

ADVERTISER TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1881.

the columns of some newspaper, and to that extent only does the public profit by his works. At present very few students present themselves for examination in geology, and still fewer pass. At the recent primary examinations we understand that there was not a single person who offered himself for examination in geology. There are plenty of text-books of geology, but we believe that there is not a collection of specimens sufficiently complete for instruction in elementary geology in the whole colony. Now, if under the auspices of the governors of the institute instruction in drawing and other things can be provided for, how is it that they cannot turn their attention to something practical in the shape of geological and mineralogical classes. Numbers of young men and women in various walks of life would gladly avail themselves of the smallest opportunities of acquiring this kind of knowledge if any such were presented to them. Until something of the kind is established Professor Tate is not likely to be overwhelmed with work either in lecturing to advanced pupils in geology or in examining pupils in that science who come up for their "little go." It is painful enough to see the waste of money and the waste of opportunity caused by the want of arrangement in some directions and the excess of arrangements in others; but worst of all is the contemplation of the poor and undignified position which South Australia has selected for herself in the field of scientific usefulness.

THE NEW REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—I read with much interest the letter of "Ver. Sap." in your paper of the 28th ult., and from the importance of the subject there referred to—of moulding the minds of our colonial youths for a lifetime—I have been expecting that some of your many able correspondents would have ventilated the important topic there introduced. Up to this date I have seen no allusion to that letter, except a note in a local paper approving of the way in which "Ver. Sap." suggests the subjects of study should be open for selection. It was scarcely to be expected that the framers of the "regulations" would have taken notice of anonymous criticisms by one of that public whose requirements they appear to treat with so little consideration.

As one who desires the welfare of my country I claim a small space in your columns. In the first place, concurring as I do with many of the remarks of your correspondent I think he should have insisted more strongly than he has done on the imperative necessity there is for public educators to catch the drift of an intelligent public opinion so as to utilise its current instead of obstructing its course by barriers that can only end in being swept away. The "regulations" in question plainly show that those who framed them thought more of propitiating antiquated notions that are rapidly passing away than of winning the regard of the rising generation, for they do not appear to have conceded a single point that was asked for in the criticisms in the press last year. One of the disadvantages of our position at the antipodes is that we are in danger of getting old fashioned goods palmed upon us. And it has taken years, and all possible precautions on the part of importers, to prevent that tendency. We now

tion of a style that is out of date exhibited in the show-room of our University, and as there is no "shop over the way" to supply the more modern article, it is no doubt thought it will do very well; but although classics and pure mathematics—a kind of high heeled slipper—like the sock and the buskin which once upon a time suited the very "select" upper ten very well, we now live in a practical age, and must have German and French, and chemistry and geology, and the other branches of natural applied science, so that we can turn our immense resources to better advantage. Our University men mistake their subjects; we are not fools. Classics and non applied mathematics may do very well for men who have made their fortunes, and wish like hermits to seclude themselves in the dens and caves of a past age who knew nothing better to do. But our need is that our youth should know something of the world that is around and before them, and the public of South Australia are turning with disgust from a University that strives to thrive on "old fogysm," and uses every influence it has to force old ideas into the schools. At the present moment if you go into its halls, built and officered at so great an outlay, the few students there seem alarmed, like timid sheep at the echoes of your footfall; and worse than this, the teachers of the various advanced schools find it impossible to induce parents to continue the studies of their children when they know that unless they learn so much Greek and Latin they have no chance of gaining distinction. Hence the University from which we hoped so much is on the point of becoming a bugbear and a scarecrow instead of the great attraction it ought to be to the youth of every class and grade of society. Hoping that some abler pen than mine will aid in inducing the powers to popularise the subjects of study in such a way that true knowledge may be widely diffused by its means—I am, &c.,

HOMO.

**REGISTER, FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 9, 1881.**

**THE FINANCES OF THE UNIVERSITY
OF ADELAIDE.**

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—By a reference to your report of the proceedings of the Senate of the University of Adelaide you will see that I had given notice of my intention to ask two questions, but was met by a refusal from the Warden to give me an answer. The first question was not one of much importance, being intended only as a gentle reminder to the officers of the Institution, who have, so far as I can ascertain, entirely neglected to carry out the provisions of the 18th clause of the "Adelaide University Act."

The second question, however, involves a matter of much greater moment, as it opens up the question of the whole of the financial arrangements of the University. At the meeting yesterday I stated that I did not intend to ask the question, as I was satisfied from the correspondence I had with the Registrar that the Elder money had all been spent, and without any legal right or authority, and that I could produce a letter to support that contention. To this the Registrar replied that no such correspondence had taken place, and that he had not made any such statement; my simple answer is to give you a copy of the letter I refer to. On the 4th of August last I wrote to the Registrar as follows:—

Re Elder £20,000—Be so kind as to inform me upon what Government bonds, debentures, or securities the fund herein is invested, and what is the interest or annual income arising therefrom to be secured by deed of the 6th November, 1874.

Re Hughes £20,000.—Be so good as to afford me similar information respecting the fund to be secured by deed, 24th December, 1872.