

GIFT OF THE  
SOCIAL SCIENCES AND  
HUMANITIES RESEARCH  
COUNCIL OF CANADA

1981

01085

nn/25

h30

£30.00

[c. 1806]

Case Robin Waterfield

letter 1/4/81

3436











# OXFORDSHIRE



### HUNDREDS


- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Wootton</li> <li>2 Banbury</li> <li>3 Bloxham</li> <li>4 Chadlington</li> <li>5 Bampton</li> <li>6 Ploughley</li> <li>7 Bullington</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 Thame</li> <li>9 Dorchester</li> <li>10 Ewelme</li> <li>11 Pirton</li> <li>12 Lewknor</li> <li>13 Langtree</li> <li>14 Benfield</li> </ul> |
|--|---|

Statute Miles



*The City is denoted by red, and the respective Hundreds of the County, by different Colours, which distinctions are peculiar to the superior Edition.*





Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2007 with funding from  
Microsoft Corporation

<http://www.archive.org/details/oxfordtopographic00cookuoft>



The County, by different Colours,  
Superior Edition.

TOPOGRAPHICAL  
AND  
STATISTICAL DESCRIPTION  
OF THE  
COUNTY OF OXFORD.

*Containing an Account of its*

Situation,	Minerals,	Agriculture,
Extent,	Fisheries,	Markets,
Towns,	Manufactures,	Curiosities,
Roads,	Commerce,	Antiquities,
Rivers,	Fairs,	Natural History,

Civil and Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, &c.

*To which is prefixed,*

**A COPIOUS TRAVELLING GUIDE;**

*Exhibiting,*

*The Direct and principal Cross Roads,*

*Inns and Distance of Stages,*

*Noblemen's and Gentlemen's Seats.*

*Forming a*

**COMPLETE COUNTY ITINERARY.**

*Also,*

**A LIST OF THE FAIRS;**

*And an Index Table,*

Shewing, at One View, the Distances of all the Towns  
from London, and from each other.

BY GEORGE ALEXANDER COOKE,

*Editor of the Universal System of Geography.*

*Illustrated with*

**A MAP OF THE COUNTY.**

---

London:

Printed for C. COOKE, No. 17, Paternoster Row,  
by Brimmer and Co. Water Lane, Fleet Street,  
And sold by all the Booksellers in  
the United Kingdom.

COUNTY OF DARE

IN SENATE

1887

W. H. ...

# INDEX OF COMPUTED DISTANCES FROM TOWN TO TOWN, Within the County of Oxford,

The names of the respective Towns are to be found on the top and side, and the intersection of the lines gives the distance.

	Bampton,	<i>Distant from London.</i>										Miles,	
Banbury,	31	Banbury,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	71	
Bicester,	22	14	Bicester,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	71	
Barford,	6	24	22	Barford,	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	54	
Chipping Norton,	16	12	19	11	Chipping Norton	.	.	.	.	.	.	72	
Deddington,	25	6	10	19	11	Deddington,	.	.	.	.	.	73	
Henley,	35	43	31	38	41	40	Henley,	.	.	.	.	69	
Islip,	16	20	7	18	16	12	25	Islip,	.	.	.	35	
Oxford,	14	23	12	17	18	17	24	5	Oxford,	.	.	56	
Thame,	26	28	15	31	30	27	16	14	13	Thame,	.	54	
Watlington,	26	36	21	30	32	29	7	17	15	7	Watlington,	44	
Witney,	5	21	17	6	16	17	32	12	11	25	25	46	
Woodstock,	15	15	10	13	11	10	30	6	7	20	22	65	
												7	Woodstock, 62

# INSPECTION TABLE FOR THE COUNTY OF OXFORD.

<i>Bounded by</i>	<i>Extent</i>	<i>Contains</i>	<i>Sends to Parliament</i>	<i>Produce and Manufactures.</i>
<p>Warwickshire and Northamptonshire on the north.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire on the east,</p> <p>Berkshire on the south,</p> <p>And on the west by Gloucestershire.</p>	<p>In length about 48 miles.</p> <p>In breadth 26 miles.</p> <p>In circumference about 130 miles.</p>	<p>14 Hundreds,</p> <p>1 City and University.</p> <p>2 Boroughs.</p> <p>10 Market-towns</p> <p>207 Parishes,</p> <p>21,193 houses,</p> <p>109,620 Inhabitants,</p> <p>450,000 Acres.</p>	<p>9 Members, <i>viz.</i></p> <p>2 for the county,</p> <p>2 for the city.</p> <p>2 for the University.</p> <p>2 for Woodstock.</p> <p>1 for Banbury.</p>	<p>The produce is chiefly like that in most midland farming counties. Much butter and cheese is made, and numerous calves reared for the London market, which it also supplies with great quantities of corn and malt. The principal manufactures are those of blankets at Witney, shag at Banbury, and gloves and polished steel at Woodstock. The employment of the poorer class is lace-making and spinning.</p>

This County is comprised within the diocese of Oxford, and province of Canterbury.

# AN ITINERARY

## of all the DIRECT AND PRINCIPAL CROSS ROADS IN OXFORDSHIRE.

In which are included the STAGES, INNS, and  
GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

*N. B. The first Column contains the Names of Places passed through; the Figures that follow shew the Distances from Place to Place, Town to Town, and Stages; and in the last Column are the names of Gentlemen's Seats and Inns. The right and left of the Roads are distinguished by the letters R and L.*

### JOURNEY FROM CLAYDON TO OXFORD, THROUGH BANBURY AND DEDDINGTON.

CLAYDON to			
Mollington	2	2	
Little Bourton	2	4	
BANBURY	2½	6½	Inns—Red Lion, White
At Banbury on			Lion. About two miles to
R a T. R. to Chip-			the R. Wroton Abbey,
ping Norton; on			Earl of Guildford.
L to Buckingham.			
Weeping Cross	2	8½	
Adderbury	1½	10	Seat of Mrs. Wilkinson.
At Adderbury			
on L a T. R. to			
Buckingham.			
DEDDINGTON	3	13	Inns—King's Arms & Three
At Deddington			Tuns.
on R a T. R. to			Between Deddington and
Chipping Norton,			Hopcroft's Holt, Great
on L to Bucking-			Tew, George F. Strat-
ham.			ton, esq. R. At North
			Aston is a seat of Oldfield,
			Bowles, esq. L; beyond
			which at Middleton Aston



Hopcroft's Holt <i>At Hopcroft's Holt on R a T R. to Westcott Barton. On L to Bicester.</i>	4	17	<i>is the seat of F. Page, esq. L; and a little farther Sir Clement Cotterell Dormer, bart. L.</i>
Sturdis Castle <i>Cross the London Road.</i>	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>Tackley Park, Sir J. W. S. Gardiner, L. Further on is Kirtlington Park, Sir H. W. Dashwood, Bart.; beyond which is Blechington Park, Arthur Annesley, esq.</i>
Kidlington Green <i>Cross the Oxford Canal.</i>	4	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>At Woodstock, Blenheim Park, Duke of Marlborough, R.</i>
OXFORD	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	29	<i>Inns—Angel, King's Arms, Roe Buck, and Star.</i>

JOURNEY FROM OXFORD TO CAVERSHAM,  
THROUGH HENLEY.

OXFORD to Littlemore	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	
Sandford	3 $\frac{3}{4}$	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	
Nuneham Courtenay <i>Between Nuneham Courtenay &amp; Dorchester on R a T. R. to Abingdon.</i>	2	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	<i>The seat of the Earl of Harcourt, R Baldon House, Sir C. Wiltoughby, Bart. L</i>
Dorchester <i>Cross the Thame River</i>	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	8 $\frac{3}{4}$	
Shillingsford <i>On L a T. R. to Aylesbury; on R to Reading.</i>	1 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	<i>On L in the road to Thame and Aylesbury, Newington House, G. White. esq.</i>



Bensington	$1\frac{1}{2}$	12	Brightwell House, W. L. Stone, esq. L
— — —			Mongwell House, Bishop of Durham. R
Beggar's Bush	2	14	
Nuffield Heath	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$16\frac{1}{2}$	Watlington Park, John Til- son, esq. L
<i>At Nuffield heath on R a T. R. to Wallingford.</i>			
Nettlebed	$1\frac{1}{2}$	18	
Bix	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$19\frac{1}{4}$	Grey's Court, Lady Staple- ton, R; and about three miles on L. Stonor Castle, T. Stonor, esq.
Assington Cross	$\frac{3}{4}$	20	
HENLEY	2	22	Inns—Bell, Red Lion, and White Hart. About one mile from Henley, Park Place, Earl of Malms- bury, R
<i>At Henley on R a T. R. to Read- ing; on L to Great Marlow.</i>			Harpsden Court, T. Hall, esq. R.
— — —			
Shiplake	$2\frac{3}{4}$	$24\frac{3}{4}$	Mrs. Fanshaw, and E. Bis- coe, esq.
Caversham	$4\frac{1}{4}$	29	Caversham Park, Major C. Marsuc, R

### JOURNEY FROM BANBURY TO RADCOT BRIDGE,

THROUGH CHIPPING NORTON AND BURFORD.

BANBURY to			Inns—Red Lion, and White Lion.
<i>At Banbury on La T. R. to Buck- ingham, on R to Warwick.</i>			About three miles on L Wark- worth Castle, F. Eyre, esq. and about the same distance on R Wraxton Abbey, Earl of Guildford.
Bloxham	3	3	

			<i>About two miles to the R. Broughton Castle, Lord Say and Sele.</i>
South Newington	1½	4½	
<i>About two miles from South Newington on L a T. R. to Deddington.</i>			
Pumphery Castle	3¼	7¾	<i>Swarford Park, James Smith Barry, esq. R. Great Tew, G. F. Stratton, esq. L</i>
<i>About two miles from Pumphery Castle on R a T. R. to Shipston, on L to Woodstock.</i>			
— — —			<i>Heythorpe. Earl of Shrewsbury, L</i>
CHIPPING NORTON	4¼	12	<i>Inn—White Hart.</i>
<i>At Chipping Norton, on R a T. R. to Moreton-in-the-Marsh.</i>			
Shipton Underwood	7	19	<i>Dowager Lady Reade.</i>
Fullbrook	3	22	<i>Swinbrook, R. Fettiplace, esq. L</i>
<i>At Fullbrook on R a T. R. to Stowe on the Wold.</i>			
<i>Cross the Windrush River</i>			
BURFORD	1	23	<i>Inns—Bull, and George. At Burford, the Priory. J. Lenthall, esq.</i>
<i>At Burford on L a T. R. to Bampton.</i>			
Blackbourton	5	28	
Clanfield	1½	29½	
<i>At Clanfield on</i>			

L a T. R. to Bampton.		
Radcot	$1\frac{1}{4}$	$30\frac{3}{4}$
Radcot Bridge Cross the River Isis, and enter Berkshire.	$\frac{1}{2}$	$31\frac{1}{4}$

### JOURNEY FROM LITTLE ROLLEWRIGHT TO STOKEN CHURCH,

THROUGH WOODSTOCK AND OXFORD.

Little Rollewright to Chapel House	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	H. Dawkins, esq. R
At Chapel-house on L a T. R. to Banbury, $\frac{1}{4}$ mile beyond on R. to Chipping Norton.			
— — —			Heythorpe, Earl of Shrews- bury, L
Enstone	$3\frac{3}{4}$	$6\frac{1}{4}$	At Enstone some curious water-works.
Kiddington	$2\frac{3}{4}$	9	Glympton Park, Miss Wheats, L Ditchely Park, Lord Dillon.
At Kiddington on L a T. R. to Wheatley Bridge. Two miles beyond Kiddington on R a T. R. to Witney.			
WOODSTOCK	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$13\frac{1}{4}$	Inns — Bear, and Marl- borough Arms. Blenheim House and Park, Duke of Marlborough. R
Begbrook	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$15\frac{3}{4}$	
Yarnton	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$17\frac{1}{4}$	
Cross the Oxford Canal.			
Wolvercot	$1\frac{1}{2}$	$18\frac{3}{4}$	

OXEORD

Cross the River  
Charwell.

On R a T. R.  
to Henley.

St. Clement's

Beyond St. Cle-  
ment's on L a T. R.  
to Wheatly, by  
Shotover Hill.

Headington

Wheatley

Wheatley Bridge  
Near Wheatley  
Bridge on L a T.  
R. to Islip.

Cross the Thame  
River.

The Three Pid-  
geons

At the Three  
Pidgeons on R a  
T. R. to Walling-  
ford, on L to  
Thame.

Tetsworth

Postcombe

A little beyond  
Postcombe, on L a  
T. R. to Thame.

Stoken Church

Near Stoken  
Church, on R a T  
R. to Marlow.

21 $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{3}{4}$  $\frac{1}{2}$ 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ 23 $\frac{1}{4}$ 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ 26 $\frac{3}{4}$ 

1

27 $\frac{3}{4}$ 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ 30 $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ 

33

1 $\frac{3}{4}$ 34 $\frac{3}{4}$ 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ 

39

Inns—Angel, King's Arms,  
Roe Buck, and Star.

Headington House, Mrs.  
Jones.

Shotover House, G. Schutz,  
R.

Holton House and Park, H.  
Whorwood, esq. L

Ricot Park, Earl of Abing-  
don, L. Hon. Andrew  
Foley, R

Sir Wm. H. Ashurst, Knt. L

Lord Charles Spencer, R.  
On Lin the road to Thame,  
Thame Park, P. Wick-  
ham, esq.

Rowant Aston, General  
Calland, L. Sherborne  
Castle, Earl of Maccles-  
field, R. Wormsley, J.  
Fane, esq. R

JOURNEY FROM COTESFORD TO OXFORD,  
THROUGH MIDDLETON STONEY.

Cotesford to Ardley	4	4	
<i>Between Cotesford and Ardley, on R a T. R. to Adderbury; on L to Bicester.</i>			
Middleton Stoney	2½	6½	Middleton Park, Earl of Jersey, R
<i>At Middleton Stoney on R a T. R. to Wescott Barton; on L to Bicester.</i>			
Weston-on-the-Green	3	9½	Kirtlington Park, Sir Henry Dashwood, Bart. R
<i>On L a T. R. to Bicester, and about one mile and a half farther on R a T. R. to Wotton, and on L to Islip.</i>			Blechington Park, A Annesley. esq. R
Gosford Bridge	4	13½	
<i>Cross the Charwell River</i>			
Kidlington Turnpike	2	15½	
OXFORD	3	18½	

JOURNEY FROM BURFORD TO EVERSHAM,  
THROUGH WITNEY.

BURFORD to Witney	7	7	John Lenthall, esq. L. Swinbrook, A. Fettiplace, esq. L
<i>Between Bur-</i>			

*ford and Witney  
on R a T. R. to  
Abingdon.*

*Cross the River  
Windrush*

*Newland Turn-  
pike*

*At Newland  
Turnpike on L a T  
R. to Woodstock.*

*Eynsham*

$\frac{1}{2}$

$7\frac{1}{2}$

5

$12\frac{1}{2}$

*Eynsham Hall, Mrs. Duber-  
ley, L*

END OF THE ITINERARY.



A

CORRECT LIST OF ALL THE FAIRS  
IN  
OXFORDSHIRE.

- Bampton.*---Aug. 26, horses and toys.
- Banbury*—Thursday after Jan. 17, horses, cows, and sheep; first Thursday in Lent, ditto, and fish; second Thursday before Easter, cattle and sheep; Ascension day, Thursday in Trinity week, Old Lammas Day, horses, cows, and sheep; Thursday after Oct. 1, hogs and cheese, and hiring servants; Old St. Luke's Day, cheese, hops, and cattle; second Thursday before Christmas.
- Bicester.*—Friday in Easter week, Whit-Monday, first Friday in June, Aug. 5, December 17, for horses, cows, sheep, pigs, wool, toys, &c.; Friday after Old St. Michael, Oct. 10, for hiring servants.
- Burford.*—Last Saturday in April, cattle and sheep; July 5, horses, sheep, cows, and small ware; September 25, cheese and toys.
- Charlbury.*—January 1, second Friday in Lent, second Friday after May 12, except it falls on a Friday, and then the Friday following, cattle of all kinds; October 10, cheese, and all sorts of cattle.
- Chipping Norton.*—March 7, May 6, last Friday in May, July 18, September 4, October 3, statute; November 8, last Friday in November, horses, cows, sheep, lambs, leather, and cheese.
- Deddington.*—August 21, horses and cows; Saturday after Old St. Michael, October 10, statute fair; November 22, horses, cows, and swine.
- Dorchester.*—Easter Tuesday, for pleasure.
- Henley.*—March 7, chiefly horses; Holy Thursday, sheep; Thursday, after Trinity Sunday, horses, &c.; Thursday se'nnight before Oct. 10, cheese.
- Hook-Norton.*—Second Tuesday

- Tuesday after May 12; November 23, horses & cows.
- Nettlebed.*—Monday after St. Luke, October 18; Tuesday se'night after Whitsuntide, small fairs, chiefly toys, &c.
- Oxford*—May 3, Monday after St. Giles; September 1, and Thursday before New Michaelmas, for toys, and small ware.
- Stokenchurch.*—July 10, horses.
- Thame.*—Easter Tuesday, cattle of all sorts; Old Michaelmas, October 10, horses, fat hogs, and hiring servants.
- Watlington.*—April 5, Saturday before October 10, cattle and hiring servants.
- Wheatley.*—September 29, cattle of all sorts, and hiring servants.
- Witney.*—Thursday in Easter week, cattle of all sorts; April 5, June 29, August 2, cattle; November 23, cattle and cheese.
- Woodcot, near Henley.*—August 2, Monday after November 11, sheep, &c.
- Woodstock.*—April 5, cheese, cattle, and sheep; Tuesday in Whitsun week, horses, hardware, pleasure, &c.; August 2, cherries, &c.; October, 2 a great fair for cheese; Tuesday after November 1, cattle, sheep, and cheese; December 17, fat hogs and other cattle; second Tuesday after Candlemas-day, a very large market for cattle.



GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF  
THE COUNTY OF OXFORD.

SITUATION, BOUNDARIES, EXTENT, AND CLIMATE.

**O**XFORDSHIRE is an inland county, being bounded on the north by Warwickshire and Northamptonshire, on the east by Buckinghamshire, on the south by Berkshire, and on the west by Gloucestershire. In shape it is very irregular, and extends in length about 48 miles, and in breadth 26; its circumference being about 130 miles, and containing 450,000 acres of land. The air is reckoned as healthy as that of any other county in England, for the soil, which is naturally dry, being free from bogs, fens, and stagnant waters, and abounding with quick limpid streams, necessarily render the air clear and wholesome.

NAME AND ANCIENT HISTORY.

This county receives its name from the city of Oxford, which is generally supposed to have originated from the Saxon word *Oxenford*, signifying a ford or passage for oxen over the river at this place; some writers, however, have supposed that the ancient name of the city was *Ousford*, a ford over the *Ous*, a name by which the river Isis appears to have been known. Oxfordshire was anciently inhabited by the *Dobuni*; but on the invasion of Britain by the Romans, it was annexed to the province of *Flavia Cæsariensis*. During the Heptarchy it belonged to *Mercia*; and suffered greatly from the barbarities committed by the Danes; but after the Norman conquest it was divided among such of the barons as had signalized themselves at the battle of *Hastings*.

POPULATION, &c.

The population of this county consisted, according to the late returns, of 109,620 persons, viz. 53,786 males, and 55,834 females; of whom 16,346 were

returned as being employed in trade, manufacture, or handicraft, and 33,109 in agriculture. Oxfordshire returns nine members to parliament, viz. two for the county, two for the city, two for the university, two for Woodstock, and one for Banbury.

### RIVERS.

The principal rivers of this county are the Thames or Isis, the Charwell, the Evenlode, the Windrush, and the Tame. The \*Thames or Isis, which washes the southern part of this county, forming a boundary between Oxford and Berkshire, rises in Gloucestershire, and becomes navigable at Lechdale, from whence it runs north-east to Oxford, where it receives the Charwell; from whence running south-east after passing by Abingdon, flows to Dorchester, where it is joined by the Thame, from whence it passes by Wallingford to Reading; flowing through the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Surry, Middlesex, Essex, and Kent, and, after receiving several tributary streams in its course, it forms a junction with the Medway at the Nore, where both combined are lost in the German Ocean.

The Charwell rises in Northamptonshire, and enters Oxford near Claydon, a village on the northern extremity of the county; whence it runs to the south by Banbury, and falls into the Thames or Isis, a little below Oxford.

The Evenlode rises in the north-east part of Worcestershire, near a town of its own name, not far from Stowe-in-the-Would, a market-town in Gloucestershire; and, running south-east, enters Oxfordshire, not far from the shire-stones; and passing by Charlbury, falls into the Thames, about four miles above Oxford.

The Windrush rises in Coteswold Hills, in Gloucestershire; and running south-east enters Oxford-

\* A more particular account of this river has already been given in our description of Berkshire.

CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS. 17  
shire, not far from Burford, and passing by Witney, falls into the Thames at North Moor, a village about five miles to the west of Oxford.

The Thame rises near Tring in Hertfordshire, and crossing Buckinghamshire, touches the borders of Oxfordshire, at a town of its own name, whence it runs westward for four miles, forming a boundary between these two counties; and then directing its course to the southward, falls into the Thames, a little below Dorchester.

Besides these rivers, Dr. Plot, in his Natural History of Oxfordshire, reckons that there are no less than 70 considerable though inferior streams, that water this county.

#### CANAL.

The Coventry and Oxford Canal is 92 miles in extent, and proceeds out of the Grand Trunk, at a place called Fradley Heath to Faseley, where there is a cut to Birmingham. From Faseley it is carried to Atherstone, with 87 feet rise, and passing by Coventry and Hill Morton on a level, is continued to Marston Doles, with a rise of 76 feet; whence it proceeds to Oxford, where it joins the Thames, having in the last 30 miles a fall of 186 feet.

#### CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL DIVISIONS.

This county is divided into 14 hundreds, viz. Bampton, Banbury, Binfield, Bloxham, Bullington, Chadlington, Dorchester, Ewelme, Langtree, Lewknor, Pirton, Ploughley, Thame, and Wooton, having one city and university, two boroughs, viz. Banbury and Woodstock, and 10 market-towns, 207 parishes, and 21,193 houses. The diocese of Oxford is in the province of Canterbury, and is limited to this county.

TOPOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION OF  
OXFORDSHIRE.

*Journey from Claydon to Oxford; through Banbury  
and Deddington.*

**T**HE village of CLAYDON is situated at the northern extremity of the county, about one mile and a half from the turnpike road, and 78 from London, it contains 44 houses, and 235 inhabitants.— This village is noted for a small spring, which flows all the year, but most plentifully in the driest weather. A little to the eastward of this spring are three stones, called three shire stones, one of them being situated in this county, another in Northamptonshire, and the third in Warwickshire.

At CLATTERCOTE, a small village near Claydon, was anciently a priory of Gilbertine monks, founded in the reign of King John. Part of this ancient structure is still standing, having been converted into a dwelling-house.

About two miles to the south-west of Claydon, and on the right of the turnpike road, is the village and part of the parish of MOLLINGTON, the remaining part being in the parish of Farnborough, in the county of Warwick; Mollington, which is situated 76 miles from London, contains 38 houses, and 322 inhabitants.

Proceeding southwards, at the distance of about two miles from the last-mentioned village, we pass through Little Bourton, a hamlet belonging to GREAT BOURTON, situated about half a mile northward, and containing 93 houses and 483 inhabitants.

About one mile to the east of Bourton, is the village of CROPREDY, containing 105 houses, and 470 inhabitants; and about one mile farther eastward, is the township of WARDINGTON, containing 121 houses, and 554 inhabitants.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance

tance of two miles and a half from Bourton, we arrive at BANBURY, a borough and market-town, situated on the river Charwell, being 75 miles and a half from London. This town was incorporated by Queen Mary, in return for its adherence to her against Lady Jane Grey, but its privileges were greatly enlarged by James II. and it obtained a new charter from George I. being now governed by a mayor, high steward, recorder, six burgesses and thirty assistants, a town-clerk, and two sergeants at mace; and returns one member to parliament. A castle was built here in the year 1125, by Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, which was entirely destroyed in the civil wars of Charles I. The Church is large, though not handsome, having lately been rebuilt; besides which there are two meeting-houses for protestant dissenters, a Free School, two Charity Schools, and several Almshouses. The principal manufacture is plush, or shag cloth, most of which is exported to Portugal. The pasture land hereabouts is particularly good, and the town was noted even in Camden's time for its good cheese, as it now is for its cakes and ale. In the adjacent field Roman coins have frequently been discovered, and the *Pyrites Aureus*, or golden fire-stone, is found in great quantities. The weekly market on Thursday is reckoned the best in the county for corn, cattle, and all kinds of provisions; besides which it has seven annual fairs; those for hiring servants being called *Mop fairs*.

The town of Banbury, according to the late returns, contained 525 houses, and 2,755 inhabitants, of whom 667 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture.

About one mile to the north-west of Banbury, is the small village of DRAYTON, beyond which is the parish of WROXTON, situated 78 miles from London; and containing 128 houses, and 613 inhabitants; adjoining this village is WROXTON PRIORY, now a seat



seat of the Earl of Guildford. It was founded by Michael Belet, an ecclesiastic in the reign of King John, for canons of the order of St. Augustine, valued in the survey, 26 Henry VIII. at 78l. 13s. 4½d. It afterwards became the property of Sir T. Pope, founder of Trinity College, Oxford, and by him given to that foundation; of them it is held by the Earl of Guildford, and used by him as a residence.

About one mile to the north-east of the last-mentioned place is the village of HANWELL, containing 49 houses, and 264 inhabitants.

A short distance to the north-west of Hanwell, are the villages of HORLEY and HORNTON, the former of which contains 62 houses, and 269 inhabitants, and the latter 100 houses, and 485 inhabitants.

Returning to the turnpike-road, at the distance of two miles from Banbury, to the right of our road, is the village of BODDICOE, containing 127 houses, and 574 inhabitants. One mile to the south of which we pass through the pleasant village of ADDERBURY, containing (including the hamlet of the same name) 200 houses, and 1144 inhabitants. This village was formerly respectable for a number of noble and genteel inhabitants, as there are several seats in it, among which is the noble modern-built mansion of the Duke of Buccleugh, who is lord of the manor; and another fine old house, formerly the seat of the Cobbs, Barts. with several other good old houses, but neither of the two former are inhabited, except by servants.

Proceeding southward, at the distance of three miles from the last-mentioned village, is the ancient town of DEDDINGTON, formerly a corporation town, and in the reigns of Edward I. and III. sent members to parliament, but never since. It is at present governed by a bailiff chosen annually. The church is a large and handsome structure, with a strong tower,

tower, in which is a ring of six new well-toned bells. It is said here was formerly a castle, to which the Earl of Pembroke conducted Piers de Gaveston, and there abandoned him to the fury of his enemies; of this castle, however, there are no vestiges remaining. Here is a good Charity School; and a market on Saturday, with three annual fairs. In the neighbourhood are two noted springs, celebrated for their medicinal virtues: one of which is strongly impregnated with sulphur; and in digging of it was found the stone called pyrites argenteus, and a bed of belemnites, commonly called thunder bolts; and out of it has since been taken the silver marcasite, of a glistening colour. The Oxford Canal passes near this place, which is of great advantage to the inhabitants, having considerably reduced the price of coals. The town is particularly famous for the goodness of its malt liquor, from whence it has obtained the appellation of *Drunken Deddington*. It is situated 69 miles from London, and contains 232 houses, and 1,172 inhabitants.

