

But after my making thou write more true;
So after a day I more thy werke renewe,
It to correcte, and eke to rubbe and scrape,
And al is thorow thy negligence and rape.

Such was the affectation for speaking French in this reign, that it became a proverb—"Jack would be a gentleman, if he could speak French." It was, however, often very corrupt, in allusion to which Chaucer says in the *Prologue to the Prioress' Tale*:-

"And French she spak ful fayre and fety saly
After the schoole of Stratford at the Bow.
For French of Paris was to her unknowe."

It was, nevertheless, so necessary, that Robert of Eglesfield, who founded Queen's College in Oxford, directed by his statutes that the scholars should speak either French or Latin.

Female education at this period consisted in needlework (especially), and reading. Boccaccio describes a wife as "young and beautiful in her person; mistress of her needle; no man servant waiting better at her master's table; skilled in horsemanship and the management of a hawk; no merchant better versed in accounts." Chaucer mentions reading and singing as the education of little children.

XVII.

SCHOLARSHIP OF EDWARD THE BLACK PRINCE.

Edward the Black Prince, the eldest son of Edward III, was born at Woodstock, in 1330:

Nursed at the bosom of his mother (Queen Philippa), he received health and strength from the same pure blood that had given him existence; the gentle impress of her own sweet mind fixed upon her child, during his early education, those kindly virtues which tempered in his nature the fierceness of his father's courage. Never, perhaps, in the world's history, do we find so strong an example of the qualities possessed by both parents being blended in the child, as in the case of the Black Prince, in whose heart the generous and feeling nature of Philippa elevated rather than depressed the indomitable valour and keen sagacity of Edward III.—*James's Life of the Black Prince.*

Holinshed tells us that Philippa herself selected for the Prince's tutor a person of whose talents and virtues she had possessed the opportunity of judging; this was Doctor Walter Burleigh, a well-known scholar of Merton College, Oxford, who had been appointed almoner to the Queen, and had remained from that time attached to her household. Simon Burleigh, "a near kinsman of the Doctor's," (says Barnes), was admitted, with other young gentlemen, to be schoolfellows with this hopeful Prince. "Before the Prince was seven years of age, he was girded by his father with a sword, and saluted the first English Duke; and immediately, in exercise of his new dignity, he dubbed twenty knights. In his thirteenth year he entered upon the chivalrous training of the time, which, by inuring the body to fatigue, and the limbs to the continual use of arms, gave skill and great power of endurance to his active and robust figure. In 1343, he was created Prince of Wales, upon which the knightly feast of the Round Table was appointed to be held in an ample theatre near Windsor Castle; at the age of sixteen, the Black Prince led an army to the field of battle, and in a few years grew to be "the flower of the chivalry in the world."

XVIII.

WINCHESTER COLLEGE FOUNDED BY WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM.

In the reign of Edward III, lived the celebrated William of Wykeham, who was born at the village of Wykeham, in Hampshire, in 1324. By the liberality of Sir Nicholas Uvedale, governor of Winchester Castle, the boy Wykeham was sent to "the Great Grammar-school in Winchester," originally an institution for education founded before the Conquest. Uvedale next presented Wykeham to Edward III, for his skill in architecture. In the short space of four years he was promoted through civil and ecclesiastical grades, to be Bishop of Winchester and Lord High Chancellor of these realms. He had already commenced the building of New College at Oxford; and in the following year, with the view of taking the early education of youth out of the hands of the monks, "it was his admirable thought to raise a nursery school, preparatory to his co-operating with a higher course in his college; and thus to raise the standard of education in the country, to that stamp and character which has ever since (through his institution and the copies which were drawn from it,) distinguished the English gentlemen amongst the families of Europe." Thus arose Win-

chester College, the scholars of which are designated to this day *Wykehamists*. The novelty and merit of the plan were imitated by Chicheley, at All Souls, Oxford; Henry VI, at Cambridge; and Waynflete at Magdalene. "Twenty years before his hives were built (1373), Wykeham had gathered his swarming bees under temporary roofs, with masters and statutes; which with parental solicitude he watched, altered, and amended from time to time, by his daily experience. So long before his colleges were built was his institution effective." Wykeham died in 1404, at the age of eighty years, with the respect and admiration and gratitude of all; and like the spirit which he had ever sought throughout his amiable life, "length of days were in his right hand, and in his left riches and honour." He is buried in Winchester Cathedral: "beneath the spot where the schoolboy prayed, the honoured prelate sleeps."—(*Walcott.*)

