

The Register 9th Oct. 1897.

THE CONSERVATOIRE OF MUSIC.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Many members of the musical profession are naturally interested in the question of the Conservatoire of Music which it is proposed to establish in connection with the University. Would it not be well for those whose interests are concerned to ventilate their opinions on the subject before it is too late for them to be of service? If, as suggested, it is decided to follow the lead of the Guildhall School of Music, care should be taken not to introduce its defects with its advantages, or to unnecessarily injure the prospects of the present members of the musical profession, through whose instrumentality the science and art of music in Adelaide has been brought to its present stage. Will the Conservatoire injure the present teachers, and to what extent? is a question naturally asked; and the reply must depend not merely upon what change it is proposed to make, but how the project is to be carried out. That such an institution would benefit the musical education of the community generally goes without saying, but the *Musical Herald* for August says—“What it (the Guildhall School of Music) now mainly does is to supply middle-class Londoners with their musical education below cost price.” *Verbum sap.*

I am, Sir, &c.,

EDWARD HOWARD.

COUNTRY NEWS.

PORT PIRIE, MAY 9.

Mr. C. R. Hodge, Registrar of the University, visited this port during last week, and at his instigation a meeting was held in the Town Clerk's Office on Thursday evening. The Mayor, Mr. J. C. Haslam, presided. Mr. Hodge explained that the Council of the University desired to establish a permanent centre at Port Pirie, and appoint a local committee, so that students and teachers would have the satisfaction of knowing that the various Public Examinations could be conducted locally. After discussion the following committee was appointed:—The Mayor, the Revs. L. Durno, J. Chapman, S. Rossiter, Father O'Connor, Drs. Walker, Stewart, and Hamilton, and Messrs. R. B. Williams, D. C. Scott, R. M. Bertram, G. F. Claridge, J. Grose, F. S. Deland, W. R. Malyon, K. W. Duncan, W. T. Gronow, J. Forsaith, and W. Good. Mr. Haslam was appointed permanent Chairman of the committee, and Mr. K. W. Duncan Hon. Secretary. Other items of formal business were disposed of. The meeting closed with the carrying of a resolution expressing appreciation of the action of the University.

At the Police Court on Friday, before Mr. J. P. Stow, S. M., Ernest George May was charged with leaving his illegitimate child, Winifred May Harrison, without adequate means of support. Mr. R. M. Bertram appeared for informant. Defendant did not appear, and was undefended. An order for the payment of 5s. per week was made.

The temporary repairs to the steamer Thornley were completed on Thursday, and the vessel took in 1,600 tons of slag ballast and sailed for Melbourne this morning.

Prayers for rain were offered in the various Churches to-day.

The weather has been dull and cloudy. Horsefeed is rapidly advancing in price. Quotations for chaff yesterday were £6 10s. per ton, and holders are not anxious to part at that figure. Good seasons have been known in this district when the first season's rain has fallen as late as the end of May, but there is no doubt that the prospects for the coming season are becoming very ominous indeed.

CHIEF JUSTICE WAY.

HIS VISIT TO ENGLAND.

AN INTERESTING INTERVIEW.

It is no easy task that a pressman has in hand when he undertakes to obtain on the first day of the return of a celebrity of the calibre of Chief Justice Way a few minutes' chat necessary for an interview. There are hosts of friends waiting to greet the returned wanderer, ready and eager to do him honor, representatives of public bodies anxious to take time by the forelock and book the distinguished man for engagements weeks ahead, and of course any number of public and private matters awaiting his attention. Therefore it was no wonder that although Mr. Way courteously arranged to submit himself to the ordeal by question at the earliest possible moment, it was not until dusk that the representative of *The Advertiser* managed to secure the desired conversation at Montefiore.

"Yes," said his honor, "I am in good health and very glad to be home again. I was highly delighted at the very cordial welcome I have received from my friends since my return. I was heartily greeted by a number on board the *Oruba*, a larger number on the *Largs* pier, and a still larger gathering at the *Adelaide* railway-station, while I had a most pleasant reception at Mr. and Mrs. Henry Scott's garden party this afternoon. I have been overwhelmed by expressions of pleasure at my return, which I warmly reciprocate."

How far does the new system of appointing colonial judges on the Judicial Committee answer English expectations?

