

need hardly be said, treated the representations of the Senate with becoming haughtiness and dignity. Let the Senate give the grounds for their criticism; let them appoint a committee to meet some members of the Council, and expound to them their reasons for the want of faith which is in them. The Council are apparently slow to apprehend how it is that a body of intelligent gentlemen, well versed in academical matters, can hold opinions adverse to their own on the subject of Professorships, but in a spirit of fair play they are ready to listen to the Senate, and convert the malcontents. When this formality is at an end all these troubles will be over. The new order of things will be firmly established, and leading men in the English world of literature and science will doubtless accept invitations to come to Adelaide for a season, and submit gracefully to the wholesome rule of holding office liable to dismissal at six months' notice.

But whilst the Council are prepared to humour the Senate so far as to convert them, they draw the line at anything which would bear the appearance of setting a watch over themselves. The Senate resolved "that the Council be requested to keep a register of attendances, and to communicate it to the Senate annually as a guide in future elections." There are, it is well known, many gentlemen who undertake honorary positions for some recondite reason or another, and who do not fulfil the duties attaching to these positions. The Senate, having regard to this extraordinary phenomenon, wished to be assured that members of the Council at least were attentive to their duties. The Council, for reasons best known to themselves, have refused to comply with the Senate's request. The refusal is the more unaccountable in that the reports of the proceedings of the Council, which ordinarily reach us in time for publication on the third day after the meeting, invariably contain a list of the members present. It might be thought, indeed, that this is the least to be expected when the report is of the doings of a public body dealing with public moneys; but we have learnt to be content with little, and to take any information which is supplied as so much to the good. If the Press were admitted to the meetings of the Council the Registrar would not be put to the trouble of preparing his condensed abstracts for publication. We could then tell our readers how many people were present, what each one said, and how each member of the Council voted on divisions. But it has been decided that the University is a delicate plant, which requires careful nourishing in the dark and protection from fresh air. Still it could not possibly do any harm to let people know how many of those who supervise its growth pay reasonable attention to their duties. In any case the Senate, upon whom devolves the task of continuing these supervisors in office or putting others in their stead, ought surely to have the information. We regret that we cannot give the reasons which induced the Council to withhold the statistics of their attendance from the Senate. They are doubtless very weighty, for they have to

be drawn up by the Education Committee and then submitted to the Council for approval. When they reach the Senate they ought rather to overwhelm that enquiring body, which is of late showing a tendency to rush in where the recording angels of the Press are not allowed to tread.

At present this is the position: the University is managed by a body of gentlemen who are elected by the Senate, but who are not really responsible for their actions to them or to anybody else. These gentlemen know better how to manage the affairs of a University than the governing bodies of Universities in other parts of the civilized world, and this notwithstanding that several of them have had no special facilities for learning the duties they discharge. They act as trustees to the public for the administration of estates granted by individuals and by the State; their trusteeship is held so sacred that they give the public very little insight into the manner in which they exercise it. No wonder that the Senate should feel dissatisfied at the position of affairs, and demand some of the light that is necessary to enable them to discharge intelligently their responsible duties. Entrusted as they are with the work of electing the Council and thus creating the machinery that moves the University, they can fairly claim not only a record of the attendances of members, but official enlightenment as to matters of policy dealt with by their representatives. It would be a thousand pities if the Senate, because of want of knowledge as to the views and votes of men they have elected, should be driven to the conclusion that the only way of setting things right is to make a clean sweep of all the present members of the Council with a view of putting in others who will be more amenable to public opinion and more ready to comply with the wishes of their immediate constituents. Some at all events of those members are men whose services the University cannot well afford to lose, but as nothing official is known as to how they vote there is a danger of all being included in one common condemnation.

Register June 6th 1888.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—As regards an advertisement in your issue of yesterday inviting applications for the Hughes Chair of English in the University of Adelaide, kindly permit me to state that the vacancy has resulted from my having declined re-election on terms quite different from those now offered to candidates.

I am, Sir, &c.,

E. VAUGHAN BOULGER.

Adelaide, June 5.

Advertiser June 13th 1888

ADELAIDE GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION.

Graduates not being members of the Council are invited to MEET at Mr. d'Arenberg's, 2, Morialta Chambers, Victoria-square, on THURSDAY, the 14th inst., at 4 p. m., to consider the Council's reception of the Senate's resolutions.