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Adelaide, was never deemed to have much interest in the higher education of her citizens. It was thought that the people were too busy and too intent on spinning cotton and making yarn to care either for the acquisition of languages or the study of sciences. A good "commercial" training was all that was asked for by her merchants and millowners. There dwelt, however, in one of the suburbs of the city a quiet old gentleman named John Owens, who had other and wider thoughts for the people. He was possessed of ample means, and was without family claims. He died in the year 1850, and left in his will a sum of £100,000 for the foundation of a College. From this sum the Government received 10 per cent. as legacy duty, leaving £90,000 available for the purposes of the deceased donor. His object was to provide instruction for young men "in such branches of learning and science as are now, and may be hereafter, usually taught in the English Universities." The College was opened in the year 1851 in an antiquated town mansion, once, we believe, occupied as a residence by the late Richard Cobden. Its beginnings were very small. Only a few students were found willing to devote themselves to learning. Out of the immense population of Manchester only a handful of young men could be spared by the commercial energies of the city for anything so foolish and so unproductive as a college course. There were but seven lecturers or professors, who for some years had to lecture to empty benches. A chemical school was first added to the original Arts curriculum, and one by one other branches of learning have been fostered. The demand for a higher education had to be fostered, and this was a work of time. In academic matters the maxim of political economy that the demand regulates the supply has often to be reversed. The supply creates a demand. It was so in Manchester, and so after a few years of apparent uselessness the College began to grow very rapidly. Other benefactors followed the example of Mr. Owens, and now the endowments of the College amount to half a million of money. The seven professors have increased to nearly sixty professors and lecturers. In 1871 the total number of students in the day and evening classes had increased to about 800. In 1875, a Medical School having been united with the College, this number had increased to 1,400, and the number has been augmenting ever since. The old mansion has been forsaken, and a handsome and commodious College erected in one of the suburbs, replete with every convenience and appliance for academic tuition.

This College had no power to confer degrees. Its students were always sent to the University of London to obtain their degrees. But when it had become so conspicuous among the educational institutions of England, it was thought that the time had come when the College might be advanced to the dignity of a University, and might confer its own degrees. In 1877 it was resolved to take active steps to obtain a charter. The proposed University was to be different from that of London, inasmuch as it was intended that it should be a teaching and not merely an examining body. The charter was to provide for the introduction of the principle of a confederation of Colleges, which might be united with Owens College. In July, 1877, a memorial was presented to the Privy Council based on these principles. It was severely criticized by the public, and met with much opposition. The chief objection was founded on an unwillingness to grant such powers to any one College, however successful in tuition, or however rich in endowments. Ultimately in 1879 the Government made known their intentions to advise Her Majesty to issue a charter. The actual charter bears date the 20th of April, 1880. It differs considerably from that which the memorialists asked for. It does not constitute Owens College a University, but creates a new University, to be called "the Victoria University," which is to have its seat in the City of Manchester. In this new University Owens College was to be but one among many that might be associated in the new institution. It is especially named in the charter, and is at present the only College connected with the University. Practically the College and the University are coextensive, but they are by no means identical, and when other Colleges fulfil the condition required of them and become incorporated the distinction between the University and its affiliated College will become more and more manifest.

The new University starts with about 130 graduates, who have been educated at Owens College, and have graduated at London or elsewhere. This will represent the major part of the graduates who have come forth from this school of learning in the great cotton metropolis. Every year an increasing number will be added to this list, but as we consider its comparative smallness we may learn one or two lessons as to our own University. The roll of graduates by no means represents the work done in any University. In the University of Adelaide there have been upwards of a hundred students attending lectures during the past year, though the graduates are but very few. If the teaching be thorough and the examinations strict, and if the time re-