

the centre of the room were placed tables containing a valuable collection of books, including some magnificently bound volumes of Gould's "Birds of Australia," lent by the institute, some old and costly German works, various articles of *vertu*, and Japanese curios. On the walls were hung a number of crayon drawings, excellently executed from the round by Mr. Tannert's pupils, and several drawings executed by pupils of the South Kensington School of Art. These crayon and water-color drawings were divided by various classic busts, and several bronze statuettes of exceedingly fine workmanship. Not the least noticeable of the busts in the room was that of Sir Richard Hanson. Soon after 8 o'clock the guests began to arrive, and as each name was announced His Honor, standing just within the entrance of the library, stepped forward and received the visitor with that warm cordiality which is one of his characteristics. He seemed to have a word for everybody. But his reception of his friends presently became a somewhat arduous duty, for the visitors began to arrive in quick succession until the room was well nigh filled. About 9 o'clock the majority of those invited were present, and the library presented a most brilliant sight. All the colors of the rainbow were visible amid the throng. The dresses of most of the ladies were superb, and the evening dress of the civilians contrasted favorably with a stray uniform or two. Unfortunately, however, the scene was somewhat marred by the exceedingly bad light. This was attributable to the quantity of the gas being inadequate to the demand caused by the general lighting up of all parts of the building at once. However, Mr. Todd, C.M.G., displayed the electric light to advantage by placing two Swan lights of 12 burners each on the first landing of the staircase of the entrance hall. On a dais situated at the east end of the library sat the members of an amateur band who, led by Mr. Boulton, kindly contributed to the pleasure of the evening by rendering various airs with marked ability. All present appeared to highly appreciate the opportunity for enjoyment afforded by the occasion. There were mutual recognitions of friends; the buzz of conversation was heard on all sides; some sat, and some walked, while others admired the articles of interest presented to their view.

Soon after 9 o'clock His Excellency the Governor and Lady and Miss Jervis were announced, and were received by the Chief Justice. His Excellency took great interest in all he saw, and was shortly afterwards conducted by His Honor through the various other rooms of the building, and shown the thousand and one interesting objects there displayed. Several hundred guests were present when His Excellency arrived, conspicuous amongst whom were the Premier of the colony, the President of the Legislative Council, the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Mayor of Adelaide, the German Consul, and various members of the Ministry, and representatives of the pulpit, the bar, art, literature, science and music. Next to the library the great point of attraction was the really beautiful display of engravings exhibited in the English Literature class-room, situated on the same floor as and adjoining the library. The exhibition included a very valuable collection of fine old English specimens, representing the rise and progress of the art of engraving from the earliest period to the present time. The collection, which naturally attracted a good deal of attention on the part of the numerous guests, was kindly lent by the Hon. David Murray, M.L.C., and is perhaps one of the most valuable and rare collections to be found south of the equator. The series contains a very curious engraving of a primitive character, representing the descent of Christ into Hades, by Andrea Mantegna, who was a contemporary of the famous Albert Durer. The

celebrated engraver, Marc Antonio, was represented by seven engravings of which number was that of the "Massacre of the Innocents," and a tiny engraving—a perfect gem—entitled "The dance of the Cupids." The improvements in the art were exemplified by some specimens by Adam Ghisi. There were also some good examples of the workmanship of Jaques Collot, the principal of which was a skilfully executed representation of a fair at Florence. The visitors evinced particular interest in some very fine portraits by French artists, and greatly admired a portrait of Archbishop La Tellier, and of the celebrated Bosseut. There were in addition to these some valuable cartoons by Raphael, and some good specimens of engraving by the English artists, William Sharp and Robert Strange, the engraving of the "Holy Family" by the latter, after Sir Joshua Reynolds, being especially good. In this room, too, was a colossal bust of Bishop Short, executed by Daniel Chappell. Another of the many sources of attraction during the evening was the exhibition of anatomical objects. This included human skeletons, models of the human eye, ear, heart, and of various other members and organisms of the human frame. This exhibition was well patronised throughout the evening, His Excellency and party taking particular interest in it, as well as in the exhibition of objects under microscopes. In the physical lecture-room some electrical experiments were shown by Professor Lamb during the evening, and here was exhibited interesting conchological and mineralogical specimens. The electrical room was under the direction of Mr. Todd, C.M.G., who, on more than one occasion performed several beautiful and interesting experiments in the presence of small but highly appreciative audiences. A good deal of instruction and interest were afforded by Dr. Gosse, who had charge of an ophthalmoscope, through which such of the guests as pleased might view the human eye under its influence. Not a few naturally availed themselves of so rare an opportunity, and were highly pleased with the result, especially as the doctor carefully explained to each the nature and use of the different parts of the eye. But it must have been rather wearisome work for the youth who sat at the other end of the ophthalmoscope, and whose optic nerve was made an object of interest to all who beheld it. Towards 11 the whole of the interior of the University was one scene of gaiety and pleasure. Not only were the rooms full, but the wide staircase and the grand entrance hall were alive with the visitors constantly moving to and fro from one exhibition to another. But there was no noise. A *conversazione* generally is a quiet proceeding. But it is none the less enjoyable on that account. Placid serenity and absence of bustle are the principal elements which constitute the charm of such an occasion—a charm which was evidently felt by all who had the pleasure of being present. His Honor the Chief Justice may be congratulated at the success he attained. Everything went smoothly. Hundreds were present, but there was no crowding, and all the arrangements made for the convenience and entertainment of the company were effectively carried out, especially those in connection with the refreshment department, and the coffee and cloak rooms. Special praise is due to Mr. Tyas, the registrar of the University, for the indefatigable zeal displayed by him in seconding the efforts of the vice-chancellor to render successful the first *conversazione* held within the Adelaide University. Fortunately the weather, which presented a threatening aspect during the early part of the evening, cleared up about 8 o'clock, and remained fair till 11 o'clock, when the company began to separate.