

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION-STONE.

AN IMPOSING CEREMONY.

In the presence of an immense gathering, and under the most propitious circumstances, the Governor on Monday afternoon set in position the foundation-stone of the Elder Conservatorium of Music. Beautiful weather flashed with color by the gay robes of the graduates, the attractive costumes of the ladies, and the fluttering flags which adorned the enclosure was animated and picturesque. Excellent arrangements had been made for the accommodation of invited guests. Facing the building rows of seats rose in tiers, and the occupants, who included members of the Ministry, both branches of the Legislature, the board of governors of the Public Library, the council of the School of Mines and Industries, the Board of Education, the council, senate, and staff of the University, donors and original subscribers to the chair of music, and the representatives of various schools were able to hear all that was said and see all that was done. By a quarter to 3 nearly all the guests were in their places, and the Conservatorium orchestra, under Herr Hejnicks, then opened the proceedings with an overture. At 3 o'clock the National Anthem announced the arrival of the viceregal party, comprising his Excellency, Lady Victoria Buxton, Miss Mabel Buxton, and Captain Wallington. They were received at the entrance by the Chancellor of the University (the Right Hon. S. J. Way), the Vice-Chancellor (Dr. Barlow), the warden of the senate (Mr. F. Chapple), the director of the Conservatorium (Professor Ives), and the registrar (Mr. C. K. Hodge). His Excellency, the Chancellor, and the Minister of Education then mounted the platform. There was exhibited an excellent picture of the late Sir Thomas Elder, lent by the Mayor of Glenelg, and set within a bordering of foliage and flowers obtained by the contractor (Mr. Torode) from the deceased knight's old garden at Mount Lofty.

The Chancellor, who was received with applause, said—We bid your Excellency welcome. We are always glad to see your Excellency within the University enclosure, but we are grateful that your Excellency has found time, in spite of the pressing engagements preparatory to your departure on what we hope will be a most enjoyable trip to England, to do the University a signal service on this fine afternoon. This building, when erected, will form a part of the scheme which the University has adopted for the purpose of giving effect to the princely bequests of the late Sir Thomas Elder. The University of Adelaide, like nearly all other English universities, was authorised by its charter of incorporation and the statutes following it to grant degrees in music, but it was the first of the Australian universities to establish a chair of music to give teaching and hold examinations in the art. We owe that honorable priority to our lamented and distinguished friend, his Excellency Sir William Robinson. He collected the sum of £3,000 for the temporary endowment of a chair of music. Of that sum the late Sir Thomas Elder contributed £1,500. (Applause.) But two years before Sir Thomas had shown his zeal for the advancement of culture in music by devoting the sum of £3,000 for founding a South Australian Scholarship in the newly-established Royal College of Music in London. (Applause.) For 14 years there has always been, in consequence of that gift, a South Australian student in that institution. To me it appears a happy incident that Miss Gul. Haek, a former South Australian scholar in the Royal Academy of Music, shares with Mr. Devan the task of giving teaching in singing in the Conservatorium, which has also been founded by Sir Thomas Elder's munificence. (Applause.) Under Professor Ives's management the chair of music became self-supporting almost immediately after the expiration of the temporary endowment. Professor Ives saw that the usefulness of his chair ought not to be limited by the walls of the lecture-room, and on his advice public examinations in music were instituted by the council and with signal success. At the first examination, in 1887, 77 candidates presented themselves; at our last examination, in 1897, the number of candidates was 544. (Applause.) At our coming examinations this year, as was the case last year, we shall have the co-operation of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and of the Royal College of Music in London. We trust that this arrangement will be a permanent one, and that this University will thus have the honor of aiding in establishing a common standard of examinations in music throughout the British Empire. (Applause.) Sir Thomas Elder's bequest gave an opportunity for enlarging the scope of the usefulness of the School of Music. Professor Ives was advised by the highest authorities in England and on the Continent, whom he consulted, that the best manner of giving effect to Sir Thomas Elder's bequest to this chair was to make our School of Music not merely a theoretical but a practical one also. So it became necessary that we should have an orchestra for the purpose of presenting properly the works of the great composers to our students, and for the purpose of testing the productions of our own students as well. The University council decided to act on this advice, and in consequence the College of Music, which had hitherto been conducted by Mr. Reimann, was incorporated with our own school, and it became necessary to provide additional teachers and class and concert rooms. The building which we are about to erect will also provide much-needed accommodation in the way of lecture-rooms for other faculties, and the great hall will be used for examinations, commemorations, and other University gatherings, as well as for the requirements of the School of Music. The new arrangements which we have made have been so highly appreciated that we have already 300 students attending our School of Music. (Applause.) Music was one of the seven branches of a liberal education in the curriculum of the early mediæval Universities. So independent a critic as the late Professor Huxley said:—"I doubt if the curriculum of any modern university shows so clear and generous a comprehension of

