

2 *The examining university*

The campaign for a university opened in March, 1873. At the beginning of that month, the editor of the *Argus* newspaper in Cape Town, Thomas Ekins Fuller, discussed the question with two leading figures, the Attorney General, J. H. de Villiers, and the man who had earlier held that post, William Porter. This meeting in the newspaper's offices was followed by an editorial calling for speedy action to create "a Cape university, with power to grant degrees under charter from the Crown".

The appeal was immediately taken up by the South African Teachers' Association, whose President, Langham Dale, the Superintendent General of Education, was by that time in favour of something better for the colony than a reformed Board of Public Examiners and an educational council. The governing bodies and professors of the Cape Town colleges also gave strong support to the idea. Within two weeks the Molteno government had set up a commission to report on the form which the new university should take, for there was no suggestion that the Cape should have any less dignified an institution at the apex of its educational pyramid. Dale was selected as President and was joined by Fuller and Porter, two of the original sponsors of the scheme, and by three leading educationists, Cameron and Ogilvie of the Cape Town colleges and John Murray of Stellenbosch. The other members appointed were the President of the Colonial Medical Committee, Henry A. Ebdon, and the Astronomer Royal, E. J. Stone.

The Dale Commission sought the opinions of prominent teachers in the colony and the answers received indicated a general preference for an examining university on the London model. A draft bill was drawn up and presented, with the blessing of the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, to the colonial parliament. The proposed measure met with little hostility. A few grumbled about the expense, but it was demonstrated that an expanded examining board would not be costly to run. Eastern Province members of the House of Assembly were surprisingly conciliatory and were quite prepared to accept Cape Town as the university seat. There was some disappointment that government had decided against a teaching institution, but J. H. de Villiers, who introduced the bill, and Porter, who moved the second reading, effectively countered any dissatisfaction. Both emphasized that the new venture was just a beginning. "Let us have", said Porter, "first the blade, then the ear, and then the full corn in the ear", for the colony should "not despise the day of small things, when the day of great things will follow". The millennium would be long delayed.

The Cape parliament was content to pass the bill with little further argument and it is a measure of the general approval that one of the longest debates concerned nothing more significant than a point of grammatical usage. After some discussion, it was decided that the indefinite article should precede the word "university" in the phrasing of the legislation!

Act 16 of 1873, creating the University of the Cape of Good Hope, received the royal assent on 26 June and in due course was approved by the mother of parliaments. The university was to be governed by a Council of twenty members, appointed initially by proclamation of the Governor for a period of six years. Convocation, however, which would consist of the qualified certificate holders of the former board, graduates by examination and admitted graduates of other universities, was to elect a member to fill every second vacancy and one-half of the members of subsequent sexennial Councils. The governing body was to choose from its own members a Vice-Chancellor to hold office

for two years, appoint a salaried Registrar and select the examiners. With regard to this last duty, Council was to "avoid, as much as may be, appointing any person to be an examiner of any candidate who shall have been under the tuition of such examiner at any time during the two years next before the examination".

Council was empowered to admit graduates of other universities to degrees and to confer similar distinctions after examination to all comers in arts, law and medicine. It could also issue certificates in civil engineering, land surveying, navigation and law, although it never availed itself of its powers so far as civil engineering and navigation were concerned. Attempts were made from the beginning to introduce a full medical course at the Cape, but although many members of that profession became admitted graduates, no degrees in medicine by examination were ever conferred by the University of the Cape of Good Hope. A link with the board of 1850 was maintained by the insertion of a clause authorizing the university to conduct entry tests for the public service. However, the introduction of a Matriculation examination, which came to be regarded as both a school leaving test and a necessary preliminary to university study, made it unnecessary to institute special examinations for government employment.

Convocation was intended to be an influential body, but it could only act in an advisory capacity and never made a big impact upon university life, except at election times. Its Presidents, with the exception of J. H. de Villiers from 1874 until 1880, were always admitted graduates. Three of its six Secretaries, however, held qualifications obtained at the Cape. Two of them were to have distinguished legal careers in South Africa: Sydney Twentymen Jones, Secretary from 1876 until 1879, and his successor, Victor Sampson, who retained the position until 1881. Charles Murray of the Department of Education, a Cape M.A., was elected Secretary in March, 1901. He remained in office until the examining university was no more.

The body of graduates had, in addition to the privilege of



CHARLES THOMAS SMITH was born on 20 November, 1823 in Fulham, England. He received his early education locally and at Wiesbaden in Germany. On his return to Britain, he studied law in London and was also a student at Caius College, Cambridge. He obtained his M.A. in 1850, was admitted to the bar in 1857 and was awarded an honorary LL.D. in 1875.

A fine sportsman, he coxed the Cambridge crew in the University Boat Race of 1854. He was also an excellent marksman and has been called the father of shooting associations in South Africa.

His legal career began in England, but in December, 1868, he was appointed a Cape Puisne Judge, joining the Eastern Districts Court at Grahamstown. In 1880, he moved to Cape Town, retiring from the bench in 1892. On three occasions, he acted as Chief Justice for the colony.

Deeply interested in social questions and particularly in education, he served on the university Council from 1880 until 1897 and as Vice-Chancellor from 1889 to 1893. In 1898, he succeeded Langham Dale as Chancellor. He also did much to promote advanced studies in Grahamstown and at the South African College.

Mr Justice Smith died on 10 February, 1901 at his home in Rosebank, Cape Town.

The Hon. Mr Justice Charles Thomas Smith, M.A., LL.D. (h.c.)

Member of Council 1880-1897

Vice-Chancellor 1889-1893

Chancellor 1898-1901

President of Convocation 1883-1890

choosing members of Council, that of selecting the titular head of the university. The Chancellor, unless he decided to resign, held the appointment for life. The first election took place in 1876, when Convocation's membership reached the required figure of one hundred. Several names were suggested on that occasion, but the final and unanimous choice of William Porter, then living in retirement in the Irish city of Belfast, was widely acclaimed.

The university was in receipt of a modest grant voted each year by the Cape assembly. This ranged from R3 000 in 1873 to rather more than twice this sum in the last year of colonial rule at the Cape. The amount allocated was seldom considered sufficient for administrative purposes, but an early move to obtain a permanent endowment proved unsuccessful. The accumulated funds of the Board of Public Examiners were also made over to the new Council, which was required to account for its actions and to justify its expenditure in an annual report to parliament. Finally, the new institution was to be entirely non-sectarian, imposing no religious tests upon its officers or upon those who sought to pass its examinations.

While the Board of Public Examiners was winding up its affairs in July, 1873, the Governor was considering the appointment of its successor's first governing Council. The final list gave due recognition to the professions and although the colleges were not automatically represented, their interests were adequately safeguarded. The number of clergymen chosen is an indication of the close links then existing between the various denominations and the world of education. All the members of the Dale Commission were appointed, with the exception of Fuller, who had become the Cape's emigration representative in London. However, on his return in 1878 as General Manager of the Union shipping line, he was elected by Convocation to fill a vacancy. Brebner and Guthrie were selected to represent the colleges at Somerset East and Graaff-Reinet, although the former was soon compelled to resign on appointment to the Free State education department. Not until the election of Peter MacOwan

in 1876 did Gill College again have a representative, while Guthrie did not remain long at Graaff-Reinet.

Chief Justice Sydney Smith Bell and his successor in that office, Attorney General J. H. de Villiers, were both members of the first Council; so, too, was the former Secretary of the Board of Public Examiners, C. B. Elliott. Others chosen included Abraham Faure's brother, Philip Eduard, minister of the Dutch Reformed (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde*) Church at Wynberg and Moderator of Synod, the former board examiner, E. C. Judge, and his colleague in that office, C. Abercrombie Smith, in 1873 Molteno's Commissioner of Crown Lands and Public Works. Not all the members of this, or subsequent Councils were noted for regular attendance at meetings; some, too, were connected with the university for a short period only. Five of the first members, however, gave the University of the Cape of Good Hope long and devoted service: Cameron, Dale, De Villiers, Ogilvie and Abercrombie Smith.

Convocation early showed a disposition to choose active professors as Council members. In 1874, it found a seat for Roderick Noble and two years later it not only elected MacOwan, but also Paul Daniel Hahn of the South African College, a member until his death in 1918 and a pioneer of the modern, scientific approach in higher education. The emphasis upon professorial appointments at Convocation elections led, from 1879, to the compilation of tickets by rival factions. This would be a feature of Council elections throughout the life of the Cape University and for many years during that of its successor.

One of the most important tasks confronting the Council of 1873, when it met for the first time on 1 September in the offices of the Superintendent General of Education, was to select a Vice-Chancellor. Langham Dale was, by common consent, the most suitable choice and the University of the Cape of Good Hope was thus from the outset closely linked with the entire colonial educational system. It has been said that Council often found it difficult in the early days to persuade anyone else to fill the office; certainly, in the period to 1889, Dale dominated the

GENERAL FUND OF THE UNIVERSITY.

RECEIPTS.		PAYMENTS.	
	£	s.	d.
The Colonial Government:			
Allowance to the University for Sixteen Months from 1st Sept., 1873, to 31st Dec., 1874, at the rate of £1,500 per annum			575 0 0
Interest on Debentures			588 13 4
			9 14 9
			28 13 4
			43 14 0
			150 0 0
			15 0 0
			146 11 8
			15 0 0
			3 3 0
			10 0 0
			1 7 0
			5 13 6
			510 0 0
			202 0 0
			31 14 0
			0 6 0
			40 0 0
			66 13 4
			12 8 4
			700 0 0
			133 2 9
			3,288 15 0

University Chambers, 15th January, 1875.
 Examined and found correct,
 C. B. ELLIOTT, } Auditors.
 L. MARQUARD, }
 18th January, 1875.

