

those who desired it in all parts of England. He thought there was a great field for this University in teaching students outside of Adelaide. He recently asked some gentlemen in Mount Gambier if they would be willing to support evening teaching in connection with the University if the University would agree to supply the necessary wherewithal, and recommend the teachers. They expressed themselves greatly in favour of the suggestion, and he could not help thinking that there were many towns in the colony that would be glad of the opportunity of having evening classes established in their midst in connection with the University. He disapproved of the suggestion made by the Vice-Chancellor that classes for the ordinary degree should be formed along with the others. He considered that young men engaged in hard work during the day would be unfairly handicapped in studying for a degree side by side with those who had the whole of their time to devote to it. It would be very difficult for evening students, whose vigour had been partly exhausted during business hours, to go through the work necessary for a degree in anything like the time which would be sufficient for the others, who had the whole of the day to work in, and therefore he was in favour of limiting the subjects taught. He recommended the study of the constitutional history and laws of our country, and concluded by expressing a hope that many working men would take advantage of the classes when established.

The Rev. R. M. HUNTER, ex-President of the Wesleyan Conference, seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. J. F. CONIGRAVE, J.P., seconded by Mr. J. G. JENKINS, a member of the Literary Societies' Union, it was decided to forward the foregoing resolutions to the Council of the University for its information.

Votes of thanks to His Excellency and His Honor Chief the Justice for presiding were passed, after which the proceedings terminated.

advertisement
Register March 7/85.

THE thanks of the community are due to Sir Thomas Elder for the liberal manner in which he has come forward to support the establishment of evening classes at the University. The donation of £1,000 which he has offered is not only in itself munificent, but the thoroughly hearty way in which the gift has been made, and the opportuneness of the time selected for making it, render it all the more acceptable and praiseworthy. The University of Adelaide is under a great debt of gratitude to Sir Thomas Elder. He it was who, with Sir W. W. Hughes, provided the funds with which the University was originally endowed, and the

latest gift of Sir Thos. Elder is a proof that the interest he feels in the cause of higher education has in no way abated. The establishment of evening classes at the University promises to extend so largely the advantages of that institution that the movement to secure it is well deserving of the patronage of the wealthy members of the community. Sir Thomas Elder has been the first to exhibit a practical recognition of this fact, and it is to be hoped that the example he has set will be followed by many others. At present the usefulness of the University is not nearly so great as it should be. Valuable as it may be to those who have the leisure and means to enter upon a regular course of academical training, it affords no opportunities for the educational improvement of the many who are unable to indulge in that luxury, although they would with the utmost readiness attend such classes as might be arranged to be held at a time when the ordinary business of the day has been concluded. The proposed evening classes, if once fairly established, will make the University a much more popular institution than it is at present. The scheme, however, cannot be successfully carried out unless funds are provided to give effect to it, and for these the University must look to the general public. Sir Thomas Elder is the first to show in a practically helpful manner his sympathy with the movement; and we shall be surprised if his generous action does not lead other wealthy colonists to contribute towards the attainment of the end in view.

The Register.

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 1885.

UNIVERSITY EVENING CLASSES.

With his accustomed liberality Sir Thomas Elder has come to the fore in the matter of establishing evening classes in connection with the University. In a characteristic letter to the Chancellor he mentions his wish to subscribe £1,000, and advises those interested to strike while the iron is hot. It is not necessary for us to dwell upon the generosity of Sir Thomas Elder. Whenever he can help in the advancement of the interests of the colony he is always ready and willing to do his utmost. A liberal patron of learning, he has earned for himself the gratitude and esteem of his countrymen. We have not heard of any other contribution as yet, but we make no doubt but that the sum required will be subscribed at no distant date. The Vice-Chancellor of the University expressed the opinion on Thursday that £5,000 would be a large enough sum to begin operations with, and we presume that he speaks after careful consideration of the subject. Several points should enter into this consideration. First of all, how many students will there be? We confess that we are not of those who expect the number of students to be immediately very large. A scheme like this wants working up. In process of time we may reasonably expect, all things being well, the classes to be numerous attended, but we have no right to think that the project will be thoroughly successful all at once. All gourds do not grow as fast as Jonah's.

Next, as to the fees? If we charge too much we shall not reach the classes we want to get at, and if we charge too little students will probably undervalue the instruction. Two very important points, besides those which we touched upon yesterday, demand attention. These are the selection of lecturers and the regula-

tion of the course of studies. Both of these lie within the province of the University, and much will depend upon the way in which they are fixed. For evening classes, if they are to be a success, it is above all things necessary that the lecturer is clear and concise—not one who speaks above the heads of his hearers, but a man who can lead them from small things to great in certain steps. He must have a thorough sympathy with his subject, and it is equally important that he should have a kindly patience of the shortcomings of those who have perhaps been working hard all day and who devote their nights to study. Such teachers as these are not plentiful, but it is the duty of the authorities when they make their choice to keep a high ideal before them. Then as the course of study. We believe that Mr. Chapple, when he brought the question of evening classes before the Collegiate Masters' Association, had more especially in his mind the wish to secure for schoolmasters who had not graduated the advantages of a University education. Many members of this profession have sufficient zeal for knowledge and desire for its accompanying advantages to induce them to spend laborious hours after a trying day's work is done.