

men, seeing that later I became connected with another college, and so became accustomed to regard it from without. Among the smaller Cambridge Colleges—and compared with Trinity and John's all the remaining fifteen or more are regarded as smaller colleges—it has always held a strong and independent position. Founded by the Lady Margaret, mother (and that at the mature age of thirteen years) of Henry VII, and founded under the guidance of the great John Fisher, whom the Pope made Cardinal, with the result that Henry VIII promptly beheaded him, declaring that the Pope might give him a hat but he would see to it that there was no head upon which to wear it, the college began its career as devoted to the newer learning, and from this start and through the centuries it has, with rare lapses, stood for progress. Nor would I have the reader accept this as a prejudiced opinion. In his fascinating study of the evolution of the university, just published, the Master of Jesus acknowledges that from the capacity of its teaching staff and a quality of large-minded comprehensiveness, Christ's, in the twentieth, as in the seventeenth, century, deserves to be regarded as the most Cantabrigian of Cambridge colleges.<sup>1</sup> The college which counts John Milton and Charles Darwin among its alumni has confessedly had its influence upon British thought. When I went up in 1880, drawn to it by its growing reputation in natural sciences, the resident society was, with scarce an exception, liberal, varying in complexion from the Master (Cartmell) who was an hereditary Whig and therefore, in many respects, the most bigoted of Conservatives, down to Hobson, the mathematical tutor, now university professor of mathematics, who was and still is a rabid doctrinaire radical. John Peile was the senior tutor, and his liberalism had led him to throw open the college doors with profuse hospitality, as the saying was, to "Jews, Turks, and Infidels." One of the most charming men I ever came across belonged to my year at Christ's.

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<sup>1</sup> Cambridge, described by Arthur Gray, Master of Jesus College, Cambridge, p. 192. Methuen & Co., Limited, London.