

Reg. 23rd July 1903.

Advertiser 28th July, 1903.

UNIVERSITY STATUARY.

STATUE OF SIR WALTER HUGHES.

At a special congregation of the University on Wednesday afternoon, the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way, Bart.) announced that he had received a letter from the Hon. J. J. Duncan, M.L.C., and Mr. W. H. Duncan, M.P., nephews of the late Sir Walter Watson Hughes, who gave the first donation of £20,000 to the University of Adelaide, stating that they had resolved to commemorate the munificent enterprise and eminent character of their uncle by erecting to his memory a statue. (Cheers.) It would be somewhat similar to the statue of the late Sir Thomas Elder, and would be placed within the University grounds. It gave him great pleasure to think that both the founders of the institution were to be thus worthily commemorated.

—A Diversified Career.—

The late Sir Walter Watson Hughes was one of those strong-spirited, clear-headed men who carve out their fortunes by dint of untiring energy and self-reliance. He was born in Fifeshire, Scotland, August, 1803, educated at Crail, and apprenticed to the trade of a cooper, but he restlessly longed for freer scope, and took to a seafaring life, voyaging first with a whaling expedition to the arctic regions and subsequently in connection with the India and China opium trade. For nearly 20 years he lived in the East, but in 1840 he came to South Australia, and after two years of mercantile life in Adelaide started sheepfarming at the Hummocks, and later resided near Macclesfield for a number of years, and had stations near Watervale and Wallaroo.

—A Pioneer of Copper.—

For years Mr. Hughes searched for copper in the Watervale district, and when he obtained his Wallaroo property conducted prospecting in that locality. On the beach at the latter place he discovered promising specimens, and was so confident of the result that he instructed his employes to gather and bring him anything that had the appearance of the mineral. In course of time his expectations were realized. Two of his shepherds found ore near where the Wallaroo Mines are now situated, and some months later the celebrated Moonta Mines were discovered. Sir Walter was the largest shareholder in the mines in both districts, and his property in the localities was nearly all copper bearing. The mines proved a source of extraordinary benefit to the state, and for some years the revenues were enormous.

—Foundation of the University.—

Sir Walter Hughes, in 1872, showed his sympathy with the cause of advanced education in a characteristically practical fashion by offering £20,000 to the furtherance of the objects aimed at by Union College, Adelaide. The promoters of the college, however, mainly at the instance of the Rev. Dr. Jefferis, initiated a movement for widening the original scope by the establishment of a University, to which the £20,000 should be transferred. Upon the basis of this donation the University building was erected, and subsequently Sir Thomas Elder added further impetus to the scheme by subscribing £20,000.

—A Patron of Exploration.—

Sir Walter held no public position in South Australia beyond a short connection with the Adelaide Municipal Council during the troublous period 1842-3, before the official existence of the City Commissioners. He was, however, brought into prominence by his interest in Australasian exploration which led him to associate with Sir Thomas Elder in the payment of all expenses connected with Col. Warburton's expedition into the north-western interior.

In consideration of his patriotic exertions, the honour of knighthood was conferred in 1880. Sir Walter Hughes died at Fancourt, Chertsey, England, on New Year's Day, 1887.

THE ELDER STATUE.

At the same meeting the Chancellor announced that the statue to their late honoured founder, Sir Thomas Elder, would be unveiled by His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte) on Wednesday afternoon next. The occasion would not be strictly a University function, because the statue had been erected by contributions that came from every class of the community, and every one recognised that although the late knight was the principal contributor to the University he had been also a prominent philanthropist and public benefactor.

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A special congregation of the Adelaide University was held on Wednesday afternoon, and presided over by the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way, Bart.). Miss Ethel Mary Murray Ambrose was presented by Dr. Giles, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, as a candidate for the degrees of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, she having completed her course in March of this year. His Honor, in handing over the certificate, said he gathered that the ladies and gentlemen in the University congratulated the recipient as cordially as he did on her success in obtaining the degree, and all sincerely wished Miss Ambrose every success. The new graduate was greeted with a hearty round of applause from her fellow-students.

Dr. J. M. Eanis, Mus. Doc., Director of the Elder Conservatorium of Music, was on Wednesday elected a member of the council of the Adelaide University.

THE LATE SIR THOMAS ELDER.

A PUBLIC MEMORIAL.

