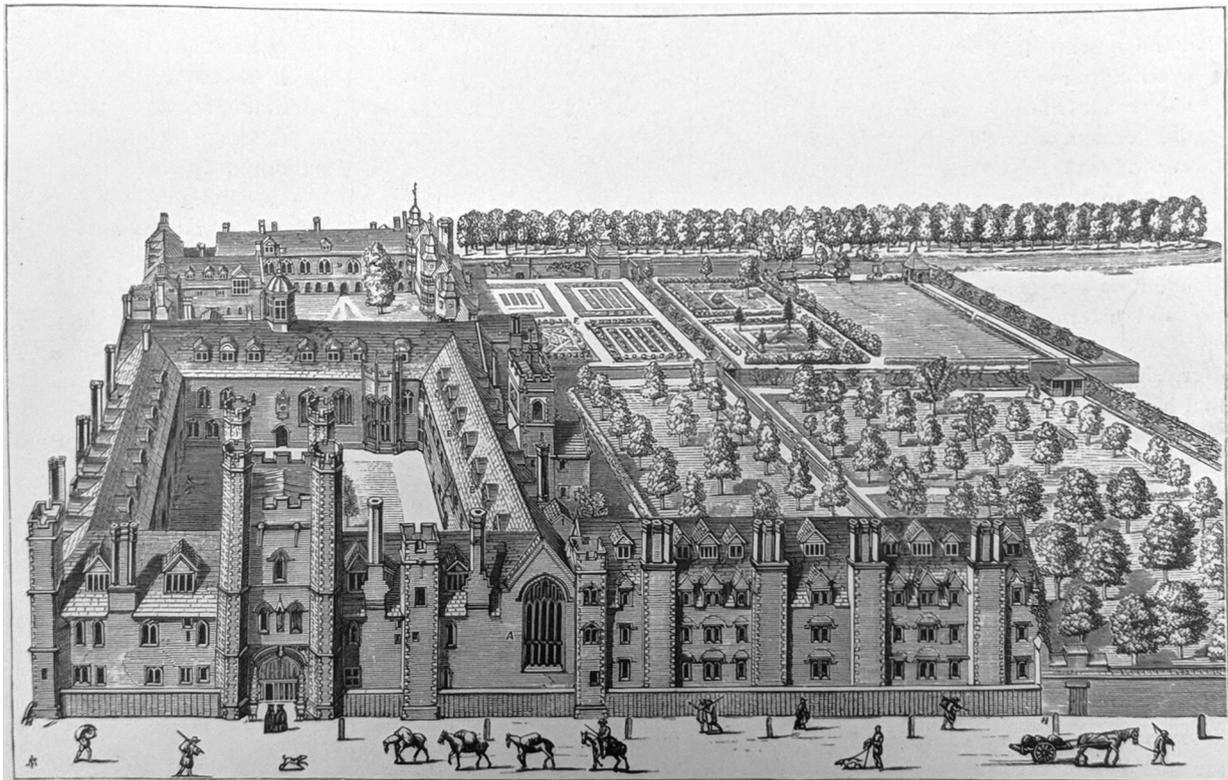


The Queen's College of S. Margaret and S. Bernard. (1448—1898.)



Queens' College: reduced from Loggan's print, taken in 1685. A, Chapel; B, Library; C, Hall; D, President's Lodge; E, Kitchen; F, President's Garden; G, Fellows' Garden.

I HAVE often regretted, when taking part in any commemorative celebration, that I was not furnished with a few facts to assist or to stimulate memory. I have therefore obtained leave from the President to offer to those present on this very interesting occasion, when the four hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the College is to be celebrated, some notes on the buildings and their history, assisted by the

illustrations which the Syndics of the University Press have kindly allowed me to use.

