

THE UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

STUDENTS' PROGRAMME.

NOISY DEMONSTRATION.

"There is an old story concerning the late Professor Blackie, who wrote on a blackboard a notice to the effect that he would take his classes at such-and-such an hour. One of the wags in the institution rubbed out the c and left the word 'lasses.' When the students were assembled the master walked up to the blackboard and effaced the 'l,' and so 'asses' remained. After attending the University commemoration on Wednesday afternoon it would not be unkind to give the incident a local application." Thus wrote an indignant correspondent to The Register last night. And there was some cause for his wrath. The commemoration is certainly the greatest event in the year in connection with the University, and it should be a highly interesting, enjoyable, and decorous engagement. Owing, however, to the exceedingly silly conduct of some of the students—those of the kind who have been termed "undergraduates in gentlemanly behaviour" as well as in academic attainments—the ceremony is chiefly memorable for the irritating and stupid way in which it is interrupted by ill-mannered or thoughtless people, who show respect for hardly any one, and no regard for the feelings of the guests of the Chancellor. Yesterday the proceedings were as usual marred by the larrikiniism of those who aspire to be called "young bloods." The great majority of people who attend the commemoration are delighted to see the students enjoy the occasion in a reasonable manner, and they make full allowance for the robust spirits proper to youths who have all the world before them; but there is a limit to generosity and forbearance. If the undergraduates had kept their programme apart from the serious and important business of the afternoon no fault could have been found with them, excepting in relation to questions of good taste connected with certain personal allusions to which they committed themselves in print. They had a whole hour, from 2 o'clock to 3 p.m., for any ebullition of animal spirits; and even the Chancellor assisted them to dovetail into the official programme their verses concerning the various candidates for degrees. No excuse therefore can be offered for the dismal and horrible noises—associated with nothing humorous or witty—which several times drowned Sir Samuel Way's voice when he was conferring the degrees and congratulating the recipients on distinguished careers at the University. The Chancellor's remarks, particularly regarding the commercial course, to the representatives of the State Education Department and to the Joseph Fisher medallist, were inaudible to the audience; while the representatives of the press, who occupied seats at the foot of the platform, could catch only a word here and there. Graduates who have worked for years to achieve their successes surely deserve a little consideration, and might be allowed to receive their degrees in a manner fitting the importance of the occasion and the dignity of their Alma Mater. A score or so of foolish and unruly lads would not be permitted to disadjust the business of an ordinary public meeting. The policeman would be called in, and it is understood that the University Council will seriously consider whether they ought to risk the repetition in future of the farce of yesterday.

THE PROCEEDINGS.

Long before 2 o'clock the approaches to the several entrances of the Elder Hall were crowded. Shortly after the doors had been opened every seat in the room was occupied. Around the walls were hung placards on which were inscribed references to the various professors. Beneath a fish was written "Try our New Zealand Salmon;" again, "Professor Mitchell's tips gave four winners last Saturday;" "Language of Golf, by Professor Henderson;" "Latest cure for insomnia—Rennie's lectures." Under a fearful caricature of Mr. Bryceon Treharne were the words "The famous Bryceon treefern," and beneath an awful sketch of a well-known medical man was written "Try 'Our Ben' hair restorer." The decaying and undying joke of premature singing the national anthem as a false alarm relative to the arrival of the Governor was again several times perpetrated, but nobody "rose" to the occasion. At a quarter past 2 o'clock, to the mournful strains of the "Dead march," headed by a luridly red-whiskered policeman, with a huge coronation, an army of students in wonderful costumes, carried a coffin filled with human bones on to the platform. There were mutes all in black, gravediggers with picks and spades, miners with lighted candles in their tin hats, and other extraordinary characters. A convict, in prison dress, well sprinkled with broad arrows, and led by red tape, brought up the rear. He was charged with having sold to the council the students' plans for the day, found guilty, and unmercifully cudgelled.

Students' Doxology.

The students' doxology was sung as follows:—  
 God bless our 'Varsity,  
 This Alma Mater, we  
 Cherish and grace.  
 Long may her students stand,  
 United heart and hand,  
 Powerful in this our land;  
 God save the King.  
 Let strife and enmity  
 Vanish and cease to be  
 Within our walls.  
 Lend us Thy countenance,  
 Our loyalty to enhance,  
 Our glory and defence;  
 God save the King!

