

(Continued from page 7)

The work and the workers have now so increased that the residents are sorely cramped for room; and an appeal has been put out for £12,000 for providing a better home for those who are engaged in a work which is now firmly established, and has been thoroughly tested by experience. The new House will provide accommodation for twenty residents, for new class rooms and lecture rooms, and for the Oxford House Club. Plans have been prepared by Sir Arthur Bloomfield, and a convenient site can be purchased for £2,000.

A meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon in the Mansion House to bring the claims of the settlement before the notice of the citizens of London.

The Lord Mayor presided, and stated that the object of the meeting was to show some practical interest and sympathy with an excellent work which had been going on now for some years in the East of London. This was one of those missions which were established to show the working people that the Church of England was resolved to make some practical and personal effort in their behalf. We had had lately before us many schemes—one especially—for making a gigantic effort to show sympathy with what was called "The Submerged Tenth"; but in his opinion it was far better to support and extend existing agencies which had done and were still doing excellent works.

The Hon. T. A. Brassey, hon. treasurer, announced that about £5,000 had already been subscribed, a guarantee fund of £2,000 to enable the building to proceed at once had been raised, and an offer had been made to lend £2,000 on the security of the site; so that there were about £9,000 in hand altogether, but it was hoped as a result of that meeting that the liability of the guarantors would be reduced.

Lord Brassey moved the first resolution, which ran as follows:

'That this meeting cordially approves of the principles upon which the Oxford House in Bethnal Green was founded, and of the work accomplished by it in the East End of London during the past 5 years.'

He said that a more noble desire had never entered into the mind of young Oxford than that which prompted the establishment of the Oxford House. The men who inaugurated this movement, and those who were carrying it on, were the very cream and flower of one of our great universities, and being grateful for the high privileges which they enjoyed at Oxford, had felt themselves called upon, so far as they could, to give to others in less advantageous positions some share of the advantages which they enjoyed. But not only did he admire the spirit which had led to the founding of this movement, he also felt deeply impressed with the advantages it would confer on the men who were themselves engaged in it. In these days we were made more and more sensible of the enormous magnitude and impor-

tance of what were called social questions. How to relieve the misery that existed around us, in the best way; how to raise up the great masses of more or less indigent persons who were collected in our cities; this was really the great problem of the age. Now, in order to deal with this problem, it was not sufficient to study it as an abstract question in books; it was necessary to have a personal experience of the conditions with which we had to deal. These able men who came from Oxford to the Oxford House in Bethnal Green would add to what they had learned of this momentous question by the study of books the inestimable advantage of personal experience; and the experience would enable them, later on in life, to become more practical philanthropists. From personal observations made within the walls of Oxford House, he could say that a better work could not have been established. There was the spiritual and religious work, there was the work of teaching, opportunities afforded for recreation, and then there was a most practical attempt to test the great principle of industrial co-operation. In conclusion, he desired to express his most deep and heartfelt admiration for the zeal, the self-sacrifice, the intelligence, and tact with which those who were working at the Oxford House were carrying out the important duties which they had taken upon themselves.

The Bishop of Bedford seconded the resolution, and bore his testimony to the good, direct and indirect, which had been accomplished by this Oxford Settlement.

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'Let me, please let me,' said a bright faced boy.

He put up her umbrella, then took a string from his pocket and tied her packages together.

As she thanked him, telling him he was very polite to do so much for a stranger, he replied: 'Oh, it's no trouble, ma'am; I like to help people.'

SHALL THERE BE COMMERCIAL UNION WITH CANADA OR NOT?

Public Opinion, the eclectic weekly of Washington and New York, has just announced the offer of three cash prizes of \$150, \$100, and \$50 respectively for the best three essays upon the question: "Is any extension and development of trade between the United States and Canada desirable; if so, what are the best means of promoting it?" The topic is particularly timely and the contest will doubtless attract considerable attention.

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