JAMES CAMERON, Registrar.

THE FIRST FINANCIAL STATEMENT issued covered a period of 16 months and was submitted with a report of university activities required in terms of the Incorporation Act.

The university began its career with the assets of the Board of Public Examiners. Its annual income, however, was very small and the new institution was largely dependent upon a modest government grant and the fees of candidates for its various examinations. In this period there were 49 entrants for the Matriculation examination, 11 who sought certificates in law or surveying and 10 who hoped to obtain graduate qualifications.

The main items of expenditure were examiners' fees, the Registrar's salary and wages for the messenger.

It is interesting to compare the position today with that obtaining when the university was young. Almost 100 years after the compilation of the first financial statement, the university's annual income from government funds and other sources (Matriculation fees excepted) had reached the figure of R7 265 663. Expenditure then amounted to R7 220 726. The total number of candidates in 1971, including those for the Matriculation and music examinations, was approximately 40 000.

THE FIRST MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY COUNCIL on Monday, 1 September, 1873 was a significant event in the history of South African higher education.

Of the members chosen by the Governor, 14 were present when the meeting began in the Cape Town office of the Superintendent General of Education. Four of them – James Cameron, Langham Dale, George Ogilvie and Charles Abercrombie Smith – were destined to play a large part in the development of the examining university; a fifth, the future Chief Justice, J.H. de Villiers, also gave many years to the service of the governing body and was the first President of Convocation.

The presence of three medical practitioners – Henry A. Ebdon, J.Z. Herman and P.G. Stewart – indicates a desire on the part of the founders to introduce degrees in medicine, for which provision had been made in the Incorporation Act. Medical degrees were never conferred, however.

The close connection between the various religious bodies and the world of education is seen in the appointment of such men as the Moderator of the Dutch Reformed (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde*) Church, P.E. Faure, the Anglican priest and educationist, Edward C. Judge, the Stellenbosch seminary professor, John Murray, and the Scottish teacher and minister, David Smith. The others present on this occasion were the former Secretary of the Board of Public Examiners, C.B. Elliott, and the Astronomer Royal, E.J. Stone.

Absent from the meeting on 1 September were Sir Sydney Smith Bell, the Rev. John Brebner, the Venerable P.P. Fogg, Professor F. Guthrie, the Rev. W. Impy and the Hon. William Porter.

First Page of the first Council Minutes

1873.

Monday, 1st September, 1873.

At a Meeting of the Council of the University of the Cape of Good Hope, held at the Office of the Superintendent General of Education, in Cape Town, on Monday, the 1st day of September, 1873, at 11 o'clock, a.m., in conformity with the Decree of the Governor's Proclamation No 77, of the 30th July, 1873, were present:

Rev. James Cameron, B. A., D. D.
Lengham Dale Esq., B. A., D. D.
Hon^{ble} John Henry de Villiers Esq.
Henry Anderson Loder Esq., M. D.
Charles Bletterman Elliott Esq.
Rev. Philip Eduard Faure, D. D.
Johannes Zacharias Herman Esq., M. D.
Rev. Edward Judge, M. A.
Rev. John Murray.
Rev. George O'Leary, M. A.
Hon^{ble} Charles Abercrombie Smith Esq., M. D.
Rev. David Smith, M. A.
Peter Gordon Stewart Esq., M. D.
Edward James Stone Esq., M. A., F. R. S.

On the motion of the Hon^{ble} Mr de Villiers, seconded by the Hon^{ble} Mr Smith, Dr Dale was unanimously elected as Chairman.

Dr Dale proposed that Mr Elliott should fill the Office of Acting Registrar. Carried unanimously.

The Chairman read the Governor's Proclamation No 77, of the 30th July, 1873, appointing the University Council and convening this Meeting.

Hon^{ble} Mr de Villiers proposed that Dr Dale be Vice-Chancellor of the University. Rev. Dr Faure seconded the proposal, which was carried by acclamation.

Dr Dale signified his acceptance of the Office.

The Vice-Chancellor proposed that the functions and Salary of the future Registrar should be defined. This proposal was agreed to.

Hon^{ble} Mr de Villiers proposed that the Salary of the Registrar should be subject to the approval of Government.

scene. Only twice was another Vice-Chancellor chosen: Abercrombie Smith in 1877 and the Anglican churchman, Hopkins Badnall, in 1882. When Langham Dale retired as Superintendent General of Education in 1892, he was Chancellor of the University of the Cape of Good Hope, a position he held from 1890 until his death eight years later.

The other office which Council had to fill was that of Registrar. The position was given to the South African College representative on the governing body, James Cameron. This choice created the first vacancy in Council membership and provided the Governor with the opportunity of appointing Cameron's colleague on the college staff, the former board examiner, G. F. Childe. Cameron was a popular Registrar. A good classical scholar and a useful addition to the examining panel, he brought to his new post valuable gifts of kindness and patience. Chosen also as Secretary of Convocation between 1873 and 1876, he was to remain as Registrar until 1895. He served again on Council after his retirement and retained his interest in the university even after his departure for England, where he died in 1906.

In August, 1877, the University of the Cape of Good Hope became a full member of the select band of British and imperial universities. The Royal Charter which Queen Victoria was pleased to bestow upon the Cape institution was modelled closely upon that which had recently been granted to the examining University of New Zealand. As it was the Queen's duty and desire to promote the advance of education among "all classes and denominations" of her subjects, the degrees of the Cape University were afforded full recognition throughout the British world. They were not to be considered in any way inferior to those conferred by the universities of the United Kingdom.

English was the language of the University of the Cape of Good Hope and the majority of its Council members were drawn from the English-speaking section of the community. A number of representatives of the Afrikaner group in Cape society were chosen, however. Several were closely associated with education at Stellenbosch and among them may be mentioned the three

seminary professors, J. I. Marais, Adriaan Moorrees and C. F. J. Muller. Marais and Moorrees gave many years of service to the examining university and were not forgotten by the institution which at length took its place. Muller was specially selected during the dark days of the Anglo-Boer War as a man who knew and understood the feelings and aspirations of the Afrikaner people.

All the Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors, however, were English-speaking and none was South African-born. For examination purposes, candidates were obliged to use English until the last years of the university's life brought some relaxation in this hitherto inflexible rule. When the first Council drew up regulations for examinations, Dutch was treated as a foreign accomplishment and was made an optional subject, together with French and German, in the Matriculation and B.A. examinations. Some years later, "Kafir" (Xhosa) and Sesuto were added to the list of alternative modern languages at Matriculation level.

Much time was spent at early Council meetings in drawing up rules and by-laws. There was considerable discussion on the question of pass marks for the various examinations. Abercrombie Smith was not in favour of this method of judging scripts, since "competent knowledge", he said, "cannot be strictly defined by marks". However, his objections were overruled by a narrow margin and the usual method of assessment adopted. At first, the marks a candidate was required to obtain for a pass were not divulged in the annual *Calendar*. They were surprisingly low and remained so for many years. One-fifth of the total was sufficient in most subject papers, with an aggregate of one-third in the examination as a whole.

The M.A. degree was initially divided into three departments: language and literature, mathematics and natural philosophy and physical science. Other groups were added later. The B.A. was a composite arts and science degree in the early years, but after the introduction of an Intermediate B.A. examination in 1883, during Hopkins Badnall's term of office as Vice-Chancellor, the finals could be taken in literature and philosophy or in mathe-

HOPKINS BADNALL, the son of a silk manufacturer, was born on 21 September, 1821 at Leek, Staffordshire, England. He received his early education at home and under the guidance of an uncle in Liverpool.

After graduating at the University of Durham, Badnall took Holy Orders and became a curate at Stockton-on-Tees under the future Bishop of Cape Town, Robert Gray. He accompanied Gray to the Cape as his chaplain, reaching Table Bay early in 1848. He officiated at Claremont and was also Vice-Principal of the Diocesan Collegiate School from 1849 until 1853.

