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was suddenly swept away. The record of that day says, "In the middle of a very tempestuous night,—a severe cold storm of snow, attended with a high wind,—we were awakened by the alarm of fire. \* \* \* \* In a very short time this venerable monument of the piety of our ancestors was turned into a heap of ruins. The other buildings were in the utmost danger of sharing the same fate \* \* \* \* nor [it being vacation] could they have been saved by all the help the town could afford, had it not been for the assistance of the gentlemen of the general court, among whom His Excellency the Governor was very active." As it was, the loss to a great extent was irreparable. What would not now be given to recover the library of John Harvard; "the whole library of the late learned Dr. Lightfoot;" "the library of the late eminent Dr. Theophilus Gale;" "the Greek and Roman Classics, presented by the late excellent and catholic-spirited Bishop Berkeley, most of them the best editions;" and the various choice books made so precious by the memory of the givers,—Bishop Sherlock; John

## HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY.

From a report of the Harvard College Library Committee, just received from John L. Sibley, Esq., the librarian, we make the following interesting extracts, as the first of a series of papers in this number of the *Journal of Education*, on Library matters. The writer of this notice, in a recent visit of much interest to the Library, was very much struck with its admirable arrangement, and especially with the new system of cataloguing, which is referred to and fully explained in the following article:—

"The Committee cannot forbear to advert to the fact, that the year of their service is the last of the period of just one hundred years since all New England was filled with dismay by the news of the destruction by fire of the College Library. It seems to have been felt throughout the Province, not only as a public calamity, but as a private grief, as if the very palladium of learning were gone. The precious accumulation of more than a century



GORE HALL.—HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY.

Hales, "the ever-memorable;" Dr. Watts, Dr. Mead, Thomas Hollis the elder, Richard Baxter (who had robbed himself of a good part of his literary apparatus, in the want of which he was obliged to excuse himself for relying upon his memory, in a published controversy, by saying that he had sent it to the College in New England); and a host of celebrated and liberal minded men of that and the preceding age! Among the treasures of art then destroyed, were the cherished portraits (according to the quaint grouping in the Corporation record) of Duns Scotus, Keckermann, Mr. Baxter, Mr. Penoyer, and the generous Mr. Hollis.

"The General Court, which, in consequence of the prevalence of the small-pox in Boston, was then sitting in Cambridge, and occupying the room