

## SOME IMPRESSIONS OF CAMBRIDGE.

## II.

The memory of a happy period in our life is perhaps more deeply intensified when, in anticipation, we have drawn quite a different picture of what may be in store for us. In hours of pleasure derived from looking back upon the delightful year we spent in Cambridge, with its wealth of happy experiences, we wonder that, even in looking forward to the time, we could have had any but the brightest thoughts concerning it.

I had read much, heard much, of the coldness and reserve of the English people, and I shrank from meeting persons who might increase my already too painful feeling of being an exile. But where did the dreaded coldness and reserve go? It never appeared; instead we found kindness, thoughtfulness, charming hospitality, friends whom to know was to love.

A peculiar and particularly fascinating impression which we received of the people when first in their midst in a social way, was the marked tranquillity of their countenances, which we ceased to wonder at as time went on and we became more acquainted with the calm life with which we were surrounded.

Perhaps the College society, in its exclusiveness, is too much a world of its own, but it is so rich in completeness that one could wish to live always in its atmosphere of culture and learning. Its very conservatism makes it the more pleasing to recall, for we know that the homes in which we were guests are still entertaining others and giving the same pleasure in dispensing hospitality with the quiet ease and graceful cordiality which marked all occasions.

A striking feature of the social life of the College people is the afternoon visiting of the gentlemen. For a few hours between luncheon and dinner everybody seeks recreation. The sports in their seasons have their participants, but all alike are fond of tea drinking. When paying visits one meets many students in the drawing-room, always ready to assist the hostess in relieving her of passing a cup of tea, talkative, bright and entertaining. It seemed to me that the cup of afternoon tea.