

been made more profitable and laudable ; happier it could not well be.

At Oxford education was still classical, Mathematics holding nominally an equal but really a much lower place ; while at Cambridge, owing to the influence of Newton, they held the higher place. But classics at Oxford included ancient philosophy and ancient history with a certain amount of modern illustration, Aristotle being supplemented by Butler's analogy and sermons. It was no illiberal training ; it not only exercised industry and called forth intellectual effort but excited an interest in the great questions of humanity. To the phrase *literæ humaniores* indeed it corresponded very well. Our study of Aristotle was intercourse with a grand intelligence, though we lacked the lights which evolution has now thrown on the subject.

The classical class list of Oxford has certainly given to England a long train of statesmen and leaders of opinion, among the leaders of opinion being Cardinal Newman. Even the financial system of England has been largely the work of Oxford first-class men in Classics, and they have supplied a large quota of those permanent under-secretaries of government departments who have the ordinary administration of the country in their hands. Lord John Russell, as a scion of an enlightened Whig house, instead of being sent to one of the old Universities was sent to Edinburgh, but I have heard that after long experience he expressed his preference for Oxford and Cambridge as schools for public men.

The fatal defects of the system were : first, that it excluded, and almost condemned to ignorance and idleness, all whose aptitude was not for the humanities but for the positive sciences ; and secondly, that it failed with all but the elite. Those who did not read for Honours, the pass men as

they were called at Oxford, the poll men as they were called at Cambridge, got nothing but a miserable smattering of Greek and Latin which could not possibly have had any value either by way of knowledge or by way of training, and which they lost as soon as their backs were turned on the University. The time of many, perhaps of most of them, was worse than wasted, since they contracted not only habits of idleness and expenditure, but distaste for reading. Even of the classmen not many, if I may judge from what I saw among my own acquaintance, kept up their classics. Canning did ; Lord Grenville did ; the Marquis of Wellesley did, and after his famous pro-consulate and his long public life, wrote his beautiful Latin lines on a weeping willow. Pitt used classical quotations ; whether he kept up his classics does not otherwise appear. Sir George Cornwall Lewis kept up not only his classics but his classical erudition, and continued his researches when he had become Chancellor of the Exchequer. Mr. Gladstone has done the same. Lord Sherbrooke, better known as Robert Lowe, seemed as a politician to feel it necessary to pay his tribute to democracy by disparaging classical education and lauding the utilitarian system ; yet those who had the pleasure of being his guests knew that he was devoted to the classics and spent much of his leisure in reading them. But I have lived with statesmen who, having taken high honours in classics at the University, never, I believe, thought of opening a Greek or Latin book.

As an optional study classics seem to hold their own wonderfully well by the side of subjects regarded as more practically useful. They hold their own even on this commercial and industrial continent, where it might be supposed that culture would have less chance in competition with utility. So I gather from statistics