

Reg. 30th July. 1903.

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EDUCATION.

To the Editor.

Sir—In an interjection addressed to the Hon. J. H. Vardon, and in his speech on the Address-in-reply, the Minister of Education stated that the Government are training their teachers for nothing, and implied that the small salaries now paid in the first years after training to teachers are due to the increased cost of training. In justice to many young men, and for the sake of truth, may I be allowed space to reply to these statements?

1. The Minister apparently wishes members to think that the Government are bearing the increased cost; yet the Chancellor of the University says that the University has been able to give this education absolutely free of cost to the department, and this has been possible, not through any extra help of the Government, but through the munificence of such men as the late Sir William Hughes and Sir Thomas Elder. Is it not true that, without the aid of such men, we should possibly have had no University? Certainly, it seems that all students of medicine, law, science, or arts share the benefits derived from them. Are they penalized in after life for this?

2. The Minister states that it costs the department £200 to train a teacher, but neglects entirely the work done by the teacher while in training. Let me briefly state the case of a young friend of mine, who entered that profession seven or eight years ago. This young man served one year as an unpaid monitor, during which period the whole of his time was devoted to school work. He next spent four years in teaching a class of 60 children by day, and studying at night. Taking the average yearly cost of education per child as £2 5/ (approx.), this young man's work was equivalent to 60 x 4 x 2 = £540; yet he received in those years the "magnificent" sums of £20, £30, £40, and £50, or £140, leaving a balance of £400 in his favour. On the successful completion of these four years, dependent on good reports, and the passing of yearly examinations, necessitating hard study until late at night after a fatiguing day, he studied for two years at the University—studying not alone for his own benefit but for the benefit of the system for which he exists. He now finds that he is called upon to fulfil a responsible position as assistant at the salary of £80, less £8—£72. Hitherto he fully anticipated receiving £100 on being classified; so that, should he remain in the department 20 years, he loses £20 x £20, or £400. Thus it will be seen if, as the Minister says, it costs £200 to train a teacher, the department has benefited to the extent of £400 during training, less some small amount paid as maintenance while at the University, and £400 in years to come. Further, the Minister says a teacher is paid £90 after training; but this is not so. On the contrary, he does not earn this until in his third year as a classified assistant, his salaries in those years being £80, £88, and £98. Thus, in his tenth year of service, he is not earning £100 a year, which under the old system he would have earned in his sixth year. The Minister also neglects the amount deducted for superannuation and railway expenses necessary to an appointment some miles away from home. Is it not a fact that in some cases classified male assistants, who receive by regulation £80 per annum, have £8 deducted for superannuation; and have also to pay £8 per annum as railway fares, leaving £64 per annum for board and lodging, and all other expenses?

Does the Minister know anything of the arduous nature of the tasks these young men have to perform, disciplining not less than an average number of 70 boys, with such aids as corporal punishment and detention after hours almost entirely done away, and with an exacting inspector requiring high results? Will he not, in justice to many young men, enquire more fully into their case?

I am, Sir, &c., TRUTH.

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THE ELDER STATUE.

UNVEILED BY THE GOVERNOR.

A GREAT GATHERING.

Months of delay in the arrival of the statue purchased by patriotic citizens of Adelaide to perpetuate the memory of the late Sir Thomas Elder only served to make the unveiling ceremony the more successful. Cold and bleak as the weather was, a surprisingly large crowd gathered on the Conservatorium lawn on Wednesday afternoon to catch a glimpse of the handsome monument. The proceedings were most enthusiastic, and the cheers which rent the air when His Excellency pulled the strings which controlled the drapery of the memorial left no doubt regarding the wisdom of subscribers in choosing this means of doing honour to the departed knight. The history of the movement may be summed up in a few sentences. Sir Thomas Elder had not long been laid in his last resting place—in March, 1897—when a number of citizens, headed by the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way), decided to recognize in some lasting manner the services which the knight had rendered to the state. The committee—Sir Samuel Way (Chairman), Sir E. T. Smith (treasurer), and Messrs. John Meule (secretary), J. Darling, M.P., David Murray, C. Wilcox, A. G. Downer, and H. C. E. Muecke—collected the necessary subscriptions, and gave Mr. A. Drury, who was subsequently made an R.A., the order to make a bronze "herm" of Sir Thomas. An anonymous donor thereupon generously supplied the cash for a pedestal of Scotch granite.