"Well, I can answer that question best by telling you how we were received. When the Chief Justice of Canada, the Chief Justice of Cape Colony, and I went home we had a most gratifying reception from our brother judges and members of the bar. I was the first to arrive at the *South Australian* dinner, the Lord Chancellor, the Lord Chief Justice, and Lord James of Hereford all attended as a compliment to me as a member of the Judicial Committee. I did not know Lord Russell before, but I made the acquaintance of the Lord Chancellor when I was in England the last time. I knew him very well. Lord James of Hereford had been my host on the *Oxford* circuit, and we had many pleasant talks over old times. Shortly after my arrival in England the Lord Chief Justice gave a dinner in my honor, and invited several Judges of Appeal, Judges of the High Court, and other judges, as well as two very distinguished American statesmen. Again and again at different banquets which I attended reference was made to the new departure as being a very important step towards the Federation of the Empire, and the opinion was expressed that a common system of jurisprudence was a necessary feature in any complete Imperial union. And in that direction the appointment of colonial representatives to the Judicial Committee made the judicial federation of the Empire complete."

Then as to the sacrifices imposed upon colonial judges by their acceptance of the duties connected with the Privy Council?

"Well, the Chief Justices of Canada and Cape Colony were situated differently to me. In Canada Federation is an accomplished fact, and Cape Colony has a completely overshadowing influence in South African politics, so that there was no difficulty about the salary question in their cases. They were paid their ordinary salaries with an allowance for expenses.

That would not have been practicable in my case, as I went home as the representative of seven colonies. Then I could not leave my position here vacant. It would not have been fair either to the public or my colleagues. It would have entailed altogether too much work on the other occupants of the bench. Therefore from the outset I recognised that it was absolutely necessary that I should retain my position. But as for compensation, I don't want any."

Is there any truth in the rumor that you intend to resign the Chief Justiceship?

"There is no foundation for it whatever. This is the first I have heard of it."

Can you give any indication of the feeling in England on the question of Australian Federation?

"The Federation movement is exciting the greatest interest amongst legislators, lawyers, and all who take any interest in the unity of the Empire. In fact I have heard, in visiting various parts of England, that all classes were on the alert and watching the proceedings of the Federation Convention with the keenest interest, and that they look upon Australian union as a question affecting, not only the welfare of the colonies, but of the Empire at large."

How is the proposal to abolish the appeal to the Privy Council looked on?

"I think English opinion is very well expressed in the able and statesmanlike speech of the Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain to the colonial Premiers. I have not heard any different opinion on the point."

What is the status of the colonial bar in the old country?

"The colonial bar is entitled to be heard at the bar of the Privy Council in the same way as Scotch and Irish practitioners are entitled to be heard at the bar of the House of Lords. As a matter of fact a large number of appeals from Canada are argued by Canadian lawyers. Mr. Blake, Q.C., ex Prime Minister of Ontario, was engaged with several cases while I was in England, and appeared in one or two on which I adjudicated, as did several other Canadian barristers. As far as capacity is concerned my own opinion is that the leaders of the Australian bar would take a very high position amongst English lawyers."

Had you many opportunities of hearing Australian singers and other artistes?

"To tell you the truth I had very little time. I heard Miss Ada Crossley, but though I went about a good deal I was nearly always engaged on public business and had little chance of going to amusements. It might surprise you to know that I was only once inside a theatre. The occasion was a matinee at the Lyceum, but as Sir Henry Irving came on the stage I had to leave to catch the train to Warlies, Sir Fowell Buxton's residence. I managed to hear Mr. Wallage Kennedy, the Elder scholar, but as a general rule I had even to give my private friends the 'go-by' under the stress of public matters. I might mention that I met Mr. Mortimer Menpes at the South Australian dinner, and he is now looked upon as being quite in the front rank of artists and as being probably the best Australian painter of the day. Coming to private matters, I was deeply shocked at the death of my friend Mr. Gowen Evans, of the Melbourne *Argus*. He was almost the last person with whom I dined in London, and I was looking forward to his coming out to the colonies shortly by one of the Messageries steamers to see his many friends in Adelaide and elsewhere. When I left he was in fair health although he had been ailing, and he was going for a short trip on the Continent to recuperate before embarking. The large number of my friends both here and in England who have joined the great majority since I left will be the saddest recollection of my trip."

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THE ELDER SCHOLARSHIP.—It is announced by advertisement that the examination for the Elder Scholarship in Music is to be held at the University on November 29. Entries will close on November 15.