

A WALK ROUND OXFORD.

New College from the Garden.

This College is one of the finest monuments of the munificence of William of Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester. The founder laid the first stone in person, and with great solemnity, on the 5th of March 1380, in the fifty first year of his age. The building was completed in six years, and on the 14th of April 1386 the warden and fellows entered in procession.

William of Wykeham not only possessed considerable taste in matters of art, but was practically acquainted with all the various departments of architecture. He built entirely after his own designs, and his buildings always preserve that strength and simplicity which was the characteristic of the times. The buildings, courts, and gardens of New College are of great extent, the ancient towers and walls massive and grand, the halls and other apartments of agreeable proportions, and ornamented with a light style of decoration. The antechapel with its beautiful pointed glass of the fourteenth century is of surpassing beauty. It contains moreover a number of brasses, on which are engraved the names and portraits of the distinguished men, who were educated here.

The College garden is daily open to the public. It is enclosed towards the North and East by lofty walls and bastions of a very early period, beautifully overgrown with ivy and flowers, and contains some very ancient chest-trees.

Wadham College from the North.

We found the north side of the city of Oxford surrounded by cornfields and gardens. From this point of view we perceive the garden of Wadham College, which is celebrated for its beautiful roses, a few magnificent cedars of Lebanon, as also some fine lime and plane-trees. From the midst of them rise three lofty gables containing windows with pointed arches, belonging respectively to the Chapel, the Library, and the great Dining Hall.

Nicholas Wadham was the founder of this college, but never lived to see its completion, as he died on the 20th of October 1609. His noble wife however carried out all his intentions and endowed the college with the lands and funds necessary for its maintenance. On the 20th of April 1613, she installed the first Warden, Robert Wright D. D., with fifteen Fellows, fifteen Scholars, and two Chaplains.

At a short distance and in the background of the picture may be discerned a long building with a square tower. This is the Bodleian Library, in the upper rooms of which the library, a picture gallery, and many sculptures and other curiosities are preserved. The chambers in the lower story are employed as University Lecture and Examination rooms, and are called the Divinity Schools and Convocation House.

The large cupola, which is perceived in the distance rises on Corinthian columns, over a round open arched hall. This is the library built by Dr. Radcliffe, physician to King William III. in the year 1737. The building costs £40,000.

The Hall of Wadham College.

Leaving the packs, and proceeding southwards through the avenue of fine old trees, we soon arrive at the principal entrance of Wadham College, over which there is a large low window surmounted by a square tower with parapets. Passing through it, we enter a large square court surrounded by lofty buildings. Opposite the principal entrance and supported on several steps, rises a beautifully decorated portal, with a canopy above it containing the statue of King James I. in his imperial robes, supported on one side by the statue of Nicholas Wadham, and on the other by that of Dorothy his wife.

This entrance leads on the right to the great dining hall, and on the left to the common room of the fellows.

The hall is eighty two feet long, thirty five feet broad, and thirty seven feet high. The fine timber roof and oak screen are very elegantly carved, and the large pointed windows are decorated with painted glass and the armorial bearings of the most celebrated men who have received their education in the college.

The chapel is situated on the north side, and the Library with the kitchen adjoining it, on the south. The latter buildings are enclosed on the north and east sides by a very pretty garden.

We leave this college by the same western gate by which we entered it, and passing into Trinity College-garden on the opposite side of the street, arrive at Balliol College and its garden which are immediately contiguous to it.

Balliol College.

Passing through the ante-court, which is surrounded by the college buildings, and like all the other college courts, adorned with flowers, we enter the fellows' garden, for the purpose of obtaining a view of the more ancient part of the college, and its picturesque and moss-grown walks. At a little distance we perceive the bell tower, and adjoining it, the chapel with its ivied buttresses.

On the left, in the background, may be seen Trinity College, which was founded in the year 1554 by Sir Thomas Pope, and is only separated from Balliol by a wall and a group of fine trees. The latter is said to have been founded in 1263 by John Balliol, who fought under the standard of Henry III. against Simon de Montfort and the rebellious barons. He was the father of the unfortunate King of Scotland of the same name, and died in 1269, before he was able to carry out his munificent intentions with respect to his college. His wife however faithfully fulfilled the wishes of her dying husband, and took care that the Society should be provided with ample means for their support, as also for the prosecution of their studies.

In 1282 she gave the college their statutes, which were ornamentally inscribed on parchment, and with her seal attached, are still preserved among the college archives. They confer upon the fellows the right of electing both their warden and their vicar.