

Their Honors said they would hear the arguments on the merits of the case. Mr. Goldsmith said that the contention on the other side went to show this. Once a graduate of the University of Adelaide was admitted then every other graduate would obtain a sort of freehold right to admission. No statute of the University of Melbourne had been passed recognising the University of Adelaide.

Mr. Justice A'Beckett asked whether there was any evidence that the University of Melbourne, having recognised the degree of bachelor of arts conferred by the University of Adelaide, had ever revoked that recognition.

Mr. Goldsmith thought the act of the University showed this.

The Chief Justice said the refusal to recognise appeared to be founded on an idea that the degrees of the two universities were not equivalent.

Mr. Goldsmith said it was distinctly intimated that the University of Adelaide was not recognised except for a particular purpose, and certainly not for the degree of bachelor of laws. He submitted that Mr. Jones was not entitled to admission. It was clearly never intended that gentlemen who had been refused admission to the University of Melbourne should be called up for admission to the bar. The clear meaning of the rule was to allow of admission to the bar of a properly qualified person, which the applicant was not.

The Chief Justice said that the only basis of the last refusal of the University of Melbourne to admit the applicant was the report of the president of the professional board, that the respective degrees of the two universities were not equivalent. The court, at the conclusion of the arguments, reserved its judgment until to-morrow morning.

Register September 18th 1889

ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY DEGREES.

BACHELOR OF LAWS RECOGNISED IN VICTORIA.

[By Telegraph.]

Melbourne, September 17.

The Full Court gave a reserved decision to-day on the application of Mr. A. E. Jones, LL.B., of Adelaide University, to be admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Victoria, the Board of Examiners having refused to pass him on the ground that the degree of Bachelor of Laws, Adelaide, was not recognised by the Melbourne University. The Court was of opinion that the University of Adelaide had been recognised by the University of Melbourne, and that the applicant had satisfied the only condition required in that respect; therefore he should be admitted.

Mr. Jones was then sworn in as a barrister.

Register September 19th 1889

ADELAIDE LAW DEGREES.

Mr. Albert Edward Jones, LL.B., of Adelaide University, would seem to have done very great service to his *Alma Mater*. Readers will remember that some time ago the Melbourne University declined to admit holders of Adelaide degrees in laws *ad eundem statum*, on the ground, which seems reasonable enough, that the course of training which a Melbourne law student has to undergo is far more extensive than that laid down by the Adelaide University. In Adelaide if a student wishes to obtain the degree of Bachelor of Laws he must after matriculation "complete three academical years of study and pass the examination proper to each year." For the purposes of this degree matriculation is held to be the passing of the senior public examination, with elementary Latin as a necessity. In Melbourne a student who wishes to become a Bachelor of Laws must have first gained his degree of Bachelor of Arts, and then he must pass two examinations

in laws and complete two years. Thus candidates for law degrees in Adelaide and Melbourne start from very different platforms. The Adelaide man must have passed a matriculation examination only, whilst the Melbourne man must have passed not only this examination—at least not less difficult there than here—but he must also have passed all the examinations proper to the Arts course. This marked difference in the attainments required of persons before they enter upon the Law School in each of the Universities compels one to the conclusion that the Melbourne degree is more valuable as a mark of knowledge than that of the sister University. Nor is this conclusion invalidated by the fact that the actual time occupied in passing through the Law School is only two years in Melbourne as against three years in Adelaide. The man whose mind has been trained by the study of the subjects necessary for the securing of an arts degree may be reckoned a better man—from an academical point of view at any rate—than the man whose preliminary training has been limited to the preparation for a senior public examination such as is ordered by the Adelaide University. The Melbourne man, who must be a graduate in Arts, is in a position to profit more by his legal studies than his Adelaide fellow—who enters upon his work with limited qualifications—could possibly be.

It may be admitted that the law course through which the student has to pass here is very comprehensive—needlessly comprehensive, some will be inclined to say—but this does not compensate for the lack of the three years' training in arts which the Melbourne student has to undergo. It follows that the degree of LL.B., Melbourne, is worth more than the same degree in Adelaide, and therefore the Council of the older University had warrant for refusing to admit Adelaide Bachelors of Laws to the same degree. Naturally this position does not please the holders of Adelaide degrees in laws, and one of their number, the Mr. Jones aforesaid, has successfully attacked it. He desired to be admitted as a barrister in Victoria, and applied to the Board of Examiners for Barristers for a certificate entitling him, as a Bachelor of Laws in a University recognised by the Melbourne University, to be so admitted. The Board, composed of distinguished Victorian lawyers and University men, declined his request, having in mind possibly the recent refusal of the University Council to recognise Adelaide degrees in laws. Mr. Jones appealed to the Judges in Chambers, who, finding that an Adelaide graduate in arts had been admitted to a corresponding degree in Melbourne, decided that the Adelaide University had been recognised, and that graduates of that institution should be admitted to the rights and privileges enjoyed by the graduates of the older University. The Board of Examiners again refused to issue the required certificate, and the matter was again taken before the Judges. These were the Chief Justice, who is a graduate in arts, Mr. Justice Williams, and Mr. Justice A'Beckett, each of whom is a member of the Law Faculty in the Melbourne University. They have decided that Mr. Jones should be admitted as a barrister, on the ground that the Adelaide University is recognised