

in the colony. But the crowning public act of Sir Walter's life was the granting of £20,000 for the establishment of the University of Adelaide. It is true that the money was not in the first place intended for this institution, but as an endowment for the same Union College which a few weeks ago passed out of existence, but none the less is Sir Walter Watson Hughes entitled to be remembered as the founder of our University. Whether that institution was established too early or not in no way alters the fact that it owes its origin to the princely liberality of the successful colonist who has just passed away. In time to come South Australians may deem it fitting to erect a statue in his honour, but no memorial that can be raised will more appropriately or more enduringly speak his praise than the University itself. To all prosperous colonists he has set an example in the highest degree worthy of imitation. He has with a bountiful hand given back to the colony a portion of the wealth he has derived from it; and it is certain that no worthier object could have been selected upon which to bestow his generosity than that of promoting for all time to come the higher education and the higher culture of South Australians.

The advertiser January 5th 1887

DEATH OF SIR W. W. HUGHES.

LONDON, January 3.

Sir Walter Watson Hughes, formerly of South Australia, died on Saturday. The funeral will take place on Wednesday at Chertsey.

We regret to have to announce the death of Sir Walter Watson Hughes, who, after a long and painful illness, during the greater part of which life was sustained by the administration of milk and brandy, passed away at his residence, Bayswater, London, on December 3, in his 84th year. Sir Walter Watson Hughes was born at Pittanween, a village in Fife, Scotland, on August 22, 1803, and educated at Crail, in which town he served his apprenticeship as a cooper. He followed the sea for some years, and when about 26 years of age went as chief officer in a vessel bound for Calcutta. In this place he settled for a time, and being successful purchased a ship called the Hero, in which he traded for eight years between China and Calcutta. In this vessel he made his first visit to South Australia, where he arrived in 1842, and took up his abode in Adelaide. The narrative of his for-

tunes and reverses reads more like romance than reality. He was engaged in squatting pursuits here, and after being a sufferer in the ruin which overwhelmed the colony in Governor Gawler's time, he was assisted financially by the firm of Messrs. Elder, Stirling, & Co. While he was tiding over his difficulties one of his shepherds named Ryan discovered the Moonta copper mine, which, together with the Wallarao mines, Mr. Hughes and others then developed, and the copper industry grew and made the fortune of the subject of our notice. Mr. Hughes was not niggardly of his means when he became a wealthy man, but gave the munificent donation of £20,000 to found the Adelaide University, which was followed by £20,000 more from Sir Thomas Elder. In consideration of his public spirit and liberality, which was displayed in other directions than that of the University, Mr. Hughes was fittingly accorded the honor of knighthood, and two chairs were founded at the University in his honor—one of English literature and one of classics. For some time past Sir W. W. Hughes resided at Fann Court, Bayswater, London, and continued to take great interest in the affairs of the colony until prostrated by the illness which has resulted in his death. Sir W. W. Hughes married a daughter of Mr. J. H. Richman, who pre-deceased him some 18 months ago. The deceased leaves, residing in South Australia, one sister, Mrs. Robertson, of Gawler; one cousin, Mr. Robert Hughes, secretary of the Moonta Mines; two nephews, Mr. J. J. Duncan, M.P., of Watervale, and Mr. W. H. Duncan, of Oulnina; two brothers-in-law, Mr. J. M. Richman, of Watervale, and Mr. W. Richman, of Adelaide; and two nieces, namely, Mrs. Gordon, wife of Mr. J. Gordon, a member of the firm of Messrs. D. & W. Murray, and Mrs. Corpe, wife of the manager of the Gawler branch of the Bank of South Australia.

The Register January 6th 1887.

THE NEW UNIVERSITY CURRICULUM.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—The experience of every day confirms the maxim that true "order is a perpetual struggle against nature." To secure the benefits of mental discipline great efforts have been made from time to time to promote the educational advancement of the youth of South Australia. About forty years ago St. Peter's Collegiate School was founded. That institution, with the more recent establishment of Prince Alfred College prepared the public minds as well as trained boys ready for a University course, which was first pursued in connection with the Melbourne University by means of local examinations. At length, by the liberality of the late Sir W. W. Hughes the Government was induced to grant money and land for the foundation of the University itself. Thus started, other subscribers, including Sir Thomas Elder and Mr. J. H. Angas, came forward with funds, while both public and private schools rallied up candidates to the University examinations. It may be here remarked that the first impulse of new life was given to the common schools of the colony after the Government had secured the services of the present Chief Inspector (Mr. J. A. Hartley), who was then the Head Master of Prince Alfred College. Mr. Hartley's appointment led to the finding of Mr. F. Chapple as his successor. Mr. Chapple has for eleven years marshalled what may be called the main wing of colonial higher education, while Mr. Hartley has had command of the State centre of the advancing educational army. St. Peter's College, with the not infrequent luck of pioneer institutions, has had to strive manfully to maintain its strong position, while the higher private schools have one and all closed around the University examinations as the acknowledged standard of them all. It is well known that Mr. Hartley has been laudably ambitious to provide that as in the lower grades so in the higher stages of education the girls should rank equally with the boys. He therefore sought at the first opportunity to get the Government to allow him to establish what is locally known as the Advanced School for Girls. Here, as in many another innovation, Mr. Hartley found that he was both too early and too late. The public mind was only partially prepared to take up with the idea, and the scheme had lingered so far in the rear that there was a long distance for the girls to make up before they could get level with the so-called stronger sex. This has been a desperate struggle. The boys must not wait for their sisters to overtake them, while the girls, encouraged by the growing belief that whatever the boys can do they can equal, are determined to rally to the front. Mr. Hartley, overwhelmingly enthusiastic in his scheme, and so gallant to the sex that they may have a fair chance, was at his wits' end. The only prospect he saw of gaining his object was to handicap the boys by giving the girls an easier curriculum. But honour is not gained in that way. When

Mr. Hartley's *Alma Mater* the London University was started the contempt poured upon the aiders and abettors of that godless institution, as it was then called, far exceeded the scorn which some persons now affect towards higher education for women. But what did the promoters of that University do? Did they relax the standards that a larger number of the postulants might matriculate? History tells us that these men were wise enough to see that the way to gain respect was to tabulate a stiffer curriculum and to more honestly carry it out than did either Cambridge or Oxford. Though slow the progress the result was not uncertain, and now London leads the way and the contestant Universities follow. If Mr. Hartley had been abreast of the world's growing faith he would have said, Whatever the boys can do the girls can better. The girls themselves would have backed him up. Centuries ago women were Professors of Greek, Jurisprudence, and Philosophy in the University of Bologna. But no; Mr. Hartley, like a skilful general of division, puts strategy in the place of force. Remembering that there has ever been a contest for front place between the medicos and the lawyers—in the old country even a Coroner could not be appointed but the realm was convulsed with efforts to show that a doctor was more suitable for the situation than a lawyer, and *vice versa*—he discovered that here the struggle for pre-eminence had begun. A doctor is Minister of Education, and may not a sop to the profession carry Mr. Hartley's point? Then, as if it were of little matter whether the youth of the rank and file of the community be stimulated to diligence by a highly valued reward, and one which has already enabled more than one widow's son to distinguish himself, or not, the co-operation of the medical profession is sought—one of whom has shown great zeal for the political advancement of women—for bringing the University curricula to Mr. Hartley's ideal. Professor Tate, with a touch of humour, gets out of the fray by trying to edge himself into league with the agricultural and mining interests, and he ought to receive great *kudos* for his proposal, for if there were ten agricultural students affiliated with the