to a considerable extent redeemed our reputation in this respect, though this assistance will not yet bear comparison with the educational grants made by such countries as Germany and the United States. But when the state does have the most that can be expected...
ROWDY STUDENTS.

SATURDAY'S DISTURBANCE.

The committee of the University Union and the Medical Students and Engineering Students' Societies held special meetings yesterday morning for the purpose of contem-

ploting the behaviour of a section of the students at the Commencement proceedings in the Town-hall on Saturday afternoon.

A meeting of certain ringleaders on that occasion, who, unfortunately, obtained a small crowd

following amongst the undergraduates.

As a further expression of their thorough disgust and sorrow at what had taken place, a note was forwarded to Sir John Madden, an apology to Sir John Madden at the Law Courts.

Subsequently, a special meeting of delegations was held, and it was decided to personally offer to Sir John Madden the whole affair came about, that steps ought to be taken into the noisy quarter on Saturday, but the noisy interjections were passing space, and the committee has no intention of

The committee further decided to ask Sir John Madden if he would honour the town hall on Friday evening next, to be accorded by the past and present.

Sir John replied the day after as follows:

"I personally did not, nor do I now, misunderstand the students towards myself personally, or as Chancellor, but the loss, I am greatly gratified at the term. As a matter of fact, I am not gratified by the students' conduct, but the term is a public

whom the public might be led, is likely to be much mitigated by the students' conduct.

Sir John went on to say that he would be pleased to meet University men at the Town-hall at the half-past 4, or, after April 21, anywhere they decided upon, and that he would like to have a meeting be held for Saturday last more fully. The frank and generous response of their Chancellor is to be expected by members of the committee, who anticipate it.

Sir John said that he read the Register, and that he was pleased with the result.

Still further action was considered by the members, of the committee, and they resolved to ask the societies to bring the ringleaders in Saturday's disorder before the Faculty, with satisfaction being obtained in this way, they threaten expulsion from the societies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.

Sir,—In this morning's issue of The Argus, I received a letter signed by "Student," in reference to the disturbances in the Town-hall, which throws much disho-

Our students as a whole. No one denies the existence of such incidents, but the general feeling is that these incidents are but a small fraction of the total. The students, who at a recent meeting, in addition to forgiving Mr. Keir Hardie, declared that the Melbourne University, as esteemed chancellor, Sir John Madden, and the University have a right to look over any damage done by any member of the community, visible or invisible.

Yours, 

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE.

University, April 8.
Melbourne "Edgues"
6th April, 1907

UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT.

CHANCELLOR AND STUDENTS.

A SPEECH UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

The annual commencement ceremony of the Melbourne University was held in the Town-hall on Saturday afternoon, when the building was filled in every part. Among those present were...