Wykeham's College buildings stand immediately adjoining the main street of Winchester, a city of kindred quiet. The Middle Gate Tower has under three canopied niches, the Angelic Salutation, and the Founder in prayer. This gateway leads to a truly noble quadrangle of Wykeham's architecture. On the left side is the dining-hall, with an oaken roof finely carved with the busts of kings and prelates; and in the centre is a louvre, through which the smoke ascended in old times, when the scholars gathered round the hearth to sing and listen to the tales of the chroniclers. Here also plays were acted in the days of the Tudors; the boy-bishop custom was observed as at Eton; and monarchs, prelates, and nobles have been feasted. On the south side of the quadrangle is the chapel, with an oaken roof of fan tracery; the large window, forty feet in height, is filled with painted glass, as are also the side windows. Next are the cloisters, surrounding an area, in the centre of which is the former chapel, now the library. Beyond is the Public School; it was built in 1687, chiefly by subscription among Wykehamists, and is the noblest structure of the kind in the kingdom. Upon the walls are inscribed in Latin the admonitions and rules for the government of the scholars; on the west wall are painted upon a large tablet, a mitre and crozier, the rewards of clerical learning; a pen and inkhorn and a sword, the ensigns of the civil and military professions; and a Winton rod, the dullard's quickener: beneath each symbol is its apt legend: "Aut discere," "Aut discere," "Manet sors tertia cædi."—"Either learn; "or depart; "or in the third place be flogged; " underneath is the flogging-place. On the east wall is a corresponding tablet, bearing the School laws, in Latin. The Chamber walls are carved with the names of many an illustrious Wykehamist; but, the most interesting memorial is the Seventh Chamber and the adjoining passage. This "was the ancient school wherein Waynflete taught, and was called by the founder, '*Magna illa domus*:' the stone 'books' in the embayed windows still remain; it could accommodate scarcely more than ninety boys." At present, the foundation scholars at Winchester are limited to 70; and the commoners are in general about 130. The College and its Grammar School differ little in management from Eton. Among its characteristic customs is the chanting of the Latin song "*Dulce Domum*," to which justice cannot be done in any English translation. It is sung in College Hall on the six last Saturdays of the "long half" before "evening bells; " and at the July festival:

Nations, and thrones, and reverend laws, have melted like a dream,
Yet Wykeham's works are green and fresh beside the crystal stream;
Four hundred years and fifty their rolling course have sped,
Since the first serge-clad scholar to Wykeham's feet was led:
And still his seventy faithful boys, in these presumptuous days,
Learn the old truth, speak the old words, tread in the ancient ways:
Still for their daily orisons resounds the matin chime—
Still linked in bands of brotherhood, St. Catherine's steep they climb;
Still to their Sabbath worship they troop by Wykeham's tomb—
Still in the summer twilight sing their sweet song of home.

Roundell Palmer's Anniversary Ballad.

As Chaucer was the Morning Star of our poetry in the reign of Edward III, so Wickliffe, who first translated the Scriptures into English, has been called the Morning Star of the Reformation; whilst his works being written in English, and dispersed among the people, greatly contributed to the progress of the English tongue. John Wickliffe was born in 1324, in a little village in Yorkshire, was educated at Oxford, and was one of the students who attended the lectures of the pious Bradwardine at Merton College. At that time he was in the flower of his age, and produced a great sensation in the university. He was elected in 1364 warden of Balliol, and in 1365 warden of Canterbury College also. His biblical and philosophical studies, his knowledge of theology, and his penetrating mind, were extraordinary.