

The Register December 17th 1914.

MASTER OF THE "REDS."

An Honoured Retirement.

To-day is the annual speech day of Prince Alfred College. There will be an unusual element about it—that of regret. After nearly 40 years of office, Mr. Frederic Chapple, B.A., B.Sc., will lay down the reins of head mastership. There has been such a wonderful association between the institution and its retiring preceptor, both in the minds of the public and of thousands of past and present pupils, that it will be hard to think of the two apart.



MR. F. CHAPPLE, B.A., B.Sc.

Only the oldest generation of citizens knew Prince Alfred College when it was without Mr. Chapple, and even they would need such a prominent incident as his retirement to remind them of the fact. Not alone has the distinguished master had control of the home of the "Reds." He has joined in numerous movements for the good of the community, and genuine pleasure will be felt when it is realized that he does not intend to abandon his activities in those directions.

—His London Career.—

Mr. Chapple's father was a Devonshire man, Mr. John Chapple, who went to London, where the son was born in 1845. He was early marked out for his after career, for when he was 11 years of age his parents, although strict Presbyterians, sent him to a Wesleyan day school, because of the good reputation it had attained. During his association with the school he took a prominent part in religious matters, while he also made rapid progress in his scholastic work. In his fourteenth year he became a pupil teacher at the school, and also started work in Sunday and ragged schools. At 18 the future master was made a class leader among the Wesleyans, and at the termination of such apprenticeship sat for a scholarship to enter Westminster Training College. He came out top of the list, and was head of his year right through the course. Despite the large amount of study involved he still kept up his church work, and, simultaneously, he held the offices of poor steward, church steward, circuit steward, and Sunday school teacher and superintendent. Finishing his college course he was appointed locum tenens for the head of its practising schools, and at the same time helped the students in their work. In the evenings Mr. Chapple attended King's College and University College, reading for the B.A. degree of the London university. He was successful, being placed in the honours division at the first and last examinations, and in the first class in the intermediate stage; the final honours were in logic, moral philosophy, and in physiology, human and comparative. In 1870 he was permanently appointed a tutor at the Westminster Wesleyan College, where he taught chiefly mathematics and natural science. He found opportunity, however, to prosecute his studies at the South Kensington Science School, and ultimately obtained the further degree of B.Sc. at the London University.

—Selected for South Australia.—

On the retirement of the late Mr. J. A. Hartley, B.A., B.Sc., as principal of Prince Alfred College in order to join the Education Department, in which he became Inspector-General of State Schools, the college committee commissioned the Revs. Drs. Rigg and Moulton to choose a successor. They selected Mr. Chapple in London, and, after some amount of natural hesitation, he decided to accept the head

mastership and arrived with his wife and children in Adelaide on April 8, 1876. The day after Mr. Chapple entered the State he joined the Kent Town Methodist Church, and has remained with it since. Very little time was required to prove the scholastic work of the new head master. He was requested to join the Senate of the Adelaide University in May, 1877, immediately upon its formation, and he has been a wardn of it for 34 years. He has also been for 17 years a member of the council of the University.

—Other Activities.—

For years Mr. Chapple was President of the Collegiate Schools' Association, and Vice-President of the Teachers' Guild. He was a foundation member and one of the responsible trustees of the Y.M.C.A. from its inception, and was first President of Our Boys' Institute, which office he held for five years (and has been Vice-President ever since). He was second President of the Council of Churches, and has been one of the Methodist representatives on that body for many years. He has also been President of the South Australian Literary Societies' Union, and is a life member of that union. He has worked with every organization seeking to introduce the Bible into the State schools of South Australia.

—Some of the Scholars.—

Upon the college his mark must ever remain. During his term as head master 280 "Red" boys have taken degrees at the Adelaide University, and 86 others have secured honours at other universities. One pupil is in the present Ministry (the Hon. H. Homburg, Attorney-General), and another is Mr. F. W. Young, recently Commissioner of Crown Lands and now Agent-General. Sir Newton Moore (Agent-General for Western Australia) is a Prince Alfred old boy. Four South Australian K.C.'s passed through Mr. Chapple's hands. Three old scholars teach at British universities. Ten have guided the intelligence of students at the Adelaide University, and four others have there secured the degree of Doctor of Science. In perhaps sterner fields Prince Alfred Collegians have not been backward. Many of them fought in the Boer war, and still more have joined the contingents for service in the present war. It is only necessary to mention the names of Lieut.-Col. Rowell, Mjr. Cook, and Capts. Okham and Ross Robertson. On the military medical staffs are Mrs. Gray and Zwar, Capts. K. Fry, Lewis Jeffries, J. S. Verco, H. Flecker, D'Arcy Cowan, and T. Fleming, all of whom travelled from classroom to classroom at the college.

