

REGISTER
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FUNCTIONS OF UNIVERSITIES.

Address by Mr. Bryce.

It was a notable gathering in Elder Hall on Friday night when at a special congregation of the University the degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred upon the Right-Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador at Washington, D.C.L. University of Oxford, LL.D. University of Cambridge. Many of Adelaide's most distinguished citizens attended. There were present Judges, members of the learned professions, of the Ministry, and of both Houses of the Legislature, business men, who conduct the big producing, commercial, and manufacturing industries of the State, representatives of the city, and other corporations, heads of Government departments, and prominent members of all sections of the community. Ladies in charming costumes added brilliance to the assemblage. The hall was a picture of delicate colours, with the sombre male attire forming a background, but the platform was a pen-and-ink sketch of black gowns, expansive shirt-fronts, brightened by scarlet robes of the Chancellor and the professional staff. On the dais were seated the Vice-Chancellor, the Warden, and the Clerk of the Senate, members of the Council, graduates, members of faculties and boards, the professors and lecturers, the Registrar, and candidates for degrees. The Chancellor (Sir Samuel Way), who was accompanied by Lady Way, His Excellency the Governor, and the Ambassador, were received at the entrance by the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow) and Professor Stirling, C.M.G. The Government House party included Lady Bosanquet, Mrs. Bryce, and the Misses Bosanquet.

—The Chancellor's Introduction.—

The Chancellor said no gathering of that kind would be complete without the presence of His Excellency the Governor. He had never had to exercise his visitatorial function in a controversial manner, but he had consented to perform a most pleasing ceremony that evening. (Applause.)

—Governor's Welcome.—

His Excellency the Governor said:—I heartily appreciate the honour which the Chancellor has conferred upon me by inviting me, as the visitor to the University, to take part in receiving so distinguished a guest to-night. The first thought in the mind of those who have assembled here is the desire, with all our heart to welcome among us the Right Hon. James Bryce—(applause)—member of the Privy Council, and of that most distinguished order—the order of merit—(applause)—who is visiting this State in the course of a tour throughout Australia undertaken for the purpose of studying the organizations and the workings of the political and educational institutions of our land. The second thought that is in our minds may be described as a wish to offer him the full meed of honour to which his distinguished career and his great services to Britain and the Empire justly entitle him, and also to enable him to not only become familiar with our political and educational systems, but also so to enjoy himself during his visit that he may on his departure carry away with him pleasant recollections of our citizens, of our picturesque scenery, a good impression of our garden city, and a clear conception of our several undertakings and commercial enterprises. (Applause.) We are proud to receive him here in the University, not only because of his high position as British Ambassador to the United States, but because of his worldwide reputation as a statesman, philosopher, and scholar, and also because he has achieved all these distinctions solely by his own personal ability and force of character. There are a vast variety of subjects, upon which we are anxious to listen to the views of our distinguished guest, but to-night the professors and students reign supreme. We had fondly hoped that Mr. Bryce would have remained with us for as long as possible, and that he would have given us the benefit of his illuminating pronouncements upon every one of the problems which confront politicians and statesmen of South Australia, but unfortunately he is obliged to leave us to-morrow afternoon. I can only advise you young men to read the luminous speeches which he has delivered during his visit to Australia, and to search for articles which have appeared in magazines above his signature. (Applause.)

—Conferring the Degree.—

The Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), addressing the Chancellor, said:—I present to you His Excellency the Right Hon. James Bryce, who has been admitted to the Degree of Doctor of Law in the University of Cambridge, as a fit and proper person to be admitted to the rank and privilege of that degree in the University of Adelaide.

The Chancellor—By virtue of the authority committed to me, I admit your Excellency the Right Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador and Plenipotentiary at Washington, to the rank and privileges of Doctor of Law in the University of Adelaide.

The audience heartily applauded, and a number of students in the rear sang "For he's a jolly good fellow."

—Chancellor's Address.—

The Chancellor remarked that he could say of the University of Adelaide what Mr. Bryce could not say of the University of Oxford, and that was that he had been a member of the former University since its foundation. (Applause.) Naturally, as he was no longer young, he was inclined to be reminiscent on an occasion like the present. He could not forget that 37 years before he had had the honour of conferring the first degree granted in the University of Adelaide upon the then Chancellor, Rt. Rev. Augustus Short, Lord Bishop of Adelaide, scholar, missionary, bishop, and ecclesiastical statesman. (Applause.) Bishop Short had been an Oxford Don, and the most distinguished of his pupils had been the Rt. Hon. W. E. Gladstone, one of the greatest figures of the nineteenth century. Those two great men had passed away, but they had the benefit of their example, and happily they also had a living example of the benefit of University training in the career of the distinguished accession to their ranks that evening. (Applause.) They must all be familiar with His Excellency's career as political philosopher, man of letters, statesman, and diplomatist, and it was unnecessary for him to dwell upon incidents of his great life. In the political, social, historical, and academic speeches which he had delivered since his arrival in Australia Mr. Bryce had given displays of his character. Indeed, he would venture to call him the A. A. Crichton of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. (Applause.) He (the speaker) had accompanied His Excellency upon an expedition around Mount Lofty on the previous afternoon. Mr. Howchin, the distinguished instructor in geography at the Adelaide University, had been present. On that occasion His Excellency's appreciation and evident knowledge of the subjects upon which Mr. Howchin had dwelt, provided a happy incident which Mr. Howchin would never forget. Again, he (the speaker) had accompanied His Excellency on a visit to the Adelaide Botanic Garden, and had discovered that he, like an ancient sage whose name was familiar to them all, knew every plant from the hyssop on the wall to the cedar of Lebanon and the Australian gumtree. The presence of Mr. Bryce there that evening represented a further achievement of the University they loved so well. (Applause.)

