

all our bagnets into the old sarpint, while the Major out sword, and began a-hackin' away at him like one o'clock ; but, bless yer, he might as well ha' hacked a gutter-percher roller !

Well, sir, you may think as the feel o' six English bagnets goin' plum through him was enough to rouse any snake as ever wore scales ; and it roused him up, with a vengeance.

Fust thing I heerd was a hiss like steam comin' out of a engine-biler ; and then cum a smash as if the whole buildin' was down a-top of us, and a yell from our men, and then a rumble-tumble among the stones. The old varmint had unreeled hisself as quick as a coil o' rope runnin' out, and with one slap of his tail had knocked the Major and five more on us head over heels.

So there was I, left to tackle the job single-handed, with a thunderin' old snake, as long as a fire-hose, lashin' and whackin' at me with his confounded old tail, every whack soundin' as loud as if some pavior was a-rammin' down the Great Pyramid with a church-tower. Luckily there was a forked bough in the road, so he couldn't get a fair lick at me ; but the very wind of his blows putty nigh knocked me down of itself ; and with this blessed old coil o' live rope comin' curlin' and whirlin' within a hinch o' my nose, and the hiss'n' and the thumpin' and the shakin', I'm blowed if I didn't feel jist as if I'd been cotched in one o' them precious cotton-spinnin' machines, as father used to work at in Manchester. Howsomdever, by duckin'

and dodgin' like a hacrobat, I managed to save my skin, and all the while I stuck to my bagnet, which was through his neck, so as he couldn't get his head loose to bite me.

Presently his flapping and wriggling began to slacken, as if he was gettin' spent ; and just then I seed Tom Jackson, who hadn't got it quite as heavy as the rest, scramblin' to his pins agin.

"Hit him on the tail, Tom," screeches I, "the tail's the place !"

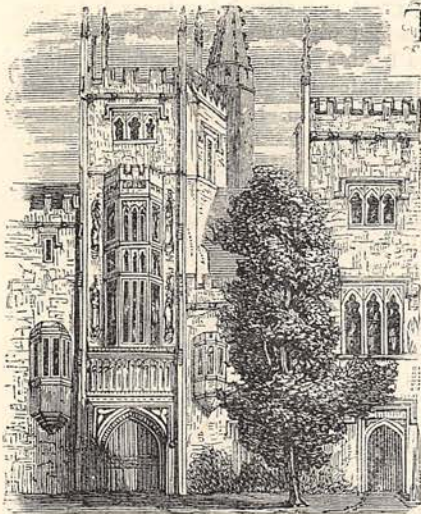
Tom clubbed his piece, and began poundin' away like a thresher ; and just then the Major staggers up, fists hold of another musket, and jines in with a will. Three or four good licks smashed his tail ; and it's precious lucky as them big snakes *are* so brittle 'bout the tail, for as to hurtin' 'em anywhere else, you might as well try to cut a German sassage with a slate-pencil.

Then the others, who'd been quite *none compass* at fust, picked theirselves up, and among us all we settled Mr. Snake's hash, and lugged him out on to the grass ; and the Major says, "Well done !" and tips us a rupee [two shillings] apiece all round. Then we ketches hold o' the body, and carries it home to quarters, for to stuff it for a curio. And when we cum to measure it, it was good thirty feet from head to tail, and three feet round in the middle ; and if you don't believe it, ax Tom Jackson, who lives just next door to me here.

Now, then, what d'ye say to a cup o' tea afore you goes ?

DAVID KER.

## THE NON-COLLEGIATE STUDENT IN OXFORD.



THE functions of the University are three-fold: (1) to encourage learning; (2) to teach; (3) to test results.

A student may now be admitted to the University in two capacities: (1) as a collegiate student; (2) as non-col-

legiate, or "unattached." The points of resemblance and difference between the two classes form the subject of the present paper.

All students before admission have to satisfy certain officials that they are morally and intellectually fit persons. The standard of the matriculation exami-

nation practically determines the intellectual prestige of the College. For members of Halls and unattached students it is not high. When once matriculated, examinations are for all precisely similar. Prizes and degrees have for all precisely the same value—as certificates of attainments.

*Instruction.*—The organised aids to education differ for the two classes. For both, it is true, the classes of professors and other lecturers are available; but for the collegiate student special instruction is provided by the tutors of the College or Hall to which he belongs. Private tuition can readily be obtained from a large number of able men, but this is matter of personal consideration and expenditure. If, as is the case, it is necessary for the collegiate student, it is *à fortiori* imperative for the non-collegiate. Here, however, one of the advantages of the new system may be seen. The non-collegiate student, not obliged to attend lectures which may be worthless, as in the case of his collegiate fellow-student, is at liberty to choose a tutor for himself. He naturally goes to the best man.

Tuition is not only cheapened, but improved by competition.

