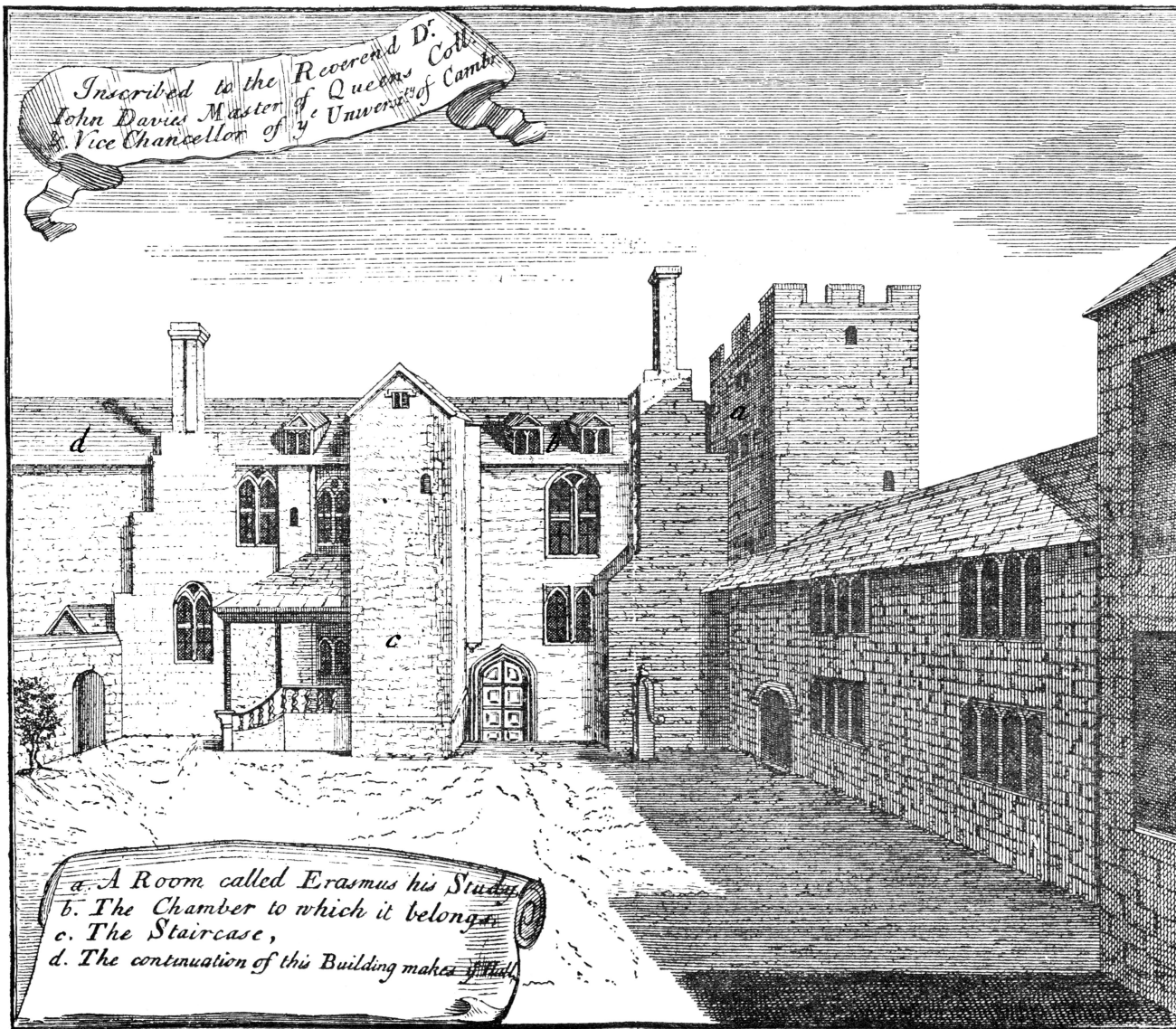