One could be rather sarcastic at the expense of the students in connection with the line "Cherish and grace." They might cherish their Alma Mater, although they have an extraordinary way of showing it to the public; but they certainly do not grace a fair University or treat its head with the courtesy which one gentleman has a right to expect from others.

—A Wild Farce.—

The following skit on "Hamlet" entitled "Onclette" was presented in character in a wildly farcical manner, while the voice of the prompter was heard throughout:—  
 First Gravedigger—Is he to have decent burial, that willfully seeks his own salvation?  
 Second G.—I tell thee No. The Coroner hath set on him, and that setteth it.  
 First G.—How can that be, seeing this is a British land?  
 Second G.—Why, the Coroner hath found it so.  
 First G.—It must be the latter is the offender; it cannot be else, for here lies the point. If I remove my skull myself wittingly, it argues an act, but an act requires thought. But if my skull be removed how can I think? Therefore he removeth not his skull himself.  
 Second G.—But is this law?  
 First G.—Ay, marry, it is Coroner's Law.  
 Second G.—Will you have the truth of it? If this man's friends had been consulted he should have had decent burial.  
 First G.—Why, there thou say'st it, and the more pity that the great folks should have countenance in this city to despoil the bodies of their fellow-Christians. Come, my spade, there be no man safe unless he be taken to the Crematorium and there disposed of.  
 (Enter Hamlet and Horatio.)  
 First G. (sings)—  
 But greed with his stealthy steps  
 Hath boned me from head to feet,  
 And hath shipped me over the sea  
 As if I were frozen meat.  
 (Throws up bones.)  
 Hamlet—Those bones had a skull to them once and could a tale unfold. It may be a skeleton of a member of the Labour Party, who hath been thus o'erreached and dismembered.  
 Horatio—It might, my lord.  
 Hamlet—Why, e'en so, and now headless in a desecrated grave, here's a line revelation, and we had the trick to see 't. Did this man's body cost no more the breathing but to be thus dismembered? Mind advise to think on 't.  
 Horatio—What knave think you hath done this?  
 Hamlet—Hum—the fellow might be in his time an enquirer into the death of men with his inquests, his juries, his fines, his verdicts. Is this the meet exercise of his authority to recover for his own use bodice entrusted to his care for decent burial? The very skull of this corpse which hath passed through his hands no longer lies in your box. I will speak of this gravedigging fellow. What man dost thou dig this grave for, sirrah?  
 First G.—For no man, sir.  
 Hamlet—Who then's to be buried in't?  
 First G.—One that was once a king, sir, but, rest his soul, he's dead.  
 Hamlet—Who was he?  
 First G.—A blackfellow. He was by name Tommy Walker, the Aboriginal King.  
 Hamlet—Alas! poor Tommy; I knew him, Horatio. A fellow of infinite jest, a fellow of many wives, whose many flashes of merriment were wont to set the Police Court in a roar. Where be your bones now, your limbs, your skull? Not one left now to mark your last resting place. Quite boneless, to what base uses we may return? Why not in my imagination trace the noble skeleton of Tommy till I find it adorning a shop window? Tommy died. Tommy was supposed to have been buried. Of his skeleton some one took a loan, and why? For that loan for which he was convicted might they not exact the reparation?  
 Imperial Tommy, dead and turned to clay,  
 Adorn a case in Scotland far away;  
 Oh, that a king should fall so low at last,  
 Who ruled this country in the days now past.  
 (Exeunt omnes.)

Just before 3 o'clock the graduates, the members of the council and senate, and staff, in the academic costume proper to their respective degrees and offices, marched on to the platform. The Chancellor of the University (Right Hon. Sir Samuel

Way) presided. The strains of the national anthem rang out from the organ, and His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte) mounted the platform, bowed to the Chancellor, and took his seat. The boys sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."

