

## THE PRESENT DAY.

## AS THE GOVERNOR SEES IT.

## A THOUGHTFUL SPEECH.

## FAREWELL TO THE UNIVERSITY.

His Excellency the Governor delivered a farewell speech at Wednesday's commemoration at the Adelaide University. It was a thoughtful, well-reasoned discourse on the problems and complex ties of the times; and the large audience listened with interest, and punctuated the Governor's remarks with most evident signs of appreciation.

His Excellency said:—For many reasons I greatly regret that this is the last occasion on which I shall be present here in the capacity of visitor, but when I leave these shores I shall carry away with me a pleasant memory of the University of Adelaide and of all its members. Your Chancellor has been to me a close friend and a strong tower of support during all the time I have resided in this State, and from your professors I have derived much pleasure and information from the many clear and vivid lights they have thrown on the problems selected by them for their public lectures and speeches. My first glimpse of the principles underlying modern legislation has been derived from the stores of knowledge and literary ability of your professor of law (Applause.) Although I start with all these advantages I feel that it is somewhat presumptuous on my part to attempt to address you at all, more especially because my education and training have not been of a nature and description which would warrant me in doing so. But here I am the Visitor only, and as such I feel bound to follow the wishes of your Chancellor, who has requested me to address you. Therefore, putting on one side my natural fear of personal inadequacy, I will simply place before you a few considerations derived from my own personal experience of the changes which have taken place in the world's work during my lifetime, and of the advantages to be derived from the modern movement to meet the new requirements of education.

## Educational Changes.

As the result of these requirements the whole system of education has changed and is still changing. The establishment of the great universities of Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, Glasgow, and others, bear witness to the completeness of the transformation. In these great modern universities the appearance of splendidly equipped laboratories for instruction in mechanical, mining, marine, and electric engineering, the great increase in the study of chemistry, modern languages, and agriculture, the vast number of students who graduate in the subjects I have named, not only at those universities, but also, more recently still, at the great seats of classical culture, Oxford and Cambridge, indicate the value attached by modern education to the preparation of the youth of this generation for the strenuous pathways, which lead to the work required from the individual, for the advancement of civilisation, and the development of the resources of the world. During my lifetime modern invention has changed the field of labor in every civilized country; scientifically-constructed machinery has taken the place of the simple manipulation of the human hand. Bulk, brawn, and mere animal strength are not so invaluable to mankind as they were in the primitive communities. In a million directions forms of honored and remunerative labor are opening up before the footsteps of the modern man.

## The Modern Battleship.

Take a modern battleship, for instance. The first ship I went to sea in had no mechanic on board except the armorer and blacksmith. The modern ship of war is now an elaborate and complicated piece of mechanism. Everything in a modern fleet is done by machinery. The motive power is steam or hydraulic, compressed air, or electricity, to which will probably be added, in the near future, explosive oil and liquid air. Not only are ships propelled by machinery alone, but they are also steered by machinery. Their principal weapons—the gun and torpedo—are worked and

tought by machinery. The water used by those on board for drinking, cooking, washing, and feeding the boilers is produced by machinery. The orders which the admiral wishes to give to the fleet are signals made by machinery—by wireless telegraphy, electric flashing lamp, and in fog and thick weather, by the steam siren and sound signals. Standing orders are issued by the typewriter and printing machine. The principal boats are steamboats, and they are hoisted in and out by machinery. The anchor is weighed and controlled by steam or electric machinery. The live bullocks formerly taken to sea are replaced by frozen carcasses, maintained in that condition by machinery. Steam pumps and steam itself are used to extinguish fire or eject water. The very air breathed is provided by a fan driven by machinery. Finally, the depth of the water and the speed of the ship are ascertained by machinery. A whole army of men of scientific knowledge and highly-trained workmen are now required, where formerly only the brawny sailor existed. The working of one 15 in. gun of a super Dreadnought through its mere discharge requires less muscular exertion than a savage expends in throwing his boomerang, yet represents an infinitude of intellectual care and thought far greater than went to the shaping of all the weapons of a primitive army.

