

**SIR WALTER WATSON
HUGHES.**

STATUE UNVEILED.

SPEECH BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

Through the munificence of the Hon. J. T. Duncan, M.L.C., and the late Mr. W. H. Duncan, M.P., the University of Adelaide now possesses a fine statue of Sir Walter Watson Hughes, one of the founders of and the first benefactor to the institution. The statue, which has been placed on the lawn in front of the University and facing North terrace, was unveiled on Wednesday afternoon before a large audience. On the platform, over which the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way, Bart.) presided, were His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), Mrs. W. H. Duncan, the Premier (Hon. T. Price), the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. T. Bruce), the Hon. J. J. Duncan, M.L.C., Mrs. J. J. Duncan, the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), the Bishop of North Queensland (Right Rev. Dr. Frodsham), the Warden of the Senate (Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc.), Sir Langdon Bonython, and the Registrar (Mr. C. R. Hodge). Many prominent citizens and ladies occupied seats on a special platform without the University wall, among whom were Messrs. W. G. and K. A., Master C. R., and the Misses Duncan (2), Mr. Robert Hughes, and Mr. and Mrs. John Gordon and family (relatives), and the undergraduates of the University formed a line on the eastern side of the lawn.

The Hon. J. J. Duncan, M.L.C., said:—On behalf of my late brother, Walter Hughes Duncan, and myself I have the honour to ask the authorities of the Adelaide University to accept and take charge of the statue of the late Sir Walter Hughes, which will be unveiled presently by Mrs. Walter Duncan. For the excellent site which they offered and we accepted I return them my cordial thanks. The perpetuation of names of worthies by means of statuary is a device common to ancient and modern civilization, and is customary not only by nations but by institutions. The practice, though limited, is valuable as being historical and educational, and tends to keep alive the past with the ever present so long as the memorials stand. It seemed to my brother and myself that our mother's brother, as the donor of the gift which laid the foundation of this University, had a peculiar claim, although only a private citizen, that his name should be kept green in years to come in connection with the establishment of this University; hence the presentation of this statue, which is an admirable likeness, and is our respectful tribute to his memory. (Hear, hear.) The statue is by Mr. F. J. Williamson, of Esher, Surrey, England. The design, slightly altered, for the pedestal is by the same gentleman, and its massive construction in South Australian granite was planned by Mr. G. K. Soward, and the work was carried out by Mr. Laycock, of Waymouth street, to all of whom I tender my complete appreciation of their skill and labour. It only remains for me now to offer my sincere and respectful thanks for their attendance at the unveiling to-day, to His Excellency the Governor, the Premier (Mr. Price), the Chancellor (Sir S. J. Way, Bart.), and the other members of the Council of the University, and to the ladies and other gentlemen present; and I may add I am particularly grateful to the Chancellor for the interest he has taken, and for the time in interviews and correspondence with me which he has devoted in kindly hearing us in bringing the project to a successful conclusion. (Applause.)

His Excellency the Governor said he had been asked to perform the pleasing duty of asking Mrs. Duncan, on behalf of the family, who had presented the statue in memory of Sir Walter Hughes, to unveil it. On the previous day many of them had been present at the unveiling of the statue of the founder of their noble City of Adelaide, and that afternoon they had gathered for a similar purpose to perpetuate the memory of one of the founders of the noble University of Adelaide. He was sure all present would feel very much the touching fact that Mrs. Duncan had consented to unveil the statue, and he had the honour and privilege to ask her to do so. (Applause.)

Mrs. Duncan withdrew the veil, to the accompaniment of the "Song of Australia" by the Police Band.

—Returning Thanks.—

Sir Samuel Way said he would like to accentuate the thanks which Mr. Duncan had expressed to His Excellency for having honoured them with his presence and assistance that afternoon. He expressed the thanks of the University to the Premier for the manner in which he had co-operated with them in the undertaking in authorizing them to remove the University wall so as to provide an adequate site for the erection of the statue. He expressed his gratitude to the Premier for the sympathy he had always shown to them and to the University work. No one would accuse him of being a revolutionary. He did not want to see His Excellency cease to represent His Majesty the King in this State. He did not want to do away with Parliament or Judge—(laughter)—but he ventured to say that if Mr. Price were Dictator of South Australia for an hour they would not appeal to him for any wants of the University in vain. He wanted to mention the name of another gentleman to whom they were very much indebted—Mr. Owen Smythe who had superintended the erection of the wall and fence, which were an ornament, not only to the University grounds, but to North terrace and the city. They were indebted for the erection of the wall to the Hon. J. J. Duncan and his lamented brother, and an anonymous benefactor, whom they all knew, but who would not allow his name to be known in connection with it. (Applause.) On the 24th of October, 1872, 34 years ago last Saturday, Sir Walter Watson Hughes had signed the deed of gift to which the University owed its origin. He held that deed in his hand, and it would always be a precious possession to all connected with the University of Adelaide. As the years rolled on, the more did the nobility of Sir Walter Hughes's character stand out, and they gained a more adequate conception of the value of the great achievement of his life.

