

Dear Sir—We the undersigned citizens of Adelaide, having heard that there is a likelihood of your leaving our country to take up your residence in Great Britain, desire to be allowed to express to you our unfeigned regret at the prospect of your departure. Representing as we do all classes of the city, we should like to be permitted, if we may, to urge you to give full weight in your decision to the fact that you occupy a unique position of usefulness in our city. Few members of our community have at once the ability and the inspiration to serve their day and generation as you have done. As a successful and honourable business man you wield a beneficial influence that we would fain see you continue to exert. As a member of the Christian Church you have been a source of strength, not only to your own respected denomination, but to all who are engaged in religious or benevolent enterprise. By your services to the State in public questions and in educational matters, by the interest you have taken in artistic and scientific movements, by your unflinching sympathy shown towards all undertakings that have aimed at the welfare of young men, and by your constant support of all that has been generous, charitable, or uplifting, you have secured the esteem and gratitude of the whole community, and have won a place as a leader amongst us, the vacating of which would leave us with a keen sense of loss. Mr. and Mrs. Murray, too, have performed an exceedingly valuable public service in receiving into their home and entertaining most hospitably visitors to Adelaide, especially those who have come here to perform duties for the welfare and benefit of society. In this and so many other ways you have ever helped most opportunely all that has made for good in our colony, so that it would give us the greatest possible pleasure, and would cause widespread satisfaction to be assured that you had decided still to continue to fill your important sphere of usefulness, and to live your life amongst us. Please receive this assurance of our profoundest respect, and kindly convey the same to Mrs. Murray.

—A Characteristic Reply.—

Mr. Murray sent the following reply:—  
Dear Sirs—I feel it exceedingly difficult to reply in suitable terms to the very kind letter you have addressed to me. I feel it the more because I am conscious that I do not merit such an expression of regard as is conveyed in it. To me it comes as the highest tribute a man can receive at the hands of his fellow-men, and it makes my own unworthiness the more apparent. I have tried, often imperfectly, to do my duty as a colonist, and as a member of society, but have no doubt that the cares of private business and matters of purely personal import have occupied a great portion of my time, which might reasonably have been claimed by the community. I feel that your estimate of any small service I may have rendered is altogether too flattering, and, judging from the gravity of advancing years, any expectation of possible public service in the future is somewhat illusory. However, in the face of such an expression of opinion by my fellow-colonists, I dare not but give their suggestion my most anxious consideration. I have ever looked on the colony as my home, have enjoyed during my residence in it an unusual measure of health, have been cheered and encouraged by the friendship of many of its citizens, and owe it whatever of the good things of this life I have been blessed with. It becomes me, therefore, in as far as the decision is in my hands, and most of all to allow the spontaneous expression of opinion on the part of my friends to have its due influence in forming that decision. I need scarcely say that Mrs. Murray joins with me in expressing our high appreciation of the compliment thus paid to us, and to assure our friends that it will afford us the highest satisfaction if in the providence of God we are permitted to spend another, and it may be the remaining, term of our lives in their midst. With profound regard, believe me, yours very sincerely, David Murray.

—A Biographical Sketch.—

Mr. Murray was a typical Scotchman, and was born at Anstruther, Fifeshire, in December, 1829. He came to South Australia with his brother William in 1853, just when the population was at a low ebb on account of the exodus to the Victorian goldfields. The brothers began business as retail drapers in a small shop at the corner of Gilbert place, King William street. They adopted as a trade mark the arms of their native town—a triangle on a shield, on the three sides of which are severally a fishing boat, an anchor, and three fish. That mark always stood for high business principles and enterprise. The business expanded so as to necessitate removal to larger premises in Grenfell street at the end of two years. Then a wholesale department was added, and the firm soon had to acquire adjacent premises. In 1862 the retail business was relinquished, and undivided attention was given to the wholesale warehouse, which sent out representatives to the various country districts. Mr. Murray started the first clothing factory in South Australia, and subsequently shirt and boot factories were begun on the same premises. This was in 1867, and in the following year the large building was destroyed by fire, involving loss to stock of £70,000. The business continued to progress, and in 1870 Mr. John Gordon and the late Mr. Richard Searle were taken into partnership. At that time the trade showed an annual return of £150,000, which was trebled by six years later. In 1874 an indenting and general merchandise department was added, and, besides doing a large import trade, the firm exported such staples of the State as wool, wheat, and bark. Towards the end of the seventies Mr. James Martin, head of the London buying staff,

and Mr. Robert Knowles, a departmental manager in Adelaide, entered the firm, which was then in the front rank of wholesale houses. Twenty years ago the business was removed to its present location in Gawler place, and in 1897 the concern was floated into a limited liability company, with the partners headed by Mr. David Murray on the board of directors. In November, 1905, Mr. David Murray gave a grand entertainment in the Trocadero, London, to celebrate the fiftieth year of Mr. Martin's connection with the firm, in whose company he had some time before revisited South Australia. The deceased gentleman was then in excellent health. One of the Vice-President's chairs was occupied on that occasion by Mr. Murray's brother, who is hale and hearty.

—Political and Ministerial Life.—

When the early struggles of the business house were at an end Mr. Murray began to devote attention to public matters. In 1870 he was elected to the House of Assembly for East Adelaide. After two years' service he retired into private life, but again successfully stood for East Torrens in 1877, and for Yatala in 1881. After the latter election he was unseated on the petition of the defeated candidate, but re-elected on July 13. A month later, however, he resigned, and was in the following year returned to the Legislative Council. He was Chief Secretary in the Downer Administration in 1886-7, and was a hard-working Minister. Mr. Murray was a well-trusted politician, and a terse and clear speaker.