About two miles to the north-west of Deddington, is the village of BARFORD, containing 60 houses, and 195 inhabitants.

On leaving Deddington, and proceeding southward, at the distance of about two miles, we pass by the villages of DUNS TEW, and NORTH ASTON, the former of which is situated to the right of the road, and contains 58 houses, and 318 inhabitants; and the latter, to the left, contains 49 houses, and 220 inhabitants. At this village is a seat belonging to Oldfield Bowles, Esq.

To the south of the last-mentioned place, are the villages of MIDDLE and STEEPLE ASTON, the latter of which contains 70 houses, and 333 inhabitants; and the former only 20 houses, and 90 inhabitants. Near this village is a petrifying spring, the water of which cases the grass, moss, and other vegetable substances in its way, with a stony kind of slime, which,

which, while it hardens, consumes the substance it has fastened upon, so that nothing but the petrifying case remains.

Returning to the turnpike-road, and proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of about eight miles from Deddington, we pass by the village of TACKLEY, situated to the left of the road, and containing 82 houses, and 369 inhabitants.— About four miles beyond which is the village of KIDLINGTON, containing 123 houses, and 657 inhabitants. About five miles from hence, and 17 from Deddington, we arrive at the city of

### OXFORD,

Pleasantly seated on a rising eminence, in the midst of meadows, at the conflux of the rivers Isis and Charwell. The antiquity of this city is very great, and it is even asserted by some ancient writers, to have been built by Memphric, king of the Britons, 1009 years before the Christian æra; it was formerly surrounded with walls, and defended by a strong castle, and appears to have been burnt four times by the Danes; but on its surrender to William the Conqueror, in the year 1067, it was given to Robert D'Oyley, who rebuilt the walls and castle in the year 1071, which from its ruins appears to have been of great extent and strength. In this castle the Empress Maud was so closely besieged by King Stephen, that she was forced to escape by night across the frozen Thames, through his army, and afterwards travel six miles on foot, in a deep snow. All the remains of this castle are the tower, diminishing as it ascends, and serving for a county gaol; the moat, with a vaulted magazine, now a store-cellar; and part of a wall, ten feet thick. In the court are the remains of the hall, where was held in the year 1577, the Black Assize, so called from an infectious distemper brought by  
the



the prisoners, whereof nearly 100 persons died.— Some remains of a palace, built by Henry the First, on a spot called Beaumont, are likewise visible at the western part of the town. In this palace Richard I. surnamed Cœur de Lion was born. The principal monastic establishments in this city were St. Frideswide's and Oseney Abbies; but on the Dissolution of religious houses, Henry VIII. in the year 1542, converted Oxford into a see, extending over the county, which formerly was included in the diocese of Lincoln.

The present circuit of Oxford, including the suburbs, is about three miles, though that part of the town properly denominated the city, and originally enclosed with walls, is not more than two miles in circumference, and of an oblong figure. The suburbs are most considerable on the north, east, and west sides; the walls, from that part of them, which remains as a boundary to New College on the north and east, appear to have been embattled with bastions at 150 feet distance from each other. The walls likewise with their battlements. serve as a fence to Merton College on the south and east; besides which a few detached fragments of them are discernable at other places.

The principal street, called High Street, is said to be the most beautiful in the world, both for length, breadth, and elegance of sweep. It derives its principal grandeur from the fronts of three magnificent colleges, and two churches, besides many handsome private buildings; and every turn presents a new set of objects, till the last terminates in Magdalen College Tower, and a noble bridge over the Charwell: this street, under different names, runs the whole length of the city, from east to west.

The next considerable street, called Fish Street, leads from Carfax to Folly Bridge, over the Isis, on  
which

which formerly stood a turret, called Friar Bacon's Study. This street is adorned with the stately front of Christ Church, which is extended to the length of 382 feet. Here is also the Town-hall, where the assizes for the county, and the city and county sessions are held; it is a neat and commodious edifice, and partly erected at the expence of Thomas Rowney, Esq. the late representative and high-steward of the city.

St. Giles' Street is of extraordinary breadth, and from the trees on both sides, has the appearance of an elegant village. On the east side stands St. John's College; and the town, as well as the street, is terminated at this end by St. Giles' Church.

At the north-west part of the town is the Radcliffe Infirmary, which is built of hewn stone, upon the plan of the County Hospital at Gloucester; this edifice was erected by the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe's benefaction, out of the surplus money remaining, after defraying the expence of his library; it was begun in the year 1759, and was opened in the year 1770; and is supported by a very liberal annual subscription.

In a field, immediately to the north of the Infirmary, stands the Astronomical Observatory, begun in the year 1771, and finished at the expence of 30,000*l.* under the directions of the trustees of Dr. Radcliffe's estate. The field in which it is erected, consisting of 10 acres, was given by the Duke of Marlborough for the purpose. The edifice is 175 feet six inches in length from east to west; its breadth at each wing 24 feet; and in the centre 57 from north to south, exclusive of an elegant portico in the south front, which projects about six feet from the building; the wings are 22 feet in height to the top of the moulding, between the wings and the north front, springs a semicircle, the radius of which is about 37 feet, and its height from the ground 51 feet, which includes the hall, with

two adjoining libraries on the ground-floor; the staircase and the lecture room, with two adjoining rooms, on the next story. The third story consists of an octangular tower (executed after the model of the celebrated temple of the eight winds at Athens), the elevation of which, including the figure of Atlas, placed on the roof, is upwards of 50 feet; so that the height of the central part of this building is more than 100 feet. The eastern wing contains, in three rooms, a very complete set of astronomical instruments, fixed in the plane of the meridian, all made by the late celebrated artist Mr. John Bird, at the expence of more than 1,100*l.* consisting of two quadrants, each of eight feet radius, a transit instrument of eight feet, and a zenith sector of twelve; in the western wing is placed a set of smaller instruments for the use of the students, and such gentlemen as chuse to apply themselves to practical astronomy. The dwelling-house for the professor is commodiously connected with the western wing of the observatory, by an elegant covered way; the present professor of astronomy, Thomas Hornsby, D. D. was appointed to that situation in the year 1763. Towards the lower part of the field stands a small circular building, with a moveable roof, in which is placed an equatorial sector, for the purposes of observing the places of the heavenly bodies at any distance from the meridian. His grace the Duke of Marlborough, at the same time that he gave to the Radcliffe trustees the piece of ground for the several purposes of this observatory, also presented to the University a reflecting telescope of twelve feet, made by the late James Short, which is said to have cost upwards of 1000*l.* for the reception of this instrument a detached building, with a moveable roof, is intended to be erected. The situation of this observatory is extremely advantageous, as it commands an extensive horizon, and is scarcely ever incommoded by

the smoke of the city. The whole of this elegant structure was executed under the inspection of the ingenious Mr. Wyatt.

The principal bridges are Magdalen Bridge, over the Charwell, being 520 feet in length; at the foot of which stands Magdalen College, situated at the entrance of the town from the London road; High Bridge, or Hithe Bridge, in the western suburb, over the Isis, consisting of three arches; and Folly Bridge over the same river, in the southern suburb, leading to Abingdon in Berkshire; and likewise consisting of three arches. The whole of these bridges are entirely built with stone.

On the latter bridge, as before observed, formerly stood a tower, which, says Mr. Grose, tradition relates to have been the study of Friar Bacon, an eminent mathematician, who lived in the latter end of the 13th century, and whose superior abilities (such was the ignorance and superstition of the times) brought on him the imputation of being a magician. Among other ridiculous stories told of him, it is said that by his art he so constructed this his study, that it will fall whenever a more learned man than himself shall pass under it.

The city of Oxford, with its suburbs and liberties, contains fourteen parishes, viz. St. Mary's, All Saints, St. Martin's, or Carfax, St. Aldgate's, St. Ebb's, St. Peter's in the East, Holywell, St. Giles's, St. Thomas's, St. John's, and St. Clements. The most remarkable of these churches are St. Mary's, All Saints, St. Peter's, and St. John's.

St. Mary's, where the University resort to attend divine service, is situated on the north of the High Street, and is a finely-proportioned Gothic pile.—It was rebuilt in the reign of Henry VII. and consists of three aisles, with a spacious choir or chancel, which is separated from the nave by an organ, with its gallery. The pulpit is placed in the centre of the middle aisle, and at the west end of the same  
aisle

aisle is situated the vice-chancellor's throne, below which are accommodations for the different ranks and degrees of the students. On the west end, with a return to the north and south, are galleries for the under graduates, and batchelors of arts. The tower, with its spire, is a noble and beautiful fabric, 180 feet in height, and richly ornamented with pinnacles, niches, and statues, which, according to Plott, were added by King, the first bishop of Oxford, in the reign of Henry VIII. It contains six remarkably large bells, by which notice is given for the scholastic exercises, convocations, &c. On the south side is a portal of more modern structure, erected in the year 1637, by Dr. Owen, chaplain to archbishop Laud. Over it is a statue of the Virgin, with an infant Christ, holding a small crucifix; which last circumstance was formed into an article of impeachment against the archbishop by the Presbyterians, and urged as a corroborative proof of his attachment to popery. The choir above-mentioned was built about the year 1462, by Walter Hart, bishop of Norwich. The room on the north side of this choir, formerly a library, has lately been converted into a law-school, for the lectures of the Vinerian professor.

The Church of All Saints, situated on the same side of the street, is an elegant modern structure, beautified both within and without with Corinthian capitals, and finished with an attic story and balustrade. There is no pillar in the church, though it is 72 feet long, 42 wide, and 50 high. The spire, and the whole of the internal as well as external decorations, are completed in the finest style of architecture, from a design of Dr. Aldrich, formerly dean of Christchurch.

St. Peter's in the East, adjoining the High Street, is an ancient pile, partly built by St. Grymbald, 800 years since, and reported to be the first church of stone that appeared in this part of England. It



was formerly the University church, but it is now attended by that respectable body only in the afternoon, during Lent. The tower and east ends are curious pieces of antiquity. In the year 1760 this church was beautified at the expence of the parish, and in the year 1768, by a liberal subscription of the inhabitants, a new organ was erected.

The Church of St. John is a majestic Gothic edifice, with a tower, in which are eight bells. Its choir or inner chapel is the longest of any in the University, that of New College excepted. It had once an organ, yet without any regular institution for choir service, before the present stalls and wainscot were put up. The painted glass and the design of the east window, which is by a modern hand, is particularly handsome. The anti-chapel is proportionably spacious, and was originally much larger. Near the altar are the monuments of Sir Thomas Bodley and Sir Henry Saville; and on the right hand of the choir door is that of the late warden Dr. Wintle, and his sister, which is handsomely executed. This church, according to a manuscript of Wood, was built about the year 1424; but it does not appear by what benefactor. The other churches are neither remarkable for beauty or magnitude, and therefore we forbear to review them.

In consequence of an act of parliament obtained in the 11th year of his Majesty, many elegant and useful improvements have been made in this city during the present reign: among which the following are deserving of notice. The narrow and inconvenient passage at Eastgate has been opened, which renders this part equal to the magnificence of the High Street; and in the year 1779, a new stone bridge, at this entrance of the town, was erected at the expence of upwards of 8,000*l.* At Carfax, in the very centre of the city, many buildings have been removed, in order to continue the principal street,

street, which leads to the Botley road, now completely finished, on a superb plan, as it contains no less than seven bridges, built with hewn stone, in the compass of one mile. Northgate, usually called Bocardo, the only city gate of late years remaining, has also been pulled down; so that the Corn Market and St. Giles's, being now connected, are thrown into one long and noble street. A new general market upon an extensive scale, has likewise been erected, between the High Street and Jesus' College Lane; this market is universally allowed to exceed every thing of the kind in this kingdom. At the south entrance from the High Street, it contains several commodious shops for butchers. North of these are others equally commodious, occupied by gardeners, &c. between which are two spacious colonnades for poultry, eggs, bacon, cheese, &c. &c. divided into stalls; and beyond these, extending quite to Jesus' College Lane, is a large area for country gardeners, fruit, and divers other commodities. There are likewise three avenues running through in direct lines, intersected by another in the middle, affording a free currency of air; and in the front four elegant and commodious houses have been erected, which give an additional ornament to this street, which is allowed to be one of the finest in Europe. The open part of the market, fronting Jesus' College, is inclosed by an iron palisade; and the avenues opening upon the new parade in the High Street are secured by iron gates. The whole extent of the ground appropriated to the purpose of erecting this market is from north to south 347 feet, and from east to west 112. The markets are on Wednesdays and Saturdays; it has likewise an annual fair on the first of September, but which may be considered as merely nominal.

The municipal government of the city is vested in a mayor, high steward, recorder, four aldermen, eight assistants, two bailiffs, a town-clerk, two cham-

berlains, and 24 common council. The mayor for the time being officiates in the buttery at the coronation of the kings and queens of England, and has a large gilt bowl and cover for his fee.

The magistracy of Oxford is subject to the chancellor or vice-chancellor of the University, in all affairs of moment, even those relating to the city; and the vice-chancellor administers annually an oath to the magistrates and sheriffs, that they will maintain the privileges of the University.

The origin of the University of Oxford is involved in obscurity; but all historians agree that it was at a very early period. Camden mentions that it was the seat of learning in the time of the Britons. When the Danes were reduced by Alfred, that prince is said to have founded three colleges, one for philosophy, another for grammar, and a third for divinity, in the year 886, so that on this consideration Alfred appears rather to have been the restorer than the founder. History mentions that in the reign of King John, there were 3000 students in this city, who all suddenly left the place, and retired to Reading, Cambridge, Salisbury, and other towns, owing to the king's severity in ordering two scholars to be hanged without the walls, at the instance of the citizens, on suspicion of their having accidentally killed a woman; but the inhabitants being soon sensible of their loss, sued for pardon on their knees before the Pope's legate, and submitted to public penance in all the churches of Oxford. After an absence of five years, the scholars, having obtained new privileges for their more effectual protection, returned to Oxford.

The University, consisting of 20 colleges and five halls, is governed by a chancellor, usually a nobleman, chosen for life; a high steward, named by the chancellor, and approved by the University, who is also for life; and to assist the chancellor, &c. a vice-chancellor, one always in orders, and the head  
of



of a college, who exercises the chancellor's power, keeps the officers and students to their duty, and chuses four pro-vice chancellors, out of the heads of colleges, to officiate in his absence; two proctors, who are masters of arts, chosen yearly out of the several colleges in turn, to keep the peace, punish disorders, inspect weights and measures, order scholastic exercises, and the admission to degrees; a public orator, who writes letters by order of convocation, and harangues princes, and other great men, who visit the University; a keeper of its archives; a registrar, who records all transactions of the convocation, &c. three esquire-beadles, with gilt silver maces, and three yeoman-beadles, with plain ones, who attend the vice-chancellor in public, execute his orders for apprehending delinquents, publish the courts of convocation, and conduct the preachers to church, and lecturers to school: a verger, who, on solemn occasions, walks with the beadles before the vice-chancellor, and carries a silver rod.

The University consists, as before observed, of 20 colleges, and five halls, viz:

	<i>Founded.</i>		<i>Founded.</i>
University College,	872	Trinity, - - -	1555
Baliol, - - -	1262	St. John's, - - -	1557
Merton, - - -	1274	Jesus, - - -	1571
Exeter, - - -	1316	Wadham, - - -	1613
Oriel, - - -	1337	Pembroke, - - -	1620
Queen's, - - -	1340	Worcester, - - -	1713
New College, - - -	1375	Hertford, - - -	1740
Lincoln, - - -	1427	St. Alban's Hall,	
All Souls, - - -	1437	St. Mary's Hall,	
Magdalene, - - -	1449	St. Edmund's Hall,	
Brazen Nose, - - -	1511	Magdalene Hall,	
Corpus Christi, - - -	1519	New Inn Hall.	
Christ Church,	1532		

COLLEGES.

## COLLEGES.

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.**—The magnificent front of this College is extended upwards of 260 feet along the south side of the High Street. It consists of two courts, with two portals opening from the street, and a turret over each. The west portal leads to a well-built Gothic quadrangle of 100 feet square. Over this towards the street is a statue of queen Ann, and within, another of James II. and on the outside of the eastern portal is one of Mary, queen of William III. The Chapel and Hall occupy the southern part of the western quadrangle. The windows of the former are composed of finely painted glass, particularly that over the altar, which, according to the inscription on it, was given by Dr. Radcliffe, in the year 1637; the roof of this chapel is a well-wrought frame of Norway oak.—At the entrance to the hall, which has lately been fitted up in a beautiful Gothic stile, is a statue of Alfred. This hall is of the same age with the chapel.

Beyond this court is another area of three sides, opening to gardens on the south. The east and part of the north side are taken up by the lodgings of the master, which are commodious and extensive; and in a niche over the gate on the north is a statue of Dr. Radcliffe. The sides of this court are about 80 feet.

In the Common Room is an excellent bust in statuary marble of Alfred, executed by Mr. Wilton, from an admirable model of Rysbrac; this is supposed to be one of the best pieces of modern sculpture in the University; and was presented to the college by Lord Viscount Folkstone.

King Alfred is said to have founded this college in the year 872. It is evident that he erected certain halls in Oxford, near, or on the spot, where this college now stands; and that he endowed the  
students

students of them with certain pensions issuing from the Exchequer; these halls, however, appear to have been alienated to the citizens, and their pensions suppressed about the reign of the Conqueror: we may therefore consider the real founder of this college to be William, archdeacon of Durham, who in the year 1209, purchased of the citizens one of the halls, which had been originally erected by Alfred, and probably stiled University Hall. A society being thus established, many other benefactors afterwards appeared, who improved the revenues and buildings: of these the most considerable are, Walter Skirla, bishop of Durham, who founded three fellowships; Henry Percy, earl of Northumberland, in the year 1443 added the same number; and Sir Simon Bennet, who in the reign of Charles I. established four fellowships and four scholarships.

The present society consists of a master, 2 fellows, 17 scholars, and many other students, amounting in the whole to near 70. Visitor the King.

The present spacious and splendid structure was begun to be erected in the year 1634, by the benefaction of Charles Greenwood, formerly fellow of this college, and was afterwards carried on by Sir Simon Bennet above-mentioned: nor were succeeding patrons wanting to continue so noble a work, till it was finally completed by Dr. John Radcliffe, who erected the whole eastern quadrangle entirely at his own expence; he likewise settled on this college 600*l.* per annum, for two travelling fellowships.

**BALIOI COLLEGE**—This College consists chiefly of a spacious court, entered by a Gothic gateway. The buildings on the east are more modern than the rest, and are finished in the stile in which it is intended to rebuild the whole college. On the north is the chapel, which was erected about the reign of Henry VIII. It is adorned with some beautiful pieces  
of

of painted glass, particularly the east window, which represents the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ. The hall is a large and light room, handsomely wainscoted; and in the master's lodgings, is likewise a spacious old apartment, whose beautiful bow window projects on the west side of the court, and which was formerly the college chapel. In the Library, which was finished about the year 1477, are several curious manuscripts. Besides the principal court, which was begun to be erected in the reign of Henry VI. there is an area to the north-west, consisting of irregular and detached lodgings.

A new and elegant building has also been lately added at the south-west angle of this college; it was erected by the donation of the Rev. Mr. Fisher, late fellow of this society. Its south front, which is 108 feet six inches in length, consists of three stories, with nine windows in each; and having three breaks, those at each end have Venetian windows; on the middle break is formed a pediment, with a shield in the tympanum; and the whole surrounded with a block cornice. This building is 38 feet six inches in depth; and under the center window, in the back front, is the following inscription:

VERBUM NON AMPLIUS FISHER.

Sir John Baliol, of Bernard Castle, father of the king of Scotland of the same name, in the year 1268, began the foundation of this college. He appointed certain annual exhibitions for students, and intended to provide a house for their reception; but dying before his plan could be put in execution, his widow Devorguilla, not only completed, but improved his design. She obtained a charter of incorporation, settled the benefaction of her husband on 16 fellows, and conveyed to them, in the year 1284, a messuage, no vestige of which remains, on the spot where the college stands at present for  
their

their perpetual habitation. Their stipends were eight pence per week to each fellow; so that the whole original endowment amounted to no more than 27l. 9s. 4d. per year. It appears that the number of fellows was afterwards reduced; for about the year 1507, it was ordained that the society should consist of only one master and ten fellows. But this number has been since increased, and many scholarships and exhibitions have been likewise added.

The principal benefactors are Philip Somerville, Thomas Stanhope, Peter Blundell, Lady Periam, with several others. John Warner, bishop of Rochester, in the year 1666, likewise founded four exhibitions for natives of Scotland; whose benefaction has been since enlarged by John Snell, Esq.

This village consists of one master, 12 fellows, and 18 exhibitioners; and the whole number of the society amounts to about 50. The master and fellows elect their own visitor.

MERTON COLLEGE.—This College is composed of three courts, neither of which contain much grandeur. In the first court the most striking object is the east window of the chapel; the construction of which is a fine piece of Gothic workmanship. From this court is the entrance to the hall by a flight of steps; it is large and lofty, but contains nothing particularly remarkable, except the wainscot over the high table, which appears, by a date engraved upon it, in figures of an antique form, to have been erected in the year 1554. The new or second quadrangle was erected in the year 1610, from the south apartments of which there is a beautiful prospect over the meadows.

The Chapel, which is also the parish Church of St. John, has already been described in page 28. South of this church or chapel, is a small old quadrangle; the south side of which forms the library, built in the year 1639, which still contains several  
curious



curious manuscripts, notwithstanding, as we are told by Wood, a cart load of manuscripts was taken from it, which were dispersed or destroyed by the visitors in the reign of Edward VI.

The terrace formed on the city wall in the garden of this college, is finely situated for a delightful view, and the gardens, in general, have a pleasing variety.

This college was founded by Walter de Merton, lord chancellor of England, and afterwards bishop of Rochester, for the maintenance of 20 scholars, and three chaplains, about the year 1274. It was first established at Malden in Surry; where it continued but a few years, when the founder transferred it to its present situation. It is said that Henry III. recommended this foundation to Hugo, bishop of Ely as a pattern for the establishment of his college of St. Peter, at Cambridge.

The benefactors of this society are numerous.—Amongst these the most remarkable are, Henry Sever, and Richard Fitz James, formerly wardens; and Dr. John Wyllyott, Chancellor of the Church of Exeter, who gave exhibitions for the maintenance of 12 portionestæ, called postmasters, in the year 1380; these were afterwards increased to 14, by John Chambers; who directed that his two additional exhibitioners should be elected from Eton School. Mr. Henry Jackson, late of this house, has likewise founded here four scholarships.

The society consists at present of a warden, 24 fellows, 14 postmasters, four scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. The number of members of every sort is near 80.—Visitor, the archbishop of Canterbury.

EXETER COLLEGE.—This College is situated within that part of the city called the Thurl. In the centre of the front, which is 220 feet in length, is a beautiful gate of rustic work; and over it is a tower, adorned with Ionic pilasters, supporting a semicircular

lar pediment, in the area of which are the arms of the founder on a shield surrounded with festoons: a light balustrade finishes the whole.

This college consists chiefly of one handsome quadrangle; one side of which is the same as the front just described. On the south is the Hall, which is long and lofty, and adorned with portraits. It was entirely built from the ground by Sir John Ackland, of Devonshire, in the year 1618. On the north is the Chapel, consisting of two aisles, one of which only is fitted up for divine service. It was erected by Dr. Hakewell, the rector, in the year 1624. In the Library, which was formerly the chapel, situated in the inner court, is a fine collection of the classics, given by Thomas Richards, Esq.

The old entrance into the college was through the tower, which appears on the north-east angle of the court, and for which a postern in the city wall was opened. Near it or about this tower, the old college, as it may in some measure be called, seems to have stood; part of which still remains, adjoining to the tower on either side: that on the east being the most ancient, erected in the year 1404; and that on the west, viz. the rector's lodgings, together with the tower itself, in the year 1432. However, all these are still more modern than any part of the founder's original structure; no remainder of which is to be seen at present, except a part of the chapel, which was converted into a library, and used for that purpose, till the bequest of the Rev. Joseph Sandford's valuable collection of books rendered it inadequate. The society therefore in the year 1781, erected a neat modern edifice in their garden as the college library.

The gardens are neat with an agreeable terrace, from whence a prospect is opened to some of the finest buildings in the university.

This college was founded by Walter Stapledon, bishop of Exeter, Lord Treasurer of England, and



Secretary of State to Edward II. for 13 fellows, in the year 1316. It was first called Stapledon Hall, but obtained its present name, from Edmund Stafford, bishop of Exeter, in the year 1404, who gave two fellowships. Many other benefactors have also liberally contributed towards extending the foundation; the most memorable of whom is Sir William Petre, who in the year 1566, founded eight fellowships, procuring at the same time a more effectual charter, and a new body of statutes. King Charles I. likewise annexed one fellowship for the islands of Guernsey and Jersey.

This college consists at present of one rector, 25 fellows, and a bible clerk, with two exhibitioners; and the whole number of members are about 60.— Visitor, the bishop of Exeter.

**ORIEL COLLEGE**, is situated southward of St. Mary's Church, on the north side of the front of Corpus Christi College; its great gate being almost opposite to the back gate of Christ Church. It chiefly consists of one beautiful quadrangle, erected in the year 1640. On the north are the lodgings of the Provost, on the east the Hall, and vestibule of the chapel, and on the other sides are the apartments for the fellows and students. The ascent to the hall is by a grand flight of steps, covered with a portico. The interior is handsomely wainscotted in the Doric stile, and decorated at the upper end, with a portrait of Edward II. dressed in his regalia, by Hudson; one of Queen Anne, who annexed a prebend of Rochester to the provostship, by Dahl; and another of the late duke of Beaufort, who is represented erect, in his parliamentary robes, attended by a boy bearing a coronet, by Soldi. The Chapel is more distinguished for simple elegance than magnificence. The eastern window represents the offerings of the Magi, executed by Mr. Pecket, from a design of the late Dr. Wall. On the north side of the quadrangle is the entrance into a small court,

court, called the Garden Court, which receives an agreeable air from an elegant little garden, which is formed in the midst of it, and fenced on this side with iron gates and pallsades, supported by a dwarf wall, and stone piers; the sides are built in a stile correspondent to that of the quadrangle; that on the right was erected by Dr. Robinson, bishop of London; and that on the left by Dr. Carter, formerly provost. At the end is an elegant building, lately erected for a library.

