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STUDENT CHRISTIAN UNION.

The Australasian Student Christian Union has completed ten years of existence, and has grown into an organisation numerically strong. In June, 1896, 238 students in Melbourne gathered together to hear Mr. John R. Mott, the general secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation, explain the objects of that society, and from this meeting the Australasian union was launched. That it met a need in Australasian, collegiate life is evident from the popularity which it achieved in all the States of the Commonwealth and

in New Zealand. By the end of a decade it has expanded into 51 separate unions, 10 of which are in the different universities of the Commonwealth and New Zealand, and 41 in theological colleges and secondary schools. Of a total of 2,067 members no fewer than 700 are associated with the universities. These figures go far to show how strong is the hold of Christianity on those who are receiving the highest education, and whose lives in consequence should be the most influential in Australasia. If the only indications of the strength of the union were to be found in the growing number of its members it might perhaps mean but little. But happily this is not the case. Evidences of serious and morally stimulating work are not lacking. Dr. Andrew Harper, principal of St. Andrew's College, Sydney, has pointed out in an able article contributed to the "Australasian Inter-Collegian" some of the benefits which have accrued to Christian students as the result of the existence of the union. "It gathered together," he says, "all the Christian forces among the undergraduates especially, and for the first time those who were loyal to the faith of their fathers knew how many they were." The advantages are obvious. Not only is the strength of union made available, but the consciousness of numbers in any cause gives stimulus.

Not the least important matter referred to by Dr. Harper is the study of the Bible which the organisation has promoted amongst students, and it is no small tribute for so competent an authority to say—"If a student desires to keep the faith he brings with him, he will no longer find himself in isolation. I believe the effect of the establishment of the union has been largely to check the drift from faith which once was accepted as the inevitable result of going to a university." The remarks of Dr. Harper are rendered all the more valuable by his outspokenness in respect to those aspects of the work in which he thinks success has not been conspicuous. As an aggressive force tending to win the irreligious he believes it has not found the right method, and "the union has yet its spurs to win." He also complains that it has not yet "laid any strong hand on the thought of the universities." Admitting all this, it may still be conceded that the organisation has served a useful purpose. An aggressive propaganda may well be left to a period of life subsequent to that covered by student days. If the foundation of moral and religious character is well laid in early youth, maturer years will give the ripened judgment that will lead to wise measures being adopted for the communication to others of the ideals which have become an inspiration. Nor can any strong objection be taken on the ground that such an institution as the Student Christian Union does not make mere boys and girls leaders of thought. After all, the real thinkers of the world are not numerous. Professor Rennie, of our own University, also bears testimony, if somewhat guarded, to the good work of the union. He believes it will be far-reaching in its effects both on the University and the State.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN UNION.

The decennial celebration of the Student Christian Union was held at the Elder Hall on Thursday evening, when there was a large attendance, presided over by his Excellency the Governor.

Devotional exercises were conducted by the Rev. J. G. Raws.

Acting Professor Deitmann spoke on "The history and purpose of the movement." He said he was drawn to the union in his student days, and he could say that it had work to do which no other agency could do so well. It helped a student to find his place and his work in the University. It helped him to find an answer to the question which all had to answer sooner or later, "What think ye of Christ?" It helped him to answer the old question put by Plato and other Greek philosophers, "How is a man to live his life?" The union was a part of the Australasian Student Christian Union, which in its turn was a part of the World's Student Christian Federation. The Australasian union was formed in Melbourne in June, 1896. The union was formed as the result of a visit by Mr. J. R. Mott. The World's Christian Federation was a vital movement of world-wide influence. He paid a tribute to the intellectual powers of Mr. Mott, and of the leaders of the movement generally. He had been greatly impressed with the fine powers and spirit of the men whom he had met at a conference held in Europe during the year 1900. He believed that there was nothing in the movement which stood for so much as missionary zeal. It should be remembered, however, that the union was a university union, and that it had to do its work chiefly amongst students. When he was connected with the union in Sydney one branch of the work which they undertook was to go out amongst the poor and try to minister to them. He could say that in the contact between the university men and the street Arabs the university men profited most. (Cheers.)

The Bishop of Adelaide (Dr. Thomas) urged the students to have a definite aim in life. They should know what they had to do, and do it. There were some people whose lives were spent as if they were wandering about in a maze. This resulted from their not having made up their minds as to what they would strive after. It was a grand thing to belong to a university. He could remember his own feelings when he first became a member of a university. Its associations widened a man's views, and the effect of meeting with other men who were as clever as himself was beneficial. A good aim for young men joining a university to set before themselves was to excel both in work and in games. It was important that they should choose their course and decide on their future. They should have a high aim as well as a definite aim. If they wanted to join any profession they should aim at being the very best member of the profession. The Christian Union set the highest aim of all before the students—that was the Christian aim. There were many aims in life, and Christianity was the common bond which linked together and inspired every good aim. He instanced St. Paul as an illustration of a man with a definite aim informed with the Christian spirit. They were to remember that none of them lived to himself. That was particularly true of university men. Their task was to lead others. They should see to it that they led them straight. (Cheers.)

