

The Register
April, 28th, '55.

MIGHT OR RIGHT?

Professor Henderson's Third Lecture.

Professor G. C. Henderson, M.A., in the third and last of a series of University extension lectures on the war, delivered at the Adelaide Town Hall on Tuesday night, made interesting and forceful references to the secrets of national success and greatness as illustrated by England and Germany respectively. There was a large audience, including Lady Galway and the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way).

—Treachery and Frightfulness.—

Referring to the treatment of the Belgians by the Germans, Professor Henderson said the best of leaders could not restrain all the troops under him from barbarous practices. They needed to exercise caution and discrimination in dealing with the subject of German methods in the war. It was better to reserve judgment on the more sensational charges, and confine discussion to those vouched for on good authority and supported by proclamation or authority from Berlin. There had been made clear a system of treacherous espionage on the part of the Kaiser's Army and secret service. Ammunition, arms, and other aids to hostilities had been concealed in Belgium by people who had been regarded by the Belgians as honourable citizens. A man who lived under the protection of a nation, and enjoyed its freedom and honours, and then turned traitor to its interests in that way, was one who must be condemned in very strong terms. It was a violation of the interests of civilized men. (Applause.) When the Germans invaded Belgium they were in the position of burglars. It would have been only fair and just if they had been lenient with the people of the country which had been invaded and violated instead of having reflected on them the awful treatment which had been meted out to them, and of which the world had now become familiar. (Applause.) The foe expected the Belgians to restrain themselves, and not to do any harm to the army, and therefore it was only fair that the alien soldiers should restrain themselves, and not commit any atrocities. Equally on land and sea the practices of Germany were incompatible with civilized warfare. (Applause.) It was inevitable that some suffering should be caused to civilians and damage done to property in war, but a system of "frightfulness" had been perpetrated by the Teutons on any pretext, and when there was none one was invented. Half a dozen pretexts had been advanced by them for the invasion of Belgium, but not one had been substantiated by fact. The use of asphyxiating gases, after a statement that it was a reprisal to England, was one of those tricks of which the enemy was capable. (Applause.)

—A National Shark.—

Germany was acting like a shark among the fishes. The shark was strong, swift, and cunning. Woe betide the mullet when the shark needed to satisfy its appetite. It meant woe for Belgium when the Teuton set out to satisfy his appetite. It was a case of might, not right. (Applause.) Brutes had force, swiftness, and cunning, but lacked ethical ideas and morals, and had no sense of the binding character of agreements or treaties. Bernhardt had said might was right, and that was the spirit of German militarism. (Applause.)

—The World's Peace.—

He personally did not argue for the abandonment of force. The peace of the world would never be brought about in that way. What they wanted was not peace prattlers, but peacemakers. (Hear, hear.) They would not attain peace without force, but that force should be in the background, to be used for the maintenance of usages of civilization, and not for their destruction, as was the case with Germany. (Applause.) In the matter of international obligations the Fatherland had taken up the position of a national brigand. It had poured contempt on the Hague Convention, regarded

treaties with scant respect, and acted as though the State was the final authority. (Applause.) Internationally they had bonds one with another. The history of the nineteenth century had shown that arbitration among the nations had made considerable progress. By that means England had settled certain difficulties with France. (Hear, hear.) One of the greatest influences for peace would be the establishment of some international arbitration Court backed up by sufficient force to prevent any one nation from making war on another nation until its ultimatum had been submitted to that Court.. He did not think such a tribunal was without the range of possibility. (Applause.) President Roosevelt, when in office and since, had sought to bring such a condition of affairs about. It seemed to be only a matter of getting a sufficient number of pacific Powers of the world to back it up, and make it utterly rash for any nation to challenge such an authority. Whether that tribunal would be the outcome of the war, as a result of the misery caused by the conflict, or would be postponed for a very long time, he could not say, but he felt sure that civilization lay that way, and not in the direction of determining right simply by might. (Applause.)

—Example for Right.—

Great Britain had set the example for right. Belgium had been protected by a treaty. England said she would respect that treaty by force, and not simply by talking about it. (Applause.) There were great moral issues in the war. England was on the right side, and when she, and the Empire, came out of the conflict it would be into a phase of history even more glorious than had before been enjoyed. (Prolonged applause.)

The singing of the National Anthem concluded the proceedings.

Advertiser.
April 29th 1915

RECRUITS WANTED.

A CALL FOR PATRIOTISM.

To the Editor.

Sir—The speech of his Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Galway) delivered in Sydney yesterday, in which he said "that there were many young men in Australia who could go to the front, but had not done so," is, I fear, only too true. The fact was forcibly brought to my mind on Saturday last when I saw some 20 or more lusty young law students assembled in court to witness the admission of four of their number. I should say it might safely be said that at least 75 per cent. of these young gentlemen have no dependents, and could go to the war with hearts free from care. They are the kind of men the Empire needs in this tremendous crisis. Why do they lag behind deaf to the call of patriotism? Out of 41 law students attending lectures at the University, only four, as far as I can ascertain, have joined the forces. And only four out of about 200 practising lawyers have come forward to serve. These figures compare miserably with the response of the legal profession in England. Up to February 6 last the numbers (increased since) of the legal profession in England serving in his Majesty's forces, many of them then actually fighting in France, were as follows:—Out of 3,472 practising barristers, 821 (including nine K.C.'s.) (over 23 per cent.); out of 16,939 solicitors, 1,831 (over 10 per cent.); and out of 1,900 articled clerks, 981 (over 51 per cent.). I give these figures on the authority of the "Solicitors' Journal" of February 6 last. I am told that the low percentage of recruits from the legal profession here is typical of the recruiting from the well-to-do Australian population as a whole, the medical profession excluded. I do not know if this is true. But if it is, Australians of that class have little to be proud of. It is not as if men were not wanted. I have it from the best authority they are urgently needed, and needed at once.—I am, &c.,

J. H. GORDON.

Supreme Court, April 28, 1915.

A GIRL'S ROMANCE.

How Clara Serena Was "Found."

[By Veloce.]

Had it not been for the war she would ere now have made her operatic debut in Europe, and might have been well on the way to stardom. If it had not been for the war she would not have met the most important and significant personality in her musical world. So Miss Clara Serena views the great world-struggle—from her own strictly personal viewpoint—with curiously balanced emotions. "Clara Serena!" That is the professional title which was adopted six years ago for our own South Australian born and Adelaide Hills bred girl. May the name ring far and wide!

"I do hope I may achieve something," said the returned contralto to a representative of The Register, in the course of her "very first" interview on Wednesday; "for I am longing in some way to repay many splendidly kind friends for what they have done."

"By all the rules of pretty stories, you should become a prima donna," I said. "Your student history, you know, has been a romance."

"Yes, oh quite! It has been just wonderful. How can I thank those people who have befriended me so for every hour that I have been away? I am helpless to express myself. There was I, a kid, seven years or so ago, sitting at the piano in my aunt's little home in Woodside. I just happened to be there, and three Adelaide



MISS CLARA SERENA.

men chanced to be staying across the street for the week-end at a holiday place they called 'The Angel's Rest.' They were setting off for a walk. I understand, when they heard me singing—or bawling—my heart out as I sat strumming at the piano-forte. In they walked, straight into the room. I was both astounded and indignant. But that moment was the beginning of a whirl of things. There was frightened little 'me,' turned into a trust, brought down to the Conservatorium, given every good thing and opportunity—a splendid preliminary training; exciting praise from you people and audiences; and then an Elder Scholarship at the Royal College of Music in London! It seems a dream."