

*The Advertiser*  
4th Nov. 1898.

system favors the rich, although he admitted that he would like to see mechanics required to prove their efficiency. Mr. Kingston appealed to the House to legislate for the whole people, and not for a class only. Mr. Homburg urged members not to kill the University Law School, but rather to maintain the efficiency of that institution. Mr. Giles thought there were plenty of lawyers now, and Mr. McDonald blamed the Attorney-General for being so bitter against the University. "I am not," said Mr. Kingston. Mr. Glynn said the examinations would not keep a really clever boy out of the law, although he admits that they are no test of general ability, but only of special training. As a compromise he suggested that the "preliminary" should be substituted for the "senior" examination as a gateway to a study of the law, and that the gaining of a B.A. degree should not be accepted instead of articles. Mr. Homburg urged a postponement of the clause. He would like to see a five years' course, with attendance on University lectures. "The Bill has been long enough before the House already," objected Mr. Kingston. Mr. Caldwell also pleaded for keeping up the standard, and then Mr. Grainger convulsed the House by suggesting that the judges and the leaders of the bar should be required every three years to pass the examinations now prescribed for a youth wishing to become an articled clerk on pain of being stripped of ermine, silk, or stuff gowns if they failed. Mr. Grainger once got a prize for Latin verse, but he has done nothing of that sort since, while although head of his class in mathematics he was prevented from going up higher because he was shaky in Greek verses. He boldly asserted that very few University professors can write decent English, and he described them as being very worthy, but at times very stupid men. The talk was still in full swing when at 6.30 p.m. jaded talkers went to dinner.

The whole of the evening sitting was spent on the Law Reform Bill, which was advanced to the part referring to the power of magistrates to sentence certain prisoners who plead guilty at preliminary hearings. At this point, a count-out having just previously occurred, the House adjourned, but it is understood that the measure will be taken through committee on Tuesday next, even if members have to sit all night. The time of rising was 10.47 p.m., and the absentees of the day were Messrs. Cummins, Goode, and Griffiths.

*Register*  
5th Nov. 1898.

THE LAW REFORM BILL

To the Editor.

Sir—I have been much surprised that none of the legal members of the Assembly nor any member of the profession conversant with the genius of the law and the ways of lawyers' offices has attempted to show in their true light the consequences of the proposals contained in the Law Reform Bill, the object of which is to destroy the work which is now being carried on in the University Law School, and which will undoubtedly, be a serious injury to any of our boys who may be desirous of joining the profession, whether the sons of wealthy parents or the humblest in South Australia. As an appreciative admirer of the many beneficial successes gained by the Labour members since their fuller representation I cannot but regret that they should allow themselves to be blindly led by the specious statements made to them without pausing to consider the effect of destroying the only means their sons have of learning their profession, for of the instruction given them by the gentlemen to whom they are articled the less said the better. Regarding the other "reforms" contained in the Bill I am not concerned to speak, whatever doubts may exist about their efficacy to shorten cases or reduce costs, and much as the scandals of recent years cry aloud for some pruning knife, I would draw the attention of those who are responsible to the objections put forward to the education offered by the University. They are, as far as I can gather, as follows:—