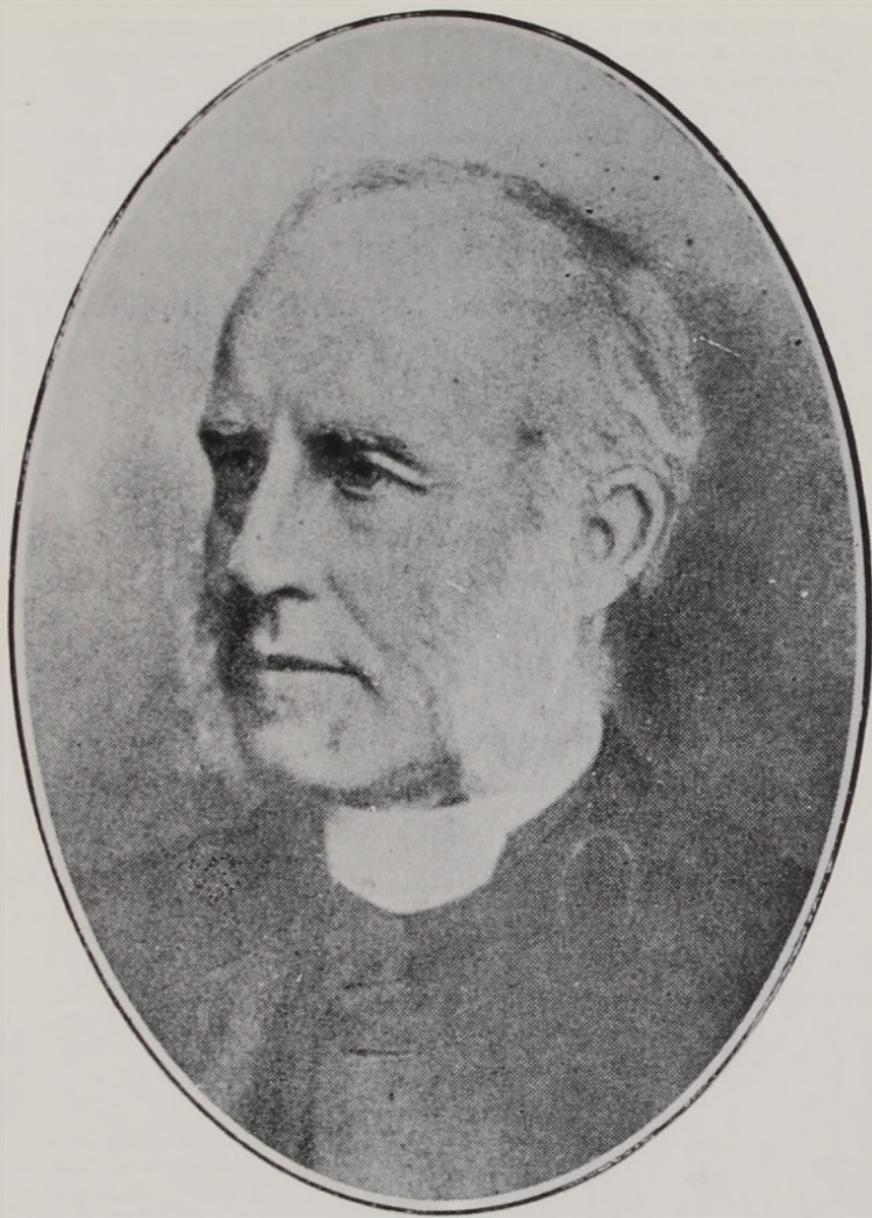
He then ministered in England for some years, but returned to the Cape in 1862 as Archdeacon of George, where he remained until 1869. In that year, he was appointed Archdeacon of Cape Town and Rector of St Paul's, Rondebosch.

His skill as an ecclesiastical jurist enabled him to play an important part in the establishment of the Church of the Province of South Africa. A churchman of moderate views, he was also involved in the Anglican controversies of the period. Badnall was a scholar of repute and in 1862, obtained a doctorate in divinity from his old university.

He served on Council in 1875 and 1876 and again from 1879 until 1885, being chosen as Vice-Chancellor for the period from 1882 to 1884.

The Venerable Hopkins Badnall returned to England in 1885 to take charge of a parish near Doncaster in Yorkshire. Poor health soon compelled him to retire to London, where he died on 27 September, 1892. He was buried at his birthplace.

The Ven. Hopkins Badnall, M.A., D.D.
Member of Council 1875-1876; 1879-1885
Vice-Chancellor 1882-1884
President of Convocation 1881-1882



Once the University of the Cape of Good Hope had been established, its governing Council sought to increase the standing of the new institution in the British academic world by applying through the Governor of the colony for a ROYAL CHARTER. This was granted by Queen Victoria in 1877.

The degrees of the university were recognized as "Academic Distinctions" and were "entitled to rank, precedence and consideration in Our United Kingdom, and in Our Colonies and possessions throughout the world, as fully as if the said Degrees had been granted by any university of Our said United Kingdom".

Full recognition, however, was long in coming and it was many years before the university examinations were accepted – and then often with reservations – by British universities.

matics and natural science. A candidate could either read for a pass or an honours degree. In the last years of the Cape University's life, a considerable expansion of the groups and subjects offered took place and a mixed degree once again became an acceptable alternative. The fees decided upon in 1873 ranged from R4 for a Matriculation examination to R60 for a complete LL.B. They remained at a moderate rate throughout the history of the university. No candidate was permitted to enter for an examination without presenting a certificate of good conduct.

With the passing years, the university greatly extended its functions and the growing complexity of Council's work led to the setting up of a Standing Committee as early as January, 1883. There was a large increase in the number of law examinations provided and the University of the Cape of Good Hope ultimately became responsible for testing the civil service law candidates of all the territories of southern Africa. In 1896, a School of Mines was opened in Kimberley, under the general supervision of Gardner F. Williams of De Beers and with Professor J. G. Lawn in charge. This took students who had begun courses in mining engineering at one of the major Cape colleges and provided them with advanced training, including practical work on the Witwatersrand. Examinations in this field were conducted by the Cape University.

Degrees in music were added in terms of the Amendment Act of 1896, but were never instituted. Music examinations of a general kind, however, became an important feature of the university's work. In 1892, Council commissioned the distinguished physician and composer, J. H. Meiring Beck, long a member of the university's governing body, to approach the recently established Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music in London in order to see whether it would extend its examining function to the colony. The suggestion was favourably received and the visit of the first music examiner, Franklin Taylor, in 1894 inaugurated the world-wide expansion of the board's activities. A long association between the university, its successor and the

London body followed. It was not without its vicissitudes, but it provided many South African musicians and vocalists with an opportunity to study further.

Plans by the Anglican Church to establish a Faculty of Divinity at the Cape at the end of the nineteenth century brought to the fore the need for theological examinations under the auspices of the university. Students at the Stellenbosch seminary had earlier been able to obtain external degrees in theology from the University of St Andrews, but the Scottish institution had been forced to abandon this scheme. In 1902, the University of London let it be known that candidates would be able to write its new divinity degree examinations externally. This facility once again gave the Stellenbosch students an opportunity to graduate in their own land. If a non-sectarian university like that in the imperial capital could provide theological examinations, there seemed no reason why the University of the Cape of Good Hope should not do so. The subject was debated at length and brought before parliament in 1907. There, it had a rather stormy passage. Merriman, at that time a member of the university Council, was strongly opposed to divinity degrees and his views enjoyed considerable support. However, their introduction was permitted in terms of a further Amendment Act in 1908. The first B.D. by examination was a future Union Member of Parliament, Nicolaas J. van der Merwe. He obtained his degree in 1911.

Soon after the founding of the University of the Cape of Good Hope, it was being pressed to institute elementary examinations for school children. The first of these, the examination for Certificates of Proficiency in Elementary Subjects of Instruction, was launched in 1875 and was followed by the introduction of an examination designed to appeal to girls as well as to boys. This was the School Examination for Honours, a leaving certificate. These tests were to become the School Elementary and School Higher examinations, later replaced by Junior and Senior Certificate examinations of superior standard. The university thus early became a vast examining machine to test the products of Cape education at every stage. A further link with the teaching pro-

HENRY HOWARD MOLYNEUX HERBERT was born in London on 24 June, 1831 and was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. He inherited his title at the age of 18 and took his seat in the House of Lords.

A Conservative in politics, he became Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies in the Earl of Derby's second administration in 1858. When Derby became Prime Minister again in 1866, Carnarvon was appointed Colonial Secretary. He introduced the bill for Canadian federation, but before the British North America Act became effective, he resigned in protest against proposed measures of parliamentary reform at home.

He again became Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1874 under Benjamin Disraeli (the Earl of Beaconsfield), but resigned four years later over the Eastern Question. As Colonial Secretary, he tried hard to federate South Africa along the lines which had proved successful in Canada. In this, however, he failed.

Chairman of the Commission on Imperial Defence (1879-1882), he was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in the Marquess of Salisbury's first administration of 1885. Somewhat indecisive as a politician, he was nevertheless courteous and conciliatory. A man of literary tastes, he published translations from the Greek classics.

Chosen as Chancellor in 1884, he touched at the Cape three years later on his way to Australia. On 29 September, 1887 he became the first Chancellor to attend a Cape graduation ceremony. An Oxford M.A., with honorary doctorates from that university and from Dublin, he was admitted to the degree of M.A. (Cape) on the occasion of his South African visit.

He died in London on 28 June, 1890 and was buried at his country home, Highclere Castle, Hampshire. The town of Carnarvon in the Cape bears his name.

*Henry Howard Molyneux Herbert, M.A., D.C.L.(h.c.),
LL.D.(h.c.), F.S.A.,
the Right Hon. the 4th Earl of Carnarvon
Chancellor 1884-1890*



	M.A.		B.A.		I.L.B.		Matriculation		Intermediate		Law Certificate		Survey Certificate		C.S. Law		School Elementary		School Higher		Tot.	
	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd	Ex	Psd
1874 ..	1	1	9	6	0	0	49	31	0	0	9	8	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	70	47
1875 ..	1	0	16	12	1	1	58	34	0	0	7	7	3	0	0	0	158	97	0	0	244	151
1876 ..	4	2	9	8	1	1	80	60	0	0	3	3	5	3	0	0	154	117	0	0	256	194
1877 ..	3	1	11	6	1	1	74	49	0	0	3	2	7	3	0	0	182	130	0	0	281	192
1878 ..	2	2	15	8	1	1	100	73	0	0	3	3	13	7	0	0	213	141	0	0	347	235
1879 ..	0	0	15	8	1	0	109	46	0	0	5	5	12	8	0	0	240	150	0	0	382	217
1880 ..	1	1	14	7	1	1	118	62	0	0	8	7	17	8	0	0	281	204	24	17	464	307
1881 ..	0	0	14	10	2	2	109	61	0	0	3	1	22	10	0	0	333	242	40	32	523	358
1882 ..	0	0	10	7	0	0	116	84	0	0	10	10	24	14	0	0	414	256	45	21	619	392
1883 ..	0	0	16	13	1	1	144	88	38	32	4	4	20	14	0	0	419	293	42	33	684	478
1884 ..	2	2	13	10	0	0	185	118	38	20	15	14	21	10	0	0	475	379	37	18	786	571
1885 ..	0	0	16	10	4	2	228	118	52	23	14	9	13	5	0	0	755	526	88	42	1170	735
1886 ..	2	1	21	15	3	3	215	121	56	53	18	16	15	10	7	5	986	603	112	85	1435	912
1887 ..	0	0	24	16	4	2	216	122	45	25	29	13	4	2	31	13	892	530	203	145	1448	868
1888 ..	3	2	33	29	2	1	202	133	66	43	28	24	6	3	36	21	892	523	232	197	1500	976
1889 ..	1	0	22	13	3	3	188	109	40	31	21	16	6	5	17	11	915	610	193	162	1406	960
1890 ..	1	1	27	18	5	4	193	101	38	22	16	11	13	6	23	12	1295	930	284	233	1895	1338
1891 ..	2	1	21	14	8	5	228	142	43	35	21	11	12	8	35	12	1614	972	370	279	2354	1479
1892 ..	1	1	20	14	10	7	282	207	56	39	24	21	14	9	50	33	1813	1276	423	333	2693	1940
1893 ..	0	0	25	21	6	6	304	214	76	40	19	15	25	11	54	41	1897	1287	525	439	2931	2074
1894 ..	1	1	41	25	2	2	336	214	76	37	21	16	28	18	56	37	2148	1592	564	430	3272	2371
1874 to	}																					
1894	25	16	392	270	56	43	3534	2187	624	400	281	216	282	155	309	185	16076	10858	3182	2466	24760	16795

THE EXAMINATIONS of the University of the Cape of Good Hope soon came to dominate the lives of students in schools and colleges and the critics of the examining institution referred to it unkindly as a "factory of certificates".