There are already many public memorials of the late Sir Thomas Elder, G.C.M.G., in South Australia, and particularly in Adelaide, but they are direct results of his benevolence and public spiritedness. From to-morrow there will be a monument, in the shape of a statue of the deceased knight, erected in front of the Elder Conservatorium, to mark the esteem of the public of one of the best and most generous and enterprising colonists the State has ever had. Shortly after the death of Sir Thomas Elder, in his 79th year, on March 6, 1897, a movement, with the Chief Justice at its head, was set on foot to recognise the great services Sir Thomas had rendered to South Australia. A committee was formed, consisting of his Honor the Chief Justice (chairman), Sir E. T. Smith (treasurer), and Messrs. J. Moule (secretary), J. Darling, David Murray, H. C. E. Muecke, A. G. Downer, and G. Willecox, and the necessary subscriptions having been collected, it was arranged to erect a statue of the deceased gentleman. Mr. A. Drury, R.A., of London, was commissioned to supply a bronze statue of Sir Thomas Elder of heroic size (9 ft. high). This arrived some weeks ago, together with a pedestal of Scotch granite, 13 ft. 6 in. high, and has been erected on the University lawn in front of the Elder Conservatorium of Music. The statue will be unveiled by his Excellency, the Governor to-morrow afternoon, and he will probably make an interesting speech concerning the services of Sir Thomas Elder to South Australia. The Chief Justice will also take part in the ceremony, and will, on behalf of the committee, ask Sir George Le Hunte to unveil the statue. A vote of thanks to his Excellency will be proposed by the Premier, and seconded by Sir E. T. Smith. During the proceedings the "Song of Australia" and the National Anthem will be sung by students of the Conservatorium of Music.

It is almost impossible to express in a few words all that Sir Thomas Elder did for the land of his adoption, or to tabulate his donations and bequests to public and philanthropic institutions. Much more difficult is it to obtain a record of his private benevolence. Probably some information on these points may be forthcoming to-morrow. The provisions of his will, which were published in The Advertiser on June 28, 1897, contained the following bequests:—

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| To found Workmen's Homes | £25,000 |
| Adelaide University | 25,000 |
| Adelaide Art Gallery (purchase of pictures) .. | 25,000 |
| Medical School, Adelaide University | 20,000 |
| Chair of Music, Adelaide University | 20,000 |
| Presbyterian Church of S.A. | 6,000 |
| Anglican Cathedral | 4,000 |
| Prince Alfred College | 4,000 |
| Adelaide Hospital | 3,000 |
| Chalmers Presbyterian Church | 2,600 |
| Y.M.C.A. | 2,000 |
| Adelaide City Mission | 2,000 |
| Way College | 2,000 |
| Geographical Society | 2,000 |
| Zoological Society | 2,000 |
| Seamen's Home, Port Adelaide | 2,000 |
| Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Institution | 2,000 |
| Port Augusta Hospital | 1,000 |
| St. Margaret's Convalescent Hospital | 1,000 |
| Children's Hospital | 1,000 |
| Dr. Barnardo's London Homes | 1,000 |
| Home for Incurables | 1,000 |
| Strangers' Friend and Charity Organisation Society | 1,000 |
| Glenn's Institute | 1,000 |
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| | £155,000 |

The Adelaide University owes much to Sir Thomas Elder, and amongst its list of benefactors no other name figures so prominently. The list of donations and bequests by Sir Thomas to the University is as follows:—

- 1874—£20,000, endowment of chairs in mathematics and natural sciences.
- 1882-96—£200, prizes for physiology.
- 1883—£10,000, endowment for a medical school.
- 1884-85—£1,500, in support of a chair of music.
- 1884—£1,000, endowment of evening classes.
- 1888-89—£1,000, to enable the council to establish full medical curriculum.
- 1897—£20,000, endowment of school of medicine.
- 1897—£20,000, endowment of school of music.
- 1897—£25,000, endowment for general purposes.

In addition to enabling the University council, by the establishment of the Conservatorium, to grant a number of scholarships, Sir Thomas founded a scholarship for South Australian students at the Royal College of Music, London, which has done much to give colonial vocalists and instrumentalists a footing in the old world. Those who have been selected by the local committee representing the Royal College up to the present are Mr. Otto Fischer, Miss Guli Hack, Miss Adelaide Porter, Mr. H. W. Kennedy, Miss Corbin, and Miss Gwendoline Pelly.

