

benefit in its way is a provincial library of books of reference and other works not likely to be reprinted in a cheap form, to which students and persons engaged in special researches or in need of special information might resort. It has occurred to me that the Parliamentary Library might be developed into something of this kind. Members of Parliament might use it, so far as they had occasion, all the same. It would be essential to have a good librarian, a man thoroughly conversant with books, who would be able to guide readers to the authorities for any special line of study, and to advise those who chose to consult him in the formation of their own libraries.

Perhaps the greatest novelty which I saw in England in the way of education was the local College at Nottingham. Nottingham is one of the busiest of the British hives of industry, and the lives of men there are of course devoted to the pursuit of wealth. But the people have arrived at the conviction that man cannot live by bread alone; that wealth is of no use unless it can be worthily enjoyed; that it can hardly be worthily enjoyed without some cultivation of mind; that the chiefs of industry in a free country have social and political, as well as commercial, functions to discharge, and cannot discharge them well without having their minds opened and enriched. The result is a sumptuous pile dedicated as a local college to the highest education, and affiliated to the old historic universities of Oxford and Cambridge, which allow attendance at the local college to count, to a certain extent, for their degrees. The system of affiliation to the great national universities seems to me far better than multiplication of colleges with university powers—the “one-horse” college system, as they call it in the States. Some time ago the plan of affiliation was proposed, when all the

local colleges would have been glad to come into it; but ancient and richly endowed bodies are slow in moving, and the measure was put off till Owens College at Manchester had obtained a charter with university powers. There seems now, however, to be a wish to prevent the multiplication of universities from going further. We have had this question before us here, and perhaps there is little use in raising it again. The Provincial University having been originally confined to the Established Church, other churches were obliged to found universities of their own, and when the Provincial University was thrown open, some members of the Church of England seceded, and founded another college by themselves. The upshot is that in a province which could barely maintain one great university, we have, I believe, seven bodies with the power of conferring degrees. We have got through a series of untoward accidents into the system, and cannot now get out of it. We can therefore only make the best of it. But it must be fatal to the highest teaching, because only a great university can afford a proper staff of first-rate teachers to the standard of degrees, and to that function of a university which is not less important than education, the advancement of science and learning. We must be glad, however, to see St. Michael's College, Knox College, and the Baptist College placing themselves by the side of the Provincial University. The true solution of the religious difficulty with regard to universities is a secular university with religious colleges, the colleges having their own system of religious teaching and moral discipline within their own walls, while they use and support the lectures, museums, and laboratories of the University.

In the reports of committees which have just been read, I observed a re-