Examinations were first held in Cape Town only, but were later arranged in Grahamstown as well, under the supervision of the Registrar. This officer used to travel by ship to Port Elizabeth and from there by mail-coach to Grahamstown, carrying the papers with him.

Local representatives have long since relieved the Registrar of this arduous duty and today there are some 1 400 centres throughout the world for the many examinations for which the university is responsible.

HENRY BARTLE EDWARD FRERE, descended from an old East Anglian family, was born on 29 March, 1815 at Clydach, Brecknockshire, Wales. Educated at Bath and Haileybury College, he joined the Indian civil service, rising to the governorship of Bombay in 1862. He played a leading part in the early history of the university in that city, of which he was Chancellor from 1862 until 1867. On his return to Britain, he was appointed to the Council of State for India.

Frere was created a baronet in 1876 and in the following year arrived in Cape Town as Governor of the colony, a position he held until 1880. The new Governor and High Commissioner in Southern Africa became a controversial figure, especially with regard to his policy towards the tribes and his attitude over the British occupation of the Transvaal by Sir Theophilus Shepstone. He was, however, popular among many colonists, although this did not prevent his recall. His publications include a defence of his policy and actions.

Sir Bartle Frere held honorary degrees from the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh. He was elected Chancellor of the University of the Cape of Good Hope in 1880 and retained this position until his death, which took place on 29 May, 1884 at his home, Wressil Lodge, Wimbledon, England. He was buried in St Paul's Cathedral, London.

*The Right Hon. Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere, Bt, D.C.L.(h.c.),
LL.D.(h.c.) (Cantab.), LL.D.
(h.c.) (Edin.), G.C.B., G.C.S.I., P.C., F.R.S.
Chancellor 1880-1884*



fession was forged in the mid-eighties, when James Reid Whitton, head of the Cape Town Normal College of 1878, became a Council member. His connection with the university would be a long one and his services were later honoured by its successor.

As an encouragement to further endeavour, the Cape University was able to offer, in addition to the Porter and Jamison awards with which it began its career, many scholarships and prizes. Some were provided by the university itself; others by government, public subscription or through the generosity of private benefactors. The Cape government instituted scholarships commemorating Sir George Grey and Queen Victoria; other awards included scholarships in memory of the shipowner, Sir Donald Currie, the Cape surveyor, J. M. Maynard, and bequests from Mr Justice J. W. Ebden, Alexander Croll of Port Elizabeth and the wealthy Cape Town lawyer, Willem Hiddingh. An exhibition was also founded in honour of Porter's successor as Chancellor of the university, the former Cape Governor, Sir Bartle Frere. Prizes recall the names of the Cape merchant, J. B. Ebden, the Presbyterian missionary, J. A. Chalmers, and another Chancellor and his wife, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, later Their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary. Alfred, Lord Milner, the British Governor and High Commissioner in a stormy period of South African history, is remembered in the Milner Art Scholarship for women students, founded in connection with the university. This award was first gained in 1913 by the Cape artist, Dorothy Barclay.

A complete list of all scholarship and prize winners would contain the names of many distinguished South Africans. They include such prominent figures as the politicians W. P. Schreiner, Jan C. Smuts and his colleague, Jan H. Hofmeyr, judges Reinhold Gregorowski, William Pittman and J. W. Wessels and the scientists P. J. du Toit and Basil Schonland. Among churchmen who won awards were Monsignor Kolbe of the Catholic Church and the Dutch Reformed (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde*) Church minister and campaigner for the Afrikaans language, T. B. ("Tobie") Muller, son of the Rev. Professor Muller of the Stellen-

bosch seminary and father of the present head of the Department of History at the University of South Africa.

The close connection between the University of the Cape of Good Hope and the colonial educational system kept that institution firmly in the public eye, particularly when examination results were published. It was often under fire in the press and it is possible that the attacks might not have been so frequent had the university agreed to suggestions that reporters be permitted to attend Council meetings. Summaries of deliberations were, however, issued for the newspapers and were later published in the university's own *Gazette*, founded in 1903. It was said, too, that one member, the Dutch-born journalist, J.W.G. van Oordt, was first appointed by the Governor as a representative of the press.

Newspaper comment was sometimes virulent. The system which prevented college professors from examining advanced work led to complaints about the qualifications of the "recurring decimals" who were appointed year after year to set Matriculation and degree examination papers and to mark the scripts. The university's reputation was not enhanced when it fell victim in the early nineties to the spurious qualifications of an examiner in French, R. A. van Angelbeek. As for the stranglehold which the university held on the school curriculum through its examinations, many regretted that it had ever extended its function in this manner. Dale's successor as Superintendent General of Education, the Scottish mathematician, Thomas Muir, was, despite his membership of the university Council and election as Vice-Chancellor from 1897 until 1901, strongly opposed to the Cape University's influence over the schools of the colony. The university cannot be held responsible for all shortcomings in the examination system. It was regrettable, but unavoidable, that the Matriculation examinations had to be delayed in 1877 when the papers, printed in England, were held in quarantine aboard the mailship, *Taymouth Castle*. Two decades later, the fault lay with the postal authorities when papers despatched from the university to nearby Wellington in the Cape set off on a longer journey to New Zealand!

THOMAS MUIR was born on 25 August, 1844 at Nemphlar, near the Falls of Clyde, Lanarkshire, Scotland. He received his early education at Wishaw before proceeding to the University of Glasgow, where he showed outstanding ability as a mathematician. He trained as a teacher and graduated with distinction in 1868, studying further at Berlin and Göttingen.

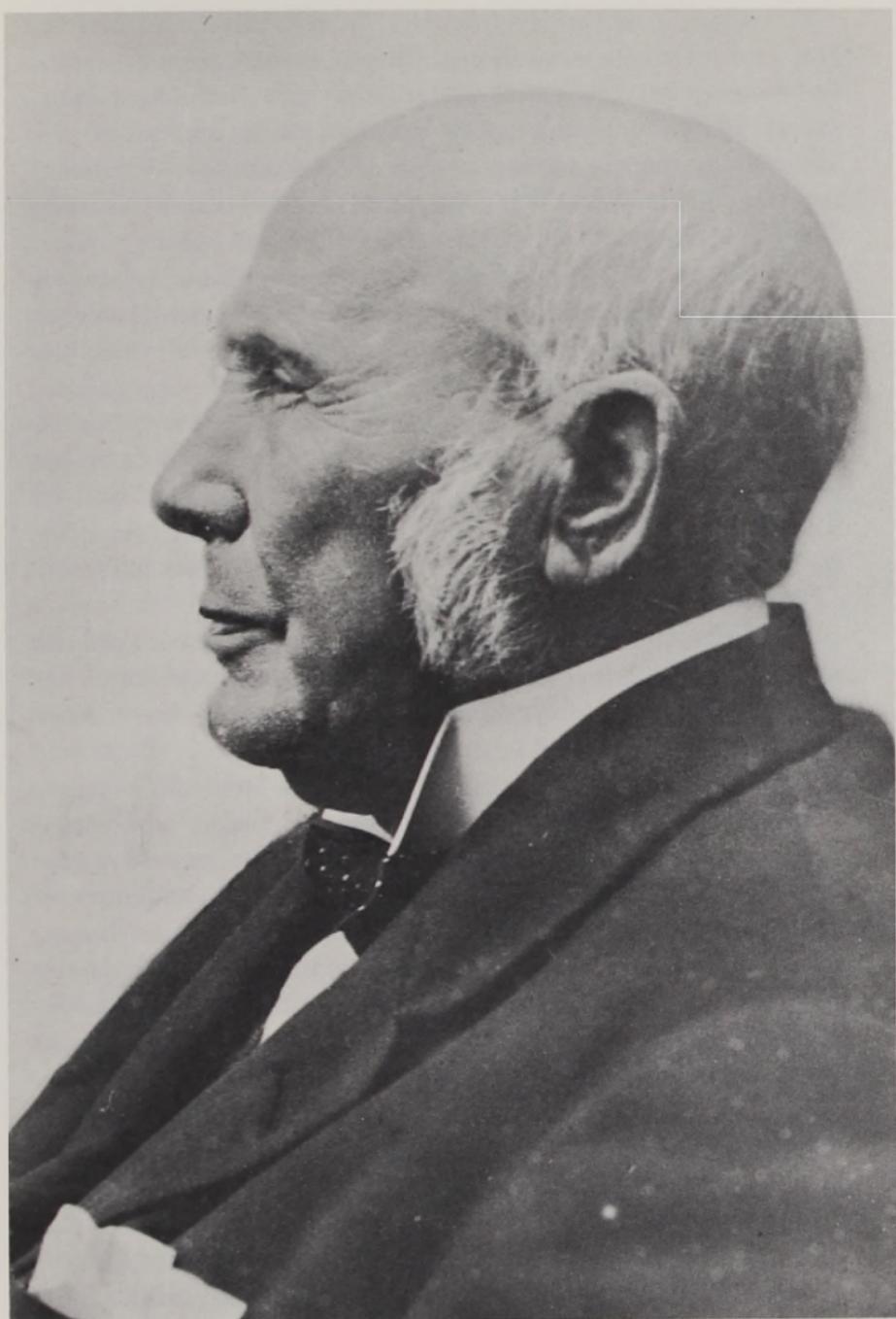
He began his career as a tutor at the University of St Andrews, returned to his old university as assistant to the Professor of Mathematics in 1871 and three years later, became chief mathematical master at Glasgow High School.

