

# The Register.

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 1894.

## THE FLETCHER MEMORIAL MOVEMENT.

—During his lifetime the Rev. W. R. Fletcher placed this community under great obligation by his valuable and incessant work in the interests of his fellows. Now that he is dead it is only right that the memory of his patriotic deeds should be perpetuated in some tangible form. To hold his achievements specially in remembrance will be a graceful compliment to his surviving relatives, and the honouring of his distinguished service to humanity will serve as a stimulus to other men to follow the bright example of which they will be constantly reminded. The influential meeting of citizens who transacted yesterday the preliminary business in connection with the proposed Fletcher Memorial was not troubled by any initial embarrassments. Sometimes when it is suggested that there should be a personal memento in a substantial shape of the services of some citizen who has passed away differences of opinion are expressed regarding the actual claims of the person whom it is proposed to permanently honour. In the case of Mr. Fletcher there has been no dissentient note in the general volume of eulogy. The tributes to his merit have been as numerous and as direct as the testimonies to his remarkable mental gifts. The combination of excellencies thus indicated illustrates satisfactorily the completeness of Mr. Fletcher's character; but the very variety of his services to the colony has occasioned some little doubt concerning the most appropriate way in which to signalize them. His principal work, however, was divided into two special departments. He was a distinguished ecclesiastic, and he was one of the most conspicuous of our secular educationalists. What he did for his Church can be more fully recognized by that religious communion than by the general public; but his labours in connection with the University, the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery, and other educational institutions concerned all South Australia, and the formal memorial of them should be a token of regard in which every class of the people may join. The meeting wisely decided yesterday that this wider commemoration should be in the form of a University scholarship, and nothing could be more appropriate. If Mr. Fletcher had been considered before his death upon the matter he would probably have pleaded that any perpetuation of his memory should not be by means of a monument in marble or brass. He would have chosen that his friends, under the pleasant guise of showing him honour, should continue the special work to which he so assiduously devoted himself—the work of liberalizing education, and of enabling the poorest students to avail themselves of the best training in certain subjects that the colony can supply. The Fletcher Scholarship will undoubtedly contribute to this result. We speak of it already as a certainty, because there should be no doubt that the appeal of the committee who are organizing the movement will be liberally responded to. Bad as the times are £500 ought to be raised for such an object in a few days, considering that citizens invest nearly forty times as much in the totalizer at one day's race meeting. A half-crown subscription among the members of the Young Men's Christian Association and of the Literary Societies' Union, both of which Mr. Fletcher so nobly served, should supply a good proportion of the money, and the remainder should be collected without difficulty. It will be well for the committee to set about their work promptly, while the record of Mr. Fletcher's useful services is still vividly impressed upon the public mind.

✓ *Register 16/6/94.*

MEMORIAL TO THE LATE REV. W. R. FLETCHER.—A preliminary meeting convened by private circular to consider the advisableness of raising a public memorial to perpetuate the name of the late Rev. William Roby Fletcher, M.A., was held in the Mayor's Reception-room on Friday afternoon, June 15. There were present the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. C. Wilcox), who presided, the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Samuel Davenport, Sir E. T. Smith, the Revs. Joseph Robertson, M.A., F. W. Cox, and Dr. J. Jeffries, Aldermen W. C. Bolt, Councillor E. H. Sissonson, Messrs. M. Burgess, J. Vardon, J. A. Charter, J. A. Hartley (Vice-Chancellor of the University), C. H. Goode, J. H. Finlayson, A. Mackie, J. L. Bonython, W. E. Dalton, and J. M. Anderson and J. Fairfax Conigrave (conveners). Apologies were made for the absence of Sir Henry Ayers, Sir John Colton, Rev. Dr. Paton, and Messrs. J. H. Angus and T. Graves. It was resolved, after discussion, "that an effort be made to raise not less than £500 to establish a scholarship at the University of Adelaide in memory of the late Rev. W. R. Fletcher;" and it was also agreed "that should any further amount be raised the balance be disposed of at the discretion of the committee." The gentlemen present were appointed a committee, with power to add to their number, to carry out the objects of the movement. The Mayor was appointed Chairman of the committee, Councillor Smetson and Mr. A. Mackie were appointed joint Honorary Secretaries, and Mr. C. H. Goode was appointed Treasurer.

✓ *Register 16/6/94.*

FRENCH LECTURES AT THE UNIVERSITY.—We have received from M. Calais, the French Lecturer at the University of Adelaide, a very neatly printed brochure containing a series of reports of the lectures delivered by him on Molière, and the editorial comments of the Adelaide daily Press. The work, which is dedicated to the Chancellor of the University, His Honor the Chief Justice, will prove most useful to students of the literature of La Belle France. Messrs. W. K. Thomas & Co. are the printers, and Mr. A. H. Roberts the publisher.

✓ *Register 23/6/94.*

## STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITY TEXT-BOOKS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—It is only fair to the students of the Adelaide University that the examiners and authorities of that institution should be made acquainted with the fact that several of the text books prescribed for the first and second year examinations of the B.A. course and higher public examination, 1894, are not procurable in the colonies. In Latin the Book of Tacitus, prescribed "Germania," and in English literature selections from "Spectator" and Book I. of the "Essay Queens" are not obtainable. The disadvantages to students are obvious, and I can only hope that some effort will be made to remedy the matter, if not on the present occasion, at least in future, by arranging with a firm of booksellers to supply students with text books. If nothing be done this year the result must be the ploughing of several students.

I am, Sir, &c.,

MAC.

*Register 23/6/94.*

THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.—A correspondent writes:—"It may not be generally known that a caretaker has now to be placed at the doors of the Adelaide University to prevent persons surreptitiously acquiring knowledge. This has been found necessary from the fact that persons without paying the stipulated fees were found attending the lectures. So now all students must show their receipts before gaining admittance to the halls of learning. The thirst for knowledge is to be commended, but the authorities draw the line at getting it on the cheap. The method adopted to prevent this is not, however, without some objection, as it sometimes happens that the bona-fide student does not have his voucher on him. He is then requested to 'walk into the office,' and he naturally feels a little annoyed."