

From The Register  
August 24<sup>th</sup> 1882

TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—Having noticed two letters in your paper regarding rowing matters, perhaps you will kindly find room for a few remarks on the question. At home, where I know a little of rowing affairs, I never knew a case of a working man's club rowing in Association races; in fact, I may say I never knew of a regular working man's club at all, therefore it is useless to compare the old and new country in this case. One of your correspondents refers to cricket. Now, as to cricket, any man, provided he has a good eye and a very moderate physique, can cope with a giant on equal terms in the game; while in rowing things are very different. It requires to a person of sedentary pursuits a constant strain on the muscles and a large amount of hard work to get into anything like form; while a man of manual labour is, so to speak, always in training, and has his biceps at concert pitch, ready at a moment's notice. I will allow, for sake of argument, that an "amateur" has perhaps more time to practise actual rowing than a "trade amateur;" but, as the science of rowing is much more easily acquired than cricket, it is little or no advantage to put against a state of continued hardy development.

Will any six ordinary men of the division "amateur," even after six weeks' practice, hold out a heavy weight against a like number of "trade amateurs" with any chance of success? I think not, and I think it quite reasonable on the above ground that there should be two sets of races. On social grounds I cannot see how it can be demoralizing to admit any club to an actual race, which is the only time I think members of one club would meet the other. Scent wont even lie on water, but one letter seems to advocate a general mixing up of all classes, and goes on to say that a "gentleman can always stop familiarity." He certainly can when he keeps his place, and does not for the time don a manner or custom of a class lower in the social scale for any purpose of his own other than kindness and consideration; but when gentlemen snub their inferiors for familiarity after actually wrangling on equal terms for the business turn of a shilling, I am inclined to drop the term for ever, and back the working man if he can moderate the idea he generally has of there being no room for any one else in the world but himself.

I am, Sir, &c.,  
AN OLD UNIVERSITY MAN.

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TO THE EDITOR.

Sir—If Mr. Diamond wrote his letter re class distinctions as your correspondent "Universities" suggests, I should very much like to know from what point the latter writes. From the general tenor of his brilliant effusion I should say certainly not from a gentleman's. The only single portion of his letter that points to the fact that he even moves amongst gentlemen is his *nom de plume* "Universities" and the address North-terrace. But no importance can be attached to this when we consider that if he be a shoeblack he has still a right to his cognomen, and would probably find ample scope for the exercise of his vocation in the aristocratic precincts of North-terrace. If his hope of raising himself in the world's estimation is based solely on his giving a lucid definition of what constitutes a gentleman, and in giving instruction on the etiquette of such,

it is a vain one, and should strongly urge him to seek distinction in some other line, as in the one under notice he has proved himself woefully deficient both in his ideas of a gentleman and in his estimate of what he calls manual-labour men. His arguments in favour of class distinction are as hollow as his sentiments, and I am confident that he will find no one true gentleman in South Australia to endorse his opinions. Does it naturally follow that because mechanics are more used to hard work than so-called gentlemen that they "find less difficulty in training and practising?" Does "Universities" know what fatigue means, and has a working man so very much the advantage over gentlemen when he comes home every day after his eight, nine, or ten hours' hard work?

And again, are we to take unquestioned your correspondent's absurd statement that bodily exercise would be injurious to the brain power of the gentlemen? What then becomes of the brain power of the mechanics? Have they none? Is all the brain power monopolized by the gentlemen? If it is true that hard work injures the brain of a gentleman, I should opine that "Universities" has had shocking hard work in his time, and that it has had a shocking effect upon him. Third, "Universities" assumes that "continual rowing of gentlemen with mechanics would induce familiarity on the part of the latter which would be intolerable to the former!" Who is this man that talks in such a strain? Surely he is a being so far above we mundane mortals as to deserve a new world, with sun, moon, and stars complete, created especially for him.

Again, does he really think that gentlemen would "lose caste by rowing cheek by jowl with a mechanic?" Gentlemen cricketers don't appear to think it beneath their dignity to play with mechanics. Your gentlemen don't appear to be above buying with us, selling with us, hobnobbing with us when they require our very necessary votes at an election, fighting in the ranks with us in the defence of our country, and mixing with us in other relations of society; then why lose caste by rowing with us? And I deny that a mechanic is in any way below, in the social scale, such gentlemen(?) as "Universities." He may possibly be the son of an M.L.C., but it may be that it is only an accident of birth that he isn't a hangman.

Space forbids me to enter more fully into "Universities" vagaries, but I have no doubt you have many correspondents, both gentlemen and mechanics, who will treat him to a piece of their mind, the former to disavow the sentiments put forth by their would-be champion, and the latter to maintain the dignity and self-respect which is the birth-right of every honest man, be he mechanic or otherwise.

I am, Sir, &c.,

W. A. ROBINSON.

Chapel-street, Norwood, August 24.

[We have received letters to a like effect from "Oarsman," "Evolution," and "Republican," which we do not think it necessary to publish.—Ed.]

*From The Advertiser  
Sept 1<sup>st</sup> 1882.*

### CONVERSAZIONE AT THE UNIVERSITY.

In response to the invitation of Chief Justice Way, in his capacity of Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University, a large and brilliant company assembled in the University on Thursday evening, August 31, when a conversazione was held, partly in celebration of the opening of the new building. His Honor received his guests in the spacious library, which was tastefully arranged with the object of affording pleasure to the visitors. Down