

Advertiser 29th Oct. 1903

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UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

DR. PARKIN HONORED.

LL.D. DEGREE CONFERRED.

A special congregation of the University of Adelaide was held in the theatre of the Prince of Wales' wing on Wednesday afternoon for the purpose of conferring the ad eundem degree of doctor of laws on Dr. G. R. Parkin, the representative of the trustees of the estate of the late Mr. Cecil Rhodes.

The Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) presided over a large attendance, and was supported by his Excellency the Governor and Dr. Barlow (Vice-Chancellor).

The Chancellor offered a hearty welcome to the University to his Excellency the Governor. (Cheers.) The council of the University had felt that they could not allow Dr. Parkin to leave the State without giving expression to their appreciation of the manner in which he had given effect to the intention of the late Mr. Rhodes in connection with the scholarships provided for in his will.

Professor Salmoud presented Dr. Parkin to the Chancellor, who conferred the degree. The Chancellor then presented the "junior graduate of our University" to his Excellency, while the audience loudly applauded.

Dr. Parkin, in the course of an interesting address, mentioned that Mr. Rhodes held during his lifetime that education was the great link for bringing nations together. After paying a glowing tribute to the memory of Mr. Rhodes, and referring to the great work done by him in Africa, he asked his audience to imagine the man, who after having done so much for Africa and Imperialism, had projected himself on the whole future of the Anglo-Saxon race by the gift of £200,000 per annum, to be handed over for management to some of the clearest and strongest heads of the Empire to be used for the good of the future generations in a continuous series of scholarships. In Cecil Rhodes they had a man whose mind operated on larger lines than that of almost any man of recent times. In his large outlook the solidarity, not alone of the Empire, but of mankind had a place. It became to him more and more an object that the peace of the world should be maintained. Looking to that offshoot of the British race, the United States of America, he had observed its astounding development in manufactures, invention, and everything tending to material power. The thought had impressed itself upon him that if the British Empire and the United States of America could understand each other they had in their hands the future of the world's peace. Believing that education was the greatest bond between nations he had conceived the idea of forging from it the binding links of international peace. He argued that if it did not tend to bring about pacific relations nothing else could do so. In referring to the Mixed Colonial and University Conference, Dr. Parkin said he believed that its scheme of co-ordinating the work of all the English and colonial universities, was pregnant with immense results. It would be of vast benefit, for instance, that Australians should pass on to the universities of Canada, where the conditions of life and political environment were dissimilar in many respects from those of the Commonwealth. The same thing would be true of Canadians coming to Australian universities. By passing on from one centre to another a broader outlook was secured. He also referred to the scheme of Mr. Sargent, Director of Education in the Transvaal, for an educational council of the Empire. Was it good to send an Australian to Oxford? He had heard the question asked. He remembered being "dropped down at Oxford" when he was 25 years of age, and there he was brought into contact with such men as Ruskin, Liddon, Jowett, Dean Stanley, and others. It was no small thing to stand face to face with a company of such men as these. They must remember that the universities of England had turned out a succession of men of a purely literary type. Men who had moved the world were a pretty steady product of these universities. They were not, however, the greatest types of Oxford and Cambridge men. To his mind the literary statesmen were the greatest product; the men who to-day had their hands on the helm of the State and tomorrow would be writing a book. Lord Salisbury, Mr. Gladstone, Lord Rosebery, Bryce, Morley, Balfour, a dozen such names would at once occur to them. He would ask, did they want to be amongst these men? Did they want to breathe the atmosphere which produced them? Had they any space for such men in Australia? (Laughter.) Canadians and Australians wanted more than anything else the perspective which would save them from narrow provincialism, and give to them the breadth and range of the larger world. He had recently met at 15 centres of the United States members of the greatest educational men of America. One result of this tour had been that he had been more than ever impressed with the possibility of consolidating the British Empire. He found that in America State-feeling ran high, but wherever a truly great national question arose State feeling was merged in the desire to preserve the honor and welfare of the Union. Then the people became Americans, and not State partisans. The same thing would apply to the British Empire. There might be intense Australian feeling, or Canadian enthusiasm, but underlying this there was the development of national power to be used for the good of the world. This was sometimes called a materialistic age, and so it was from the standpoint of huge industrial development; but along with this there were some wonderful features. It was found that when the successful men of commerce had piled up their millions they asked University men to spend the money for them in developing the higher thought and aspirations of mankind. They had discovered that there was something better than material success. He believed that ultimately the influence of the Rhodes scholars would be felt throughout the English-speaking communities and other like influences would create such an atmosphere that it would be impossible for passion or prejudice to give the necessary extent to draw the divergent divisions of the Anglo-Saxon world into war with each other. (Cheers.)

DR. PARKIN AT THE UNIVERSITY.

The ad eundem degree of Doctor of Laws of the Adelaide University was on Wednesday afternoon conferred upon Dr. G. R. Parkin, C.M.G., the distinguished Canadian visitor to Australia in connection with the Rhodes scholarship scheme. Sir Samuel Way, Chancellor of the University, who presided, referred to the work done on behalf of imperial federation by the visitor, and also to his book, "The Life and Letters of Edward Thring," which he regarded as a classic equal to "The Life of Arnold, of Rugby." Sir Samuel was heartily cheered when, in introducing Dr. Parkin to his Excellency, he intimated that the University hoped shortly to have the pleasure of conferring one of its degrees upon Sir George Le Hunt. Dr. Parkin afterwards gave an interesting address, in the course of which he outlined some of the advantages of a course at Oxford.

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"THE ATHENS OF AUSTRALIA."

