and particularly in the City Mission, the Christian Endeavour Associations, and the Sunday-school Union. Among young men Mr. Fletcher was especially and deservedly popular. During many years he was the life and soul of the Adelaide Literary Society, and there, as in the Y.M.C.A. and elsewhere, his wonderful variety of information and his great descriptive power, together with his intense desire to encourage self-improvement, made him a most sympathetic teacher and charming entertainer. His familiarity with the intricacies of the study known as the "higher criticism" rendered him fully competent, as he was always readily willing, to assist those who were seeking after a foundation in Christian theology. He was a frequent contributor to the South Australian Press, and many articles, reviews, and sketches of a very high order of excellence written by him appeared in the columns of the *Register*. Some years ago he contributed to the *Adelaide Observer* an admirably lucid series of articles on the elementary principles of political economy.

But a biographical outline will convey the best idea of the variety of this deceased gentleman's gifts and the wide field over which his energies were diffused. Mr. Fletcher was born in Manchester on April 6, 1833. His father, the Rev. Richard Fletcher, was at that time minister of the Grosvenor-street Chapel, the scene in the early part of the century of the labours of the Rev. W. Roby. Mr. Fletcher received his early training at the famous Yorkshire School, Silcoates, Wakefield, under Dr. Munro. In 1849 he entered, with the late Rev. Robert Halley, M.A., as a student at Bonn, where he attended the lectures of Kitschl, Ritter, and Delius, and in due course matriculated. On his return from Germany, having passed two semesters there, he entered the Lancashire Independent College in 1850. Dr. Robert Vaughan and Dr. Samuel Davidson were then at the head of the College. Mr. Fletcher's collegiate career was very brilliant. In 1851 he matriculated at the London University, and took his B.A. degree in 1853, ranking first-class. In 1854 he obtained a prize for passing in the Theological and Scriptural examination of that University. This would have reckoned as the B.D. qualification had it been the practice of the London University to grant degrees in divinity. In 1856 he gained his M.A. degree in Branch 3, passing examinations in logic, mental and moral philosophy, political economy, and history, and winning the gold medal for the year. During his College career Mr. Fletcher was connected with Owens College, Manchester, which has since developed into the Victoria University. At the time of Mr. Fletcher's connection with it the College was in its infancy, and had for its Principal that remarkable genius, Professor A. J. Scott. In 1853, when his father, with the Rev. J. L. Poore, left England and came to Victoria on behalf of the Colonial Missionary Society, Mr. Fletcher remained in England to complete his academical career. After taking his degree in 1856 he did not seek a settlement in the old country, but came at once to the colonies, landing in Sydney in 1857, during the sitting of the Intercolonial Conference. Thence he went to Melbourne, where he was engaged as assistant at St. Kilda to his father, whose health was indifferent. Shortly after his arrival he was admitted to the degree *ad eundem* of M.A. of the local University. In the following year Mr. Fletcher went to Sandhurst to found a Congregational Church, and the brilliant students and scholar did not shirk the hardest kinds of work. He threw himself with characteristic ardour into his task, and revealed the breadth of sympathy which characterized him by identifying himself heartily and thoroughly with everything of public interest in the young town. Friends and supporters rallied around him, and soon a Church was built, which was opened by the Rev. Thomas Binney, an old friend of his family. After seven years' hard and successful labour in this rich mining centre, Mr. Fletcher was called in 1866 to

Richmond, Melbourne, where he became Professor of Philosophy and Greek Testament in the Congregational College of Victoria—a position which he held for ten years.