This college was founded by Adam le Brome, almoner to Edward II. in the year 1327; for one provost and ten fellows. He endowed it with the rents of one messuage, five shops with their upper rooms, and a cellar, all situated in St. Mary's parish: he also gave it the advowson of the church of the said parish, and a messuage in the north suburb. This was the whole of the original endowment; so that Edward II. is generally esteemed the founder; though he appears to have acquired this title, merely because le Brome, in hopes that his master would increase its small revenues, and more effectually secure its foundation, surrendered his society into the king's hands; in fact Edward conferred little or nothing more on the college than a charter of incorporation, and certain privileges. The members were at first placed in a building purchased by Le Brome, where St. Mary's Hall now stands; but they soon removed from thence to a messuage, called Le Oriel, given to them by Edward III: who likewise granted to the college, the hospital of St. Bartholomew, near Oxford. The number of fellows have been since increased by various benefactors: the principal of whom, were John Frank, master of the rolls in the time of Henry VI. who founded four fellowships; John Carpenter, formerly provost, bishop of Worcester, added one; and William Smith, bishop of Lincoln, and founder of Brazen-Nose College, another; after which Dr. Rich-

ard Dudley, formerly fellow, and chancellor of the church of Sarum, made the whole number of fellows 18. Many exhibitions have been likewise given to the society; more particularly by the late duke of Beaufort, who gave 100*l.* per annum to four exhibitioners.

The college has gone through frequent revolutions with regard to its buildings; the principal benefactor to the present edifice was Dr. John Tolson, when provost, who, besides other valuable donations, gave 1,150*l.* for that purpose. The above-mentioned Dr. Robinson, bishop of London, likewise gave 2,500*l.* for augmenting the fellowships.

The present members of this college are one provost, 18 fellows, and about 14 exhibitioners; and the students of all sorts amount to almost 80.— Visitor, the lord chancellor.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE.—This college is situated on the north side of the High Street, opposite to University College; the front, which is built in the stile of the Luxembourg Palace, is at once magnificent and elegant. In the middle is a splendid gateway, over which is a superb cupola, with a statue of the late Queen Caroline under it. The whole area on which this beautiful college, which is one entire piece of well-executed modern architecture, stands, is an oblong square, three hundred feet in length, and two hundred and twenty feet in breadth, which being divided by the hall and chapel, is formed into two courts. The first court is 140 feet in length, and 130 in breadth, having a beautiful cloister on the west, south, and east. Over the western cloisters are the provost's lodgings, which are spacious and splendid. The north side is formed by the chapel and hall, and finely finished in the Doric order. In the center, over a portico, leading to the north court, stands a handsome cupola, supported by eight Ionic columns.

The chapel is 100 feet long, and 30 broad. It is  
orna-

ornamented in the Corinthian order, with a beautiful ceiling of fret-work. The windows are all of fine old painted glass of the year 1518, that over the altar excepted, representing the Nativity, which was executed by Mr. Price in the year 1717. Under this has lately been placed a painting on the same subject; it is a copy from *La Notte*, the *Night* of Correggio, in the Dresden gallery, which is esteemed one of the finest pictures in the world. The most remarkable of these windows are two on the north side, representing the Last Judgment, and two on the south, the Ascension: these with the rest were removed hither from the old chapel. The roof is likewise adorned with a fine painting of the Ascension, by Sir James Thornhill.

The Hall, which is fitted up in the Doric order, is 60 feet long, and 30 broad, with an arched roof of a corresponding height, and furnished with portraits of the founder and benefactors, to which has lately been added a picture of her present Majesty Queen Charlotte. Over the screen is a handsome gallery intended for music, and as a vestibule to the common room, to which it leads.

The North Court is 130 feet long, and 90 broad; on the west stands the Library, which is of the Corinthian order. Under the east side of this edifice runs a cloister; its west side is adorned with statues of the founder and benefactors, with other pieces of sculpture. The interior of this building is highly finished, and the book-cases, which are of Norway oak, are decorated with well-wrought carving, and in the ceiling are some admirable compartments of stucco. It has a splendid orrery, and is furnished with a valuable collection of books and manuscripts in most languages.

Robert Eggesfield, a native of Cumberland, and confessor to Queen Philippa, founded this college in the year 1340 for one provost and twelve fellows, to be chosen from the counties of Cumberland and

Westmorland. To these he intended to annex 70 children or scholars, a few of which number only were really established, the founder's entire design being prevented by his death. The benefactors, however, have been very numerous: the chief of whom were Edward III. and his queen Philippa, from whom it was called Queen's College; Charles I. who gave six advowsons; Sir Joseph Williamson, and Drs. Lancaster and Halton, formerly provosts; Sir F. Bridgeman, Lady Betty Hastings, &c.

The present edifice was begun by Sir J. Williamson, above-mentioned, in the year 1672, who was a most munificent contributor; and, being continued by the liberality of several intermediate benefactors was at length completed by the noble legacy of Mr. Mitchell of Richmond, who likewise founded eight fellowships and four scholarships. These fellows and scholars have handsome apartments appropriated to them in the new buildings, besides an annual stipend of 50*l.* to each of the former, and 30*l.* per annum to each of the latter. This foundation was first filled up by election from other colleges of the University on the 26th of October, 1764.

The custom of ushering in the boar's head with a song on Christmas Day is at present peculiar to this college; but it was formerly practised all over the kingdom. This custom is said to have originated in the following story: A student of this college, with Aristotle in his hand, walking out in the vicinity of Oxford, was attacked by a furious boar; upon which he crammed the philosopher down the throat of the savage, and thus escaped impending danger.

Edward the Black Prince had lodgings in this college, and Henry the Fifth studied in the same room.

The college consists at present of a provost, 16 fellows, two chaplains, eight taburdars, so called from taburdum, a short gown which they formerly wore, 16 scholars, two clerks, and 40 exhibitioners.



To these may be added the members of Mr. Mitchell's new foundation, above-mentioned. The whole number of members is nearly 200. Visitor, the archbishop of York.

**NEW COLLEGE.**—This College, which is situated eastward of the schools, is separated from Queen's College by a narrow lane on the south.

The first court, which is entered by a portal, is about 168 feet in length, and 129 in breadth. In the centre is a statue of Minerva, given by Sir Henry Parker, of Honington, in Warwickshire. The north side which consists of the chapel and hall, is a noble specimen of Gothic magnificence. The two upper stories of the east side form the library. On the west are the lodgings of the warden, which are large and commodious, and adorned with many valuable portraits. The third story of this court was added to the founder's original building in the year 1674.

The Chapel, which is by far the most beautiful and grand of any in Oxford, stands on the north side of the quadrangle. The Anti-Chapel, which is supported by two beautiful staff moulded pillars, of fine proportion, runs at right angles to the choir, and is 80 feet long, and 36 broad. The choir, which is entered by a Gothic screen of beautiful construction, is 100 feet long, 35 broad, and 65 in height. The approach to the altar, which is by a noble flight of marble steps, is inclosed by a well-wrought rail of iron work. Over the communion table, in the wall, are five compartments of marble sculpture in alto-relievo, representing the following subjects: 1. The Salutation of the Virgin Mary. 2. The Nativity of Jesus Christ. 3. The taking down from the Cross. 4. The Resurrection, and 5. The Ascension. These were all finished by Mr. Westmacott, who likewise furnished the table or altar, which is 12 feet long, and three broad, and is composed of dove-coloured marble. The organ loft is a most superb

superb piece of Gothic architecture, raised over the entrance of the choir at the west end, and very fitly corresponding with the richness and beauty of the altar-piece; and the organ is a most admirable instrument, erected by the famous Dolham, and since improved by Mr. John Byfield. On the north side of the chapel is kept the crozier of the founder, a well-preserved piece of antiquity, and almost the only one in the kingdom. It is nearly seven feet high, is of silver gilt, and is finely embellished with a variety of rich Gothic architecture.

The painted windows of this chapel, however, constitute its chief ornament, of these there are four sorts, viz.

1. All the windows of the anti-chapel (the west excepted) are nearly as old as the chapel itself; and contain the portraits of patriarchs, prophets, saints, martyrs, &c. to the number of 64, as large as life, and 50 smaller above them, curious for their antiquity, but for little else; being drawn without perspective, without the effect of light and shade, and ill-proportioned. Yet in these are some few remains, which shew the brilliancy of their colours, and some traces of simplicity and beauty, particularly in the heads of the female figures, in the window on the right hand of the entrance to the chapel.

2. The second sort are the windows on the north side of the chapel. These are in the common stile of modern glass painting. The three nearest to the organ, (finished in the year 1774) after the designs of Rebecca contain, in the lower range, the chief persons recorded in the Old Testament, from Adam to Moses; in the upper, 12 of the prophets. The two other windows are filled with our blessed Saviour, the Virgin Mary, and the 12 apostles. These figures stand each within a niche upon a pedestal, and under a canopy of Gothic architecture. The whole



whole of these windows is the workmanship of Mr. Peckitt, of York.

3. The windows opposite, on the south side of the chapel, were painted by Mr. Price, junior, in the year 1740. Each window represents eight figures of saints and martyrs, with their respective symbols and insignia; and for expression, colouring, and effect were esteemed superior to any thing ever executed on glass, till the appearance of the fourth sort, viz.

4. The west window of the anti-chapel, consisting of two ranges; in the lower are seven compartments, each of which are near three feet wide and twelve high. In these stand seven allegorical figures, representing the four Cardinal and three Christian Virtues, in the following manner:

Temperance, pouring water out of a larger vessel into a smaller. Her common attribute, the bridle, lies at her feet.

Fortitude, in armour; her hand resting on a column, which though half destroyed remains upright; her form robust, her look bold and resolute; a lion, her attendant, couches below her.

Faith standing fixedly on both feet, and bearing a cross; her eyes and hand raised to Heaven.

On the other side of the middle group is Hope looking up to Heaven, and springing towards it so eagerly, that her feet scarcely touch the ground. Part of an anchor, her attribute, is to be seen in the corner of the compartment.

Justice, looking with a steady and piercing eye, through the dark shade that her arm casts over her face. In her left hand the steelyard, and her right hand supporting the sword.

Prudence beholding, as in a mirror, the actions and manners of others, for the purpose of regulating her own. On her left arm is an arrow joined with a remora, the respective emblems of swiftness and slowness: Prudence being a medium between both.

The

The middle group, above mentioned, representing Charity, is particularly worthy of notice, on account of the expression of the figures. The fondling of the infant, the importunity of the boy, and the placid affection of the girl, together with the divided attention of the mother, are distinguishably and judiciously marked.

These figures, however, which fill the lower compartment, are but a subordinate part to the superb work erected over them. In a space 10 feet wide, and 18 feet high, is represented the Nativity, a composition of 13 figures besides animals, consisting of

The Blessed Virgin, whose attention is wholly engaged in her infant.

A group of angels descended into the stable, and kneeling around him; the face of the least of these figures exhibits an idea of youthful beauty that perhaps was never surpassed.

A company of Shepherds, whose devotion and eagerness to behold the infant are strongly expressed.

Joseph looking at the spectators, and pointing to the child, as to the promised seed.

In the clouds above an angel in contemplation of the mystery of the cross; near him a scroll, on which is written the Greek of this text: "Mysteries, which the angels themselves desire to look into."

The portraits of the two artists, Sir Joshua Reynolds and Mr. Jarvis, are here introduced in the character of Shepherds, paying adoration to the newborn Saviour.

Choir service is performed every day in this chapel, at 11 in the forenoon, and 5 in the afternoon.

Near the chapel is a noble cloister, which constitutes a quadrangle, 146 feet in length on two sides, and 105 the other two, with a garden in the area. Contiguous to it, on the north, is a large and lofty tower, with ten bells.

The

The Hall, which is situated at the north-east side of the quadrangle, is of excellent proportion, being 78 feet in length, 33 in breadth, and 43 in height. Its wainscot, which was erected about the reign of Henry VIII. is particularly curious, and over the high table at the upper end is an original painting of Annibal Carracci, presented to this college by the Earl of Radnor. The subject of this piece is the Adoration of the Shepherds. The virgin, angels, and shepherds are represented as jointly celebrating the nativity, in the divine hymn of "Glory to God in the highest." The composition and drawing is admirable; and the force and spirit of the shepherds are finely contrasted by the elegance and grace of the virgin, and attending angels. The stile of the landscape is likewise great, and the colouring warm, but grave and solemn. This valuable piece, it is said, was once in the possession of that judicious collector M. Colbert, minister to Louis XIV. This hall is likewise adorned with the portraits of the munificent founder, William of Wykeham; William of Wainfleet, founder of Magdalene College; and Henry Chicheley, founder of All Soul's College.

The two rooms of which the library before mentioned consists are 70 feet long, and 22 broad, and are well furnished with books, and likewise a valuable collection of manuscripts.

In this quadrangle is the entrance into the garden court, which, by means of a succession of retiring wings, displays itself gradually on the approach to the garden; from which it is separated by a grand iron palisade, 130 feet in length. This court has a noble effect from the mount in the garden; and the prospect is still farther improved by the Gothic spires and battlements which overlook the new building from the founder's court. It began to be erected in the year 1682, at the expence of the college, assisted by many liberal contributions.

Great part of the garden, as well as some parts of  
the

the college is surrounded by the city wall; which, from the circumstance of its serving as a fence or boundary to the college precincts, is here preserved entire, with its battlements and bastions, to a considerable extent. On the south side is a pleasant bowling-green, shaded to the west by a row of elms, and on the east by tall sycamores, the branches of which, being interwoven and incorporated with each other from end to end, are justly admired as a natural curiosity.

This college was founded by William Wykeham, a native of Wykeham, a small town in Hampshire. Besides other ample preferments to which he was advanced by the favour of Edward the Third, he was constituted keeper of the privy seal, bishop of Winchester, and lord high chancellor of England. Having liberally maintained seventy students in several halls of the university, for some years, he obtained a charter to found a college in Oxford, for a warden, 70 fellows, 10 chaplains, one schoolmaster, one usher, 70 scholars, three clerks, 16 choristers, and one sexton. The foundation stone was laid on the 5th day of March, in the year 1379; the college entirely finished in the year 1386, and on the 14th day of April in the same year, the society took possession of it. In the following year he founded another noble college at Winchester, for the liberal support of a warden, 10 fellows, three chaplains, one schoolmaster, one usher, 70 scholars, three clerks, and 16 choristers, and ordained it to be a perpetual seminary for supplying the vacancies of his college at Oxford. This illustrious patron of literature and virtue crowned the beneficence of his life by bequeathing, in his last will, legacies to the amount of 6000*l.* (an immense sum in those days) for various charitable purposes. He survived the foundation of his college several years, and died September the 27th in the year 1404.

The principal benefactors to this college are,

John

John Buckingham, bishop of Lincoln, in the year 1388. Thomas Beckington, in the year 1440; Thomas Jane, in the year 1494; Clement Harding, in the year 1507; Wareham, archbishop of Canterbury; Shirebourne, bishop of Chichester; John Smith; William Fleshmonger, with many others.

This college, which is dedicated to St. Mary Winton, has been called New College from its first foundation; being at that time an object of public curiosity, and far superior, in point of extent and grandeur, to any college that had then appeared; Merton being, before this, perhaps the most splendid in the university, though at that time by no means adorned with buildings as at present.

The members of New College are one warden, 70 fellows, 10 chaplains, three clerks, 16 choristers, and one sexton; together with many gentlemen commoners.—Visitor, the bishop of Winchester.

**LINCOLN COLLEGE.**—This college, which is situated between All Saint's Church, and Exeter College, consists of two quadrangles. The first is formed, exclusive of chambers, by the lodgings of the rector, standing in the south-east angle, and erected by Thomas Beckington, bishop of Bath and Wells, in the year 1465; the library and common room is on the north, and the refectory on the east.

The library, under which is the common room, is small, but neatly decorated, and contains many curious manuscripts, chiefly given by Thomas Gascoigne, in the year 1432. It was finished, as it appears at present, by the liberality of Sir Nathaniel Lloyd, first a commoner of this, and afterwards fellow of All Soul's College, in the year 1738.

The Hall was erected by John Williams, bishop of Lincoln, in the year 1631, and was handsomely wainscotted by bishop Crew in the year 1701, whose arms appear over the middle of the screen; and those of the rest of the contributors are interspersed



about the mouldings. It is 40 feet in length, 25 in breadth, and proportionable in height.

In this court, which forms a square of 80 feet, is an entrance through the south side to the second, which is about 70 feet square. On the south side of this quadrangle is the chapel, which was built by bishop Williams, above-mentioned, in the year 1631. The screen is of cedar, elegantly carved; and the windows are of painted glass, complete, and well preserved, though executed in the year 1632: those on the north represent twelve of the prophets; and those on the south the twelve apostles, as large as life. The east window exhibits a view of the types relative to our Saviour, with their respective completions, viz. 1. From the left hand the Nativity, and under it the History of the Creation, its antitype. 2. Our Lord's baptism; and under it the passing of the Israelites through the Red Sea. 3. The Jewish Passover; and under it the institution of the Lord's Supper. 4. The Brazen Serpent in the Wilderness; corresponding to Christ on the cross. 5. Jonah delivered from the Whale's belly, expressive of Christ's Resurrection. 6. Elijah in the fiery chariot, with Our Lord's ascension.

The roof, which consists of compartments in cedar, is embellished with the arms of the different founders and benefactors, and interchangeably enriched with cherubims, palm-branches, and festoons, diversified with painting and gilding. At each end of the desks are placed eight figures of cedar, which are executed with admirable proportion and elegance, they represent Moses, Aaron, the four Evangelists, St. Peter, and St. Paul.

This college was founded in the year 1429, by Richard Flemming, a native of Royston, in Yorkshire, and bishop of Lincoln, for the maintenance of one rector, seven fellows, and two chaplains; and intended as a seminary for the education of scholars, who should oppose the doctrine of Wickliffe. But the

the founder dying before he had fully established his little society, the college, left in an indigent condition, with some difficulty subsisted for a few years on the slender endowment, which he had consigned to it, and the addition of some small benefactions afterwards made by others. At length Thomas Rotherham, bishop of Lincoln, more effectually supplied its necessities, by improving both the buildings and revenues; adding likewise five fellowships, and assigning a new body of statutes, dated 1479; by which, and other services, he so raised Flemming's orphan foundation, as justly to deserve the name of a co-founder.

Among other benefactors to this college are William Dagvyle, mayor of Oxford; William Smith, bishop of Lincoln, and founder of Brazen-nose College; Edmund Audley, bishop of Salisbury; and Jane Trapps; but the principal benefactor is Nathaniel Lord Crew, bishop of Durham, who about the year 1717, added to the headship an annual allocation of 20l.; to the ten fellows 10l. each; and to the seven scholarships, and bible clerkships, 5l. each: besides which, he improved the four college curacies, and also founded 12 exhibitioners, with salaries of 20l. per annum each.

The late Dr. Hutchins, who had been many years rector, likewise augmented the incomes of the scholars and exhibitioners.

The society at present consists of a rector, 12 fellows, 12 exhibitioners, and seven scholars, with a bible clerk; besides independent members.—Visitor, the bishop of Lincoln.

**ALL SOUL'S COLLEGE.**—This college, which consists chiefly of two courts, is situated in the High Street, westward of Queen's College. Over the gateway are the statues of the founder Henry Chicheley, and Henry VI.

The first or Old Court, is a Gothic edifice, 124 feet in length, and 72 in breadth. The Chapel, which



which is on the north side is a stately pile ; and the anti-chapel, in which are some remarkable monuments, is 70 feet long, and 30 broad ; the entrance into the inner chapel, which is of the same dimensions, is by a grand flight of marble steps, through a screen, constructed by Sir Christopher Wren. The spacious environ of the altar consists of the richest red vein marble. Above is a fine assumption-piece of the founder, by Sir James Thornhill ; and the compartment immediately over the communion-table is occupied with a picture painted at Rome, in the year 1771, by the celebrated Mr. Mengs. The subject of this piece is our Saviour's first appearance to Mary Magdalene after his resurrection, which is generally called a *Noli me tangere*, in allusion to the first words of Christ's speech to her. - The colouring of this picture is excellent, and there is something extremely amiable, mixed with great dignity, in the countenance and character of the figure of Our Saviour ; while the mild composure of it is finely contrasted by that extacy of joy and astonishment which appears on the face of Mary. On the right and left, at the approach to the altar, are two inimitable urns, by Sir James Thornhill, respectively representing, in their bas-reliefs, the institution of the two sacraments. Between the windows on each side, are figures of Saints in chiaro oscuro, larger than life ; four of these represent St. Ambrose, St. Jerome, St. Austin, and St. Gregory, the four Latin fathers, to whom the chapel is dedicated. The ceiling is disposed into compartments, embellished with carving and gilding ; and the whole has an air of much splendour and dignity.

The Hall, which forms one side of an area to the east, is an elegant and modern room ; furnished with portraits of the magnificent founder, Colonel Codrington, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. At the high table is an historical piece, by Sir James Thornhill, the subject of which is the Finding of the Law. Over the

the chimney-piece, which is handsomely executed in dove-coloured marble, is a bust of the founder: on one side of which is a bust of Linacre, formerly fellow, a famous physician in the reign of Henry VIII. and on the other of John Leland, the celebrated antiquarian, who is supposed to have been a member of this house. Here is also a capital full-length statue of Judge Blackstone, executed by Bacon. The rest of this room is adorned with an admirable series of busts from the antique.

The adjoining buttery is a well-proportioned room, of an oval form, having an arched roof of stone, ornamented with curious workmanship: it was erected at the same time with the hall.

In this quadrangle is a dial, contrived by Sir Christopher Wren, when fellow of the college, which by the help of two half rays, and one whole one for every hour, shews to a minute the time of day; the minutes being marked on the sides of the rays, 15 on each side, and divided into five by a different character.

The second court is a magnificent Gothic quadrangle (or rather an imitation of the Gothic stile), of 172 feet in length, and 150 in breadth; on the south are the Chapel and Hall; on the west a cloister, with a grand portico; on the north a Library; and on the east two superb Gothic towers, in the centre of a series of fine apartments.

The library, which forms the whole north side of this court, is 200 feet in length, 30 in breadth, and 40 in height. Its outside is, in correspondence to the rest of the court, Gothic; and the interior is finished in the most splendid and elegant manner, being furnished with two noble arrangements of bookcases, one above the other, supported by Doric and Ionic pilasters; and the upper class, being formed in a superb gallery, surrounds three sides. On the north side is a recess equal to the breadth of the whole room, and in its area is placed a statue

of Colonel Codrington, the founder of the library. The ceiling and spaces between the windows are ornamented with the richest stucco, by Mr. Roberts; and over the gallery a series of bronzes, is interchangeably disposed, consisting of vases and the busts of many eminent men, formerly fellows of this house.

This college was founded in the year 1437, by Henry Chichely, a native of Higham Ferrers, in Northamptonshire, and one of Wykeham's original fellows of New College, and afterwards archbishop of Canterbury; for one warden, 40 fellows, two chaplains, three clerks, and three choristers. It is stiled in the charter, "The College of the souls of all faithful people deceased, of Oxford."

The founder for the more liberal endowment of this society, procured of Henry VI. a grant of the revenues of many of the dissolved alien priories. He expended, besides the purchase money for the scite, &c. the sum of 4,544. 15s. 5d. in the buildings of this college, namely the present old court, and the original refectory, which, with a cloister since removed, inclosed part of the area of the new quadrangle. At his decease he bequeathed to it 134l. 6s. 8d. and 1000 marks. In his statutes he gives a preference in elections to those candidates who shall prove themselves to be of his blood and kindred. These are said to have multiplied so fast, within the space of 400 years, that it is probable the time is not far off when this society will be entirely filled with his own relations; for it appears, by the *Stemmata Chicheleana*, or pedigrees of the Chichely family, published in the year 1765; and from the supplement to that collection published in the year 1775, that upwards of 120 of the families of the English peerage, between 50 and 60 of the Scotch and Irish, more than 130 of the English baronetage, with many hundreds of the gentry, and commonalty of England, Scotland, and Ireland, may now prove themselves to have descended from the same stock, with the founder

founder of All Souls, *viz.* from his father Thomas Chichely, of Higham Ferrers.

The principal benefactors are Colonel Christopher Codrington, governor of the Leeward Islands, formerly fellow, who besides a valuable collection of books, granted by will 6000*l.* for building the library, and added 4000*l.* for purchasing books; Dr. George Clarke; the late duke of Wharton, Doddington Greville, Lieutenant Colonel Stewart, and Sir Nathaniel Lloyd. Of the combined munificence of all or most of these, the second court, above-described, is an illustrious monument.

This college consists of one warden, 40 fellows, two chaplains, three clerks, and six choristers. No independent students are admitted.—Visitor, the archbishop of Canterbury.

A remarkable ceremony is annually celebrated in this college, in commemoration of the discovery of a mallard of an extraordinary size, in a drain or sewer, at the time of digging for the foundation of the walls. An entertainment is provided in the evening of the 14th of January, which is called the Mallard Night, and an excellent old ballad, adapted to ancient music, is sung in remembrance of the mallard. This peculiar custom has given rise to a pamphlet of infinite wit and humour, entitled, “A complete Vindication of the Mallard of All Soul’s College, &c.”

**MAGDALENE COLLEGE.**—This College is situated at the eastern termination of the city, on the borders of the river Charwell. The front gate is of the Doric order, decorated with a statue of the founder. Opposite to this gate is the west front of the college, which is a striking specimen of the Gothic stile. The gate under the west window of the chapel is particularly deserving attention, being adorned with five small but elegant figures, that on the right representing the founder; the next William of Wykeham, in whose college at Winchester

chester the founder was school-master; the third is St. Mary Magdalen, to whom the college is dedicated; the fourth is Henry III. who founded the hospital, since converted into this college; and the last St. John the Baptist, by whose name the said hospital was called.

On the left are the lodgings of the president, lately much enlarged and improved; and nearly contiguous to these, beneath a tower, whose sides are adorned with four of the persons above-mentioned, is a stateley gateway, which was the original entrance into the college, but since disused.

From this area is an entrance into a cloister, which surrounds a venerable old quadrangle. On the south are the Chapel and Hall, the entrance to the former of which is on the right hand at entering the cloister. The anti-chapel is spacious, supported with two staff-moulded pillars, extremely light, where a new pulpit of excellent workmanship, in the Gothic stile, together with seats on each side, have within these few years been erected. In the west window are some fine remains of glass, painted, in chiaro-obscuro. The subject is the Resurrection, and the design is after one invented and executed by Schwartz, for the wife of William, duke of Bavaria, more than 200 years since, which was afterwards engraved by Sadeler. The choir is solemn and handsomely decorated. The windows, each of which contain six figures, almost as large as life, of primitive fathers, saints, martyrs, and apostles, are finely painted in the taste and about the time of that just described: these windows formerly belonged to the anti-chapel, the two near the altar excepted, which were lately done, being all removed hither in the year 1741. In the confusion of the Civil Wars the original choir windows were taken down and concealed. They did not, however, escape the rage of fanaticism and ignorance, for being unluckily discovered by a party of Cromwell's troopers,



troopers, they were entirely destroyed. The altar-piece of this chapel, which represents the Resurrection, was executed by Isaac Fuller, about a century since. This painting is elegantly celebrated by Mr. Addison, formerly a student of this house, in a Latin poem, printed in the *Musæ Anglicanæ*. Under this piece is another admirable picture, of our Lord bearing the Cross, supposed to be the work of Guido. It was taken at Vigo; and being brought into England by the late duke of Ormond, it came into the possession of William Freeman, Esq. who gave it to the society. The altar is fitted up in the modern stile, with a well-executed wainscot, and columns of the Corinthian order. Choir service is performed in this chapel at ten and four every day; except that on Sundays and holidays the morning service is sung at eight, as it is in all the choirs of the University.