Dr. Parkin remarked during his speech to the Adelaide University students on Wednesday that, speaking in all sincerity, and with no desire to flatter, he considered Adelaide one of the most beautiful and one of the most highly favored cities he had seen in the course of his travels through America and round the British Empire. He referred to its lovely circle of hills, its broad belt of park lands, its splendid educational institutions, its charming Botanical Gardens, to the liberality of its wealthy citizens, and to the native intelligence of its people. Residents of Adelaide, he said, might travel all over the world without finding any reason to lose their admiration

for their own home. They were "citizens of no mean city," and they could without difficulty, if they proceeded in the future as they had done in the past, make Adelaide "the Athens of Australia."

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OBITUARY.

SIR HERBERT OAKELEY.

Sir Herbert Stanley Oakeley, Mus.Doc., the eminent musical professor and composer, whose death is announced at the age of seventy-three, was the second son of the late Sir Herbert Oakeley, third Baronet, by his marriage with Atholl Murray, daughter of Lord Charles Murray and granddaughter of the third Duke of Atholl. He was born at Ealing on July 20, 1830, and was educated at Rugby, and at Christ Church, Oxford, graduating in 1853, and proceeding M.A. in due course. After graduating he proceeded to the Continent, to continue his musical studies, and at Leipzig took lessons in piano-forte playing from Professors Moschelles and Plaidy, and at Bonn in organ playing, from Dr. Breidenstein, Professor of Music in the University; and, later, studied under Dr. Johann Schneider, of Dresden. He was for some time Director of Music at St. Paul's Church, Edinburgh; and in 1865, on the death of Professor Donaldson, he was elected Professor of Music in the University of Edinburgh, filling the Chair till 1891, and receiving from the Archbishop of Canterbury the degree of Mus.D. in 1871. Upon his retirement from the active duties of the Chair, and taking the position of Emeritus Professor, he received the LL.D. degree from the University. The honours which he received for his musical services were very great. So early as 1864 he had been enrolled in Rome as a member of a Society of "Quirites." In 1876 Trinity College, Toronto, awarded him the D.C.L. degree; and the same year the honour of Knighthood was conferred upon him at Holyrood, upon the occasion of the unveiling at Edinburgh of the memorial to the Prince Consort, in recognition of his musical services to Scotland. In 1879 his own University conferred upon him its Mus.Doc. degree; in 1881 Aberdeen created him LL.D., and in 1885 a D.C.L.; in 1887 the University of Dublin awarded him its Mus.D. degree, and in 1888 St. Andrews followed suit; while Edinburgh University created him a Honorary Mus.D. in 1899, the University of Adelaide having given him a similar degree before. Sir Herbert Oakeley was composer in Scotland to her late Majesty and to the King from 1881, and to his influence is, in a considerable measure, to be attributed the great advances which have taken place in musical education in Scotland, including the foundation of Students' Choral Associations at each of the Scottish Universities. Sir Herbert Oakeley had composed a large number of anthems, an album of 25 songs, dedicated to her late Majesty, a full service, a Jubilee Lyric, and some students' songs, besides a number of hymn tunes, chants, &c. The funeral will take place at 2.30 this afternoon, at Eastbourne Parish Church. The hymns, "Saviour, Blessed Saviour," and "Sun of My Soul" will be sung to the late composer's own music.

THE RHODES IDEAL.

If the Rhodes scholarships accomplish the designs which their generous founder had in his mind, according to the interpretation given yesterday by Dr. Parkin at the Adelaide University—and no one is better fitted to speak on the subject than he—an element making for the ultimate peace, not only of the Anglo-Saxon peoples, but of the world, has had its initiation in the scheme. Education was regarded by the great statesman as the bond best calculated, not only to secure the stability of the British Empire, but also to promote friendship between nations racially related. In the later developments of civilization there are at least some identical interests, among communities that are totally dissimilar in general policy and ordinary manner of life and occupation. A wider knowledge of national aspiration and a deeper insight into the motives which actuate conduct may well be expected to produce a sympathy and forbearance which will make hasty action less probable in cases of irritation than it would be under other circumstances. Although the continual operation of the Rhodes scholarships must inevitably, in some measure, assist in securing this end, the great South African statesman was avowedly looking more particularly to other aspects of the work for securing the peace of the world when he initiated a system of spreading British ideals by making the highest University life of Great Britain available to selected representatives of the Anglo-Saxon and Teutonic nations. He believed, as most thoughtful statesmen are coming to believe, that the future destiny of the world will be largely determined by the British Empire and the United States, provided some permanent bond of unity can be forged between them. In territory, wealth, influence, and power these two countries already head the list of nations, and there are reasons innumerable why they should be linked together for the maintenance of mutual advantages and for facilitating the progress of the entire human family. The scheme is devised in the hope also that it may become one means of establishing and maintaining close and friendly relations with Germany. An alliance of these three Powers would be too formidable for any other conceivable combination to treat with disrespect. To be in a position practically to hold the key of events is no small matter, and when justice and liberal breadth of view can be assured it will surely augur well for the future if between these three related communities such an understanding can be brought about as will give to them authority to dictate conditions to weaker and less responsible Powers in times of excitement and national emergency. "The pen is mightier than the sword," and widely disseminated knowledge, and a liberality of mind such as English University life induces, may create conditions in which the pen will have its fullest power for good. International disputes cannot be satisfactorily adjusted by the barbarous system of resorting to contests of physical force. No guarantee of the triumph of the cause of truth and righteousness can be obtained under the rule of might alone. Education as the promoter of peace has never yet been tried systematically on any extensive scale. If as the result of the better knowledge which the scholarships will promote, friendly relations can be more easily maintained amongst nations controlling the course of history, and their co-operation in the highest offices of civilization can be secured, the late Mr. Rhodes will be gratefully remembered as one of those whose benefactions to the race are of enduring value.