It should never be forgotten that the real founder was the Reverend Andrew Duket, or Ducket. He appears in university history in the first half of the fifteenth century as Principal of S. Bernard's Hostel—subsequently absorbed in Corpus Christi College—and in 1446 he obtained from King Henry the Sixth a

charter for a college of his own. The Society which he proposed to get together was of very modest extent—a President and four Fellows. His foundation was doubtless intended, like most early colleges, to benefit teachers rather than pupils. But he presently changed his views, bought part of the site on which the College now stands, and obtained a new charter dated 21 August, 1447. In this document the title *College of S. Bernard*—evidently borrowed from his Hostel—first appears. Soon afterwards, with that skilful adaptation of his plans to the political necessities of the time which distinguished him throughout life, he persuaded the young Queen, Margaret of Anjou, to take his foundation under her protection. As she was a foreigner, and only eighteen years old, her action must have been due to the initiative of others. It seems at least probable that Duket suggested to her that she should do at Cambridge what Philippa, Queen of Edward the Third, had done at Oxford; and in the petition which Margaret addressed to the King for leave to found her College, she urges that in Cambridge “is no college founded by eny Quene of England hidertoward.” A few lines further on, however, she states explicitly that her college is intended to be “to laude and honour of sexe feminine, like as two noble and devoute Contesses of Pembroke and of Clare founded two Collages in the same Univer-sitie.”

Her letters patent, founding *The Queen’s College of S. Margaret and S.*

Bernard, are dated 15 April, 1448. On that very day the first stone was laid bearing the inscription: *Erit domine nostre regine Margarete dominium in refugium et lapis iste in signum*; words which probably mean, as Mr Searle has suggested: *The power of the Lady Margaret shall be our refuge, and this stone the sign of her protection.*

The building-work went bravely forward, having evidently been begun before the formal laying of the foundation-stone. The north and east ranges, with the easternmost portion of the south range, were undertaken first, and were ready for the woodwork in April, 1448; the western range, including the kitchen, buttery, hall, and the rest of the south range, was ready a year later.

As usual, the architect is unknown; but his work proves that he was a man of first-rate ability; and, as the King had interested himself in the College so far as to give £200 towards the buildings, it may be conjectured that the architect of the two royal colleges of King’s and Eton may have been employed here also. The red brick, and the square external turrets, vividly recall the Fellows’ Buildings at Eton.

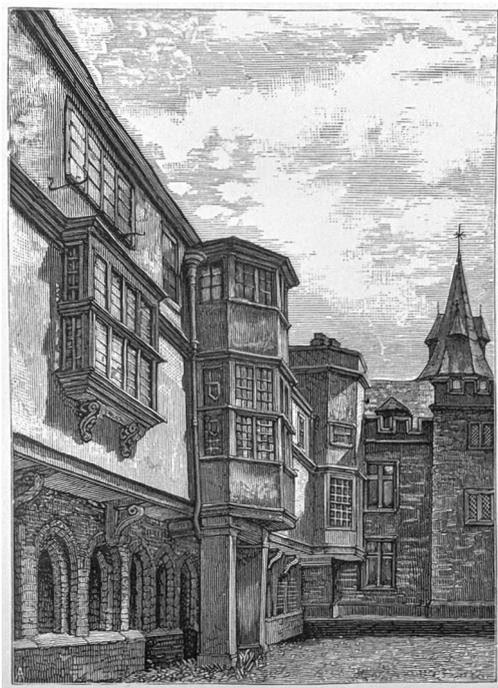
The ground-plan was suggested by that of the country house of the period; and if the college be compared with, say Haddon Hall or Compton Wynyate, the parallel is curiously exact. A glance at Loggan’s print, taken in 1685, of which a reduced copy is here given, shews that the principal quadrangle has been but little altered.

The style of the building on the west side of the second court proves that it was built at nearly the same time as the first quadrangle, but its history is unknown. The beautiful dining-room of the President, on the first floor, was originally the audit-room of the College; and while the late alterations were in progress, traces were found of a rich cornice and an open roof. It is possible that the northern half of this building may once have consisted of a single large room—the Queen’s Room of the College Account-Books—used on state occasions by distinguished guests.

The beautiful river-front is connected with the walks by a wooden bridge, designed by a Mr Etheridge, and erected 1749—50.

The cloisters which connect this building with the court are of unknown date, but they are evidently an after-thought.