centro of the continent, then they had another reason to add to the very long list why they should hold in grateful memory the liberality of the deceased knight. The building would be one more of the many handsome structures which surrounded and were included in the beautiful city, but the work which would be carried on within the walls would be of far greater importance, and, as Professor Ives had made himself acquainted with the methods of instruction and organization to be found in the old world, students would have the fullest opportunity for development, and this should lead to a greater love of music in South Australia. It was nearly twenty years since the foundation-stone of the University itself was laid by the then Governor, Sir William Jervois, and the present Governor had laid the foundation-stone of what would be a valuable addition to the University. He was exceedingly gratified to know from the speech of His Excellency that when he went back to England he would give so good an account of the people of South Australia—their warm-heartedness as well as their other peculiarities. It was also worthy of remark that of all the leading public men who took part in that ceremony of twenty years ago one only remained, and that one was the present Chancellor—the Vice-Chancellor of twenty years ago. (Cheers.) Looking back need give no alarm to the Chief Justice, who seemed to have an artesian supply of vigour, increasing in volume the longer he lived and the harder he worked. (Hear, hear.) He was glad to know there were to be a number of free scholarships in connection with the Conservatorium, which would afford an opportunity to those specially gifted, but who were not so circumstanced as to be able to follow up the study. While wishing the fullest realization of the opportunities which the building would afford for the increase of music culture, he would express the hope that the students who were trained within the walls, if they did not develop into Mendelssohns or Mozarts, it would only be because they were Handels and Rubensteins. (Laughter and cheers.)

The Chancellor thanked His Excellency for laying the stone, and on behalf of the assembly wished he and Lady Victoria a pleasant voyage and speedy return. (Cheers.) He also thanked the Minister of Education for his address.

Madame Amy Sherwin then sang the first verse of the National Anthem, and the people, led by the Orchestra, joined in the second. Miss Minnie Torode, the daughter of the contractor, presented the famous singer with a large bouquet of wildflowers. Cheers were then given for His Excellency and Lady Victoria, and as the viceregal party moved away the Orchestra played a march.

