

a great commercial centre, to impose limitations and restrictions on their work, the English universities can claim that they have helped to realize the aspirations of the *Bidding Prayer*, used every Sunday before the University sermon, "that there may never be wanting a due supply of persons qualified to serve God in Church and State." But it is more by influencing the privileged few than by getting at the masses of the people that they do their direct educational work. In the past their influence on the governing classes has been conspicuous. It is bound up with the residential system, which is so potent a factor in social training, and in the moulding of character. It was this, as well as his own connection with Oriel College, that turned Mr. Rhodes's thoughts to Oxford, though we know from his will that he might otherwise have preferred Edinburgh.

That brings me to the question of residences for our students, a pressing need, the supply of which would enable us to show that our interest in our young constituents does not confine itself to the lecture rooms and laboratories. Instruction is given there, but I do not know of any one who would hold that the class-room is a completely equipped field for the training of the character. In this aspect McGill is only a step-mother to her children. She leaves them, so far as residence is concerned, to find lodging where they may. The great gift of the Union or Club-house, now in course of erection at Sir William Macdonald's expense, will furnish a valuable counter-attraction to the cheap restaurant. But, as to residence,—if any of your members who have gone into the question of residential flats, built with a view to profit, would care to extend his interest in the subject to the needs of McGill students, I shall be glad to put him in the way of a good thing. At Oxford and Cambridge the residential system has been carried to such lengths in the course of centuries that the colleges dominate the University, which exists as a separate corporation only for examinations, degrees and other general purposes. Here in Montreal things began the other way on. The University is firmly established, but the interests of the whole student body would be greatly advanced if we could now provide residential halls, like the dormitories at Harvard, Yale and Princeton. To me it seems just about the least we could do, looking to the formation of character—and it is perhaps all the more incumbent on us as we are forbidden by our constitution to have any definite church connection. Religious zeal is forbidden to us as a corporation, and we have to substitute for it what the late Archbishop of Canterbury said would do equally well, the cultivation of a "quiet sense of duty."

That is a point which could be easily elaborated, but I shall leave