

‘guilty of sundry misdemeanours in the town to the great scandal of the College’. His punishment—‘Imprimis, he shall make an oration in the Chapel . . . His theme shall be *Vituperium ebrietas et vitæ dissolutæ*. Item, he shall study in the Library four hours certain days for the space of two months [four days a week, except festivals]. His exercise for the first month shall be to gather all the chief questions in the third book of Aristotle *De Anima*, and to set down the full state of them, and this, painfully and studiously done by himself, shall deliver up in writing under his hand unto the Rector and Fellows . . . His exercise for the second month shall be to gather the chief questions of the first book of Aristotle his *Politics*.’

The earliest public University Library about which we have any information is that connected with the name of Thomas Cobham, Bishop of Worcester, who began, in 1320, to build a Convocation House adjoining St. Mary’s Church. To this building he proceeded to add an upper room, and to found a library for the general use of the University. The library was to be in the charge of two chaplains, who were to say masses for the souls of the bishop and his friends, and for University benefactors. The books were to be secured by chains, and no person was to be admitted unless one of the chaplains was present, to which end it was arranged that one should attend before lunch, the other after. They were to take heed that no reader entered in wet clothes, or having pen, ink, or knife: if notes had to be taken they were to be made in pencil.