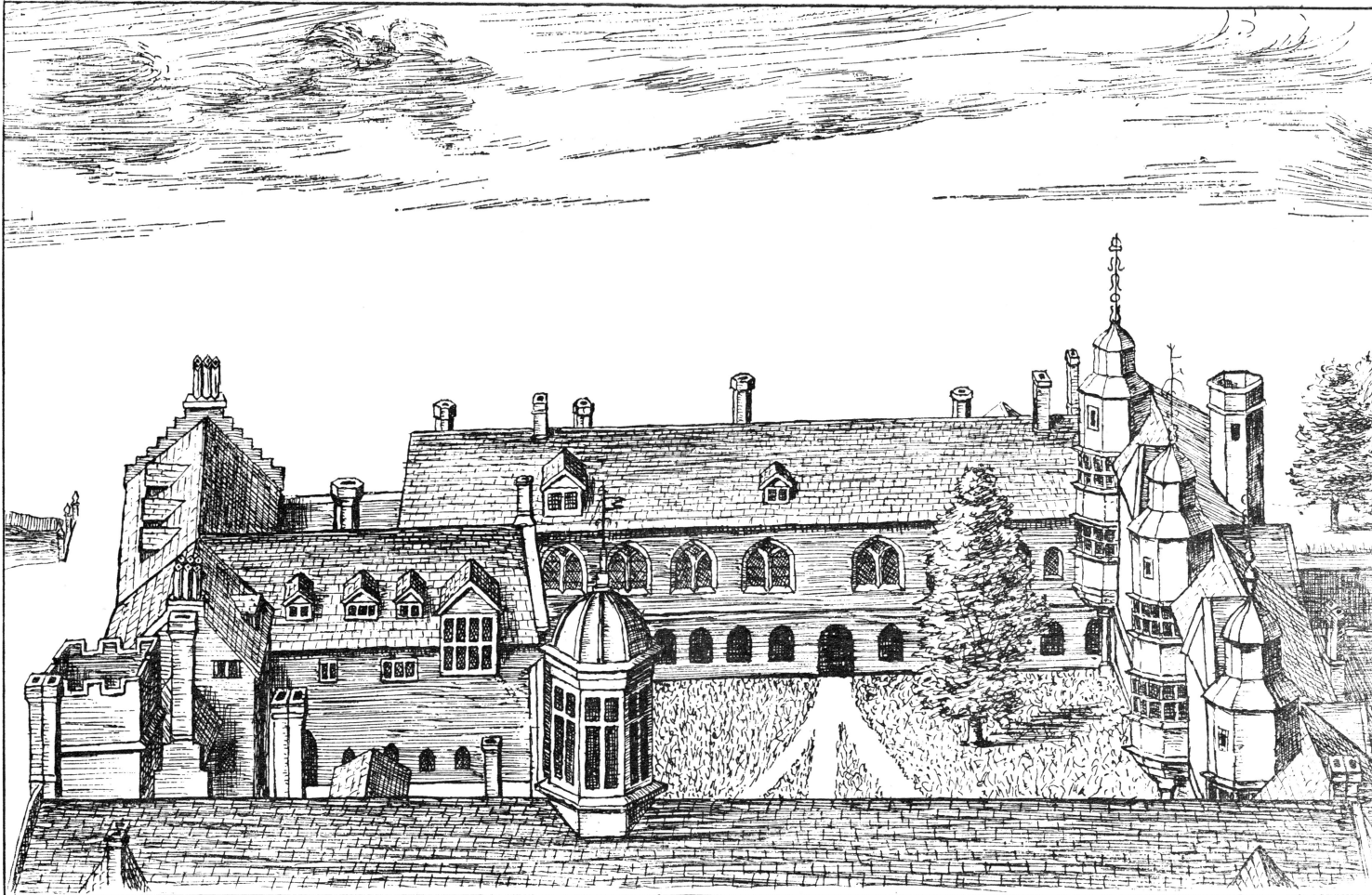


