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**THE ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES.**

**I. THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.**

*Abridged from the last Oxford Calendar.*

The University of Oxford is a corporate body, known for ages by the style or title of *The Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Oxford*; a title confirmed by the Legislature itself in the reign of Elizabeth. Its ancient privileges have been recognized and augmented by a long succession of Royal Charters from the earliest period; and these Charters themselves have been sanctioned by Parliament: for in an Act, intituled "an Act for the Incorporation of the two Universities," it is expressly declared, that all Letters Patent of preceding Sovereigns granted to the University of Oxford "shall be good, effectual, and available in law, according to the form, words, sentences, and true meaning of every, as if the same Letters Patent were recited verbatim," in the Act itself.

The whole business of the University in its corporate capacity is transacted in two distinct assemblies, technically termed "Houses;" viz. the House of Congregation, and the House of Convocation.

The Chancellor, or Vice-Chancellor, or, in his absence, one of his four deputies, and the two Proctors, or, in their absence, their respective deputies, preside in both Houses, where, on all occasions, their presence is indispensably requisite.

The House of Congregation consists of all *Resident Members* of the University of the degree of M.A. and upwards.

The House of Convocation, or, as it is sometimes called, the Great Congregation, consists both of *Regents* and *Non-Regents*. But the right of sitting and voting in that House is confined by the Statutes to persons of the following descriptions:—

1. The Chancellor, or Vice-Chancellor, and the two Proctors, or their deputies.

2. Doctors in Divinity, Medicine, or Civil Law, who are *necessary Regents*; and Masters of Arts, during the first year of their *necessary Regency*.

3. Heads of Colleges and Halls, and their deputies, and Members on the foundation of any College, who have at any time been Regents.

4. Doctors in Divinity, Medicine, or Law; living with their families within the precincts of the University; and Professors and Public Lecturers, who have at any time been Regents; provided always that they have performed the exercise required of them by the Statutes, and paid all fees which are due to the University, and to its officers. These conditions are, indeed, in all cases indispensable; and, without fulfilling them, no one, be his situation what it may, can exercise the right of voting in Convocation.

5. *Convictores*, as the Statutes call them, that is, all persons not belonging to the foundation of any College or Hall, who have at any time been Regents, and whose names have been constantly kept on the books of some College or Hall, from the time of their admission to the degree of Master of Arts, or Doctor in either of the three faculties, respectively.

Persons who have migrated from one College or Hall in the manner prescribed by the Statutes, and have been admitted in some other College or Hall *within the space of three months*, are deemed to have had their names constantly on the books, provided that during this interval they have not avoided any exercise or other burden which the University requires to be borne by its Members.

Doctors and Masters of Arts, who have ceased to be Members of the University, and afterwards return to it, or who have been incorporated from Cambridge or Dublin *after a personal residence of one hundred and eighty days within the year*, on producing to the Vice-Chancellor, in Congregation or Convocation, a certificate of such residence from the Head of their College or Hall, may claim to be admitted into the House; and,