The Hall is a stately Gothic room, well proportioned and handsomely finished; and decorated with four whole-length portraits, *viz.* of the founder, Dr. Butler, William Freeman, and prince Rupert; and two half-lengths, *viz.* bishop Warner, and Dr. Hammond.

The interior part of the cloister is adorned with hieroglyphics, to unriddle which great pains have been taken; some, however, affirm that they are nothing more than the licentious invention of the mason; while others as warmly contend that they contain a complete system of academical discipline: of these hieroglyphics, Mr. Reeks, formerly fellow of this college, has given the following account, in which the allegory is well preserved.

“ Beginning at the south-west corner, the two first figures we meet are, the *lion* and the *pelican*; the former of these is the emblem of *courage* and *vigilance*, the latter of *parental tenderness and affection*: both of them together express to us the complete character of a good governor of a college. Accordingly



ingly they are placed under the window of those lodgings which originally belonged to the president, as the instructions they convey ought to regulate his conduct.

“ Going on to the right hand, on the other side of the gateway, are four figures, viz. the *school-master*, the *lawyer*, the *physician*, and the *divine*. These are ranged along the outside of the library, and represent the duties and business of the students of the house. By means of learning in general, they are to be introduced to one of the three learned professions ; or else, as hinted to us by a figure with *cap* and *bells* in the corner, they must turn out *fools* in the end.

“ We come now to the north side of the quadrangle, and here the three first figures represent the history of *David*; his conquest over the *lion* and *Goliath*; from whence we are taught not to be discouraged at any difficulties that may stand in our way, as the *vigour of youth* will easily enable us to surmount them. The next figure to these is that of the *hippopotamus*, or *river horse*, carrying his young one upon his shoulders. This is the emblem of a good tutor, or fellow of a college, who is set to watch over the youth of the society, and by whose prudence they are to be led through the dangers of their first entrance into the world. The figure immediately following represents *sobriety*, or *temperance*, that most necessary virtue of a collegiate life. The whole remaining train of figures are the vices we are instructed to avoid. Those next to *temperance*, are the opposite vices of *gluttony* and *drunkenness*; then follow the *lucantropos*, the *hyæna*, and *panther*, representing *violence*, *fraud*, and *treachery*; the *griffin* representing *covetousness*, and the next figure, *anger*, or *moroseness*; the *dog*, the *dragon*, the *deer*, *flattery*, *envy*, and *timidity*; and the three last, the *mantichora*, the *boxers*, and the *lamia*, *pride*, *contention*, and *lust*.

“ We

“ We have here, therefore, a complete and instructive lesson for the use of a society dedicated to the advancement of religion and learning ; and on this plan we may suppose the founder of Magdalen, thus speaking, by means of these figures, to the students of his college.

“ It is your duty, who live under the care of the president, whose *vigilance* and *parental tenderness* are the proper qualifications to support the government of my house, attentively to pursue your studies, in your *several professions* ; and so avoid the *follies* of an idle, unlettered, and dissipated course of life. You may possibly meet with many *difficulties* at your first setting out in this road ; but these every *stripling* will be able to overcome by *courage* and *perseverance*. And remember, when you are advanced beyond these difficulties, that it is your duty to lend your assistance to those who come after you, and whose education is committed to your care. You are to be an example to them of *sobriety* and *temperance* ; so shall you guard them from falling into the snares of *excess* and *debauchery*. You shall teach them, that the vices with which the world abounds, *cruelty*, *fraud*, *avarice*, *anger*, and *envy*, as well as the more supple ones of abject *flattery* and *cowardice*, are not to be countenanced within these hallowed retirements. And let it be your endeavour to avoid *pride* and *contention*, the parents of *faction*, and in your situation the worst and most unnatural of all factions, the *faction of a cloister*. And lastly, you will complete the *collegiate character*, if you crown all your other acquirements with the unspotted *purity* and *chastity* of your lives and conduct.”

On the north side of this court, a narrow passage leads to a beautiful opening, one side of which is bounded by a noble and elegant edifice in the modern taste, consisting of three stories, 300 feet in length. The front rests on an arcade, whose roof is finely stuccoed. Through the centre of this building

is an avenue into the grove or paddock, which is formed into many delightful walks and lawns, and stocked with about 40 head of deer.

Besides this paddock, there is a meadow, within the precincts of the college, consisting of about 13 acres, surrounded by a pleasant walk, called the Water-walk, the whole circuit of which is washed by branches of the Charwell, and is shaded with hedges and lofty trees, which in one part grow wild, and in the other are cut and disposed regularly. A beautiful opening has lately been made on the west side into the college grove, by demolishing the old embattled wall, on the banks of the river.

This college was founded by William Patten, a native of Wainfleet, in Lincolnshire, who was educated at Winchester School, and afterwards took his degrees at Oxford. He was first preferred to the mastership of Winchester School; from thence made provost of Eton College, advanced to the bishopric of Winchester in the year 1447, and constituted lord high chancellor of England in the year 1449.

He founded this college, in the year 1456, for the support of one president, 40 fellows, 30 demies, eligible from any school or county, a divinity lecturer, a schoolmaster and usher, four chaplains, one organist, eight clerks, and 16 choristers. It was erected on the site of St. John's Hospital, in commemoration of which a sermon is annually preached in the college on St. John's day. Part of the original walls of the said hospital are yet to be seen on the south side of the chapel.

The original endowment of this College was most munificent, which, however, has been augmented by many considerable benefactors: the most distinguished of whom are Henry VI. William Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, Claymond, Morwent, &c. Cardinal Wolsey, when bursar of the college, in the year 1492, erected the tower, which is exceeded by

none

none in strength, height, and beauty, and contains a musical peal of ten bells.

The College at present consists of a president, 40 fellows, 30 demies, a divinity lecturer, a school-master and usher, 4 chaplains, an organist, eight clerks, and 16 choristers. The whole number of students, including gentlemen commoners, is about 120. Visitor, the Bishop of Winchester.

To the south of this college is the BOTANICAL GARDEN, the grand entrance to which is an elegant piece of architecture, from a design of Inigo Jones, and executed by Nicholas Stone. It is in the Doric order, ornamented with rustic work, and likewise adorned with a bust of the founder, Lord Danby, a statute of Charles I. and another of Charles II. and on the face of the corona and friese is the following inscription, viz. "*Gloria Dei optimi maximi Honori Caroli I. Regis in Usam Academiae et Republicae Henricus Comes Danby, Anno 1632.*" This inscription is likewise on the garden front. The Garden, which contains five acres, is surrounded by a noble wall, with portals in the rustic stile, at proper distances. The ground is divided into four quarters, with a broad walk down the middle. At the right and left, near the entrance, are two neat and convenient green houses, which are stocked with a valuable collection of exotics: the quarters are filled with a complete series of such plants as grow naturally, disposed in their respective classes. Eastward of the garden, without the wall, is an excellent hot-house; where various plants, brought from the warmer climates, are raised.

This garden was instituted by the Earl of Danby, in the year 1632, who having replenished it with plants for the use of the students in botany, settled an annual revenue for its support. It has been since much improved by Dr. Sherrard, who assigned 3,000l. for the maintenance of a professor of botany. Dr. Sibthorpe, the late learned professor, who resided

several years in the East, likewise enriched the collection with many new articles.

**BRAZEN-NOSE COLLEGE.**—This college, which constitutes the west side of the Radcliffe Square, consists of two courts;—the first, which is the original one, comprises the old lodgings of the principal, the chambers of the fellows and students, and the refectory, the latter of which is elegantly fitted up, and adorned with portraits and paintings on glass of the two founders. Over its portico are two antique busts: the one of Alfred, who built Little University Hall, or King's Hall; on the scite of which the present college is partly erected; and the other of John Erigena, a Scotchman, who first read lectures in the said hall, in the year 882. In this court is a statue of Cain and Abel, and over the door leading up to the common room, which was originally the chapel, is the following inscription:

“ Anno Xti. 1509, et Reg. Hen. 3 pro.  
 Nomine divino Lyncoln præsul, quoque Sutton,  
 Hanc posuere petram regis ad imperium.”

The entrance to the second court is through a passage on the left hand of the gate of the first. The cloisters on the east side supports the library, which is a light pleasant room, ornamented with a most elegant ceiling, and containing a respectable collection of books. On the south side of the court stands the chapel, which is at once neat and splendid. The roof, which is a frame of wood, is an admirable imitation of gothic stone work, and the altar, with its decorations, is particularly deserving of attention. It was finished in the year 1667, as was the whole court. The east window of this chapel is enriched with compartments of painted glass, finely executed by Pearson, from a painting of the late celebrated Mr. Mortimer. In the Anti-Chapel is an elegant monument to the memory of the late principal,

Dr.



Dr. Shippen, who was a great benefactor to this college.

An elegant house, connected with the college, and fronting the High-Street, has been lately fitted up at a considerable expence for the accommodation of the principal.

This college was founded in the year 1509, by Richard Smith, bishop of Lincoln, and Sir Richard Sutton, knight, of Presbūry, in Cheshire, for the maintenance of one principal and 15 fellows. To this number succeeding benefactions have added five fellows, 32 scholars, and four exhibitioners. The late principal, Dr. Shippen, likewise procured it several advowsons.

With respect to the very singular name of this college, it appears, that the founders erected their house on the scite of two ancient hostels or halls, viz. little University Hall, and Brazen-nose Hall. The latter of these acquired its name from some students removed to it from a seminary in the temporary university of Stamford, so denominated on account of an iron ring fixed in a nose of brass, and serving as a knocker to the gate.

The present members of this house are, one principal, 20 fellows, 32 scholars, and four exhibitioners; together with about 40 or 50 students. Visitor, the bishop of Lincoln.

**CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE.**—This College, which is situated near the back gate of Christ Church, consists of one handsome quadrangle, with some elegant appendant buildings. The entrance to the quadrangle (in which there is a peculiar appearance of neatness) is by a beautiful gothic gateway. On the east stands the hall, which is handsomely wainscotted, and well proportioned, with beautiful gothic rafters. In the midst of this court is a curious column exhibiting a cylindrical dial; the construction of which is esteemed a valuable piece of old gnomonics; and was constructed in the year 1605, by Charles Turnbull,



one of the fellows. To the south of this court is an elegant pile of building of the Ionic order, which fronts Christ's Church meadow, and was erected by Dr. Turner, formerly president, in the year 1705. There is likewise another structure, of the modern kind, near the hall, appropriated to gentlemen commoners, whose number the founder has confined to six. This building was erected in the year 1737.

The Chapel is 70 feet in length and 25 in breadth, with a screen and altar-piece of cedar: and over the communion table is a most excellent copy of Guido's Annunciation, by Pompeo Battoni; which almost possesses the sweetness and delicacy of the original. This picture was lately given to the society by Sir Christopher Willoughby, Bart. of Baldon House.

The Library, which is well furnished with books, is remarkable for a collection of pamphlets from the Reformation to the Revolution; an English bible, said to be of higher antiquity than that of Wickliffe; and a vellum roll, which exhibits the pedigree of the royal family, with the collateral branches, from Alfred to Edward I. richly decorated with their arms blazoned and signed by the kings at arms; but the most striking curiosity is an ancient manuscript history of the bible in French. illuminated with a series of beautiful paintings, illustrating the sacred story. It was given by General Oglethorpe, formerly member of this house. Here is shewn also the crosier of the founder, which although a fine specimen of antique workmanship, is by no means equal to that of Wykeham, at New College. Here is likewise preserved part of the founder's chapel plate, consisting of two platters, a golden chalice of very elegant form, and a vase of silver gilt, with its cover curiously wrought, and enriched with an amethyst and pendant pearls, together with his episcopal ring.

This college was founded in the year 1516, and endowed with lands, of four hundred pounds  
per

per annum, by Richard Fox, who was successively bishop of Exeter, Bath and Wells, Durham, and Winchester; and lord privy seal to king Henry VII. and VIII. It was originally endowed for the maintenance of one president, 20 fellows, 20 scholars, two chaplains, two clerks, and two choristers. The statutes ordain, that the fellows should be elected from the scholars, and the latter from the counties and dioceses following, viz. two from Surry, three from Hampshire, one from Durham, two from Bath and Wells, two from Exeter, two from Lincolnshire, two from Gloucestershire, one from Wiltshire, or in defect of a candidate, the diocese of Sarum; one from Bedfordshire, two from Kent, one from Oxfordshire, and one from Lancashire.

The principal benefactor appears to have been Hugh Oldham, chaplain to Margaret, countess of Richmond, and afterwards bishop of Exeter; for the founder having intended his society as a seminary to the monks of St. Swithin's cathedral at Westminster, Oldham persuaded him to change his design, and to make it a college of secular students on the academic plan; contributing at the same time 600 marks for the completion of the building, besides certain estates for the augmentation of its revenue. William Frost, the founder's steward; John Claymond, the first president; and Robert Morwent, the second; with some others, have likewise given lands, &c. Arthur Parsons, M. D. sometime fellow; also gave 3,000l. towards purchasing advowsons.

According to Tanner, in his Not. Mon. the endowment of this college amounted in the year 1534, to the yearly value of 382l. 8s. 9d.

The present members are, one president, 20 fellows, two chaplains, 20 scholars, four exhibitioners, and six gentlemen commoners. Visitor, the bishop of Winchester.

CHRISTCHURCH COLLEGE.—This college consists of four courts or squares, viz. The great quadrangle;

Peck-water-square, Canterbury-court, the chaplain's court, with some other buildings.

The stately front of this college is extended to the length of 382 feet, and terminated at either end by two corresponding turrets. In the centre is the grand entrance, whose Gothic proportions and ornaments are remarkably magnificent. Over it is a beautiful tower, planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and erected by Dr. Fell; this tower contains the great bell, called *Tom*, (the weight of which is eight tons and a half) on the sound of which the students of the whole University are enjoined by statute to repair to their respective societies.

The great quadrangle is 264 by 261 feet in the clear; the east, north, and west sides with part of the south, consist of the lodgings of the dean, the canons, and the students, &c. The greatest part of the south side is formed by the Hall, which is considerably elevated above the rest of the buildings, and the whole finished with a balustrade of stone, and taken as a detached structure, is a noble specimen of ancient magnificence. The south, east, and part of the west sides, were erected by cardinal Wolsey, as was the magnificent kitchen to the south of the hall. The north, and what remained of the west side of this court, was finished in the year 1665. By the marks on the wall, it has been supposed by some that this area was formerly surrounded by a cloister: indeed it is evident that a cloister was designed; but it does not appear that it was ever executed.

Round the whole of this area is a spacious terrace walk, and in the centre a bason and fountain, with a statue of Mercury. On the inside, over the grand entrance is a statue of queen Anne; and over the arch, in the north-east angle, another of bishop Fell; opposite which, at the south-east, is a fine one of cardinal Wolsey, executed by Francis Bird, of Oxford. Under this statue of the cardinal is the entrance to the hall, by a spacious and stately staircase.

case of stone, covered with a beautiful roof, built in the year 1630, which though very broad is supported by a small single pillar of fine proportion. The staircase and entrance into the hall have lately been altered at a considerable expence, under the direction of Mr. Wyatt, with a view of rendering them more conformable to the rest of the buildings. The hall is probably the largest, and certainly the most superb of any college-hall in the kingdom: it has eight windows on each side, is 180 feet in length, and its ceiling 80 feet high. This room has been refitted at a great expence, and is adorned with the portraits of eminent persons, educated at or related to the college. The roof is a noble frame of rafter work, beautified with near 300 coats of arms, properly blazoned; and enriched with other decorations of painting, carving, and gilding, in the Gothic taste.

The Church of this college, which is the cathedral church of the bishop of Oxford, is situated to the east of the grand quadrangle. It is an ancient venerable structure, finished before the year 1200, and originally the church of St. Frideswide's monastery, on or near the scite of which the college is erected. The roof of the choir is a beautiful piece of stone work, erected by cardinal Wolsey, who likewise rebuilt, or refitted the spire, as it now stands, the original one having been much loftier. The last window is elegantly painted by Mr. Price, senior, from a design of Sir James Thornhill, representing the Epiphany. In the aisle, on the north of the choir, which was the dormitory of St. Frideswide, is an ancient monument, said to be the tomb of that saint, who died in the year 739. At the west end of the same aisle is a picture, painted in a masterly manner, by John Oliver, and given by him to the college in the year 1700: the subject is St. Peter delivered out of prison by the angel. Many remains of painted glass, remarkable for strength and brilliancy of colour, appear in different parts of  
the

the church ; for the windows, having been for the most part destroyed in the year 1651, some of the fragments have been lately collected, and disposed with great taste into complete windows or compartments. The tower contains ten musical bells, brought hither from Oseney Abbey, as was the great bell called Tom, above-mentioned. In this cathedral choir service is performed at ten and five every day. The church was designed by the cardinal for private masses and theological exercises only ; the foundation stones of the church or chapel intended for public service, being still visible in the gardens, on the north side of the great quadrangle, which, as Wood tells us, would have been an august and immense work. In the Chapter House, which is a beautiful gothic room, are two portraits admirably painted, and in the most perfect preservation, which are said to have belonged to Henry VIII. the one representing an elderly, the other a young man, both in black bonnets and as large as life : on the back of one is the following mark, No. H. R. 2, on the other No. H. R. 25. The former is supposed to be Frederick the Wise, duke of Saxony, and the latter Philip, arch-duke of Austria.

Peck-water court is situated to the north-east of the great quadrangle, and is perhaps the most elegant edifice in the University. It consists of three sides, each of which has 15 windows in front. The lower story is rustic, the second and attic are of the height and dimensions of the Ionic ; its architect was dean Aldrich ; and its principal founder Dr. Radcliffe, a canon of this church, assisted by other contributions. Opposite to this court is a sumptuous library, 141 feet in length, supported by pillars of the Corinthian order. It was first intended to have erected this structure on piazzas, which would have given it a lighter air : in the place of which apartments are formed for the reception of General Guise' valuable collection of paintings, lately bequeathed



beathed to the college, and for the residue of the books, which could not be placed in the upper room. The south side of this library is furnished with elegant book-cases, extending to the whole length of the room, with a gallery above; and between the windows, on the opposite side, is likewise placed a series of book-cases, respectively assigned to the several sciences; over each of which there are beautiful festoons in stucco, charged with symbolical imagery, severally representing the particular branch of literature contained beneath: the ceiling is likewise richly ornamented with masterly compartments of stucco. The wainscoting, &c. which is of the finest Norway oak, together with the bannisters of the gallery, are all highly finished with carving. On a pedestal, in a recess on the north side, is placed an admirable whole length statue of Locke, formerly a student of this house, by Roubiliac. At each end are likewise marble busts, one of Dr. Boulter, late primate of Ireland; the other of Dr. Friend, late master of Westminster school. Towards the south of the library are several apartments, likewise furnished with book-cases, and cabinets for manuscripts.

East of this quadrangle is Canterbury Court, originally Canterbury College; being formerly a distinct college, founded in the year 1363, by Islip, archbishop of canterbury, but being afterwards dissolved, was taken into this foundation. The ancient buildings of this court, which were falling into decay, have been lately taken down, and by the munificence of a late primate of Ireland, and other liberal benefactors, the whole of the court and gateway has been elegantly rebuilt, after a design, and under the direction of Mr. Wyatt.

The Chaplain's Court is situated to the south-east of Wolsey's quadrangle, on the north side of which is a light Gothic edifice, formerly belonging to St. Frideswide's monastery, and named St. Lucia's Chapel. It was lately used for a library, but is now  
con-



converted into chambers for the use of the society. To the south of this chapel is an elegant range of buildings, commonly stiled Fell's, which fronts a noble walk, belonging to the college, called White Walk, upwards of two furlongs in length, and 50 feet wide, shaded on each side with lofty elms, and commanding a delightful prospect of the adjacent meadows, the river, and the neighbouring villages.

The court of the Grammar School is situated to the south of the great quadrangle, having the hall on the north side of it; under part of the hall is the spacious common room, in which there is an excellent bust, by Rysbrack, of Dr. Busby, formerly master of Westminster School, and a considerable benefactor to this college; this room likewise contains pictures of several masters of the same school, and other eminent members of this society. On the south side of the court is the New Anatomical Theatre, erected and endowed by the late Dr. Lee, physician to King George II. at the expence of 20,000*l*. In it is a fine collection of anatomical preparations, injections, &c.

Christ Church was originally founded by Cardinal Wolsey, in the year 1525, for the support of a dean, a subdean, 100 canons, 10 public readers, 13 chaplains, 12 clerks, 16 choristers, besides officers, and servants. But while the cardinal was completing this design, having actually admitted 18 canons, about the year 1529, he fell into disgrace; when King Henry VIII. seized upon the foundation, which he suspended till the year 1532, when he re-established it under the name of Henry the Eighth's College, for one dean and 12 canons. This foundation was, however, suppressed in the year 1545, by the same king, who the next year removed hither the episcopal see first established in Oseney Abbey, and constituted the Church of St. Frideswide a Cathedral, by the name of Christ's Church. At the same time, on part of Wolsey's original revenues, he established

a dean, eight canons, eight chaplains, eight clerks, eight choristers, and an organist; together with 60 students, 40 grammar-scholars, a schoolmaster, and usher. In this form the foundation has remained ever since; except that Queen Elizabeth, in the year 1561, converted the 40 grammar-scholars into academical students: ordering at the same time, that their vacancies should be supplied from Westminster school. Thus 100 students were established; to which number William Thurstone, Esq. in the year 1663, added one.

The benefactors to this college have been numerous; the principal of whom are Dean Fell, and Lady Holford, who gave several exhibitions for scholars educated at the Charter-House; and the late Dr. Lee, above-mentioned.

This college or church consists at present of one dean, eight canons, eight chaplains, eight singing-men, one organist, eight choristers, 101 students, besides many independent members; the whole number being about 180.— Visitor, the King.

TRINITY COLLEGE.—This college is situated opposite the Turl, a spacious avenue, fenced from the street by an handsome iron pallisade, with folding gates, adorned on the outside with the arms of the Earl of Guildford, and on the inside with those of the founder, leads to the front of the college, which consists of the chapel, and the gateway with its tower. Over the gate, in stone are the arms of the founder, surrounded with a wreath of laurel, and supported by the genii of Fame.

The approach to this college has lately been widened, so as to exhibit the whole front of the chapel towards the street, which produces a very noble and beautiful effect.

In the first court are the Chapel, Hall, Library, and Lodgings of the President. The chapel possesses a peculiar elegance, which results from an assemblage of the most finished, and yet the most simple

ple ornaments. The carvings about the screen and altar, which are of cedar, by the masterly hand of Gibbons, are finished in an exquisite taste. The altar-piece, which consists of a beautiful specimen of needle-work, representing the Resurrection, was executed and presented to the college, by Miss Althea Fanshawe, of Shiplake Hill, near Henley-upon-Thames. It is worked in worsted with exquisite taste and brilliancy of colouring, from the painting by West in Windsor Chapel. Under an alcove near the altar, is a fine Gothic tomb, on which are the recumbent figures of the liberal founder and his lady, in alabaster, in the finest preservation. The ceiling of this chapel is covered with a bold and beautiful stucco, and in the midst of it is an Ascension, which is executed in a good stile, by Peter Berchett, an eminent French painter.

The Hall is spacious and well proportioned, partly in the Gothic style, and adorned with a portrait of the founder. The ceiling has been lately enriched with stucco; and by other decorations and improvements, this room is rendered both elegant and commodious. Over the chimney-piece are the arms of Queen Mary and King Philip, painted by Catton, with the date 1554.

In the library is shewn a valuable manuscript of Euclid; being a translation from the Arabic into Latin, before the discovery of the original Greek, by Adelardus Bathionensis, in the year 1130. It was given by the founder, together with several other manuscripts, who likewise furnished this library with many costly printed volumes, chiefly in folio, at that time esteemed no mean collection.

In the library windows are many compartments of old painted glass, but much injured by the presbyterians in the grand rebellion; the painted glass in the original of this college, which is reported to have been remarkably fine, was entirely destroyed by the same spirit of sacrilegious and barbarous zeal;

zeal: still farther exasperated at the following inscription, written in the great east window over the altar, "Orate pro anima Domini Thomæ Pope, Militis aurati, Fundatoris hujus Collegii."

In the President's Lodgings are two good pictures of the founder, copied from Hans Holbein, but ancient: and two large original pictures, both on board, of Adams, bishop of Limerick, and Wright, bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, in the reigns of James I. and Charles I. formerly fellows; together with a head of Thomas Allen, fellow, a famous mathematician and antiquary, by Dobson; and in the bursary is a curious old picture of Lady Elizabeth Paulet, the founder's third wife, supposed to be painted by Antonio Moore, about the year 1570.—Also three other valuable portraits of the founder and the presidents Kettel and Bathurst.

The second court is an elegant pile, planned by Sir Christopher Wren, and said, by Wood, to be one of the first pieces of modern architecture that appeared in the University. It consists of three sides, with an opening to the gardens on the east, which has a singular and most agreeable effect.

The gardens are remarkably beautiful, consisting of two divisions, which furnish alternate shade and sunshine; the first or larger division being thrown into open grass plats, while the southern division consists of shady walks, with a wilderness of flowering shrubs, and disposed into serpentine paths. The centre walk is terminated by a well-wrought iron-gate, with the founder's arms at the top, supported by two piers.

This college was founded March 8, 1594, by Sir Thomas Pope, knt. of Tittenhanger, in Hertfordshire, treasurer of the Court of Augmentations, in the reign of Henry VIII. privy councillor to the same king, and to Queen Mary, and a singular friend of Sir Thomas Moore; for the maintenance and education of a president, 12 fellows, and 12

scholars. The founder directs, that the scholars, who succeed to the fellowships, shall be chosen from his manors ; but if no candidates appear under such qualifications, on the day of election, which is on Trinity Monday, that they shall be supplied from any county in England. He also appoints, that no more than two natives of the same county shall be fellows of his college at the same time, Oxfordshire, excepted, from which county five are permitted.

The principal and almost only benefactor is Dr. Ralph Bathurst, formerly president; who expended 1,900*l.* in rebuilding the chapel, the ancient one having been miserably defaced during the Civil Wars.

This college at present consists of one president, 12 fellows, and 12 scholars, instituted by the founder. These, with the independent members, amount to about 90.—Visitor, the bishop of Winchester.

**ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE.**—This College is situated in a retired situation, on the north of Baliol and Trinity Colleges, having a terrace, shaded with a row of lofty elms, in front. It chiefly consists of two courts; the entrance to the first of which is by a handsome old gateway, with a tower over it; this court is formed by the hall and chapel on the north, the president's lodgings on the east; and the chambers of the fellows and students on the south and west sides. The chapel is neat and commodious. It is divided from the anti-chapel, by a new and elegant screen, over which is erected a handsome new organ. The altar is of the Corinthian order, and over the communion table is a beautiful piece of tapestry, from a painting of Titian, representing our Saviour and his two disciples at Emmaus. The eagle which supports the bible is a piece of curious workmanship, executed by Mr. Snetzler, of Oxford, and was the gift of Thomas Eskourt, Esq. late a gentleman commoner of this house. On the north side of the choir is a marble urn, containing the  
heart



heart of Dr. Rawlinson, enclosed in a silver vessel, with this singular inscription: "*Ubi thesaurus, ibi cor.*" Choir service is performed in this chapel every day, at 11 and 5.