torium said, "The undecomposed stone—being, three-penny-piece, sixpence, shilling, seven, half-crown, crown. The stone bore the following inscription:—"Governor Sir Thomas Buxton, Bart., K.C.M.G., laid this stone on the 27th day of September, 1898." His Excellency, after declaring the stone well and truly laid, said he esteemed it a great privilege, at almost the conclusion of his third year of office, and just before he proceeded on a holiday, to take part in the ceremony. It was an interesting occasion for more reasons than one. They had already had their attention drawn to the fact that the latest addition to the institutions of Adelaide arose from the splendid generosity and liberal impulses of Sir Thomas Elder. It would have been gratifying to them all if the duty he had performed had been undertaken by one of Sir Thomas's immediate relatives. (Cheers.) He congratulated the people of Adelaide on the commencement of the building. They were already to be congratulated on the series of buildings which adorned the northern face of the city. Looking at that series of buildings there had been wanting one especially connected with instruction in music in its higher branches. Thank you they were there to fill that day. On that ceremony the town and colony were to be congratulated. (Applause.) He congratulated himself on having the privilege of being associated with the work, and he sincerely trusted that it was going to do a great deal towards the advancement and fuller enjoyment of music. (Loud applause.) There could be no doubt that the people of Adelaide showed a great capacity for enjoying music, and possibly that might be still further cultivated. Some of them had witnessed the little children in the Exhibition Building when the schools sent their pupils to perform before them. It was pleasing to see the extremely small infants taking part, and to watch their limbs and hear their voices in unison in their performances. He could not but believe that the next generation, on account of the training they were receiving in the schools, would be still more capable of appreciating good music than the present generation. If that was so it was well that those who desired it should be able to secure their desires. The teaching given in primary and secondary schools was far more widespread than in the past, and it would lead to greater appreciation of the knowledge of music. He trusted the institution was going to be a great help to those who wished to study music, and would lead to great enjoyment for those who sought happiness and pleasure in the indulgence of music. He felt he and Lady Victoria had reached a period in their time in South Australia. It was something to have completed three years and for him to go away upon a limited holiday, and he could not stand before any Adelaide audience without looking back and acknowledge with thankfulness how very much happiness and pleasure he and his family had been permitted to experience in South Australia. (Applause.) He could not forget many kindnesses which they had received upon all sides, nor could he forget those great friendships which he was sure would continue whatever might be the distance which might separate them or the time greater or less before they were renewed. He was conscious of many duties unfulfilled or not fulfilled as well as they might have been. He could only hope that his friends—and he included in that all the people of Adelaide and South Australia—would extend to him the same favourable and kindly consideration which they had done in the past. He had been three years Her Majesty's representative, and it had been his duty to call forth expressions of loyalty to the Queen and sentiments of attachment to the Empire and the old country which would go a long way towards strengthening the Imperial sense and those feelings which united together every part of the British Empire. In the future, when he found himself at home, he would endeavour as far as he was able to stick up for the colony. (Cheers.) It might be that they could not quote statistics like those put forth on behalf of other colonies. He might have to speak in connection with the last three years of exceptional difficulties, but he would speak of exceptional difficulties met by exceptional courage. (Hear, hear)—and he would endeavour to point out that whatever had been the climatic difficulties of the past he left the colony under much brighter conditions and when the country showed a more promising aspect, which might assure an abundant harvest and the beginning of a cycle of many prosperous years. (Hear, hear.) If ever he heard anything said to the disparagement of the colony, its people, or government he would look upon it as his duty to rebuke those insinuations whatever they might be, and stand up loyally for everybody connected with the colony. That he felt to be the unwritten but well-understood compact between them and him. He trusted that the stone was but the chief stone of a building which would be of great use to the colony, and he hoped upon his return to find it almost, if not entirely, completed and beginning a career of great usefulness. (Cheers.)

The Minister of Education said he had accepted with much pleasure the invitation of the Chancellor to say a few words as

the Ministerial head of the most important department in the public service—the Department of Education—and to show his sympathy and that of his colleagues with the movement which was to increase the opportunities for music culture, which appeared to their higher and nobler feelings, and must have an elevating influence upon their daily life. In young countries perhaps to a greater extent than in older countries they were apt to regard the pursuit of wealth as the one absorbing thought of life—as the be-all and end-all of their existence—but the increase in the cultivation of music should remind them that if the acquisition of money was fascinating to some, and that putting it to the use the late Sir Thomas Elder did was a most desirable thing, yet it did not represent the sum of human happiness. He was sure the object for which the building was to be used would be a source of satisfaction not only to the non-living portion of the colony, but to all young Australians, and if Professor Ives's arrangements were treated the liberal manner in which Sir Thomas Elder had intended, the annual