## What of the Woman?

In every activity similar changes are taking place. Never before in the annals of mankind has the man's field of interesting employment been so wide, so interesting, so complex, and in its results so all-important to society. But the woman, what of the woman's field of labor? In that direction matters have tended to shape themselves wholly otherwise. The changes which have taken place during many centuries have tended to rob women not merely in part, but almost wholly, of the more valuable of her ancient domain of productive and social labor. The ancient domain of woman is passing. The milkmaid has gone. I recently inspected a dairy farm near Adelaide where 67 cows were in milk, and the milking was done by three men, with a number of machines. The manager's wife told me that her husband had been rising at 1 or 2 o'clock every morning practically for the past ten years, but that she did not get up until the ordinary time. (Laughter.) Woman's ancient field of labor, you see, is thus contracting in proportion to the advance in civilisation. The spinning wheels have given place to steam-driven looms, the hoes and the grindstones have long disappeared, replaced by cultivating machines and steam-driven flourmills. The kneading trough and the washing tubs are replaced by the steam engines of gigantic bakeries and laundries. Machine-prepared and factory-produced foods of every kind take every day a larger place in the dietary of rich and poor. Carpets are beaten, windows are cleaned, floors are polished by machinery, and every kind of material for clothing of every man, woman, and child is produced by machines driven in factories.

## The University's Responsibility.

In pursuing the train of thought started by these considerations, the question arises how far the present unrest in the sphere of industry throughout the world may be attributed to the changes we are observing in the daily occupations of mankind; and how far this unrest may be modified by the improvement of educational facilities and the advancement of scientific and technical training in early years. In my humble opinion a heavy responsibility lies upon the University in this matter. The world looks to its Universities to produce the most brilliant intellects and the most profound thinkers. I think that perhaps a Rhodes scholar may some day arise who will specially adapt himself to deal with this subject. I believe the first requisite in the equipment of those who would grapple with the solution of our modern social problems to be a complete knowledge of history, ancient as well as modern. The second requisite, I think, may be stated as an accurate comprehension of the principles of ethics and of logic; in fact, the equipment of the philosopher.

## Earnestness and Sincerity.

However that may be, whatever advantages may be derived from a University education, and they are many and great, the essential point is that you should make the best possible use of them in your future career. In order to accomplish that object, I will call your attention to the importance of the qualities of earnestness and sincerity. What is the great secret of success in public life? Is it not found in the earnestness which a man devotes to his subject and with which he decorates his oratory? To be sincere a man must be truthful; and if you add to these the

quality of perseverance you have a character which, guided by the principles of earnestness, sincerity, truth, and perseverance, will carry you far in the direction of sympathy and interest in those objects which aim at social progress and elevation. (Applause.)

## The Path of Duty.

You who have been educated in this University know well that every action of your life should be influenced by higher motives, by greater principles; the path of duty ever lies before you, which leads to thoughts and actions tending to ennoble human nature and to dignify human life; by teaching us that we should follow in the footsteps of the great men who have preceded us, and putting aside all thought of personal aggrandisement or selfish so-called gain, use always our best endeavor to do that which is right and that which is your duty, that which is for the benefit of our fellow-men. In conclusion, I beg to offer my most cordial and sincere congratulations to those who are about to receive in the honors to be bestowed upon them by the Chancellor the just rewards of their diligence, zeal, and industry. (Applause.)

## Farewell Words.

It is upon education that we must mainly depend for the cultivation of those mental and moral qualities which are essential to the greatness and happiness of a people, and it is because I believe that this great institution is well calculated to contribute to such an end, that with all my heart I express the wish that the Adelaide University may ever flourish, and all who are brought within the circle of its influence may become good and honorable men and women, upright and true, in thought, word, and deed, which is the end and aim of all instruction deserving the name, the epitome of all purposes, for which education exists. (Applause.) I now bid you farewell, and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. (Applause.)