

*The Advertiser*  
*May 14. 15.*

UNIVERSITY OF  
ADELAIDE.

THE NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR.

MR. JUSTICE MURRAY ELECTED.

A meeting of the University Council was held on Friday afternoon for the purpose of electing a Vice-Chancellor in succession to the late Dr. Barlow. His Honor Mr. Justice Murray was chosen. His Honor, who was born at Magill on September 27, 1863, has been a member of the council for 23 years. He was educated at the late Mr. J. L. Young's school, Parkside; the High School, Edinburgh; St. Peter's College (where he obtained the Pranker, Westminster, Wyatt, and Farrell scholarships), and the Adelaide University (where he secured the University, John Howard Clark, and South Australian scholarships, and took his B.A. degree in 1883). The



Mr. Justice Murray.

South Australian scholarship took him to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was bracketed senior in the law tripos in 1887, and was admitted to the B.A. and LL.B. degrees. In 1886 he held an Inns of Court Studentship, and in 1888 was called to the bar of the Inner Temple. Returning to Australia, he was admitted to the South Australian bar in 1889, and to the Victorian and New South Wales bars the following years. He took silk in 1906, being the first graduate of the Adelaide University to receive the distinction of K.C. In 1909 he secured the degree of Master of Laws (Cambridge). The Tinline scholarship for historical research was established by him in 1907, in memory of his mother's family. Before he was raised to the bench his Honor held a prominent place at the bar, and he was, and is, one of the most respected and best-liked men in the legal profession.

The Register  
May 3<sup>rd</sup> 15.

## CLARA SERENA.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN VOCALIST  
RETURNED.

A REMARKABLE WELCOME.

If ever a debutante was called upon to face a nerve-searching ordeal, such an one was Miss Clara Serena. With all the kindest intent in the world her best friends had set up a situation on Saturday night which might have blanched an experienced artist; it is entirely to the credit of the young South Australian contralto that she found herself for some moments almost overcome. There she stood, a charming girl, of modest disposition, meeting in isolation a prolonged reception, such as just a few of the world's greatest personalities have evoked in Adelaide. The Town Hall on Saturday night had been thronged for an hour; indeed, had it been double the size, the auditorium would have been too small to hold all those who essayed to attend. The most blanching factor for Miss Serena must have been the recognition that this great audience of affectionate homefolk had already compiled their verdict; they had said long before that South Australia was at last to present the world with a songstress; so that she was faced with a most delicate situation. There were no doubt plenty of discerning folk present, who, while delighted with the young contralto, realized that she was undergoing a test in severe circumstances, and that she has become so rarely gifted an artist that she will unquestionably do better. As it was, her work grew far more impressive as she regained her poise and control. In the requisite external graces of a concert career, Miss Serena showed herself thoroughly equipped, not merely in such a factor as deportment, but in the magnetic maintenance of personality. In this latter respect there was apparent the gracious tutelage of Melba herself; in fact, there may have appeared, to some people, actual physical resemblance between the diva and this fortunate protege.

On the purely technical side of her art the returned Elder Scholar had, of course, developed out of all student-day knowledge. Apart from vocal quality itself, Miss Serena indicated a gift of control, an evenness, which experience should make perfect; and, withal, a delightful clarity of enunciation. She demonstrated effortlessly the possession of a superb range, upon the extremes of which she could hurl thrilling volume, but colour was rather lacking in mid-range. With a temperament that is all fire, and which is able to absorb a nervous girl so as to transform her into the character of her portrayal, it is safe to foretell a career for the debutante.