The Pump, or Erasmus, Court before 1756.

THE two views here reproduced, the one, looking west, being an enlargement by Mr. W. L. Waterbury of a portion of Loggan's bird's-eye view of the College drawn in 1688, and the other, looking east, a facsimile of a print in S. Knight's *Life of Erasmus*, published at Cambridge in 1726, enable us to form a fairly accurate idea of the south-western corner of the College before 1756, when the present building was begun by Essex. The ground now occupied by the Pump Court and Essex's building was then divided into two small courts by a building running north and south; one, to the east, of nearly the same area as the present Pump Court, but somewhat longer from north to south and narrower from east to west, the other, much smaller, bounded by buildings on its northern, eastern and southern sides, and open to the river on the west. The western court was indeed almost too small to be dignified by such a name, being apparently only some twenty feet wide from north to south, and thirty from east to west. The building which separated these two courts was returned westward and eastward along the street then called Smallbridges Street, now Silver Street, the western return forming the southern boundary of the small western court or yard, and the eastern return extending some four or five feet eastward from the main range.





Enlarged from Logan's view.]

The whole of this building, both the part running north and south, and that running east and west along Silver Street, would appear to have been about seventeen feet in total depth from back to front. It was built of clunch in 1564, and with the exception of its northern end, which may have been a later addition, consisted of two stories with attics above. Joining this Clunch Building with the Erasmus Tower there was a lower building of the same date, also of clunch, of only two stories. This was of less depth than the rest of the Clunch Building, scarcely extending northward beyond the little corner tower on which it abutted. The rooms which it contained must have been somewhat low pitched, since the eaves of the roof were on a level with the top of the Kitchen window.

That part of the Clunch Building which extended north and south between the Pump Court and the little court or yard to the west appears to have overlapped the red brick Western Range of 1460 which then extended further to the south by some twenty-five feet. It is difficult to decide whether it was joined to the earlier building or not. Hammond's map of Cambridge published in 1592 represents it as stopping short of the south wall of the South Cloister by some twenty-five feet, and, apparently as not connected with the south eastern corner of the Western Range. On the other hand Loggan, both in his view and in his map, represents its northern end as abutting on the Cloister. It is indeed clear from Loggan's map that the west wall of the Clunch Building was some few feet further to the east than the eastern wall of the Western Range; but as the map shews no open passage between the two

buildings, we must suppose either that the Clunch Building was returned to the west to meet the Western Range—of which however there is no sign in Loggan's view of the roofs—or that the space between the two buildings was roofed over to form a covered passage. Such a passage would indeed have been unnecessary if the Western Cloister originally extended the whole length of the Western Range, but it is not improbable that it never extended further south than at present. It would perhaps be rash to attach too much importance to Hammond's map, but, regard being had to its general accuracy, its evidence cannot be disregarded. It is noteworthy that Hammond shews the South Cloister in its present position with its south wall entirely free, and the part of the Western range extending south of it without a cloister, but, with a door, in its southern gable end. If Hammond is correct in this respect, as seems probable, it is not unlikely that he is also right in representing the Clunch Building as not extending northward to the Cloister. We may perhaps conjecture that it originally ended to the north immediately beyond the third small dormer window, the rest of the building from that point to the Cloister being constructed after 1592. In any case the northern portion of the building was different in plan, having only two stories of which the upper was open to the roof and lighted by a large dormer of four lights with transoms.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Plumtre's account of the alterations begun in 1756 is not free from ambiguity. He says, "In the year 1756 the Clunch Building extending from the Lodge Staircase by the Town-bridge to the College Kitchen on the *outside*, and forming

nearly two sides of the Court called Erasmus's Court *within*, being very much decay'd, was taken down, and the present useful and ornamental building begun in its place." The words, "from the Lodge Staircase by the Town-bridge," *may* mean "from the Lodge Staircase *by way of* the Town-bridge," but they more naturally mean that the Lodge Staircase was near the Town-bridge,* in which case the present oak-staircase leading from the Western Cloister can scarcely be intended. Hammond's view, as has been mentioned above, represents a doorway in the south gable end of the Western Range, and this is not improbably the entrance to the Lodge Staircase which Dr. Plumtre had in view. It is scarcely possible that the existing oak-staircase from the Cloisters was designed by the fifteenth century architect as the main approach to the upper floor of the Western Range. Not only is the landing at the head of the staircase extremely cramped and awkward, but the door leading into the Lodge is framed in the roughest fashion, and can scarcely be in its original position. It is therefore by no means unlikely that the original staircase to the Lodge was at the gable end near the Town-Bridge, and that the existing staircase in the Cloister was moved to its present position when the southern end of the Western Range was pulled down to make room for Essex's building. It

* N.B.—Hammond's map shews that the Western Range of the College did not originally rise straight from the river, but was separated from it by a narrow strip of ground since removed. The present bed of the river, which is probably entirely artificial, and perhaps cut originally when the eastern mill leet was constructed, to enable boats to reach the Bishop's Mill, was widened by the College to the width of fifty-one feet in 1475 when the Fellows' Garden etc. was sold to the College.

