

"Music" October 1900.

"Reg" 13<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1900.

OPENING OF THE ELDER HALL

MR. P. McM. GLYNN'S ADDRESS.

At the evening session the platform was occupied by Mr. P. McM. Glynn, who gave an eloquent address, dealing with the literature of the present and past centuries. His remarks were interspersed by numerous poetical quotations, culled from the world's greatest authors, whom he characterised as dead, but sceptred sovereigns, who still ruled our spirits from the urns in which their ashes reposed. By quoting extracts from the song writers of the sixteenth century, said Mr. Glynn, and comparing them with typical extracts from some of the writers and versifiers of the present day they would be able to gauge the worth of the latter. Literature of the present day suffered from two great evils—the want of criticism and the affectation of introspection. Spontaneity and originality had given place to self-consciousness and mysticism, feeling was simulated, and the erotic drive of the decadent was accepted as the language of the healthy heart. (Cheers.) Let them compare a few of the love songs of the nineteenth and seventeenth centuries. He contrasted the address given by Rossetti to one of his mystical damsels with the singing of Lovelace "To L. easter on going to the wars." The lecturer designated Swinburne as "that master of poetic form who in his early days might be accepted as the Laureate of the unadorned Venus," and quoted the stanza from "Dolores," in which he "lets loose passion without heart." It was refreshing after the reek of this apostrophe, which referred to the ideal of drunken desires, to taste of the crystal purity of Marianne's tender love song, which ran:—

Take, oh take those lips away,  
That so sweetly were forewarn,  
And the eyes, the break of day,  
Lights that do mislead the morn;  
But my knees bring again  
Seals of love, but sealed in vain.

The sense of sensuality in Swinburne's productions was often lost in the sweep and music of the lines, but many of his unhealthy imitations lacked both the style and originality that might cover the offence of their prostration before the goddess of Lubricity. Some had certain merits of fervency and smoothness, but they scarcely atoned for the loss of the man in the desire of the poetaster. He had read in the "Bulletin" a few weeks ago of "the passionate kiss." How different was that in its suggestiveness from even the most audacious lines in "Dolores." They should, however, turn, as to the touchstone of taste, to a few passages from the great writers of prose. Mr. Glynn then recited passages from Milton's "Aeropagitica," Burke's "Marie Antionette," Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," DeQuincey's "Essay on Joan of Arc," and Goethe's "Faust." At the conclusion of the address a fervent outburst of acclamation demonstrated the appreciation with which it had been received. On the motion of Dr. Leeper, a hearty vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer. The conference will be continued to-day.

A special congregation of the Adelaide University was held on Wednesday afternoon in connection with the formal opening of Elder Hall. That building was filled with a brilliant and fashionable gathering. Prior to the assembly of the members of the Senate and Council, who wore academic costume, and at intervals in the proceedings, the students presented a musical programme. They were as irrepressible as ever. The Chancellor of the University, Right Hon. Sir Samuel Way, Bart., presided, and amongst those present were Lord and Lady Tennyson and their sons, Rear-Admiral Pearson, and Lord Richard Nevill, who were received by a guard of honour composed of members of the Cadet Corps under Lieutenant Leschen.

After His Excellency the Governor (Lord Tennyson) had been admitted to the degree of Doctor of Laws, Professor Ives presented Miss Ellen Milne Bunday and Miss Florence Emmeline Cooke, who were admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Music.

The Chancellor, in addressing the lady graduates, said:—Twenty-six years a very old and honoured friend of mine carried a Bill through the House of Assembly for establishing the University of Adelaide. You can imagine the pride Mr. Justice Bunday and Mrs. Bunday feel this afternoon in witnessing their daughter taking the first degree granted in this University since His Excellency the Governor accepted one at my hands. I congratulate both the young ladies on their success. Miss Cooke is the daughter of an honoured, a useful, and fearless public servant in South Australia. (Applause.)

"Reg" 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1900.

THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

The delegates to the Conference of the Library Association of Australia were fully employed on Thursday. At 9.30 a.m. they assembled at the Public Library, and were shown through the Library, Reading-rooms, and Museum. At the conclusion of the inspection the Conference was resumed under the presidency of the Hon. Edward Langton, M.L.C. Professor Douglas gave a practical address in which he emphasized the necessity for catering more fully than was done at present for the requirements of students, and Mr. J. S. Batye, of Perth, read a paper on bookbinding. Shortly after noon the Conference adjourned to allow the delegates to inspect the Parliamentary Library. In the unavoidable absence of Sir Richard Baker they were received by Mr. R. Caldwell, M.P. and were conducted through the building by several members of the Legislature. The afternoon session was devoted to the reading of two papers of a technical character, and at 4 o'clock the delegates were entertained at an "at home" by the Chief Justice and Lady Way. In the evening Mr. P. McM. Glynn, M.P., gave an eloquent and scholarly address, which was much appreciated. During the day numerous visitors availed themselves of the invitation of the committee to inspect the exhibition of old books and historical relics. The catalogue of this collection will be available for distribution to-day, and will add much to the interest of the exhibition. The sessions will be resumed this morning and will be open to the public.

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ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

What may be regarded as Mr. Bryceson Treharne's third important appearance in Adelaide took place at the Elder Hall on Saturday evening, the 15th ult., when there was a crowded audience present, that included His Excellency the Governor and Lady Tennyson. The pianist played a representative, difficult, and well-selected programme, and in every item of it gave abundant evidence of his fine technical powers. The many difficult passages in Chopin's B minor sonata, and Schumann's "Carnival scenes from Vienna" were played with remarkable ease and certainty, and Mr. Treharne's playing of the familiar Liszt "Rigoletto" fantasia was quite a triumph of mechanical skill. Occasionally he appeared to be a little lacking in restraint, and his treatment of the quieter passages in some of the numbers was not so satisfactory as his interpretation of the more robust sentiment. The piano used, however, was not a very first-class instrument, and therefore placed the performer at a disadvantage in respect to the delicate nuances. Other numbers presented were Mendelssohn's "Prelude and Fugue in E minor," Tscharkowsky's "Scherzo Humoresque," and a Nocturne by Paderewski, that was excellently rendered. Miss Gull Hack, A.R.C.M., sang two new songs by Coleridge Taylor, and also introduced a set of four "Japanese songs," by the recitalist, that proved to be interesting, and greatly pleased the house. Miss Hack's singing was thoroughly refined and artistic, and she received a well deserved recall for the Japanese songs.

A chamber music concert devoted to modern compositions, and arranged by Mr. Treharne, attracted an equally large audience to the Elder Hall on the 24th ult. Mr. Kugelberg was heard to perhaps greater advantage than hitherto in Grieg's fine sonata, Op. 36, for piano and 'cello, the piano-forte part being admirably played by Mr. Treharne. Mr. H. Heinicke also greatly distinguished himself in Carl Goldmark's brilliant and showy suite for piano and violin, and shared with Mr. Treharne a vociferous recall. Three instrumentalists were associated in Arensky's melodious "Trio in D minor, Op. 32," which concluded a

most successful concert. Vocal solos were given by Miss Adela Croft, who was accompanied by Mr. Frederick Bevan.

"Advertiser" 12<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1900.

On Thursday, the 25th inst., it will be exactly 500 years since the death of Geoffrey Chaucer, the father of English poetry, and a meeting in honor of the occasion is to be held in the Freemasons' Hall, Melbourne (states the "Argus"). His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has promised to attend. It is proposed to give the evening the character of a University function, and graduates are requested to wear full academic dress, trenchers, gowns, and hoods; undergraduates, trenchers and gowns. The Vice-Chancellor (Sir Henry Wrixon) will be present. Two lectures will be delivered, one by Professor Tucker on "Chaucer as poet," and the other by Professor Morris on "The pathos and humor of Chaucer." New lantern slides are being prepared, and the master of Queen's College (the Rev. E. H. Snodden) will deliver an explanatory discourse. Two short passages in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" have been set to music expressly for this celebration by Mr. Arthur Chanter, and they will be sung in the course of the evening.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

THIRD DAY.

The sessions of the Library Association Convention were resumed in the Elder Hall on Friday morning. Dr. A. Leeper, M.A., LL.D., President of the Victorian Branch of the Library Association, presided. There was a fair attendance.

THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR AND THE LIBRARIES.

