

Divinity, exacting celibacy and poverty of their beneficiaries ; others,—in the *Renaissance* period—place classical studies in the foreground ; some betray a Provincial, others a more Catholic spirit. But with all this internal diversity of organization, it has been found not impossible to combine, the unity essential to University government ; nor do we find an instance in which any formidable effort was made, by a particular College, to shake off the superiority or superintendence of the University.

The Oxford founders, may be divided into those who flourished before, and those since, the Reformation. In the former period, fourteen of the Colleges and all the five halls were founded ; in the latter six Colleges were added to those already existing. The first series of founders commenced with Walter de Merton, Bishop of Rochester, and Lord Chancellor, in 1264, and ended with Cardinal Wolsey, Lord Chancellor, at the time of the foundation of Christ's Church, in 1525. Of the latter founders, Sir Thomas Pope, Court Physician to Queen Elizabeth, his friend Sir Thomas White, a London Merchant, and the Earl of Pembroke, who founded the College of that name, may be considered the principal. But the glory of Oxford lies largely in the first period. Whatever we may think of its renown, in the doubtful days of King Alfred or the mythical days of King Memphric, (who reigned precisely 1009, B.C.,) it is impossible to banish from its annals, the great names of those celebrated Churchmen-Chancellors, Wolsey, Chichele, William of Waynfleet, William of Wykeham, and Walter de Merton, who, if they came, most of them from very humble beginnings, to the inheritance of princely revenues, knew how to employ their means, in a manner most worthy of Christian Prelates and Peers of the Realm.

Of all these great men, no two exhibit points of character in more striking contrast, than the Chancellors, William of Wykeham and Thomas Wolsey, and no two represent more fully the relation of Oxford, to each age. A century lay between them. Wykeham saw the outbreak of the wars of the Roses, and Wolsey saw their close. The methods by which they proceeded when calling into existence the great Colleges which venerate them, as founders, were characteristic of the men, and their times. Wykeham, whose original turn was rather to architecture than to politics, (and whose genius as a builder still speaks in Windsor Castle, in his own Cathedral at Winchester, and his College—"New College" at Oxford), seems to have employed, so far as we can now judge, no other arts, but honest arts, in the acquisition of the vast sums which he expended on his favorite establishments. As Warden of the King's forests ; Keeper of the Privy Seal ; Secretary to the King, (or Chief Secretary of State), Chief of the Privy Council, (or Premier) ; Governor, or Chancellor of the great Council of the Nation ; Dean of the Chapel Royal, and Bishop of Winchester,—and these were only the chief, not all the offices, he held—his income was enormous for that age. His ecclesiastic revenues amounted before he was Bishop of Winchester to £842 per annum ; Winchester itself, which he held for forty years, was one of the richest sees in England. His emoluments as Lord Keeper, Warden, and Chancellor, must also have been very large. Personally, he lived temperately to an old age extended to four score ; though he seems to have well known what was due to the honor of his office when occasion required, he was habitually moderate and frugal, in his personal expenditure. His birth is as obscure as Wolsey's, whether the surname of Wykeham was hereditary or a local designation, is undecided ; his rise, though less rapid was equally marvellous : but the revenues he derived from all sources, he husbanded as a steward simply, regard-