

A GREAT AMBASSADOR.

South Australians are proud to welcome to the State one of the most distinguished of living scholars and diplomatists—Mr. James Bryce, British Ambassador at Washington, and Mrs. Bryce. In common with other Australians, they are grateful to Mr. Bryce for the readiness with which he is placing his vast store of useful knowledge, and large experience of the world's affairs at their disposal. He is visiting Australasia, on a holiday tour, for the first time, and is in search of information. Evidently, he proposes to help in the dissemination throughout the Empire of accurate ideas concerning the remarkable democratic, social, and educational movements witnessed under the Southern Cross. In eloquent addresses in several cities he has emphasized the fact that the Empire is just as much the possession of the self-governing Dominions as it is of the mother country. "Now," he said, "what more is needed to make it stronger and to ensure its purpose? Chiefly, I think, that we should have a fuller knowledge of each other." He has also assured his audiences that the enthusiasm raised by the visit of the United States fleet to Australia had left an impression in America. There is nothing more desirable than an interchange between Great Britain, America, and Australia, not only of products, but of people. "We are all sprung from the same race, and cherish the same ideals. Providence meant us to be friends, and we are going to be friends. The cordial sentiments that you cherish towards the United States are reciprocated by them." Testimony and counsel of this nature from such an authority show that little attention need be paid to the superficial opinion that Britons and Americans are drifting further apart. Something may be gained for Australia, especially after the opening of the Panama Canal, if Mr. Bryce will enlighten Americans concerning the political and social conditions of this island continent, and the all-round benefit that would follow flourishing trade interchange between Australasia and the United States and Canada.

Since the appearance of his "American Commonwealth," all thinking America has felt itself indebted to Mr. Bryce. Indeed, he founded a new school of political thought and enquiry in that country. When he arrived at Washington as Britain's representative, his perfect acquaintance with and friendly feeling for American institutions and his large democratic instincts had assured him in advance an enthusiastic reception. He was then 69 years old—he is now hale and hearty at 74—and was without previous experience in diplomacy. Since Lord Pauncefote's day the British embassy at Washington had lost prestige and importance. Mr. Bryce's task was to reinvest it with its former primacy and distinction. As qualifications for the new and untried service he had been regius professor of civil law at Oxford, a member of the House of Commons, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, President of the Board of Trade, Chairman of a Royal Commission on Secondary Education,

and Chief Secretary for Ireland. In politics he faithfully adhered to the main features of Mr. Gladstone's policy. He championed the cause of home rule for Ireland, laboured for the spread of higher education, advocated measures calculated to promote commercial enterprise, and to secure industrial peace, and manifested keen appreciation of the principles of liberty and autonomy which were essential to the development of the overseas Dominions. His activities outside of public life had made him a fellow of Oriel College, a Lincoln's Inn barrister, fellow of the Royal Society, corresponding member of the Instituté of France, foreign member of the Royal Academies of Turin, Brussels, and Naples, and a member of the Society of the Lincei at Rome. These are some of the reasons why Mr. Bryce was soon thoroughly at home among all the leading statesmen and savants of America.

As an ambassador he has laboured quietly but most assiduously to establish a firm and lasting Anglo-American friendship, and he has achieved remarkable success. Within five years he negotiated and concluded six or seven important treaties, and practically "wiped the slate" clean of every outstanding contentious issue. Peace-loving Britons hope he may be spared to witness the ratification of a general treaty of arbitration, which will be a glorious and imperishable landmark in the relations of the two great English-speaking nations. Mr. Bryce is much more than a plenipotentiary. He has made himself an ambassador to the American people as well as to their Government, and—with the devoted and able assistance of Mrs. Bryce—participated freely in their public life. He has lectured under the auspices of the best-known universities and colleges, and delivered countless speeches before all sorts of organizations and societies. Probably no other Briton to-day is more esteemed and popular throughout America, and no one is more capable of advancing some of the highest ambitions of the Empire's civilization. By honouring such a man, as the Adelaide University has decided to do this week, with the degree of Doctor of Laws, that seat of learning is also honouring itself.

—Conservatorium Students' Concert.—
A concert by students of the Conservatorium attracted a fairly large audience to the Elder Hall on Wednesday night. The character of the performance reflected invariably credit upon the teaching staff, although there was little of special quality revealed in the native gifts of most of the young musicians. Interest attached to the vocal soloists, in that all four of the teachers of singing were represented. An instrumental trio—the first movement of Beethoven's G minor—was the opening item. Miss Evelyn Stokes was at the piano, Miss Erica Chaplin (Elder scholar) played the violin, and Mr. Harold Parsons assisted with the 'cello part. The excerpt was given with success as a student presentation; the violinist, although wanting in requisite tonal power, gave evidence of those temperamental gifts which gained for her the scholarship this year. A mezzo singer, Miss Florence Rowe, was introduced by Mr. Winsloe Hall. Her well-cultivated voice was expressed by way of Schubert's "The wanderer." Miss Emma Williamson (accompanied by Mr. Bevan) sang in liquid, light soprano of pleasing quality, two old English songs, "O willow, willow!" and "The song of Florian." Mrs. Harold Sexton chose rather an insufficiently contrasted bracket for her piano solos—Chopin's prelude (op. 28, No. 13) and Liszt's "Liebestraum" (No. 2). Madame Delmar Hall presented Miss Daisy Vardon, in two songs of Landon Ronald—"A burden" and "The captive lark." These were rendered with fair success, the sweetness of the high range balancing a suggestion of unevenness in the lower register. Miss Janet Morgan, a Sydney protegee, was introduced by Mrs. Reginald Quesnal. The promise of an excellent dramatic contralto voice was heard in Dvorak's strange Biblical song, "God is my shepherd" and Coningsby Clark's "The garden where my soul was born." Miss Hilda Reimann (Elder scholar) played with some warmth and nice executive finish two Brahms-Joachim Hungarian dances; there might have been imported, however, more of the rugged abandon that breathes in those writings. The vocal gem of the evening was, as it should be with such an advanced and richly gifted student as Miss May Forsaith, the recit. and aria "My heart is weary" (Goring-Thomas). The quality of her smooth and steadily broadening voice stood by itself, while there was deeper and more persuasive interpretation. Miss Lena McLeay earned merited applause for her facile presentment of the last movement of Beethoven's sonata, op. 2 (No. 2). Her qualities as a pianist were above the average. Miss Dulcie Goss, accompanied by Mr. Winsloe Hall, gave, with dramatic emphasis, two songs of Roger Quilter, "Now sleeps the crimson petal" and "The answer." Miss Lois Fitch, a student of Madame Delmar Hall, sang a showy song by Woodforde-Findon, from "Stars of the desert;" her light voice was called upon to cover a wide range. The final item of the evening was a pianoforte solo by Miss Dorothy Oldham (Elder scholar). It was Rheinberger's toccata (op. 12), played with a quiet distinction, a revelation of temperament and an executive facility which mark the young student for a career, perhaps for fame.