—The Statue.—

The statue is 9 ft. high, and is a magnificent piece of work. It is in the centre of the lawn in front of the Conservatorium of Music. The spot was selected by the committee as one of the most prominent in Adelaide, and as it was close to the University, towards which Sir Thomas Elder contributed so handsomely. The pedestal stands 12 ft. in height, and is of Aberdeen marble. In the statue Sir Thomas Elder is depicted standing erect, in morning dress, with one hand on his hip and the other clutching the flap of his coat near to the shoulder. On the pedestal are four panels. The front bears the inscription—

Sir Thomas Elder,  
G.C.M.G.,  
1817-1897.

The remaining three are emblematic of Sir Thomas Elder's whole life—representing art, exploration, and benevolence. All of these panels are the work and design of Mr. Drury.

—The Ceremony.—

The lawn was crowded long before the ceremony was timed to start. A few minutes prior to the hour a squad of 'Varsity students, blowing tin whistles like souls possessed, put in an appearance, and rehearsed the national anthem. His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), accompanied by his private secretary (Hon. Victor Nelson Hood), arrived punctually at 3 o'clock, and was escorted to a dais in front of the statue, facing North terrace. The Premier and members of the committee also occupied seats on the platform.

The Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way, Bart.) said that the committee who had been entrusted with the task of erecting a monument to their late patriotic fellow-citizen Sir Thomas Elder had now completed their work. His Excellency's predecessor (Sir Fowell Buxton) had presided at a public meeting at which it had been arranged that the statue should be erected. Then His Excellency's immediate predecessor (Lord Tennyson) had taken a warm interest in the work, and the committee and the subscribers all felt that they could not do greater honour to Sir Thomas Elder's memory than by requesting Sir George Le Hunte to unveil the monument. He was sure that His Excellency would find it a congenial task. (Cheers.)

After students of the Elder Conservatorium had sung the "Song of Australia" His Excellency performed the unveiling ceremony amid rousing cheers.

—The Governor's Speech.—

His Excellency said that they had met to add the final scene to the honour in which the memory of the late Sir Thomas Elder was held throughout the length and breadth of South Australia and in this great city. (Cheers.) It would not be necessary for him to refer in detail to that great man's life, as they all knew it; but on this occasion it was his right and duty to mention some of the munificent actions of the knight. It was 85 years ago since Sir Thomas Elder was born, and he was a child of that great northern country which had for centuries been the home of many of the best and steadiest forces of character—Scotland. It was almost 50 years since the knight left his native land and came to our shores, and no sooner had he come here than that tremendous force of character which was his began to be felt in every direction. They all knew that he took up exploration enterprise and equipped the Warburton, Gosse, Giles, and Lindsay expeditions, that went away into the distant interior of the far north. Should he call them the sleepers of that great line which he hoped to see before long joining the north of Australia to the south? (Cheers.) It was the great work of these men that was going to bear fruit now.

Sir Thomas Elder was an eminently practical man; and, seeing the difficulties that would attach to an ordinary party equipped with ordinary means, solved the problem by introducing and using camels in the expeditions. The result of these explorations enabled him to launch out his energy in the direction of the great pastoral interests. He took up vast tracts of land and helped to open up and develop them. He foresaw difficulties in the way of drought and want of water, and signalized his work by the institution of tanks and wells for irrigation. Fortunately for him and them, his enterprise proved more than successful. He did not, however, confine himself to the pastoral industry, but turned his attention to mining; and there again the practical result of his work brought wealth to him. And how did he use that wealth? It was not buried in the ground like the unused talent. Let them look around. They saw the result of Sir Thomas Elder's liberality of mind and hand in every direction. Education, art, culture, music, medicine, and religion—all these he put his hand to. But he did not stop at the larger and higher things. Nothing was too small for him. The relief of the destitute and a home for the working man equally claimed his attention. (Cheers.) With the late Sir Walter Hughes he was one of the original founders of the Adelaide University, which bore such a good name throughout Australia and outside. He instituted the chair of music and the school of music, and his gifts to the University during his life and after amounted to over £100,000. He also founded the scholarship of music in London, of which musical students were now reaping the advantage. Again, he did not stop there. He associated himself with every interest. He was one of the Presidents of the Acclimatization Society, and helped the pretty Zoological Gardens with gifts of valuable animals. Sport, too, received his assistance. He formed a valuable racing stud, and imported some of the best and most costly horses from England. Nor was his sport confined to the land, for he was President of the Glenelg Yacht Club, and his beautiful yacht graced our waters. He would quote a few figures to show how Sir Thomas Elder's great wealth came to be distributed for the benefit of all. He gave £103,000 to the Adelaide University, £20,000 for the medical school,

