

Adelaide: Thursday, April 12, 1894.

THE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—A happy allusion by His Excellency the Chancellor of the University, when thanking Dr. Bevan in well-deserved terms for his inspiring address, to the possibility of a hall coming to us from Coolgardie, recalled to my mind one of the many characteristic things said to his students by Professor Blackie, of Edinburgh, a man whose familiarity with Greek only intensified his interest in the national life of his country, especially in its Universities. "You are going to all parts of the earth, and some of you will become rich. Now go and hear Guthrie next Sunday (if Bevan had been in Edinburgh he would have said Bevan), and when your feelings are exalted resolve, and put your resolution in writing, that when you get so much you will lay aside a certain proportion for your Alma Mater, for some poor student whose thirst for knowledge you may furnish with living water," and the appeal has not been fruitless. We shall all rejoice if Coolgardie send us a splendid hall, but I venture to say that our University has much more pressing wants. The first I would mention is the need of more scholarships, especially in the arts—not very large ones, but sufficient to enable a young man or woman to go through the course. One meditates naturally when he is among the sands, and when there I have often thought how much more secured immortality would the names we read of if inscribed in a scholarship instead of granite. Was I am going to say may not seem gratuitous, but it is my conviction that at our stage in history the community would be under a deeper debt of gratitude to the generous donor of "Venus" and "Hercules" if we had a scholarship in his name for the purpose of encouraging the study of what has gathered in history round the mother—the *Alma Mater*—of the Romans and the hero of the Greeks. If we had the material equipment for learning so sympathetically described by Dr. Bevan, we should have at least one good scholarship in every hundred of the colony, not from the Government but from the inhabitants. The Churches too might do more in this line. There is a splendid chance for some rich man winning for himself a monument more enduring than brass by giving us an Oriental languages chair. When will we be written let the University not be forgotten.

It is gratifying to know that we are at the top in our expenditure on literature, but literature will never be a substitute either for a living Church or a living University, not even when it is of the highest kind. What we expend on literature, then, cannot relieve us from the burden, if burden it be, of making the University—that corporate union of teacher and pupil for learning and discipline—a power in the land for raising our national life to its utmost capabilities. It must in some way be brought within the reach of the gifted poor; and one trusts that the time is not far distant when it will be considered as a slur on our wealthy citizens, not to speak of our rich citizens, that they have had no share in the liberal studies of this noble institution. The law of supply and demand may be right enough as regards dancing, &c., but not as regards learning in the true sense, and the intellectual and moral training which it supposes. The apostle and the true teacher must create the demand who are on fire to supply, and they will be helped by those who have come under their spell. The Chancellor has done splendid work in this direction during the week in giving those concerned an opportunity of coming within range of the influence of a man who is an enthusiast for University life. His vigorous line and comradeship are noble means to the realization of the end of our being as personal or social. One can only wish that many more such meetings may be held, attracting gold from Coolgardie or elsewhere; but, better still, awakening in the community a deeper sense of the importance of the University—not merely to professional men, lay and clerical, but to the commonwealth. This awakening effected, neither gold nor silver would be wanting.

I am, Sir, &c.

A. C. SUTHERLAND.

April 7.

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FRENCH LECTURES AT THE UNIVERSITY.

On Wednesday Monsieur Galais took for the subject of his lecture the inimitable masterpiece of Moliere, "Le Misanthrope." The lecturer in a clear and elegant résumé of the play won the sympathy of the audience for Alceste (the Misanthrope), whose only failing, besides a weak heart in love affairs, is to speak his mind too freely about the ways of the world. He thunders against the vices of men, whilst Célimène, the unworthy object of his love, laughs at the ridiculous side of mankind. Poor humanity is weak, and exhibits side by side with the greatest virtues eccentricities which may be reformed without hurting moral principles. Moliere makes us laugh at the expense of Alceste, it is true, but never at the expense of that which is good in him. The best proof in support of this is that from beginning to end of the play we like Alceste, we respect him, in spite of his exaggerated ideas as to what men should be; and, finally, we are sorry that his love is not better rewarded. The lecturer brought out forcibly the spirit in which Moliere groups all the characters in the play around Alceste—Armand disappointed in her calculations, Philinte and Elvire with a turn for virtue, Oronte and Clitandre with their scandal-mongering propensities, and even the coquette Célimène, are but secondary in the play. Alceste alone keeps up the interest without either valets or intrigue. The reading of the most interesting scene by Monsieur Galais was quite in keeping with his mastery of the play. "L'Avare" will be the subject of the lecture next Wednesday.

MR. W. A. HORN'S SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION.

—Professor Ralph Tate, of the University of Adelaide, has agreed to join Mr. W. A. Horn's scientific expedition to the MacDonnell Range, subject to leave of absence being granted to him by the Council of the University. We understand that Dr. E. C. Stirling, C.M.G., has stated that it will be impossible for him to take part in the expedition owing to his University duties. It is worthy of mention that in his inaugural address at the Adelaide meetings of the Association for the Advancement of Science Professor Tate, as President of the Association, spoke of the efforts of Sir Thomas Elder to further scientific research in Australia, and remarked—"May we hope that the Australian Maccoomas of our time will crown his efforts to unfold some of the mysteries of our dry interior by directing a systematic exploration of some well-defined area, such as the oasis of the MacDonnell Ranges."

✓ Advertiser 11/4/94.

GERMAN LECTURES AT THE UNIVERSITY.

The second of a series of lectures on "The German Literature of the Eighteenth Century" was delivered on Tuesday at the University before a highly appreciative audience. In the first lecture Herr Rechner reviewed in a clear and concise manner the earlier periods of German literature, and pointed out that although the Germans had not so great and admirable a dramatist as Shakespeare, they were happier than all other nations in having two great golden epochs of their literature, the second of which, beginning with Klopstock, he intended dealing with later on. In the second lecture after giving a short sketch of Klopstock's life, the lecturer dwelt upon the immense influence of this writer on his time as a patriot, a Christian, and a renewer of the ancient classic metre. Having developed and illustrated these three features of the character of the great poet in a masterly manner, the lecturer drew a most interesting parallel between the rhymeless metre of Klopstock and the rhyme-poems of Heine and Geibel. Herr Rechner promised to lecture next week on Klopstock as epical, lyrical, and dramatic poet.

The Register.

Adelaide: Saturday, April 14, 1894.

MR. HORN'S EXPEDITION.—The scientific gentlemen who were invited to take part in the expedition so generously fitted out by Mr. W. A. Horn have not forgotten that

There is a tide in the affairs of men
Which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune;
Omitted—all the voyage of their life
Is bound in shallows and in miseries.

To an enthusiastic biologist like Professor Spencer, of Melbourne University, it would certainly be, if not a "misery," at any rate a great disappointment "to be