

Advertiser January 8th 1886

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—We would wish to know why "Spectator" does not sign his name at the end of the veracious and highly-amusing advertisements seen so often in your paper? He says boys from a certain school presented themselves three or four times for the matriculation examination, whereas the boys in question only presented themselves for the matriculation examination twice, which in two cases out of the three was necessary for their M.B. course, not to advertise the school. It is rather strange that the boys from the said school have met with equal success elsewhere; no doubt other persons besides those at the Adelaide University also favor them. We would also ask "Interested" what grounds he had for saying the South Australian scholarship was not fairly gained, except that the winner came from the "favored" school.—I am, &c.,

W. DEMPSTER.

Advertiser January 9th 1886

THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The writers of the various letters that have appeared in your columns on the above subject have, I think, overlooked a possible source of danger to a fair and equitable conduct of these examinations, and one that might be easily obviated. The questions submitted to the candidates are printed, consequently have to pass into other hands than the examiners some time previous to their being placed before the candidates. It is needless to point out the opportunity thus afforded for an improper use being made of their contents. With the appliances now available for manifold writing and copying would it be unreasonable to require the examiners themselves to prepare the number of copies of the questions necessary for the use of the candidates?—I am, &c.,

ARGUS.

Advertiser January 11th 1886.

THE UNIVERSITY EXAMINATION.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir.—That slander is the penalty of success has (by no means for the first time) been proved by the great amount of correspondence that has appeared in your columns of late with reference to the examinations held at our University. Some of your correspondents seem anxious to know why it is that so many candidates from one institution are successful. Because they do not know they think it right to state what they surmise, and in so doing they attempt to persuade those reading their letters that there is reason to suspect that the institution which comes out with a better average of successful candidates than any other in the colony has been favored. Now, there is no doubt that these insinuations are intended for Prince Alfred College, and it is pleasing to note that this institution has followed the advice of the good authority which says "that contempt is the best treatment of slander;" but when such a person as "Argus" tells us how writers of letters upon the above subject in his opinion have overlooked the danger of the improper use of the papers while being printed, it is time for somebody to speak, not necessarily to defend Prince Alfred College, for there is no reason to suggest that your correspondent hinted at that institution any more than any other, but on behalf of all candidates who have presented themselves at the University for examination. Had "Argus" thought of the old adage, "Suspicion is the virtue of a coward," he perhaps would have hesitated before writing such a letter as that appearing in your issue of Saturday last. With regard to the question why the candidates from Prince Alfred College are so successful, it is only necessary to say that if a scholar studying for either the junior or matriculation examination at that institution does his home lessons thoroughly, is regular in attendance, and pays attention to his master during the time he is in class, there is nothing to prevent him passing his examination at the end of the year. Instead of being surprised at so many getting through, I shall always be surprised at any who have carried out the above instructions being plucked.—I am, &c.,

AN OLD SCHOLAR.

January 9, 1886.

advertisement January 12th 1886.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Your correspondent, "An Old Scholar," is evidently a "verdant young man" who has not yet learned to discriminate between "precaution" and "suspicion." If he will take the trouble to consult a bank manager he will no doubt ascertain that the specie held by a bank, and even so comparatively valueless an article as the printed form which when bearing certain signatures pass for the value of so many pounds sterling, are kept under lock and bolt and doors of iron, not because the directors or manager is "suspicious" that any of the gentlemen in the establishment would misappropriate a sixpence or inadvertently write their name where they should not—certainly not—they would not "slander" the gentlemen in the bank by entertaining the slightest "suspicion" of their being capable of such conduct, but they take the "precaution" nevertheless. Even I, who live in a very respectable neighborhood, close my doors at night and keep a dog in my fruit garden; but because I and bank managers take the precautions named I fail to see that we are exhibiting "the virtue of cowards." Possibly "An Old Scholar" wishes to convey the idea that all employed in printing establishments and all connected with learning, from professor to college boy, are immaculate. Why, it is not very long since an American professor committed murder, and some South Australian college boys were caught robbing the fruit garden of one of their chiefest patrons and benefactors—an exhibition of ingratitude so shameless, heartless, base, and contemptible, has not come to my knowledge since Eve stole the forbidden fruit. "An Old Scholar" says:—"Some of your correspondents seem anxious to know why it is that so many candidates from one institution are successful." I trust he does not include "Argus" amongst the number; if so he is much mistaken. Not only is the success of the P.A.C. at the examinations such as I have anticipated, but the rapid increase in the number of scholars such as I predicted years ago. It was obvious to me that S.P.S.C. was lagging behind the "the spirit of the age." The circumstances that led me to this conclusion were these:—I had attended S.P.S.C. "speech day" in the college schoolroom, and shortly after the P.A.C. ditto, held in the Town Hall. The contrast was most striking, and could not fail to impress any thoughtful spectator. The attendance of visitors was out of all proportion to the number of scholars in the two institutions. Whilst the audience who attended at St. Peter's schoolroom was evidently confined almost exclusively to those of the friends of the scholars who could make it convenient to go out to the college, it was equally evident that the friends of the Prince Alfred scholars had not only come themselves, but brought their friends with them; that is, unless every Prince Alfred scholar is blessed with two or three mammas, and a vast wealth of growing and grown-up sisters. Another circumstance that impressed itself upon my memory was the contrast between the comparatively small pile of books in sombre bindings constituting the prizes of St. Peter's scholars, and the veritable bulwark of books in bright binding and golden letters.

in bright binding and golden lettering that fenced in the chairman in the Town Hall. As I pondered upon these things I was filled with admiration at the tact displayed, and the profound knowledge of human nature indicated by the various arrangements. There were hundreds of prizes—I think one for every two scholars and a few over. Naturally every mamma likes her Harry to get a prize, and also likes her friends to see her Harry take it. The Town Hall is a public place; any one can go there without feeling they are intruding. It is centrally and conveniently situated, and mamma and mamma's friends can drop in to witness the performance after or before doing their afternoon shopping, and if not profoundly interested in the performance will at least have a good opportunity of inspecting a good number of fashionable bonnets and other articles of attire. When I saw Harry's mamma's delight, and the delight of her friends and the audience, and heard their rapturous cheers, as again and again, and sometimes again Harry made his appearance upon the platform to receive and bear away a gorgeous book that made one think that when he left the hall he would be a veritable peripatetic library, and mentally contrasted it with the distribution of a few sad-colored books, and a few £10 and £20 scholarships in common envelopes, or two or three £50 "Farrell" scholarships, with their little silver insignia in a common white paper box, say, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep by $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 3 inches, in a hole-and-corner sort of way—I could not help saying to myself "not only do the authorities of this institution manifest a profound knowledge of human nature, but they also strictly conform to the Scriptural injunction not to 'hide their light under a bushel, but let it be seen of all men'—and ten times as many women into the bargain—verily verily this school will increase and multiply exceedingly." And it was so. "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" is a statement which rests upon high authority. The Princes are wiser than the Saints. It of course rests with the Saints to decide whether or not they will suffer under the imputation of inferior worldly wisdom or meet their competitors upon even ground—and with the same weapons. I have heard the