All students are alike amenable to the discipline of the University, which is in many respects full of absurd inconsistencies and trivialities. Here, however, a

third class arises—or rather, a subdivision of the collegiate class; and students may be classified as follows:

1. Those who must live in a College or Hall during the greater portion of their University career.
2. Those who, while belonging to a College or Hall, may live entirely in lodgings.
3. Those who must live in lodgings because there is nowhere else for them to live—*i.e.*, the unattached, or non-collegiate.

The reason of this three-fold division does not lie very deep. Class 3 sprang up as a crusade against collegiate expenses; Class 2 sprang up partly as a confession, partly as a compromise, of the evil. Class 1 remains, by far the largest class, consisting of those who suffer from exorbitant charges.

Now let us compare the expenses of collegiate with those of non-collegiate students.

A collegiate student pays on entrance the following fees:—To the University at matriculation, £2 10s.; to a College on admission, £25; for furniture of rooms, taken at a valuation, £25; he requires plate, bed and table linen, which may be put down at the modest sum of £20; china and glass, together with various household utensils, purchased from his "scout,"\* and claimed by him as perquisites on his master's departure, which may be priced at £10;† total, £82 10s. It must here be admitted that at most of the Halls, and at Keble College, many of these expenses are avoided. Furniture may be hired, and a fixed rate covers other sundry charges.

A non-collegiate student pays to the University at matriculation £5, and as caution-money £2. He chooses lodgings where he pleases, provided they are licensed, and at what rent he pleases; and as the terms vary from 8s. to 70s. weekly, his choice is not limited. A fixed weekly payment includes all his needs. His personal effects are all he brings. He need not possess plate, linen, china, or glass. He has his meals when he likes, buys his food where he likes, and is under no petty restraint such as is enforced in the matter of food at the Halls and College above-mentioned.

The expense of entrance, then, stands thus: £7 to £10 for the non-collegiate, £80 to £90 for the collegiate student.

During a year of residence—which is usually twenty-two weeks, never more than twenty-four—the collegiate student pays to the University, £1; to his College or Hall, room-rent, £10; tuition, £20, which in the majority of cases has to be supplemented by private tuition; establishment charges, £20. This last item includes "servant's dues," but yet the student has to "tip" his scout sums varying from £3 to £6. Then as to food. If at the colleges the 6d. loaf is charged 8d., if butter at 1s. 10d. is charged 2s. 6d., and if the scouts get more in perquisites in one day than their masters eat in two, it is hardly possible for a student, however careful, to keep his weekly bills for food lower than 30s. or £2. This allows of little or none of the hospitality which plays so important a part in true collegiate life. Total, £100.

It is officially stated that unattached students have paid all the above corresponding charges with £45. Allowing £15 for room-rent and attendance, £36 for board, £20 for private tuition, £5 for University dues, we have a total of £76, and may fairly accept £55 as the average cost.

In addition to this, the expenses of travelling, clothes, medical attendance, books, charity, amusements, and subscriptions must not be forgotten. But these fall on the collegiate student and the non-collegiate in the proportion of about ten to one. If the former were not to support the cricket, boating, athletic sports, musical societies, balls, and concerts, he might as well be an unattached student at once.

If we add £20 for private tuition to the current expenses of the former, the amount will be £120, as opposed to the £55 of the latter, and taking the total for the first year—*i.e.*, payments on entrance and current expenses—the sums are respectively £200 and £62, to say nothing of the disproportionate nature of other items enumerated, but not priced.

A collegiate student who has obtained permission to reside entirely in lodgings, is exempt only from such charges as valuation of furniture and room-rent. Establishment and tuition charges he has to pay to his College. His only advantage, therefore, will lie in the skill with which he can economise his personal expenditure. All the other social drains upon his purse are the same as though he lived in college.

What then are the advantages of the non-collegiate student? Pecuniary advantages only—at present. It would be cruel to deceive a lad into the belief that the Oxford of the unattached is the Oxford of which he has heard so much—so bright, easy, and free from care. He has great pecuniary advantages, it is true, but they are coupled with many drawbacks. His life is solitary and hard, and, among the general run of Oxford undergraduates (there is no concealing the fact), at present held in disesteem. It is the ignorance and extravagance of the age that causes this. The majority of collegiate students live far beyond their parents' means, and out of proportion to their future incomes. There is no class so wasteful, so extravagant, so discontented in the matter of food. Wives and mothers will testify this. The pinch comes afterwards, when they are curates and under-masters. It seems so hard to go without a good cigar, or the best wine; to be careful with butter, and not always to eat the prime joints of meat. It is the fault of a vicious system. The non-collegiate student learns the value of money and the cost of living. He wins, in lessons of economy, wisdom, and self-denial, what he loses in a few trifling pleasures. Crusaders cannot expect an easy time. Collegiate education and living ought to be cheaper than non-collegiate. It is not so. If the crusade succeeds—and, to judge from facts, there is every likelihood that it will—students will be able to obtain the best education, the best food, and the greatest comforts in the cheapest market. All this can only be effected by systems kindred to that which has opened Oxford to non-collegiate students. A RESIDENT M.A.

\* The scout is the apportioned servant.

† In the above sums an average has been struck.