perhaps served as the main approach to the Lodge until 1791, when the present staircase was built. An argument for the originality of the present position of the oak-staircase may perhaps be found in the fact that its foot is near the west end of the South Cloister, which might be regarded as designed to provide a covered way to it from the Hall; but no such reason could be found for the North Cloister, and if the South Cloister had been designed as an approach to the oak-staircase, it would probably have been placed a little further to the north. As a matter of fact the walls forming the northern and southern boundaries of the Cloister Court, against which the side Cloisters were built about 1494, seem to have been designed to meet not the northern and southern corners of the Western Range, but the northern and southern ends of the Western Cloister which did not extend along the whole range. Since the College possess little ground to the north till the purchase of the Carmelite property in 1541, the space between the southern boundary of the Cloister Court and the street was probably walled off for the erection of any necessary outbuildings.

As to the appearance of the Pump Court itself there is far less uncertainty. It has been mentioned above that the space enclosed extended several feet further to the south than at present, almost the whole of the large chimney adjoining the Erasmus Tower, in front of which stood the eponymous pump,* being visible

* Essex's additions to the court made it necessary to remove the pump, which within living memory was the sole water supply of the whole College, further to the north. It stood against the white brick extension to the staircase where the mark of it may still be seen. It was finally removed altogether when the new drainage was constructed.

to the ground. The engraving of 1726 shews, immediately to the north of this chimney, one above the other, the still existing windows of the Erasmus Room and the Kitchen respectively. The upper of these was moved by Essex a little to the south. A little further to the north is an arched doorway which led into the Kitchen. This doorway was blocked up by Essex when he built the white brick addition to the staircase turret. The top of the doorway was visible inside the Kitchen till the recent alterations. Immediately to the left of the Kitchen doorway is the beautiful little turret containing a staircase, in those days probably a newell. Access to this staircase from the court was by a picturesque open porch having a broad landing immediately outside the staircase. The plinth of the existing buttress shews that, when the porch was removed, the steps were set further back. Between the still-existing buttress and the Cloister wall was a large chimney, which since it contained a two-light window on the ground floor must have been designed for a fire-place on the first floor. This chimney was removed by Essex, who constructed a smaller chimney within the room, in order to open a way into the porch which leads from the Screens into the Cloister Court, instead of a doorway just west of the porch. From the size of the two chimneys, it is clear that the two large rooms on the first floor south of the Hall, the more southerly of which with the attic above was probably occupied by Erasmus, were warmed by fireplaces on the west. The room next to the Hall, which in the seventeenth century as at the present time was occupied by the Vice-President, was then undivided. It had a fire-place and two windows on the west, and

three windows in the east wall looking into the Front Court. The bedroom belonging to it was probably the attic overhead. This large room was drastically altered by Essex,* who divided it into four, *viz.* the large keeping room and the bedroom looking east, and the lobby and small sitting room looking west. An additional window has been inserted in the last mentioned room on the north side of Essex's new chimney. In order to warm the large keeping room an additional fire-place and chimney, like many eighteenth century insertions in ancient buildings resting on nothing in particular, was built against the wall separating this room from the Erasmus Room above the Kitchen.

The south wall of the South Cloister has evidently been rebuilt by Essex. It originally rose somewhat higher than the eaves of the adjacent porch which it nearly hid. The southern doorway was apparently inserted in this porch by Essex, and perhaps at the same time the northern doorway leading directly into the Cloister Court was moved somewhat to the west to make room for the external staircase to the cellars.

The eastern end of the Pump Court appears to have been a little higher in 1726 than at present, the ground sloping to the west as in the Cloister Court. In the present sunless condition of the Pump Court, the picture of it as it was in 1726, bathed in sunlight, with fruit trees growing against the cloister wall, makes one feel a little wistful. It is however a matter for congratulation

* The sub-division of this room was probably not carried out till after the re-opening of the Chapel on May 8, 1775, since the following College Order was made on Feb. 22, 1773: Agreed to have the room over the Butteries fitted up to be us'd as a Chapel while the Chapel is shut us for refitting.

that so little of the 1448—50 building has been destroyed ; and though, no doubt, the Clunch Building of 1564 would have appealed to modern taste rather than the pile erected by Essex, the latter building is not without its merits. The interior is particularly good, while the exterior, which has come in for a considerable amount of adverse criticism, is well built, well proportioned, and of dignified simplicity. These are architectural virtues which are only too rare in many a later building.

R. H. KENNETT.
