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UNIVERSITY QUESTIONS IN ENGLAND.

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ALL the great university questions are now under consideration in England, in connection with the intellectual and social progress of the nation. With regard to some of them, what is going on there is instructive to us here. The general subject is, perhaps, even more important in our case than in that of England, because, apart from the interests of literature and science, a democratic society stands in special need of the elevating, refining, and moderating influence which is exercised by great intellectual institutions. We have been made sensible by recent occurrences in Canada of the folly of attempting to import into the New World the conservatism, or what is deemed such, of the Old World; but there is another kind of conservatism, consisting in the development of tempering agencies of a rational and permanent kind, which good citizens in a democratic country are specially called upon to cultivate. The improvement of these means of

training national character is perhaps a more hopeful, while to many it is certainly a more congenial, line of reformatory effort than direct conflict with demagogism, faction, and corruption in the political arena.

1. There is one difficult problem with which the reorganizers of universities have to deal in England, but which does not specially concern us here—the adaptation of the medieval colleges to the requirements of modern society. Oxford and Cambridge were, till the other day, exclusively, and they still are distinctively and substantially, federations of colleges; and all the colleges either were founded in the Middle Ages, or if founded after the Reformation, preserved the mediæval type. All were originally clerical, celibate, and quasi-monastic in their rule of life, as well as in their structure, though their objects were not, like those of the monasteries, prayer and religious contemplation; but prayer and study; All Souls' College at Oxford alone be-