

appliances of a modern gentleman's dining-table. But if the social side of life within the college has changed, much more is this the case in the University at large. When all Fellows were bachelors, and the only "University ladies" were the wives and daughters of the Heads and a few Professors; the only "society" was found in a solemn, decorous, and dull round of dinner-parties at the various "lodgings." From one end of the term to the other few Fellows, and still fewer undergraduates, exchanged a word with a lady, or came under the humanising influences of a cheerful home circle. Now, the marriage of so many Fellows and Tutors has brought an influx of young and lively matrons, who have revolutionized Oxford Society; and the danger is that a young Fellow or undergraduate (especially if he be musical—a taste far more fatal than any other to steady work) may have too much, rather than too little, social distinction. In thirty years Oxford has taken a long step from medieval monasticism to the ordinary state of modern society; and before long we may expect the transition to be complete.

Another obvious change, the advantage or disadvantage of which we need not now discuss, is that the prevailing tone of Oxford is no longer clerical. In each College the clerical fellows are in an ever-lessening minority, from the operation of causes which neither the University nor any Commission can do much to modify or control. Dr. Marsham, as a lay head, was for fifty-four years an exceptional anomaly; but we have seen the growth of a strong, if not altogether general feeling, that Headships should be open to laymen; and had he but outlived the Commission now sitting, he would have seen this desire realized, and clerical restrictions of all kinds almost entirely swept away. Opinions still differ as to this change; but it is obviously a fact, and a fact which must have worked great changes in the tone and spirit of Oxford.

We have left ourselves but little space to note the change that has come over undergraduate life in the past half-century. In the main, it corresponds to the changes of social life in the classes to which undergraduates belong, reflected as this is in the microcosm of University life. But over and above these natural changes, there are others due to the facts that undergraduates no longer, as formerly, belong to one stratum of society, and that a larger proportion of them come to the University to work and not to