—A Romantic Career.—

The story of his adventurous career ought to be written. If the materials were available Professor Henderson's dramatic pen would make his adventures live over again, to the delight of every one. Born when the nineteenth century was only three years old, in the kingdom of Fife, in Scotland, of a family of mariners, who had battled with the waves and fought for the flag, fought for a seaman's life, and not even an apprenticeship in another calling could keep the lad from the "deep sea's toil." First he was for several years whaling in the arctic circle. Then for 11 years he had traded in his own ship in the Indian and China Seas. Finally he had brought his barque to an anchor in South Australia in the year 1840. Taking up mercantile pursuits, he became a member of the City Council in those lean years, 1842 and 1843—a great contrast to the year of grace 1906, when he understood that every penny of the city rates was now in the hands of the City Treasurer. (Applause.) When he read the record of those years he was inclined to think that South Australia must surely have been the home in which the lamented Mr. Micawber had found his residence. (Laughter.) In their financial difficulties the City Council had issued £10 scrip, payable whenever the corporation was in funds for its liquidation. (Renewed laughter.) The corporation had then lapsed into a state of suspended animation for nine or ten years, when it was revived by a special Act passed in 1852. In the meantime Capt. Hughes had gone in for squatting. By his own personal observation in the northern part of Yorke's Peninsula, where he had an outlying run, he was convinced that mineral deposits existed, and he had instructed his shepherds to keep a vigilant lookout for minerals. This had led to the discovery of the Wallaroo and Moonta Mines in 1859 and 1861—the greatest mineral discovery ever made in South Australia, and which had brought the colony up out of the nadir of its misfortunes to a state of prosperity and happiness.

—A Valuable Discovery.—

He had not the time to tell what those mines had been to South Australia during the past 45 years. The fortunate shareholders had divided two millions of money between them, and £13,000,000 worth of ore had been raised at a cost of £11,000,000, the greater part of which—two-thirds at least—had been spent on labour in South Australia. (Applause.) If Sir Walter Hughes's life work had been limited to the discovery and the development of those great mines he would have well deserved a monument. They would all gladly subscribe a monument to the man who

would do the same service for the State tomorrow. But it was for service on a higher plane they had gathered to honour Sir Walter Hughes's memory that afternoon. That great acquisition of wealth to a struggling squatter had only brought out the true nobility of the man. All those who had in any way been his assistants in those great discoveries had been lavishly rewarded. His kinsfolk and

friends had shared in his fortunes. He took upon himself the role of a generous philanthropist, for his sympathies had been enlarged in the school of adversity. He would not recall all the late Sir Walter Hughes's benefactions, but would mention the exploration expedition which had been sent out at his and the late Sir Thomas Elder's expense in 1873—the first expedition in which equals had been used in the work of exploration.

—Establishing the University.—

What had raised Sir Walter Hughes to the pinnacle of patriotic service was the gift which had led to the foundation of the University of Adelaide. That was the cause, the cause of the passing of the University Act in 1874. He mentioned that fact because it would give pleasure to an honored friend who was respected in the community. Sir Henry Bunday, who was living in retirement, had the great honour of carrying that Bill through Parliament in the sessions of 1873 and 1874. Sir Walter Hughes's gift of £20,000 led to the donation of a similar sum from Sir Thomas Elder, and other benefactions and bequests amounting to £100,000 followed. The gift also led to the late Mr. John Howard Angus's endowments of £12,999 or £14,000 for the benefit of the University, and to everything that had been done on behalf of the institution since its foundation. If the President of the School of Mines would allow him to do so, although that gift might not have been the immediate cause, it was one of the causes that led, in the happy chain of events, to the great institution east of the University, over which Sir Langdon Bonython so ably presided. On reviewing the history of the last 70 years in South Australia he could recall no single act of any one man, except perhaps the selection of the site of this city by Col. Light, which had had such momentous and far-reaching results as the great gift of Sir Walter Watson Hughes. (Applause.) It was first offered to Union College. Fortunately the patriotism and disinterestedness of the council of that body diverted the gift in another direction. Sir Walter Hughes had been educated in one of the Scotch parish schools, and the Minister of Education would permit him to say that it would be a fortunate thing for education in South Australia if the public schools, of which he had the Ministerial responsibility, had the same effect as the parish schools of Scotland in developing manliness and originality of character. (Applause.) Sir Walter had learned in that school an admiration for the humanities, and gladly consented that his gift should be diverted from benefitting three denominations only to the benefit of South Australia at large. He had been looking around to see if his friend, the Rev. Dr. Jeter, was with them, because he should like, in the presence of that representative assembly, to repeat the thanks which had been so often expressed for his having been the principal factor in bringing about that happy result. (Applause.) He took that opportunity of coupling with his name that of the late Rev. James Lyall, who was minister of the church Sir Walter Hughes attended, and whose advice had naturally great weight with that gentleman.

—A Wonderful Growth.—

But the University did not come into existence without opposition. However laudable the project, many said it was premature. He well recollected his old friend and predecessor, Sir Richard Hanson, first Chancellor of the University, saying, "I admire these endowments and the University Act, but where are the students coming from?" The objection was answered then that the venerable universities of Scotland and Europe, and those of later date in America, were many of them, founded in cities less populous and less wealthy than South Australia was in 1874. They had the examples of Melbourne and Sydney to guide them. Happily, the most conclusive answer to the objectors was to be found in their own experience. Look at the fine buildings before them erected at a cost of £75,000! If they watched from early morning to dewy eve, day after day, they would see from 900 to 1,000 students going into and away from its classrooms and laboratories. They began work in 1875 with a Faculty of Arts only. They now had schools fully equipped in arts, science, law, medicine, music, and engineering; they had a commercial course, a school of music at the Conservatorium, and, in conjunction with the School of Mines, they had post graduate courses in metallurgy, mining, and mechanical and electrical engineering. In 1875 they began with four professors, eight graduating students, and 52 non-graduating students. Now they had 40 professors, lecturers, and teachers, 366 undergraduates, 23 non-graduating students, and 340 students attending the classes of the Conservatorium, making a total of 935. The 37 students who had graduated include among them a large number of women, and he recalled with pride that the University of Adelaide was the first University in Australasia, and he was not sure that it was not the first university in His Majesty's colonial dominions, to open the benefits of its degrees to women. (Applause.)