

21/9/01

THE LATE PROFESSOR RALPH TATE, F.G.S., F.L.S.

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**MUSIC AT THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.**

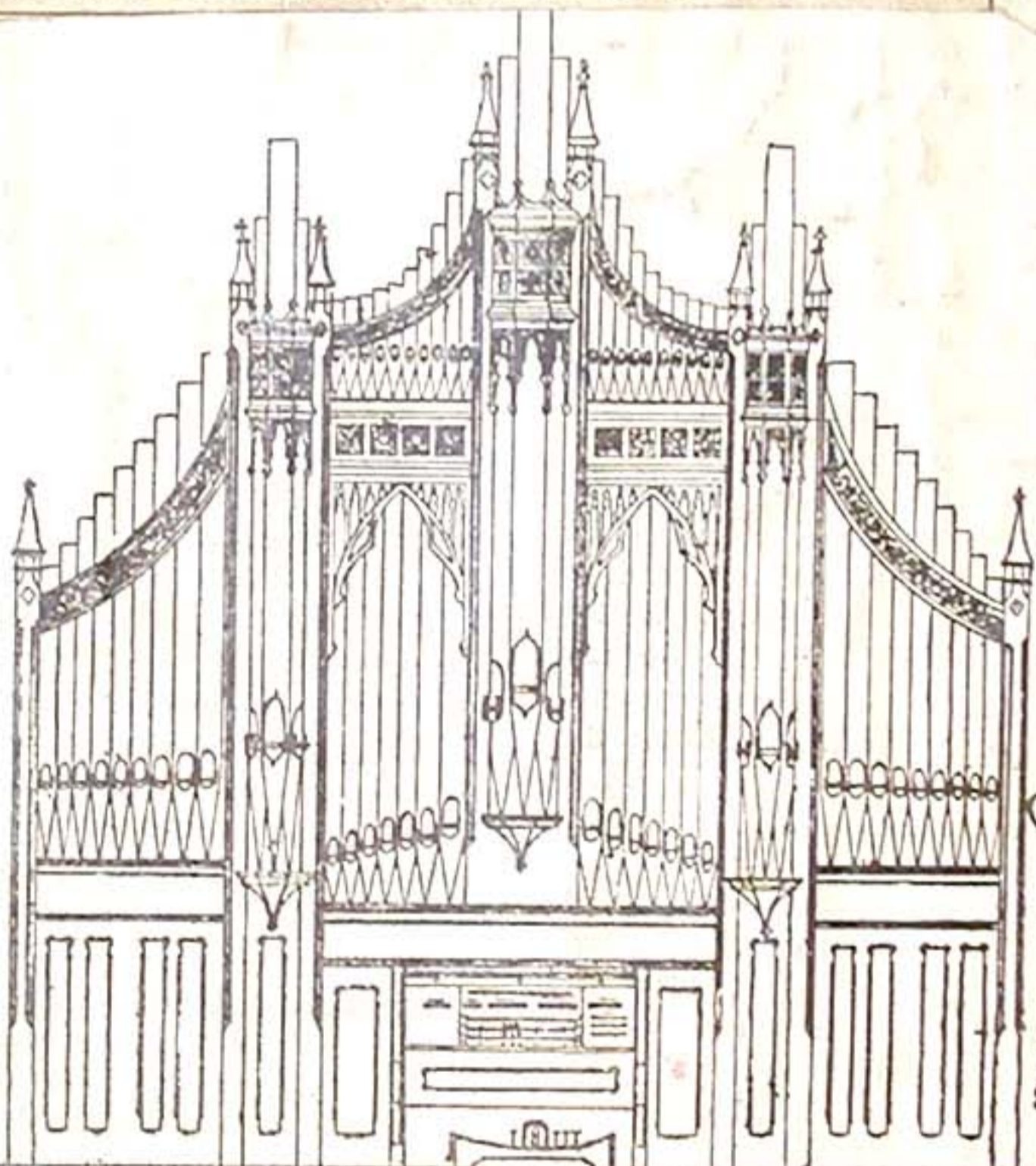
To establish a chair of music at one of the youngest of the Australian Universities was indeed a bold step. In all now countries the energies of the people must necessarily be devoted to such pursuits as may be of practical use in acquiring the necessaries of life, and not until this has been accomplished and hours of leisure follow in the wake of easier circumstances is it possible to gratify that love of art and taste for the beautiful which is inherent in our natures.

The new departure of the University authorities at Adelaide was a bold one. To his Excellency the Governor, Sir W. C. F. Robinson, belongs the credit of initiating the movement. By his influence and the liberality of Sir Thomas Elder and other gentlemen, a sum of money was provided sufficient to guarantee the salary of a professor of music for five years. Many thought this would be long enough to try the experiment fairly—for experiment it was—while not a few predicted that even this period was too long—that the music class room would be speedily emptied when the novelty of the situation had worn off.