—Religious Interests.—

Mr. David Murray while in South Australia was a member of the Flinders Street Presbyterian Church, of which he was elected a manager and treasurer as early as January, 1854. On July 21, 1858, its first missionary society was formed, and Mr. Murray seconded the resolution, proposed by the Rev. Ralph Drummond—"That it is the duty of the Church of Christ, not only to preserve the truth for her own benefit, but also to extend that truth to the world at large, and especially in the particular sphere in which, in the providence of God, she has been placed." As the outcome of that resolution the Rev. W. Davidson was sent out from England. During his official connection with the society he was also instrumental in securing a minister for the Port Augusta Church. He was one of the initiators of the proposal for the erection of the present Flinders Street Presbyterian Church, which was built at a cost of over £5,000, and subsequently contributed a donation of £750 to the building fund. He afterwards gave £1,000 towards the retiring allowance for the Rev. James Lyall (since deceased), and a large amount to the diamond jubilee fund raised in connection with the Presbyterian Church. He was one of the founders of the Adelaide Y.M.C.A., its President from 1881 to 1883, and through a long series of years generously contributed to its funds. A few months ago he gave a donation of £750 to complete the effort which resulted in clearing the institution from debt.

Mr. Murray made 12 return trips in all between England and Australia since the time of his first arrival in the State. His last visit to South Australia was made in 1902. On the occasion of his golden wedding last year one of the gifts forwarded to London was a handsome illuminated address from the Adelaide staff of the firm, ornamented with paintings by the Misses Hambidge. The address read:—

It is a matter of deep pleasure to us that to-day you celebrate your golden wedding, and we desire to tender to you and Mrs. Murray our sincere and affectionate congratulations upon it. We are mindful that the 50 years of married life upon which you from to-day look back have been full of varied experiences of joy and sorrow; that they have led you along paths often involving much care and toil and self-denial, which were the easier to bear because they were borne together, and we enter into the satisfaction with which you together enjoy the fruits of the past in the magnificent successes which have become your reward. We join with others in honouring you for your probity, sagacity, and business enterprise, which have their monuments in the splendid establishments bearing your name in the capitals of England and Australia, and for your more public qualities, which have been eminently helpful in church and State, and have left their impress upon our University, Art Gallery, Public Library, and other institutions; but we cherish as highly the remembrance of the happy home life which has been behind all this as a healthy personal and social force.

Of Mrs. Murray we have the pleasantest recollections, because of her kindly and sympathetic nature, her marked interest in all belonging to the staff, her practical helpfulness in philanthropic and religious movements, and her fortitude and patience under the ill-health she has been called at times to endure. We rejoice that it has been your favoured portion to dwell together as man and wife for 50 years. The entire Adelaide staff join in wishing you special and deepened happiness on your golden wedding day and in the years, few or many, that may follow it. May you both be blessed with health and such length of days as may be suitable, and may the evening of life, enriched by ripened companionship and the affection and esteem of your many friends, prove the brightest and best of the whole. Signed, on behalf of the Adelaide staff.

—Relatives of the Deceased.—  
Mr. Murray's only child a boy, died in infancy. A brother (Mr. William Murray) and a nephew and a niece (Mr. W. A. Murray and Mrs. Cottell) live in England, and the only sister of the deceased gentleman (Mrs. Pittendrigh), whose son is in the employ of the firm in London, resides at Anstruther, Fifeshire, Scotland.

At a meeting of the Council of the School of Mines, held on Monday afternoon, the President (Sir Langdon Bonython) stated that a cable message had been received reporting the death in London on Sunday of Mr. David Murray, who, with the generosity which was characteristic of him, had provided the school with the David Murray Library. He suggested that a motion should be carried expressing appreciation of the worth and work of the deceased gentleman, and directing that a letter of condolence be sent to his widow. On the motion of Mr. Sir Frederick Holder, seconded by Mr. MacGillivray, M.P., effect was given to the suggestion of the President.

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**THE LATE MR. DAVID MURRAY.**  
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Register 9th Jan.

**GOOD NEWS FOR ADELAIDE.**  
Prof. David, in his lecture on the San Francisco earthquake to the Science Congress on Tuesday evening, said a point of interest to South Australians in connection with the San Francisco earthquake was the fact that it was most obvious, both during the earthquake of April, 1906, and that of 1868, that buildings on alluvial foundations suffered far more than those which were built upon rock. In fact, a map of the ruined portion of San Francisco would have been identical with a map of its alluvial deposits. The marked difference in the effect of the earthquake on buildings on rock as compared with those on alluvial was most striking. It was clear from that that probably in the event of earthquake shocks in South Australia, which fortunately were not likely to occur in the near future to anything approaching the intensity of the San Francisco shock, buildings on rock foundations like those on Mount Lofty had nothing to fear from the earth's action. Comment was also made on the fact that there appeared to have been misapprehension on the part of some as to the general earthquake conditions of the San Francisco region. It had been supposed, but erroneously, that previous to the big quake of last year San Francisco had been visited from time to time by shocks of no greater intensity than the one which alarmed Adelaide in September, 1902. It might reasonably, then, have been apprehended by those who entertained such ideas that Adelaide, too, might some day sustain some such terrible catastrophe as San Francisco had done. He assured his hearers that there was no geological ground for any such belief. Between 1850 and 1886 no fewer than 254 earthquakes were recorded in the San Francisco area alone, and 514 in other portions of California. Of those the shock of 1857 was severe, and that of 1868 destructive. San Francisco for many generations had been known to be situated in a region of more or less intense seismic activity, far in excess of anything of the kind ever yet recorded in Australia or Tasmania, and one such as was not at all likely to occur within a reasonable period of time.