

that the inherent forces of her nature deny any such consummation. Her physical organism ever teaches her *what* her ideals shall be. She claims for herself an equality with men, but it is a diverse equality.

"Not like to like, but like in difference."

She claims no "angelic" superiority and no worship. She prefers to be true "helpmeet: it to men, or to her own self simply! She will set true price upon her womanhood, and she will no longer be bought and sold because she cannot win her own way in the world, and she will sue at the bar of justice until the right be granted her that hers shall become entirely one with the *real* life of the nation—until anyway she shall be free to live that life which "nature" has fitted her to live. Her long death-like sleep, with its fitful wakings, is past; life, wakeful life, courses in her blood. She *will* produce her statue, her picture, her poem—as England's great "poetess" suggests, and show that the privileges which she claims are not for vain purposes.

There has come to our notice an account of woman's work in one of the two great literary centres of England written by one partaking of its advantages—an account of Lady Margaret's—one of the four halls for women students, at Oxford. The account is very interesting, though it touches not upon the all-important questions of "University" life. It tells not of the intellectual work accomplished, if it is of the nature to make of man or woman an "individual" or a "nonentity," though the reputation of the great English University is too widespread to enable us to doubt its true efficiency in this respect. But, even as in the humblest or the wealthiest "home," though the deep, underlying "love" that is there is the *all* essential thing, the little courtesies and the methods of management are too of influence in the rendering of it happy and blessed, so is it in the great family of the sons and daughters of a "University;" the questions of management and method do affect her well-being. The account presents a number of contrasts to the "East Wing" of our McGill University. Let us note some of these. "Lady Margaret's Hall" provides for women what "McGill" still lacks for men and women alike—a home for those who come from afar—and this must needs be beneficial, not only as regards comfort, but in the promotion of a true college spirit between those whose work and aim are, in reality, one, however seemingly divergent—in promoting that spirit of greater kindness and toleration towards those that gra'e upon us, because they *must* be associated with that toleration which is said to belong to the male members of our community; and in affording opportunity for the formation of what are ever acknowledged to be the most lasting friendships—those formed in *such* intimate association when restraint and conventionality are scattered to the four winds. Our "McGill" may be behindhand in this matter, but there is another matter in which her "Donalda" department is ahead of the women's halls in Oxford. McGill grants her women-students degrees of equal worth as are those granted to men; allows them, if they will, to proceed to a higher degree than that of "Bachelor of Arts," while, as our correspondent tells us, even the degree of B.A. is denied

to the "women-students of Oxford. There is another great difference between "McGill" and "Oxford." *There* the men and women have their lectures together. Still another difference between the two rests in the fact that women there, apparently, neglect not to take recreation and exercise. Would "McGill," think you, draw the same crowds to witness her sports as she does now, were the fair sex to take bat in hand? And what shall we say regarding the custom, which seems to reign there, for women as for men who take the honor courses, of putting themselves into the hands of some tutor; would not this seem to do away necessarily with much of the good fruit of University training—that is, product of the necessity for self-cultivation, apart from external teaching—with the benefit to be derived from independent search and study? While there, as here, debating and literary societies exist, and must often be the means of developing latent talent for public speaking or literary work, neither is religious training thrown aside there nor the essentially woman's work of sewing for the poor.

Perhaps we are very bold to compare a University in a comparatively new land, and which is not yet a centenary, with one of so many centuries standing. But we would ask, is the account of "Lady Margaret's Hall" entirely in our "Donalda" Department's disfavor? We think not, on the whole. There are points in which we might reflect its image, and, too, there are matters in which we consider that ours might be reflected—an immaculacy has never been claimed for her by McGill's adherents; absolute protection is to be found neither in a system nor an individual. We simply remember our "Alma Mater's" comparatively few years of growth and acknowledge gratefully what has been done and is being done and is to be done for us, and that, in external matters, we belong to a thoroughly well-managed body, single in aim and purpose of progress, and we would that all who leave McGill's halls might prove worthy of her—prove as faithful workers as those under whose influence they, for four years, have lived—that our Donaldas might prove in action woman's worthiness to attain the further privileges which she claims and which are yet denied to her.

CONTRIBUTIONS.

BOOKS.

What to read, and how to read them.

"Owen Meredith" (son of the famous novelist Bulwer) sings in his poem of "Lucille":—

"We may live without poetry, music and art,
We may live without conscience and live without heart;
We may live without friends, we may live without books,
But civilized man cannot live without cooks.
He may live without books, what is knowledge but grieving?
He may live without hope, what is hope but deceiving?
He may live without love, what is passion but pining?
But where is the man who can live without dining?"

Now, if he simply means that we cannot go back to