

Baker Street Elementary
& The Victorian Web

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

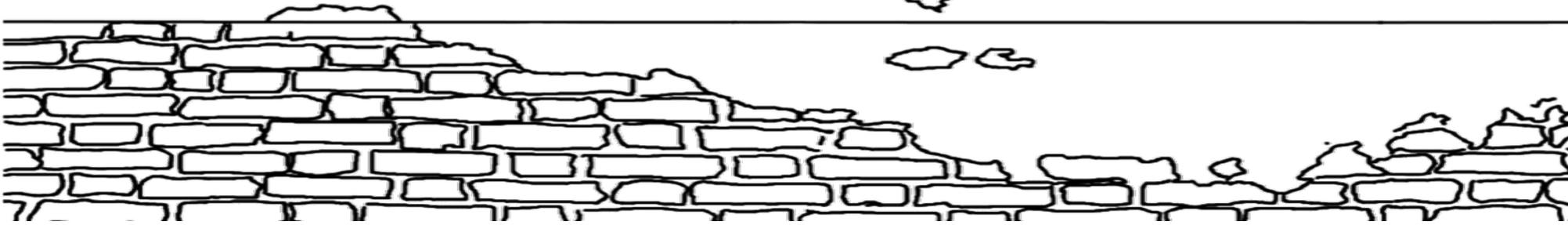


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The Life and Times in Victorian London
87 - Two Years at College - 11/23/2018



In "The Musgrave Ritual," I will note I met Reginald Musgrave while "at university."



Although by the 1870s, several universities will have formed to provide higher education to those not members of the Church of England, "going to university" refers only to Oxford or Cambridge...



*... the only two universities in
England providing the
classical education directed
at the upper classes.*



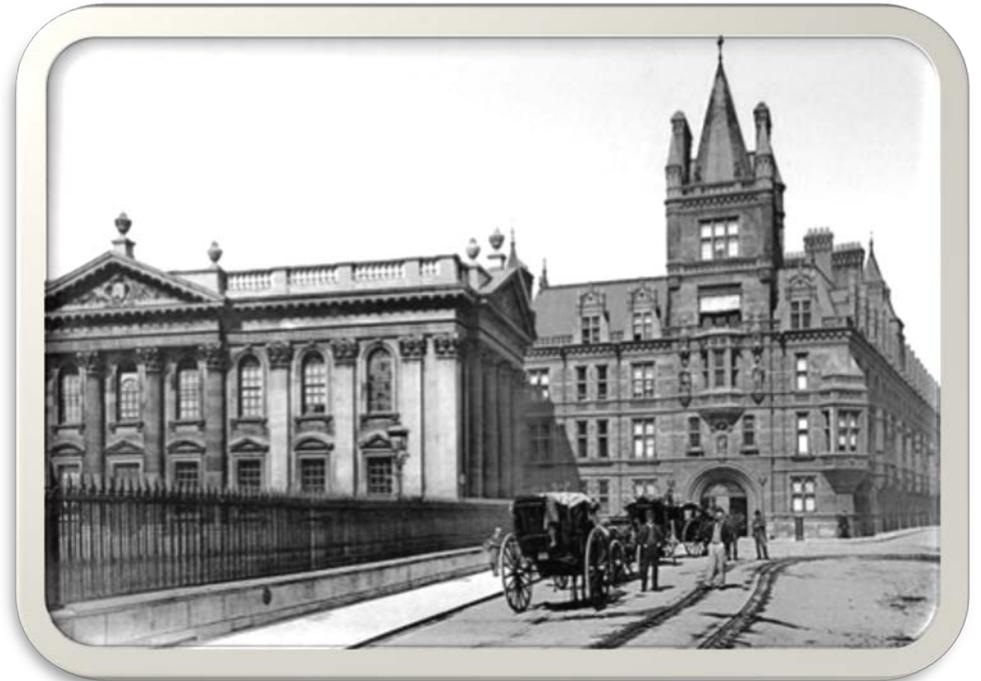
Both universities were founded as religious training institutions, seeking to prepare priests and school teachers.



As time progressed, the training in logic and debate was also recognized as a needed skill for lawyers and administrators needed by the state.



Given its major role as training those destined for the priesthood, church membership was required for those entering the university...



... shifting from the Catholic church to the Anglican church under Henry VIII.