—Topical Verses.—

As each candidate was admitted to his or her degree the students at the back of the hall sang a topical verse to a well-known air. There have been times when some of such verses were clever and witty; but the efforts of this year's poetasters had generally melancholy results. Most of them therefore are omitted. For the benefit of Mr. James Leslie Gordon, LL.B., the Stow scholar, have been written these words, set to the air of "Maiden with the dreamy eyes":—  
 Have you ever heard of Leslie? He's a frightfully clever chap,  
 But he's not a pretty sight to see.  
 The Law Debate will miss him, but he doesn't care a rap.  
 He's taking his degree,  
 And where'er there's trouble brewing and your neighbour talks of suing,  
 Go to J. L. (goal) and keep renewing your acquaintance with Les. G.  
 Chorus—  
 There are those who stew, there are loafers too,  
 But of scholars like Les, Gordon there are few,  
 And we admire, with his fourth Stow Prize,  
 He will not ignore a Judgeship nor a few bob rise.

—Medical Men.—

As an introduction to the candidates for medicine the students warbled—  
 Well man, sick man, dead man, stiff!  
 Cut 'em up, chop 'em up, what's the diff?  
 Humorous, tumorous, blood and gore,  
 Adelaide medicals for evermore!  
 Dr. T. G. Wilson, M.D., University of Sydney, who was admitted an eudem gradum, was received with the following verse:—

I'm Dr. T. G. Wilson,  
 Immaculate am I;  
 Shiny is my top hat,  
 New are my gloves and tie,  
 So gather round, ye patients,  
 'Tis seldom you do see  
 Such a multitude of virtues  
 As are in this T. G.

The Chancellor—in this venture to suggest to my musical friends at the other end of the room that they would kindly allow the Dean to finish the presentation, and then we could hear the whole of the music before I confer the degree.

Dr. Ramsay Smith, M.B., University of Edinburgh, was then presented.  
 Somebody at the back cried out—"Are you ready, Sammy?" (Loud laughter.)  
 The boys then sang to the air "John Brown's body":—

A bit of Tommy Walker lies a'mouldering in the ground,  
 A bit of Tommy Walker is nowhere to be found;  
 The skull of Tommy Walker was once sent homeward bound,  
 But his soul goes marching on.

Glory, glory to the Coroner,  
 The pious-minded, law-abiding Coroner,  
 But alas! for any poor foreigner  
 Who gets out in S.A.

Constance May Cooper, Rupert Eric Magarey, and Alfred Francis Stokes were greeted respectively as follows:—

Heading the list of so many,  
 First over the Fifth year fence;  
 Either girls are astoundingly brainy,  
 Or blokes are astoundingly dense.  
 Make room now for Rupert Magarey,  
 The man with the military "mo."  
 He has to appease "Little Mary."  
 So earning his grub he must go.  
 Do you hear that distant commotion?  
 That's Stokes clambering up for his prize,  
 When he heard of his final promotion,  
 He swooned in his wondrous surprise.  
 The Everard scholar (May Constance Cooper) was favoured with this verse to the air "Dolly Grey":—  
 Goodby, Conco, you must leave us,  
 Tho' it breaks our hearts, you know,  
 Something tells us you are needed  
 At the Hospital down below.  
 Hark! I hear the niggers calling,  
 How hungry they must be,  
 Their appetite for missionary is appalling,  
 Goodby, fair Conco!

—Arts.—  
 These verses are extracted:—  
 Annie Lane, M.A.  
 Give it best, Annie, give it best, do;  
 All the Prof's wives are jealous of you;  
 Hubby's poor heart you set in a whirl,  
 For you're not quite the model for a student girl.  
 —Emily Milvain Good, LL.B.  
 Lo! here a maiden, how refined,  
 Knead her accent, eminent her mind;  
 Good is her name, as you deservy,  
 Yet she'll improve it by-and-by.

Cara Helen Padman, LL.B.  
 'Twas just a year ago to-day, we all remember well,  
 That brother Edward went away, and left us slater Nell;  
 She's gruffed hard at musty Greek and Latin all the year,  
 Now she's a B.A., and no more for Betsy shows her fear,  
 For good old Nell has done her best,  
 She now has her degree,  
 And if she does not take a rest,  
 She'll soon be M.A.(D.).

