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## A DISTINGUISHED VISITOR.

Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, who has been paying a visit to New Zealand and some of the Australian States, is to be with us in Adelaide from the beginning of next week. He has been described in the Sydney papers as a model of the fine old English gentleman, and that is the first impression one gets of his interesting personality. He is also an eminent scholar, who has won a place in the first rank of modern historians. His best-known works are "Italy and Her Invaders," in eight volumes; "The Life of Theodoric;" and "The Life of George Fox." Quite recently he has contributed the first volume to the "Political History of England." Dr. Hodgkin's work is the result of travel and observation, as well as of reading. He loves to visit places which have been invested with historic interest, and anybody who has been privileged to walk and talk with him in his own County of Northumberland knows how much historic associations mean for this distinguished student of the early history of Britain. Dr. Hodgkin is a Doctor of Laws and Literature, a Fellow of the Royal Society, and a Fellow of the British Academy. He is deeply interested in university work, more particularly, perhaps, in that part of it which is now known as university extension work. "It should sweeten existence," he says, "for those who do the world's work—men and women alike. We ought all to have an independent if subsidiary occupation in which we delight the free intelligence, and the universities should be our guides and helpers there." At the request of the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way, Bart.) he has consented to deliver two lectures in the Elder Hall, the first on "The fall of the Roman Empire, and its lessons for us," on September 21, at which His Excellency the Governor will preside, and the second on "Ravenna and its mosaics" (illustrated by lantern slides), on October 1, at which the Chancellor of the University will preside.

## A VISITING HISTORIAN.

LECTURE BY DR. HODGKIN.

Before a large audience in the Elder Hall on Tuesday evening Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, F.R.S., the eminent historian, who is visiting Adelaide, delivered an address of great interest on "The fall of the Roman Empire and its lessons for us." His Excellency the Governor (Sir Day Bosanquet) presided, and with him on the platform were the Chancellor of the University (Sir Samuel Way) and several members of the professional staff. Dr. Hodgkin is an earnest, polished speaker, with a fine delivery, and he displayed an intimate mastery of his subject. His treatment of historical facts, while indicating deep scholarship, was in no way dry or laborious, and his auditors paid him a fine compliment of appreciation by following his eloquent remarks with rapt attention. Applause was interspersed.

The great Empires of Assyria, Greece, Rome, and Carthage had faded away, remarked the lecturer, but did that necessarily prove all States must die. He hinted that there was a greater tenacity of life among the nations of modern Europe than in most of the nations of antiquity, and did not see why Britons need look forward to the inevitable death of their country. States were, however, liable to become diseased, and the story of political health or infirmity was the most important purpose of history. He proceeded to describe some of the symptoms which marked the sickness and death of the "most illustrious patient that ever was brought to the hospital of nations—the Roman Empire" before raising the question whether there were points for comparison which might suggest alarm or anxiety regarding the destiny of the scarcely less magnificent British Empire. After outlining various phases and abuses of government in the time of the Caesars, he said first among the causes which contributed to the ruin of the Roman Empire was the fact that the Imperial diadem, being in the gift of the soldiery, gave rise to internal strife. The British Empire should not lightly prize or hastily throw away hereditary monarchical succession. (Applause.) It was no small matter that the man or woman who held the highest place in the realms was able to trace back descent in an undoubted line to Alfred the Great and William the Norman. Keeping the throne filled by hereditary succession prevented that scramble for supremacy between general and general, demagogue and demagogue, or baron and baron, which often ended in civil war. (Other undermining causes were that the Roman Empire was founded on slavery; the distribution of cheap imported corn to the citizens of Rome tended to the degradation of the commonalty and the destruction of the farming class; the financial oppression of the middle classes; and lastly, the incursions of the barbarians. Searching for similar symptoms in relation to the British Empire, Professor Hodgkin said we were certainly not faced with a dwindling population, and he trusted the surplus from the British Isles would long find its way across the seas to Australia and Canada, not to swell the towns, but to cultivate the back country. It was the business of statesmen to guide that fertilizing stream. Nor was Britain exhausting the resources of her distant possessions for her own benefit. If ever the day came when Englishmen thought they could sit at home at ease and leave their Asiatic and African native forces do the fighting for them they would deserve to lose their world-wide Empire. The curse of slavery was fortunately not eating the vitals of Great Britain, but the factory system—that great source of national wealth—needed to be carefully watched to prevent its degenerating into something like practical slavery. Australians should guard with vigilance against the hateful slum creeping in to their beautiful cities. Especially in British dealings with weaker and subject races he emphasized the benefit derived from the existence of the spirit of Christianity and fairplay. National character was the Empire's most precious asset. Under the Roman Empire, cheap amusement, as well as bread, was supplied to the populace by benevolent rulers, and the nation's jaded nerves were stimulated by the sight of death agonies and bloodshedding in the gladiatorial arena, with resultant demoralization. To-day, though no Parliament had granted free music hall tickets for its constituents, there was something in the intense devotion of our people to games, and the disproportionate share of attention given to horseracing, cricket, and

