

and German, or either of them. In short, he is a very accomplished gentleman, and possesses in a very high degree exactly the attainments desirable in his Professorship of English literature, and is capable of doing other things equally well. To University men, who know what it is to be a Senior Classic and Gold Medallist of Dublin, and who know the value of his other accomplishments, we may leave to say how many chances there are to one that no man whom an advertisement will attract to succeed him will be his equal. We might, therefore, find some fault with the Council of the University for their rash experiment resulting in the loss of Professor Boulger, who will easily find an engagement elsewhere.

But the loss of one man, however valuable, is as nothing to the inauguration of a system which must operate injuriously on the University generally and its future Professors. It will be noticed that the offer of re-engagement on a tenure so precarious was made to Professor Boulger in pursuance of a resolution that no better terms were to be offered to any other five-yearly Professor. There can be no attempt to justify this as a check to any relaxation of interest or industry on the part of the Professors. Every one connected with the University knows that the complaint of its teachers is that they have too little scope for effort, and can aim at little beyond dragging up their pupils to some approach to the academical standard. And if the Council have any want of confidence in the Professors, how much more reason the latter have to want confidence in the Council is manifest both by the correspondence itself and by the constitution of the Council. The sudden hurling of a new scheme at the head of a Professor after a silence of months is a mark of caprice and weakness, while the opinion as to the duties of a Professor of English extending to an examination in history is one which the heads of a learned body should be ashamed of. But the constitution of the Council, a third of which is elected annually by the graduates, renders its proceedings still more liable to personal feeling or caprice. The Professors, therefore, have a double reason for distrusting the Council, while the Council, so far as we know, have hitherto experienced no reason for distrusting the Professors. As a matter of business and of common sense then, if men are to be got as Professors, they must be made to feel secure. The man who takes a Professorship without being made to feel secure will usually be one of mediocre qualifications and very moderate self-respect. If the Council, who have so little academical experience among them, will only employ their knowledge of the world by accepting the experience of others, they will just do what other Universities do, namely, engage as Professors gentlemen of talent and character, do all that can be done to keep them, and make no attempt to bring them into a condition of dependence and subservience.

# The Advertiser

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HALF the mistakes in the world arise from what is, alleged to be, thoroughly understood. There is no more fruitful source of differences between contracting parties. The reason is obvious. Where there is no definition each side supplies the *hiatus valde deflendus* from his own imagination. No art of logic and no science of ratiocination has invented an organon to remedy this original sin. If, as Cardinal Newman states, two disputants agree to a definition, and understand it in exactly the same meaning, there is no room for controversy or argument. Professor Boulger and the council of the University of Adelaide are at present, like Coleridge's two friends who had been friends in youth, standing apart, "like cliffs that had been rent asunder." If we are to judge from the correspondence which was placed in our hands last week, and which is published elsewhere, the scars are remaining, as in the poet's simile. And Professor Boulger's final letter seems to shut the door upon further negotiations. We neither desire nor intend to deal with this question, except upon the basis of the correspondence which has been submitted to us. Judged from this standpoint Professor Boulger is undoubtedly in the wrong, at all events in the conception he had formed of the duration of his professorship, if reviewed on the expiration of the original term of five years. This is a question which need not and ought not to be discussed or argued one way or another on personal grounds. Professor Boulger's qualifications for his office, or his literary attainments, have nothing to do with the matter. It is a case where the council are bound by every obligation to do what is best and wisest for the University in dealing with all their professors. Professor Boulger's university antecedents, and the position he had filled in Ireland, marked him out as one whom it would be a gain to the University of Adelaide to number in the ranks of its teachers. This we willingly admit.

It was unreasonable to suppose that any scholar worth securing would resign appointments of position and emolument, and, as in the professor's case, with a retiring pension, for a post in a new and distant country, without fixity of tenure for a stated period. Consequently the council offered, and Professor Boulger accepted, an appointment for a term of five years. A less period was unreasonable, a longer was unnecessary. The professor contemplated that "any one of the following contingencies might arise at the end of my five years' tenure:—1. The election of some new candidate. 2. Re-election during good behavior. 3. Re-election for another five years." But Professor Boulger seems in his survey of the future to have omitted one most obvious precaution, and that was to ascertain whether the contemplations of the council coincided with his own. *Hinc ille lacrimæ.* The contemplations of the council have resolved themselves into something like concrete form, inasmuch as an alternative has occurred to them which had escaped the professor's view. That body has decided—"That the appointment to chairs shall be for a fixed term of not more than five years, and that on the expiration of such term