

most remarkable of our academical institutions. Its graceful tower catches, afar off, the eye of the traveller who comes by road from London. As he approaches, he finds that this tower rises from an embattled pile, low and irregular, yet singularly venerable, which, embowered in verdure, overhangs the sluggish waters of the Cherwell."

Retracing our steps we entered the college, passing through a narrow portal we came to St. John the Baptist's quadrangle, in one corner of which is a curious ancient pulpit of stone; the Muniment Tower and the Founder's Tower are very fine and adorned with statues. Going down stairs we visited the kitchen, a spacious building with a lofty roof. It is supposed by some to be the original kitchen of the Hospital of St. John. We then went into the gardens where, among the trees, some deer were quietly browsing. Crossing the Cherwell by a stone bridge we came to a delightful avenue known as Addison's walk, because frequented by that distinguished man when a member of this college. Returning along High street we visited the University college, a venerable looking building.

It now being pretty late we returned to the hotel, and after tea we took a walk on the banks of the Isis, this being the classic name given to a portion of the Thames which flows by the University. The moon was full and shed a mild radiance or glory over the scene, rendering the stroll highly enjoyable and long to be remembered. Next morning we were out early and passed through the markets, which were well supplied, proving that the citizens were fond of good things and had them within reach. We first came to Lincoln college; on entering we were shewed a large vine which covered the walls of the quadrangle. The story is told that at the founder's death his plans for the endowment of the college remained unfulfilled, and that on the visit of Bishop Rotherham, the Rector preached from Psalm lxxx: 14: "Behold, and visit the vine;" enlarging on the needy state of the college. It is said the appeal so touched the good bishop's heart that his munificent endowment was the result, and that in gratitude for the circumstance the vine is held in veneration.

We then crossed Turl street to Jesus college, remarkable as the first college founded after the Reformation, its charter bearing the date 1571; and passed on to Exeter college, entering the large quadrangle we were struck by the magnificent chapel, built in 1867 by Sir G. G. Scott.

After glancing at Balliol college, which claims precedence over all others as the oldest college in Oxford, being founded in 1260. We started down St. Algate street, anxious to see Christ's Church college before we left, built in the reign of Charles I. But as a college its origin is far more ancient, and tradition ascribes to King Alfred the first establishment of a University Hall upon that very spot. The chapel was beautifully renovated in 1862 by Sir G. G. Scott, but it still retains its quaint cedar wainscoting and oak screen.

We then visited All Soul's college, founded in the 15th century. The chapel is famed for its singularly beautiful reredos, and four windows of the anti-chapel still retain the original stained glass. The floor is paved with Purbeck and Devonshire marbles, exquisitely inlaid at the east end.

Passing down a narrow lane we entered Merton college. This college competes with Balliol for the honour of being the oldest college in Oxford, having been founded in 1264. The east window is of most magnificent design. The Hall is

one of the most interesting and most ancient refectories in Oxford, and the venerable library is said to be the most ancient in the kingdom.

(To be continued.)

THE BERMUDAS OR SOMER'S ISLES.

BY A GRAMMAR SCHOOL BOY.

The Bermudas or Somer's Islands which are now attracting a great number of people on account of their being at present the *winter resort* of Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, are situated in the North Atlantic Ocean, lat. 42° 14' N, and longitude 64° 53' W. The nearest land is Cape Hatteras, 580 miles distant. The islands stretching north-east by east and south-west by west, are about twenty miles in length, and the area is about twenty square miles. They are almost everywhere surrounded by coral reefs, the channels through which are extremely intricate and can only be safely navigated by native pilots. The principal islands are those of Bermuda, St. George, Ireland and Somerset. The protection afforded to shipping by their numerous bays and harbours and their position in the track of the homeward bound West India vessels, have led to the conversion of the Bermudas into a maritime rendezvous, and likewise the British naval station in West Indian waters. The harbour of St. George's island is fortified, protected by a breakwater, and has water and space enough to float the entire United States navy.

The population, by the last census, 1881, is 14,314, of which 8,564 are colored, the rest being whites. The colored population will be found more intelligent and generally better to do than the corresponding class elsewhere. The majority are engaged in agriculture, but they are usually versatile and handy.

During the winter there are receptions at Government House, Mount Langton, and Admiralty House, Clarence Hill, at each, every alternate week, while the regiments have various entertainments at Prospect, near Hamilton, and at St. George's. Cricket matches, theatrical entertainments, Hunt Club meets, and various excursions and amusements will be found to avert any ennui. The walks, drives and boat courses will prove alluring, and to the visitor, replete with novelty. A glance at tropical vegetation—the very weeds are beautiful—is had under gratifying circumstances, and in an extraordinary compactness will be found an astonishing variety for the scientist and the lover of the beautiful in nature. Bermuda is a capital place for the American or Canadian to enjoy a complete rest and change, and there is no locality within the same easy access of the American continent that offers tourists the same great advantages. Bermuda is unsuited for invalids advanced in disease, but for incipient ailments it offers many benefits. The Bermuda season commences in November and ends in May, and throughout it may be found dry, uniformly warm and pleasant. Those who cannot endure the trying influences of a northern winter, will find in Bermuda an agreeable asylum. Bermuda may not only be considered as a winter rest but also as an agreeable early summer excursion spot in view of the delightful sea-voyage which may be made from New York and Halifax during June and July, and the rich exhibit of trees and shrubs at that time in flower. The wearied clerk, student or citizen whose holidays are limited, who may desire