football, which did not altogether conduce to the building of a strong and noble nation. (Hear, hear.) They were not yet suffering from that pauperizing legislation which provided outdoor relief for the whole population of Rome and Constantinople, but in the very kindness of their hearts some modern social reformers were in danger of following that bad example. (Applause.) There were symptoms, he said, in conclusion, on which critics at home and abroad loved to dwell as seeming to point to national decadence; but he ventured to say no nation need lose its fibre. The will to live, if accompanied by the necessary self-denial and reliance on the Unseen Ruler of the world, meant the power to live. It depended on every one of them individually—on those in Australia as much, if not more, than on the homedwellers, whether Britain kept her place in the forefront of nations. Courage, purity, faith, and an all-mastering love of country! If they could keep hold of those qualities inherited from their fathers, the world would not witness the downfall of the British Empire. (Applause.)

A cordial vote of thanks to His Excellency for presiding, and to Dr. Hodgkin for his able address, was carried at the instance of Professor Henderson, who said Dr. Hodgkin's presence was an inspiration to the students of the University and to the staff. His authoritative works had placed him in the front ranks of modern historians.

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## THE GOVERNOR AND A FELLOW-COUNTRYMAN.

Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, F.R.S., the eminent historian, at the Elder Hall University on Tuesday evening, delivered an eloquent lecture on the fall of the Roman Empire. In introducing the lecturer his Excellency the Governor said—"Dr. Hodgkin comes from Northumbria, as I do, and we are proud of it. He lives in the splendid borderland not far from the old Roman wall, where every hill and valley is associated with the battles between the English and the Scotch before their kingdoms were united; where the occupation of cattle-lifting was elevated to the dignity of a noble profession; and where the fighting which accompanied the daily life of the professors was looked upon as a pleasant pastime. In those days, when the larder was empty the lady of the house served for dinner in a covered dish a pair of spurs, which conveyed to the men of the party a gentle hint that it was time they rode across the border and brought back as many cattle and sheep as they could collect." (Laughter and applause.)

## CONSERVATORIUM STAFF CONCERT.

A fair attendance in the Elder Hall on Monday night marked the second and last staff concert of the season. The engagement partook of the nature of a chamber music concert, and was enjoyed as such—by those whom the indistinct nature of the large hall did not rob of any of the composers' finest thoughts. The first was a quintet in C of Martucci. Mr. Bryce-son Treharne played the piano, Mr. Heinicke the first violin, Miss Sylvia Whittington the second, Mr. Harold Parsons the cello, and Mr. William Cade the viola. Martucci, the programme notes reminded one, died only last June. He was a modern virtuoso of the piano, as well as a composer, and his conceptions were new and always on the melodious side of originality. This feature marked the presentation by the staff on Monday evening; they did particularly musicianly justice to the andante. Mr. Heinicke and Miss Whittington played Bach's concerto in D minor, and were accompanied by Mr. Treharne. Much less expressive interpretation would have failed to submerge the genius of Bach in parts of the opening vivace and all of the largo. As for the technical exercises that marked the allegro, there were no faults found, apparently, by the audience. Anton Dvorak's glorious quintet proved the high-water mark; and who could have failed to have risen to one's best with the inspiration of this great work—particularly when weaving the shadowy airs of the "Dumka" or threshing out the scherzo? Miss Guli Hack sang Brahms's immortal "Rest thee, my lady," Sinding's chaotic "Lorsing," "Le Violette" (Searlatti), "La Feuille de Peuplier" (Saint-Saens), and "Jeunes Filles" (Wekerlin). It was probably Miss Hack's last appearance, and the audience made of it an occasion for warm sentiment.

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