

with that language. It is not merely the knowledge of the language itself, but the light which it throws, and which nothing else can throw, upon the text of the New Testament, for instance. I hope to see the day when in our schools there will, at any rate, be an option for the study of Hebrew. Nothing can tend more to develop a thorough and sound knowledge of the Bible or to make our clergy learned and competent in their vocation." Such was the opinion of a Christian layman who was thought competent to give advice and to indulge in drastic criticism upon the subject referred to. Biblical criticism nowadays stops short at nothing. The severest tests are applied to what easy-going theologians of past ages accepted as infallible verities, and it is of little avail to attempt to answer scepticism by general references to the law and the testimony. In the search after truth the explanation and elucidation of most of the questions which crop up depend largely upon the original text, and in controversy there is an obvious advantage in possessing some knowledge of that certain standard. Hebrew has special claims upon the studious as being practically the most ancient of all languages and perhaps the most interesting in itself. The Council of the Adelaide University in opening its portals to the student of Semitic learning have, so far as Australia is concerned, taken the initiative, since we believe no other colonial University has as yet given the concession for the delivering of lectures on Hebrew and its literature. The newly-formed class will, as already stated, be conducted under the instruction of Mr. Boas, who has a competent knowledge of the subjects which he has undertaken to teach; and we shall watch with interest the result of this experiment in the extension of classical education in an institution in which in the natural order of things the study of the classics should receive every encouragement.

# The Advertiser

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1894.

## "THE AUTHORITY OF SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS."

The attendance at the library of the University of Adelaide on Tuesday evening was not a large one owing no doubt to the shortness of the notice. The occasion was the delivery of a lecture by Mr. A. Galton, B.A., the subject being the "Authorship of Shakespeare's plays." The CHANCELLOR (the Hon. S. J. Way) occupied the chair, and in making the lecturer known said he had in addition to the members of the University Shakespeare Society invited those of the Australasian Home-reading Union, thinking that as the subject was a literary one, they would be interested. He had often been invited to prepare a paper to read before the members of the Shakespeare Society, but had felt unequal to the task, but when his friend and guest, Mr. Galton, came to the city he thought he might be able to interest them with a paper, which he had readily consented to give.

The lecturer said he approached the subject of his discourse as a judge, not as an enemy, and his desire was to be thoroughly impartial. He then proceeded to review at great length the work of Mr. Ignatius Donnelly, in which that writer set up the theory that Lord Bacon was the author of the writings attributed to Shakespeare. He said the evidence brought by Mr. Donnelly in support of his contention was wholly insufficient on the subject which he presumed to handle. He said Stratford was not the close gloomy town that Mr. Donnelly depicted it, and that Shakespeare was brought up in an atmosphere of plays and players, and it was not surprising that he should go on the stage when he went to London to push his fortunes. Shakespeare's youngest brother also went to London to become an actor, and died there. From what they knew Shakespeare whilst at Stratford found many opportunities for the stage. Here he was at conflict with Mr. Donnelly's argument, but he appealed to his facts. He showed that Mr. Donnelly by suppressing all the inconvenient facts and distorting the facts of the bard's early life and arguing on wrong deductions had tried to place the poet in a false light. The lecturer also held that he had proved that it was possible to live at Stratford and cultivate a taste for poetry and the stage. To the criticism of Shakespeare's plays Mr. Donnelly failed as he did in criticising his life. From his own investigations he saw no reason why Shakespeare should not be the author of the plays attributed to him, and Mr. Donnelly had quite failed to satisfy him by his contentions.

The lecturer, which was of an instructive character, was listened to with attention, and Mr. Galton was thanked at the close.

# The Register.

ADELAIDE: MONDAY, SEPT. 10, 1894.

## ANGLO-COLONIAL GOSSIP.

[From our own Correspondent.]

London, August 10.  
Professor Lamb, into whose hands the testimonials have been placed with a view to the selection of an occupant of the chair of literature at Adelaide, will be doing nothing in the matter until his return to London in September. Bishop Kenyon will be here soon after that, and a final selection will be made, or rather a special candidate or candidates will be recommended to the Senate by the Bishop and the professor. A number of South Australians here have been labouring under the idea that Dr. Kenyon had been appointed to the See of Sodor and Man, not of Bath and Wells. The present occupant of the See of Sodor and Man is a strong bootmaker, and has a large family of daughters, and the wits say that when he accepted the Bishopric he took Sodor (Soda) for himself and Man for his daughters.