

ing the per centage he allowed himself only as his own, while he dedicated the principal to the two glorious ends of promoting knowledge, human and divine. Most unlike Wolsey's was the closing earthly scene of this great man's life. At the age of three score he asked and at length obtained permission, from an unwilling and attached Sovereign, to resign all his great offices of state, and withdraw from Court. Another decade of years was granted to him, which he devoted solely to acts of charity and exercises of religion: thus he shone in the long day allotted him, and set in the evening, without a cloud;—without the pathetic and almost tragic interest that surrounded at the close the great Chancellor of the XVI century.

The character of this great Chancellor, Cardinal Wolsey—whose name not even the power of the despot who plundered him of everything else,—could erase from the records of Oxford—has lately been wrought into great prominence by a very zealous historian of those times, Mr. Froude. To Mr. Froude Henry VIII is a hero-King, with great faults, but not the less great kingly qualities. It would not, in speaking of Oxford, be in keeping with the unities, to discuss the elaborate defence, or apology, of Mr. Froude for Henry; but whoever will compare the condition and position of England, during the twenty years that Prince was under the guidance of Wolsey, with that to which she was brought, during the subsequent twenty years, when his ministers were his clerks, will be able to estimate how much of the early glory of his reign was due to the great Cardinal, and how much to the personal qualities of the Monarch. But it is only to Wolsey, as an Oxford man, I mean to refer. However obscure his parentage the butcher's son was at the age of fifteen the "boy-bachelor" of Magdalen College, and at the age of 27, while Bursar of that College, he erected, and it is said designed, that beautiful tower, which is still the architectural cynosure of Oxford and of England. At the beginning of the sixteenth century, when little over 30, the Oxford scholar became ambassador to the Emperor of Germany, and in the early years of Henry rose in rapid succession to be Archbishop of York, Lord Chancellor, and Cardinal. While he still combined in his own person these great dignities he matured the long cherished project of being like so many of his predecessors, the founder of a new College at Oxford. He had never ceased to befriend the University in which he won his earliest honors, and held his first offices. In the rare hours of his solitude the beautiful tower of Magdalen must have haunted his imagination. By his aid and influence the study of Greek obtained its first foothold in the existing Colleges; by him no less than eight lectureships were founded in the University, while his project for an additional College on an unprecedented scale, was awaiting maturity. In these scholarships the Lord Cardinal showed he still cherished the predilections of the "boy bachelor," for while he placed Theology at the head of his eight chairs, he did not omit Mathematics, Greek, and Rhetoric, from the curriculum. In 1525 all his arrangements with the Pope and King being complete, Wolsey caused the first stone of his foundation to be laid, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Virgin, and St. Frideswide; and devoted under regular canons, to the study of the civil and canon Law, the liberal arts, Medicine and Humanity; in other words to three faculties, Law, Arts, and Medicine, with the addition of Classical studies—including his favorite Greek course. Instead of telling of the fall of the all-powerful Cardinal, which occurred in the fourth year from the commencement of his new College; instead of dwelling on that most striking, and thanks be to Shakespeare, that best known scene in British history; instead of showing how