

AN EASTER APPEAL—WILLIAMS AND CLARK SCHOLARSHIPS.

To the Editor.

Sir—A fitting time is the present to make an appeal to the public—particularly parents and former scholars of the two South Australian educationists who have recently passed away—to give their mites towards establishing a fund for perpetuating the memory of the late Alfred Williams and the late Alexander Clark. Those connected with the Education Department could not undertake the task, as it might be supposed that their motives were personal. No doubt the teachers themselves will inaugurate a fund of their own; but the parents and scholars scattered throughout the land would, through the medium of your valuable columns, have an opportunity to contribute, which no other means could convey. I would suggest two divisions—contributions from parents and former scholars, and contributions from present High School students and public school children. In less than a month a sum of at least £2,000 should be easily subscribed, and whatever amount was collected should be equally divided. The interest on one-half should constitute the "Alfred Williams Scholarship," and should be given to the provisional teachers who score best in the senior and junior exams.; the interest on the other half should constitute the "Alexander Clark Scholarship," and should be given to the two public school scholars who should show most proficiency in singing, to enable them to be trained at the Conservatorium. My reminiscences of these two men are most pleasant. There are many others who came under their influence who could relate similar. It is 37 years ago since I first met the late Mr. Alexander Clark. The Model School system was in its infancy; the Grote-street school had just been built. Mr. Lewis G. Madley, the first headmaster, had got things in order; and the first brilliant set of boys who won the Government scholarships had passed to St. Peter's and Prince Alfred. Among some of these were Dr. R. S. Rogers, Mr. J. R. Anderson, K.C., Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., Mr. James Espie, Mr. A. E. Welbourne, and the two Lawrences. In some cases, the friendships formed there have been lifelong. The establishment of the Training College paved the way for the advancement of Mr. Madley to its head, and the appearance of Mr. Alexander Clark from New South Wales. How well I remember that first day he appeared! Garbed in black, he looked thinner than he really was; his jet black hair and pale face made him to me—boy as I was—an object of commiseration. I wondered how he would be able to keep in order the scores of boys, some of them rather unruly. Mr. Madley's rule had been military—sharp, snappy, clicky orders—and an immediate obedience expected. No sympathy, no exceptions. When Mr. Clark appeared on the Monday morning, dressed in a grey, loose, tweed suit, he looked considerably increased in proportions, and that smile, that wonderful smile, conquered everyone. I look back over the intervening years, and remember with pleasure how I worshipped—in schoolboy fashion—at his shrine. To win that smile, I worked for hours at night over my lessons, and when later he marked my books ninety out of seventy, and forty out of thirty, my efforts were rewarded, and redoubled in the future. You will work for the man who has faith in you. I studied at night till the veins in my forehead stood out like bands of whipcord. He gave extra lessons at a quarter to eight in the morning, and—this was before cars, electric or horse—many a morning did I have to run from North Adelaide down Montefiore Hill, up through Light-square, to Grote-street, to be there in time. He gave up his Saturday mornings to teach us extra subjects. For the next four years I was with him. I used to sit many times copying his signature. We wrote it on blackboards; we copied it on paper. That beautiful penmanship was worthy of imitation. He arranged picnics for our pleasure. What a significant act was his last!—arranging for a picnic. At picnics he shone; he bubbled over with fun; he sang, his face beamed with pleasure; he punned at every opportunity. Everyone was filled with the same spirit, and life was all joy. His efforts in conducting the school choirs every year should bring back pleasant memories to all those scholars who sang there. At least, for one night, their cup of joy was full. Let them not forget now to contribute a small token to keep his memory green. Surely his soul will soar aloft with the hymning choral strains that so de-