*When I mention Reginald
and I are in the same
college, I am referring to
the universities' composition.*

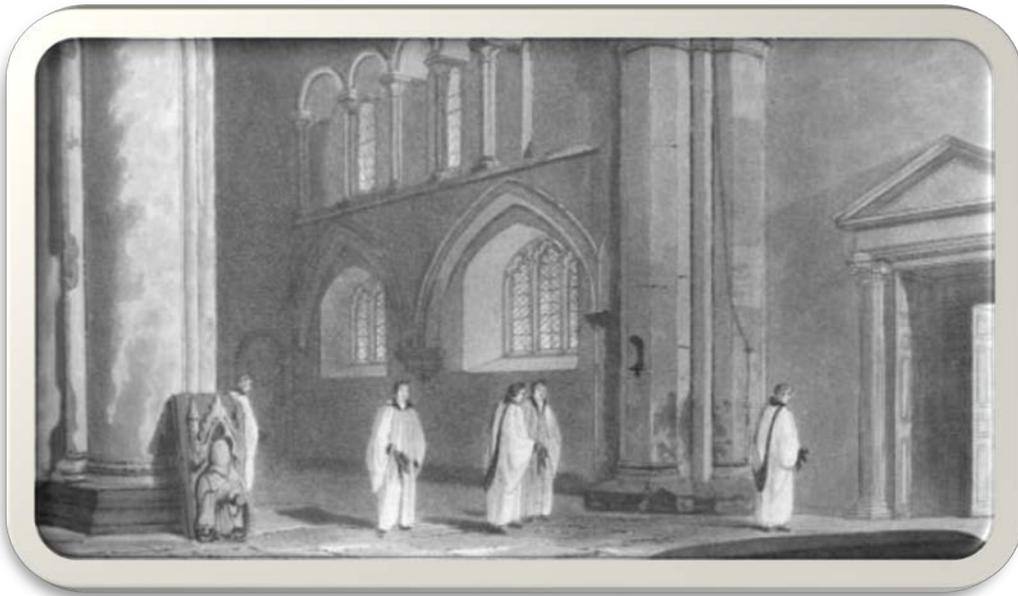


The university is actually a federation of "colleges" (by 2018, 31 at Cambridge and 38 in Oxford), all of which offer similar courses of study with their own lecture halls, housing, and dining facilities.



They are distinguished from one another by each having a unique "flavor," that caters to different populations.

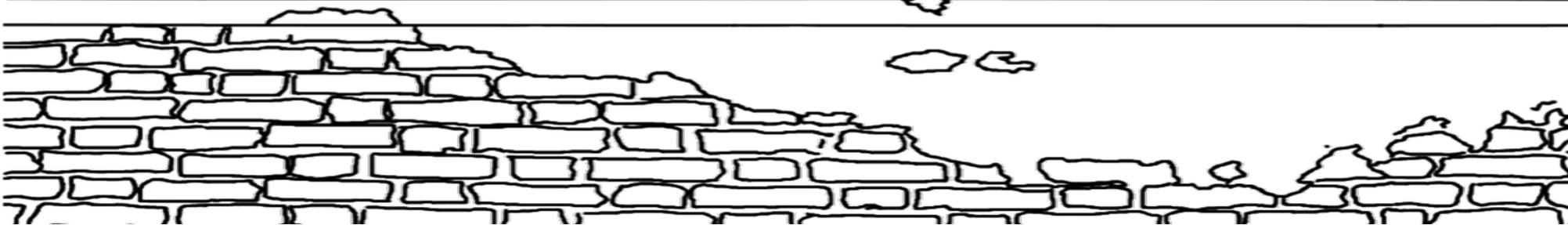
For example, Jesus College at Oxford was founded for Welshmen.



Victorian etiquette proscribed women, particularly those of the middle class, to a very limited set of "respectable" activities: visiting, attending certain cultural events, supporting certain charitable activities, and some recreational outings.



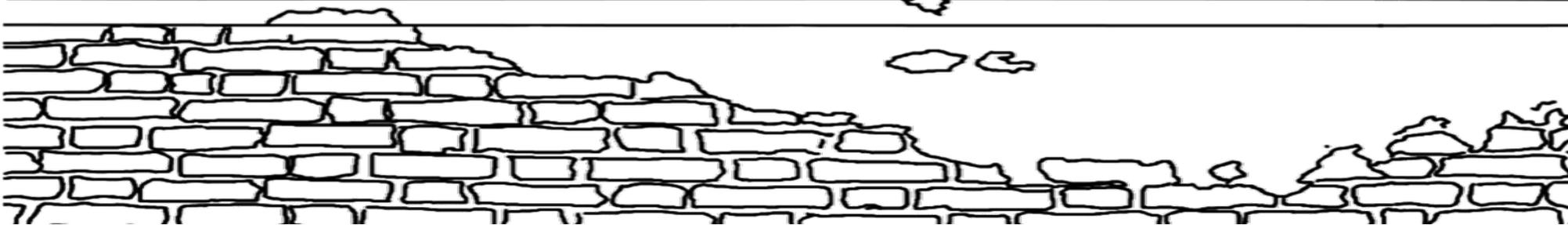
*Oxford is known for classical studies
(Latin and Greek language and literature),
while Cambridge for mathematics.*



One of the most well-known colleges at Oxford is Christ Church, which was a monastery before becoming a seat of learning under Henry VIII.



