

## Tablet Unveiled.

Sir William MacGregor, amidst loud applause, then unveiled the tablet by pressing an electric button on the table in front of him. The tablet bore the following inscription:—

"Dedicated to the University of Queensland by his Excellency the Governor, Sir William MacGregor, G.C.M.G., on 10th December, 1909, the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of responsible government in Queensland, William Kidston, Chief Secretary."

## Hon. J. T. Bell's Speech.

The Hon. J. T. Bell, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of Queensland, in accepting the gift on behalf of the University, said: Your Excellency, Mr. Kidston, your Grace, ladies and gentlemen,—It I may, before uttering the few sentences I propose to do, I would like to mention a personal matter with regard to his Excellency's observations, and that is to express the consternation I felt at the announcement which his Excellency made, that, in his opinion, all the speeches that are delivered here this afternoon should be of such a character that they might be perused with pleasure and instruction by those who celebrate the jubilee of this institution 50 years hence. May I say, your Excellency, that I find it sufficiently difficult to cope with my contemporaries without trying to make in addition any provision for posterity. (Laughter.) I listened to his Excellency's address with the greatest satisfaction, and everyone who heard it—all of us here—regarded it as a fitting deliverance for such an occasion as this, and whether now or five or ten years hence, or when the jubilee of the University is being celebrated, as it will be celebrated, anyone who wants to learn authoritatively the main facts surrounding the university systems in the British Empire, and more especially in Australia, and particularly with regard to the inauguration of this University, can turn to the record of his Excellency's deliverance, with the knowledge that they will get all the information there. (Applause.) I at least—and so I am convinced does every one who has any acquaintance with the facts—feel sympathy with the allusion which his Excellency made during the course of his remarks, to that body of men who are known as the Queensland University Extension Council. (Applause.) I do not know how far back their labours began—it was certainly more than 10 years—but these men, free from any instinct of self-advertisement, and prompted only by motives that were unselfish, did their very best in our small community

here years ago, and year after year, to lay the foundations of a University. (Applause.) And I am of opinion—although these things are difficult to trace—that it was the labours of these men, that University Extension Council, their influence upon the public, and upon the men in public life, that actually prepared the way for this gathering that I see before me, and caused the Government of the day to institute the University. (Hear, hear.) All honour to these men, and I hope that their names will be perpetuated in some way or other. (Hear, hear.) I should like to say that in dedicating this building to the purpose of a University, those of us who are Queensland born and bred, not of the first or even of the second generation must feel some interest in the transformation that such an edifice undergoes. I can only hope that this building will play its part as a University edifice as well as it did as Government House. (Applause.) Ever since, I think, the year 1881 or 1862, this building has been the home of the representative of Her Majesty or His Majesty in this State. It has been the headquarters of the social and political life of the State, and it has through its various inhabitants, performed its duty well. (Hear, hear.) This building has housed in the past, men of the character that it will house in the future. Its inhabitants have been men possessed of qualifications that will equally adapt them to live in the building in the future, in its new surroundings. Let us think for a moment of the men who have made this house their headquarters. There was Sir George Bowen, the first Governor of Queensland, a man who originally—before he became private secretary to Mr. Gladstone, and he was also for a time in the Mediterranean, the Ionian Islands—was an Oxford don, a fellow of his college, and a man with an academic reputation. He came out here and lived here, and in one direction his classical impulses have left

their impression in the community, in the nomenclature of a number of the creeks and hills in southern Queensland. (Hear, hear.) Then there was Lord Lamington, a man of some academic reputation, and we had the greatest of all, from a University point of view, in Lord Chelmsford. (Hear, hear.) He was a man who was honoured of his school, of his