The hall is fitted up in the modern taste with great elegance, being well proportioned, and handsomely wainscotted, with a beautiful arched roof, a screen of Portland stone, and a grand variegated marble chimney-piece, containing a picture of John the Baptist, by Guarini. It is likewise adorned with several other excellent pieces: at the upper end is a whole-length portrait of the founder, with archbishop Laud on the right, and archbishop Juxon on the left. On the north and south sides are those of bishop Mew, bishop Buckridge, Sir William Paddy, and other eminent men, who have either illustrated this society by their learning, or enriched it by their beneficence.

On the north side of the hall is the Common room, the ceiling of which is a good piece of stucco, by Mr. Roberts; and the whole room is handsomely adorned in general.

The second court, which is entered by a passage on the east side of the first, is the design of Inigo Jones, and built in the year 1635. The east and west sides exhibit each a beautiful Doric colonnade, the columns of which consist of a remarkable species of bluish stone, said to be dug at Fifield, in Berks. In the centre of each colonnade are two porticoes, charged with a profusion of embellishments. Over these, on each side, are two good statues in brass, cast by Francis Fanelli, a Florentine; that on the east of Charles I. and that on the west of his queen: their respective niches are ornamented with the Ionic and Corinthian orders; and the whole possesses an elegant and agreeable appearance. The upper stories of the south and east sides form the library: the first division of which consists of printed books; the second of manuscripts,



chiefly given by archbishop Laud. This being furnished with cases of iron lattice work, which are disposed in a parallel direction with the sides, form an ample and airy gallery. In this room the archbishop above-mentioned entertained Charles I. and his court in a most magnificent manner. Among other curiosities is a drawing of king Charles I. which contains the book of Psalms written in the lines of the face and hair of the head. In an elegant gilt frame, at the north end of the inner library, is a fine figure of St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness, after Raphael, beautifully stained upon, what at first sight, appears to be a piece of high-polished marble; but which is in reality a composition equally compact and durable, called Scagliola. The east window of this library is adorned with the coats of arms of the founder, the company of merchant-tailors, and of several benefactors to the college, in curious and well-painted glass.

The gardens, which are both extensive and beautiful, by the late improvements possess all those graces arising from a well-regulated variety, and a succession of beauties judiciously diversified and disposed.

This college was founded by Sir Thomas White, alderman and merchant-taylor of London, in the year 1557, for the maintenance of one president, and 50 fellows, three chaplains, three clerks, and six choristers, &c. Two of the fellowships are ordered to be supplied from Coventry, two from Bristol, two from Reading, and one from Tunbridge; the rest from merchant-taylor's school in London. The benefactors have been very numerous, and no less considerable. Sir William Paddy founded and endowed the present choir, that originally established by the founder having been dissolved, by unanimous consent of the society, in the year 1517, the revenues of the college being found insufficient for its maintenance. Archbishop Laud erected the  
second

second court, its south side excepted, which was built in the year 1595, with the stones of the Carmelite Friery in Gloucester Green; the company of merchant-tailors in London, amongst several other benefactions, contributing 200*l.* Archbishop Juxon, gave 7000*l.* to augment the fellowships; Dr. Holmes, formerly president, with his lady, gave 15,000*l.* for improving the salaries of the officers, and other purposes. And Dr. Rawlinson, above-mentioned, granted the reversion of a large estate, in fee-farm rents.

This college was founded on the scite of Bernard's College, erected in the year 1437, by archbishop Chichely, the liberal founder of All Soul's College. The present old quadrangle, part of the east side excepted, is the original edifice of Chichely, no building being added at the new foundation by Sir T. White.

The present members are, one president, 50 fellows, two chaplains, an organist, five singing men, six choristers, and two sextons, the number of students of all sorts, being about 80. Visitor, the bishop of Winchester.

**JESUS COLLEGE.**—This College, which consists of two courts, is situated opposite to Exeter College. It has a handsome front, lately much improved, with a grand rustic gateway.

In the first court is the hall, which has been much improved by the addition of a ceiling and other ornaments, executed in stucco, by the late Mr. Roberts—in this room there is likewise a portrait of queen Elizabeth: the principal's lodgings, in which is shewn a valuable picture of Charles I. at full length, by Vandyke: and the chapel, which is handsomely fitted-up and well proportioned. Of these the first was erected in the year 1617; the second soon after the year 1621; and the last was completed in the year 1636.

Three sides of the inner court was begun by Dr.

Mansel, one of the principals, a little before the grand rebellion; they are built in an uniform manner; the hall above-mentioned, forms the fourth side of this quadrangle. The Library, which is on the west side, is a well-furnished room, and adorned, among other portraits, with a curious picture of Dr. Hugh Price, supposed to have been painted by Hans Holbein, having been engraved as such by Vertue.

This college was founded, according to the purport of its charter, dated June 27th, 1571, by Queen Elizabeth, for one principal, eight fellows, and eight scholars. Nearly at the same time it also received an endowment of land, of about 175l. per annum, since lost, from Hugh Price, L. D. a native of Brecknock, and treasurer of the church of St. David's, who likewise erected a part of the first court.

The chief benefactors are, Sir Eubule Thelwall, formerly principal, who increased the number of fellows and scholars from eight to sixteen; Francis Mansell, D.D.; Sir Leoline Jenkins; Charles I. besides many others.

In the bursary is shewn a sumptuous piece of plate, the gift of the late Sir Watkin Williams Wynne; also the statutes of the college, exquisitely written on vellum, by the Rev. Mr. Parry, of Shipton-upon-Stower, formerly fellow.

This college consists at present of one principal, 19 fellows, 18 scholars, with many exhibitioners and independent students; in all about 80 or 90. Visitor, the earl of Pembroke.

**WADHAM COLLEGE.**—This College, which stands opposite to Trinity College, in the northern suburb, called Holiwell, consists chiefly of one large quadrangle, about 130 feet square.

At the south-east angle of this court is the Hall, to the east of which is the Library; the former is a spacious and lofty Gothic room, and furnished with some valuable portraits. The portico leading to this building is decorated with the statues of King James

James I. and Nicholas and Dorothy Wadham, the founders. The library presents nothing remarkable in its decorations and furniture.

The Chapel, at the north-east angle of the court, is an extensive and venerable pile; and the anti-chapel, like those at Merton, New College, All Souls, and Magdalen, runs at right angles to the choir, having a proportionable height, length, and breadth. The east window of this chapel, representing the Passion of our Saviour, is admirably painted by Van Ling, a Dutchman, in the year 1622. It was given by Sir John Strangeways, and is said to have cost 1,500*l*. The windows on the right side, appear to have been executed by the same hand, but those on the left are poor, and of a later age; but the most singular curiosity in this chapel is the painted cloth, at the lower end of the altar. The painting is on cloth, which being of an ash colour, serves for the medium; the lines and shades are done with a brown crayon, and the lights and heightening with a white one. These dry colours being pressed with hot irons, which produced an exudation from the cloth, are so incorporated into its texture and substance, that they are a proof against a brush, of even the harshest touch. The figures are finely drawn, and have a wonderful effect. It was executed by Isaac Fuller, who painted the Resurrection piece over the altar, at Magdalen: the subject of the front is the Lord's Supper, on the north side Abraham and Melchisedeck; and on the south the Children of Israel gathering manna.

The cloister, with its superstructure, in the midst of which is a handsome common room, forms a sort of east front to the college, from whence is a beautiful prospect over the meadows to the distant hills.

This college was designed by Nicholas Wadham, Esq. of Merifield, in Somersetshire, and erected in  
pursuance

pursuance of his will by Dorothy his widow, in the year 1613, for the maintenance of one warden, 15 fellows, 15 scholars, two chaplains, and two clerks. The statutes direct that the warden shall quit the college in case of marriage; that the fellows shall enjoy the benefit of the society no longer than 18 years, after their regency in arts; that the scholars from whom the fellows are chosen, shall be appointed three from Somersetshire, three from Essex, and the remainder from any part of Great Britain.

The buildings of this house have not received the least alteration from the time of the foundress; and as they now stand are the entire result of the first architect. From this circumstance they derive an uniformity and regularity, scarcely to be paralleled in any other college of this University.

The principal benefactors to this college are John Goodridge, A. M. who gave, in the year 1654, his whole estate at Walthamstow in Essex, for the endowment of several exhibitions, &c. and Dr. Hody, Greek professor, who founded four exhibitions for students in Hebrew, and for six others in Greek, of 10l. each. Dr. Philip Bisse, archdeacon of Taunton, gave above 2000 volumes to the library; in which is preserved his portrait, at full length, given by the foundress. Lord Wyndham lately bequeathed 2,000l.; 1,500l. of which are appointed for the increase of the warden's salary, and the residue for ornamenting the house; and Lisle, the late warden, bishop of Norwich, added two exhibitions.

This college consists of one warden, 15 fellows, 15 scholars, two chaplains, two clerks, and 16 exhibitioners, at 10l. per annum, each; the whole number of members being about 100. Visitor, the bishop of Bath and Wells.

PEMBROKE COLLEGE.—This college, which is situated opposite to the grand gate of Christ Church, consists of two small courts. To the right of the entrance are the Master's Lodgings, which make a handsome



handsome appearance, and are large and convenient. The Hall, which stands at the north-west angle of the first court, is adorned with several pictures of the founder and benefactors.

The Chapel, which is modern, is a handsome building of the Ionic order, with a beautiful altar-piece, which is justly admired for its neatness: and the whole is elegantly finished and properly adorned. It was built by contribution; and consecrated in the year 1732, previous to which their chapel was an aisle in the adjoining church of St. Aldate.

Westward of the chapel is the Garden, in which is a pleasant common room, and an agreeable terrace walk, formed on the city wall.

This college was founded in the year 1620, by the joint benefaction of Thomas Tesdale, of Glympton, in Oxfordshire, and Richard Whitwick, S. T. B. rector of Ilsley, Berks, for one master, 10 fellows, and 10 scholars. Four of Mr. Tesdale's fellows to be chosen out of his relations, and the rest who have received their education at Abingdon free-school. Two of the fellows and two scholars, on Mr. Whitwick's benefaction to be of his kindred, and the rest from Abingdon School. The former gentleman gave 5,000*l.* in money, and the latter 100*l.* per annum in land. The society has however been much enlarged by the addition of several fellowships, scholarships, and exhibitions. Charles I. granted the living of St. Aldate, in Oxford, together with a fellowship. Juliana Stafford, in the year 1628, founded two scholarships. Francis Rous, in the year 1657, three exhibitions. Dr. George Morley, bishop of Winton, founded five scholarships for the natives of Guernsey and Jersey; besides these Sir John Bennet, afterwards lord Ossulshire, eight exhibitions. Queen Anne, likewise annexed a prebend of Gloucester to the mastership; and not many years since Lady Holford added two exhibitions. Sir John Philips,



lips, Bart. in the year 1745, founded one fellowship, and one scholarship, with an advowson annexed. Dr. Hall, master of this college, and bishop of Bristol, built the lodgings of the master, together with the gateway of the college, soon after the Restoration.

This college was originally Broadgate Hall, a flourishing house of learning, famous for the study of the civil law, and in which Camden received part of his education. It obtained the name of Pembroke College, from the memorable Earl of Pembroke, who was chancellor of the University when the college was founded, and whose interest was particularly instrumental in its establishment. The society at present consists of one master, 14 fellows, 30 scholars and exhibitioners: the whole number of members, being about 70. Visitor, the chancellor of the University.

**WORCESTER COLLEGE.**—This college is situated at the extremity of the western suburbs, on an eminence, which descends to the river and meadows. Its court or area consists of three sides, which are to be completed in the modern taste. At present the eastern side only, together with the north wing are finished. On the west it is proposed to form a garden, sloping to the water; so that a most agreeable prospect will be opened to the college. The library is a neat Ionic edifice, 100 feet in length, supported by a spacious cloister: and furnished with a fine collection of books, the gift of Dr. Clarke, formerly fellow of All Soul's College. Its greatest curiosity is Inigo Jones's Palladio, with his own manuscript notes in Italian.

On the entrance into the college on each side are the Chapel and Hall, both of which are fifty feet in length, and 29 in breadth. On the whole, if this house should be executed according to the plan proposed, it will be one of the most elegant structures in the University, as the society have a design of opening

opening a spacious avenue in front, quite up to Magdalene parish.

This college was founded in the year 1714, by the benefaction of Sir Thomas Cookes, of Bentley in Worcestershire, for one provost, six fellows, and six scholars. To these have since been added two fellowships and two scholarships, by Dr. Finney, and two exhibitions for Charter House scholars, by Lady Holford; the principal benefactors, however, have been Mrs. Eaton, daughter of Dr. Eaton, principal of Gloucester Hall, who founded six fellowships in the year 1735; and Dr. Clarke, fellow of All Soul's College, who gave six fellowships and three scholarships, in the year 1736; besides other considerable bequests.

This house was originally called Gloucester College, being a seminary for educating the novices of Gloucester monastery, as it was likewise for those of other religious houses. It was founded in the year 1283, by John Gifford, baron of Brimsfield. When suppressed at the Reformation, it was converted into a palace for the bishop of Oxford; but was soon afterwards erected into an academical hall, by Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College; in which state it continued, till it at length received a charter of incorporation, and a small endowment from Sir Thomas Cookes.

The society at present consists of a provost, 20 fellows, 17 scholars, &c. The whole number being about 70. Visitor, the Chancellor of the University.

**HERTFORD COLLEGE.**—This college is situated opposite to the gate of the Schools, and consists of one court: the entire plan is, however, far from being complete, it being intended to be erected in the form of a quadrangle, each angle to consist of three staircases, and fifteen single apartments, and every apartment to contain an outward room, a bed place, and a study; of these the south-east angle,  
and

and the chapel in the south, the principal's lodgings in the east, the hall in the north, and the gateway, with the library over it, in the west, are the only parts which are finished.

This house was formerly called Hartford or Hart Hall, founded by Walter Stapleton, bishop of Exeter, in the year 1312, and belonged to Exeter College; having, however, received a charter of incorporation from Dr. Richard Newton, a late learned and public-spirited principal, who also consigned an estate towards its endowment. This ancient hostel was converted into a college, September 8, 1740.

As an inducement to complete this college, it may be called by the name of any other person who will complete the endowment of it or become the principal benefactor to it.

The college consists, at present, of a principal, two senior fellows, some junior fellows, or assistants, four scholars, &c. Visitor, the Chancellor of the University.

### HALLS.

Of the numerous halls, hostels, or inns, which were the only academical houses originally possessed by the students of Oxford, only five subsist at present. These societies are neither endowed nor incorporated. They are subject to their respective principals, whose salary arises from the room-rent of the house. The principals are appointed by the Chancellor of the University, that of Edmund Hall excepted, who is nominated by Queen's College, under whose patronage Edmund Hall still remains. The rest were formerly dependent on particular colleges.

The five Halls now extant, are :

**ALBAN HALL.**—This hall is situated contiguous to Merton College on the east, and appears to have been a house of learning in the reign of Edward I. It received its name from Robert de St. Alban, a  
citizen

citizen of Oxford, who in the reign of Edward III. conveyed this tenement to the abbey of Littlemore. The front was erected, in the year 1595, by Benedict Barnham, alderman of London. It has a small refectory, but no chapel.

**ST. EDMUND'S HALL.**—This hall, which is situated to the east of Queen's College, was first established about the reign of Edward III. and was consigned to Queen's College in the year 1557. It has a library, refectory, and chapel, which are neat and commodious.

**ST. MARY HALL** is situated in Oriel Lane, to the south of St. Mary's Church, and was erected by king Edward II. It consists of an elegant little court, which is formed by the principal's lodgings on the north, the hall and chapel on the south, and on the east and west by the chambers of the students. Erasmus, Sir Thomas Moore, and Sandys the poet, studied in this house.

The buildings of this society received considerable improvements in the last century, the east side having been entirely rebuilt, by the contributions of several noblemen and gentlemen educated here; and the south side has likewise been lately raised and finished by the benefactions of Dr. Nowell, the late principal, and other members of the society. The number of students is about 60.

**NEW INN HALL.**—This hall stands at the west end of the city, near the church of St. Peter in the Bailey. It was consigned to students, in the year 1545, by John Trillock, bishop of Hereford. It has no chapel. Almost opposite to this hall stands part of the gateway of St. Mary's College, in which Erasmus resided for some time, and who has left an elegant Latin poem on the manner of his living here. It was founded in the year 1437, for novices of the Augustine order, but suppressed at the Reformation.

**MAGDALENE HALL.**—This hall adjoins to the west side of Magdalene College, to which it is appendant,

the most considerable part of it being a Grammar School for the choristers of that college, and erected with it by the founder William Wainfleet, for that purpose alone. To this structure other buildings being added, it grew by degrees into an academical hall; and has a well-furnished library, with a neat chapel and refectory. Here are several exhibitions, and this seminary boasts the education of Lord Clarendon, the celebrated historian. The number of students is generally about 70.

The other public buildings more particularly belonging to the University are the following:

**THE NEW OR RADCLIVIAN LIBRARY**, which is situated in a superb square, formed by St. Mary's Church, the Schools, Brazen-nose and All Soul's Colleges. This sumptuous building was erected at the expence of the gentleman whose name it bears, who left 40,000*l.* for this purpose; 150*l.* per annum for a librarian; 100*l.* per year to purchase books, and the same sum to keep the building in repair.

The basement, which is rustic, is 100 feet in diameter, composed of a double octagon, every square being distinguished by its projection, and a pediment forming a gateway. On this base is raised a cylindrical edifice, adorned with three-quarter columns of the Corinthian order, arranged in couplets, between which is an alternation of windows and niches, the whole circumference. The entablature is highly finished with carving; over it is a balustrade, finished with vases; above which is a cupola 60 feet in height. Seven of the gateways above-mentioned are entrances into the portico or arcade, and enclose a spacious dome in the centre. Over each of the entrances is a dome of smaller dimensions, curiously wrought with a variety of Mosaic work. The eighth gateway is appropriated to a well-executed flight of spiral steps, which leads into the library itself. This room, which is a complete pattern of elegance, rises into a capacious dome, ornamented



namented with fine compartments of stucco. The pavement is of two colours, and made of a peculiar species of stone, brought from Hartz Forest, in Germany. The room is enclosed by a circular series of arches, beautified with festoons, and supported by pilasters of the Ionic order. Behind these arches are formed two circular galleries, above and below, in which the books are arranged. The compartments of the ceiling in the upper gallery are finely stuccoed. Over the door, at the front entrance, is a statue of the founder, Dr. Radcliffe, by Rysbrack, which is most advantageously viewed from the point opposite to it in the last-mentioned gallery. Over the entrance of one of the galleries is a good bust of Gibbes, the architect.

The first stone of this magnificent edifice was laid the 17th of May in the year 1737; and the library opened on the 13th of April, 1749, with great solemnity. The librarian, according to the founder's appointment, is nominated by the great officers of state.

In this library are a couple of superb Roman candlesticks, of incomparable workmanship, which were found in the ruins of the Emperor Adrian's palace at Tivoli, in the Campania Romana; they were given to the University by Sir Roger Newdigate, Bart.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS, form a magnificent quadrangle; the principal front is about 175 feet in length; in the centre of which is a noble tower, whose highest apartments are appointed for astronomical observations, and other philosophical experiments. Three sides of the upper story of the quadrangle are one entire room, called the Picture Gallery. This is chiefly furnished with valuable portraits of founders and benefactors, and of other eminent men; as also with cabinets of medals, and cases of books. It was wainscotted by the munificence of Dr. Butler, the late president of Magdalene College, and the late Duke of Beaufort. About the middle



stands a noble statue in brass of Philip, Earl of Pembroke, designed by Rubens, and cast by Hubert le Soeur, a Frenchman, the same who executed the equestrian statue of Charles I. at Charing Cross. This room is in reality a part or continuation of the Bodleian Library, and under it are the schools of the several sciences; in a room to the north of which are placed the Arundelian marbles, given to the University by Henry Howard, earl marshal, grandson to Lord Arundel, at the instance of Mr. Eveline, when Arundel House in the Strand was taken down; and in another, the collection of statues, &c. which were presented to the University, by the late countess of Pomfret. The first stone of the Schools was laid March 30, 1613; and was carried on, at the combined expence of many benefactors.

THE BODLEIAN OR PUBLIC LIBRARY, is a part or member of the last mentioned edifice. It consists of three spacious and lofty rooms, disposed in the form of a Roman H.—The middle room was erected by Humphrey Duke of Gloucester, over the Divinity School, about the year 1440, and by him furnished with books, all of which have been since lost. The gallery on the West was raised at the expence of the University, under the chancellorship of Archbishop Laud, together with the Convocation House beneath. The vestibule or first gallery with the proscholium under it, was built by Sir Thomas Bodley, who furnished the whole with a collection of books, made with prodigious care and expence. He likewise assigned an estate for the maintenance of a librarian, &c. and the support of a public fund for the library; adding a body of statues, for the regulation of this institution, which were afterwards confirmed by convocation. By these services he justly obtained the name of the founder of the library. He died the 8th of January 1612. The original stock has been greatly enriched by the accession of many valuable collections of manuscripts,

manuscripts, particularly Greek and oriental; besides many additions of choice and useful books, from various benefactors, the principal of whom are, the Earl of Pembroke, Archbishop Laud, Sir Thomas Roe, Sir Kenelm Digby, General Fairfax, Dr. Marshall, Dr. Barlow, Dr. Rawlinson, and Mr. St. Amand. This library is said to contain the greatest number of books of any in Europe (except that of the Vatican), though previous to the year 1300, the library of the University consisted of only a few tracts, which were kept in the choir of St. Mary's Church.

This Library and the Picture Gallery may be seen in the summer from eight to two o'clock, and in the afternoon from three to five. In the winter only till three in the afternoon.

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL stands under the same roof, it was begun at the expence of the University, in the year 1427, and afterwards completed, with its superstructure, by Duke Humphrey. Its ceiling is a most finished piece of Gothic masonry, both in design and execution; and on the whole, it is probably the most complete Gothic room in this kingdom. At the end of it is the Convocation House, which is a spacious apartment, commodiously furnished and handsomely decorated. It was built with its superstructure, in the year 1639.

THE THEATRE.—The front of this building stands opposite to the Divinity School, and is adorned with Corinthian pillars, and a statue of Charles II. with other decorations. The roof is flat, and not being supported either by columns or arch-work, rests on the side walls, which are at the distance of 80 feet one way, and 70 feet the other. This roof is covered with allegorical pictures, done by Streater, serjeant-painter to Charles II. The following description of which is given in Dr Plott's Natural History of Oxfordshire:

“ In imitation of the Theatres of the ancient Greeks and Romans, which were too large to be covered

vered with lead or tile, so this, by the painting of the flat roof within, is represented open; and as they stretched a cordage from pilaster to pilaster, upon which they strained a covering of cloth, to protect the people from the injuries of the weather, so here is a cord-moulding gilded, that reaches cross the house, both in length and breadth, which supporteth a great reddish drapery, supposed to have covered the roof, but now furled up by the *Genii* round about the house, towards the wall which discovereth the open air, and maketh way for the descent of the *Arts and Sciences*, that are congregated in a circle of clouds, to whose assembly *Truth* descends, as being solicited and implored by them all.

“ For joy of this festival some other *Genii* sport about the clouds, with their festoons of flowers and laurels, and prepare their garlands of laurels and roses, viz. *Honour* and *Pleasure*, for the great lovers and students of those arts: and that this assembly might be perfectly happy, their great enemies and disturbers, *Envy*, *Rapine*, and *Brutality*, are by the *Genii* of their opposite virtues, viz. *Prudence*, *Fortitude*, and *Eloquence*, driven from the society, and thrown down headlong from the clouds: the report of the assembly of the one, and the expulsion of the other, being proclaimed through the open and serene air, by some other of the *Genii*, who blowing their antick trumpets, divide themselves into the several quarters of the world. Thus far in general.

“ More particularly, the circle of figures consists, first of *Theology*, with her Book of Seven Seals, imploring the assistance of *Truth* for the unfolding of it.

“ On her left hand is the *Mosaical Law*, veiled, with the tables of stone, to which she points with her iron rod.

“ On her right hand is the *Gospel*, with the cross in one hand, and a chalice in the other.

“ In the same division, over the *Mosaical Law*, is  
3
History,

*History*, holding up her pen as dedicating it to *Truth*, and an attending *Genius*, with several fragments of old Writing, from which she collects her history into her books.

“ On the other side, near the *Gospel*, is *Divine Poesy*, with her harp of David’s fashion.

“ In the triangle on the right hand of the *Gospel*, is also *Logick*, in a posture of arguing; and on the left hand of the *Mosaical Law* is *Musick*, with her antick lyre, having a pen in her hand, and a paper of Music Notes on her knee, with a *Genius* on her right hand, (a little within the partition of *Theology*) playing on a flute, being the emblem of ancient musick.

“ On the left (but within the partition of *Physick*) *Dramatick Poesy*, with a Vizard, representing *Comedy*, a bloody dagger for *Tragedy*, and the reed pipe for *Pastoral*.

“ In the square, on the right side of the circle, is *Law*, with her ruling Sceptre, accompanied with Records, Patents, and Evidences on the one side, and on the other with *Rhetorick*: by these is an attending *Genius*, with the Scales of *Justice*, and a figure with a palm-branch, the emblem of reward for virtuous actions; and the *Roman Fasces*, the marks of Power and Punishment.

“ *Printing*, with a Case of Letters in one hand, and a Form ready set in the other, and by her several Sheets hanging to dry.

“ On the left side the circle, opposite to *Theology*, in three squares, are the *Mathematical Sciences*, depending on *Demonstration*, as the other on *Faith*; in the first of which is *Astronomy*, with the Celestial Globe, *Geography*, with the Terrestrial, together with three attending *Genii* having *Arithmetick* in the square on one hand, with a paper of figures; *Optics* with the perspective glass; *Geometry*, with a pair of compasses in her left hand; and a table, with geometrical figures in it, in her right hand. And in the square on the other hand, *Architecture* embracing  
the

the capital of a column, with compasses, and the norma or square lying by her, and a workman holding another square in one hand, and a plumb-line in the other.

“ In the midst of these squares and triangles (as descending from above) is the figure of *Truth*, sitting as on a cloud, in one hand holding a palm-branch (the emblem of victory), in the other the sun, whose brightness enlightens the whole circle of figures, and is so bright that it seems to hide the face of herself to the spectators below.

“ Over the entrance of the front of the Theatre are three figures tumbling down; first *Envy*, with her snaky hairs, squint eyes, hag’s breast, pale venomous complexion, strong but ugly limbs, and rivelled skin, frightened from above by the sight of the shield of *Pallas*, with the *Gorgon’s* head in it, against which she opposes her snaky tresses; but her fall is so precipitous, she has no command of her arms.

“ Then *Rapine*, with her fiery eyes, grinning teeth, sharp twangs, her hands imbrued in blood, holding a bloody dagger in one hand, in the other a burning flambeau; with these instruments threatening the destruction of Learning, and all its habitations: but she is overcome, and prevented by a *Herculean Genius*, or power.

“ Next that is represented brutish, scoffing *Ignorance*, endeavouring to vilify and contemn what she understands not, which is charmed by a *Mercurial Genius*, with his *Caduceus*.”

