

a line of reading to counteract it. . . . Works which soften the transition from the schools to the world, and tend to give the student that interest in things about him which he has scarcely ever called upon to feel. . . . show him how imagination and philosophy can be woven into practical wisdom, for example, Bacon—His lucid order, his grasp of the subject, the comprehensiveness of his views, his knowledge of mankind, the greatest that has ever, perhaps, been given out by an uninspired man, the practical nature of his purposes, his respect for anything of human interest, make his works unrivalled in their fitness to form the best men for the conduct of the highest affairs." Such is Helps' advice in regard to an "assisted passage" from the world of study to the world of men.

The social side of Oxford life is very prominent. A man coming from one of the great Public Schools will be welcomed by his predecessors there, for example, there is an Etonian club which receives new men from Eton. Then the senior men in college make calls upon the Freshmen, and some colleges have the institution of "Fresher's Brekkers," by which the mornings of a man's first term may be very pleasantly passed. The practice has the further effect of saving his battles but spoiling his digestion.

Then, besides the dinner in Hall, any of the three remaining meals may take a social character.—"Come to brekker to-morrow," "Drop in to lunch," not to mention "Wines" and more formal entertainments. But the most informal and popular of all is afternoon tea. This is generally at about half past four, when a man's friends lounge in from the river, the parks, the Bodleian, from a walk or a bicycle-ride to drink tea with him, eat bread and butter, and cake, and smoke to an accompaniment of as much or as little talk as the style or mood of the company suggests. The Junior Common rooms are a great place of rendezvous, where a man can have a chat, write a letter, or read a magazine.

One should give special mention to the hospitality of the Dons, who have their reception days and evenings, and in many ways make opportunities by which the student may have the privilege of their social acquaintance.

There are also many social clubs, which are wonderfully various in regard to numbers, rules and expensiveness. The Phoenix Club, at Brasenose College, is an example of one both costly and exclusive. Its members dine together every week, the attendants having a brown cloth dress, with gold buttons, and the club has plate worth a thousand pounds. Speaking of Brasenose, reminds one of a club held there in former days. It was called the Hell-Fire Club, a sufficiently indicative name. Here is the legend of its end: One evening, when the club was to meet, a Don, coming along Brasenose Lane, saw the outline of His Satanic Majesty upon the window. In spite of his terrors, he rushed up to the man's rooms. No one was there but the host, and he was dead in his chair. This was at the close of the last century.

There are several political clubs; for example, the Shaftesbury, Strafford, Chatham, and Canning, all Conservative, the Palmerston, Russell, and others, Liberal. Many of these are strictly limited in number, and are as much social as political. When a great man comes back to Oxford to speak at a debate at the Oxford Union Society, he is the guest of his oldtime political club. There is at least one literary society to each col-

lege. The meetings are generally held after dinner, when coffee and smoking go on for a time. One man reads a paper, which is followed by a more or less serious general discussion, after which comes private business. This largely consists of "ragging" the members of the club, more especially the officers, and most especially the chairman, who needs a masterly knowledge of the rules of order, with a nimble and politely scaring tongue. Of course, with the chance of confusion, there is also one for distinction, and one man gained it, who, being asked why he looked at his fingers while he spoke, replied: "Because I have my speech at my fingers' ends." This same man was making a speech about conventionality, and took occasion to say, in regard to the numerous Scotsmen who belonged to the society, that their first introduction to the conventionalities was when they crossed the border. He then told picturesquely, how a popular member had discarded the kilts for the breeks, to come South to Oxford. Shortly afterwards, that member came in, and, having received an ambiguous hint as to the ragging, got up to defend himself. He said that the story about his changing into evening dress in a railway carriage was an old story, and a false one. He thought the enthusiastic applause showed his triumph, and only found out afterwards, that it expressed the delight of the society at hearing another story as good as the first.

(To be concluded).

NON OMNIS MORIAR.

Dear Mr. Editor.—I trust you will accord me the brief space necessary to bring to the attention of the present Senior year an idea which has already commended itself strongly to the few who have spoken together on the matter.

It has been thought by some of the members of the class of '99 that it would be a very desirable move to make if the class were to leave to the University some permanent memorial in recognition of her kindly foster-mothership during the four years of their college course. Just what form this donation should assume it is neither necessary nor advisable at this stage to suggest, but some have considered that one of the most satisfactory shapes for the proposed memorial would be either a bust or painting of artistic merit such as would accord with the beauty of the University, or else a permanent fund, the interest on which should be applied to establish a medal in some special branch in perpetuo.

But whatever the object of the memorial the scheme should commend itself to every thoughtful member of the Senior class. There are several ways and means by which a class can live in memory long after its University days are over, but none of these can for a moment compare with the endowment of some academic course or the establishment of some work of art commemorative of University history. Nor will the cost of the undertaking be so great if each member of the class of '99 will join in bearing the burden. A start in this good work can readily be made by dispensing with the annual class reception which, whatever its value at one time, has now outlived its usefulness. The economy here suggested may be practised in other matters as well; and never would a rigid economy be more justified than in the prosecution of this splendid aim. Trusting that the idea will commend itself widely, believe me, sir, yours very truly,

W. H. ALEXANDER.