Professor Ives arrived in Adelaide in March, 1885. The reputation for energy and ability which had preceded his advent was speedily seen to be correct. Within a month of his arrival the professor had drawn out a course of study and framed regulations for testing candidates desirous of obtaining the degree of bachelor of music. It has been claimed that the Adelaide Chair of Music is the first in the Australian colonies. The claim may be allowed that it is the first in the world to at once grant degrees in music and at the same time provide a systematic course of studies to prepare candidates for the degree examinations. The chief Universities of Europe having professorships of music are Oxford, Cambridge, Dublin and Edinburgh. At the two first named seats of learning little is done to encourage the study of music beyond examining candidates for degrees. No instruction in music is given beyond one or two public lectures on some musical subject given by the professor each year. Some years ago an attempt was made to give reality to the school of music at Oxford by requiring the professor to lecture at least *once in each term*, and by instituting public performances under the direction of the Choragus. The latter part of the scheme soon failed, and so the professor's occasional lectures and the examinations for degrees in music are the only forms in which the study of music is advanced by the University.

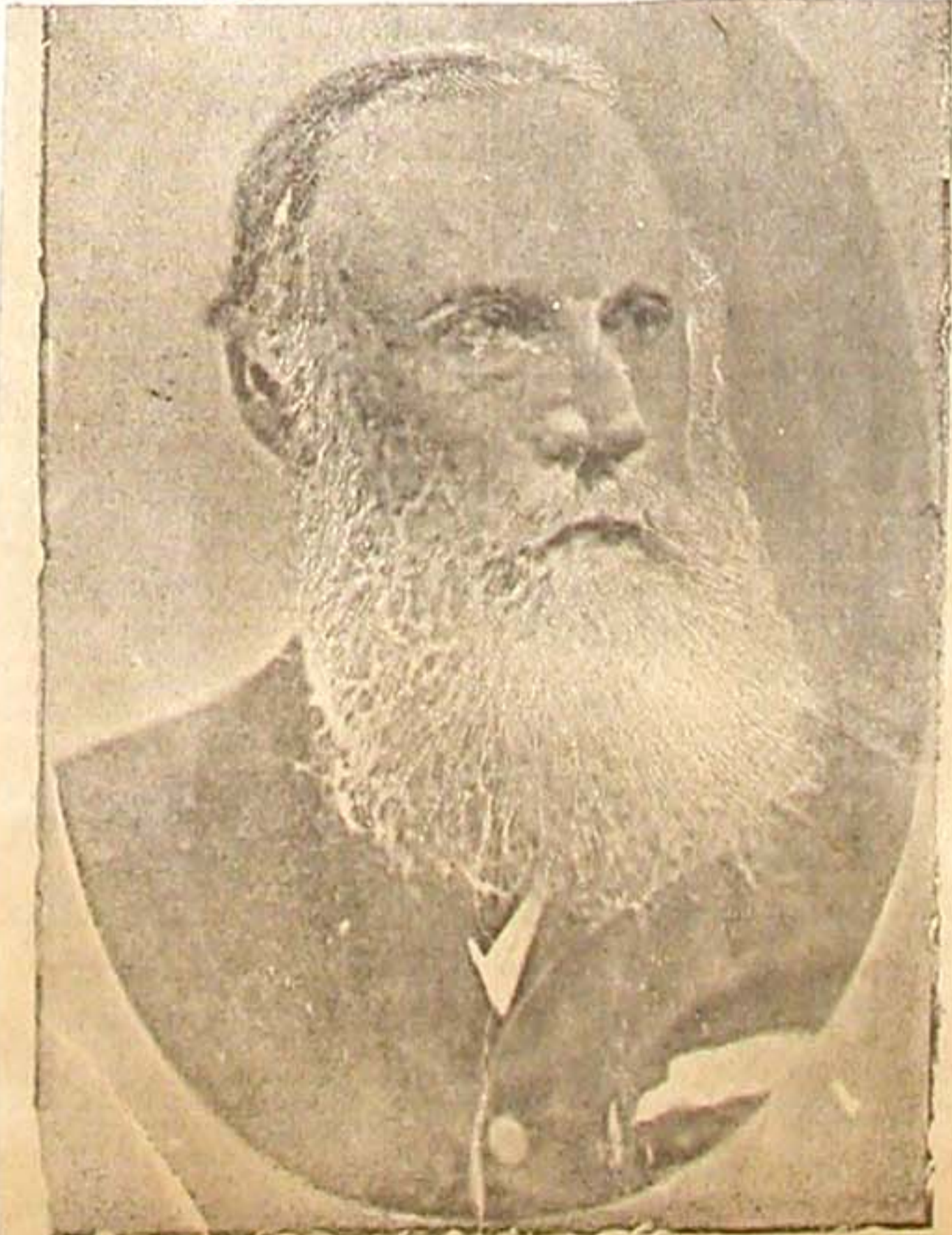
At Dublin Sir Robert Stewart's statutory duties are confined to examination and other business relating to degrees, although he does privately undertake the training of the University Choral Society and the delivery of lectures on subjects connected with the theory of music. At Edinburgh theoretical instruction is given in classes by Sir Herbert Oakeley, but the university does not confer degrees.

At the Adelaide University Professor Ives lectures 10 hours per week to his students.



*Proposed organ.*

*Music*



18/5/04