

At whose approach the soul of Petrarch wept,  
And from thenceforth those Graces were not seen ;  
For they this Queen attended, in whose stead  
Oblivion laid him down on Laura's hearse ;  
Hereat the hardest stones were seen to bleed,  
And groans of buried ghosts the heaven did pierce ;  
Where Homer's spright did tremble all for griefe,  
And curst th' access of that celestial thiefe.

Critics have said that the above sonnet was one of the finest in the English language. Contrast it with Milton's sonnet on the Massacre of the Piedmontese :—

Avenge, O Lord, thy slaughtered saints whose bones  
Lie whitening on the Alpine Mountains cold, etc.

Or with Keat's sonnet on Chapman's Homer. The sentence composing it is long and involved according to the style of the age ; yet there is a deep fount of poesy there. Laura was the woman whom Petrarch, the great Italian poet, adorned, and whose love inspired his verse. The quaintness of the thought and figures add zest to the poem. It is like a "draught of vintage that hath been cooled a long age in the deep-delved earth," but lacking altogether the taste of "dance and Provençal song, and sunburnt mirth." To our taste, it is rich. We doubt if Spencer himself ever wrote a piece of equal brevity which excels it. Poor Raleigh, the victim of the drivelling fool whom a licentious woman brought forth ! "This is a sharp medicine, but a sound cure for all diseases," he said on the scaffold. His last words were, "Now I am going to my God?"

#### English Colleges.

THE most conspicuous object on Broad Street is the new south front of Balliol College, built at an outlay of £20,000. This "Front" is much admired "for the boldness of its outline, and the varied character of its detail." Entering the gateway above which is a four-storey-high tower, you stand within the main quadrangle bounded by the "Hall," the "Library," the "Chapel," and the Students' apartments.

In this connection, it may not be unnecessary to repeat a portion of a previously written article. John Balliol, of Banard Castle, instituted the College which bears his name about 1264. Six years after laying this foundation he died. His

wife, the Lady Devorgilla, in compliance with her husband's earnest request, vigorously prosecuted the work which he began. She rented old Balliol Hall on Horcemonger Street as a place of residence for the Students. The Statutes of the foundation reach back to 1282, and are still in possession of the College. The Lady Devorgilla, in 1284, purchased Mary Hall of John De Ewe, an opulent citizen of Oxford, to which added a refectory, kitchen, &c., suitable for College buildings. These she settled on the scholars of the College for ever, to the honor of the Holy Trinity, the Virgin Mary, St. Catherine and the whole Court of Heaven. Sir John De Balliol, afterwards King of Scotland, confirmed the Charter.

But the Royal Charter which the College now holds, was granted in 1588, in Queen Elizabeth's reign. The title of the charter is, "The Master and Scholars of Balliol College." The Masters of the College were styled first "Procurators," then "Principals" or "Wardens," and thirdly "Masters," which now obtains. John Wicliff, the translator of the Bible, was the fifth Master ; Dr. Scott, elected in 1854, the forty-seventh. The latter, as many know, is one of the authors of a large Greek Lexicon.

Balliol can boast of a long roll of illustrious men ; among them may be mentioned John De Wycliffe, styled the "Morning Star of the Reformation," whose talents alone procured him the Mastership of Balliol in 1361 ; Abp. Tait, Canterbury ; Kyrle, the "Man of Ross," of whom Pope sung—

But all our praises why should lords engross?  
Rise, honest muse, and sing the "Man of Ross."

Benjamin Jowett, the present "Master" ; Dean Stanley, Scholar and Divine ; Dean Scott ; Dr. Adam Smith, the eminent political economist ; Lockhart, Editor of the "Quarterly" ; Southey, Poet-Laureate, and Sir William Hamilton, Bart. The latter is acknowledged to be one of the ablest mental philosophers of his or any other age. His lectures on logic and metaphysics, his notes and dissertations on Reid, are well known to all scholars. M. Cousin calls him *le plus grand critique de notre siècle*. Of him the British Quarterly Review remarked : "The slightest perusal of Sir W. Hamilton's works will be sufficient to convince the reader that he