

Allstree, provost in the reign of Charles II. We have engraved this school-room from an original sketch; it is adorned with a series of busts of eminent Etonians.

The College Hall interior has been almost entirely rebuilt through the munificence of the Rev. John Wilder one of the Fellows, and was reopened in October, 1857; these improvements include a new open-timber roof, a louver, windows east and west, a gothic oak canopy, and a carved oak gallery over the space dividing the hall from the buttery. The oak panelling around the room is cut all over with the names of Etonians of several generations.

Among the Eton festivals was, the *Montem*, formerly celebrated every third year on Whit-Tuesday, and believed to have been a corruption of the Popish ceremony of the Boy Bishop. It consisted of a theatrical procession of pupils wearing costumes of various periods, for the purpose of collecting money, or "salt," for the captain of Eton, about to retire to King's College, Cambridge. To each contributor was given a small portion of salt, at an eminence named therefrom Salt-Hill; the ceremony concluding with the waving of a flag upon this hill or *Montem*. Boating and cricket are the leading recreations at Eton; the College walks or playing-fields, extend to the banks of the Thames, and the whole scene is celebrated by Gray, the accomplished Etonian, in his well-known *Ode on a Distant Prospect of Eton College*, commencing—

"Ye distant spires, ye antique towers
That crown the watery glade."

King's College, which Henry founded in 1441, at Cambridge, to be recruited from Eton, is the richest endowed collegiate foundation in that University. The Statutes declare that there shall be a provost and 70 poor scholars. The Reformation and the changes brought about by three centuries, have, however rendered obedience to the Statutes impossible, and they are now virtually the Statutes of William of Wykeham, which he had framed for New College. The Civil Wars of the Houses of York and Lancaster, and the violent death of the royal founder, left the College buildings unfinished; while Edward IV. impoverished its revenues, and even dissolved the College. Henry VII., in whose reign the College petitioned Parliament, on account of its straitened resources, contributed to the completion of the chapel. The style is Late Perpendicular, but very rich. The interior, with the stained glass windows, was completed by Henry VIII., under the direction of Bishop Foxe.

XXVI.

JOHN CARPENTER AND THE CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL.

TOWARDS the close of the long reign of Edward III. there was born in London a good citizen named John Carpenter, who being styled in the documents of his time *clericus* (clerk), was an educated man, and is supposed to have studied at one of the Inns of Court for the profession of the law. He became Town Clerk of the City; and compiled a large volume in Latin of the civic laws, customs, privileges, and usages, a book of great value and authority. He was at the expense of painting the celebrated "Dance of Death" in St. Paul's cloister, being an encourager of the arts, and he was a personal acquaintance of Lidgegate, the monk of Bury. He was 20 years Secretary and Town Clerk, sat in parliament for the City, and was Governor of St. Anthony's Hospital, in Threadneedle-street. At his death he bequeathed certain property in the City "for the finding and bringing up of four poor men's children with meate, drink, apparell, learning at the schools in the universities, &c., until they be preferred, and then others in their places for ever." In 1633, however, this property yielded only 29*l.* 13*s.* 4*d.* per annum. At this time the boys wore "coats of London russet" with buttons; and they had periodically to show their copy books to the Chamberlain, in proof of the application of the charity. During the lapse of nearly four centuries, the value of Carpenter's estates had augmented from 19*l.* 10*s.* to nearly 900*l.*, or nearly five and forty fold. In 1835, the funds were greatly increased by subscription, and a large and handsome school built by the City upon the site of Honey-lane market, north of Cheapside at a cost of 12,000*l.*, to accommodate 490 scholars. The citizens have, in gratitude, erected upon the great staircase of the school a portrait statue of Carpenter, in the costume of his age; he bears in his left hand his *Liber Albus*, a collection of the City laws, customs, and privileges. The statue is placed upon a pedestal, inscribed with a compendious history of the founder, and his many benevolent acts.

Such has been the goodly increase of Carpenter's charity. It is not unreasonable to suppose that he may have been prompted to the bequest by the celebrity of the schools of St. Anthony's Hospital, of which he was master. In the scholastic disputations amongst the grammar-schools, it commonly presented the best scholars. Out

of this school sprung the great Sir Thomas More; Dr. Heath, Archbishop of York and Lord Chancellor; Archbishop Whitgift; and the celebrated Dean Colet, the founder of St. Paul's School.

