and particularly in the City Mission, the Christian Endeavour Associations, and the Sunday school unions. Among whom 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, he won a wonderful facility 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 insinuations of the study known as "the Higher criticism" rendered him fully competent, as he was always ready 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, 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 honed series of articles on the elementary principles of political economy.

But a biographical notice will convey the best idea of the variety of the deceased gentleman's gifts and the wide field over which his energies were diffused. Mr. Fletcher was born in Manchester on May 6, 1832. His father, the Rev. Richard Fletcher, was at that time minister of the Greathead's Chapel, built in the early part of the century, the labours of the Rev. W. F. Fletcher received his early training at the famous Yorkshire School, Repton, Wakefield, under Dr. Munich. In 1850 he entered, with the late Rev. Robert Halliday, M.A., as a student, where he attended the lectures of Ritchie, Ritter, and Dobbs, and in due course matriculated. On his return from Germany, having passed two semestres there, he entered the Leinster 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 1852, graduating first-class. In 1853 he obtained the first place 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 1850. In 1850 he gained his M.A. degree in English, passing examinations in logic, moral and political philosophy, political economy, history, and winning the gold medal for the year. During his College career Mr. Fletcher was connected with Orms Collego, Manchester, which has since developed into the Victoria University. At the time of Mr. Fletcher's connection with the College it was in its infancy, and had for its Principal that remarkable genius, Professor A. J. Scott. In 1853, when his father, the Rev. R. J. F. Futter, left England and came to Victoria on behalf of the Colonial Missionary Society, Mr. Fletcher remained in England to complete his academic course. After obtaining his degree in 1855 he did not seek a settlement in the old country, but came out to the colonies, landing in Sydney in 1857, during the sitting of the Intercolonial Conference. Thereon 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 of master of arts of M.A. of the local University. In the following year Mr. Fletcher went to Sandhurst to found a Congregational Church, and the brilliant student and scholar did not show the slightest signs of decay. He threw himself with characteristic ardour into his task, and raised the highest sympathy which charmed him by identifying himself heartily and thoroughly with everything of public interest in the young city, and supporters rallied around him, and soon a Church was built, which was opened by the Rev. Thomas Hunter, an old friend of his family. After seven years' hard and successful labour in this mission centre, Mr. Fletcher was called in 1867 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 1877 he accepted a call to the pastorate of the Flaw Memorial Church in this city, in succession to the Rev. Collier B. Smyth, B.A., and arrived here with his family on March 2 of the same year. He continued in this position until he resigned in 1890 to take a trip round the world, during which he visited England. He returned in 1893 to the Flaw Memorial Church, and was elected a member of the University Council, and three times re-elected to this position at intervals of three years. When in 1874 the late 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 conferred on him the well-earned honour of electing him Vice-Chancellor, a position which he held for two years.

The one subject in which 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 Presidents, he was most actively and energetically interested, and worked for the establishment of a Congregational College in Adelaide. He saw the danger of theaban one of the characteristics of the University. Mr. Fletcher was unanimously elected Principal of that College, and he devoted himself to the completion 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 teaching was one of the main reasons for his visiting the old world again after completing the seven years' leave in 1893.

"Prior to this, however, Mr. Fletcher, impressed with the necessity for a brief rest from the multifarious labours, arranged for a visit to India. This was made in 1897, the Government taking advantage of the opportunity to commission him to engage in the methodology 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 for many years resided in the colonies, addressed his congratulations to his congregation at St. John's a letter containing these:

"I am happy to say that we can look back on ten years of unbroken intercourse without any repudiation of the principles for which we have stood. We have overcome all our difficulties, and troubles have at times been, at other times, our best friends. But the strength of our faith and the power of our convictions have been so strong that we are able to face the difficulties that beset us, and to go forward in the path of our calling without a murmur."

Mr. Fletcher, with Mrs. Fletcher and his son, Mr. Lance Fletcher, left on their journey on January 11, 1899. As an able and energetic Egyptianist he spent some time on the Nile, Egypt is specially rich in monuments of antiquity, and as there is being accomplished in many different parts of the world Mr. Fletcher received a commission from the Government of South Australia to make Egyptological investigations. Some of these could be best obtained for these colonies. In his trip to the Nile, Mr. Fletcher therefore combined work for the colonies with pleasure. There are, besides, a few more learned Egyptologists at work in the world than he was, but certainly none in Australia can approach Mr. Fletcher's standard, and his work search of the lands of the Pharaohs did much to quicken the interest felt in the history of this ancient people. He succeeded in obtaining from the Khedive a very valuable collection of antiquities, which on his return he delivered a series of lectures on the subject of ancient Egypt which were listened to by large audiences with great pleasure. They have since been published in book form by Messrs. A. E. Fotheringham and W. H. Fisher. In the appendix to them will be found Mr. Fletcher's report on the Commission concerning Egyptian antiquities for the British Museum. On the fitting up of the new wing of the Museum these antiquities will be suitably arranged and disposed of. After going up the Nile he spent the Easter in Southern Italy and went to England in May, meeting with the President of the Athenaeum.