

The Advertiser

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1886.

THE annual public assemblage of the University for the conferring of degrees took place with proper academic pomp yesterday. The library, which for want of a larger hall has to do duty as a theatre, was crowded to excess. His Excellency the Governor and several members of the Ministry, in addition to the graduates in their gorgeous robes, were among the assembled company. The proceedings passed off with befitting dignity, which the youthful exuberance of the undergraduates enlivened but did not disturb. The number of degrees conferred was smaller than that last year, but the ceremony of conferring them was marked especially by the appearance of the first results of the law teaching of the University. Conspicuous among the candidates for degrees was Mr. Charles Todd, who was admitted as a Master into the University of Cambridge on the occasion of his recent visit to England, and who was received as a graduate *ad eundem* into our University. The privilege of admitting graduates of other universities has only been availed of by a few universities, but, where it has obtained, no distinction has ever been drawn between those who have wrought for their degrees and those who have been honored by a degree conferred *causâ honoris*. If the University of Cambridge saw fit to confer its academic hall-mark on so noted a scientist as Mr. Todd when a mere visitor in England, and felt itself honored by his accepting the distinction, the University of Adelaide may congratulate itself that it has been enabled, in accordance with its rules, to admit into its senate one who has won his renown by his public services in this colony as a citizen of Adelaide. After the degrees had been conferred an address was delivered by the Chancellor, in which he reviewed the work of the University during the year, and this in turn was followed by the annual oration, delivered on this

occasion by Professor Tate. The Chancellor referred especially to the changes in the legislation of the University which have marked the past year. As the colony has grown the University has grown with it, and it has been found necessary to codify and rearrange the statutes and regulations. The new and old regulations in their present form have received the Governor's assent, and therefore have their full force.

The meaning and the usefulness of these altered statutes will be made more manifest as time advances. The full bearing of them is at present only understood by those who have given so much time and attention to framing them, and we venture to think that even they have hardly measured the importance and the far-reaching effects of the so-called "higher public examination," which opens wide the door of academic distinction to those who are not able to become ordinary students. We have already expressed our high approval of this most important and popular change. The University ought to afford the best tuition in the colony on all subjects, but we do not see why it should have the monopoly in teaching. If those who study by themselves, or have efficient private tuition, are able to pass the examinations for degrees there is no reason why they should not be allowed to graduate. The ideal university of this century is one

which comes midway between the older form, which is that of a mere teaching institution, and the form adopted by the London University, which gives degrees but affords no teaching whatever. Among the notable incidents of the year to which the Chancellor referred a prominent place must be assigned to the completion of the medical curriculum. The course of instruction for a medical man in any university extends over four or five years. The first two years are those which entail the most expense on the managers of any medical school. The teaching of physiology and anatomy must be entrusted to professors whose time is almost entirely given to tutorial work. For these subjects special buildings and special appliances are required and must be provided. To provide for the remaining years of the M.B. course demands no increase in buildings or lecture rooms, and the several subjects may, fittingly and with profit, be entrusted to those who have the advantage of the daily practice of their profession to assist them. This was the plan adopted by the council, and the Chancellor informed the public yesterday that the moderate sum required for the smaller salaries of the medical lecturers has been met, partly by the Government and partly by that generous friend to the University, Sir Thomas Elder. The Government have been accustomed to devote £200 a year for four years as a travelling scholarship. This scholarship has hitherto been the highest prize which any young man could obtain, and the colony has no reason to be ashamed of those who have attained to the coveted distinction of being "South Australian Scholars."

With the altered circumstances of the colony the need for this scholarship has, however, passed away. The educational advantages now furnished by the University were not obtainable in the colony a dozen years ago. Seeing this to be the case the Government did not deem it a profitable use of public money to spend £800 per annum in tempting our four cleverest youths to settle in other countries, and decided to abolish this scholarship after the award of it in 1886. This will effect after next year an

increasing saving of £200 per annum to the country during the succeeding four years. The council with a very wise forethought cast righteously covetous eyes on this small saving. It seemed to afford a way out of their difficulty with regard to the medical school. The council accordingly suggested that the income previously granted to the scholarship should be transferred to the medical school, and the suggestion was adopted by the Ministry and by Parliament. The amount required was, however, more than this timely promise would provide. The scholarships do not fall in for some time, and money was wanted for immediate action. Sir Thomas Elder again appeared, as on previous occasions, as the *deus e machina*. He generously offered £500 for two years in succession, not towards endowment, but to provide an income out of which the lecturers might be paid. The University is now almost complete in its arrangements. As Professor Tate pointed out, it might at some future time add some special teaching in two important and scientific pursuits of this colony, mining and agriculture, but for the present the machinery is finished. It is to be hoped that the University will now enter upon a new era of progress and usefulness. The number of undergraduates is,