

Leaving out of consideration the students in carpentry and engine-driving—the classes in which must have been very small—the remaining subjects—chemistry, physics, applied mathematics, geology, and drawing—are already amply provided for at the University and School of Design, where instructors with high salaries and expensive apparatus are provided. In fact, the Director of Technical Art at the School of Design has had occasion to find fault with the School of Mines for duplicating his work, and in some respects coming into collision with the School of Design; while on the other hand if it were not for the University it is difficult to see how the school would get on in regard to the other subjects at all. To a large extent the school is a mere parasite upon other institutions. It has no Director, and does not seem likely to get one, as the Government has refused to sanction a large increase in the outlay in order to procure one from England. Mr. Roth complained bitterly before the Commission that while nominally Director he was reduced to the position of a mere Secretary. The present Acting Director is a gentleman whose previous pursuits, while they enabled him to see many parts of the colony, cannot have left him much time or opportunity for much systematic study, and his want of any public qualification seriously discounts the value of certificates bearing his signature. Mysterious and sudden changes in the staff have been only too frequent during the period of the school's existence, and the cost in proportion to actual results attained—that is to say those which could not have been readily attained by previously existing institutions—has been heavy, and from a mining point of view its history amply justifies the rather sarcastic verdict passed upon it by the Commission when they said that “as a School of Mines its usefulness is capable of extension.”

---

**DIVULGING EXAMINATION PAPERS.**—The following notice has been circulated to the army generally:—“It having come to notice that examination papers for first-class certificates of education have been divulged prior to the dates for the examination, a reward of £100 will be paid by the Secretary of State for War to any person who will give such information and evidence as shall lead to the discovery and conviction of the person or persons through whom those papers were obtained from the War Office, and the Secretary of State for War will advise the grant of her Majesty's most gracious pardon to any accomplice, not being the person who actually committed the offence, as shall give such evidence as shall lead to a like result; or a reward of £50 will be given, with the same promise of pardon, to any person who shall give such information and evidence as shall lead to the discovery of the manner in which these examination papers became divulged. Information, private or otherwise, to be given, either personally or in writing, to the Director-General of Military Education, Winchester House, St. James's-square, London.”

Register 6<sup>th</sup> February 1891.

## CONVOCAATION OF OXFORD.

### CONCESSION OF PRIVILEGES TO THE ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY.

[RECEIVED February 5, 9.10 p.m.]

London, February 5.

The Convocation of Oxford has granted Adelaide University certain privileges with regard to degrees under the provisions of the Colonial and London Universities Statute.

Register 7<sup>th</sup> February 1891.

### "IS" OR "ARE?"

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In to-day's issue of the *Register* a literary expert is reported to have quoted as a specimen of bad English the following sentence:—"The loud and liquid notes of this bird *is* heard from day to day." For the sake of "sound learning in the province of South Australia" permit me to state that the English of the sentence, although old-fashioned, is not bad. No one with even an elementary knowledge of English *Formenlehre* would make such an assertion. "The wages of sin is death" is not a slip in the Authorized Version. "Moneys is your suit" is not a slip on Shakespeare's part. The word "are" is of foreign origin, and till nearly the end of the seventeenth century the form "is" was freely used in connection with a plural nomination by the best writers. Students of the English language, and, as it seems, even "experts," should consult that monumental work, "Maetzner's English Grammar," a translation of which was published by Murray in 1874. I may add that I have no interest, direct or indirect, in the so-called "Aldine History."

I am, Sir, &c.,

E. VAUGHAN BOULGER.

The University, Adelaide, February 6.

Register 9<sup>th</sup> February 1891

### UNIVERSITY ENGLISH.

"Do I sleep, do I dream?  
Do I wander, and doubt?  
Or is Lindley Murray a failure,  
And English grammar played out?"

BRET HARTE (Aldine Edition).

"For things is not what they seem."

LONGFELLOW (Var. Lect.).

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—In your issue of to-day Professor Boulger offers to prove that the sentence, "The loud and liquid notes of this bird is heard from day to day" cannot be called bad English. Two quotations are given to support this position—"The wages of sin is death" and "Moneys is your suit." Permit me to point out that these illustrations do not apply. In each case we find "is" used as a simple copula between a singular and a plural noun, whereas in the sentence from the Aldine History "is" is used as an auxiliary in the singular after a plural subject. If the Professor of English Literature consults the Professor of Logic he will probably be told that he must bring forward more apt illustrations before he can be held to have proved his case. Even if he should be able to produce such instances, it would not follow that a construction must be admitted to-day because it was considered correct 200 years ago. However, I am always willing to learn, so I will submit a specimen of this new "not bad" English as she may be wrote if based on "an elementary knowledge of English *Formenlehre*" and a study of "Maetzner's Monumental Work"—"Professor Boulger's abilities is undoubted, but his views is sometimes peculiar, and his arguments is occasionally weak. If candidates at University examinations is expected to write in this style, the results is likely to be remarkable, the schoolmasters is sure to be very much perplexed, and the pupils is certain to think all their English grammars is wrong."

I am, Sir, &c.,

THE WITNESS REFERRED TO.

February 7