

foot-man or groom, irrespective of character or capacity. Nor was the Head's position in the University at large less dignified. He and his brother Heads formed the old Hebdomadal Board, in which all academical power was vested; they were, in fact, the University. Now, the only relic of their ancient power is the appointment of Bampton Lecturers; while in their respective Colleges they are each but one among a body of men who claim an equal voice in all matters of college management, and whose tendency is to regard their Head as a more or less ornamental appendage. The Heads, too, are men of a different stamp. Dr. Marsham, as a layman and a country gentleman, must have always been more or less unique; but many of them in old days were something else besides—Deans, it might be, or canons, or parochial clergymen, with interests chiefly unacademical: men who cared more for social prestige, little for educational efficiency; and who, in the appointment of a college office, or the admission of an undergraduate, looked first and often solely to family connections and gentlemanly manners. Now all this is changed. The modern Head of a College is either an ex-Tutor who has made his way into and through the University by his own wits, and whose interests are mainly educational and academical; or he is a successful schoolmaster, with organizing zeal and energies, a world too wide for the shrunk sphere in which he finds himself after being accustomed to wield despotic authority. Such men cannot acquiesce, like their predecessors, in the inactive enjoyment of a comfortable income, and, perhaps, in consequence, the next generation will see fewer examples of longevity among them.

But if Heads and their position are changed, so are the societies over which they preside. When Dr. Marsham and Dr. Cotton were young Fellows, the social and local connections of colleges were a prominent feature in University life. The Fellows often owed their position to the place of their birth or to some family interest; seldom to purely intellectual qualifications. The undergraduates were mainly the sons of country gentlemen, or other members of the upper classes of society; and the respect due to social rank was observed in the right of sons of peers or baronets to matriculate under different conditions as to residence and degrees from those which bound men of ordinary clay. The University, in fact, and the College were aristocratic institutions,