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UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT.

Such universities of Great Britain as are entitled to parliamentary representation have undoubtedly been successful in returning as their members men of the highest ability and attainments; and whom, at the same time, it would have been otherwise difficult to keep in public life. From that point of view at least university representation there has been justified; but while thus successful in the highly complex and irregular electoral system of England, it would be well to examine if it can be successfully applied here where there is a simpler and more uniform system, and less need of attempting to arrive at a fair representation by making it of as compound and varied a nature as possible.

As the University of Toronto is a Provincial institution endowed by the Province, and under the control of the Provincial Legislature, it would be contrary alike to the spirit and the letter of our constitution that it should send a representative to the Federal House. A university representative—presumably a man of ability and breadth of view—would be of more use, and would feel more at home, in the broader arena of the Dominion House than in the Local Assembly. The practical business or professional man is needed in the latter, the statesman in the former. But from the nature of our constitution the Federal House must be forever barred to a representative of this University. Even in the Local House, the influence of such a representative on behalf of the University would be minimised by the fact that all his efforts would be regarded with the suspicion that the Provincial Treasury was being attacked in the interests of a close corporation.

This would be a direct result arising from what forms the strongest objection to university representation here—that granting us such a representative would be legislation in favor of a class. The precedent once created, the usual evils of class legislation would follow. The other denominational universities would justly claim like privileges, and this might in time unite and strengthen whatever opposition now exists to the Provincial University. But our representative would be in the peculiar position of representing an institution which is endowed by the Province, and completely under the control of the Provincial Legislature, a position obviously anomalous, and without any parallel in Great Britain. This in itself would be almost fatal to the influence of such a representative.

Every member ought to and does, if the system exclude class legislation, represent not his own constituency alone but the nation also. No representative of a mere class, arbitrarily distinguished as such from the people, can speak with the authority and influence of those whose constituencies are in fact the nation. University men can make (as they have made) their influence felt without the aid of unnatural and artificial distinctions, to draw which is to confess a weakness that does not exist. To teach educated men that their interests are different

from those of the people is to inculcate a doctrine that can do no good either to the educated classes or to the people. Such distinctions are purely arbitrary, and the best plan is to legislate always as if the people were "one and indivisible."

I need not enlarge on the demoralizing effect that election contests would have on the *morale* of the University. A mere reference to the recent Oxford election trial shows the danger we may justly apprehend from this source. The strongest argument in favor of university representation is that it might afford educated men an opportunity to actively devote themselves to politics, which they do not otherwise often have in democratic countries. Rather than being an argument for University representation, this is an objection against the present system of election by majorities. Mr. HARE's scheme of minority representation makes such provisions, by enabling electors to vote for candidates outside their own electoral district, as would afford good men abundant opportunities for entering public life. This scheme, though apparently complex, is by no means impracticable; and it, or some similar scheme, must be adopted to escape the defects of our present system. To object to it as impracticable or chimerical is merely to urge the same stupid objection that has been raised and, we may be sure, always will be raised, against every reform, no matter how necessary.

C.

THE DOCTOR'S LAST CONFESSION.

Oh! lay your loving fingers on your Peter's fevered brow,
For, mother, I am dying, and I feel so weary now;
So bend your gentle ear, mamma, my life is fading fast,
And every struggling breath I draw may be your Peter's last.

A burden lies upon my mind, a load of guilty woe,
Which heavier, as the years went by, and heavier seemed to grow;
And now upon my tortured soul it presses like a weight,
So, mother, prithee listen to the story I'll relate.

Not far from where my humble home in modest merit stood
(I'm speaking of a year ago, when I was young and good,
And practised as a doctor in an unobtrusive way),
A most bewitching maiden dwelt, Miss Sarah Sangster Grey.

Well, she and I grew very "thick"—in plainer English, "chums"—
For I had backed her father's bills and lent him sundry sums,
And stood him store of stimulants, and, thought he poison's cheap,
He held such frightful quantities, it stood me in a heap.

Her form was tall and slender, and her liquid, starry eyes
Were like the astral brilliants that you see in midnight skies;
And oh! her lips were ravishing, like bits of sweetened coral,
And how I yearned to kiss them—but I wasn't so immoral.

I spooned her perseveringly, and each recurrent eve
I dropped around to see her, with my heart upon my sleeve;
And there I'd sit and squeeze her hand, and tell of my escapes
From shipwrecks and from jeopardies in other thrilling shapes.

I don't know how it came about, or whom she had to thank
For introducing Squirter, of the Grand Combustion Bank;
But this I know, I found him there, one evening when I called,
Upon the very sofa where I used to be installed.

Young Squirter was a pretty lad, with closely curling locks,
Precise was he in boots and ties, and cigarettes and socks;
His coats were of the shortest and most fashionable kind,
For though he wasn't English born, he had an English mind.