In 1892, Cecil Rhodes persuaded him to come to the Cape as Superintendent General of Education in succession to Langham Dale. He held this post until his retirement in 1915, doing much to advance the training of teachers and to promote the introduction of new subjects into the school curriculum.

Muir was highly esteemed as a scholar, educationist and administrator. A Fellow of the Royal Society, the Royal Geographical Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh, he also became President of the Edinburgh Mathematical Society and the South African Association for the Advancement of Science. He received an honorary LL.D. from the University of Glasgow in 1882 and a D.Sc. (*honoris causa*) from the University of Cape Town in 1921. A C.M.G. in 1901, he was knighted in 1915. He devoted himself to mathematics after his retirement, writing many papers and completing his monumental work on determinants.

Muir was associated with the university as a member of Council from 1892 until 1913, serving as Vice-Chancellor from 1897 to 1901. He died in Rondebosch, Cape Town on 21 March, 1934.

*Sir Thomas Muir, Kt, M.A., LL.D. (h.c.), D.Sc. (h.c.),
C.M.G., F.R.S., F.R.G.S., FR.S.E.
Member of Council 1892-1913
Pro Vice-Chancellor 1901-1905
Vice-Chancellor 1897-1901*



It cannot be denied that the University of the Cape of Good Hope gave a tremendous impetus to educational progress. Its influence may be seen in the education of girls and of non-Europeans. Girls began to attempt the lower examinations of the university in the seventies and a decade later, Dr Jane Waterston, the Cape University's first admitted female graduate, noted a change in the climate of opinion concerning education for women. By that time, Professor Hahn and others were encouraging girls to attend advanced classes. From the last decade of the nineteenth century onwards, young ladies no longer had to follow in the footsteps of the Cape's first woman graduate by examination, Agnes Ellen Lewis, who was compelled to study privately for the B.A. which she obtained in 1886. In the university's silver jubilee year, the first graduates from the Huguenot College received their certificates. This institution, under its American Principals, A. P. Ferguson and Anna E. Bliss, would soon attain university college rank as a foundation primarily for women.

Education for non-Europeans made a slower start. Facilities were lacking in the multiracial missionary colleges and it was not until 1880 that the future Congregational minister, Simon Peter Sihlali, surmounted the Matriculation hurdle. It was unfortunate that his name had inadvertently been included in the list of passes from the Graaff-Reinet College. That institution would not, Sihlali wrote in a letter to the *Argus*, thank the university "for having increased to three its number of successful candidates by adding the name of a nigger"! The second African matriculant, John Tengo Jabavu, newspaper editor and educationist, obtained his Matriculation pass three years later while studying at Lovedale. Towards the end of the century, African girls began to matriculate in the annual examinations.

In the early years of the twentieth century, a drift of non-European students to universities abroad made evident the need for better facilities in South Africa. There was by then a thirst for knowledge among them which the admission of an occasional student to one of the colleges for Europeans did little to assuage. Not until 1915, when Alexander Kerr arrived as Prin-

cial of the South African Native College at Fort Hare were the doors to future advance partially opened.

At degree level, the main problem confronting the university was the relation of the teaching colleges to the examining body. Private, or external students could write the examinations of the university, but at this period it was the embryo university colleges which provided most of the teaching and entered the greatest number of candidates. At the founding of the Cape University, only the South African College and that at Graaff-Reinet enjoyed government recognition of their status, reflected in the provision of grants for professorships. Other colleges were, however, active rivals, and although there was much support for the idea that two widely separated colleges would suffice for the needs of the colony, it soon became evident that government aid would have to be offered to all. Accordingly, a Higher Education Act was passed in 1874 which extended the provision of grants to those colleges which the Superintendent General of Education considered were performing a useful service. Dale hoped that this stipulation would allow him powers of inspection, but in this he was disappointed. He did succeed in gaining a view of the colony's teaching at higher levels in 1884, when J. H. Brady carried out an inspection. This was, however, greatly resented and never repeated.

Government support for advanced work served to draw a line between undergraduate and school classes in the colleges, although a complete break did not begin to take place until the end of the century. Some of the grant-aided college departments of the seventies were soon struggling. All, except the South African College and the school at Stellenbosch, which Dale had unwillingly decided to assist, eventually gave up the fight. By 1885, the Grey Institute conceded that it had failed to overcome an apparent lack of interest in higher education at Port Elizabeth. At the same period, Graaff-Reinet College agreed that it, too, could no longer consider itself a university institution. There, Brady had poured scorn on the titles of "Professor" and "Senate". It was not enough that good men should devote their energies to

the instruction of five little boys! Gill College had begun with a flourish, but by 1877, the *Argus* newspaper described it as “on the highroad to nowhere”, with three professors and eight students. It ceased to draw grants soon after, but enjoyed a brief revival in the nineties when Dale, nearing retirement, gave it a second chance. It did well for a few years, producing a number of graduates, including Minnie E. Drummond, the first girl to win the Porter award. By 1903, however, there were only two matriculated students in attendance. New regulations for university colleges called for at least seventy-five and Dale’s successor, Muir, brought the experiment to a close. There was considerable local protest, but Gill College henceforth restricted its activities to school courses.

The Anglican institutions fared better. At Grahamstown, post-matriculation work did not begin for some years after the founding of the examining university. Dale and Charles Thomas Smith, an energetic eastern Cape judge who was to become both Vice-Chancellor and Chancellor of the Cape University, tried hard to amalgamate competing schools to found a “Union College” for advanced studies. The attempt failed, however, and St Andrew’s emerged in the eighties as the only higher educational centre in the town. It made great strides under Canon J. Espin – also for some years a member of the university Council – and retained its college department until the opening of Rhodes University College in 1904. Its four full professors were Arthur Matthews of survey fame, the scientist-historian, George E. Cory, Dutch-born G. F. Dingemans of the Chair of Modern Languages and A. Stanley Kidd, who undertook to teach everything not comprised in the other professorships! These men formed the nucleus of the university college staff. They were soon joined by others, among them Selmar Schönland of the Albany Museum as Professor of Botany.

The older Diocesan College flourished until the retirement of Ogilvie in 1885. Thereafter, it began to lose ground, despite the good work of such excellent teachers as A. A. Bodkin, G. W. Vipan and J. Martin. Attempts were made in the first decade

of the present century to help this Anglican institution to regain its old pre-eminence. Funds were raised and lady students reluctantly admitted, but the task of competing successfully with its Cape Town neighbour proved too difficult. In 1910, "Bishops" handed over its university classes to the South African College and followed the example of its Grahamstown sister by concentrating upon school work.

Dale continued to regard the South African College as the colony's leading institution and in 1875, suggested that it become the teaching arm of the university. It was by then too late, however, to single out one college for this honour. The only change in the relationship between it and the examining body came three years later, when the university Council was permitted to nominate three members to the governing body of the college.

The South African College continued to prosper. Before the end of the seventies, Francis Guthrie of Graaff-Reinet had joined the staff and Charles E. Lewis, a distinguished Welsh-born Old Boy, was promoted from the school department. Lewis was the half-brother of the Cape University's first woman graduate and had helped her in her studies. The decline of the more distant colleges brought MacOwan from Somerset East in 1880 and William Ritchie from Port Elizabeth at the beginning of 1882. Ritchie, who became Professor of Classics, was to serve as university Vice-Chancellor from 1913 until 1916 and as President of Convocation between 1904 and 1914. Henry Eardley Stephen Fremantle, the politician and journalist who was long a member of the university Council, was appointed to the Chair of English and Philosophy in 1899. Two earlier arrivals who would do much to transform the college into a teaching university were the physicist, John Carruthers Beattie, and the mathematician, Lawrence Crawford. Such a transformation was then no more than a dream of the future. However, by 1900, the South African College at last became a true university institution by banishing its Matriculation classes to the separate school department.

In this change, however, it had been anticipated by a flourishing rival. Few in 1873 could have guessed that the Stellenbosch



Born on 21 September, 1847 at Leith, Midlothian, Scotland, THOMAS WALKER attended the Royal High School in Edinburgh and the university in that city. A brilliant student, he gained an M.A. *cum laude* in classics in 1870. He studied further at Owens College, Manchester and at universities in Germany and the Netherlands, became proficient in Dutch and entered the ministry of the United Presbyterian Church.