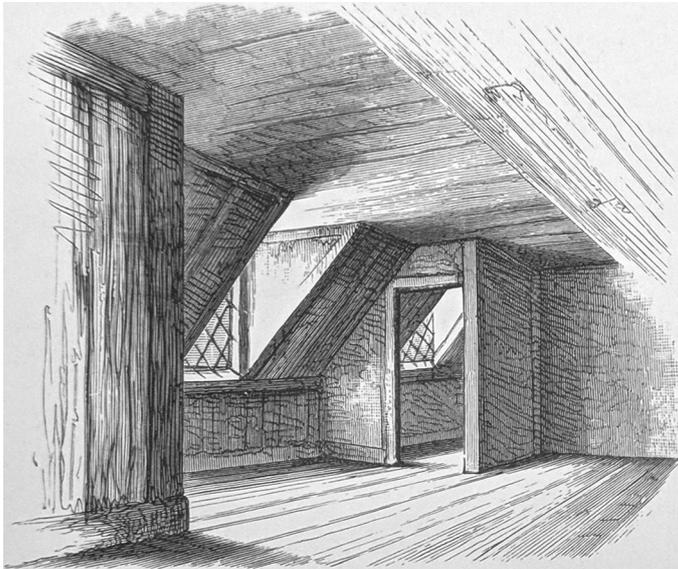
In primitive times the President’s chamber was the room over the Combination Room or Parlour, and his bed-chamber the room above it. The position of this room was admirably chosen for the discharge of the duty of supervision. Through a window in the angle between the northern and western ranges of the first court he could notice what was going forward there; a small aperture in the gable-wall of the Hall enabled him to see who was present, and even to hear what was being said; by descending his staircase he could enter either



South side of the Gallery of the President’s Lodge.

the Hall or the Parlour; or by passing through the Library—a door into which opened from his room—reach the Chapel.

When additional space was required for the accommodation of the President, he was allowed to use the western building, or part of it. But, as the distance from his chambers was considerable, it was decided to connect them together by a Gallery, an architectural contrivance generally employed in French and English manor houses during the sixteenth century. It was obviously intended to provide: (1) a place for exercise in wet weather, as shewn by its Latin name *ambulacrum* or walking-place; (2) a common sitting-room for the family.



Interior of one of the garrets in the Legge Building, Gonville and Caius College, built 1618—19. From a sketch taken by Professor Willis shortly before it was pulled down, 1868.

At Queens' College this beautiful room has been preserved—thanks to the loving care of a succession of Presidents, and, I may add, of their wives—with but little alteration. It was built, so far as I have been able to discover, after careful study of the account-books, in or about 1537; and I suspect, from the discoveries made in the course of last summer, that it was at first a mere passage, lighted by small casements, and that the oriels were added subsequently. The panel-work was given by Dr Humphrey Tindall, President 1579—1614. The external appearance of this Gallery, as Logan shews—was originally very different from what we now see—with lofty pinnacles above the oriels, terminating with fantastic devices in iron-work. I append an enlarged view of that portion of his print, the original being on too small a scale for study.

In 1544 the College obtained possession of the site of the Carmelite Friary, which lay between them and King's College. This additional ground enabled them to erect the range of chambers which prolongs the front of the College to the north. It was built in 1617—18, by Gilbert Wigge and Henry Mann—the former of whom had been employed upon the second court of S. John's College in 1598. At first it was in three floors, with garrets above; and, according to the arrangements of those times, could house forty-eight persons, at the rate of three in a room. This was effected by having a small study in each of three corners, the fourth being occupied by the door of entrance to the room. This curious



North-west corner of the President's Lodge, shewing the oriel at the north end of the west building, the staircase built 1791—93, and the bridge leading to the walks, built 1749—50.

system can still be made out on the ground-floors of this building, where the single modern partition between the bedroom and the sitting-room is in the same position, if it is not in part the same structure, as the two old ones cutting off the cornets. My illustration is taken from the Legge Building at Gonville and Caius College, where Professor Willis fortunately found the garret floor,

including the Lodge; and the part erected is only one wing of an extensive design. Want of funds averted this sacrilege. As it was, about twenty feet of the original western building was destroyed to make way for the work of Essex, together with the chambers which Loggan shews beyond the kitchen. These had been built in 1564, and formed, with the kitchen building, a small

