

pectations of their people. In our own history, Richard II. and Henry VI. are striking instances of this remark; for which there seems to be an obvious reason, viz., that a minor king received generally a worse education than he who is only destined to a throne.

Henry VI., called of Windsor, from having been born there in 1421, was not quite nine months old when the death of his father, Henry V., left him King of England. Fabian relates this extraordinary instance of the adulation paid to this minor sovereign: "Henry VI., when but eight months old, sat in his mother's lap in the parliament chamber; and the speaker made a famous *proposition*, in which he said much of the providence of God, who had endowed the realm with the presence of *so toward a prince and sovereign governor*." His childhood was passed at Windsor Castle. In accordance with the will of his dying father, the boy Henry, when six years old, was placed under the tutelage of Richard De Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, the companion in arms of Henry V. This appointment was made under the authority of the Council: Warwick was to instruct his pupil in all things worthy to be known, nurturing him in the love and fear of his Creator, and in hatred of all vice. The Earl held this office till the King was sixteen: his discipline was very strict; for the pupil was not to be spoken to, unless in the presence of Warwick, or of the four knights appointed to be about his person; "as," says the entry in the Rolls of Parliament, "the King, by the speech of others in private, has been stirred by some from his learning, and spoken to of divers matters not becomely." The Earl appears to have complained to the Council of the King's misconduct, for they promised to assist him in chastising his royal pupil for his defaults. Warwick applied for this aid as protection against the young Henry's displeasure and indignation, "as the King is grown in years, in stature of his person, and in conceit of his high authority." Severe corporal punishment was, it appears, considered the most efficient instrument of good education at this period; and Warwick, doubtless, *lashed* the young King.

Meanwhile, the scholastic training of the young King was entrusted to his great uncle, the Bishop of Winchester, better known as Cardinal Beaufort; and under his tuition, Henry became an accomplished scholar in all the learning of the age; as well as "the truest Christian gentleman that ever sat upon a throne."

The statutes of St. Mary's College, Oxford, in this reign, show how great must have been the inconveniences and impediments to study in those days from the scarcity of books: "Let no scholar occupy a book in the library above one hour, or two hours at most, so that others shall be hindered from the use of the same." Still there was a great number of books at an early period of the Church, when one book was given out by the librarian to each of a religious fraternity at the beginning of Lent, to be read diligently during the year, and to be returned the following Lent. Books were first kept in chests, and next chained to the desks, lest their rarity and value might tempt those who used them; and it was a very common thing to write in the first leaf of a book, "Cursed be he who shall steal or tear out the leaves, or in any way injure this book;" an anathema which, in a modified form, we have seen written in books of the present day.

XXV.

HENRY THE SIXTH FOUNDS ETON COLLEGE, AND KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

HALL, the chronicler, when speaking of the cause which led Henry VI. to found Eton College and King's College, Cambridge, says of him: "he was of a most liberal mind, and especially to such as loved good learning; and those whom he saw profiting in any virtuous science, he heartily forwarded and embraced." An ingenious writer of our own time has, however, more correctly characterized the young King's motive: "still stronger in Henry's mind was the desire of marking his gratitude to God by founding and endowing some place of pious instruction and Christian worship." Henry seems principally to have followed the magnificent foundations of William of Wykeham at Winchester and Oxford; resolving that the school which he founded should be connected with a college in one of the Universities, whither the best of the foundation scholars of his school should proceed to complete their education, and where a permanent provision should be made for them. Standing upon the north terrace of Windsor Castle, near Wykeham's tower, and looking towards the village of Eton, upon the opposite bank of the silverwinding Thames, we can imagine the association to have first prompted the devout King's design—in the words of the Charter, "to found, erect, and establish, to endure in all future time.