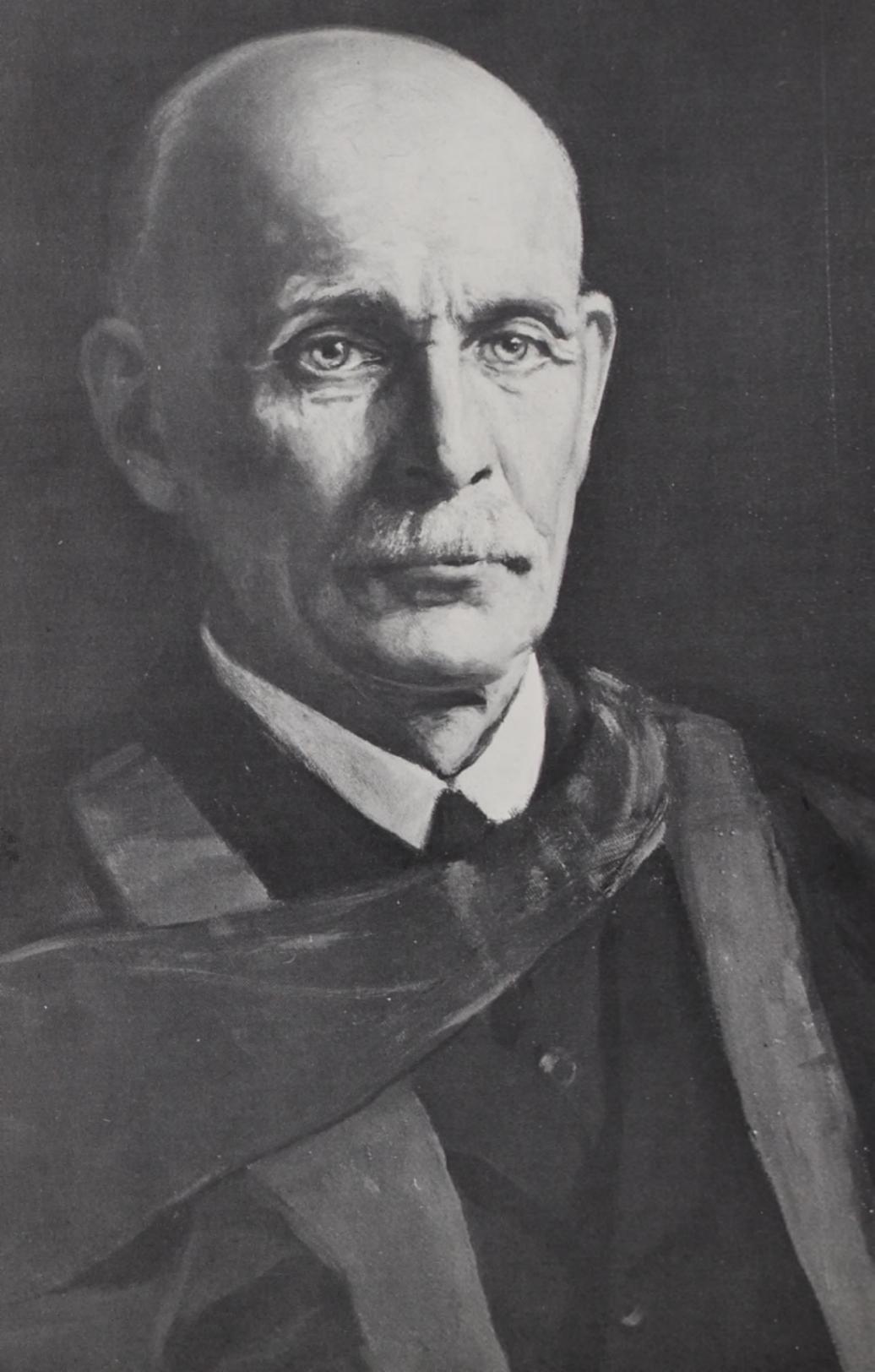
In 1876, he was appointed Principal of the Boys' High School, Paarl and two years later accepted a professorship at the Stellenbosch Public School, which then had a flourishing Arts Department, later to become the Victoria College. He lectured in philosophy and, for many years, in English as well. His personality and teaching exercised a lasting influence on several generations of students.

As a member of the university Council from 1881 until 1916 and as Vice-Chancellor from 1911 to 1913, he did much to further the cause of higher education in South Africa. He played a valuable part in the long debate on university reconstruction after Union, but did not live to see his own college become the independent University of Stellenbosch.

Walker's scholarship earned him recognition overseas. An honorary doctorate in literature was conferred upon him in 1892 by the University of Edinburgh and in 1909, he received an honorary LL.D from Harvard University in the United States.

The Rev. Thomas Walker died in Stellenbosch on 8 June, 1916.

The Rev. Professor Thomas Walker, M.A., LL.D. (h.c.), Litt.D. (h.c.)
Member of Council 1881–1916
Pro Vice-Chancellor 1909–1911
Vice-Chancellor 1911–1913
President of Convocation 1894–1904
(Photo: University of Stellenbosch)



WILLIAM THOMSON was born on 31 December, 1856 at Kirkton of Mailler, Perthshire, Scotland. He matriculated at Perth Academy and continued his studies at the University of Edinburgh, where he obtained the M.A. and B.Sc. degrees and was appointed assistant to the Professor of Mathematics in 1878.

In 1883, he joined the staff of Stellenbosch College (later the Victoria College) as Professor of Mathematics, remaining in that post until 1895. His students included Senator F.S. Malan and Generals J.B.M. Hertzog and J.C. Smuts. He also examined in his subject for the University of Edinburgh in 1887 and 1888.

Thomson succeeded Cameron as Registrar in 1895 and held the position until his retirement in 1922. He played a prominent part in the negotiations to establish a "General University of South Africa", an ideal which was realized in 1918, when the federal university was opened.

Careful and methodical, Thomson served the university well. He prided himself on his excellent memory and could unhesitatingly quote the complete examination record of any well-known public figure whose name had appeared in the annual university lists.

A Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Thomson was knighted in 1922. In that year, an honorary doctorate was conferred upon him by the University of Cape Town, a distinction which he had received from his old university in Scotland 18 years earlier. In 1924, he accepted the principalship of the University of the Witwatersrand, an office which he held until 1928.

A member of Council from 1883 to 1895, Sir William again gave his services to the governing body from 1924 until 1947. His death occurred at his home in Glencairn, near Cape Town, on 6 August, 1947.

*Sir William Thomson, Kt, M.A., B.Sc., LL.D. (h.c.) (Edin.),
LL.D. (h.c.) (Cape Town), F.R.S.E.
Registrar 1895-1922
Member of Council 1883-1895; 1924-1947*

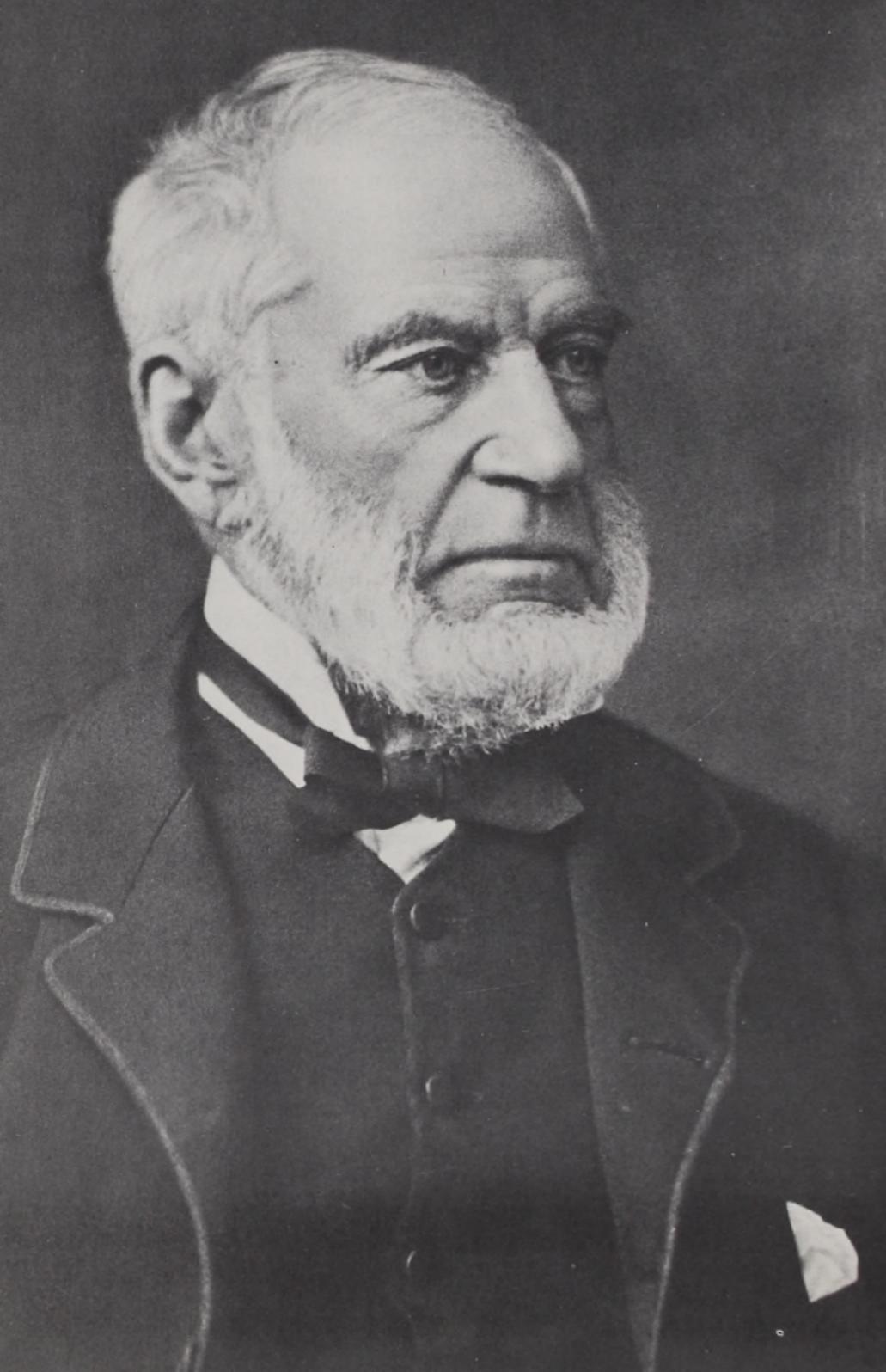
Udenominational Public School would achieve greatness as a university foundation. It had, it is true, formed an Arts Department with the coming of the examining university and the Principal, Charles Anderson, soon had as colleagues on the first academic Senate four professors of note. George Gordon came from the school department to teach mathematics and physical science and Nicolaas Mansvelt was similarly promoted as the Professor of Modern Languages. They were joined by two new arrivals from Scotland: Archibald Macdonald for classics and Thomas Walker for English and philosophy. Mansvelt's name is better known in connection with education in the South African Republic; Gordon, a member of the university Council, died in 1882. Macdonald and Walker, however, gave the Stellenbosch institution many years of devoted service. Walker was long associated with the Council of the University of the Cape of Good Hope and was Vice-Chancellor from 1911 until 1913. He was also chosen as President of Convocation in 1894 and held that office for ten years.