—The Family.—

Mr. Chapple married Miss Elizabeth Sarah Hunter, and they have had a family of four sons and four daughters. It is questionable whether the family does not hold a record for university degrees. Six members have graduated at the Adelaide University, and several of them have gained additional distinctions at Cambridge, London, and elsewhere. The graduate list of the Adelaide University contains the following names:—Alfred Chapple, B.Sc., Ernest Chapple, B.Sc., Frederic John Chapple, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., Harold Chapple, B.Sc., Marian Chapple, B.A., and Phoebe Chapple, B.Sc., M.B., B.S. Mr. Chapple has only once been out of the State since he first came to it, and that was when he took a six months' holiday in 1901, and went to Great Britain.

—Present Scholars.—

The boys of the college will make their head master's last year memorable in more than one way. Whether they deliberately intended or not to do him every possible honour, the fact remains that the senior boys—possibly in recognition of the fact that Mr. Chapple at 60 is still a keen and active tennis player—have won all athletic events this year, as well as many of the higher places on the high public examinations. This afternoon, in the Adelaide Town Hall, the public farewells will be said. The boys have decided to present to their revered head master an illuminated address and a beautiful album of views of the college, which has been specially prepared by Mr. Frank A. McNeill. The address, which is signed by 10 prefects, reads as follows:—
"Our Dear Head Master—In making this presentation, the boys of Prince Alfred College wish to show their deep appreciation of the great and noble work you have accomplished during your long term of 39 years as head master. To you the many boys who have passed through this college owe a debt which they can never repay, but for which they hold you in love, honour, and highest esteem. Under your able direction and guidance the school has attained its present position, and it is the ambition of every boy, past and present, to do his best to keep up the honour of the old school, for which you have laboured so long. (It is our earnest prayer that both you and Mrs. Chapple may long be spared to enjoy your well-earned rest.)"

A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

HONORED BY THE UNIVERSITY.

SIR HARRY ALLEN'S RECORD.

At the Commemoration of the University of Adelaide yesterday the Dean of the Faculty of Law (Professor Jethro Brown) presented for the degree of doctor of laws (Ad eundem gradum) Sir Harry Brookes Allen, LL.D., University of Edinburgh.

The Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way, Bart.) said if he were asked to name the two most distinguished graduates of the sister University of Melbourne he would have no hesitation in replying, Alfred Deakin and Sir Harry Allen. (Cheers.) Their careers had been wholly different. One was distinguished in the realm of politics; the other in the realm of medicine and science, but they had certain qualities in common. Both had high literary culture—(cheers)—both were effective public speakers, both were animated by an unquenchable love for their country (Australia), and by loyalty to the British Crown and British Empire. (Cheers.) When in 1912 Professor McIntosh (the dean of the faculty of law in the University of Edinburgh) had presented Sir Harry Allen for his degree he referred to him as having been for a full generation a conspicuous ornament of the University of Melbourne, and a distinguished lecturer in touch with all public questions. The connection of the University of Adelaide with Sir Harry Allen was a close one, and naturally all along the members of the former had been directly acquainted with his distinguished career.

A Brilliant Medical Scholar.

Sir Harry Allen had had opportunities on many occasions, of which he had not failed to avail himself, of doing good service to the University of Adelaide. (Cheers.) No more worthy recipient of the honor that was to be bestowed upon him could be found. The report of the celebration at the jubilee of the Melbourne Medical School could not be read without seeing that Sir Harry Allen was the most prominent figure in that school during the last 30 years. He had already erected in it a monument to himself—the great Pathological Museum with its 10,000 specimens, of which he had been almost the sole collector. (Cheers.) More than one of the speakers and lecturers on the occasion of the jubilee had referred to Sir Harry Allen as a personal friend and adviser of every one of the students in the medical school. That reminded him of one service Sir Harry Allen had done for the University of Adelaide. It was back in the mists of antiquity, but those who were getting old would remember that there had been a time when the University had had to seek assistance in completing the curriculum of some of the medical students. Certain of those students had gone to Melbourne, and that they held distinguished places in the profession was partly due to the valuable advice given by Sir Harry Allen on top of the training they had received at the University of Adelaide. (Cheers.)

How He Fought a Typhoid Epidemic.

In the eighties in the city of Melbourne—and it was the same in Adelaide—typhoid fever had been looked upon as a permanent epidemic. A Royal Commission had been appointed to enquire into health, sitting at Melbourne, and presided over by Sir Harry Allen. The report had borne traces of the leadership and practical ability of the chairman, and the result of the adoption and carrying out of its recommendations had been that whereas previously there had been 78 deaths in every 100,000 in a year from typhoid alone the death-rate was reduced to 7 per 100,000 from that disease. (Cheers.)

Economic Service.

Everybody knew that the export of chilled meat to the other side of the world was an industry upon which a good deal of the prosperity of Australia depended. At the beginning—years before the Commission he had mentioned—the mode in which the shipment of meat had been carried out was most unscientific. Had it continued it would have killed the industry. Fortunately those who were leaders in the movement had consulted Professor Allen, and a cleaner, safer, and more scientific method had been adopted, with the result that the export of meat to the other side of the world—which at this moment was a great benefit to the British army at the front—had been one of the most profitable industries of the States. (Cheers.)

Sir Harry Allen was accorded a remarkable ovation.