

before him the facts and figures which, in his judgment, warranted this very sweeping assertion. The first point which strikes us is how many private schools did Mr. Baker refer to, for obviously there are several which it would be absurd to place in the same category as the Advanced School. A still more important enquiry is whether there is any private school which can be fairly compared with the Advanced School upon the mere basis of numbers. This point Mr. Hopkins works out very elaborately, and he appears to us to have clearly established his conclusion that the contrasts made by the Minister were singularly unfair. But Mr. Hopkins goes further. He asserts that taking the mere basis of numbers the Advanced School does not show the highest percentage of passes if those are excluded who have gone up more than once for the same examination. Upon this point we are not able to speak with authority; but the Minister has, we believe, all the facts before him, and if he has been misled he will, no doubt, be prepared to offer an ample apology. Whatever may be said in support of the Advanced School at the present time, it is obvious that it has enjoyed, and still enjoys, exceptional advantages which are denied to the private schools. More, therefore, may be reasonably expected from it, and if the results achieved by it are to be placed in contrast with those attained in private schools, the comparison should not be made in such a way as to be misleading and unfair to the latter.

In the latter part of his letter, Mr. Hopkins deals with a much graver matter than a mere misuse of statistics. He says—
“The Government of South Australia and the University of Adelaide have seriously retarded the higher education of women in this country by their interference—not the less because well meant—the former by founding a school for senior girls, the work in which, though but second rate and third rate, is passed off by the highest officials as first-class upon the many; and the latter, I grieve to write it, by granting certificates to girls for a lower kind of

work than they require from boys for the same certificates." It is obvious that a certificate of scholarship should mean the same thing whether it is granted to a boy or a girl, otherwise, so far from promoting the higher education of women, it tends to keep them at a lower level. The effect of the difference in the case of the Advanced School girls is clearly shown by Mr. Hopkins. It seems cruel to say so, but it somewhat detracts from the *éclat* which it was thought had been gained by the girls at the recent examinations. This is not the worst of the matter. The Advanced School is not really a stepping-stone to the University, because it does not teach the subjects which will have to be taken up by any of the girls who desire to go on with the Arts course. In other words, having apparently taken the first step in a University course, these girls will find that as regards one or two subjects they will have to go back to rudimentary school work. Mr. Hopkins has stated his case strongly, because it is one upon which he evidently feels very strongly. The points which he discusses are too important to be overlooked, and in justice to the public and to the Advanced School itself we trust some answer to his statements will be forthcoming, either from the Minister of Education or, by his instructions, from the officials of the Education Department.

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THE UNIVERSITY AND THE SCHOOLS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—It is very satisfactory to find Professor Lamb, as one of the Professors of the Adelaide University, standing up for the youth of South Australia, and it is quite natural that he should wish to increase the attendance at the halls of learning where he is so able a lecturer. But it is to be regretted that in his letter in your issue of the 29th inst. he should desire to depreciate the opinion given by the Head Master of Prince Alfred College, formed after a long experience both in England and this colony, and of Bishop Kennion, whose recent arrival has enabled him to testify of his own observations in England up to the time of his leaving that country. The service rendered to the cause of higher education in this colony by Archdeacon Farr are so well known and so highly appreciated that his place in the grateful remembrances of all our colonists is secure. Eighteen years ago, when the founding of Prince Alfred College was taken in hand, I remember feeling that St. Peter's College was so assured in public estimation that meeting Mr. Farr in the street I remarked to him that "instead of lessening the attendance there the new school would induce the higher education of two boys where now only one received that benefit." Two or three years after the opening of the younger institution Mr. Hartley, the then Head Master, made arrangements for local examinations in connection with Melbourne University, which were conducted till the Adelaide University was opened, and the advantages of matriculation with that foundation many young men in South Australia now enjoy. As I read Bishop Kennion's remarks at the speech-day of St. Peter's College I understood them to be founded on the general tendency of boyhood merging into young manhood rather than on the outcome of the very few years' experience of College life by the small number of South Australians who have graduated at English Universities since the Adelaide University has been open to receive the alumni of St. Peter's and Prince Alfred's, with other schools. Professor Lamb states in his letter that there have been five awards of the South Australian scholarships—of £200 per annum, tenable for three years. There have in reality been six; four of these have been gained by boys who entered the University from Prince Alfred, one from St. Peter's, and one, I think, was from private tuition. But I hold that although these scholarships are proper as rewards, they are more useful as incitements for the great body of pupils. All those who have witnessed the hearty cheers from the whole school when the chief scholarships are given will see how all are stimulated to diligence in their studies although the prizes may be but to a few. And further, the ultimate purpose of the University is not so much to send forward students to the English Universities as to promote the education of those who remain in the colony. This is so self-evident that it need scarcely be mentioned. It may be that some day our University will become so famous that students will come from afar to her lecture-hall.

to her lecture halls, especially if there are lady professors distinguished in classics and philosophy and jurisprudence, as there were at the University of Bologna centuries ago. The strain will doubtless for a very long time gravitate in the direction Professor Lamb indicates. If, as has been said, order is a perpetual struggle against the natural tendency of things, then the counsels of Bishop Kennion and Mr. Chapple may be hailed as useful correctives, and despite his protest by none more gladly than by Professor Lamb himself.

I am, Sir, &c.,

G. W. COTTON.