The Arts Department became a collegiate foundation which, in 1887 – the Queen's jubilee year – was designated the Victoria College. The institution prospered. Inspector Brady had commended it in 1884 for insisting upon an entrance examination from prospective students; in 1899, the college became the first to abandon all work for the Matriculation examination. Scientific studies were introduced, plans for further expansion were laid and, as with the major Cape Town college, a number of staff members took part in the work of the examining university. William Thomson, who arrived from Scotland as Professor of Mathematics in 1883, followed Cameron as Registrar of the university in 1895 and was to serve the Cape institution and its successor for many years to come. Two other mathematicians, J. T. Morrison and A. H. Mackenzie, served on the university Council, as did H. C. Notcutt of the Department of English and W. J. Viljoen, who first held a combined Chair of History and Modern Languages. Viljoen would play a leading part in the early development of the University of South Africa.

Despite the provision of degree courses at the Cape, many parents continued to send their children abroad, particularly to Britain, for their entire university education. The ties of "home" were strong and in such subjects as medicine, the South African university offered no degrees. Cape graduates, too, often left the country for advanced studies, since the University of the Cape of Good Hope did little to foster scientific research. Nor can it be said that it gained wide recognition overseas for its courses of study. The University of Edinburgh, however, early gave partial acceptance to a Cape Matriculation certificate for prospective medical students and in 1885, through the good offices of Van Oordt, the Intermediate examination, with Greek and Latin, was accepted by Dutch universities. Further concessions were granted in course of time by other universities and professional bodies.

Despite the attractions of degrees earned at older and more distinguished institutions in other countries, Cape degrees were in demand. In the lifetime of the first Council, over fifty were conferred after examination in arts and law; by 1918, the total number of graduates exceeded two thousand. The University of the Cape of Good Hope also sought to extend its usefulness through extension lectures, although parliament refused to countenance what it felt was a misappropriation of funds on the part of an examining university.

Whatever its shortcomings, the University of the Cape of Good Hope made its mark in Cape society. It was never able to secure, on the British model, parliamentary representation as a university seat, but it did, towards the end of its life, come into possession of a building worthy of a university. For many years, the examining institution was housed in rented accommodation in Bureau Street, Cape Town. The offices were dingy and inconvenient, but it was not until after the death in 1899 of Willem Hiddingh that a move could be contemplated. Hiddingh left the university a plot of land in Queen Victoria Street and the sum of R50 000; the Cape government made a substantial contribution to the available funds and construction of a new building began. The first stage was completed in 1907.



WILLEM HIDDINGH was born in Cape Town on 29 May, 1808, the son of a Dutch lawyer who had come to the Cape in 1802 with Governor Janssens.

He was sent to the Netherlands for his education at the age of 11, obtaining a doctorate in laws in 1830. Meanwhile, however, British legal training had become necessary for Cape lawyers and Hiddingh was obliged to qualify in Scotland, where he studied for some time at the University of Edinburgh.

He returned to the Cape in 1833 and soon made a name for himself as a leading advocate, appearing regularly in the circuit court until 1850. He also played an active part in the cultural life of Cape Town, serving on the committee of the South African Public Library and as a trustee of the Grey collection.

He died, a wealthy man, at his home in Queen Victoria Street, Cape Town on 10 December, 1899. In his will he left £25 000 (R50 000) to provide a hall and suitable office accommodation for the university and a further £5 000 (R10 000) as a bursary fund. He also bequeathed land in Queen Victoria Street to the examining institution and sums of money to the South African Public Library and the South African College.

Dr Hiddingh's generosity, together with government assistance, enabled the University of the Cape of Good Hope to carry out the first stage of a building project by June, 1907. Further gifts – notably that from Sir Donald Currie's daughters – led to the completion of the scheme in 1913.



DONALD CURRIE, one of the ten children of a barber, was born on 17 September, 1825 in Greenock, Renfrewshire, Scotland. His childhood was spent in the Irish city of Belfast.

He began work at an early age in the sugar industry, became a clerk in the Cunard line and 18 years later, founded his own shipping company.

By 1872, he had switched from sail to steam and had entered the Cape trade, where his "Castle" ships soon became popular for their speed and efficiency. His company amalgamated in 1900 with its chief rival to form the Union Castle line.

Currie had wide South African interests and visited the country on a number of occasions. He became a well-known public figure and his political activities brought him into contact with such statesmen as Brand, Burgers and Kruger. The Currie Cups for cricket, rugby and other sports were donated by him.

A member of the British parliament for some years, he received the K.C.M.G. in 1881, the G.C.M.G. in 1897 and an honorary LL.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1906.

He is first mentioned in the university records on 31 March, 1888, when he gave £100 (R200) "to be used as the Vice-Chancellor may consider best in promoting the interests of Education in the University".

In 1910, his three daughter donated £25 000 (R50 000) to the university in memory of their father. The money helped to finance the completion of a university building and to establish a bursary. At a later date, the interest on this gift was used for a publication fund which commemorated his name and that of another benefactor, Willem Hiddingh.

Donald Currie died on 13 April, 1909 at Sidmouth, Devonshire, England and was buried in Scotland at Fortingall in Perthshire.

Sir Donald Currie, LL.D.(h.c.), G.C.M.G.

Further financial assistance was hard to come by and much of the credit for obtaining it must go to Sir John Buchanan of the university Council, who was Vice-Chancellor from 1901 until 1905. The daughters of Sir Donald Currie – Margaret, Lady Mirrielees, Elizabeth Molteno and Maria Wisely – donated R50 000 in 1910 and smaller sums were received from the mining magnates, Otto Beit, Solly Joel, Max Michaelis and Sir Julius Wernher. Government assistance was also obtained and the completed structure was officially opened in 1913. “Stone walls, however fine”, as the *Cape Times* reminded its readers, “do not make a University any more than they make a prison”. By then, the examining university was doomed and the new building would soon become its successor’s white elephant.

Degree Day was the one annual function when the examining university was able to display itself before the general public as a corporate body. In its last years, it used its own hall for the ceremony, but for long it was forced to find other accommodation. The Huguenot Hall of the Dutch Reformed (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde*) Church was used on occasion; so too was the Good Hope Hall, with its incongruous theatrical backdrops. For many years, however, the South African Public Library was the scene of the annual presentation of degrees. The first ceremony of this kind took place there on 12 December, 1874 before the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, and the cream of colonial society. It was an occasion more solemn than those of later years, when student rowdyism reached disquietening dimensions. Although not all the university’s first seven graduates by examination were present, the spectacle seemed more impressive to Barkly than had the University of Melbourne ceremonies which he had attended as Governor of Victoria. The *Argus* felt sure that the university’s future historian would not pass the function by “as a *dies non*”. Gill College had reason to be proud that day, for three of the B.A.’s had been educated there: James Rose Innes, the future judge and grandson of the colony’s first Superintendent General of Education, and the Postma brothers, Petrus and Marthinus, later ministers in the Reformed (*Gereformeerde*) Church. Two

B.A.'s were from the South African College : F. C. Kolbe, long to be associated with the university as examiner and member of Council and to be honoured by its successor, and another student who would one day rise to the defence of the examining institution, B. P. J. Marchand, the future Dutch Reformed (*Nederduitse Gereformeerde*) Church minister. From Stellenbosch came Johannes A. Joubert, who subsequently gained a Cape M.A. degree. The M.A. on this occasion was a Diocesan College student, Robert Sheard, later an Anglican minister at Worcester in the Cape.

It was not only the graduates by examination who were received on these occasions; the admitted graduates of other universities were also accepted as full members of Convocation. Council took its duty of selecting those who had applied for such recognition with due seriousness, for prospective members were expected, in the words of the relevant by-law, to "exercise the privilege to the honour and advancement of this University". It was, presumably, on the assumption that a hack journalist on the diamond fields would not promote the university's best interests that the application of F. Y. St Leger, future editor of the *Cape Times*, was refused. The successful approach made by the Rev. C. Maurice Davies, however, brought the university into unexpected contact with an unsavoury court case and with schism within the Anglican Church in South Africa.

