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## THE UNIVERSITY OF PARIS.

STRICTLY speaking the University of France is a vast corporation, comprising the whole system of primary, secondary, and higher education directed by the state. In ordinary conversation the word is used with the same meaning as in Canada; in this sense universities are established in Paris, Bordeaux, Lyons, and the other chief towns of France; but while the provincial institutions do excellent work, their best men drift more and more to Paris, and to that centre alone do foreign students resort in any numbers.\* During the last ten years, the University of Paris, while retaining its full measure of state support, has been largely freed from state control, and is now practically a self-governing corporation.

Three chief halts are made by the student during his progress up the ladder of learning. On leaving the Lycée, or Collegiate Institute, at the age of seventeen to nineteen, he passes his *baccalauréat*, known familiarly as the "bachot," and becomes bachelier. This should be borne in mind, as graduates of Canadian or American universities, who announce themselves as bacheliers-es-arts, are sometimes surprised to find themselves regarded as having recently left the High School.

On entering the university,—using the word henceforward in its English meaning—the student intending to take an Arts course, prepares himself for the *licence*. This may be taken at any time not less than one year after his entrance, but in practice two or even three years is the usual time. To enumerate the various subjects of study would carry me too far. The standard is high, and the degree of *licencié-es-lettres* is not won without much hard work. On obtaining it the student is qualified to teach in a secondary school, or to begin the study of one of the learned professions. If desirous of pursuing an academic career, he goes on to the *agrégation*. This is a competitive examination, open to all *licenciés* of at least three years standing. The number of successful candidates depends upon the number of situations vacant in the state secondary schools and universities, for such a situation or an equivalent salary, must be provided for each *agrégé*. Many candidates prepare for the *agrégation* while earning their living as teachers or journalists. The only further honour to which the student can aspire is that of *Docteur-es-lettres*, which may be won by any *licencié* by presenta-

\*The University of Nancy has among its faculties an *Institut Colonial*, in which the history, geography, social and economic problems of the French colonies are discussed.