

Register October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1888.

PROFESSOR BOULGER'S CHAIR. — All well-wishers of the University will be glad to learn that the services of Professor Boulger are not to be lost to it. We have no wish to enter into a history of the disagreement between the Professor and the Council, which is fresh in the memory of the public. It is enough to recall the fact that when the term of his engagement was approaching an end Dr. Boulger desired to know the intentions of the Council. Suddenly it occurred to this body that it would be a good thing to fix a precedent for dealing with University Professors, and accordingly it was arranged, in December of last year, that the Council should be able to get rid of an obnoxious Professor, and that a Professor should be able to escape from an objectionable Council, by giving six months' notice. The objection to this arrangement, that it is unknown in the history of Universities, was set at nought. The Professors ate the humble pie offered them with a meekness which was hardly to have been expected; but Dr. Boulger, who was more immediately concerned, rejected the unpalatable offer. He resigned his position; the Council accepted his resignation; they advertised in the London papers for a successor, and asked Bishop Kennion, Mr. Murray, and the Agent-General to select the best candidate. Now they have modified their precious arrangement, have withdrawn the advertisements, and have appointed Professor Boulger for a fixed term of two years, with a reversion then to the six months' notice arrangement. We cannot congratulate either party to the dispute on the course that has been followed. Supposing that the report of the Council's proceedings which we publish this morning as supplied to us is correct, it would seem that Professor Boulger does not find the six months' notice so objectionable as it seemed to him some time ago. If the principle of the innovation is bad the lapse of two years will not make it any better. He need not think that by the time his certain appointment has expired the Council will have thought better of its bantling, and have humbled itself to

a return to the ordinary rules which regulate the relations of Professors to a University. Possibly his idea is to resign at the end of two years, but even so his acceptance of the terms amounts to a yielding of the principle for which he has so zealously and unselfishly striven. However, nobody wants him to be a martyr. There are plenty of cheap subjects on which such an experiment may be tried, and it would have been a decided loss to the cause of higher education in the colony if so distinguished a scholar and so energetic a worker had severed his connection with the University. He has undoubtedly been hasty in his actions and somewhat inconsiderate in his words; but as Shakspeare, or Bacon, or Donnelly, or somebody has remarked, "All's well that ends well," and we trust that Professor Boulger will for many years to come continue to inspire us of this colony with a love of culture and refinement. The Council gets out of this contest with a well-deserved addition to its reputation for eccentricity. It tried to impose unprecedented conditions on one of the foremost Professors, and it is now contented with a compromise which postpones the application of the conditions. It caused the Agent-General to advertise for candidates for the Chair, and now it has countermanded this order and the advertisements. The English applicants

will possibly be satisfied with whatever explanation is forthcoming, but equally possibly the Council will be obliged to put up with a certain amount of bad language. The unfortunate thing is that such a withdrawal of advertisements is calculated to lessen the colony's chances of getting good men on future occasions; for people, even if they are scholars and professors, have a certain objection to being made fools of. However, the Council will not suffer from the expostulations of disappointed applicants. A little extra praise or blame does not deter reformers of the true stamp, and we may rest convinced that nothing will stop the Council of the University of Adelaide in its attempt to set an example of procedure to the managing bodies of other Universities.

Register October 4 1888.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Permit me to draw the attention of those interested in education to the recent decision of the Adelaide University Council that Mr. J. A. Hartley should assist in the examination of the French and German papers at the forthcoming senior and junior University examinations. I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Hartley, and have reason to believe him a man of integrity; but it should be essential on the part of the University Council to appoint as examiners in all subjects those who have no connection with the management of schools from which candidates are sent.

If Mr. Hartley examines in the advanced school, and as his position in reference to it is in many respects similar to that of head master, it should preclude his acting in the capacity of examiner at the University.

I am, Sir, &c.,

JUSTICE.

Register October 5<sup>th</sup> 1888.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—"Justice" has called attention to a point which has been in my mind since the names of the examiners in the fast approaching senior and junior examinations appeared in the report of the late University Council meeting. Unquestionably a large number of candidates will come from the school under the immediate supervision of Mr. Hartley, and I would thoroughly endorse the views of "Justice" by asking two simple questions. First, may not Mr. Hartley in setting the papers be influenced (unconsciously) by the knowledge of what has lately been taught in that school? And, secondly, when the papers of the candidates are submitted to him may not his judgment (again unconsciously) be biased in favour of those who have gone through the course approved by him? Granted that in examining the papers of the candidates Mr. Hartley would not know to which particular candidate each set of papers belonged, would he not most naturally give the preference to those which were most in accordance with his own trains of thought and modes of tuition? And who would be so likely to be in unison with these as his own scholars?

I am, Sir, &c.,

FIAT JUSTITIA.