

DECEMBER 22, 1881.

assume to advise the public should have their competency attested. For a while we shall have the question constantly occurring who is to decide whether the candidates are properly qualified to practice in the courts? The University, the legal profession, or the Supreme Court. I should much approve of the examination being with the University as soon as that body shows that it understands its duty towards the public, to whom the legal profession is ancillary. Before I conclude I must notice that the list of candidates who have just passed affords no clue as to whether those deemed by the respective schools most competent succeeded. I may be smiled at for expecting this; but private question as it is between the examiners and the schoolmasters, there must be some means of ascertaining how this matter stands. We do not live in a day when even a board of examiners can be tolerated as irresponsible autocrats—a *modus vivendi* with satisfaction to both the public and the University must be arrived at some day, and the sooner the better.—I am, &c.,

VER. SAP.

Adelaide, December 20, 1881.

REGISTER, WEDNESDAY,

DECEMBER 28, 1881.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS.

From the report of the last University Council meeting it will be seen that several important matters are now claiming consideration. Chief among these is the appointment of a new Chancellor, His Lordship Dr. Short having placed the position once more at the Council's disposal. The venerable Bishop, whose cares as the pastoral head of the Church in South Australia, and senior Bishop of Australia, have been of no light order, and whose approaching departure from the colony renders his tenure of the position necessarily temporary, evidently feels that no time ought to be lost in choosing his successor. It would, of course, be difficult, if not impossible, to find one possessing the same record of intellectual achievements as Bishop Short. But if it be impossible to appoint a Chancellor whose name will reflect so much lustre on the institution, it may yet be hoped that if the choice of the Council should fall upon a younger man and one whose cares are not of so engrossing a nature, the ability to devote more time and energy to the work of the institution may compensate to a certain extent for the lack of equal academical distinction. No one following the history of the Adelaide University during the brief course of its existence can fail to be struck with the want of enthusiasm and decision which have marked its proceedings.

Without the services of some guiding spirit, who may be able and willing to make as it were a hobby of the work, no young University is likely to thrive. The neighbouring colonies were fortunate in obtaining upon the establish-

ment of their Universities the services of Chancellors who had the time as well as the inclination to devote themselves to the interests of those institutions with untiring enthusiasm. It was William Charles Wentworth, sometimes called "the Australian Patriot," who thus identified himself with the cause of the Sydney University. Born an Australian, but educated in the first quarter of the present century at Cambridge, he was eminently fitted for the patriotic task of establishing upon a sure basis the first Australian University. His sympathies both political and educational were for progress and advancement, and he strove to bring the University into harmony with the spirit of the times. In

the founding of Melbourne University, again, the Victorians found a most energetic advocate in Sir Redmond Barry, who in the twenty-five years during which he continued to act as Chancellor spent a large proportion of his time in furthering the diversified interests of higher educational work. The securing of like-minded men for the Adelaide University should undoubtedly be made the first consideration in appointing the new Chancellor, and there is no reason why any great delay should take place in making the selection. The Bishop has shown commendable regard for the wishes of the Council and the interests of the University by holding the appointment temporarily pending the appointment of his successor. But his action in again placing the position at the disposal of the Council indicates that he desires to be relieved of his duties at once. It would be mere meaningless affectation to press upon him the retention of an office which he is so anxious to resign into younger and more energetic hands.

The Council of the University are apparently disinclined to take the public into their confidence in regard to the truth or otherwise of the statement made by Mr. G. A. Labatt to the effect that they intend sending to England for a lecturer in law. All that Mr. Labatt received in reply to the communication which he wrote to the Council on this subject was the not very complimentary intimation that he, being only a private member of the Senate, had no right to address the Council except through the Warden. As a matter of fact we believe that in Universities similarly constituted to that of Adelaide no such rule is ever laid down. But, whether it be collegiate etiquette or not for such letters as that of Mr. Labatt to be forwarded direct to the Council, it seems absurd that the latter should be so extremely reticent as to its intentions regarding this matter. If it has not come