In 1871 Mr. Fletcher went on a tour round the world, visiting America, England, the Continent of Europe, and the Holy Land. In 1876 he accepted a call to the pastorate of the Stow Memorial Church in this city, in succession to the Rev. Colmer B. Symes, B.A., and arrived here with his family on March 2 of the same year. He continued in this position until he resigned it in 1890 to take a trip round the world, and in 1892 he took charge of the Congre-

gational Church at Glenelg. Mr. Fletcher did not confine himself to the work of his own Church, though that work was arduous and many-sided. Like all true Congregationalists he was deeply interested in everything that was interesting and important to the community. In educational matters Mr. Fletcher conspicuously shone. Soon after settling in Adelaide he entered the University by taking the M.A. degree *ad eundem*. In 1877 he was elected a member of the University Council, and was three times re-elected to that position at intervals of three years. When in 1879 the late Professor Davidson was laid aside by temporary illness Mr. Fletcher was invited and consented to undertake the duties of his chair. He frequently assisted in the work of the University as an examiner, and when in 1880 Professor Davidson died Mr. Fletcher was requested to fill the vacant chair, and this he did until the end of the year, refusing, however, to accept the office permanently. After having served the institution as Professor of Logic, English, and Philosophy for two years the University consoled on him the well-earned honour of electing him Vice-Chancellor, a position which he held for five years. The one subject which engaged Mr. Fletcher's attention perhaps more than any other was that of an educated colonial ministry. Since the natural death of Union College, of which Mr. Fletcher was one of the Professors, he unweariedly advocated and worked for the establishment of a Congregational College in Adelaide. He saw the darling wish of his heart realized in the actual establishment of such an institution. Mr. Fletcher was unanimously elected Principal of that College, and he devoted himself to the completing of this scheme, and obtaining young men for the ministry of the Congregational Churches in the colonies. To put himself in touch with modern methods of theological thought and training was one of the main reasons for his visiting the old world again after nineteen years' absence from it.

Prior to this, however, Mr. Fletcher, impressed with the necessity for a brief rest from his multifarious labours, arranged for a visit to India. This was paid in 1887, the Government taking advantage of the opportunity or commission him to enquire into the methods and results of the educational system in England's great dependency. On his return the rev. gentleman handed in a valuable report, which was duly presented to Parliament and ordered to be printed. Some three years later, on the eve of his departure for Europe, the rev. gentleman, who had formally resigned the pastorate, addressed to his congregation at Stow Church a letter concluding thus:—

I am happy to say that we can look back on fourteen years of mutual intercourse without any record of discord or disunion. No cord of bitterness has sprung up. No feeling of "strained relations" troubles me at this crisis. Ministers, officers, and members have wrought in harmony. I thank the deacons and all of you for the kindly way in which you have received my communication to you, which I know must cause you anxiety and some amount of sorrow. I trust, however, that I am doing what is the long run will prove the best for the Church. If I were ten years younger I could not write this, but in that way is the journey of life which I have reached I cannot expect a long series of vigorous years. Let some younger man bear the burden, and let the older man stand by to help him.

Mr. Fletcher, with Mrs. Fletcher and his son, Mr. Lance Fletcher, left on their journey on January 13, 1890. As an enthusiastic Egyptologist he spent some time on the Nile. Egypt is specially rich in memories of antiquity, and as they are being scattered to different parts of the world Mr. Fletcher received a commission from the Government of South Australia to make enquiries as to how some of them could be best obtained for these colonies. In his trip to Egypt Mr. Fletcher therefore combined work for the colonies with pleasure. There are, doubtless, a few more learned Egyptologists in the world than he was, but certainly none in Australasia can approach Mr. Fletcher's standard, and his latest researches in the land of the Pharaohs did much to quicken the interest felt in this colony in the history of its wonderful people. He succeeded in obtaining from the Khedive a very valuable collection of antiquities, and on his return he delivered a series of lectures on the subject of ancient Egypt which were listened to by large audiences with extreme pleasure. They have since been published in book form by Messrs. E. A. Petherick & Co. In the appendix to them will be found Mr. Fletcher's report on the Commission concerning Egyptian antiquities for the South Australian Museum. On the fitting up of the new wing of the Museum these antiquities will be suitably arranged and displayed. After going up the Nile he spent the Easter in Southern Italy and got to England in time for the May meetings, which he attended as the representative of the Congregational Union of