Professor Morris, Litt. D., University of Melbourne, read a paper on "The Australian Author and the Library." In studying English literature they met with an age of patronage. It was a long period, but it—the palmiest part of it—fell in the so-called Augustan age of Queen Anne and in the years which followed. At that time the power of the patron was enormously increased by the political position. To be able to write a telling party pamphlet or a squib that would influence elections to the House of Commons meant place and pelf to the writer. For much of the relief from patronage they had to thank sturdy Sam Johnson, and his famous letter to Lord Chesterfield; but the deliverance, it might be believed, would have come without him. One distinction in literature between the early eighteenth century and the early nineteenth century was to be found in the fact that long before the birth of the present century patronage was dead. Lord Salisbury, they might be quite certain, would not reward Mr. Kipling with a creative post in the Customs, yet the author of "The Reckless" was richly rewarded, for his patron was the public, and when the public found a favourite no author of an earlier age was ever so well rewarded as the author of to-day. The public, however, needed guidance, and he thought that such guidance might be given. They took it for granted that every one desired that an Australian literature should spring up—a literature not only of the novel and the ballad. He had no wish to depreciate writers like Boldwood, Guy Boothby, Patterson, and Lawson; but these would find their own way, and for them no pathmaker was needed. But the case was different with other walks of literature. The authors whose paths lay in serious fields, such as history, biography, criticism, and philology, if their works were to have any weight, must appeal to readers in Great Britain, and must find their critics in English magazines. If it were only that this was galling to the Australian author it would be hardly worth consideration, but the doubt was whether these branches of letters would exist at all. It was sometimes said that the demand for "local colour" in Australia was the ruin of it. By all means let their poets and writers treat the old themes, but it was wise to make their treatment new, and it should be counted by them as a glorious advantage in these new lands to have the bush with its distinctive character, its charm and monotony, so often unjustly run down. The jaded world was ever seeking novelty, and if such matters were appropriately handled the world received the novelty with rapture. He was pleading that books with local colour and written on Australian subjects should be more readily received, and that Australian libraries should buy them. An author well known in Australia might fairly say—"There are so many libraries in Australasia, and each will buy at least one copy. If my subject be Australian, of course the Australian libraries will buy the book, that number will float an edition, and the libraries will prevent the publisher from losing." An author who should reason in that way would assuredly reckon without his host. The libraries, with a few exceptions, bought novels, mostly cheap novels. Apart from these they did not buy books at all. Nowadays the standing order was "Send novels, but nothing else." He did not wish to say a word against the novelist. Hardly even should they growl when they found that the fiction taken out of libraries totalled 60 per cent. But it would be an evil day if literature were narrowed down to novels alone. Let the libraries expend half in fiction, and also buy some books on Australian subjects. Only lately a compliment had been paid to an Australian book, "The Tribes of Central Australia," by Professor Spencer and Mr. Gillen. Those who were properly able to appreciate the value of this book as a contribution to science spoke of it as an epoch-making book. But how many libraries in Australia bought that book? Could they say seventeen? It had fallen to his lot to publish two books on Australian subjects, and in both cases he feared his publisher had reason to lament his venture. The subject of his first book was the late Chief Justice Higginbotham, a man beyond all others admired and honoured. (Cheers.) On many sides he was congratulated on his subject, and the critics, with two exceptions, praised the execution of the task. But did seventeen Australian libraries purchase that book? The accounts showed that the sale was financially a failure. His other book was a "Dictionary of Australian English." His publisher first refused the book, and perhaps he now wished that he had been firm in adhering to his refusal. The book was not a "slang" dictionary, as was so often supposed. A new land with new flora and fauna required new vernacular words to describe them. Because English was a living and growing language, he ventured to think that he had come upon a virgin soil in gathering and discussing the new words introduced into the language by settlers in Australia and New Zealand, who came into contact with new objects. He had the joy of knowing that the book was valued by those who ought to know; as a thesis it gained him the degree of Doctor of Literature in the Melbourne University; and, better still, scarcely a part of the great English dictionary on historical principles was issued at Oxford without reference to his compilation. But he doubted if it would be found in 17 of the libraries in Australia outside the large towns. He had not abandoned this class of work, which he thought was due to his adopted land, because there was not one penny of profit in it, because fortunately he was in a position to continue his labours without caring for any remuneration they