THE WINNERS OF THE ROBY FLETCHER PRIZE.  
 Stella Mary Churchward and Sophia Ellen Holder (equal).  
 Stella Mary wants a better 'Varsity than this,  
 To reform the rowdy student and the forward little miss.  
 To revise Australian slang, and abolish the verb "to kiss,"  
 And Churchward send us all.

—Science.—  
 Victor Garfield Martin.  
 When you've muddled in the stops, when you've trucked along the drive,  
 When you've finished dodging mighty falls of earth,  
 Will you grant us your attention, if still you are alive?  
 Well: our chief, he flatters you for all he's worth!  
 You were ticing at Block 10, and your muscles they are fine,  
 And you've left a lot of broken hearts behind you;  
 Though decked with sulphide dust in grafting down the mine,  
 Always bright and cheerful will the ladies find you.  
 Chorus—  
 Martin, Martin, you are a mining man,  
 Six feet one of sterling worth, working at Broken Hill.  
 But we don't believe you're a bachelor still,  
 And that you never went on the spree,  
 For we know what the mining student is like in dungaree.

Brian Brock Bayly.  
 All the year did Brian workee,  
 Allee nightee long;  
 Now his B.Sc. he takes,  
 Sincee happy song,  
 Soon he go to West Australia,  
 Welly far away,  
 There in battery golden ores he  
 Grindee all the day.  
 Chorus—  
 Chin, Chin, pretty girls, muchee, muchee, sad,  
 They afraid marriage trade velly, velly, bad,  
 Noee joke, mining bloke, soon the Bight must cross,  
 Pleee muchee radee girl mourn his loss.

THE TATE MEDALLIST.  
 Herbert Basedow (discoverer of the famous Cockroach Basedowns).  
 From the far north, where no togs the natives wear,  
 Not long ago came a cockroach fat and rare;  
 Weird was its form, and in its future we shall know  
 This perfumed stranger by the name of "Basedow."  
 It's coming, it's coming, so perhaps we'd better go,  
 'Tis ever best to shun the Cockroach "Basedow."

—Benediction.—  
 God bless our noble land,  
 And send us Jurisprudence,  
 And bless His Noblest Band on Earth;  
 The Adelaide 'Varsity students.  
 The programme was dated "The Home for Incurables." There is another well-known public institution in the same district. Can a mistake have been made?

COMMEMORATION DINNER.  
 The annual dinner in connection with the University commemoration was held at the South Australian Hotel on Wednesday evening. There was a large gathering, which included members of the Council, members of the Senate, professors, and graduates. Professor Stirling, C.M.G., presided, and was supported by His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), the Premier (Hon. J. G. Jenkins), the Treasurer (Hon. R. Butler), the Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. T. Bruce), the Hon. G. Bryckman, M.L.C., Rev. H. Girdlestone, Professor Bragg, and Mr. T. A. Caterer. Apologies were received from the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor. The committee consisted of Professors Bragg, Mitchell, Henderson, and Ennis, Drs. J. B. Gunson and Cudmore, Messrs. J. G. R. Murray, J. Henderson, W. R. Bayly, and R. W. Bennett, and the secretary (Mr. T. A. Caterer).

The loyal toast having been musically honoured, the Chairman submitted the toast of "His Excellency the Governor—University visitor, our fellow-graduate, and our friend all round." He referred to the great esteem in which Sir George was held by all South Australians.  
 His Excellency, in returning thanks, expressed his pleasure at being connected with the University. He was proud to be a member of the committee which selected the Rhodes Scholar, and was exceedingly glad to hear that the selection had been a popular one, and had met with general approval. He was certain that the committee would always do their duty by selecting the most suitable man, irrespective of popularity. (Cheers.) It was satisfactory to South Australia to know that her scholar had won what was known as the educational blue ribbon of Oxford by being admitted to Babol College. In his travels through the State he had been struck with the high educational standard in the schools, and he was pleased to see the strong bond that was being formed between