A College consisting of and of the number of one provost and ten priests, four clerks and six chorister boys, who are to serve daily there

in the celebration of divine worship, and of twenty-five poor and indigent scholars who are to learn grammar; and also of twenty-five poor and infirm men, whose duty it shall be to pray there continually for our health and welfare so long as we live, and for our soul when we shall have departed this life, and for the souls of the illustrious Prince, Henry our father, late King of England and France; also of the Lady Katherine of most noble memory, late his wife, our mother; and for the souls of all our ancestors and of all the faithful who are dead: (consisting) also of one master or teacher in grammar, whose duty it shall be to instruct in the rudiments of grammar the said indigent scholars and all others whatsoever who may come together from any part of our Kingdom of England to the said College, gratuitously and without the exaction of money or any other thing."

The works were commenced in 1441, with the chapel of the College; and to expedite the building, workmen were "pressed" from every part of the realm. The freemasons received 3s. a week each, the stonemasons and carpenters 3s.; plumbers, sawyers, tilers &c., 6d. a day, and common labourers 4d. The grant of arms expresses the right royal sentiment: "If men are ennobled on account of ancient hereditary wealth, much more is he to be preferred and styled truly noble, who is rich in the treasures of the sciences and wisdom, and is also found diligent in his duty towards God." Henry appointed Waynflete first provost, who, with five fellows of Winchester, and thirty-five of the scholars of that College, became the primitive body of Etonians, in 1441. The works of the chapel were not completed for many years; and the other parts of the College were unfinished until the commencement of Henry the Eighth's reign.

Eton, in its founder's time, was resorted to as well as by the class for whose immediate advantage the benefits of the foundation were primarily designed. Those students not on the foundation were lodged at their relations' expense in the town (*oppidum*) of Eton, and thence called *Oppidans*. The scholars on the foundation (since called *Collegers*) were lodged and boarded in the College-buildings, and at the College expense. There are two quadrangles, built chiefly of red brick; in one are the school and the chapel, with the lodgings for the scholars; the other contains the library, the provost's house, and apartments for the Fellows. The chapel is a stately stone structure, and externally very handsome. The architecture, is Late Perpendicular, and a good specimen of the style of Henry the Seventh's reign. In the centre of the first quadrangle is a bronze statue of Henry VI.; and in the chapel another statue, of marble, by John Bacon. The foundation scholars seem to have been first placed in two large chambers on the ground-floor, three of the upper boys in each; they had authority over the others, and were responsible for good conduct being maintained in the dormitory. Subsequently was added "the Long Chamber" as the common dormitory of all the scholars. Dinner and supper were provided daily for all the members of the College; and every scholar received yearly a stated quantity of coarse cloth, probably first made up into clothing, but it has long ceased to be so used.

The King's Scholars or Collegers are distinguished from oppidans by a black cloth gown. The boys dined at eleven, and supped at seven; there being only two usual meals.

King Henry is recorded to have expressed much anxiety for his young incipient Alumni. One of his chaplains relates that—

When King Henry met some of the students in Windsor Castle, whither they sometimes used to go to visit the King's servants, whom they knew, on ascertaining who they were, he admonished them to follow the path of virtue, and besides his words would give them money to win over their good-will, saying, "Be good boys; be gentle and docile, and servants of the Lord." (*Sitis boni pueri, mites et docibiles, et servi Domini.*)

The progress of the buildings was greatly checked by the troubles towards the close of the reign of Henry VI.; and his successor, Edward IV., not only deprived Eton of large portions of its endowments, but obtained a bull from Pope Pius II. for disposing of the College, and merging it in the College of St. George at Windsor; but Provost Westbury publicly and solemnly protested against this injustice, the bull was revoked, and many of the endowments were restored, though the College suffered severely. The number on the foundation consisted of a provost and a vice-provost, 6 fellows, 2 chaplains, 10 choristers, the upper and lower master, and the 70 scholars. The buildings were continued during the reign of Henry VII., and the early years of Henry the Eighth, whose death saved Parliament from extinguishing Eton, which was then confirmed to Edward VI.

The College buildings have been from time to time re-edified and enlarged. The Library, besides a curious and valuable collection of books, is rich in Oriental and Egyptian manuscripts, and beautifully illustrated missals. The Upper School Room in the principal court, with its stone arcade beneath, and the apartments attached to it, were built by Sir Christopher Wren, at the expense of Dr.