The colours, however, as well as the canvas of this painting, having been greatly injured by time, the work was cleaned and repaired in the year 1762, by Mr. Kettle, an ingenious portrait painter; at which time the whole of the interior of this edifice, was also decorated with new gilding, painting, and other ornaments, at the expence of 1,000l.; so that it is now universally allowed to be one of the



most superb and splendid rooms in Europe. Besides the ceiling, the room is furnished with three full length portraits of Archbishop Sheldon, the Duke of Ormond, and Sir Christopher Wren. This beautiful structure, which is somewhat in the form of a Roman D, was erected from a design of Sir Christopher Wren, in the year 1669, at the expence of Archbishop Sheldon, who having expended 15,000l. in the building it, endowed it with 2000l. to purchase lands for its perpetual repair.—In the Theatre are celebrated the public arts, and the annual commemoration of benefactors to the University, on the 2nd of July, instituted by the late Lord Crew, bishop of Durham, with some other solemnities.

THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM stands westward of the Theatre; and is so called from its founder Elias Ashmole, Esq. Windsor Herald in the reign of Charles II. This munificent patron of learning, in the year 1677, made an offer to bestow upon the University all the rarities he had purchased from the two Tradescants, successively physic gardeners at Lambeth, together with his own collection of coins, manuscripts, &c. on condition that they should build a fabric for their reception. The building was accordingly erected, and finished in the year 1682, under the direction of Sir Christopher Wren. Its front towards the street is about 60 feet in length; the eastern portico is remarkably well finished in the Corinthian order, adorned with a variety of characteristic embellishments, and its architecture is deservedly reckoned equal to any in the University; though, like many others, it is so much crowded by the neighbouring buildings, that the spectator, cannot command a proper view of it. In pursuance of his promise Ashmole presented to the University a large and valuable collection of natural bodies, together with his coins and manuscripts; at his death he likewise bequeathed three gold chains, one of philegrain, work consisting of 60 links,



links, weighing twenty-two ounces, with a medal of the Duke of Brandeburgh; the other a collar of SS. with a medal of the late king of Denmark; and the third a chain of equal weight and value, with a medal of the Emperor Joseph; all which he had received as honorary presents on occasion of his book, concerning the order of the garter. The museum, since its first foundation, has been greatly enriched by several ample and valuable benefactions. The chief natural curiosities are a large collection of bodies, horns, bones, &c. of animals, preserved dry or in spirits; numerous specimens of minerals and metals; shells, especially those of Dr. Martin Lister, mentioned in his *History of the Animals of England*, together with his ores, fossils, &c. many of which are described in the *Philosophical Transactions*, or in the pieces published by that ingenious naturalist. It contains also a small, but chosen collection of exotic plants, sent from the East Indies, by James Pound, M. B. But it has chiefly been indebted to the care and munificence of its two first keepers, Dr. Robert Plott and Mr. Edward Lhwyd; the former of which gave all the natural bodies mentioned in his *Histories of the Counties of Stafford and Oxon*: and the latter, the large collections he had made in his travels, through the greatest part of England, Wales, and Ireland. To these valuable treasures a great addition was made by the Rev. William Borlase, who presented to the University all the specimens of chrystals, mundics, coppers, tins, &c. described in his *Natural History of Cornwall*; which present he also accompanied with his manuscript copy of the history, and the original drawings. Amongst the curiosities of nature must be reckoned the large magnet, given to the Museum, by the Right Honourable the Countess of Westmorland, the lady of a former chancellor. It is of an oval shape, its longer diameter being 18 inches, its shorter 12, and supports a weight of 145lb. it is inclosed

closed in an elegant case of mahogany, made at his lordship's expence; and may justly be deemed one of the greatest ornaments as well as rarities of this place. This repository likewise contains a good collection of antiquities, such as urns, statues, sacrificial vessels and utensils; it being possessed of most of those described in the *Britannia*, by Bishop Gibson. Here are also many Grecian, Roman, and Saxon coins, the gifts of the founder, and Thomas Braithwaite, Esq. Amongst the works of art, a model of a ship, given by Dr. Clark, and a picture representing our Saviour going to his Crucifixion, made of feathers, deserve particular notice; also a very ancient piece of St. Cuthbert, made by order of King Alfred, and worn as is supposed by that monarch. Here are also some good paintings: a dead Christ, the work of Annibal Carracci; several portraits of the Tradescant family, particularly Sir John the grandfather, drawn after his death; Thomas, Earl of Arundel, and the Duke of Norfolk, his son, by Vandyke; likewise the founder of the museum, in a carved frame of elegant workmanship, and an extraordinary representation of Christ's descent into Hell, by Brugell. The last present to this collection was given by Mr. Reinhold Foster, who went the first voyage round the world, with Captain Cook, consisting of a great variety of the manufactures, habits, wai-like instruments, and an idol, which he brought from the island of Otaheite, and New Zealand.

Besides the room in which the curiosities are deposited, there are three small libraries; the first called by the name of Ashmole's Study, containing his printed books and manuscripts, chiefly relating to matters of heraldry, and antiquity; in which also are the manuscripts of Sir William Dugdale, author of the *Monasticon*, &c. The second is that of Dr. Fister, consisting of printed books in physic, and the best editions of the classics, in which are also preserved the copper plates, belonging to the History  
of

of Shells, published by that author. The last is that of Anthony Wood, containing the valuable manuscript collections of that learned and laborious antiquarian. In the room on the first floor lectures are read in experimental philosophy, under which is an elaboratory for courses of chemistry and anatomy. The care and direction of the Museum is vested in six visitors, *viz.* the Vice Chancellor, the Dean of Christ Church, the Principals of Brazen-nose, the King's Professor of Physic, and the two Proctors for the time being. These have the nomination of the head keeper, and meet annually on Trinity Monday to inspect the state of the collection, and to pass the accounts.

THE CLARENDON-PRINTING-HOUSE, which is almost contiguous to the Theatre, is a magnificent structure, consisting of two stories, and being 115 feet in length. The street front has a noble Doric portico, whose columns equal the height of the first story: the back front is adorned with three quarter columns of the same dimensions, and a statue of the Earl of Clarendon. On the top of the building are statues of the Nine Muses. At the entrance from the schools, on the right hand, are two rooms, where bibles and books of common prayer, are printed; over which are large and elegant apartments. The left side consists of rooms for the University Press; together with one well executed apartment (adorned with an excellent portrait of queen Anne, by Kneller), appointed for the meetings of the heads of houses and delegates. This edifice was built in the year 1711, by the profits arising from the sale of Lord Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, the copy of which had been presented to the University, by his sons the Lords Clarendon and Rochester.

The City of Oxford is situated 54 miles from London, and contains, according to the late returns, 1909 houses; inhabited by 11,694 persons, *viz.* 5,920 males, and 5,774 females, of whom 1647 were returned

turned as being employed in trade. The return for the University was 1026 males, and 145 females.

In Port Meadow, at a small distance from the city, annual races are held.

### OXFORD TERMS.

Hilary Term begins January 14—Ends on Saturday before Palm Sunday.

Easter Term begins on Wednesday before Low Sunday—Ends on Thursday before Whitsunday.

Act Term begins on Wednesday after Trinity Sunday—Ends on Saturday after Act Sunday.

Michaelmas Term begins Oct. 10—Ends Dec. 17.

### *Journey from Oxford to Caversham, through Henley.*

On leaving Oxford, and proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of about two miles from the city, and a little to the right of our road is the village of IFFLEY, where Edward the Confessor was born: it is situated on the banks of the Thames, and contains 76 houses, and 331 inhabitants. Here is a very ancient church of Norman architecture, the west door of which is richly ornamented, as is also the south, which is blocked up by a porch, and within the church are several fine circular arches.

Near to Isley is the island of OSENEY, formed by the river Isis, where a priory for black canons was founded by Robert D'Oiley, at the instigation of Editha his wife, in the reign of Henry I. It was afterwards erected into an abbey; and in the year 1542, it was converted into a cathedral by Henry VIII. with a dean and six prebendaries, who were to form a chapter for the Bishop of Oxford, whose palace was at Gloucester Hall. In about four years the see was removed to Christ Church by the king, and the abbot, who was bishop of Oseney, was likewise made bishop of Oxford. Part of the stately walls of this abbey are still to be seen converted into the out-houses of a water-mill standing on its scite.

About one mile to the east of Iffley, on the left of our road, is the village of COWLEY, where was formerly a preceptory belonging to the Templars: this village contains 78 houses, and 345 inhabitants.

At the distance of one mile and a half from Cowley we pass through the village of SANDFORD, situated 51 miles from London, and containing 32 houses, and 178 inhabitants.

About two miles to the southward of Sandford, is the pleasant village of NEWNHAM COURTNEY, consisting of one street, or rather two rows of houses, having a garden between and in front of each, a little distance from the road, and a row of trees in front: the whole was erected in the year 1764, and contains 55 houses, and 278 inhabitants.

At this village is the elegant seat of the Earl of Harcourt, who is lord of this manor, which at the general survey belonged to Richard de Curcy; afterwards to the family of Riparys, or Redvers. Mary, youngest daughter of William de Redvers, earl of Devon (who as well as his uncle William, was surnamed de Vernon), married Robert de Courtney, baron of Oakhampton, in the year 1214. It is probable that by this marriage the manor of Newnham passed into the family of Courtney, and thence assumed the name of Newnham Courtney; and after being in the possession of several families, became the property of the earl of Wemys, from whom it was purchased in the year 1710, by Simon, first Earl of Harcourt, lord high chancellor of England.

The present edifice was built by the late earl, but has since been much altered and enlarged (by the addition of a court of offices, &c.) according to the plans of Mr. Brown. It stands in a park of six miles and a half in circumference, well wooded, and containing near 1200 acres, in which, "are scenes," says Mr. Walpole, "worthy of the bold pencil of Rubens, or to be subjects for the tranquil sunshines of Claude Lorrain." The gardens contain 38 acres, and (except



cept the Terrace and Flower Garden) were laid out by Mr. Brown. The entrance to the house is through a vestibule, which is ornamented with Doric columns, and casts of antique statues, from whence is an ascent, by an oval geometrical staircase, to the Saloon, which is 30 feet by 16, and  $18\frac{1}{2}$  in height: it is hung with blue damask. The Anti-room is 24 feet by 15, and the same height with the saloon. The Library is 32 feet 4 inches, by 14 feet 4 inches high. The Eating room is 33 feet by 24, and 18 and a half high. The octagon Drawing-room is 30 feet by 24, and the same height with the last-mentioned room. The great Drawing-room is 49 feet by 24, and the same height with the former. The ceiling of this room was designed by Stuart, and the chimney-piece by Paul Sandby: it is hung with crimson damask. The State Bed-chamber, which is hung with crimson velvet, is 32 feet 4 inches by 20 feet 6 inches. The whole of these rooms, together with the dressing-rooms, are most elegantly furnished, and adorned with a superb collection of portraits and paintings by the most eminent masters.

The Flower Garden contains only about an acre and a quarter; but, from the irregularity of its form, the inequality of the ground, and the disposition of the trees, it appears of considerable extent. The boundary is concealed by a deep plantation of shrubs, which unites with the surrounding forest trees that stand in the park. The garden is laid out in patches of flowers, and clumps of shrubs, of unequal dimensions and various shapes, and a gravel walk leads round it to different buildings and busts, on all of which are inscriptions. In a wild and retired part of the walk (with a high shrubbery on either side of it), which leads through detached trees to the grotto, are busts of Cato of Utica, and of Jean Jacques Rousseau, with the following inscriptions:



## CATO.

“ A ce nom saint et auguste, tout ami de la vertu  
Doit mettre le front dans la poussiere, et honorer  
En silence la memoire du plus grand des hommes.”

J. J. Rousseau.

## ROUSSEAU.

“ Say is thy honest Heart to Virtue warm?  
Can Genius animate thy feeling breast?  
Approach, behold this venerable form,  
'Tis Rousseau; let thy bosom speak the rest.”

Bk. Boothby, Esq:

*The Grotto* is composed of rough stones, intermixed with spars and petrifications, to imitate a natural cavern, and the front partially concealed by ivy, and a variety of rock plants. In one corner of the grotto, on a piece of white marble of an irregular form, are inscribed some verses from the *Comus* of Milton.

*The Temple of Flora*.—The design of this building is taken from a Doric portico at Athens. In the centre of the back wall is a medallion of Flora, from the antique in white marble; also busts of Faunus, Pan, Venus, and Apollo, with suitable inscriptions.

*The Bower* is a square building 12 feet by 10, the ceiling is coved, and the whole painted green; the front is covered with a treillage of the same colour, against which are planted roses, woodbines, jessamines, and several kinds of creepers, and appears like three arches cut through the shrubbery; within is a cast of Cupid and Psyche, from the antique, and on a tablet, above the center arch, are inscribed the following verses:

“ Fair Quiet, have I found thee here,  
With Innocence, thy sister dear?  
Mistaken long, I sought thee then  
In busy companies of men;  
Your sacred plants, at length I know,  
Will only in retirement grow.

Society

Society is all but rude  
 To this delicious solitude,  
 Where all the flowers and trees do close  
 To weave the garland of repose."

*And. Marvell.*

BUST OF PRIOR.

" See, friend, in some few fleeting hours,  
 See yonder what a change is made ;  
 Ah me ! the blooming pride of May  
 And that of beauty are but one ;  
 At morn both flourish bright and gay,  
 Both fade at evening, pale and gone."

On an altar, encircled with cypresses, which stands within a recess in the shrubbery that surrounds the garden, is placed *the Urn*. The bank that rises behind is planted with flowers, and a weeping willow ; large Weymouth pines, and other evergreens, form the back ground. The following inscription is on the altar :

" Sacred to the memory of FRANCES POOLE,  
 Viscountess Palmerston.

Here shall our ling'ring footsteps oft be found,  
 This is her shrine, and consecrates the ground.  
 Here living sweets around her altar rise,  
 And breathe perpetual incense to the skies.

Here too the thoughtless, and the young may tread,  
 Who shun the drearier mansions of the dead.

May here be taught what worth the world has  
 known,

Her wit, her sense, her virtues, were her own ;  
 To her peculiar—and for ever lost  
 To those who knew, and therefore lov'd her most.

Oh ! if kind pity steal on Virtue's eye,  
 Check not the tear, nor stop the useful sigh ;  
 From soft humanity's ingenuous flame,  
 A wish may rise to emulate her fame,  
 And some faint image of her worth restore  
 When those who now lament her, are no more.

George Simon Harcourt and the Honourable Elizabeth Vernon, viscount and vicountess Newnham, erected this urn in the year 1771."

William Whitehead, Esq. poet laureat, wrote the verses.

*The Conservatory* is 50 feet by 15, and is planted with bergamot, cedrati, limoncelli, and orange trees of various kinds and sizes. In summer the front, sides, and roof of the building are entirely removed, and the trees appear to stand in the natural ground; the back wall is covered with a treillage, against which are planted lemon, citron, and pomegranate trees, intermixed with all the different sorts of jessamines.

The statue of Hebe terminates the principal glade, and fronts the temple of Flora; it is backed by a large clump of shrubs, which forms a collection of all such evergreens as flourish in the open air.— On the pedestal of the statue are the following verses.

“Hebe, from thy cup divine,  
 Shed, O shed! nectarious dews,  
 Here o'er Nature's living shrine,  
 The immortal drops diffuse;  
 Here while every bloom's display'd,  
 Shining fair in vernal pride,  
 Catch the colours e'er they fade,  
 And check the green blood's ebbing tide,  
 Till youth eternal like thine own prevail,  
 Safe from the night's damp wing, or day's insidious  
 gale.”

*W. Whitehead, Esq.*

The church is a beautiful building of the Ionic order, in the stile of an antique temple; it was erected in the year 1764, at the sole expence of Simon Earl of Harcourt, who gave the original design, which afterwards received a small alteration from  
 Mr.

Mr. Stuart. The principal portico, which consists of six columns, supporting a plain pediment, has no communication with the church, but serves for a seat in the garden; the public entrance is on the opposite side, and that to the family closet through a semicircular portico at the west end. The inside, which is extremely neat, was furnished and decorated by the present earl. The altar-piece, which was designed and executed by Mr. Mason, represents the parable of the good Samaritan.—The piece of tapestry at the west end is a representation of the twelve tribes of Israel at the passover.

About three miles from Newnham-Courtney is DORCHESTER, a place of great antiquity, and formerly a market town. It is situated on the banks of the Tame, over which it has a large stone-bridge, near its confluence with the Isis. It was anciently a Roman station (supposed to be the *Civitas Dorcinia* of the Romans), and afterwards the see of a bishop, founded by Birinus, the apostle of the West Saxons, in the year 636, after he had baptised their king Cinigils. This bishopric continued till the Norman Conquest, when it was removed by bishop Remigius to Lincoln.

Besides the cathedral, there were formerly three parish churches, and an abbey of Augustine canons, founded by Birinus, in the year 635. The present and only church, anciently the cathedral, is a large and venerable structure, with a low tower: two of the windows have some curious paintings on glass, of which one represents the genealogy of the line of Jesse. The founder's monument stands on the south side of the altar; and the church is ornamented with 24 figures in stone, and also a very antique leaden font, on which is 11 very curious figures. Since the removal of the see this town has gradually gone to decay; and at present contains only 150 houses, and 777 inhabitants. It has an annual fair on Easter Tuesday, and is situated 52 miles from London.

London. A little to the south of Dorchester, at a place called Dike Hills, the remains of an ancient Roman fortification are still visible.

Proceeding in a south-easterly direction, at the distance of about two miles and a half from Dorchester, we pass through the village of SHILLINGFORD, at which place is a bridge across the Thames into Berkshire; one mile beyond which is the village of BENSINGTON, once a royal town, taken from the Britons by Ceaulin, king of the West Saxons, in the year 572; it was afterwards united to the kingdom of Mercia, by Offa, who had a palace at EWELM, about a mile to the east, which Camden speaks of, as decaying with age. It belonged to the Chaucers, from whom by marriage it came to the De la Poles. Here was an hospital founded by William de la Pole, Duke of Suffolk, in the reign of Henry VI. who with his duchess lie buried in the church. This hospital is called *God's House*, and still exists: the mastership of which is given to the regius professor of physic at Oxford. This township, which is situated 46 miles from London, contains 193 houses, and 811 inhabitants.

The ridged way between Alcester and Wallingford, crosses the Thames here, on the west side of the church. Another earth-work, called by the inhabitants *Medler's Bank*, is supposed to have been thrown up during the Civil Wars. Some few years since, an urn full of Roman coins was found here.

Two miles south from Bensington, at Crowmarch, there is a bridge over the Thames to Wallingford; about a mile from which is Mongwell House, the seat of the Bishop of Durham.

At TUFFIELD, a village, about four miles and a half from Bensington, and on the right of our road, was formerly a house of Trinitarian friars, founded before the 33rd year of king Edward III.

About two miles from the last-mentioned place, is the village of NETTLEBED, noted for a singular spring,



spring; said never to fail in the driest summer. It is situated 40 miles from London, and contains 99 houses, and 501 inhabitants.

At the distance of about five miles from the last-mentioned place, is the town of HENLEY, pleasantly situated on the west side of the river Thames, over which has lately been erected a handsome stone bridge; on the key stones of the center arch of which are two well-executed heads in sculpture (the work of the Hon. Mrs. Damer), emblematically representing Thames and Isis. This town is supposed to be the most ancient in the county, from its name being derived from the British word *Henilly*, signifying *Old Place*. It was formerly part of the estate of the Barons of Hungerford. It is now a corporate town, governed by a high steward, recorder, mayor, 10 aldermen, and 16 burgesses. It was formerly a borough, and sent two members to parliament. It has of late years undergone very considerable improvements; the buildings, in general, having been modernized, and the streets widened, paved, and lighted, so that few traces of its antiquity are now to be seen; Roman coins have, however, frequently been found in its market place.

The Church is an ancient spacious building, having a handsome lofty tower, said to have been erected by Cardinal Wolsey, with a peal of eight bells. Here are three Free Schools; and Alms-houses for 20 poor persons, beside considerable other charitable benefactions. The principal trade is in corn, flour, malt, and beach wood; and in its neighbourhood is produced pyrites, and a black flint, used in the glass-houses. The market, which is on Thursday, is always plentifully supplied with malt and grain, large quantities of which are sent by the Thames to London. Its fairs are the 7th of March, Holy Thursday, first Thursday after Trinity Sunday, and after September 21. It is situated 35 miles from London; and contains, according to the late returns,



returns, 635 houses, and 2,948 inhabitants, viz. 1319 males, and 1699 females, of whom 622 were returned as being employed in various trades and manufactures.

On leaving Henley, we proceed in a southerly direction, and at the distance of two miles and a half, pass through the village of SHIPLAKE, noted for the production of its marble; it contains 101 houses, and 476 inhabitants, and is situated 33 miles from London.

Three miles beyond Shiplake, on the right of our road, is CAVERSHAM PARK, the seat of Major Charles Marsac; about one mile beyond which is the parish of CAVERSHAM, pleasantly situated on the banks of the Thames, and adorned with several elegant mansions, parks, and gardens. At this place was formerly a priory of Black Canons, and king Charles I. was detained a prisoner here. It is situated 39 miles from London, and contains 224 houses, and 1069 inhabitants.

*Journey from Banbury to Radcott Bridge; through Chipping Norton and Burford.*

About two miles to the south-west of Banbury (which we have already described), and one to the right of our road, is the small village of BROUGHTON, where is an ancient castle almost entire, except the outer walls, which are greatly decayed. It is built on a delightful spot, and is the occasional residence of the Lord Say and Sele.

Proceeding southward, at the distance of three miles from Banbury, we pass through the village of BLOXHAM, situated 72 miles from London, and containing 244 houses, and 1157 inhabitants; about three miles from which is the village of SOUTH NEWINGTON, containing 79 houses and 395 inhabitants; and about two miles and a half beyond, on the right of our road, is the village of SWARFORD, situated 71 miles from London, and containing 57 houses, and

227 inhabitants. A short distance beyond this village is Swarford Park, the seat of J. S. Barry, Esq.

Five miles from Swarford is CHIPPING NORTON, a large, regular, and well-built borough town, with a market on Wednesday, and seven annual fairs. Its name is supposed to be derived from *Cheapen*, a Saxon word, signifying a market or place of trade, as all the places appear to have been in the time of the Saxons which have the name of Chipping attached to them.

The Church, which is situated below the town, is a noble structure, in the Gothic taste, 98 feet long, by 87 feet wide; the middle aisle, which is 46 feet high, is much admired for its light and curious workmanship in the windows. The church contains a number of brass monuments, erected in the 14th century, to the memory of divers merchants of the town, which shews it to have been formerly a place of great trade. The tower is lofty, with a peal of six musical bells. Near the church are some remains of a castle, and Roman coins are frequently found here. Chipping Norton sent burgesses to parliament once in the reign of Edward I. and twice in that of Edward III. but never since. The town is governed by two bailiffs and 12 burgesses, who are empowered by charter from James I. to hold a court, and determine actions under 40s. It has a Free Grammar School, founded by Edward VI. and on Chapel Heath, near the town, are annual horse-races. It is situated about 74 miles from London, and contains 347 houses, and 1812 inhabitants, of whom 312 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture, chiefly that of horse-cloths, tilting, and harrateens.

Four miles to the south of Chipping Norton, on the left of our road is the hamlet of CHADLINGTON, where is a small neat house of Drake Tyrwitt, Esq. and another handsome one of Mrs. Rawlinson;

linson; about a mile farther is the seat of Admiral Pigot, in the forest of Whichwood.

Returning to the turnpike-road, at the distance of about seven miles from Chipping Norton, is the village of SHIPTON, containing 85 houses and 406 inhabitants: about four miles from which is the town of

BURFORD, situated on a rising ground on the river Windrush. It has a considerable manufactory for rugs and duffels, as well as saddles. Here is a free Grammar School, over which is the Town Hall, wherein the assizes for the county of Oxford were held in the year 1636. The church is a large handsome structure, with a fine spire; there is also a meeting house for Quakers, and one for dissenters. This town formerly sent a member to parliament; it had likewise a charter from Henry II. granting it all the customs of the townsmen of Oxford; and though it has lost most of them, it still retains the appearance of a corporation, having a common seal, and being governed by two bailiffs, and burgesses, two constables, four tithing-men, &c.

At this place a synod was convened in the year 685, against the error of the British churches, in the observance of Easter; and at Battle Edge, near this town, Cuthred, king of the West Saxons, beat Ethelbald, king of the Mercians, in a pitched battle, and the inhabitants celebrate annually on Midsummer-eve a kind of festival, which they say commenced in honour of this battle.

This town being situated in a fine corn country, a large market is held here every Saturday. There are also two chartered fairs, on the 5th of July and 25th of September.

Burford is 73 miles from London, and contains, according to the late returns, 304 houses, and 1,516 inhabitants.

Proceeding southerly, we pass through the detached part of Berkshire of about one mile in extent, and

and at the distance of about seven miles from Burford, reach the village of CLANFIELD, situated 68 miles from London, and containing 84 houses and 455 inhabitants; two miles to the left of which is

BAMPTON, a market town, pleasantly situated on a small stream that runs into the Isis, a little below the town. It is said by some writers to have been a place of some importance before the Conquest; but at present there is scarcely a building in the town that merits particular notice, except the church and the remains of an ancient castle; the former of which is a very spacious lofty edifice, with a large spire, and a peal of six fine bells. It has a great trade for leather jackets, gloves, and breeches; and its market on Wednesdays is noted for fellmonger's ware. Here is a charity school, for 20 poor children of this place and the two neighbouring hamlets of Aston and Coat. It is situated 70 miles from London, and contains 215 houses and 1003 inhabitants.

Returning from our digression, at the distance of about one mile and a half from Clanfield, and three miles from Bampton, is the hamlet of Radcot, situated, near the Isis, over which is a bridge to Farringdon in Berkshire, from which it is distant two miles and a half.

*Journey from Little Rollewright to Stoken Church,  
through Woodstock and Oxford.*

Little Rollewright is a hamlet, belonging to GREAT ROLLEWRIGHT, a village, situated about one mile and a half from the former, and containing 75 houses and 403 inhabitants. Near this village is that ancient monument called Rollrich Stones; they stand upright in a circle, being from five to seven feet high, and are supposed to be the vestiges of a druidical temple.

About two miles to the north-east of Great Rollewright is the village of HOOK NORTON, said to

have been anciently a royal seat of the Saxon kings, though there are not at present the least remains of antiquity to justify such an assertion. The village, which is situated 74 miles from London, contains 215 houses, and 1032 inhabitants. It is remarkable for a bloody battle, fought here between the Danes and the English in the year 914, in which the latter were defeated, and there are in its neighbourhood several barrows, or sepulchral monuments, of the ancient Romans.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of about five miles from Rollewright, on the left is HEYTHROP, the seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Shrewsbury. It is situated on an eminence, in a delightful part of the county, and possesses every charm that can result from a diversity of wood, water, eminence and vales. An avenue of above two miles, planted on each side with forest trees of advanced growth, and beautiful verdure, interspersed with clumps of fir, leads from the north to the grand area before the house, and by its length and variety, forms an exceeding magnificent approach. The house is a regular edifice, consisting of four fronts, built in the most elegant stile of architecture, and joined to the offices by open arcades. The entrance to the house is by a flight of steps, under a grand portico, supported by four lofty Corinthian columns. The hall is a well proportioned room, 32 feet, by 27 feet 9 inches: it is finished in plain stucco, and adorned with vases and lamps, upon highly finished brackets. On the first entrance the eye is agreeably surprised by the reflection of the avenue and part of the hall, from two large silvered sashes, on each side the door, leading to the saloon, which, by a pleasing deception, not only repeats the beautiful landscape, but raises the idea of another room of equal dimensions.