the Educational Department and the University. (Hear, hear.) The more advantages that were given by the University, and the more that seized those advantages, the better it was for the State. He hoped that his connection with the University—official, academic, and private—might be long and lasting. (Cheers.)  
 The Premier, in a humorous speech, submitted "The University of Adelaide." They wanted to train practical, commercial, and agricultural people, as well as professionals. That was why he was glad to see the University extending its scope. (Hear, hear.)  
 Professor Bragg responded. They wished the University to be a reference book for the State. They wanted to train the young people for all professions and occupations, and to help them to make their way in the world. (Hear, hear.)  
 The Rev. H. Girdlestone proposed the health of "The guests."  
 The Mayor returned thanks, and remarked that all South Australians were proud of their University. The State was particularly fortunate in having such excellent educational institutions. For many years the Adelaide University had stood pre-eminent among those in the Australian States. (Hear, hear.)  
 Mr. Maurice Chenoweth sang "The message" (Blumenthal) and "Trust and be true" (Bevan). Mr. Eugene Alderman gave a violin solo.

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UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION.

FASHION AND FRIVOLITY.

The commemoration in connection with the University of Adelaide was held in the Elder Hall on Wednesday afternoon, when the gathering was at once the most classical and one of the most fashionable of the year. The doors were opened at 2 o'clock, and all the ticket-holders seemed to come early for the purpose of hearing the students' programme. As usual the young men took charge of the proceedings, and again were unable to muster sufficient courtesy to give their Chancellor a fair hearing. The commemoration was in consequence robbed of much of its interest, because when the actual conferring of degrees is reduced to a dumb ceremony as an incident to a third-rate Christy minstrel entertainment, it becomes monotonous and trying in the extreme. On the right of the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) His Excellency the Governor occupied a seat, and among those who had prominent places in the hall were Lady Way, the Premier (Hon. J. G. Jenkins), the Treasurer (Hon. R. Butler), and the Mayor and Mayoress of Adelaide (Mr. and Mrs. T. Bruce). Upon the platform were members of the Senate and Council of the University, the staff, candidates for degrees and certificates, and others entitled to sit there, and as each one wore an academic costume the brilliancy of the scene may easily be imagined. The presentation of candidates was dovetailed between the students' programme of song and uproar, which is dealt with elsewhere.

—Law.—  
 The Dean of the Faculty of Law (Mr. G. J. R. Murray) presented to the Chancellor candidates for degrees in laws, and the winners of prizes and scholarships:—  
 For the Degree of Bachelor of Laws—James Leslie Gordon, Herbert Kingsley Paine, Charles Augustus Edmunds.

The Stow Prizemen—James Leslie Gordon, Herbert Kingsley Paine, Marmion Matthews Bray.  
 The Stow Scholar—James Leslie Gordon. The Chancellor, to Mr. Gordon, remarked:—The Stow Scholarship has been taken three times already during the past 20 years. This is the fourth time it has been awarded, but it has never hitherto been won with so much distinction. The regulations of the scholarship require that the winner shall be the Stow prizeman in three successive years. Mr. Gordon fulfilled these conditions a year ago, and for the first time in the history of the University he has been Stow prizeman for four successive years. Successes like these are a sure augury of a career of distinction, and His Excellency the Governor has consented to present Mr. Gordon with the gold medal he has so deservedly won.

His Excellency presented the medal and welcomed "another member of a distinguished family."  
 The Chancellor complimented Mr. Paine on having taken a Stow prize in two years of his undergraduate course.

—Medicine.—  
 The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine (Dr. Anstey Giles) presented candidates for degrees in medicine and surgery, and the winners of prizes and scholarships:—  
 Ad Eudem Gradum—Thomas George Wilson, M.D. (University of Sydney); William Ramsay Smith, M.B. (University of Edinburgh).

For the Degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery—Constance May Cooper, Malcolm Leslie Scott, Renfrey Gershon Burnard, Rupert Eric Magarey, Alfred Francis Stokes, Phoebe Crippie, B.Sc. (in absentia).  
 The Winner of the Elder Prize—Henry Kenneth Fry (student in medicine of the second year).

The Dr. Davies Thomas Scholars—William Ray (student of the third year), William Morgan Hunn (student of the fourth year).  
 The Everard Scholar—Constance May Cooper.

The Chancellor remarked that he was sorry Miss Crippie was not present to receive her degree. She was the sixth member of the same family to graduate at the University. He congratulated Mr. Fry on having won the Elder prize for the second time, and referred to Miss Cooper as the most distinguished student of the fifth year in the medical school.

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