1. The expense incurred through paying fees. To obtain the qualifications and certificates necessary for call to the Bar of South Australia the University charges amount to £31 7s. 6d. This sum may be spread over the whole period of articles—five years. The usual premium demanded by solicitors amounts to from £200 to £400, payable in advance. On the argument of expense I cannot help thinking the House has been led to put the boot on the wrong foot. 2. Let us see what improvement the Bill proposes on the important point of the instruction given. Teaching is at present given, and examinations are held on the Law of Property, Obligations, Wrongs, Procedure, and Constitutional Law. These constitute the subjects necessary for admission to the Bar. The alterations proposed by the Bill deprive the articled clerk of all teaching, and by way of compensation substitutes Equity for Constitutional Law. The alteration is beneficial as far as the subjects are concerned, and would have been long ago made by the law faculty had not their hands been tied by the requirements of the Supreme Court. 3. The time required for attendance at lectures and study.—Lectures in the subjects required for admission take the student from his master's service about five hours in the week during the term, mostly before 10 o'clock in the morning—not a very serious loss to the office. Unfortunately in most offices the covenants of the articles to be performed by the solicitor are overlooked, and the clerk reduced to the position of the engrossing clerk. 4. The one fact advanced by the supporters of the Bill is that the student on completing his course has not been instructed in the drawing of bills of sale, of conveyances, or wills. Of course he has not. He has been instructed in what constitute the legal requisites to render such documents valid, but it is not the province of the University to keep a stock of moribund persons to have their wills drawn, or of impecunious persons who require lists of their furniture available for scheduling. This part of his training is the sole duty of his master and office, and constitutes the sole fraction of education he gets in return for his premium. Such are the objections to the regular instruction and careful teaching imparted by the University, together with three examinations yearly in the work done, the November examination being conducted by members of the profession in conjunction with the University. What, then, does the Bill propose to substitute which is to work so much to the advantage of the student? The articled clerk, generally fresh from school, is to be left to his own devices, to sit in the office and make money for his master, to study law if he feels so inclined, no teaching, no explanation of difficulties, for we know well the smile of surprise he would be met with if he attempted to take his text-book to his master for help, or to occupy the time of a Q.C. with his difficulties. Then after three years spent in doing office work the old farcical examination is revived, and another "lawyer" turned loose on the public. I have been a member of the Bar of South Australia for upwards of twenty years, and have been intimately cognisant of the old system of no teaching or assistance during articles—six weeks with a crammer and a mere form of examination—and I have known clerks pass the final examination on six weeks' coaching in a subject they had never looked at previously. I ask gentlemen who are so keen and ready to destroy the fifteen years' work of the University in building up the law school if they have gone into the real merits of the matter? Can they conscientiously believe they are discharging the great public trust reposed in them in thus destroying the chances of the future generation of lawyers? In all this I do not touch the LL.B. degree, of which such "trashy" subjects as International Law, Jurisprudence, and Roman Law—the foundation of every system of law—form part. For students so foolishly ambitious I can only apologize. For the great Universities of all countries outside South Australia which teach such subjects I have not one word to say; I can only pity their weakness. I only wish to speak of the practical preparation for admission to the Supreme Court and the question raised in the House—Which system affords the best chance of training a race of lawyers as honourable men, men who know their work, and men to whom their fellow-citizens can entrust their vital concerns in the full confidence that their advisers will not take advantage of their straits to feather their own nests? If these members who have now the responsibility of the future of the profession cast upon them will only put aside the curse of politics and prejudice of class and calmly consider the change they are contemplating, and have fully explained to them the true position of affairs, I feel confident that their own honesty will lead them to stay the mischief which has already been started.

*Register*  
7th Nov. 1898.

