

REGISTER, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1881.

to any decision at all it should say so at once. If it intend to choose a lecturer in the colony it should inform the public of the fact, and in any case it was open to it while administering its mild rebuke to the inquisitive member of the Senate to so far pocket its dignity as to satisfy the curiosity of outsiders on the subject, especially as inference might be drawn from the mode of reply adopted that it is really intended to appoint a Law Lecturer from England. If such be really the method in which the Council is about to found the new School of Law, it certainly shows a lamentable lack, not only of confidence in the professional men of the colony, but even of ordinary common prudence. The University cannot afford a large salary; no great honour is attached to the position, and if it is expected that any English lawyer or legal authority of high standing will be willing to come to South Australia for the inducements which it is in the power of the University to offer it is very much mistaken. As we have already repeatedly pointed out, it is impossible for the University, with the small means at its disposal, to secure a legal lecturer of even moderate standing, excepting by appointing some gentleman engaged during the major part of his time in the active practice of his profession. Such a lecturer can only be obtained within the colony, and it would be a decided slight upon the South Australian Bar if the Council should take it for granted that the offer of a few hundreds per annum would bring from England a better man than can be found in their ranks.

The resignation of the gentleman who has hitherto acted as Registrar leaves vacant the position of perhaps the most important executive officer of the University. On him devolves to a large extent the duty of seeing that the collegiate work is systematically carried out. Lecturers may attend at their classrooms for an hour or two, and may leave as soon as they have finished their work. But the services of the Registrar should be available at any hour during the day, and he should be regarded as the steward of the University. The plan of appointing a gentleman to this position whose time is mainly occupied with outside professional duties has not answered. The University remains during the greater part of the day without any responsible head, and without even an authority able to answer business enquiries. It is like an establishment wanting a bookkeeper or an office-boy, and no wonder need be felt that its business being left so much to itself occasionally becomes very much mud-

dled. What is now wanted is the appointment of some one able and willing to devote his whole energies within office hours to the work of the University. He need not necessarily be a graduate, for his duties do not require the exercise of any scholastic faculties. He ought rather to be one well acquainted with the proper methods of teaching and of organizing classes, and, above all, one having a due appreciation of the absolute necessity which exists for popularizing the University. The paucity of students has hitherto been very disheartening, and no doubt some consideration ought to be accorded to those who have given their labours to the University with small remuneration beyond the honour of being connected with the institution. But the time has now come when the place should have a business head capable of taking as much interest in its affairs, and having as much solicitude for its advancement, as the head of a commercial firm would have for the extension of his trade. It is to be hoped that no hesitation or neglect of common-sense arrangements will prevent the Council from choosing efficient gentlemen as Chancellor and Registrar.