Apart altogether from the encouragement of higher education, the name of Sir Thomas Elder will live for what he did as a pioneer of the pastoral industry, and in furtherance of the thorough exploration of Australia. As head of the firm of Elder, Smith, & Co.—a firm established by his brother, Mr. A. L. Elder, in 1841—Sir Thomas did much to assist the early working of the Wallaroo and Moonta mines and to exploit the mineral wealth of the State in other districts. The Warburton, Giles, Gosse, and Elder (Lindsay) expeditions were due entirely to the monetary assistance of Sir Thomas Elder, and though little in the way of immediate mineral discovery was accomplished, vast areas of land were opened up to pastoral enterprise. At one time Sir Thomas held a larger area under pastoral lease than the whole of Scotland, his native land. It was due to his enterprise, too, that camels were imported into South Australia and used in the opening up of the interior. Every kind of sport received his practical assistance, but horseracing received most of his attention, and the breed of horses was much improved by the class of horses he imported and bred. Amongst the most famous horses he bred were *Gane*, *Forward*, *New-*

stead, *Maddelina*, *Dunlop*, *Hortense*, *Guasswork*, *Viceroy*, and *Portsea*. Sir Thomas spent 13 years as a member of the Legislative Council, from 1863 to 1869, and from 1871 to 1878, but he had not much liking for public life. He was an active member of the Zoological Society, and the Zoo obtained a good many of its best animals through his assistance. When a rotunda was required at the gardens he promptly came forward with the necessary subscription, and in the same manner he was responsible for the erection of the Rotunda near the Terrans.

In commenting on the death of Sir Thomas, The Advertiser on March 8, 1897, remarked:—"He has passed away full of years and honors. Though not one of the earliest pioneers, his long and distinguished career in South Australia gave him a high place on the roll of old colonists, who have set useful and stimulating examples for the profit of later generations. The name of Elder is familiar as a household word, and the community will always associate it with honorable enterprise, public spirit, and active beneficence. Mere worldly success is not in itself evidence of a well spent life. Unaccompanied by nobler qualities, the spirit of acquisitiveness that may be exercised in building up a fortune deserves and commands no popular respect. Sir Thomas Elder, however, displayed the most admirable qualities of the upright man of business, and in administering the wealth which rewarded his sagacious industry, he manifested an enlightened regard for the welfare of his fellow citizens. From him the doctrine that riches are a trust involving heavy moral responsibilities received a practical exemplification. He will be remembered as a patriotic colonist who neglected no opportunity of employing both his wealth and talents in advancing the best interests of the State; as the generous patron of higher education, and as the friend and supporter of numerous philanthropic movements. In these and other ways Sir Thomas Elder proved how fully he realised the public obligations which a high-minded citizen connects with his enjoyment of the advantages of wealth. The early history of South Australia cannot be written without an acknowledgement of the splendid services he rendered."

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RETURN TO NATURE.

While addressing the public school teachers in the Town Hall recently the Minister of Education advised them to inculcate in the children a love for country life, and reference was made to the condition of England at present, especially in the great industrial centres. The tendency in Australia also is toward concentration in a few centres of population; but there is yet time to avoid many of the evils attendant on crowded city life; and no remedy can be more effective than one which gives to children a bias for the fresh air that helps to build up strong constitutions, and an inclination for the scientific and aesthetic interests which abound in Nature. The majority of men will be led as their interests direct them. People will return to Nature only when natural advantage can compete successfully with that of the town from their point of view. Much is already being done in South Australia in the direction indicated, not only by national institutions, but also by voluntary effort. In 1902 Our Boys' Institute (for which, we regret to note, begging is apparently being done in England) took 162 boys to camp on Kangaroo Island, and this year 107 spent six days at Milang. The direct object was to provide them with a healthy and happy holiday; but indirectly the excursion stimulated interest in nature by creating a love of fresh air. More definitely educational is the work done by the Boys' Field Club, whose leaders at intervals of a fortnight take from 25 to 50 lads into various parts of the country to enjoy the benefits of a bracing atmosphere and to discourse, under supervision, upon such natural objects as may chance to come under their notice. The love of nature is desired, and sought in a constant effort to cultivate the faculty of observation, to induce boys to realize what is beautiful, and to enjoy it because it is beautiful.

Undoubtedly this enterprise is on the right track. To enlist the sympathy of the mental faculties with nature is to place the appreciation of natural interests on a permanent basis. Wordsworth and Ruskin loved the country; neither could endure the town. The reason was the same in both cases. They had been trained to see what was really interesting and beautiful. There is little use in sounding the cry, "Return to Nature," until men shall have been taught to realize that it is worth while going back to Nature. Prove to a man that his interest is to follow a given course, and he will follow it; but he must believe first in the proof. He