

attention to other duties, from association with fellow students. The man who becomes a bookworm, turning his back upon campus and college society; who habitually absents himself from university receptions, and rarely stops for a chat in lecture room, corridor or rotunda, and who visits no fellow-student's room, and considers every visitor an invader and intruder, is liable if not likely to be as uncultured and as unfit for life when he receives his parchment at the close of his four years at the University as he was the day he registered as a Freshman. Indeed, he may be less vital, less sympathetic with his fellows, and less at home among men than when he left the High School.

By making the most, within reasonable limits, of the social life of the university, a student may gain in manners, tact and outlook.

A French wit in comparing two Englishmen a few years ago said that one was a great man and the other a great manner. Manner counts, nevertheless, and manners, too, as more than one epigram testifies. The crouching scholar, lounging and awkward, or ill at ease in the presence of men, and talking with heavy, nervous lips, or weakly bashful, or brazenly uncouth, excites pity for his conscious, or contempt for his unconscious, ignorance, and is handicapped at the outset of life, and he must have remarkable merit or force if he is to gain among men due recognition of his powers and attainments. Only by mingling freely with his fellows in the social life of his school will the average student have an opportunity to gain that social ease and power which may prove of inestimable advantage to him later in life.

Tact is based on sensitiveness and sympathy, a sensitiveness to the wishes and likings, prejudices and convictions of other men, and a sympathy which recognizes the right of other men to the possession of their own opinions, singularities and even prejudices, and which prompts to a deferential regard for these. Such consideration, sensitive quickness of perception and gracious sympathy can be gained only by studying men as carefully as one studies books. We must live among men if we are to be patient with them, if we are to understand them, if we are to know how to lead them. No mere recluse can learn men. It may not be essential to the man who intends to spend all his life in the laboratory, emerging only to sleep, to eat and pay his taxes, to make himself at home with men; but to all who are to find their work in the professions or in the ordinary affairs of life it is not only desirable but essential.

Students who talk with each other concerning literature and history, science and philosophy, who discuss earnestly problems of economics and statecraft, who in their youthful eagerness and sovereignty settle those great questions before which the wisest of men hesitate and quail, may laugh at themselves, or be laughed at by others, for the straining at bows for which the bowman's muscles are not yet equal, but it is the laugh, and not the young man's effort, which is ridiculous. Those young men who talk much together during their student days, wrestling with great questions, by and by will make a real contribution to the solution of these, especially if they be questions involved in those great practical matters affecting society and government. It is not good for a man to be alone when he is thinking on economics, politics or theology. If he tell his thoughts to his friend, and discovers in turn that friend's thoughts, the thinking of each will be clarified and quickened. By and by the student may not have the opportunity to talk daily with men whose minds are bright, eager, inquiring and audacious. During his school days, therefore, while he has the opportunity, let him use it for the broadening and inspiration of his mind.

A very large number of our Canadian university students have come from homes which lay no claim to literacy or culture. The sons of these homes have received a priceless heritage of sound body, vigorous mind and high moral quality. They do well to pay due honor to the fathers and mothers from whom these have come. And in no way can they pay them greater honor than by doing in the conditions of the present what their heroic parents did in the conditions of the past, that is, make the fullest use of the opportunities at hand for their highest attainments and noblest progress.

KIN.

I dreamed of Beauty all night long,
I sought her every passing day,
I chased her over moor and fen,
And over smooth and rugged way;

But ever she escaped me quite,
And in her stead another came,
Of face and form so calm, and stern,
I knew that Duty was her name.

I turned away with coldest glance;
'Twas Beauty that I sought to win;
To-day they met me hand in hand,
And lo! they are of closest kin.

—XOUTHE.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—I notice in last week's issue a proposal to form a Social Club for Undergraduates. As these clubs have been in vogue in all the large Universities of the Old Country for many years, perhaps some particulars regarding their foundation and management may be of interest to your readers.

My own Alma Mater was fortunate in having a sum of money bequeathed it in 1885 by an old graduate, most of which was expended in erecting a suitable building within the University grounds. A further sum was raised by a bazaar in 1889, and devoted to furnishing and endowing the building. The Union in Glasgow—as these clubs are called in the Scottish and English Universities—is about the size of our own Chemical Department here, and its objects are “to provide students with the comforts and conveniences of a Social Club, to hold debates and to form a centre to which the various University Societies may become affiliated. The buildings comprise a Debating Hall, a Dining Hall, Reading and News Rooms, Library, Circulating Library, Billiard and Smoking Rooms, Committee Rooms, Lavatories, etc. All students, former students and graduates may become members, and the annual fee is only some two dollars—thanks to the endowment. As a result of the club the “corporate life” of the University is improved, and through meeting one another daily outside the class-rooms, students are brought into intimate contact, friendships are made and habits of life formed which can only be got by associating with one's fellowmen. So indispensable, indeed, have these clubs been found, that even during the long vacation they are kept open for the use of the few members who remain “up for the long.”

At Edinburgh, Cambridge and Oxford similar institutions exist, and to attain to the dignity of the President's chair is considered as great a distinction as graduating with first-class honors.