£20,000 for the chair of music, £25,000 for the Art Gallery for the purchase of pictures, £36,000 to churches and charitable institutions, £25,000 to found workmen's homes, and £2,000 each to the Geographical and Acclimatization Societies. (Cheers.) Was there any subject of interest that did not come within the boundary of that list? And now for the statue itself—this statue they had given to the state. They knew that in the old days it was the custom to put statues in the Roman temples in order to do honour to men who were living, as well as the dead. They were thus enabled by a gallery of busts and statues to perpetuate the memory of those whom they honoured. When somebody referred to the fact that no bust or statue was erected to his honour the Roman Marcus Cato replied, "I would much rather that one after me should say 'Why had he not a statue?' than 'Why had he a statue?'" This statue was the work of art of Mr. A. Drury, R.A., the great sculptor of London. It had cost altogether—including its beautiful pedestal, the gift of an anonymous and generous donor—£1,000. It was one of which they might be proud, and of which their children after them might well be proud. (Cheers.) It faced North terrace, where it was surrounded by works of art of all descriptions; it faced the church in which Sir Thomas took so large and practical an interest; and it faced the city. On the sides they would find beautiful panels emblematic of culture and the arts and exploration. The statue had been erected—and carefully and successfully erected—by the skilled hands of Mr. Naish to whom they owed their thanks. He wished that the duty he had just performed had been in some other hands, and had been entrusted to one who had known the subject, Sir Thomas Elder. He could only say, in conclusion, that the statue had, as it were, engraven a number of impressions

on his mind. When he looked at it he saw force of energy and enterprise; dignity and industry; the man striving after the ideal in culture and in art; the practical Christian, the exemplification of the charity that was preached in the Sermon on the Mount; the Good Samaritan bringing relief and rescue to the wanderer; and, lastly, the good centurion who served his God and state, whose introduction to his Master was—"He has loved our country and built us a synagogue." (Cheers.)

—Vote of Thanks.—

The Premier (Hon. J. G. Jenkins) proposed a hearty vote of thanks to His Excellency. It was needless for him to say anything in reference to the gifts for which this state and country were indebted to Sir Thomas Elder. They were practically surrounded by monuments of his generosity. (Cheers.) He was exceedingly pleased that His Excellency had unveiled the statue, and he should like to say that they all felt that they had in Sir George Le Hunte a representative of whom they might indeed be proud. He took the deepest interest in everything connected with the state, and gave them admirable speeches. (Cheers.)

Sir Edwin Smith seconded. This was the happy consummation of a work with which he and others had been closely associated for the past few years—a work which was appreciated not only by the subscribers, but by the public of South Australia generally. (Cheers.) This statue had been erected in honour of the memory of one who had done so much in his day and generation for the state in placing it on a sound and sure foundation. Generations yet unborn would praise the memory of Sir Thomas Elder, who had been the means of giving to them so many advantages. At no distant date he hoped to present a statement of the receipts and expenditure of the movement, and the subscribers especially would be pleased to know that they had ample funds at the bankers to meet all liabilities. (Cheers.) But to return to the motion. South Australia had been very fortunate in its succession of Governors. Each one seemed to vie with his predecessors in doing his best to serve his sovereign and the people. They had an ideal Governor now, and thanked Sir George for performing the ceremony that day. (Cheers.)

Three hearty cheers having been given for His Excellency, the Conservatorium students led in the singing of "God save the King," after which the gathering dispersed.

—The Sculptor's Life.—

Alfred Drury, R.A., is about 45 years of age. Born in the provinces, where he attended the School of Art, he achieved such success in the National Art Competitions that he received about 1875 a national scholarship, tenable at South Kensington for a period of two years, increased to three years. Here he studied design under the late W. F. Moody, and modelling under Mons. Jules Dalon. Dalon was a Commendator, and a most accomplished sculptor. Fleeing from Paris, he became domiciled in England, and worked as "head man" in the studio of Sir E. Boehm, R.A. In this position he met Mr. E. J. Poynter, R.A., whose studio adjoined Boehm's. At that time Poynter was the director of the South Kensington Art Schools, and Poynter, seeing Dalon's superb ability, obtained for him the appointment of modelling master at South Kensington, and thus Drury commenced to work under Dalon with great success, obtaining gold and silver medals for modelling from the life. The connection between student Drury and the master Dalon ripened into friendship, so that when Dalon was annested and returned to Paris Drury either accompanied him or speedily followed him, and for years worked in Paris in Dalon's atelier, assisting the master, as Dalon had previously assisted Boehm. This friendship and union as co-workers upon the same works of art continued for some years, until Drury returned to England, where his facility as a modeller, his capacity to grasp the physical and mental modelling of his sitters, had assured him an ever-increasing clientele for portrait busts. His work is very varied. His