CONSERVATORIUM ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

The series of ten popular orchestral concerts, which were originally arranged by Heinicke's Grand Orchestra and afterwards undertaken by the Elder Conservatorium, came to a conclusion at the Town Hall on Saturday evening. The initial concert of this season took place on Saturday evening, June 11, another was given a fortnight later, three were held in July, two in August, two in October, and one in November. An examination of the programmes of this series of concerts reveals the fact that the proportion of classical music produced has been slightly larger and the general tone of the concerts higher than that of either of the preceding series. Several new numbers have been introduced, the most important of which are Schubert's "Unfinished" symphony, selections from Delibes' "Coppelia" ballet, and "Der ritt der Walkuren" (Wagner), this latter being first heard on the "Wagner night." A steady improvement in the playing of the band has been manifested throughout the season, and the present fine strength of the string section is one of its most satisfactory features. With the exception of the occasion on which Mr. Bevan made his debut the house on Saturday evening was one of the largest of the season, the body of the hall and the gallery being well filled. A good programme opened with Weber's light and piquant "Preciosa" overture, with its strain of gipsy music running throughout, which in some portions is so deftly coloured by means of the tambourine and lighter instruments of percussion. One of the most important items of the evening was the beautiful "Larghetto" from Beethoven's second symphony, the principal subject of which would doubtless be recognised by many of the audience, since it has been adapted and is in somewhat general use as a hymn tune. A meritorious rendering of the movement was given, and it was received with considerable heartiness. The selection from Rossini's "Moses in Egypt" was played with capital precision and finish, Suppe's light and melodious overture "Banditenstreich" was done full justice to, and Bizet's "Carmen" march received a thoroughly adequate interpretation. The band's playing of Wagner's highly realistic and effective tone picture, "Der ritt der Walkuren," showed a noticeable improvement upon their first essay, and the many novel characteristics of the composition were amply displayed. Proust's pretty little trille, "Souvenir de Constantinople," was played with a fair amount of success, but more rehearsal is needed to bring it up to concert standard. The orchestra were heard to much better advantage in Henselt's melodious "Ave Maria" and Hollander's "Spinning Song," which are scored for the string quintet, and were played in an altogether satisfactory fashion. Miss Nellie Jarvis, a young student, possessing a light contralto voice of promise, made a successful debut. Her initial effort, Cowan's familiar setting of "The better land," was sung with a good deal of taste and feeling, and rewarded with a pronounced recall. It would, however, have been the more enjoyed had the vocalist not indulged in such an excessive use of the "tempo robato." As an extra Miss Jarvis added "The gift" (Behrend), and in the second portion of the programme gave an acceptable rendering of "Darby and Joan" (Molloy). Mr. J. J. Virgo, the genial Secretary of the Y.M.C.A., whose public appearances as a vocalist are all too few, scored a complete success with his two songs, Pinsuti's "Bedouin love song," and "Will o' the wisp" (Cherry), being heartily recalled for each. Mr. Virgo's singing was conspicuous for its finish and fine enunciation, and the compliment paid him was richly deserved. As extras he submitted "True till death" (Gatty) and "The village blacksmith" (Weiss), which were interpreted in a highly artistic manner. Mr. H. Heinicke conducted the orchestra with his customary skill and success; Mr. A. C. Quinn made a reliable leader, and the pianoforte accompaniments were shared by Miss Guli Hack, A.R.C.M., and Mr. A. H. Otto.

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CONSERVATORIUM ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

The final performance of the series of ten concerts which were arranged by the Conservatorium Grand Orchestra will take place at the Town Hall this evening. An unusually fine programme has been arranged, embracing some of the best numbers of the orchestra's repertoire, as well as several popular selections. The following is the complete programme:—Overture, "Preciosa" (Weber); "Ave Maria" (Henselt), for strings only; intermezzo, "Souvenir de Constantinople" (Proust); the "Larghetto" from Beethoven's second symphony; selection from "Moses in Egypt" (Rossini); overture "Banditenstreich" (Suppe); "The ride of the Valkures" (Wagner); "Spinning song" (Hollander), for strings only; and Bizet's "Carmen" march. Miss Nellie Jarvis is to sing "The better land" (Cowan) and "Darby and Joan" (Molloy), and Mr. J. J. Virgo will present "The Bedouin love song" (Pinsuti) and "Will-o'-the-wisp" (Cherry).

*The Register*  
Nov. 8th 1898

Mr. Francis William Davenport, the colonial examiner for the Associated Board, tested 700 candidates for musical honours at the Cape prior to coming to Australia. Mr. Davenport is now engaged in examination work in Queensland. Towards the end of this month he will be joined by Mr. Frederick Cliffe, who is at present in Adelaide assisting Professor Ives, and consequently the Sydney examinations will be conducted by the two Professors, Messrs. Davenport and Cliffe.

*The Advertiser*  
Nov. 9th 1898.

To-day the following members of the University Council will retire from the council under the provisions of the Act:—Mr. W. R. Boothby, Dr. E. C. Stirling, Mr. D. Murray, Dr. J. C. Verco, and Dr. W. Barlow, LL.D. Nominations to fill the vacancies will be due on November 12.