SIXTH AND SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE UNIVERSITIES' SETTLEMENT IN EAST LONDON

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SIXTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Universities' Settlement in East London.



INCOMPORATED UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE COMPANIES' ACT, 1867.

1890.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

By THE REV. SAMUEL A. BARNETT.

In last year's report I set myself to answer the question "What is Toynbee Hall?" and I tried to show how it is in one sense a club, the members of which devote themselves to the duties of citizenship in East London, and how it is in another sense an educational institution, of which the aim is to help others in their search after knowledge. The following report will tell in detail of the development which has gone on, and how last year, both by the harmony of the house and by the extent of our operations, may be ranked as the best year in our five years' life.

Perhaps I may, in the page allowed to me, set myself to answeranother question commonly asked, "How does Toynbee Hall differ from the many Settlements which have lately been started?" The obvious answer is that there is no essential difference. Settlement assumes that men of education settle in some industrial centre, and there undertake the duties which naturally arise. The manner of work done will always be governed by the character of the men who settle, and by the circumstances of the neighbourhood. The fact that some of the residents in Toynbee Hall have been keenly interested in labour movements, others in the management of schools, others in the administration of relief, and others in higher education, and the fact that Toynbee Hall is itself so situated as to be conveniently reached by the inhabitants of both East and West, have really fixed for us our duties. Other settlements starting with different residents, and in a different neighbourhood, will have different duties without being essentially different in aim or method.

There are, however, two characteristics of Toynbee Hall to which I would draw attention. The first is the size of the place, and the second is the broad basis of its membership.

It is important, I think, that a Settlement should contain at least twelve residents. A large body allows more space for the growth of individuality, while it is able to make a more evident mark on a