

in Parliament, was most striking. His last message, sent from his death-bed in reply to an address of sympathy from the University, was most touching. In it he reaffirmed his love and affection for the "God-fearing and God-sustaining University of Oxford".

It remains to say a few words about the Religious and Ecclesiastical life of Oxford. The University is no longer the exclusive possession of the Anglican Church; practically all the Tests have been abolished, and the Colleges are open to men of all views. Of course from one point of view the result would appear that Oxford has become not merely "undenominational" but secular;—but in other ways it has become the centre of much religious activity. The influences of the Oxford Movement are still at work; and happily in Oxford itself the spirit of the older Tractarians, as opposed to that of modern extremists, on the whole prevails. On the other hand, while Oxford has always been the stronghold of the High Church Party and is still so in many ways, yet she is now comparatively free from that Ecclesiastical Toryism, often combined with a species of Erastianism, which has sometimes characterized her in the past.

The University Church of St. Mary's is of course Anglican; and every Sunday morning and afternoon a University sermon is preached. Every other year the "Bampton Lectures" *i.e.* eight sermons on some subject are delivered from St. Mary's Pulpit, by a selected Lecturer. As a rule, the official University Sermon does not attract many undergraduates, though occasionally their gallery is crowded, when some preacher well known to the younger generation, is chosen. But in the two winter terms a series of special sermons for Undergraduates are preached on Sunday evenings after Evensong; and then the Church is often filled. Many of the best English preachers, (men sometimes representing widely different points of view) have thus addressed large numbers of undergraduates. The two, who perhaps exercise the widest influence by this means over Oxford men, are Canon Gore, and the Bishop of Stepney, who, as formerly Head of the University settlement of Oxford House in East London, and since as a Bishop, has always exercised a wonderful power in attracting men and arousing in them a genuine religious enthusiasm.

There are a number of organizations of a distinctly religious nature in Oxford; a good many Colleges have Church Societies, while there is a "Church Union" open to all members of the University. A large institution is the "Christian Social Union", which has branches all over the country, but is particularly strong in its Oxford Branch. Its main object is to study social problems from the Christian point of view, and to try, in a small way, to reach practical solutions of them. There are two Theological Colleges in Oxford, Wycliffe Hall, and St. Stephen's House; which is intended more particularly for Missionary students; and Cuddesdon College is situated in the country about seven miles out.