

The Register
September 17th 1914

A BASELESS RUMOUR.

Professor Mitchell, of the Adelaide University, writes:—"When war-fever fails to get an honourable outlet, it is apt to grow malignant; and men are maligned who are too proud to resent it in public. A rumour has been growing for a month that the conductor at a public concert substituted a German march for 'True to the Flag,' which was down on the programme. But this one, too, is a German march; it merely happens that its name has been translated. The reason for the substitution was that the librarian of the orchestra was unable to get copies of it. The force behind the rumour appears to be more malignant than ignorant, however, and I hope that the thoughtless people who have acted on it will be as keen to do the right thing now."

The Register
September 18th 1914

HEINICKE'S ORCHESTRA AND LOYALTY.

Sir—As some misguided persons have seen fit to reflect on the loyalty of Heinicke's Orchestra at their recent concert, because a march with an Austrian title was substituted for the programmed number, "True to the Flag," I would be glad if you would grant space for a few words of personal explanation. As librarian of the orchestra, I consulted Mr. Heinicke in reference to the concluding item, and he instructed me to give for performance the military march, "True to the Flag." This number is not in our library, though we had previously played it (from borrowed parts), and, being unable to procure it in time for the concert, we had to substitute another march similar in character. A military march is just a military march, whatever the title, just as "A rose by any other name," is still a rose, and the fact that the orchestra played "Rule Britannia" and other British national airs makes the suggestion of disloyalty ridiculous. As three-fourths of the orchestra are sturdy Britons, and the rest, including our esteemed conductor, are loyal British subjects, the performance of music of a character thoroughly loyal may be safely left to them.

I am, Sir, &c., W. R. GOWER.

CORRESPONDENCE.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND ENLISTMENT.

To the Editor.

Sir—In Wednesday's Register I read "Undergrad's" letter of complaint that University students wishing "to fight for the Motherland, instead of receiving encouragement from the University authorities, have received nothing but discouragement," and to-day I have read the explanatory letter of the Registrar (Mr. Hodge). "Undergrad" might have added that the English universities, as well as "the other colonial universities" to which he alludes, have, as I learn, given encouragement to their undergraduates to join the fighting forces of the Empire at this crisis, and made all needful concessions. It was stated, I think in The Register of September 2, that a movement was on foot in England "among ex-public school boys and university men to raise five battalions, and it is intended eventually to increase the number to 20;" and on Tuesday I was informed by cable that Oxford had made "satisfactory arrangements" to encourage and enable her undergraduates to enlist, without prejudicing their university course or career. I am confident the Adelaide University will do likewise. University terms and examinations are as dust compared to the maintenance of the Empire.

I am, Sir, &c., J. H. SYMON.
Gladstone Chambers, September 17, 1914.

The Register

September 18th 1916

CORRESPONDENCE.

UNDERGRADUATES AND ENLISTMENT.

Sir—I read with surprise Mr. Hodge's letter in The Register of September 17, and would like to point out that it appears that the point in question has been overlooked. "Undergraduate" referred exclusively to the expeditionary force in his letter of Wednesday. Mr. Hodge states that a definite understanding has been arrived at between the University and the D.A.A.G. as regards student trainees arranging for their exemption from service before the examinations. This clause can at once be dismissed as having nothing at all to do with the expeditionary force, as also can the clause relating to schoolboys, whose success at the public examinations is in jeopardy. Regarding the provision for the two students holding scholarships, it seems unjust that these two should be singled out for, might I say, special honours. Why should the others, who probably had paid their fees for the third term, have to forfeit their fees for courses they never attended on account of their absence due to answering Britain's call in her hour of need? Might I ask how much the examinations for the 10 petitioners were to be advanced? In all probability a few days, or perhaps a fortnight. From what I can gather nothing has been done to give these students, already down at Morpethville, a chance to sit for their examination before they leave for the front. Surely they might have been given special examinations in at least their practical examinations, so as not to have wasted the whole of their year's work in the eyes of the powers that be on North terrace: for to them it would seem that, unless the examinations are passed, no benefit is gained from the year's work. One must not forget that Britain is at present in the throes of a titanic struggle, the like of which the world has not seen before. Surely the University authorities will leave their groove and do something suitable to the occasion. I shall await future developments with great interest.

