

view some unworthy immediate object, Yet while voicing their opinions authoritatively they confess that they have not really studied the conditions and facts which they criticize. These conditions and facts do not happen to conform with their conception of "idea" of a University, and that is enough for them. Starting thus with preconceived notions which they are not prepared to change, imagining that the modern University could possibly become an academy or Lyceum, it is not to be expected that they should grasp the meaning of the university as a great social institution or take account of the profound evolution through which it has passed. This is borne out by the definition of the University expressed by one of their number, and conforming, no doubt, to the conception entertained by all, as "a place in which choice spirits may house together and commune together". This definition is interesting. It is modern in this respect that it indicates what might be called "a closed corporation in learning". It is the direct antithesis of our conception of the University. It would let institutions take care of themselves.