XXVII.

MERCERS' SCHOOL.—THE FIRST GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

IN the twenty-fifth year of the reign of Henry VI.—1447—there was presented to Parliament a petition by four clergymen setting forth the lack of grammar-schools and good teachers in the city of London; and praying leave (which was granted to them) to establish schools, and appoint competent masters in their respective parishes. "It were expedient," say they, "that in London were a sufficient number of scholes, and good enformers in gramer; and not for the singular avail of two or three persons greuously to hurt the multitude of young people of al this land. For wher there is grete numb^r of lerners and few techers, and to noon others, the maistres waxen rid of monie, and the lerners pouver in connyng, as experyence openeth sheweth, agens all vertue and ordre of well publik."

This is generally considered to have been the origin of Free Grammar Schools, properly so called; but the only one of the schools established immediately in consequence of this petition which has survived to the present time is the Mercers' School, which was originally founded at St. Thomas de Acons (the site of Mercers' Hall, in Cheapside,) for 70 scholars of any age or place, subject to the management of the Mercers' Company. Among the early scholars were Dean Colet, Bishop Thomas, and Bishop Wren. The site of the schoolhouse was changed 11 times; and it now on College-hill, on the site of Whittington's Almshouses. "God's House, or Hospital," which have been rebuilt at Highgate. It is at this day a strange location for a seat of learning; surrounded by hives of merchandise, and close to one of the oldest sites of commerce in the city, its turmoil grates harshly upon the quiet so desirable for a youth of study.

XXVIII.

SAINT PAUL'S SCHOOL FOUNDED.

IN the reign of Edward IV., in 1466, there was born in the parish of St. Antholin, in the city of London, one John Colet, the eldest son of Sir Henry Colet, Knight, twice Lord Mayor, who had, besides him, twenty-one children. In 1483, John Colet was sent to Magdalen College, Oxford, where he passed seven years, and took the usual degree in arts. Here he studied Latin, with some of the Greek authors through a Latin medium, and mathematics. Having thus laid a good foundation for learning at home, he travelled in France and Italy from 1493 to 1497; he had previously been preferred to the rectory of Dennington, in Suffolk, being then in acolyth's orders. At Paris, Colet became acquainted with the scholar Budæus, and was afterwards introduced to Erasmus. In Italy he contracted a friendship with Grocyn, Linacre, Lilly, and Latimer, all of whom were studying the Greek language, then but little known in England. Whilst abroad, he devoted himself to divinity, and the study of the civil and canon law. Colet returned to England in 1497, and subsequently rose through various degrees of preferment to be Dean of St. Paul's. By his lectures, and other means, he greatly assisted the spirit of inquiry into the Holy Scriptures which eventually produced the Reformation. He had, however, many difficulties to contend with; and tired with trouble and persecution, he withdrew from the world, resolving, in the midst of life and health, to consecrate his fortune to some lasting benefaction, which he performed in the foundation of St. Paul's School, at the east end of St. Paul's churchyard in 1512; and, "it is hard to say whether he left better lands for the maintenance of his school, or wiser laws for the government thereof."—(Fuller.)

The original school-house, built 1508-12, was destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666, but was rebuilt by Wren. This second school was taken down in 1824, and the present school built of stone from the designs of George Smith: it has a handsome central portico upon a rusticated base, projecting over the street pavement. The original endowment, and for several years the only endowment of the school, was 55*l.* 14*s.* 10*d.*, the annual rents of estates in Buckinghamshire, which now produce 185*l.* 16*s.* 10*d.* a-year; and, with other property, make the present income of the school upwards of 5000*l.* Lilly, the eminent grammarian, the friend of Erasmus and Sir Thomas More, was the first master of St. Paul's, and "Lilly's Grammar" is used to this day in the school: the English rudiments were written by Colet, the preface to the first edition probably by Cardinal Wolsey; the Latin syntax chiefly by Erasmus, and the remainder by Lilly: thus, the book may have been the joint production of four of the greatest scholars of the age. Colet di-