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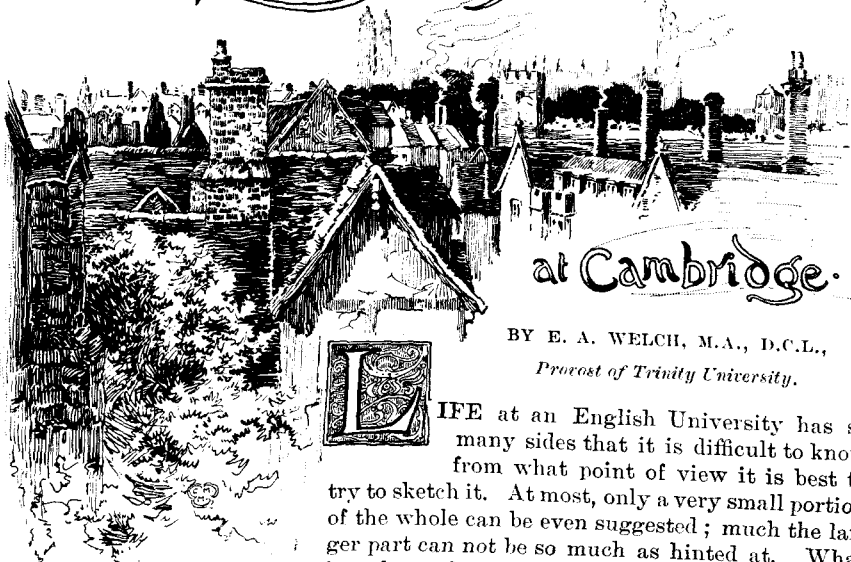
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University Life

at Cambridge.

BY E. A. WELCH, M.A., D.C.L.,
Provost of Trinity University.



IFE at an English University has so many sides that it is difficult to know from what point of view it is best to try to sketch it. At most, only a very small portion of the whole can be even suggested; much the larger part can not be so much as hinted at. What is to be outlined? what is to be left untouched?

Perhaps Canadian readers will be most interested by a glimpse—it can only be that—at some of those features in which the contrast is most marked between the two great English Universities and all others. Only they are asked to remember that the view here sketched is the view seen some fifteen years ago by one who was then in the middle of his undergraduate time; and things do not always look the same to us in later life as they did in the days when “Plancus was Consul.” At any rate, University life, like other life, changes from generation to generation; and a University generation is very short lived; “so soon passeth it away and we are gone.”

Most people know the origin of the Universities of Europe, how they sprang from attempts made here and there to provide teaching beyond the range of the monastic and purely ecclesiastical schools; how at first there were no Colleges, no University buildings, no organization, and then how the students from the various countries and provinces united themselves for mutual protection into societies called by the names of the “Nations” from which they came: how, to quote Mr. Goldwin Smith’s delightful little volume on “Oxford and her Colleges,” “The teachers, after the fashion of that age, formed themselves into a guild, which guarded its monopoly.