I am, Sir, &c., PATELLA.

Register

September 19th 1916

HEINICKE'S ORCHESTRA AND LOYALTY.

Sir—Allow me to point out to Mr. W. R. Gower that at the present time a German military march is a vastly different composition from a British military march. To play "Hoch Habsburg" at a patriotic concert, and programme it as "True to the flag" seems to me to be a reflection upon the intelligence of a patriotic audience. According to Mr. Gower's argument a national anthem is a national anthem, just the same as a rose is a rose, but would he care to sing "God save the King" in Germany?

I am, Sir, &c.,

RULE BRITANNIA.

Sir—In reference to Professor Mitchell's paragraph, permit me to point out that he omits the title of the march played—instead of "True to the flag." The correct title of this march is "True at the flag." *Tru zur Fahne*, composed by Blon. This is the point. "Hoch Habsburg," composed by Kral, meaning "Hail Habsburg," was the title of the march substituted—quite sufficient for any Briton to take exception to, especially at a patriotic concert. The "British patrol" would have been far more suitable. The professor's inference that it is "Malignant" for any one to take exception to this substitution is not, in my opinion, correct. What would be done in Germany if "Rule Britannia" or the "Marseillaise" were played at a patriotic concert instead of, say, "Hoch Habsburg"? Is it true that this orchestra declined to assist at the monster patriotic concert on August 29, when no fewer than nine choral societies took part?

I am, Sir, &c.,

A BRITON.

September 19th 1914

CLASSICS AND THE CROWD.

"The value of classics to the crowd is that even a smattering acquaintance with them will enable a man to come out of the crowd, and obtain an occasional glimpse of a far-off, a better, and a more beautiful world." So remarked Mr. T. Ryan in a lecture which he delivered before the University Classical Association on Friday evening. Professor Darnley Naylor presided. The title of Mr. Ryan's address was "The value of the classics to the crowd." He said he had heard it urged, even by university professors, that what the people required to improve their condition was more technical and practical education. He largely agreed, but he contended that a blacksmith would be none the less a good tradesman if he knew something of the classics. In his opinion the greatest need of the Australian working man to-day was something which would encourage him to get away from himself. The toiler was entitled to something more from life than a mere grind day after day, just for existence sake, and a study of the classics would help to the attainment of that something. Mr. Ryan said his hope was that the value of the classics would more and more come to be realized by the men for whom they were the greatest need. He had been asked of what use such studies could possibly be to a working man—what story he could hear in an ancient language which he could not be told just as well in a modern one? His reply was that flowers were a joy. But how much more fragrant to a man was the rose which he grew himself, than the rose, however exquisite, which was cultivated for him by even the greatest of experts? That being so, he had personally felt how much more he should be able to revel in the ancient love, and wisdom, and ideals, and stories, if he could delve out for himself that wisdom, word by word, sentence by sentence, in the splendid old language in which they had been presented to the world. Mr. Ryan also outlined the scheme which was put for the enlargement of the scope of the Adelaide University. He was accorded a vote of thanks.

The Mail

September 19th 1914

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

To the Editor of "The Mail."

Sir—As some misguided persons have seen fit to reflect on the loyalty of Heinicke's Orchestra at their recent concert, because a march with an Austrian title was substituted for the programmed number, "True to the Flag," I would be glad if you would grant space for a few words of personal explanation. As librarian I consulted Mr. Heinicke in reference to the concluding item, and he instructed me to give for performance the military march "True to the Flag." This number is not in our library, though we had previously played it (from borrowed parts), and being unable to procure it in time for the concert we had to substitute another march similar in character. A military march is just a military march, whatever the title, just as "A rose by any other name, &c.," is still a rose, and the fact that the orchestra played "Rule Britannia" and other British national airs makes the suggestion of disloyalty ridiculous. As three-fourths of the orchestra are sturdy Britishers, and the rest (including our esteemed conductor) are loyal British subjects, the performance of music of a character thoroughly loyal may be safely left to them.

I am, Sir, &c.,
W. R. GOWER,
Librarian Heinicke's Orchestra.