—Mr. Bryce as an Australian.—

The Right Hon. J. Bryce, who was received with loud applause, expressed his heartfelt thanks for the great and unexpected honour which had been conferred upon him. Nothing was further from his thoughts, when he visited Australia, than that he should be received with such open arms by the University, and that the great honour, which was the highest which the University had the power to bestow, would fall to his lot. He had never received an academical honour which he prized more and for which he would continue to be more grateful, than the present one. They had made him an Australian. (Applause.) They had given him a new tie to their great continent and Commonwealth, besides that which he already had and valued—being a member of the British Empire which they all honoured and revered, and which he hoped would last for ever. (Hear, hear.) They had gone so far in making him an Australian as to tempt him to prolong beyond what the calls of his duty would permit, his sojourn in the Commonwealth, but he would claim that privilege, which he believed Australians claimed, the right to express his opinion upon social and economic problems made, and yet to be made. (Laughter.) The Chancellor had done him too much honour, and the truth was that, for the first time, pretty nearly, in his life, he was glad that he was not in the first blush of youth, because if he had been he was afraid that his head would not have been able to stand the unmerited eulogies which the Chancellor had bestowed upon him. Fortunately his life had shown him his own deficiencies, and made him disagree with all the Chancellor had said. (Laughter.) His scepticism, however, did not lessen his gratitude. (Applause.)

—Making Traditions.—

As a member of the University he expressed the great pleasure and pride which he felt in Universities, and he congratulated them upon the fact that the lines of

the University of Adelaide had fallen in pleasant places. It was true that it was young compared with the University at Oxford. The Chancellor had observed that he (Mr. Bryce) was not present at the foundation of Oxford. Nor was any one else, because it never was founded. It grew up. It was based on common law. It was a University which did not exist by any Papal bull, royal charter, or statute of Parliament, but was part of the common law of England, and there never was a time in which any one could say that there was no University of Oxford. It had a long history of the past, but Adelaide was going to have a long history of the future, and it had the privilege of making those traditions which Oxford had had made for it, Oxford students' responsibility was to tread in the steps of their ancestors, but the responsibilities of the students of the Adelaide University—not less serious—was to set precedents and form traditions, which would be a guide and an inspiration for those who would come after them for many centuries. (Applause.)

—Praise for Adelaide.—

He congratulated them upon the great advantages which they possessed. They had a beautiful site in a beautiful city. Adelaide deserved all and more than all that travellers had said of its beauty and charm. It stood in a beautiful plain like his beloved Oxford, but it possessed the additional charm of the beautiful mountain range running almost round it, and holding within it recesses beautiful, varied, and wonderful scenery. What a privilege it was to have so close at hand the opportunity to commune with Nature in its innermost secrets, and to see from the summits of the ranges most exquisite lights and colours, with the blue expanse of ocean in the distance. The University was to be envied for its surroundings. It was on the edge of the city. It was near enough to be available for all those who desired to take advantage of it, and it had large grounds sufficient at present for all purposes. If he could offer a word of counsel to the beneficent Government and municipal authorities, it was that they should not suffer any of the ground which might be needed for the University, to fall into the hands of private ownership. They would want all the ground and more in the future, for no one could tell what the growth of the University would be, for the time might come when there would be residential colleges connected with it.

—Three Types of University.—

It was of great interest to one who had passed the best part of his life in connection with universities, to see a new one in this new land. A university expressed the mind, thought, and aspirations of the people. It was both result and cause. Its result was that it was the expression of the people's mind and character. It showed the advancement of the community, and the object upon which the hearts of the people was set, and the thoughts with which their minds were filled. The cause was that all those things had become a powerful motive force in the community, which gave back in increased measure all that it received. Each of the great nations of the world had produced a peculiar type of university. By saying that he opened up a great subject upon which he could not dwell long that night. He would, however, call their attention to three existing types of universities which had been produced by three great peoples. He chose them because each was distinctive of the character of the people and for social and economic conditions. The people referred to were the Germans, the people of the United States, and the people of England.

—Germany to the Fore.—

German universities were conspicuous chiefly for three things—the complete perfection of their organization, the extent of their specialized studies, and the way in which they had devoted themselves to the prosecution of original research. In those lines Germany had rendered service to the whole world. Last century the German universities had become the home of German patriotism, and through them had proceeded that spirit which had ultimately led to the realization of the German Empire. Germany represented one type—a valuable one, but one which, he thought, was not quite perfect, because it lacked something.

—Wealth of America.—

Secondly, there were the universities of the United States, which had not done so much for learning as the German universities. Although they commanded enormous staffs of professors they were not so well organized as the German institutions, nor had they done so much for original research. They had, however, succeeded in becoming an object of national pride and interest of such a nature as to draw from those millionaires, who were as plentiful as blackberries in the United States, constant streams of gold, so that the uni-