Its residents have included Albert Einstein, 13 British prime ministers and Lewis Carroll.



*Similarly, Isaac Newton,
Charles Darwin, Charles
Babbage, and Lord Byron
studied at Cambridge.*



The colleges have maintained a great deal of autonomy until the mid-1800s when the university structure develops an examination system.



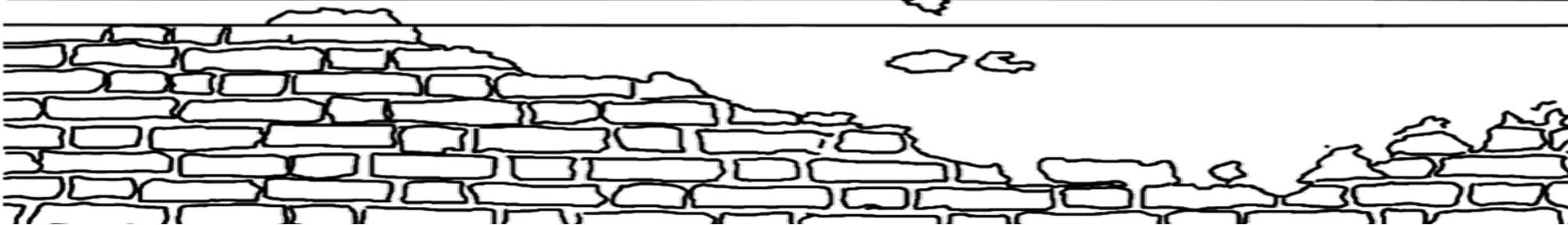
Under the older system, prospects had to apply to each college separately and, once admitted, complete that college's final examinations.



This change was introduced to ensure a minimum standard of knowledge and a more coherent study program.



While "at university," young men's daily schedule involves daily chapel attendance, meeting a few times a week with a tutor (a fellow, or teacher, at the college)...



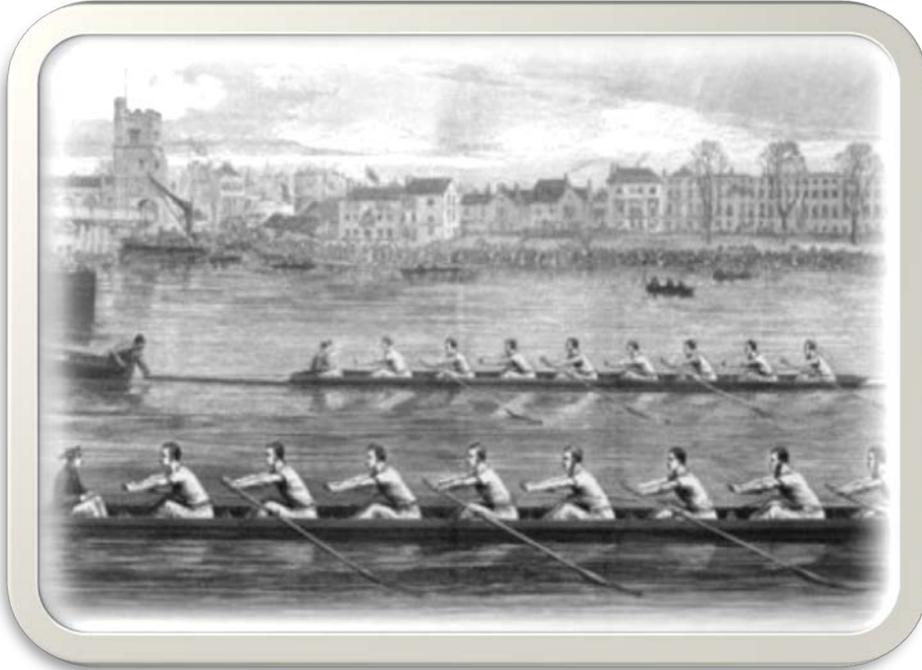
... to discuss an essay or other work prepared by the student, attending the occasional lecture, and a great deal of social time with other students, including sports.



While many equate the two schools, referred to in the combined term of "Oxbridge," a deep rivalry exists between them.



Perhaps the most public friction between the two is the annual Oxford-Cambridge boat race on the Thames...



*... occurring in each spring since 1826
(with some exceptions, such as when
the two World Wars occur.)*



Oxford will win the most recent, in April, 2017, bringing them within two races of Cambridge (80-82).



You mention you will spend only two years at university in "The Adventure of the Gloria Scott," suggesting you will not complete your studies.