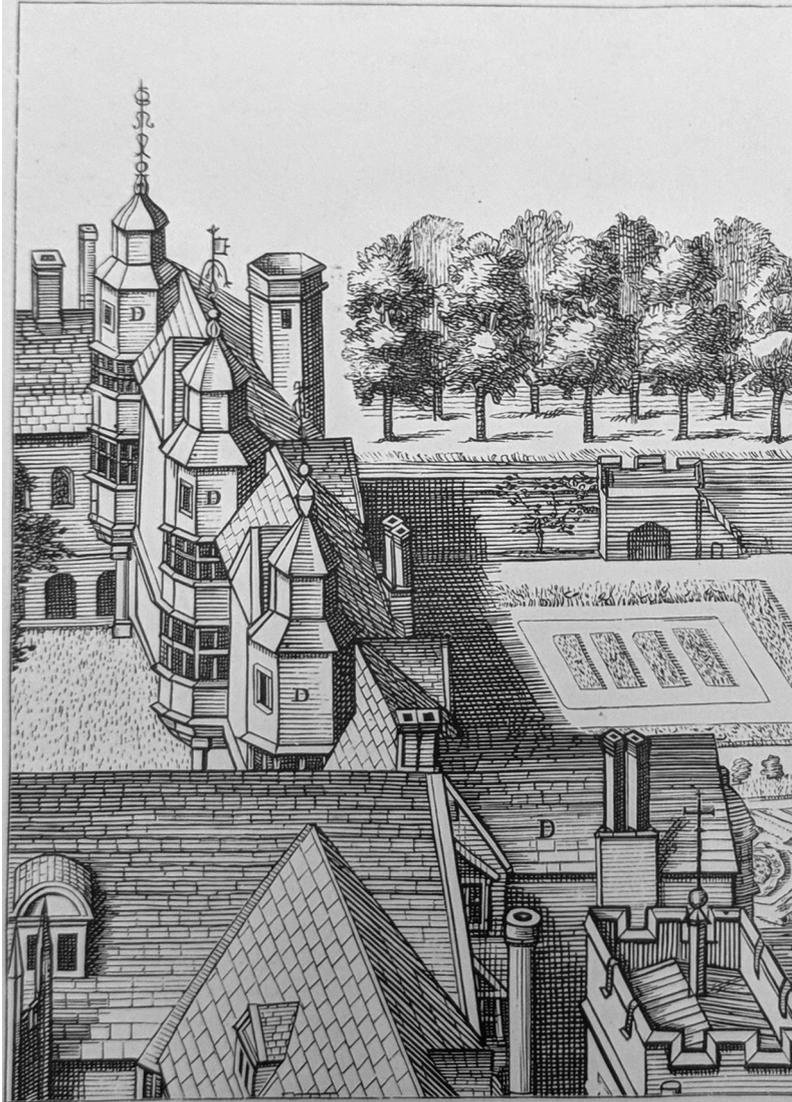
court called Erasmus Court, to perpetuate the memory of the great scholar, who, if tradition may be trusted, used the study at the top of the square brick tower at the south-west corner of the College.

The elaborate gardens which Loggan has so carefully delineated offer excellent examples of the taste of his period. We see substantial summer-houses, such as occur in most of the College gardens; a square building near the river which looks like a pigeon-house, and a small battlemented structure approached by a staircase, whence the course of the river could be surveyed. The flower-gardens are divided into formal beds, in the Dutch or French style, and in one of them is a huge sun-dial. The gnomon is of wood, and the face divided by what look like rows of box. A historian of horticulture would find much to interest him in the notices scattered through the Account books having reference to the garden on the left bank of the Cam, which seems to have been cultivated from the earliest days of the College. We read of the saffron-bed; the vineyard (*ortus vinearum*); the rose-bed in the orchard (planted 1546—47); the apricock trees, bought 1634—35; the purchase of honeysuckles, asparagus, filbert plants, a border of pinks—and the like.

Flowers and vegetables are usually mentioned together. Evidently the garden was intended to be for use and pleasure at the same time.

In the present century the need for increased accommodation has been wisely met by the erection of buildings beyond the limits of the old quadrangle. A new range of chambers, and a spacious Chapel, proclaim alike the prosperity of the College and its respect for its ancient buildings.

JOHN WILLIS CLARK.



General view of the exterior of the Gallery, enlarged from Loggan

long since abandoned to lumber, with all its primitive fittings complete. If we imagine the occupants of the room with their bedsteads and scanty furniture in the foreground, we shall get some idea of an Elizabethan college-room.

The building in white brick at the south-west corner of the College was built by Essex, 1756—60. It was at that time intended to rebuild the whole of the river front,