Some applicants had insufficient qualifications and the university had no hesitation in rejecting the rather vague claims of the Rev. M. S. A. Looney of Durban and the M.A. and Ph.D. of the American Anthropological University submitted by another Anglican, the Rev. P. J. Oliver Minos of Pretoria. Degrees in music were not conferred by the University of the Cape of Good Hope in 1879, but it is doubtful whether any of the Council members at that time were qualified to express an opinion on the work of the authority on Hindu music, Rajah Sourindro Mohun Tagore, who sent six parcels of books and a letter asking for recognition of his ability in his field! In the period up to 1918, over eight hundred graduates of universities in several

DEGREE DAY was first held in the South African Public Library, Cape Town and it was not until the last years of the University of the Cape of Good Hope that it was able to make use of a hall of its own. The ceremony of 1901 was specially arranged to coincide with the visit of the Duke of Cornwall and York.

The early functions were decorous enough, but they soon became excuses for student rowdiness on the grand scale and the university authorities tried repeatedly but in vain to curb these annual outbursts of boisterousness. In 1908, the *Cape Times* reported that "the din created by the use of tin whistles, bagpipes and other musical instruments was such as has not been heard on Degree Days of the last few years". South African College students were on home ground and their war-cry often rang out clearly above the general clamour. Speakers, it need scarcely be added, had a hard task to make themselves heard. Today's ceremonies would seem tame affairs indeed to the undergraduates and their friends of an earlier age!

Programme, Degree Day, 1901

University of the Cape of Good Hope.



GRADUATION CEREMONY

AND

INSTALLATION OF H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CORNWALL AND YORK

AS

CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY,

21st August, 1901.

Born on 8 March, 1844 on the island of Tahiti in the South Seas, EBENEZER JOHN BUCHANAN was the son of a Scottish missionary. The family returned to Britain in 1850, but soon left for Natal.

The boy attended school in Pietermaritzburg and later joined the *Natal Witness*, a newspaper founded there by his uncle in 1846. Further journalistic work in Natal and Cape Town followed, but he also began legal studies and in 1868, obtained the Second-class Certificate in Law and Jurisprudence of the Board of Public Examiners. He then went to London, where he continued both his newspaper work and his legal training. Called to the bar on 27 January, 1873, he returned to the Cape and was admitted in the May of that year as a colonial advocate.

He soon built up a big practice, became a member of the House of Assembly and saw active service during the Ninth Frontier War of 1877-1878.

A man of wide reading and author of a valuable legal reference book, he made rapid progress in his profession. In 1879, he acted as Attorney General for Griqualand West, soon moving to Grahamstown as an acting judge. This post was made permanent in 1881 and in 1887, he was transferred to Cape Town as a Junior Puisne Judge. He became a Senior Puisne Judge in 1892 and also acted on occasion as Chief Justice. He retired in 1920.

Buchanan was knighted in 1901 and six years later, received an honorary LL.D from the University of Cambridge, a distinction which was also conferred upon him by the University of South Africa in 1925. A Council member from 1888 until 1918 and Vice-Chancellor from 1901 to 1905, his enthusiasm did much to hasten the completion of the university building in Queen Victoria Street.

Sir John died on 11 October, 1930 in Claremont, Cape Town.

*The Hon. Sir Ebenezer John Buchanan, Kt, LL.D. (h.c.) (Cantab.),
LL.D. (h.c.) (S.A.)
Member of Council 1888-1918
Pro Vice-Chancellor 1897-1901; 1905-1909
Vice-Chancellor 1901-1905*



countries were admitted to Cape degrees. Their names, together with those of the board's certificate holders and the graduates by examination, constitute a valuable register of the academic qualifications held by many residents of South Africa in the lifetime of this country's first university.

Power to confer honorary degrees was granted by the Amendment Act of 1896 and the first awards were made three years later. The Herero philologist, P. H. Brincker, and the historian, George McCall Theal, received doctorates in literature on that occasion and a doctorate in science was awarded to the astronomer, Alexander W. Roberts. Many famous men – and one woman, the Bushman expert, Lucy C. Lloyd – were subsequently awarded honorary doctorates. Among the Doctors of Laws were King George V, then the Duke of Cornwall and York, his successor as Chancellor of the university, the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, the High Commissioner before Union, Lord Selborne, and the Governors-General, Viscounts Gladstone and Buxton. The Union's first Prime Minister, Louis Botha, also received this honorary degree.

Doctors of Science included Sir Arnold Theiler, the veterinary bacteriologist, and Robert Broom, celebrated in the field of palaeontology. Several who were closely connected with the examining university obtained honorary awards. Four former members of Council – Sir Henry de Villiers, J. X. Merriman, C. Abercrombie Smith and Jan Smuts – became Doctors of Laws; so, too, did a future Council member, Mr Justice J. G. Kotzé. James Cameron, the first Registrar, received a doctorate in literature in 1901 and some years later, similar awards were conferred upon the well-known educationists and former Council members, Andrew Murray and George Ogilvie. Another member of the university Council, the botanist, Peter MacOwan, became a Doctor of Science. When a number of honorary degrees were awarded to visiting members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1905, one of the recipients was Sir David Gill, who as Astronomer Royal at the Cape, had been appointed to the second university Council in 1880.

Throughout its career, the University of the Cape of Good Hope had to face the hostility of those who disliked it because it was not, in reality, a university at all, but merely "a factory of certificates", as W. J. Viljoen of Stellenbosch once described it. Although the university's examinations set a standard which raised the level of education in the Cape Colony, the institution which set and marked them left teaching to others. It was, as Professor J. W. Hales once said of the old examining University of London, just "a rigorous and many-voiced catechist, a keen spirit of interrogation". Demands for a teaching university would become increasingly insistent.

Another criticism which was levelled at the examining university was that it was not a South African institution, but an alien, English import. Nevertheless, the University of the Cape of Good Hope did try, from the outset, to foster a greater South Africanism within a British framework. It is evident from the names put forward at the election of Porter as Chancellor, as well as from the choice of his successors in that office – Sir Bartle Frere and the Earl of Carnarvon – that there was much sympathy for political federalism in some university circles. Equally significant was the reaction to the interest shown in the Cape University beyond the colonial borders. In Natal, the Barter Commission on education recommended in its report of August, 1874 that the colony should forge a link with what it described as "the South African University".

Similar desires were expressed in the Orange Free State. There, Johannes Brill, the Rector of Grey College, his assistant, Josiah Slater, and the Anglican Bishop of Bloemfontein, Alan B. Webb – all of whom would one day become members of the university Council – sought from the end of 1874 to arrange a connection with the examining institution in Cape Town. Such a step would be greatly to the advantage of both Grey College and the Anglican diocesan foundation in Bloemfontein, St Andrew's.

The result of the interest displayed by leading men in two neighbouring territories was the passing of the University Extension Act of 1875. This legislation enabled the Cape University to

The University
OF THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
THE
Cape of Good Hope.

1901 - 1918.

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH AFRICA,
1918 -

(a)

(b)

Graduation Ceremony

February 27th, 1909

The Annual Address to Graduates was delivered by

The Right Honourable the Earl of Selborne, VC,
G.C.M.G.

The following Honorary Degrees were conferred:

Doctor of Laws:

The Right Honourable the Earl of Selborne.

Doctor of Divinity:

Professor N. J. Heymeyer

Selborne

N. J. Heymeyer

C. M. Smith

Vice-Chancellor

W. Thomson

Registrar

HONORARY DEGREES were first conferred by the university in 1899, in terms of the University Incorporation Amendment Act No. 6 of 1896.

At that time, the following honorary degrees could be awarded: masters' degrees in arts, science and music, and doctorates in literature, laws, medicine, science and music. The university confined itself, however, to the award of honorary LL.D., D.Litt. and D.Sc. degrees until 1908, when further legislation enabled it to confer honorary doctorates in divinity. Other degrees were added to this list after 1918.

Special ceremonies were held in 1905 and 1929 to honour certain visiting members of the British Association for the Advancement of Science. In 1959, degrees *honoris causa* were awarded on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the *Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns*.

(a) *Cover: Book of Honorary Degrees*

(b) *An LL.D. and the first Honorary D.D., 1909*

See other side:

(c) *50 Years later: three Honorary Degrees awarded to mark the fiftieth Anniversary of the Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns, 1959*

(d) *Recipients in 1959: T.H. le Roux, M.W. Woerdeman and T.E.W. Schumann*

Spesiale Gradedplegigheid
by die

Engelenburghuis, Pretoria, hoofsetel van die
Akademie.

op Saterdag, 11 Julie 1959 om 11:50 vm

Wel die oog op die halfeenteesviering van
die Suid-Afrikaanse Akademie vir Wetenskapskuns
en gehou by wyse van waardering vir die
werk wat die Akademie in die afgelope 50
jaar gedoen het.

Die graad D.Litt. et Phil. aan

Prof. Dr. Thomas Hugo Le Roux,
gewese hoogleraar in Afrikaans-Nederlands
aan die Universiteit van Pretoria.

Die graad Ph.D. aan

Prof. dr. Martinus Willem Doerdeman
rector magnificus van die Gemeentelike
Universiteit van Amsterdam, en Voorzitter
van die Koninklike Nederlandse Akademie
van Wetenskappen.

Die graad Ph.D. aan

Dr. Theodor Eberhard Werner Schumann
gewese direkteur van die Brandstofnavorsings-
instituut, gewese direkteur van die Weerbuo,
Staatsdienskommissaris, en lams ondervoorzitter
van die Raad op Aloomkrag.

T. Schumann

Prinsipaal
en
Visiekanselier

Registrateur

1959

(c)



(d)

operate beyond the colonial borders in an undefined region of southern Africa and to frame regulations for the award of bursaries to successful students living outside the colony. If the University of the Cape of Good Hope could bring about unity in the world of South African education, this might be a prelude to wider political federation. The claim of the examining institution to be truly representative of the white races and the separate states and colonies of South Africa requires to be examined more closely.