

University Education for Commerce

The University's Debt to Commerce

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Universities, as we understand them today, may be regarded as a direct production of our Christian civilization. As institutions, they grew naturally out of the needs of society, and, so long as they have responded to the needs and aspirations of the society around them, ~~so long as they have advanced with the times~~, they have grown in culture and learning and in usefulness and strength.

When a university has ceased to advance with the times, either because it ignored changing conditions ~~around it~~, or ignored a broadening of knowledge, or because the people around it fell into a period of inaction, so soon did that university cease to develop, and cease to justify its existence. A university must identify itself with the people out of which it has grown, and take full advantage of the ever-growing light of knowledge, or it will drift back into comparative darkness and wither away. This has happened in the case of a few universities, but as a rule universities have advanced with the times, although some have been ahead and some behind, for various reasons.

In every period of their existence Universities have fulfilled a double function in the social order. They have been the great training-schools for the different learned professions, and they have been the custodians and exponents of all that is best in human wisdom and knowledge, and of the ideal elements on which society ultimately rests. The objects of a university are to train men for life and for study, to teach them how to think and study for themselves, to develop their characters, to develop their knowledge of their fellow-men and of the great universe around us, to stimulate a desire for knowledge, to carry on the search for knowledge, to study the problems of men and the world around us. Its duty is to do all of this, not merely for the sake of piling up useless or unused knowledge, but, as a living institution, composed of men, its duty is to identify itself with the world and its problems, and, directly or indirectly, ^{do its best to} raise the mental and moral status of everyone possible, and to make life better and happier. Learning for learning's sake alone is all very well, but if it be done without desire and intention that eventually it will benefit one's fellow-men - then such learning is only a selfish amusement.

The training of men for all professions and occupations should have its foundations in a broad culture; but, in addition to that, the medical doctor needs a special training in medicine and surgery, the lawyer in the law, the