

### THE UNIVERSITY IN THE COMMONWEALTH.

AS the Journal has undertaken the useful work of keeping the relation between the inter-mural and extra-mural friends of Queen's fresh and green, a few jottings regarding the University's place in the commonwealth may not be out of place.

"The University is the birth-place of ideas," a distinguished college leader used to say. In saying this he did not intend to be understood as saying the university is the only place where ideas come into the world. He knew far too well what the miner and the engineer and the builder and the weaver and the agriculturist had done to launch any such foolish sentiment as that. What he did mean was that the university, when it proves equal to its privileges, is friendly to any idea that points to man's welfare. It gives such an idea a home and an atmosphere and cherishes it till it can successfully make its way in the world.

There are those who declare that a university has no place in a community of bread-winners or that if it has any place at all in such a community it is a very secondary place. Persons who argue in this way declare in favor of what they call practical education is opposed to university education, an education that in their judgment is a sort of caper-in-the-mist. Now it has been shown times without number that the university is the friend of the full dinner pail as well as the patron of the gown. Germany's industrial development stands in close relation to the German university laboratories. There is a sort of short course, hand-to-mouth application of science

to agriculture and to manufacturing that justifies the cry for the industrial school, but such still-born scientists have their day, and then they are displaced by others who picked up a never-made-to-order method as they galloped past. But it has been found that the man of permanent resource is the man who has acquired the rudiments of his skill and his habits of thought under the careful training of one who has mastered the underlying principles of the whole subject. The mind refuses to do its best work for any hand-to-mouth master. It must deal with the subject disinterestedly and report its finding from the facts impartially. Men who have wrought in this spirit have given the world its greatest help, in commerce, in building, in agriculture as well as in reflection.

The danger that lurks in waiting for the student is that he be a mere retailer of other men's ideas. He may learn to swear allegiance to a professor but be utterly ignorant of the principles which his professor values so highly. He may be as impersonal as a grain spout and as dead as a phonograph. When an automaton of this character goes out clad in his college sheep-skin the men and women of keen, practical good sense soon take his measure and relegate him to the lumber-room and to the rag-man—or to other places congenial to cast-off ideas. When universities allow mummy-like creatures to carry off the college honours in theology, arts, and medicine it is little wonder that men of keen, practical sense pass by the university with her graduates and professors with illconcealed contempt. There are university men in