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Christopher Wordsworth
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Scholae Academicae

Christopher Wordsworth (1848-1938), was a great-nephew of the poet, and part of a Victorian dynasty of Cambridge academics. In this book, published in 1877, he describes the state of the English universities in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, before the reforms following the 1852 Royal Commission. He reviews the historic areas of study from the arts and mathematics to the 'trivials' - grammar, logic and rhetoric - and discusses the introduction of more recent disciplines such as physics, anatomy, chemistry, mineralogy and botany. His stated aim is to preserve an account of 'the methods and processes of University Study through which were educated the minds which have done so much to make our University and our Country what they are'. A companion volume, Wordsworth's *Social Life at the English Universities in the Eighteenth Century* is also reissued in the Cambridge Library Collection.

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SCHOLAE ACADEMICÆ:

OR

UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN THE EIGHTEENTH
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SCHOLAE ACADEMICÆ:

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE
STUDIES AT THE ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES
IN THE
Eighteenth Century.

BY
CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH, M.A.

RECTOR OF GLASTON, RUTLAND
SOMETIME SCHOLAR OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE
FELLOW OF PETERHOUSE
AUTHOR OF "SOCIAL LIFE AT THE ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES IN THE
EIGHTEENTH CENTURY."

"Antiquam exquirite Matrem."—VERG.

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PREFACE.

No one who has any experience of the working and life of Cambridge can be ignorant how completely we have been removed from Cambridge of half a century ago, or that we have lost almost the last glimpse of what our University, even forty years since, was like.

Not only has she changed, as all that lives must change, but one after another the men of advanced years or of clear memory (such as Dr Gilbert Ainslie, Francis Martin, Sedgwick, Shilleto and Dr Cookson) have passed away, leaving no such memoranda as Gunning or Pryme left, at least none which are at present generally accessible, to tell us what were the methods and processes of University Study through which were educated the minds which have done much to make our University and our Country what they are.

In this quick transition of our academical methods, customs, and institutions, the difficulty becomes intense when we set ourselves to attempt to picture either of our Universities (for the like holds good of *Oxford*¹) at a period removed still further from us by two or three generations.

¹ It is as well here (as elsewhere) to apprise the Reader that in the names of persons or colleges mentioned in this volume the *italic type* has been reserved (except where no confusion was anticipated, e.g. on pp. 140—142, or in a reprint) for those which belong to *Oxford* or some foreign seminary.

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Though I am conscious how unworthy my work is of the Universities, to the knowledge of whose history I desire even remotely to contribute, I have endeavoured to collect in this volume some of the materials which are requisite for a faithful account of Cambridge and *Oxford* in the Eighteenth Century. These lay scattered and isolated, partly in memoirs and miscellaneous publications, and I have taken some pains to bring to light some of the secrets of University history and of literary lore which have lain dormant in manuscripts, known perhaps to a few, and read, it may be, by fewer.

The Table of Contents and the Index will enable the curious to use the volume as a book of reference.

The following method of arrangement has been adopted :

Six chapters (II—VII) are devoted to the history and method of the old Cambridge test and examination for the first degree in Arts, and of mathematics, the study predominant; after which a place is given (ch. VIII) to the ‘*trivials*’ (grammar, logic and rhetoric), which under the more ancient *régime* led the undergraduate on his four years’ march. Classics and Moral Philosophy, the subsidiary studies of the old *Tripes* (X, XI), close this portion of the work.

The elements of professional education are next considered, viz. Law (ch. XI), with which Oxford has taught us to associate modern history, thereby encouraging us to give a place to the complete equipment of a man of the world (XII).

Oriental Studies (XIII) supply so much of the special education of a Divine as can be well divorced from the topic of Religious Life, which is not here under our consideration. The elementary methods of the Physician’s education are described in five chapters (XIV—XVIII) on physics, anatomy, chemistry, mineralogy and botany.

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Special qualification for the second degree in Arts, though barely recognized at Cambridge, was more fully developed at Oxford (XIX); but its antient '*quadrivial*' subjects were either neglected, studied independently as music (XX), or anticipated in the course of astronomy, &c. (XXI).

The concluding chapter (XXII) is miscellaneous and supplementary; while the nine *Appendices* contain documents relating chiefly to old courses and schemes of study, methods of examination and disputations, honorary degrees, Cambridge University Calendars, and the University Press. A collection of undergraduates' letters will probably interest several readers as they have beguiled me in transcribing them.

In producing the present publication I have been enabled, by the generosity of the Syndics of the Cambridge University Press, to complete the second of three works on *University Life and Studies in England during the Eighteenth Century*, which were announced in the Preface to a book on *Social Life*, published by Messrs Deighton, Bell and Co. in 1874, in compliance with the provision for the Le Bas Essay prize.

That the day is not far distant when the materials which I have collected and published already will be worked up and turned to good account by one who is well qualified for the task, I have good reason to hope.

For the present I will record my thanks to the Rev. Professor John E. B. Mayor of S. John's, and to Mr H. Jackson of Trinity, who with great patience and kindness have suggested improvements and corrections while the sheets have been passing through the press: to Mr H. Bradshaw of King's, the University Librarian, and to the past and present Librarians of Gonville and Caius College; to the Rev. H. R. Luard, the University Registry, to Professor T. M^cK. Hughes, Mr J.

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W. L. Glaisher, and the Rev. Ri. Appleton of Trinity, to the Rev. T. G. Bonney of S. John's, to Mr R. L. Bensly of Gonville and Caius, and to Mr J. D. Hamilton Dickson and the Rev. Arthur Lloyd of Peterhouse, as well as to the Rev. Professor J. R. T. Eaton of *Merton*, the Rev. Professor T. Fowler of *Lincoln*, and the Worshipful Walter G. F. Phillimore of *All Souls* College, *Oxon.*, for criticizing or supplementing certain sections or passages; to the Rev. H. G. Jebb, rector of Chetwynd, and to Mr F. Madan, fellow of *Brasenose* College, as well as to Professor John E. B. Mayor, the Rev. W. G. Searle of Queens', and Mr J. W. Clark of Trinity, for their liberality in communicating papers or MS. collections in their possession.

My obligations to books are, I hope, sufficiently expressed in the text and notes of this work, unless it be to Mr Thompson Cooper's *New Biographical Dictionary* (1873), a work of most agreeable comprehensiveness.

CORRIGENDA.

Page	line	from the	for	read
14	13	top	<i>second</i>	<i>third</i>
99	4	„	the bishop's son	prebendary of Salisbury
129	12	„	Bates, W. Emm. and King's,	Bates, W. Emm. and Queens'.
250	3	bottom	1797	1794
251	6	„	Plane Spherical	Plane and Spherical
268		(anno 1715)	Phil. Rouquet	Phil. Bouquet
279		(note)	264 <i>n.</i>	284 <i>n.</i>
297	5	top	care	cure

It is fair to the credit of the Cambridge University Press to state that several grammatical or typographical errors, which may be observed in quotations in this volume, are due not to inadvertence but to exact and careful reproduction of the originals.

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¹ See also pp. 264, 265.² See pp. 266—268.³ See also p. 264.

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¹ The ground or excuse for printing this 17th century document in the present collection will be found stated below on p. 273.

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¹ This tract, or one with the same full title, is ascribed in Watt's *Bibl. Brit.* 985 i. to W. Wotton, D.D., author of *Reflexions on Antient and Modern Learning*, who graduated B.A. at Catharine-hall in 1679, and subsequently gained a fellowship at S. John's and a prebend at Salisbury.