The Library is a most superb and magnificent room, 83 feet in length, and 20 in height. The ornaments



ornaments of this room consist chiefly of the most elegant and highly-finished stucco, executed in a masterly manner, by the late and present Mr. Roberts; the designs of which are admirably adapted to the purposes of the place. On the north side are seven recesses, one of which is the entrance from the hall, and the other six are filled with elegant bookcases, over which are curious medallions of Cicero, Plato, Thucydides, Homer, Shakspear, and Inigo Jones; in this side are also two superb chimney pieces, by Carter, composed of the stately and rich verd antique marble. The entrances at each end are formed to correspond with the other recesses; the semicircular arches over which, as well as that leading from the hall, are ornamented in stucco with fables from Æsop, admirably executed, and a medallion of the same kind over each chimney. The south side, which fronts the garden, consists of eight magnificent windows, with a pair of folding glass doors, which open to the terrace, and afford a most delightful and extensive prospect. The ceiling, which is entirely plain, is supported by columns of the Corinthian order, and is encompassed by an exceeding rich Ionic entablature. This room is likewise enriched by pendant ornaments, in alto-relievo, of still life, military, musical, and mathematical instruments; with a judicious mixture of fruit and flowers.

The drawing-room is 47 feet in length, by 25 in breadth, and 20 in height. It is furnished with most exquisite tapestry, representing the four quarters of the world, well expressed by assemblages of the natives, in their various habits and employments, except Europe, which is in masquerade: this tapestry is the work of Vandeborgh. Over the four doors are the Seasons and Elements, painted in a very peculiar stile, these figures, in *claro obscuro*, are of inestimable value, and appear as if starting from the canvas. From the vast expres-

sion, yet exceeding light tint, of these pieces, the spectator is at first sight ready to pronounce them bas-reliefs in white marble. The chimney-piece is extremely superb, composed of rich Egyptian, and statuary marble, executed by Carter; and the grate, which is of steel highly polished, is finished with exquisite art. The cornice is supported by highly carved and polished figures, of Ceres and Flora, about five feet high: the drapery of these figures, one in the ancient, the other in the modern stile, as well as their attitudes, are peculiarly striking and expressive. In the centre of the frieze is a raised tablet of the Choice of Hercules. Over it is a painting by Cornelius Van Orley, of the destruction of Pharoah and his host in the Red Sea. The ceiling consists of representations of the four Quarters of the world; with the Elements and Seasons in stucco, interspersed with tables and other decorations, and surrounded by a full-enriched Corinthian entablature. On the opposite side to the chimney-pieces are two superb glasses, of one plate each, upwards of four feet in breadth, and nine feet high; under these glasses are two rich tables of Egyptian marble upon gilt and carved frames, and on the other piers are two girandoles, of exquisite workmanship, by Ansell. The proportion, decorations, and furniture of this apartment render it one of the most elegant rooms in this kingdom. The settees and chairs are richly carved and gilt, the seats of which are covered with needle-work, in silk, representing bunches of flowers: here are also two curious fire screens, by the same hand as the tapestry; one exhibits a Dutch merriment, the other Sportsmen returned from shooting, with their game.

The gardens belonging to this noble mansion are laid out with great judgment; and exhibit a variety of beautiful scenes, which strike the spectator in a most agreeable succession. To the south-west lofty trees afford a most refreshing shade, interspersed  
with

with openings edged with flowers. Eastward a small stream is improved into a winding river, broken by cascades, and whose banks are adorned with seats, and a curious fancy building, called the Moss-house: this edifice is covered with reeds, and constructed of rustic oak; the inside is lined with moss of various colours, and the floor is paved in mosaic work, with horses' teeth polished. Upon entering this building, there is a striking view of two cascades, which afford an agreeable surprisè. This piece of water is crossed by a stone bridge, under which is an engine, which supplies the house with water; and above it, at the distance of 400 paces, is the most natural, if not the most striking of the cascades found here: it is built with petrifications and other curious stones; and upon the top is a terrace, planted on each side with flowering shrubs. From this bridge, in another direction, through a pleasant grove, is an ascent to a beautiful serpentine walk, also planted with flowering shrubs on each side, that terminates in an octangular bowling-green, from whence are eight extensive, different, and most delightful prospects.

A short distance to the south-east of Heythrop, is the village of **CHURCH ENSTONE**, situated 69 miles from London, and containing 197 houses, and 912 inhabitants.

About three miles from hence is the village of **KIDDINGTON**, situated on the Glyn river, which divides the parish into two parts, viz. Over and Nether Kiddington, in the latter of which stands the Church. The chancel is in the Norman or Saxon stile, with a zig-zag arch behind the altar, that opened into the chancel of the old chapel, built by the family of the Salceys, in the reign of King Stephen. The south door has a spacious porch, in which is an ancient monument of Walter Goodere. This parish was given by King Offa, in the year 780, to Worcester priory. Here King Ethelred had a palace;

lace; and in the garden of the manor house is an antique font, brought from Edward the Confessor's chapel at Islip, wherein he received baptism. In Hillwood, near this place, is a Roman encampment, in extraordinary preservation; and in that division of the parish called the Upper Town, is the ruins of the old parochial cross, containing part of the shaft and base, built of stone.

STEEPLE BARTON, a village, about two miles to the north-east, has been occupied by the Romans, mosaic pavements having been discovered in digging to plant trees. This village contains 80 houses, and 333 inhabitants.

Half a mile to the south-east of Kiddington is Glympton Park, the seat of Miss Wheats. About two miles from which, on the right of our road, is

DITCHLEY, the seat of the Right Honourable the Earl of Litchfield. It is built of hewn stone, and has a beautiful southern front, with two correspondent wings, commanding a most agreeable and extensive prospect, in which the magnificent palace of Blenheim has the principal effect.

In the centre of the front is the Hall, finely proportioned and elegantly decorated. Its sides and roof are ornamented with stucco, which is at once bold and delicate. Its door-cases, pediments, entablatures, and columns, of the Corinthian and composite order, are richly ornamented with gilding, &c. The ceiling contains an assembly of the gods, painted by Kent. Two of the compartments are filled with historical pieces from the *Æneid*, by the same hand, one of which represents *Æneas* meeting *Venus*, his mother, in the wood near Carthage, and the other *Venus* presenting *Æneas* with the new armour. The Sciences are introduced as ornaments, with busts of philosophers, poets, historians, and orators, *viz.* *Socrates*, *Virgil*, *Homer*, *Cicero*, *Sappho*, *Shakespeare*, *Dryden*, *Milton*, and *Livy*. Over the statues are bas-reliefs, copied from antiques

out

out of the Florentine Museum, properly disposed, and a statue of the Venus de Medici. In this room is likewise a curious model of the Radclivian Library at Oxford. The chimney-piece is superb and lofty, and decorated with a portrait of the old lord, by Akerman.

The Dining-room is furnished with much simple elegance. Here is a capital full-length portrait of Henry VIII. by Hans Holbein, executed with a strength and freedom not generally found in the performances of that high finisher. Also Sir Harry Lee, with the mastiff which saved his life, by Johnson. The story of this piece is founded on a miraculous escape of Sir Harry, from being assassinated by one of his own servants, who had formed a design of robbing the house after he had murdered his master; but providentially, on the night this project was intended to be put in execution, the mastiff, though no favourite with, nor even before taken notice of by his master, accompanied him up stairs, crept under the bed, and could not be driven away by the servant; when at length Sir Harry ordered him to be left, and in the dead of night, the same servant entering the room to execute his design, was instantly seized by the dog, and upon being secured confessed his intentions.

In one corner of the piece are the following lines :

“ More faithful than favoured.

Reason in man cannot effect such love,

As nature doth in them that reason want;

Ulysses true and kind his dog did prove,

When faith in better friends was very scant.

My travels for my friends have been as true,

Though not as far as fortune did him bear,

No friends my love and faith divided knew,

Though neither this nor that once equall'd were;

But in my dog, whereof I made no store,

I find more love than them I trusted more.”

The



The drawing-room is adorned with tapestry.—The subjects are the Muses and Apollo singing, and playing on their several instruments, Bacchanalian scenes and a vintage. The windows of this apartment open to the most agreeable landscape, which does not perplex the eye by the distance and multiplicity of its objects, but affords those gentle charms which arise from a single, distinct, and confined prospect. It principally consists of a winding valley, with a serpentine canal, covered with an elegant Chinese bridge. The whole is bounded by an easy spreading acclivity, interspersed with groups of trees. The roof of the saloon is stuccoed in a rich though chaste style; in the middle compartment is Flora, with the Zephyrs. The walls are also stuccoed and painted of an olive colour, on which are Minerva and Diana, whole-length bas-reliefs, in the antique stile. Here is an excellent antique of the Goddess of Health, about 40 inches in height, purchased from Dr. Mead's collection. On its pedestal is a bas-relief of the head of Esculapius, cut with extraordinary boldness. Here is also shewn an antique medallion of the Sailing Cupid; the diameter of which is about 12 inches.

The Tapestry-room is an apartment curiously ornamented in the Chinese taste. Here are two striking pieces of tapestry; one of which represents the Cyclops forging the armour of Æneas; the other Neptune, with his proper attendants, giving directions about refitting a vessel, which has just been shipwrecked. Over the chimney-piece, which is finely finished in white marble, is a capital picture of the duke and duchess of York, and the princesses Mary and Ann, by Sir Peter Lely. Over the two doors are two masterly landscapes by an Italian hand. The chairs are covered with tapestry, each of which is prettily ornamented, with the story of a fable from Æsop. In this room is a small fire-screen, beautifully worked by the old lady Litchfield,

field. In conformity to the stile of this apartment, here are two beautiful Chinese figures: one a Chinese Lady, the other a Porter with a chest of tea.

On the whole this seat is a noble repository of valuable and masterly portraits, executed by the most eminent artists in that species of painting, Rubens, Vandyke, Sir Peter Lely, and our ingenious countryman, and rival of Vandyke, Johnson. As a piece of architecture it is inferior to none, for the justness of its proportions, and the convenient disposition of its apartments. With regard to furniture and decorations, it is finished with taste, rather than with splendour; and adorned with that elegance which results from simplicity.

About two miles to the south-west of Ditchley, is CHARLBURY, formerly a market town, situated on a dry healthy soil, 67 miles from London, and containing 195 houses, and 965 inhabitants. It has five large fairs annually for horses, cows, and all sorts of other cattle, on the following days, viz. the 1st of January, the second Friday in Lent, the second Friday in May, the second Friday in July, and the 10th of October. The Vicarage House has been lately much improved by Dr. Cobb, the vicar; and commands an extensive view of Whichwood Forest and the adjacent country. Near this town, on the borders of the forest, is Blandford House and Park, a seat belonging to his Grace the Duke of Marlboro'.

Returning to our road, at the distance of four miles from Kiddington, is the town of WOODSROCK, pleasantly situated on a brook, which falls into the Isis. It is a borough and market town, and contains several good buildings, and the streets are well paved. The parish Church is a noble structure, and has a square tower, built with stone, also eight bells, and chimes that play at five, nine, and one: the tunes change every day. The Town-house is a neat modern edifice. Here is also a good Free School, founded in the reign of Queen Elizabeth; three  
Alms-

Alms-houses, endowed for three poor persons, and six more erected by the present Duchess of Marlborough. Woodstock is noted for its manufactures of fine wash-leather gloves, and polished steel trinkets.

The town, though small, sends two members to parliament; but it is wholly under the patronage of the Duke of Marlborough; and there having been no opposition to so potent an interest, the right of voting has never come under the adjudication of the House of Commons; it is admitted, however, to be in the mayor, four aldermen, 16 burgesses, and the freemen at large. It is situated 62 miles from London, and contains 214 houses, and 1,322 inhabitants, of whom 720 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture. The market day is Tuesday. Fair days, second Tuesday after the 2nd of February, 5th of April, Whit-Tuesday, 2nd of August, 2nd of October, Tuesday after 2nd of November, and the 1st and 17th of December. Here are annual horse-races. The corporation consists of a lord high steward, recorder, town clerk, five aldermen (one of whom is always mayor), and 17 common councilmen.

Woodstock is so called from the Saxon word *Wadestoc*, signifying a woody place. It has been a royal seat, and here king Alfred translated *Boetius de Consolatione Philosophiæ*. In the time of king Ethelred it was so considerable a place that he called a parliament here. After the Conquest Henry I. took great delight in the palace of this town, made some additions to the buildings, and in the year 1145, inclosed the park with a stone wall, which is said to have been the first enclosed park in England. In this palace Henry II. resided when Rice, prince of Wales, came in the year 1163, to do homage to that king and his son. But what has rendered this place most famous, was a labyrinth, said to have been built by that prince, called Rosamond's Bower, with a house in it to secrete his concubine  
Rosamond

Rosamond Clifford from Eleanor his queen; but there are now no traces either of the palace or bower. In this palace the princess Elizabeth, afterward queen, was for some time kept prisoner. It retained its original splendour, and was inhabited by our kings, till the reign of Charles I. but began to be demolished in the succeeding times of confusion. Its magnificent ruins were remaining at the beginning of the 18th century, near the bridge to the north, on the spot where two sycamores have been since planted as a memorial.

The manor of the town and hundred of Woodstock, were, in the reign of Queen Anne, settled by parliament upon John Churchill, duke of Marlborough, who commanded the army of the grand alliance, formed by Great Britain, Holland, Portugal, and other powers, against France and Spain, and upon his descendants male and female, as a monument of national gratitude for his bravery and conduct.

A Palace was also erected for him at the public expence, in a most delightful situation, about half a mile to the west of Woodstock, which, to commemorate the important victory he obtained over the French and Bavarians at Blenheim was called **BLENHHEIM HOUSE**. It is built wholly of free-stone, from a design of Sir John Vanburgh. The roof is adorned with a handsome balustrade, and a great number of statues; but the towers have a heavy appearance, like most of that architect's performances, which occasioned the wits of the age to write the following epitaph on him, after his death:

“ Lie heavy on him, Earth, for he  
Laid many a heavy load on thee.”

In many parts the architecture is noble; but in others it is spoiled by a profusion of decorations, which destroys the simplicity of the design; upon the whole, however, it must be acknowledged to be a most magnificent structure.

The entrance to the Park, which is 11 miles in circumference,

cumference, is through a spacious and elegant portal of the Corinthian order, from whence a noble prospect is opened to the palace, the bridge, the lake, with its valley, and other beautiful scenes of the park. The house, in particular, which is seen from this point obliquely, is probably no where viewed to greater advantage. The front of this noble edifice is extended to the length of 348 feet, from wing to wing, and consists of a variety of beautiful and noble architecture. On the pediment of the south front, towards the garden, is a bust, larger than life, of Louis XIV. taken from the gates of Tournay. The entrance to the house is on the east, through a portal, built in the style of martial architecture, on the top of which is a reservoir, which supplies the house with water from the river. This portal leads to a quadrangle, chiefly consisting of arcades and offices, beyond which is the grand area.

In the centre of the front a superb portico, elevated on massy columns, leads to the Hall. This magnificent room runs to the height of the house, and is of proportionable breadth; it is supported by Corinthian pillars. The ceiling is painted by Sir James Thornhill, allegorically representing Victory crowning John, Duke of Marlborough, and pointing to a plan of the battle of Blenheim. In this room are two statues in bronze, viz. the Venus de Medici, and the Faun, both from the originals in marble in the Duke of Tuscany's collection at Florence, and executed by Max. Soldani Benzi, at Florence, in the year 1711. Over the door leading to the saloon, is a bust of John, duke of Marlborough. The paintings in the hall are all history pieces, representing the achievements of some of the Greek and Roman heroes; and were presented to his Grace by the king of Sardinia. On the left of the hall is a passage leading to the apartments, finely hung with rich tapestry, representing Alexander's battles, with many pieces of scripture history; there are also  
some



some fine paintings by Vandyke, and other masters, but they are so numerous that to describe the whole which adorn this magnificent palace would require a volume; many of them, however, are executed by the greatest masters in Italy.

The pictures in the Bow-window room, are by Schiavoni, Reynolds, Kneller, Tintoret, Rubens, Teniers, Giorgioni, &c. and the tapestry represents the various battles of the Duke, one of which is that of Blenheim. The east dressing room is furnished with crimson damask, and decorated with several capital paintings, as well as the duke's dressing room, and the grand cabinet.

The Saloon is grand, and proportioned to the general magnificence: and the lower part is lined with marble, which renders it a pleasing retreat in the hot weather; the walls are painted with representations of the different nations in their various habits and modes of dress, by La Guerre. The ceiling represents the Duke as stopped by Peace in the career of his victories, and Time reminding him of his own rapid flight, by the same hand. Over the chimney, on the right hand from the entrance, is a bust of Caracalla, and over the other a Roman consul.

A series of smaller though magnificent apartments lead to the Library, which is a most superb room, being 200 feet long, 31 feet 9 inches wide in the centre, and 28 feet 6 inches at each end. The Doric pilasters of marble, with the complete columns of the same, which support a rich entablature, the window frames, the surrounding basement of black marble, and the stuccoed compartments of the vaulted ceiling, are in the highest taste both of design and finishing. It was originally intended as a gallery for paintings, but the late duke adding utility to elegance, furnished it with the noble collection of books, made by Lord Sunderland, his grace's father; their number is said to amount to 24,000 volumes, which have been allowed to be

worth 30,000*l.* and is, perhaps, the best private collection in England. They are kept under gilt wire lattices. At one end of the room is a highly-finished statue of Queen Anne, by Rysbrack, with the following inscription:

“ To the Memory of Queen ANNE,  
 under whose auspices  
 JOHN, Duke of MARLBOROUGH,  
 conquered,  
 And to whose Munificence,  
 He and his Posterity  
 With gratitude  
 Owe the possession of Blenheim.  
 A. D. MDCCXLVI.”

There are also in this room two marble statues on mahogany terms, one of Diana, and one of Julia Domna; the latter antique. Also whole-length portraits of King William III. Queen Anne; John Duke of Marlborough; Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough; Charles, Duke of Marlborough; Elizabeth, Duchess of Marlborough; the Honourable John Spencer; the Right Honourable Lady Georgina Spencer, now Countess Cowper; Elizabeth, Countess of Bridgewater; Anne, Countess of Sunderland; John, Duke of Montague, and Francis, Earl of Godolphin. From the bow windows of this noble gallery there is a delightful prospect of the declivity descending to the water, and the gradual ascent of the venerable groves which cover the opposite hill.

The Chapel is one of the wings, in which is a superb monument to the memory of the old Duke and Duchess, by Rysbrack: they are represented with their two sons, who died young, as supported by Fame and History. Beneath, in basso-relievo, is the taking of Mareschal Tallard.

The China Room, which is situated below stairs, is furnished with a most elegant and valuable collection of Dresden china, given to the Duke by the  
 King

King of Poland, in return for a pack of stag-hounds: it consists of tureens, sets of plates, and fantastical figures; the colours of which are remarkably lively, and the representations highly natural. Here are likewise some beautiful and costly jars, collected at a great expence by the late duchess dowager, besides other fine china of modern manufactory.

The gardens are spacious, and include a great variety of ground; the noble descent on the south-west side, the vastness and beauty of the water, the grandeur of the opposite bank, the cascade, the new bridge, and lower piece of water, form altogether such an assemblage of great and beautiful objects as is scarcely to be met with. The appearance of the ground on the south-east is a happy contrast to the south-west side; the gardens here seem to lose themselves in the park, amidst a profusion of venerable oaks and intersected avenues, from whence they derive an air of confusion and indeterminate extent.

These gardens have been considerably enlarged, and were thrown into the form they now wear, by the present Duke of Marlborough, who has likewise farther beautified them by the addition of some judicious and well-placed ornaments, particularly the Temple of Diana, and an elegant little temple, in what is called the Flower Garden, also two most noble bronzes, the *Pancratiastæ*, and the *Arrotino*, the execution of *Max. Soldani Benzi*, of Florence, with some copies of antique vases in stone.

In the new part of the gardens, near the cascade, a fountain is erected, which was a present to John, Duke of Marlborough; a work executed with consummate taste, under the direction of the celebrated *Bernini*, after the model of the famous one in the *Piazza Navonce* at Rome: the four river gods, represented as the guardian genii of the water, the horse also and lion are exquisite pieces of sculpture; in the centre is an obelisk, on one side of which is the

subsequent Latin inscription, and on the three other sides is the same in three different languages, Greek, Italian, and Spanish :

“ Ad Innocentium XI. Summum Pontificem.

Pro Carolo II. Hispaniarum Rege.

Excelc: D: D: Gazpar: De. Haro, et Guzman,  
Murchio. D. Carpio. Et Helicheo Orator.

Ad Typum Molis. In Agonali Foro Erectæ

Ab Equite. Bernino. Opus. Hoc. Extrui.

Jussit, Eodem. dirigente. Qui. Interim.

Dum perficeretur. Defunctus.

Hoc: Posthumo. Partu: Inexhaustam.

Mentis. Fœcunditatem Clausit.

Anno Dom. M.DC.LXXXI.”

Near this piece of sculpture is a mineral spring, called New-found Well, which flows into a beautiful antique bason, externally adorned with figures in basso-relievo, from which it is discharged by the mouths of two lions, near the top, and immediately disappearing, soon enters the lake.

About the middle of the grand approach, is a magnificent bridge, consisting of three arches, the centre one of which is larger than the Rialto, at Venice; the water is formed into a spacious lake, which covers the whole extent of a capacious valley, surrounded by an artificial declivity of a prodigious depth, and is indisputably the most capital piece of water in this kingdom.

The Park contains many delightful scenes, and the admirer of rural variety will be here gratified with every circumstance of beauty, which he can expect from diversified nature; from hill and valley, water and woods. In this Park originally stood the royal palace, before-mentioned, in which Edmund, the second son of Edward I. was born, and thence denominated Edmund of Woodstock; as was Edward the Black Prince. The romantic retreat, called Fair Rosamond's Bower, was situated on the hill,

hill, to the north-west of the bridge, above a remarkable bath, or spring, called at present Rosamond's Well.

In this park is an echo, which, according to Dr. Plot, when little wind was stirring, repeated 17 syllables very distinctly, and in the night 20. He says the object of it was the hill with the trees on the top of it, half a mile from the town, in the way to the Earl of Rochester's Lodge, and the true place for the speaker on the opposite hill, just without the gate at the end of the town; but this echo has been greatly impaired by the removal of buildings.

In the grand avenue, leading to the house, is a stately column, terminated by a statue of the late duke; on the pedestal of which is an inscription, written in a plain, elegant, and masculine stile, and as it contains a short enumeration of the whole of the transactions and conquests of that illustrious general, we shall insert it at length. It is as follows:

“ The Castle of *Blenheim* was founded by Q. ANN.

In the fourth Year of her Reign;

In the Year of the Christian *Æra* 1705;

A Monument design'd to perpetuate the Memory of  
the signal Victory

Obtain'd over the *French* and *Bavarians*,

Near the Village of *Blenheim*,

On the Banks of the *Danube*,

By JOHN Duke of MARLBOROUGH;

The Hero not only of his Nation, but of his Age;

Whose Glory was equal in the Council and in the Field;

Who by Wisdom, Justice, Candour, and Address,

Reconciled various, and even opposite Interests;

Acquired an Influence, which no Rank,

no Authority can give,

Nor any Force but that of superior Virtue;

Became the fixed important Center,

Which united in one common Cause

The principal States of *Europe*;



Who by military Knowledge, and irresistible Valour,  
 In a long Series of uninterrupted Triumphs,  
 Broke the power of *France*,  
 When raised the highest, when exerted the most ;  
 Rescued the *Empire* from Desolation ;  
 Asserted and confirmed the Liberties of *Europe*.

“ PHILIP, a Grandson of the House of *France*, united to the Interests, directed by the Policy, supported by the Arms of that Crown, was placed on the Throne of *Spain*. King *William* the Third beheld this formidable Union of two great, and once rival, Monarchies. At the End of a Life spent in defending the Liberties of *Europe*, he saw them in their greatest Danger. He provided for their Security, in the most effectual Manner. He took the Duke of *Marlborough* into his Service.

“ Ambassador extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
 To the *States General* of the United Provinces,

“ The Duke contracted several Alliances before the Death of King WILLIAM. He confirmed and improved these. He contracted others, after the Accession of Queen ANNE ; and re-united the Confederacy, which had been dissolved at the end of a former War, in a stricter and firmer League.

“ Captain General and Commander in chief  
 Of the Forces of GREAT BRITAIN,

“ The Duke led to the Field the Army of the Allies. He took with surprizing Rapidity *Venlo*, *Ruremonde*, *Stevenswaert*, and *Liege*. He extended and secured the Frontiers of the *Dutch*. The Enemies, whom he found insulting at the Gates of *Nimeguen*, were driven to seek for Shelter behind their Lines. He forced *Bonne*, *Huy*, *Limbourg* in another Campaign. He opened the Communication of the *Rhine*, as well as the *Maes*. He added all the Country between these Rivers to his former Conquests. The Arms of *France*,  
 favoured

favoured by the Defection of the Elector of *Bavaria*, had penetrated into the Heart of the *Empire*. This mighty Body lay exposed to immediate Ruin. In that memorable Crisis, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH led his Troops with Unexampled Celerity, Secrecy, and Order, from the *Ocean* to the *Danube*. He saw; he attacked; nor stopped, but to conquer the Enemy. He forced the *Bavarians*, sustained by the *French*, in their strong Intrenchments at *Schellenberg*. He passed the *Danube*. A second royal Army, composed of the best Troops of *France*, was sent to reinforce the first. That of the Confederates was divided. With one Part of it the Siege of *Ingolstadt* was carried on. With the other the Duke gave Battle to the united Strength of *France* and *Bavaria*. On the second Day of *August*, 1704, he gained a more glorious Victory than the Histories of any Age can boast. The Heaps of Slain were dreadful Proofs of his Valour. A Marshal of *France*, whole Legions of *French*, his Prisoners, proclaimed his Mercy. *Bavaria* was subdued. *Ratisbon*, *Augsburg*, *Ulm*, *Memminghen*, all the Usurpations of the Enemy, were recovered. The Liberty of the *Diet*, the Peace of the *Empire*, were restored. From the *Danube* the Duke turned his victorious Arms toward the *Rhine*, and the *Moselle*. *Landau*, *Treves*, *Traerbach* were taken. In the Course of one Campaign the very Nature of the War was changed. The Invaders of other States were reduced to defend their own. The Frontier of *France* was exposed in its weakest Part to the Efforts of the Allies.