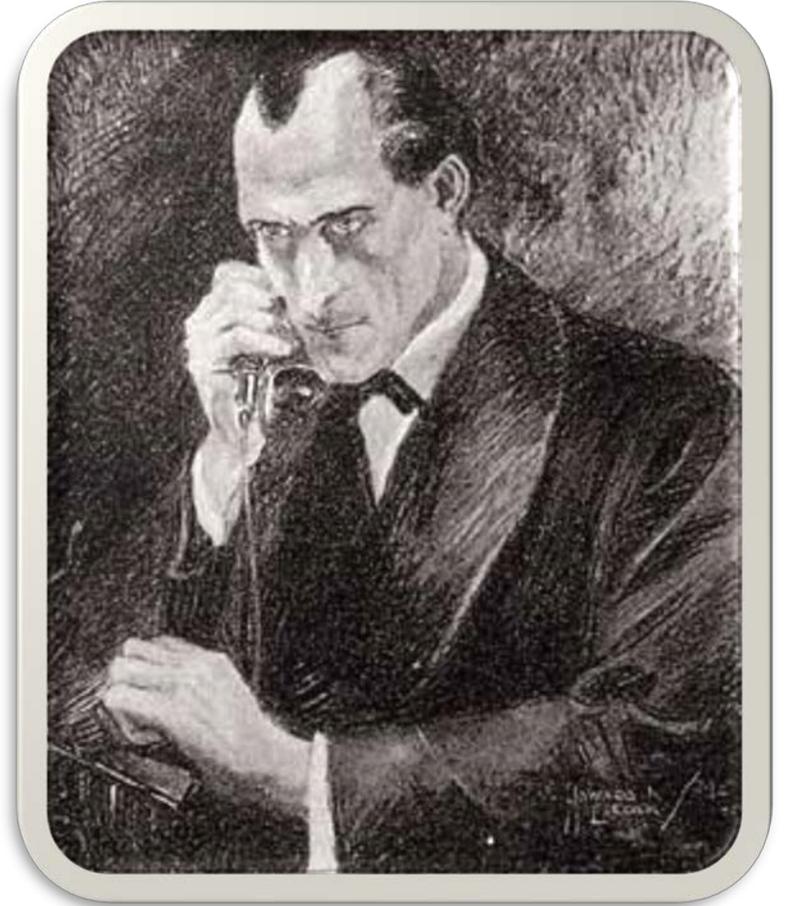
While some students leave because they fail examinations, it is not uncommon for those from elite society to leave after two or three years—once they reach age 21.



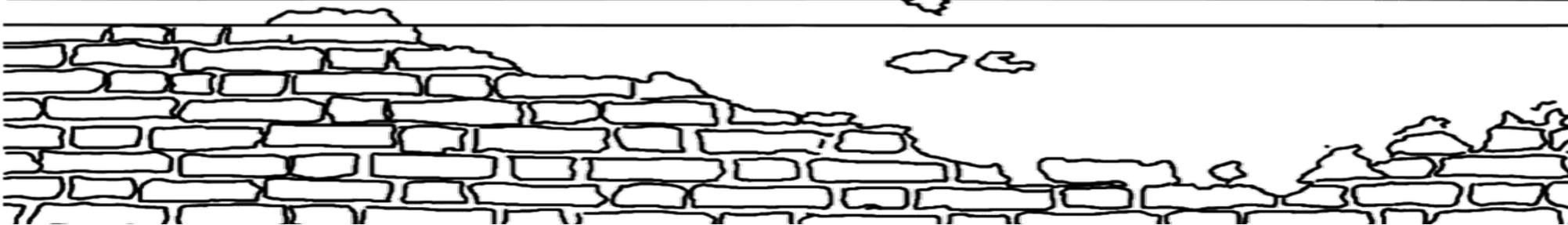
*A degree is not needed
to study for the bar or
enter politics.*



Given your rather private nature and decision to pursue a completely independent career field of consulting detective, your decision to leave will certainly not be out of the ordinary.



*You will be able to hone the skills
needed to become the most famous
of such detectives.*



*So we have completed
topic 87 in our series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back
with another topic
soon...*



Original Source Material for this topic:

- 1) Sally Mitchell, *Daily Life in Victorian England*. Westwood, CT: Greenwood Press, 1996, page 183.
- 2) Robert Anderson, *British Universities: Past and Present*. London: Hambledon Continuum. 2006, page 4
- 3) <http://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/house/about-christ-church>
- 4) https://www.google.com/search?source=hp&ei=brZfWpHmHuKH_QaAuYGgCA&q=cambridge+university+alumi+famous&oq=cambridge+university+alumi
- 5) Sally Mitchell (editor) *Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Garland Publishing, 1988, page 565.
- 6) <https://www.standard.co.uk/sport/oxford-beat-cambridge-to-win-the-2017-varsity-boat-race-a3505181.html>
- 7) Steven Doyle and David Crowder, *Sherlock Holmes for Dummies*, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Publishing, Inc., 2010, page 89.



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"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

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