Mr. W. Herbert Philipps spoke on the financial position of the union. He said it was believed when the Adelaide branch was formed that if financial aid was afforded it for three years it would be self-supporting. It was overlooked at the time, however, that the students remained at the University for a few years only, and that if the union was to be permanent new members must be enrolled each year to take the place of those who were leaving. In order to secure this two travelling secretaries had been appointed. This was necessary. The amount needed for the whole of the Commonwealth was £500 per annum. During the first year of the existence of the union in South Australia £222 10/ was raised. This amount had fallen to £75 for the present year. This was inadequate for the needs of South Australia. It should be remembered that the ordinary student could not afford to contribute much, and he appealed to old students and others to help the movement financially.

In moving a vote of thanks to his Excellency and the speakers, Sir Samuel Way (Chancellor of the University) said he regarded the missionary part of the work of the union as one of its most important branches, although of course the whole was greater than a part. He thoroughly sympathised with the noble motto of the union, "The evangelisation of the world in this generation."

Sir George Le Hunte said he would make an application of the advice tendered by the Bishop of Adelaide—"Those who don't know what to do, don't do it." (Laughter.) For this reason he had reserved his address to the end. There was nothing which would form a closer bond or bring men into kindlier relations with each other, or would better serve to bring out their best traits than such a union as the one in whose interests they were assembled. Nothing would assist in exhibiting in a fuller degree the sweeter side of human friendship. He was pleased to know that there was a missionary side to the work of the union. That interested him greatly, as he knew much about that kind of work. He could say from his knowledge of missionary work that educated men were wanted in the field. Men of education who were able to do the most effective work. However devoted the lesser-educated missionaries might be—and many of them were devoted—they could not do the same work that the highly-educated men did. The best missionaries and those whose work was most lasting were those who had had the advantage of education. (Cheers.) He supported the appeal made by the treasurer (Mr. Philipps) for financial support.

Mr. J. Buckley sang "Calvary," and Mr. A. H. Williamson presided at the organ.

STUDENT CHRISTIAN UNION.

At the decennial celebration of the Australasian Student Christian Union, held at the Elder Hall on Thursday evening, under the presidency of His Excellency the Governor (Sir George Le Hunte), the following statement of the present position of the organization was submitted:—The Australasian Student Christian Union was formed at a gathering of 238 students in Melbourne on June 5, 1896, under the leadership of Mr. John R. Mott (general secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation). It now consisted of 51 separate unions, 10 in universities (all the universities of Australasia), and 41 in theological colleges and secondary schools. The total membership was 2,067, of which about 700 were in universities. The union had been formally admitted to the World's Student Christian Federation—an organization having branches in all lands, and comprising 1,825 student unions, with a total membership of 103,000 students and professors. The chief object was the joining of the unions of Australasia in a common bond, giving that strength which came from unity. In order that this object might be fully realized, two travelling secretaries have been appointed to visit in turn each of the Australasian Student centres. An advisory committee of representative men from each of the States and colonies, as well as a general committee, undertook the supervision of the union. The most important branch of the work of the union was that devoted to the volunteer movement. The members of this branch are those who have signed the following declaration:—"It is my purpose, if God permit, to become a foreign missionary." Already, during the 10 years of its life, this movement had had 163 members, of whom 42 had gone to the mission field. The various speakers eulogized the aims of the union, and an appeal was made for greater financial support from old students and the general public.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS TO TEACHERS AND SCHOLARS.

Executive Council has approved the repeal of sub-paragraph 11 of paragraph 3 of the railway bylaw No. 84, and made the following bylaw, to be read in lieu of such sub-paragraph:—"The concessions named above, both as regards South Australian and interstate lines, will only be granted to pupils in full attendance at universities, colleges, and public schools, and private schools registered in the office of the General Traffic Manager; and will not be allowed to any student who receives £45 or upwards per annum as remuneration for his or her services." The amended bylaw was proposed by the Railways Commissioner because it was found that the regulation forbidding any concession in fares to scholars and students who receive remuneration was interfering with the education at the School of Mines, and several teaching classes of a large number of youths of both sexes, and it is thought that, by providing, as is done in the new regulation, that the tickets may be issued unless the intending scholar is in receipt of a wage of £45 a year, the difficulty will be overcome. In the Assembly on Thursday Mr. Goode asked if the Government intended to issue free railway passes to provisional teachers when attending the winter school of instruction in Adelaide. The Premier said the school was arranged to follow immediately after the midwinter holidays, and the Railways Commissioner granted excursion fares. It was not proposed to do anything further.

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Mr. Harold Parsons, who has been appointed to succeed Mr. H. Kugelberg as teacher of the 'cello at the Elder Conservatorium, is a son of Mr. S. Parsons, of Adelaide. When quite young Mr. Parsons displayed a taste for music, and at the age of 12 began to study the 'cello under Mr. T. Grigg, the well-known leader of the Theatre Royal Orchestra. He remained with this gentleman for 12 months, and then entered the Elder Conservatorium, as a pupil of Mr. Kugelberg. His career at this institution was of a brilliant character, and he held the 'cello scholarship for four years. Eighteen months ago he left for Europe, and became a student at the Hoch Conservatorium, Frankfurt, where he has earned the golden opinions of the professors. In addition to solo playing Mr. Parsons while at this school has made a diligent study of chamber and orchestral music. He intends to continue his lessons in London under one of the most eminent professors until the close of this year, when he will sail for Adelaide, to be in time to take up his duties at the Elder Conservatorium in March, 1907.