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OXFORD AND HER COLLEGES.

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DISTANT VIEW OF OXFORD.

To gain an interesting and extensive view of old Oxford from a central point we mount to the top of the Radcliffe Library. We will hope that it is a bright summer day, that, as we come out upon the roof, the old city, with all its academical buildings lying among their gardens and groves, presents itself to view in its beauty, and that the sound of its bells, awakening the memories of the ages, is in the air. The city is seen lying on the spit of gravel be-

tween the Isis, as the Thames is here called, which is the scene of boat races, and the Cherwell, famed for water-lilies. It is doubtful whether the name means the ford of the oxen, or the ford of the river (*oxen* being a corruption of *ousen*). Flat, sometimes flooded, is the site. To ancient founders of cities, a river for water carriage and rich meads for kine were prime attractions. But beyond the flat we look to a lovely country, rolling and sylvan, from

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from Professor Smith's recent volume on this subject.—ED.