

stand the relations that exist between his Maker and himself—methinks it is a part, and a very important part of the highest human knowledge. The animal kingdom and many of the forces of nature are under the control of man, but the most difficult subject of creation for him to control is himself, and a chief cause of this is attributable to criminal self-ignorance. How can a mechanic work a machine with which he is not acquainted, with profit and safety. In like manner it is not in the power of the ignorant to direct their steps aright. In reference to this extensive and important subject more truly than in reference to many others, may it be said that knowledge is power.

English Colleges.

(Continued from our last.)

The *Hall*, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, is a room of fine proportions. The portraits of benefactors adorn the walls. There are some peculiar customs, in connection with Queen's, which it may be worth while to mention. The Provost, Fellows and Students have never abandoned the ancient mode of dining. The Fellows and Students occupy the two sides respectively, and the Provost holds the centre. The blast of a trumpet always summons them to dinner. The name of the official who summons them to dinner is a *Taberdar*. The name is derived from the dress formerly worn—*taberdum*—a sleeveless gown, open at the sides, and winged as to the shoulders. There is a statute existing (it is said) which makes it obligatory on the *Taberdars* "to tuck the Provost up in bed, should their services be required." It may be presumed that the services of these worthies are not often required for this particular end.

It is in the Hall that the celebration of the "Boar's Head" takes place. Christmas Day, at 5 o'clock, P. M., is the invariable time for the ceremony. The custom is said to have had its origin in this wise: a Student while walking in *Shotover Forest* near by, while absorbed in the study of Aristotle was suddenly and wantonly attacked by a wild boar. The Student, seeing no means of escape, and destitute of any other weapon of defense, save the Philosopher's work he held in his hand, with great presence of mind rammed the volume into the throat of the beast as he rushed on with open mouth. The result was that the Student delivered himself from impending death, and the savage was choked. It is also said on good authority that the Student remarked to the boar as he was thrusting in the volume, "*Graecum est, Graecum est.*"

The Library of Queen's contains above 60,000 volumes. It is 123 feet in length, 35 broad and 55 in height. Bishop Barlow, who died in 1691, made provision in his will for the purchase of books to adorn its shelves, and Dr. Maxon, an alumnus of the College, left the sum of £30,000 for the purchase of additional books. "In consequence of this the cloister underneath the former library has been enclosed and fitted up in a most tasteful manner, and furnished with a stock of the most useful works of the best authors, so as to render it one of the best private Libraries of Oxford."

The *Buttery* possesses a great curiosity—a *drinking cup* in the shape of a horn—the gift of Philippa, five hundred years ago. Its capacity is two quarts. It is gilt with silver, and written on several places is the Saxon word, "Wacceyl"—Health. Here is to be seen also the trumpet which gives the signal for dinner—and there it has been since the days of the founder.

The income of Queen's is about £15,000; Provost's income £887; Fellows, of whom there are 18, £4000; Tutorships £396; Scholarships £75. It owns 10,530 acres of land, yielding about £10,000. It has in its gift thirty-one benefices; Undergraduates, 120; Members on books, 430.

Some of Queen's noted men are—King Henry the Fifth; Edward, the Black Prince; John Wycliffe, the Reformer; Rev. R. Cecil; Addison, the Poet (also connected with Magdalen); Dr. John Mill, &c.

Cross the street and you stand before *University College*, which has a frontage of some 200 feet. Some say it was founded by Alfred the Great in 872; but this account of its origin is now believed by many to be fabulous. Men speak of its restoration by William of Durham in 1229, who contributed a sum of money towards its endowment. The statutes date no further back than 1280. The College, as it now stands, is not much over two centuries old. Its splendid tower-gateway is one of the greatest objects of interest on High Street. The statues over the entrance are those of Queens Anne and Mary; the one in the interior is that of James II. "Entering the large Quadrangle we mention a very ancient and curious custom observed on Easter Sunday, the real origin of which cannot be traced. It is called *Chopping at the Tree*. The representation of a tree, dressed up with evergreens and flowers, is placed on the turf, close to the *Buttery*, and each resident member, as he leaves the Hall after Dinner, chops at the tree with a cleaver. The cook stands by with a plate for contributions, the Master giving 10s. 6d.; each Fellow 5s.; and Members 2s. 6d. each." But more about University College again.