

manor of Cisendone (Chessington), also held by Robert de Watevile of Richard de Tonbridge; and it is then added that "one hide in Meldone, held by Robert de Watevile, remains in challenge; and the jury, or men of the hundred, report that Edward de Sarisburie and Robert de Oilgi reclaimed this land from Richard de Tonbridge, and that it remained quit in the hands of the king."

Walter de Merton, who held the post of Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, and was afterwards Bishop of Rochester in the thirteenth century, appears to have purchased these estates "with a view to the

Scholars" stood on the rising ground by the south side of the churchyard, on the spot now occupied by the manor-house. "In the deed of conveyance to De Merton," it is continued, "a clause was introduced, according to the custom of that age, restraining him from transferring these manors to Jews or to religious foundations. As this clause interfered with the purpose for which they were purchased, he procured a fresh license to convey the property to 'the House of Merton' (*Domus de Merton*); and afterwards another, to dispose of it to 'the House of the Scholars of Merton' (*Domus*



MALDEN.

foundation of a college for students." In 1262, as we learn from Brayley's "Surrey," he obtained from Richard de Clare, Earl of Gloucester and Hereford (a descendant of Richard de Tonbridge), as lord of the fee, a deed of confirmation of the property, with liberty to appropriate it to the "perpetual support of clerks residing in schools, and advantageously applying themselves to study." A document bearing date 1263 gives us the earliest stage of the founder's benevolent intentions: it presents to us a family arrangement, placing eight of his nephews under a warden and chaplains in his manor-house, with a life-long provision entitling them "scholares in scholis degentes," and tying them to a life of study and of rule, for they were to forfeit their places should they disregard the "ordinatio" or commit any serious offence. There is a tradition in the parish that the old "House of

*Scholarium de Merton*). In 1264 he executed a charter of foundation, and in the same year another of confirmation. The house for students, thus established, is generally stated to have been fixed at Malden, and thence transferred to Oxford, where it became distinguished by the appellation of Merton College, from the name of the founder."

In his grants to the new establishment, the founder reserved to himself the occasional use of the manor-houses, with such accommodation for himself and his family during such visits as might be consistent with the support of the scholars. In 1264 he induced the Prior of Merton to release to the college all claims to the advowson of the church of Malden, of which he likewise obtained the appropriation. The members of Merton College appear to have possessed the estate and manor of Malden until the time of Henry VIII.,