

THE RESIDENCE QUESTION.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY.

SIR,—You do not over-rate the interest which I feel in everything which concerns our University when you ask me to give my opinion on the Residence question. I only wish that my experience were such as to make my opinion better worth having. An Oxford College, to which my experience relates, was an institution very peculiar in its character and history. It was a relic of the monastic, or perhaps I should rather say cœnobitic, Middle ages. The Fellows, who with the Head formed the governing body, were bound to celibacy; they lived within the college building; and, with the undergraduate students, formed a family, dining in the same Hall, and living in constant intercourse. There were, I think, great social advantages in this otherwise somewhat obsolete arrangement. By recent legislation Fellows holding educational offices in the College or University, having been permitted to marry, have taken to living in private houses, and the collegiate family must be a good deal broken up. A Residence, such as that which is the present subject of debate, is hardly analogous to an Oxford or a Cambridge College. However, as I said in my letter to Mr. King, it seems to me that, among students living together in a Residence, there must be more of the academical spirit than among students living separately in boarding houses, and greater opportunity of forming friendships, which, though secondary, are not unimportant objects of a University course. A mixture of seniors with juniors is evidently desirable, and might, I presume, be attained where you have post-graduate students, or graduates reading for Law or Medicine; though the professors and officers of the University generally must live in their own houses, not, like Oxford and Cambridge Fellows in my day, within the Residential walls. I feel myself, that had I, instead of living and conversing and interchanging ideas with my fellow students, merely attended the same lectures with them, great, intellectually as well as socially, would have been my loss.

I am not aware that any special evils have been imputed to the Residence, or that there is any distinct objection to it except its alleged failure to pay expenses. This is a matter of calculation and management. I cannot see why the kitchen and other departments of a Residence should not be made to pay their way as well as those of a College.

A University is rather too large for social unity or corporate spirit, if the students are scattered in boarding houses. The Greek-Letter Societies in the American Universities seem to me partly to owe their existence to the need felt for some closer association such as at Oxford and Cambridge is afforded by the Colleges, of which, as you are aware, the Universities are federations; each College having a life, educational and social, of its own within its own gates.

I have only to add the expression of my hearty wish that the question may be solved in the best interests of our University.

Yours faithfully,

GOLDWIN SMITH.

Toronto, August 31st, 1899.

—What I must do is all that concerns me, and not what the people think. This rule, equally as arduous in actual and in intellectual life, may serve for the whole distinction between greatness and meanness.—*Emerson*.

The College Girl

The practices of the Ladies' Glee Club are held every Thursday afternoon at four o'clock sharp. As the time for practising is short, especially as the practices are held only once a week instead of twice, which has sometimes been the custom, it is fair to expect that the members should attend every meeting and be as punctual as possible. The music is being conducted by Mr. Hugh Kennedy. Any who wish to join may give their names to Miss Marion Lang.

Preparations are in active progress for the 4th Annual issue of "Sesame," which promises to be an even greater success than last year, both from the financial and literary standpoint. The editorial board has offered a prize of \$5 00 for the best essay contributed before December 1st to the Magazine.

The first regular meeting of the Women's Literary Society will be held on Saturday evening in the Students' Union Hall. The first year is especially welcome.

Y. W. C. A. NOTES.

The subject to which our association devotes special attention this year is, "Prayerful, Systematic Bible Study." In connection with this, Dr. Tracy addressed the Association Wednesday, Oct. 18, on "God's Treasure House—The Bible."

"Our spiritual life is the apex of our whole being; without this man's life is dwarfed. Bible study is the source of spiritual life. It is known by its fruits. The Jews, the people of the Pentateuch, of the Book, were immeasurably superior to the heathen nations around. Wherever the Bible is known there is domestic peace and purity. The Bible is divine; it has outlived all attacks. Man's environment, and the whole physical world, go to develop him physically. The environment of spiritual life, if a man is not to be stunted in his capacities, is God's word, the Bible. The Bible is above all a treasure-house of moral and spiritual truth. It is also a literary treasure-house, though its literary value is subservient to doctrine, reproof and instruction in righteousness. Bible study should be undertaken both privately and with others." "The Life of Christ" is to be the subject for study in the Sunday Bible Class during this year. The class meets every Sunday at 3 p.m., and is led by Dr. Tracy.

Miss Ruth Rouse, whom many of the 3rd and 4th year girls remember, a graduate of Girton College, Cambridge, who has been doing secretarial work in connection with the Student Volunteer Movement and the Young Women's International Christian Association for the past two years, sails from England for India this month, to work among the students of that land as Canada's representative.

Love is the greatest thing that God can give us, for Himself is love; and it is the greatest thing we can give to God, for it will give ourselves and carry with it all that is ours.—*Jeremy Taylor*.

In India the student is open to conviction as regards Christianity during his college life, but not after leaving college.