

scholarship and charm of personality, and this is largely due to the fullness and versatility of his student life. Martin Luther, the most typical of all Germans, is famed for the saying:

"Who loves not woman, wine and song,

Remains a fool his whole life long."

The reader of the "Schonberg-Cotta Family" will remember the picture of the elder brother Fritz Cotta telling the children stories of his student life with Martin Luther in their early days at Erfurt.

If we cross the Atlantic and look at that great amalgam of the English and German races which is slowly absorbing the surplus populations of Europe, we are not without further evidence that the national characteristics, both good and bad, are being reproduced in the avocations of student life. For the worship of the "almighty dollar" may be seen in the luxuriously furnished club houses of certain college fraternities,\* the national desire to "get there" comes out strong in the record-breaking achievements of college athletes, and the saving grace of the Puritanic remnant is to be detected in the strength of the college Y. M. C. A. movement—one of the greatest religious forces in the modern world.

These examples all go to show that it is in the student organizations no less than in the lecture-room, the library or the laboratory that the distinctive features of each nationality are made prominent.

When we come to Canada and examine our system, we are more convinced than ever of this truth. Taking

the University of Toronto as the most familiar example, we shall find that its student organizations during the last half century have reflected our growth from the provincial to the national stage of existence. Fifty years ago the Literary and Debating Society was the only student club in University College, as the teaching faculty was then called. Now, page after page of "*Torontonensis*" and the Y. M. C. A. Students' Handbook are taken up with many different literary, scientific, religious, athletic and social organizations which serve to represent the wonderful complexity of student life. To join even one half of these would be impossible from the inevitable conflict of their meetings, but most of the best students belong to at least half a dozen, and in the upper years one sometimes finds men taking part in twice that many. Occasionally, no doubt, a good student sacrifices his class standing to work of this kind; but I have had many men tell me that they did not consider the time ill-spent that had been devoted to what in one sense might be called "public business." As a rule the very best students, both men and women, are no less prominent in the class organizations than in the class lists, and as the latter grow more lengthy the former are likely to become more distinguished. The qualities which command success in the literary or debating society, in the class organization or the Y. M. C. A. are those that will also lead to a prominent position in later years, and many graduates eminent in political and professional life owe as much to their attendance on the literary society as to their lectures.

But after all the *argumentum ad*

\* Let us hope that the Princeton men will illustrate nobly the generosity which is one of the highest national qualities by taking President Wilson's advice and dedicating their club houses as college dormitories.