I met the late Alfred Williams in 1881. We had both completed our pupil-teacher-ship of four years; and in consequence of my efforts I had led in four exams, out of five. He was fresh from Moonta, where already his fame as a teacher had become known. I have no hesitation in saying that as a teacher, the department has never had his equal. We were mutually eager of meeting, and a lasting friendship was established. He was full of hope and high ambition, and la joie de vivre. His energy was boundless, he spared no pains, he despised no effort that would help him to improve. He was earnest; he was serious. His first school at Victor Harbor became "the show school" of the State, and the late John A. Hardley, took an especial pride in taking inter-State and oversea visitors down there to see the school at work. His subsequent work at East Adelaide and Norwood, each of which he raised to a level of excellence that neither had before attained, testifies to his skill as a teacher and a disciplinarian. When he was appointed Director of Education, everyone was pleased to know that he had attained the highest summit of his ambition. Carnegie has said, "A man who never makes mistakes never makes anything." But we have no time to linger over a man's mistakes. What he does is what counts. A certain divine once said, "If I take a large sheet of white paper, and make a small black blob in the centre of it, and I ask you what you see, nine-tenths will say, 'A black mark!' Yes, true, but one may say, 'The rest is white.' So with a man's character, nine-tenths see the black mark, their eyes are focussed on the man's mistakes, only one in every ten sees the by far larger proportion of good elements in his character." Burns, the poet, made mistakes, more than most men; yet he has more statues to his memory in all parts of the world than any other man who ever lived. Both Alfred Williams and Alexander Clark made mistakes; but the public has no time for their errors; it only remembers the good these men have done. In spite of heavy opposition and in face of long odds, Alfred Williams successfully laid the foundation of the High School system. Every parent who has benefited thereby has now an opportunity to show his or her gratitude in a substantial way. Every scholar who is now or has been trained in a High School has now a chance to show his or her appreciation of the man who made his or her education possible. The brilliant success last year of the Adelaide High School students fully justified the system and proved the excellence of the training given there under that very capable headmaster, Mr. W. J. Adey. The success attained by the provincial High Schools, particularly Unley and Gawler, shows that suburbs and country, as well as city, have benefited through this man's exertions. May there be an immediate and abundant answer to this appeal, for "bis dat qui cito dat," and ere another mellow Easter moon wanes in the dim light of morn, may a thousand responses find their way to the "Clark-Williams Scholarship Fund." I enclose £1 1/ as my mite.—I am, &c., G. G. NEWMAN.

[We shall be pleased to receive further subscriptions towards the deserving object suggested by our correspondent.—Ed.]

Registered March 27/13

In the Prince of Wales Theatre at the University of Adelaide there was a special congregation on Wednesday afternoon to confer degrees. The Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) presided, and admitted as Bachelors of Arts Lois Wavency Allen and Laura Olga Hedwig Heyne, and (ad eundem gradum) as Master of Arts John Carlisle McDonnell, M.A., University of Cambridge. The candidates were presented by Professor Mitchell. The Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow) and the Warden (Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc.) supported the Chancellor. Among those in attendance were members of the senate and the council in academic costume, Lady Way, and a number of undergraduates.

THE RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

The statement for 1911-12, issued by the Rhodes Trust, shows that the number of scholars in residence at Oxford in the course of the academic year was 180, of whom 76 were from the colonies, 93 from the United States, and 11 from Germany. There were also in residence six ex-scholars (colonial) engaged either in teaching, reading for examinations, or philanthropic work. Two ex-scholars held fellowships in Oxford colleges, one of whom was also a tutor of his college. During the year 31 scholars completed the period of their scholarships. At the beginning of the October term, 1912, 28 newly-elected scholars (colonial and German) came into residence. The 130 scholars in residence were distributed among the colleges as follows:—Balliol and Exeter, 14 each; Christ Church, 13; Oriel, 12; Merton, New College, Queen's, Lincoln, and St. John's, 11 each; Trinity and Hertford, 10 each; Wadham and University, 9 each; Pembroke, 8; Brasenose and Worcester, 7 each; Jesus and Magdalen, 4 each; Corpus Christi, 3; and Keble, 1. The distribution of the scholars depends partly upon their own choice and partly on their merits as judged by the college authorities. Each selected scholar sends in to the trust a list of colleges at which he wishes to enter in the order of his preference. The authorities of each college then select from the applicants for admission those whose scholastic record and credentials seem to them most satisfactory. The number admitted to any one college is strictly limited. The following list indicates the lines of work taken up by Rhodes scholars who left Oxford during the six years 1906-1911 inclusive:—Education, 123; law, 84; Civil service (colonial, American, and German), 25; religious work, 20; medicine, 15; business, 14; mining and engineering, 8; journalism, 5; agriculture, 5; forestry, 5; Indian Civil service, 3; diplomatic service (German), 3; diplomatic service (U.S.A.); consular service (British), 1; miscellaneous, 7; unsettled and unknown, 6.

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THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the senate of the Adelaide University was held yesterday, the Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way) presiding. The most important business was to fill two vacancies in the council, created by the death of the Director of Education (Mr. A. Williams), and the resignation of Mr. S. J. Jacobs. It is interesting to recall that the last election of a member to the council took place in 1903, when Mr. Williams was chosen to be one of the twenty members. At yesterday's meeting the Chancellor was supported by the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), the warden (Mr. F. Chapple, B.A., B.Sc.), and the acting clerk (Mr. C. R. Hodge). There were three candidates for the two vacancies in the council, and the voting resulted in the election of Messrs. W. G. T. Goodman and M. M. Magan. Mr. E. V. Clark (dean of the faculty of science) proposed amendments to the regulations governing the degree of B.Sc., which embodied the introduction of botany as a complete subject, following upon the creation of a chair of botany at the University. The senate agreed to the amended regulations.

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Dr. A. C. Magarey was, at the meeting of the Executive Council on Wednesday, granted a license to practise anatomy in the School of Anatomy at the University of Adelaide.