college at the University, and of the State which he governed. (Loud applause.) He was one of the very few men in the public service of Great Britain, who have ever come south of the line, who were able to say they were fellows of All Souls, which represents, if I may put it so, to the University, the same distinction as the Victoria Cross does in the military field. (Hear, hear.) When the proposal was put to him that this building, which he occupied, should be converted into a University, he was one of the most enthusiastic advocates of the proposal. (Hear, hear.) Lastly, I come to the present inhabitant of the building, his Excellency, Sir William MacGregor. (Loud applause.) No happier instance could be found of what a university education can do to produce Empire builders and stern men of the world than is to be found in the person of his Excellency. (Applause.) I think, then, that of whatever class the men may be who are coming to labour within these walls in the future, they have had forerunners of whom they will have no reason to be ashamed. (Hear, hear.) This building has some distinct advantages from the point of view of a university. The sole object of a university is not to prepare men to pass examinations. It has a wider sphere than that. There was a time—it lasted through ages—when the conception of a university was an institution that turned out scholars; to-day, I venture to say, it has become recognised that the duty and object of a university is the production of citizens. (Hear, hear.) You will not produce citizens merely by giving lectures and getting them periodically to answer written questions in examinations. In university life, one of the chief and most valuable features is comradeship, a common citizenship with the other members of the university. (Hear, hear.) This feeling of comradeship and esprit de corps finds expression in athletic sports, and when we look at the Brisbane River, only a few yards away, we find that the university students will be well situated with regard to this aspect of University life. A boat club always is a prominent feature of the Universities of Great Britain, and it is now beginning to become a prominent feature in Germany, where a river is to be found at all. You will find in connection with athletics and more particularly aquatic athletics that the students of this University will uphold the reputation of the British universities. (Hear, hear.) I do not propose to speak at any greater length. I am convinced that with the liberal and as far as we can see at the present time, adequate provisions made by the Ministry of the day for the management of this University in the future, you will see men attending it, and have men turned out by it that will leave their marks upon the community. I repeat again that I hope that the test of the success of this University is not going to be a literary test. Let it be tested in that way, too, but I am convinced that those who look at a university from the broader standpoint feel confident that the Queensland University is not going to turn out only scholars, men who can answer questions, but it is going to turn out men of the world. It is going to have a striking effect ultimately upon the tone of our citizenship. (Hear, hear.) I hope that not merely morals, but in some degree, manners also, will be cultivated in the university, and if this comes about we Queenslanders, who in the past although a mere handful of people, have spent comparatively enormous sums on our primary and secondary education, will have additional reason to be proud when we see the effects of this university being spread about the land. (Hear, hear.) I thank your Excellency for unveiling this tablet and dedicating this building to the purposes of the University, and I rejoice that we have a man of your character to perform the ceremony. (Loud applause.)

## Apologies.

The Premier read the following apologies: From Sir John Madden, Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, dated 1st December: "Regret unable to attend dedication of University buildings. Professor Baldwin Spencer, president of the Professorial Board, will represent the Melbourne University on 10th." From the registrar of the Melbourne University, dated 7th December: "Professor Spencer regrets inability to leave for Brisbane, owing to uncertainty of transport arrangements; must be in Melbourne early next week." From Colonel Cruickshank, registrar of the University of Tasmania: "Chancellor absent; Vice-Chancellor ill; latter, however, tenders sincere congratulations on Queensland's long cherished project for University nearing realisation, together with warm thanks for the honour done to this University by the invitation, inability to accept which he regrets exceedingly." Mr. Kidston invited Professors David (Sydney) and Stirling (Adelaide) to speak.

## Professor David's Speech.

Professor David, who also received a hearty welcome, said it was a great honour for him as a representative of the elder sister amongst the universities of Australia to bring a message of goodwill to their youngest university, the

University of Queensland. (Hear, hear.) It was under happy auspices that that young University was having that grand building, with such fine memories of the past, dedicated to its uses. They had in the present representative of His Majesty a gentleman of ripe scholarship and learning, one who had been throughout his whole life, as he was now and as he long would be, a great power for good, and a great power for all that was uplifting and ennobling in the British Empire. Sir William MacGregor. (Loud applause.) They had had the dedication ceremony performed in the presence of a representative of the Government, and a representative who had shown that he had the greatest possible grip of all that was needed to make a university such as that young university, a people's university, one, too, who had had with the utmost sincerity, the good and prosperity of his country at heart—the Premier. (Applause.) The present Administration, with great foresight, had resolved to make the University not merely a University of Brisbane, but a University of Queensland, and it seemed to him, as one who had studied university matters for some years in the past, that it was an act of great wisdom on the part of those who had controlled the inception of the movement that they had decided to associate there together the technical college and the university. (Applause.) He felt sure that that association would make for the good of both those institutions, which never should be in any way divorced from one another, and between which there should always be a friendly intercourse, and courtesy and confidence. He was delighted to hear from Mr. Kidston that the university was to be able to appeal to the farthest boundaries of their great State, by virtue of the 60 splendid scholarships which the Government had decided to endow—(applause)—that would bring in many of the boys and girls who otherwise, from their remoteness or from want of means, would have been unable to partake of its beneficial advantages. He was sure that although the university would start, no doubt, with but a small number of students, even amongst them the nation would reap not less a reward than did the University of Sydney when it started with a mere handful, but which celebrated its jubilee only in 1902. Amongst that first handful was no less a man than he who was their chancellor, Sir William Windey, than he who did so much for astronomy, Mr. H. C. Russell, their late Government astronomer, and than he who was now an ornament to the bench, an honour to the university, to the State, and to the whole Commonwealth, Sir Samuel Griffith. (Applause.) Certainly it would not be for want of plenty of good material, that their new university would not flourish, for they in Sydney knew of what splendid material Queensland grammar scholars, both boys and girls, were made, they knew it right well, for there was many a time when their boys and girls took prizes over the heads of their own. (Applause.) Just as in medieval times when the universities were started, feudalism, which made for isolation and all that was selfish,