Upon her first appearance the singer passed from the strain of excited welcome to a rendition of Goring Thomas's recit. and air from his opera "Nadeshda." Agitated as the young vocalist must have felt, she no doubt failed to do herself full justice here. The expected volume was absent; production was rather breathy. But she had largely regained control with the opportunity to unburden her reserves upon the passionate wail of the weary mother; and these high notes were flung with electrical verve and power. To a clamorous recall Miss Serena returned to be laden with floral tributes. Then she added with infectious tenderness that exquisite deep-range song of Clara Butt's "Oh, that we two were maying." This was rendered mezza voce, and it revealed a bell-like organ, velvet smooth. The audience responded with surging emphasis, and another item had to be given; this was a dainty recital of Ethelbert Nevin's "In winter." The great feature of the evening was the contralto's presentation of the famed excerpt from "Samson and Delilah," "Softly awakes my heart." It was compassed with remarkable finish; the passionate abandonment of the singer carried away her hearers, yet it was rendered with rather more reserve of volume than customary, except at its intense climax. Twice the songstress responded to the furore with sweet encore items. Her concluding appearance was in "The lost chord" (Sullivan), with Dr. Ennis at the grand organ. The familiar composition was sung with most infectious feeling, and, upon a thunderous demand, was partially repeated. The programme had nothing further to offer, but there was no moving the audience. Miss Serena had to return once more, and she sang with unaffected simplicity "Home, sweet home."

The assisting artists were Messrs. Robert Jones, William Silver, and Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac. The lyrical quality of the Welsh vocalist afforded us wide a contrast for the principal recitalist as could have been desired. Mr. Jones detracted from the natural pleasantry of his voice, however, by dragging his numbers, and by an overdone habit of sforzando, which conveyed a probably false impression of effort. His best offering was the recit. "Deeper and deeper still," which he rendered with the familiar "Waft her angels" (from "Jephtha"). He also sang the well-known tenor song "Onaway! Awake, beloved!" (Coleridge-Taylor's "Eliawatha's wedding feast"). Mr. Silver's pianoforte rendering received the immediate tribute of a hushed hearing. He had no difficulty in maintaining absorbed interest throughout his principal contributions, the andante and rondo "Capriccioso" (Mendelssohn) and Chopin's "A flat polonaise." These were rendered with brilliancy, both technical and interpretive. Mr. Harold Parsons gained a popular demonstration for his 'cello selections, which included a concerto (op. 38, No. 2), by Jules de Swert—a rather notable composition, wherein expressive use is made of octaves and double stopping—and David Popper's "Lied" (No. 6 of opera 3), and well-known "Papillon" (opera 3, No. 4). Mr. Roy Mellish accompanied with sympathy, yet with refreshing spirit. At the close of a memorable night the artists assembled upon the platform, and the audience joined with great heart in the National Anthem.

To-morrow evening (the last concert for the present of Miss Serena) the programme will consist of a number of popular items, including the well-known "Abide with me" (Liddle), with organ obbligato by Dr. Ennis; and "Ombra mai fu," with 'cello obbligato by Mr. Harold Parsons. Miss Serena will be assisted by the same party as on Saturday night. The boxplan is at Allan's, where all tickets may be obtained.

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May 4<sup>th</sup> 15  
J. E.

From "Justice":—"There is such a thing as zeal without knowledge, and Sir John Gordon's letter seems to me to be an illustration of it. Without knowing the circumstances of the 20 young men whom he urges to give up their profession and go to the front at once, he practically casts a slur on those who do not fall in with his views. I happen to know one of the 20. Some time ago he sent in his name for enlistment, but his parents (who had already two sons at the front) pointed out that, as they were in anything but affluent circumstances, and had made great sacrifices to give him his profession; it seemed to them that his duty lay rather in taking up the work in which so many years of preparation were expected to culminate. Possibly there are others similarly situated, with parents who have been unable to make provision for their old age, because every shilling they could spare has been devoted to their sons' education, on the understanding that as soon as he became in a position to do so he would start recouping them. In England the proportion of law students who belong to people in good circumstances is much larger than in Australia, and, if so, the comparison made by Sir John Gordon is unfair. I agree with 'Law Student' that before one man urges another to give his all he should first make it clear that he himself has given every jot within his power."