“That he might improve his Advantage, that he might push the Sum of Things to a speedy Decision the Duke of MARLBOROUGH led his Troops early in the following Year once more to the *Moselle*. They, whom he had saved a few Months before, neglected to second him now. They, who might have been his Companions in Conquest, refused to join him. When he saw the generous Design he had formed frustrated by private Interest, by Pique, by Jealousy, he returned  
with

with Speed to the *Maes*. He returned; and Fortune and Victory returned with him. *Liege* was relieved; *Huy* retaken; the *French*, who had pressed the Army of the *States-General* with superior Numbers, retired behind Intrenchments, which they deemed impregnable. The Duke forced these Intrenchments, with inconsiderable Loss on the seventh Day of *July*, 1705. He defeated a great Part of the Army, which defended them. The rest escaped by a precipitate Retreat. If Advantages proportionable to this Success were not immediately obtained, let the Failure be ascribed to that Misfortune, which attends most Confederacies, a Division of Opinions, where one alone should judge; a Division of powers, where one alone should command. The Disappointment itself did Honour to the Duke. It became the Wonder of Mankind how he could do so much under those Restraints, which had hindered him from doing more.

“ Powers more absolute were given him afterwards. The Encrease of his Powers multiplied his Victories. At the opening of the next Campaign, when all his Army was not yet assembled, when it was hardly known that he had taken the Field, the Noise of his Triumphs was heard over *Europe*. On the 12th. of *May*, 1706, he attacked the *French* at *Ramillies*. In the Space of two Hours, the whole Army was put to flight. The Vigour and Conduct, with which he improved this Success, were equal to those, with which he gained it. *Louvain*, *Brussels*, *Molines*, *Liege*, *Ghent*, *Oudenard*, *Antwerp*, *Damme*, *Bruges*, *Coutray*, surrender'd. *Ostend*, *Menin*, *Dendermond*, *Aeth* were taken. *Brabant* and *Flanders* were recovered. Places, which had resisted the greatest Generals for Months, for Years; Provinces, disputed for Ages, were the Conquests of a Summer. Nor was the Duke content to triumph alone. Solicitous for the general Interest, his Care extended to the remotest Scenes of the War. He chose to lessen his own Army, that he might enable the Leaders of other Armies to conquer. To this

it must be ascribed that *Turin* was relieved, the Duke of *Savoy* reinstated, the *French* driven with Confusion out of *Italy*.

“These Victories gave the Confederates an Opportunity of carrying the War, on every Side, into the Dominions of *France*. But she continued to enjoy a Kind of peaceful Neutrality in *Germany*. From *Italy* she was once alarmed, and had no more to fear. The entire Reduction of this Power, whose Ambition had caused, whose Strength supported the War, seemed reserved for him alone, who had so triumphantly begun the glorious Work.

“The Barrier of *France*, on the Side of the *Low-Countries*, had been forming for more than half a Century. What Art, Power, Expence could do, had been done to render it impenetrable. Yet here she was most exposed; for here the Duke of MARLBOROUGH threatened to attack her.

“To cover what they had gained by Surprise, or had been yielded to them by Treachery, the *French* marched to the Banks of the *Schelde*. At their Head were the Princes of the Blood, and their most fortunate General, the Duke of *Vendosme*. Thus commanded, thus posted, they hoped to check the Victor in his Course. Vain was their Hopes. The Duke of MARLBOROUGH passed the River in their Sight. He defeated their whole Army. The Approach of Night concealed, the Proximity of *Ghent* favoured their Flight. They neglected nothing to repair their Loss; to defend their Frontier. New Generals, new Armies, appeared in the *Netherlands*. All contributed to enhance the Glory, none were able to retard the Progress of the Confederate Arms.

“*Lisle*, the Bulwark of this Barrier, was besieged. A numerous Garrison and a Marshal of *France* defended the Place. Prince *Eugene* of *Savoy* commanded, the Duke of MARLBOROUGH covered and sustained the Siege. The Rivers were seized, and the Communication with *Holland* interrupted. The Duke opened

opened new Communications with great Labour and much greater Art Through Countries, over-run by the Enemy, the necessary Convoys arrived in Safety. One alone was attack'd. The Troops, which attack'd it, were beat. The Defence of *Lisle* was animated by Assurances of Relief.

“ The *French* assembled all their Force. They marched towards the Town. The Duke of *MARLBOROUGH* offered them Battle, without suspending the Siege. They abandoned the Enterprize. They came to save the Town. They were Spectators of its Fall.

“ From this Conquest the Duke hastened to others. The Posts taken by the Enemy on the *Schelde* were surprized. That river was passed the second Time; and notwithstanding the great Preparations made to prevent it, without Opposition.

“ *Brussels*, besieged by the Elector of *Bavaria*, was relieved. *Ghent* surrendered to the Duke in the Middle of a Winter remarkably severe. An Army, little inferior to his own; marched out of the place.

“ As soon as the Season of the Year permitted him to open another Campaign, the Duke besieged and took *Tournay*. He invested *Mons*. Near this City the *French* Army, covered by thick Woods, defended by treble entrenchments, waited to molest, nor presumed to offer Battle. Even this was not attempted by them with Impunity. On the last Day of *August* 1709, the Duke attacked them in their Camp. All was employed, nothing availed against the Resolution of such a General; against the Fury of such Troops. The Battle was bloody. The event decisive. The Woods were pierced. The Fortifications trampled down. The enemy fled. The Town was taken. *Douay*, *Bethune*, *Aire*, *St. Venant*, *Bouchain* underwent the same Fate in two succeeding Years. Their vigorous Resistance could not save them. The Army of *France* durst not attempt to relieve them. It seemed preserved to defend the Capital of the Monarchy.

“ The



“ The Prospect of this extreme Distress was neither distant, nor dubious. The *French* acknowledged their Conqueror, and sued for Peace.

“ These are the Actions of the Duke of  
MARLBOROUGH:

Perform'd in the Compass of a few Years,  
Sufficient to adorn the Annals of Ages.

The Admiration of other Nations

Will be conveyed to latest Posterity;

In the Histories even of the Enemies of BRITAIN.

“ The Sense, which the BRITISH Nation had  
Of his transcendent Merit,

Was expressed

In the most solemn, most effectual, most  
durable Manner.

The ACTS of PARLIAMENT, inscribed on this Pillar,  
Shall stand

As long as the BRITISH Name and Language last,  
Illustrious Monuments

Of MARLBOROUGH's Glory

And

Of BRITAIN's Gratitude.”

The house itself was built at the public expence; but the bridge, the column just mentioned, and the portal contiguous to the town, were erected solely at the charge of Sarah, duchess dowager of Marlborough.

The duke's descendants are obliged by way of homage, for the tenure of this manor, to present annually a standard to the king on the 2nd of August, the anniversary of the victory of Blenheim; this standard is kept in the palace at Windsor.

About one mile to the south-west of Woodstock is the village of BLADON; this parish is remarkable for an old fortification, commonly called the Round Castle; near which is a subterraneous passage, under the river Charwell, but when, or on what account,

count, it was made is not known. The Church is a very ancient structure; and the parish contains 68 houses, and 287 inhabitants.

At **STONESFIELD**, a village situated about a mile to the west of Blenheim Park, several Roman pavements and buildings have been discovered within these few years.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of two miles and a half from Woodstock, is the village of **BEGBROOKE**, near the church of which is the above mentioned fortification, called the Round Castle, though in the parish of Bladon.

One mile and a half from Begbrooke is the village of **YARNTON**, containing 38 houses and 215 inhabitants; the same distance beyond which, after crossing the Oxford Canal, is the township of **WOOLVERCOTT**, situated 57 miles from London, and containing 64 houses, and 341 inhabitants; two miles and a half beyond which is the city of Oxford.

After passing through the city of Oxford, we proceed in an easterly direction, and at the distance of five miles and a half pass through the village of **WHEATLEY**, situated 48 miles from London, and containing 157 houses, and 685 inhabitants.

To the north-east of Wheatley, at the village of Holton, is **HOLTON PARK**, the seat of H. Whorwood, Esq. About half a mile from which we cross the Thame river, and proceeding easterly, on our left, pass the Earl of Abingdon's seat, called Ricot Park; about two miles beyond which is the village of **TETSWORTH**, situated 44 miles from London, and containing 94 houses, and 396 inhabitants.

About one mile to the north-east of the last-mentioned village is **THAME PARK**, the seat of P. Wickham, Esq. one mile and a half beyond which is **THAME**, a market town, pleasantly situated on an eminence on the banks of the Thame, 10 miles from Oxford, and 46 from London. The town consists  
of

of one large street, in the centre of which is the Market-place. This town had the reputation of a burgh in the time of the Danes, who erected a fortification here, which was taken by Edward the Elder in the year 941, and the town suffered much by the Danes in 1010, when they over-ran the kingdom. In 1138 Alexander, bishop of Lincoln, erected a monastery here, which at the general Dissolution, was given to the Duke of Somerset. In the reign of Henry III. Lexington, bishop of Lincoln, to whose see the manor belonged, brought the great road to Aylesbury through the middle of the town, which then began to flourish. The Church is a large Gothic structure, near which was the above-mentioned monastery. It has a Free School, as also an Alms-house, for five poor men and a woman. The market, which is well furnished with live cattle, and all necessaries, is on Tuesday; and the fairs on Easter Tuesday and Old Michaelmas Day. The town contains 445 houses, and 2,293 inhabitants, of whom 209 were returned as being employed in trade.

About four miles to the south-east of Thame is the village of CHINNOR, containing 147 houses, and 667 inhabitants. At this place the Consular or Prætorian Way, called *Ikenild Street*, enters this county, which it entirely crosses in a south-westerly direction, and enters Berkshire, near the village of Goring.

Two miles to the south-west of Chinnor, is the village of ASTON ROWANT, containing 50 houses and 260 inhabitants. This village is remarkable for a kind of markasite, by some called crow iron, which is found here. About two miles to the south-west of Aston Rowant, on the right of our road, is the village of SHIREBORN, containing 70 houses, and 313 inhabitants. Here is a fine seat belonging to the Earl of Macclesfield, to which the late earl added an observatory, which is well furnished with all sorts of instruments for making astronomical calculations.

About one mile to the south of the last-mentioned village, is the town of **WATLINGTON**, a place of great antiquity, and supposed to have derived its name from the manner of the ancient Britons building their houses with wattles, or wicker work. It had anciently a castle, but the only traces of it left are an eminence and a moat, the latter of which is now converted into a fish-pond. At present the town does not contain any thing remarkable, except a fine market-house, and a Free Grammar School, where youth are qualified for the University. The town, which is situated 55 miles from London, contains according to the late returns, 266 houses, and 1276 inhabitants. It has a weekly market on Saturday, and two annual fairs on the 25th of March, and 10th of October.

Returning from our digression at the distance of seven miles from Tedsworth, and 20 from Oxford is the village of **STOKEN CHURCH**, situated 36 miles from London, and containing 158 houses, and 811 inhabitants.

*Journey from Cotesford to Oxford, through Middleton  
Stoney.*

**COTESFORD** is a small village, situated on the borders of Northamptonshire, and about one mile from the turnpike road, and 60 from London; it contains 23 houses and 106 inhabitants.

Proceeding in a southerly direction, at the distance of four miles from Cotesford, we pass through the village of **ARDLEY**, containing 27 houses, and 109 inhabitants. About three miles to the west of which is the village of **STRATTON AUDLEY**, containing 71 houses, and 379 inhabitants. Near this place are the remains of an ancient castle, which is said to have flourished in the time of king Stephen, and to have been destroyed by order of that monarch.

Returning to our road, at the distance of two miles from Ardley, is **MIDDLETON STONEY**, a town-  
ship

ship situated 57 miles from London, and containing 61 houses, and 309 inhabitants; about two miles to the east of which is

BICESTER, or Bissester, a handsome and well-built market town, situated on a rivulet that runs into the Charwell, at Islip. The Church, which is neat, large, and commodious, has a lofty tower, with a remarkable fine-toned organ, and a good ring of bells. In the church and chancel are many curious and costly monuments, particularly one lately erected to the memory of the late Sir Edward Turner, and his lady. Here is also a handsome meeting-house for dissenters. It has likewise a Charity School for 30 boys; and among other charities is one called the Feoffees; it is the net produce of certain lands of about 120*l.* a year value, which is applied in the relief of decayed tradesmen. The parish is divided into two districts or townships, for the maintenance of its poor, called the Market End, and King's End. The only manufacture worthy of note carried on here is that for the common leather-slippers, where it is supposed more are made than at any other place in the kingdom. The manufactory of sack-cloth, and the combing of Jersey, which have been carried on to a great extent, have of late years been much on the decline, the poor now and for some time past having been employed in the lace trade. This town is noted for the excellency of its malt liquor. It has a good market on Friday, and those in the spring and autumn for the sale of sheep are very large, being much resorted to by graziers, even at 20 miles distance. It has seven annual fairs.

Bicester, which appears to have been a place of great antiquity from several Danish monuments having been dug up here, is situated 58 miles from London; and contains, according to the late returns, 414 houses, and 1946 inhabitants, of whom 956 were returned as being employed in trade and manufacture.



In the neighbourhood of this town are the remains of an old fortification, called Aldcester, which in the Saxon language, signifies an old castle; they are situated on the Roman highway, called Akeman Street, and the surrounding ground is now a common belonging to the inhabitants of a neighbouring village. That this was a place of great strength, and even the site of a once flourishing city, is evident from the great number of coins and other antiquities that have been dug up; and it is no uncommon thing for the husbandmen to break their ploughs against the ruins of the foundation. The city was fenced round with a bank and ditch, which are still visible. The brook which runs through the ditch on the south side, originally encompassed the city; the sides of which faced the four cardinal points. Great foundations have been likewise found in the adjoining fields; and on the west is an artificial mount, called Castle Hill, which is full of Roman bricks, stones, and foundations.

Returning from our digression, at the distance of three miles from Middleton Stoney is the village of WESTON-ON-THE-GREEN, containing 59 houses, and 350 inhabitants. About one mile to the north-west of which is KIRTLINGTON, a township containing 124 houses, and 525 inhabitants. To the east of this village is Kirtlington Park, the seat of Sir Henry Dashwood, Bart.

About one mile to the south of Kirtlington is the village of BLECHINGTON, containing 110 houses, and 503 inhabitants. To the north of this village is Blechington Park, the seat of A. Annesley, Esq.

Two miles to the north-east of Blechington, on the left of our road, is ISLIP, a place noted in history as the birth-place of Edward the Confessor, whose father had a palace, near the church, not a trace of which is now remaining. This village is situated on the river Charwell, and contains 135 houses, and 557 inhabitants.

Returning

Returning to our road, at the distance of four miles from Weston-on-the-Green, we cross the river Charwell, at a place, called Gosford Bridge, four miles and a half from which is the city of Oxford.

*Journey from Burford to Ensham, through Witney.*

On leaving Burford, which we have already described in a former journey, we proceed in an easterly direction, and at the distance of about two miles pass the village of ASTHALL, on our left. It stands on a small rivulet; and has a conspicuous barrow, on the old Roman way, called Akeman Street, supposed to have been the sepulchre of some person of note. This village is situated 70 miles from London, and contains 62 houses, and 304 inhabitants.

About half a mile to the north-west of Asthall, at the small village of Swinbrook, is Swinbrook Park, the seat of R. Fettiplace, Esq.

At MINSTER LOVELL, a village about two miles to the east of Asthall, and half a mile to the left of our road, are the remains of an ancient priory, formerly a cell to one of the Norman abbeys; it was situated in a valley, close to the northernmost bank of the Windrush, and about 100 yards south of the parish church. It appears, from its ruins, to have been a large and elegant building. The conventual church, and a part of the gateway, are the chief remains. Some other buildings, formerly offices to the monastery, are converted into out-houses, for an adjoining farm. The village contains 49 houses, and 283 inhabitants.

About two miles from Minster Lovell we enter WITNEY, a town of great antiquity, pleasantly situated 69 miles from London, on the river Windrush, near the Roman highway, called Akeman Street. It was a considerable place before the Conquest, after which the number of its inhabitants increased so fast, that it received summonses to send members to parliament in the reign of Edward II, which it con-

tinued to do till the 33rd of Edward III. and no longer.

The town consists of two streets; at the upper end of the principal one stands the Church, a handsome and spacious structure, built in a rich style of Gothic architecture, with a fine spire, and peal of eight bells. Here is an extensive Free School, having a good library, founded by Henry Bex, a citizen of London, in the reign of Charles II. There is also an Alms-house, for widows, and a Charity School. Witney has long been noted for its manufacture of blankets, which employs a great number of hands, and in the reign of Queen Anne the blanket weavers were incorporated, under the stile of the master, assistants, wardens, and commonalty of the blanket-weavers of Witney; they have also their hall, in which they regulate all matters respecting the measure, mark, and staple commodity. The blankets are scoured by mills, erected on the river Windrush, whose water, from a peculiar nitrous quality, is well adapted for the purpose. The market day is on Thursday; and its fairs are Easter Tuesday, Holy Thursday, 10th July, Thursday before 10th of October, Thursday after September 8, and the 4th of December. It is a borough town, governed by two bailiffs, chosen annually on the first Tuesday after St. Michael; and consists, according to the late returns, of 566 houses, and 2,584 inhabitants.

Witney was one of the manors which Aldwinus, bishop of Winchester, gave to the church of St. Swithen there, on Queen Emma's passing over the fiery ordeal.

Three miles to the south of Witney is Cockthorpe, heretofore the residence of the late Earl of Harcourt, now the seat of Maximilian Western, Esq.

At Cogges, a village about two miles to the north-east of Cockthorpe, was formerly a small piory.

Returning to the turnpike road, at the distance of  
five

five miles from Witney, is the village of ENSHAM, situated near the river Isis, over which it has a handsome stone bridge. It was once a place of great repute, having in it a noble monastery, scarcely any relics, however, are now to be discovered; it was founded in the time of the Saxons, when Ensham was a royal village. Till within the last century, an old custom prevailed in this parish, by which the townspeople were allowed on Whit-Monday to cut down and carry away as much timber, as could be drawn by men's hands into the Abbey yard, the churchwardens previously marking out such timber, by giving the first chop; so much as they could carry out again, notwithstanding the opposition of the servants of the abbey to prevent it, they were to keep for the reparation of the church. By this service they held their right of commonage at Lammas and Michaelmas; but about the beginning of the last century this practice was laid aside by mutual consent. Ensham is situated 61 miles from London, and contains 187 houses, and 1,166 inhabitants.

About two miles to the south-west of Ensham is STANTON HARCOURT, a village situated on the banks of the Thames, and containing 88 houses, and 504 inhabitants. This place is noted, as having some curious remains of antiquity in the seat of the Harcourt family. The Chapel, says Mr. Grose, is undoubtedly very ancient, as are most of the buildings of this venerable mansion, which with the manor have been in the family of the Harcourts upwards of 576 years. The exact time of their erection is not known.

The inside of the chapel is still entire. It was the private oratory or place of worship of the family; the ceiling, which was painted, carved, and gilded, is in tolerable preservation. It joined to the great hall, with which it communicated by a door opposite the altar, above which was a window enriched with

with stained glass, whereon were depicted the different quarterings borne by the Harcourts, and also the portraits of persons habited like warriors, having on their shields and mantles the arms and crests of that ancient family. The stained glass was removed several years ago to prevent its being destroyed.

The Chapel is now kept locked up, it not being made use of. In the tower are three rooms, and over a part of the chapel is a fourth, all of them accessible, by means of the winding stairs of stone that led to the leads. One of these rooms Pope made use of as a study, having passed two summers at Stanton Harcourt, for the sake of retirement, while employed in his translation of Homer; the fifth volume of which he finished here, as appears by the following memorandum, with a diamond on a piece of red stained glass, now in the possession of Lord Nuneham:

“ In the year 1718,  
Alexander Pope  
finished here the  
fifth volume of Homer.”

Here too Pope wrote his epitaph on the two lovers struck dead by lightning; an event which happened in the common field near this house, during his residence here. This epitaph is inscribed on a mural tablet, in the parish church, where also is his celebrated epitaph on the honourable Simon Harcourt.

The Old Kitchen is one of those ancient buildings erected without chimneys. Dr. Plot, in his history of this county, speaking of this structure, says, it “ is so strangely unusual that by way of riddle, one may truly call it either a kitchen within a chimney, or a kitchen without one; for below it is nothing but a large square, an octangular above, ending like a tower, the fires being made against the walls and the smoke climbing up them,  
without



without any tunnels or disturbance to the cooks, which being stopped by a large conical roof at the top, goes out at loop holes on every side, the loop holes at the side next the wind being shut with folding doors, and the adverse side opened."

This kitchen is a large square and lofty buildings, remarkable for its form, and the above-mentioned singularity of being without a chimney, a winding stair case of stone, in the turret, leads to a passage round the battlements.

---

### AGRICULTURE.

THE soil of the northern part of this county is chiefly strong, partly arable and partly pasturage; south of this is an extensive tract, the hilly part of which has a shallow stoney soil, the bottoms are clayey, and the sides of the rivers afford excellent pasturage; the south-west corner contains the noted forest of Whichwood; below which, nearer to the Isis, the soil is low and wet, and chiefly in pasturage; round the City of Oxford the soil is various, and near Stanton there is a considerable tract of woodland. Between the Chiltern Hills it is mostly arable, bordered by a range of downs. The wide tract of the Chilterns consists of chalk, with loam and clay intermixed; but very full of flints, and covered, in a great measure, with beech wood. Here are no less than five sorts of wheat sown, all adapted to as many different kinds of soil. In the eastern parts the crops of corn are, in general, clean and good; the course of husbandry, with a few exceptions, is 1. fallow, 2. wheat, 3. spring corn, 4. clover, two years, 5. fallow. Three quarters of wheat, five quarters of barley, and four quarters of oats, per acre, are considered as middling crops.

In the neighbourhood of Witney, the course of husbandry is somewhat remarkable. *viz.* 1. Wheat, 2. beans, 3. barley, 4. fallow, 5. barley, 6. clover, with

with some variations. They set their beans with a dibble, and keep them clean by hoeing; they use manure only for wheat and barley crops, and estimate the produce of their land in proportion to the seed. Wheat they reckon five or six bushels for one; and as they sow three bushels on an acre, the produce is consequently two quarters, or two and a half; barley three quarters, and beans three and a half.

#### ANTIQUITIES.

Besides the several pieces of antiquity already mentioned in describing the different parts in this county, some others have been found, particularly about Wood Eaton, on the river Charwell, four miles north of Oxford, where British coins of a particular kind have been dug up, not discovered any where else in England. They were the coin of Cunobeline, who reigned here about the time of our Saviour's birth. On one side is a horse, with an ear of corn over him, and *Cuno* under him; and on the reverse is another such ear with *Camu*, for Camuladunum, or Malden; in Essex, where the coins were struck.

On a common in the hundred of Ewelme, near the Roman Ikniel-street, a large urn was found in the year 1720, full of coins, some as old as the time of Julius Cæsar's landing in this island.

At Shinsfield, two miles from Woodstock, a large tessellated Roman pavement was discovered in the year 1713, consisting of small square stones, and bricks of six different colours, strongly cemented; and near Great Tew, another has been found, consisting of red, white, blue, and yellow pieces, so disposed, as to form various beautiful figures.

---

#### ERRATUM.

P. 97. l. 8. for *Wednesday before Low Sunday*, read *Wednesday after Low Sunday*.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## TO THE DESCRIPTION OF OXFORDSHIRE.

	page
Index of Distances from Town to Town	3
Inspection Table, - - - - -	4
Itinerary, &c. - - - - -	5
List of Fairs, - - - - -	13
General Description, - - - - -	15
Name and Ancient History	<i>ib.</i>
Population, &c. - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Rivers, - - - - -	16
Canal, / - - - - -	17
Civil and Ecclesiastical Divisions, - - - - -	<i>ib.</i>
Topographical Description, - - - - -	18
Agriculture, - - - - -	143
Antiquities, - - - - -	144

## INDEX TO THE NAMES OF PLACES

Described in the County of Oxford.

Adderbury, 20	Brazen-nose College, 62
Alban Hall, 84	Broughton, 106
All Soul's College, 51	Burford, 108
Ardley, 134	Caversham, 106
Asthall, 137	Chadlington, 107
Aston Middle, 21	Charlbury, 117
Aston North, <i>ib.</i>	Chinnor, 133
Aston Rowant, 133	Chipping Norton, 107
Aston Steeple, 21	Christ's Church College, 65
Baliol College, 33	Clanfield, 109
Bampton, 109	Clattercote, 13
Banbury 19,	Claydon, <i>ib.</i>
Barford, 21	Cockthorpe, 138
Barton Steeple, 114	Cogges, <i>ib.</i>
Begbrooke, 132	Corpus Christi College, 63
Bensington, 104	Cotesford, 134
Bicester, 135	Cowley, 98
Bladon, 131	Cropredy, 18
Blandford-Park, 117	Deddington, 20
Blechington, 136	Ditchley, 114
Blenheim House, 119	Divinity School, 89
Bloxham, 106	Dorchester, 103
Boddicot, 20	Drayton, 19
Bodleian Library, 88	Duns Tew, 21
Botanical Garden, 61	Eusham, 139

CONTENTS.

- Enstone, 113  
 Ewelme, 104  
 Exeter College, 36  
 Glympton Park, 114  
 Great Bourton, 18  
 Hanwell, 20  
 Henley, 105  
 Hertford College, 83  
 Heythrop, 110  
 Holton Park, 132  
 Hook Norton, 109  
 Horley, 20  
 Horton, *ib.*  
 Jesus College, 77  
 Itley, 97  
 Islip, 136  
 Kiddington, 113  
 Kidlington, 22  
 Kirtlington, 136  
 Lincoln College, 49  
 Magdalene College, 55  
 Magdalene Hall, 85  
 Merton College, 35  
 Middleton Stoney, 134  
 Minster Lovell, 137  
 Mollington, 18  
 Mongwell House, 104  
 Museum, 93  
 Nettlebed, 104  
 New College, 43  
 New Inn Hall, 85  
 Newnham Courtney, 98  
 Observatory, 24  
 Oriel College, 38  
 Osney Island, 97  
 Oxford, 22  
 Oxford Terms, 97  
 Pembroke College, 80  
 Printing House, 96  
 Public Schools, 87  
 Queen's College, 40  
 Radcliffe Infirmary, 24  
 Radcot, 109  
 Radclivian Library, 86  
 Ricot Park, 132  
 Rollewright, 109  
 Sandford, 98  
 Shillingford, 104  
 Shiplake, 106  
 Shipton, 108  
 Shireborne, 133  
 South Newington, 106  
 Stanton Harcourt, 139  
 St. Edmund's Hall, 85  
 St. John's College, 74  
 St. Mary's Hall, 85  
 Stoken Church, 134  
 Stonesfield, 132  
 Stratton Audley, 134  
 Swarford, 106  
 Tackley, 22  
 Tetsworth, 132  
 Thames, *ib.*  
 Theatre, 89  
 Trinity College, 71  
 Tuffield, 104  
 University College, 32  
 Wadham College, 78  
 Wardington, 18  
 Watlington, 134  
 Weston-on-the-Green, 136  
 Wheatley, 132  
 Witney, 137  
 Woodstock, 117  
 Worcester College, 82  
 Wroxton, 19  
 Wroxton Priory, *ib.*  
 Yarnton, 132











p. 25

p. 61

DA .  
670  
.09  
C66  
IMS

Cooke, George Alexander.  
Topographical and statistical  
description of the county of  
Oxford ... :

PONTIFICAL INSTITUTE  
OF MEDIAEVAL STUDIES  
59 QUEEN'S PARK  
TORONTO 5, CANADA

