

The latter are without any restraints of this kind but those imposed by the wills of the inmates—and the average Residence man is also subject to the latter restraint. Any young man is subject to as much and perhaps to more temptation in boarding houses. If he wishes to lead a fast life he can probably find companions to suit him in both places.

Mr. Houston's resolution would recommend the destruction of nearly all the ties that have bound men to the College in the past. In the place of a College that, while providing excellent teaching facilities, also provides a home for the students, and thus makes itself the centre of their thoughts and lives while there, he would have a College barren of such privileges and only providing a staff of teachers to its students. The tendency, too prevalent already, is to be encouraged to make College life one long grind, with no means provided for wearing away the sharp corners and angles country life has made upon the thoughts and manners of most undergraduates. If the step proposed is taken, the College will lose one of the chief ties that bind to it the affections of its graduates, and I firmly believe a severe blow will be given to its usefulness as a training institution.

Instead of a proposal to abolish the Residence we would gladly welcome a proposal to enlarge it. Its usefulness now is impaired by its contracted size, its cheerless rooms and defective interior economy. But even under these circumstances it has been most useful to the College. Were it three times its present size, with the rooms thoroughly renovated and made cheerful and healthy, students would flock to it. The expenses would be comparatively much less than now, and its good influence would be more than trebly increased. Nothing but the grossest blindness to the real interests of the College can sanction its abolition. I cannot think it possible that the resolution can have even a handful of supporters in the Senate, but in any case the time has come when the question should receive full discussion. Some more valid reason for the abolition of Residence than that of the paltry sum to be saved by doing so must be given; and, on the other hand, if the Residence is worthy of being maintained, if its fruit in the past has been good even under the most discouraging circumstances, there is no reason why it should labor under this ban any longer. Let every son of the College give no uncertain expression of opinion, and let the voice of protest against this sweeping Radicalism be raised throughout the whole Province. Let it be understood fully what the effect of abolition will be, and no one will venture to favor a resolution which, if not giving a death blow, will certainly do very serious injury to the College.

Yours truly,  
G. M. WRONG.

University College, Jan. 2nd, 1883.

### THE COLLEGE RESIDENCE.

To the Editor of the 'VARSITY.

DEAR SIR,—I am not much given to airing my ideas in the public prints, and I should not now trouble you with this communication but that I have been too seriously alarmed by the proposition lately formulated into a notice of motion in the University Senate, and pointing to the abolition of the University College Residence—to admit of my holding my peace. I can assure you that in your editorial note of last week, in which you state the 'VARSITY's position to be one of strongest opposition to the proposal, you are but expressing the views of hundreds of graduates, and, I believe, of the vast majority of the members of Convocation.

The lamentable apathy in reference to all University matters that so unfortunately seizes upon the great body of our University men, the moment they have finally left the shadow of the College walls, seems so settled that one may fear lest even this greatest of calamities may threaten us and yet the attention of only a few be roused. It is the earnest desire to be if possible of some assistance in sounding the alarm—the fond hope that others, whose lethargy has been so confirmed and of as long standing as mine, may be awakened—that impels me to write.

I know that I am but giving voice to the heartfelt sentiments of hundreds of my fellows when I say that for us there cluster round the rooms and halls, and corridors of University College Residence memories dearer and more sacred than hallow any other spot on earth. For years it was my home. The years lived there were far the happiest I have ever known, and though the recollection of them seems now, to look back to them, as if it were a bygone age, it lives still fresh and green, and I am sure will never fade till everything else is gone. I know that this is a practical age. There is no room in our lives for sentiment. Everything must be measured by the standard—and re-

duced to the level of dollars and cents. And the Residence being some charge upon the General Income fund of the University and College, must be sacrificed.

If there was nothing that could be urged in favor of the retention of the Residence but the love its children bear it, the argument against its destruction would, I am afraid, be pitied rather than respected, and however powerful that feeling of affection is in the breasts of those who during their College course were Residence men, it is, I suppose, hoping too much to expect that it should be sympathised with or even understood by those whose good fortune it never was to occupy a Residence room.

For one of my way of thinking upon this matter, it is quite impossible to imagine what the line of reasoning can be in the minds of those, if there are any, who in sincerity advocate the discontinuance of the College Residence with any thought that they are thereby advancing the University's good. It is impossible to combat arguments one cannot anticipate or imagine; but in the meantime, apart entirely from sentiments, let me give one or two reasons why to my mind the closing of Residence would be perhaps the very greatest misfortune that could befall the University or College.

I am but writing a sentence from experience when I say that four years in Residence turns a boy into a man in a way that I believe nothing else in the world would do so well. A Freshman may matriculate—may attend his lectures regularly—read his text-books faithfully—pass his examinations creditably, and graduate honorably, and yet at the end of it stand in Convocation Hall with the ermine of his Bachelor's hood adorning a youth who is still—Oh! so fresh. That will not be his fate if he College life has been lived in College residence: the man who graduates in that school has obtained a degree that a good many years of practical experience enable me, I think with some authority, to say, is worth a hundred fold the book reading or even the mental training he has had to go through to win the two letters his University gives him at the end of his Collegiate course. To my mind the advantages of a life in College Residence simply cannot be over-estimated. The practical benefit acquired from constant association with one's fellows—the hard common sense pounded into a man,—the knowledge of the world and the ability to take care of one's self in it that nothing but a few years of life as one's own master can give—the judgment that comes only from experience—all these are to be had by the student who makes the Residence his home, to a fuller extent in three months of life there than in as many years of existence in some carefully selected boarding-house.

I speak as one who knows and has himself compared. I lived nearly two years of my undergraduate life in a private family before the fears of a father, who had not the advantage of a College life in his own youth, would permit his son to face the terrors of the 'initiation' and the Residence 'Molly Maguires' of that antediluvian age. Now that years enough have rolled away to bring upon the scene another generation, I can say with solemn truth that there is no place anywhere that I know to which I would send my son—when the time comes for him to go—with the same confidence that it will make a man of him—as to University College Residence, and I would not either that ought should be omitted, neither Ixion's wheel nor the ponderous boot of Lucifer—there ought not to be one less spike on the fence in rear of the quad, or one more impediment thrown in the way of a room being well routed when its owner deserved it, than there used to be in the olden time.

But I do not wish to transgress by writing too much. I wanted to have said how in my day—and I feel no doubt it is so yet—the men who headed the Class Lists—the men who were fullest of the true University spirit—the men who were indeed *Imperii provinciaeque spes*—as well as all "princes of jolly good fellows," the very thought of whom still will warm one's heart—were ever to be found among the dwellers in College Residence, but I have only room for one practical suggestion. Let every old Residence man who reads these words do what he can. Our combined influence will indeed be felt. Every one of us knows some member of the Senate. Every one of us can reach some one of them by letter, if not by personal interview. We have but to exert the influence we possess—but to let the men we send to the Senate know what we want them to do—and they will realize that something is threatened in University matters that we feel some interest in.

If the old Residence men all through the country will only waken up and act there can be no real danger, and if there can be assured a sufficiently decisive defeat on the Senate to give its quietus forever to the spirit of iconoclasm that has been too much showing itself there of late, we shall have done our University the best service it has received in many a long day.

Yours truly,  
PRINCE'S PRIZEMAN.