

Cambridge University Press  
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 Anonymous  
 Excerpt  
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A CONCISE and ACCURATE  
 D E S C R I P T I O N  
 OF THE  
 UNIVERSITY, TOWN,  
 AND  
 COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGE.

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INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE great number of fine things, as build-  
 ings, walks, books, printed and manuscript,  
 prints, fossils, &c. to be seen in so easy a manner  
 at Cambridge, occasions a considerable resort of  
 company; and though few can be supposed to  
 come there, who have not a relation or friend in  
 that learned body, who will take a pleasure in  
 shewing them the place to the best advantage; yet  
 as travelling is mostly performed in the summer,  
 when the members of the university are in gene-  
 ral retired from it, the stranger may often receive  
 less pleasure and information, than he had reason  
 to expect. To remedy this, is the design of the  
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following pages: some things may not suit the taste of even the most curious visitor; those that are thought most likely to give general satisfaction, are most insisted on; and all such may be seen in the best manner, and least fatigue, in a single walk, by beginning at St. Mary's church, or the senate-house: it may however be proper to take a servant from the inn, to look up the person that shews the next place, whilst the company are engaged in viewing the former.

### ORIGIN, &c. OF THE UNIVERSITY.

**Origin.**

As to the origin of the university of Cambridge, it is said, that one Cantaber, a Spaniard, 270 years before Christ, first founded it; and that Sigebert, king of the East Angles, restored it, anno Christi 630. However, it was probably a seat of learning soon after the establishment of the Christian religion in this island, in the fourth century by Constantine the Great; but destroyed by the pagan Saxons, and afterwards by the Danes, and lay in ruins many years; till all things revived under the Norman government: when it became so famous, that the Conqueror committed the instruction of his youngest son, afterwards King Henry I. to the governors of this learned body, who improved so much under his Cambridge tutors, that he ever after obtained the additional name of Beauclerk, or the learned student.

Formerly the students hired halls or hotels, for their exercises and disputations, of the townsmen, and lodged or boarded in the townsmen's houses. The prosperity of these hotels or halls induced the lovers of learning to provide better for the subsistence both of the professors and the convenience of students; whereupon they built colleges, the first  
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of which appears to have been erected in the reign of Henry III. The hotel or hall, denominated Pythagoras's school, a very ancient building, situate west of the river, occupied by a farmer, that rents it of Merton college, Oxford, is one of the few ancient hotels that still remains undemolished.

It now consists of sixteen colleges and halls, is a <sup>Present</sup> corporation in itself, and sends two members to <sup>state.</sup> parliament; which privilege was granted by king James I. It is governed, 1. By a CHANCELLOR, who is always some nobleman, and may be changed every three years, or continued longer by the tacit consent of the university. 2. By a HIGH STEWARD, chosen by the Senate, and holding his office by patent from the university. 3. By a VICE-CHANCELLOR, who is the head of some college or hall, and chosen yearly on the fourth of November, by the body of the university, out of two persons nominated by the heads of colleges. 4. By two PROCTORS, chosen annually on the tenth of October, who must be masters of arts: they attend to the discipline and behaviour of the undergraduates and bachelors, read the graces, and take the votes in the white-hood house. 5. By two TAXORS, chosen in the like manner as the proctors, and with them are clerks of the market, and have cognizance of weights and measures: they were originally intended to tax or fix the rent of the houses, let to the scholars for their residence. Here are also, two MODERATORS, who superintend the exercises and disputations in philosophy, and the examinations previous to the degree of bachelor of arts: this they do as substitutes or assistants to the proctors, who appoint and pay them. Two SCRUTATORS, whose office is only to read the graces and take the votes

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of the black-hood house, to which they always belong. A COMMISSARY, who is an assistant or assessor to the vice-chancellor in his court, (much the same as a recorder is to a mayor, or a chancellor to a bishop.) A PUBLIC ORATOR, who is the mouth of the university on public occasions, writes their letters, presents noblemen to their degrees with a speech, &c. The CAPUT, (which consists of the vice-chancellor, a doctor of divinity, a doctor of laws, a doctor of physic, a regent and non-regent masters of arts, who are chosen yearly on the twelfth of October,) are to consider and determine what graces are proper to be brought before the body of the university; and every one of the caput have a negative voice. All graces must first pass the caput before they can be proposed to the senate. Two LIBRARIANS, a REGISTRAR, three ESQUIRE BEADLES, &c. Here are likewise Professors in Divinity, Civil Law, Physic, Casuistry, Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, Mathematics, Philosophy, Astronomy, Anatomy, Chemistry, Botany, Modern History, Common Law, Fossils, and Music.

The whole number of fellows in the university is 406, and of scholars 666; besides which there are 236 inferior officers and servants of various kinds, who are maintained upon the foundation. These, however, are not all the students of the university; there are besides the above, two other orders, called pensioners, the greater and the less: the greater pensioners are the young nobility, and gentlemen of fortune, who are called fellow-commoners, because they dine with the fellows; the less are dieted with the scholars; but both live at their own expence. There is also a considerable number of scholars of inferior fortune, called sizars: these, though not absolutely of the foundations, are capable

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ble of receiving many benefactions, called exhibitions; which assist them greatly in passing through an expensive education; and frequently by merit they succeed to the highest honours in the university.

The students according to their standing, and proficiency in learning, are entitled to the degrees of bachelor and master of arts, bachelor and doctor in divinity, physic and law. The time required by the statutes for studying in the university, before each can be qualified for taking the said degrees, is four years for a bachelor of arts, and three more for a master of arts; seven years after that he may commence bachelor of divinity, and then seven years more are required to take the degree of doctor in divinity. But in law and physic a student may commence bachelor after five years study, and doctor after the end of five years more.

The proper times for conferring these degrees, are called the Commencement, which is always the first Tuesday in July, when the masters of arts, and doctors of all faculties, compleat their degrees respectively; and the whole time of Lent, in which the bachelors of arts compleat theirs, (if found qualified:) the examination usually begins on the Monday se'nnight after the Epiphany, and ends on the day after the second tripos. The bachelors in divinity compleat their degrees on the eleventh of June. The nobility, which includes baronets, as such, are intitled to degrees, without waiting the statutable time.

We shall next give a short account of the public buildings, &c.

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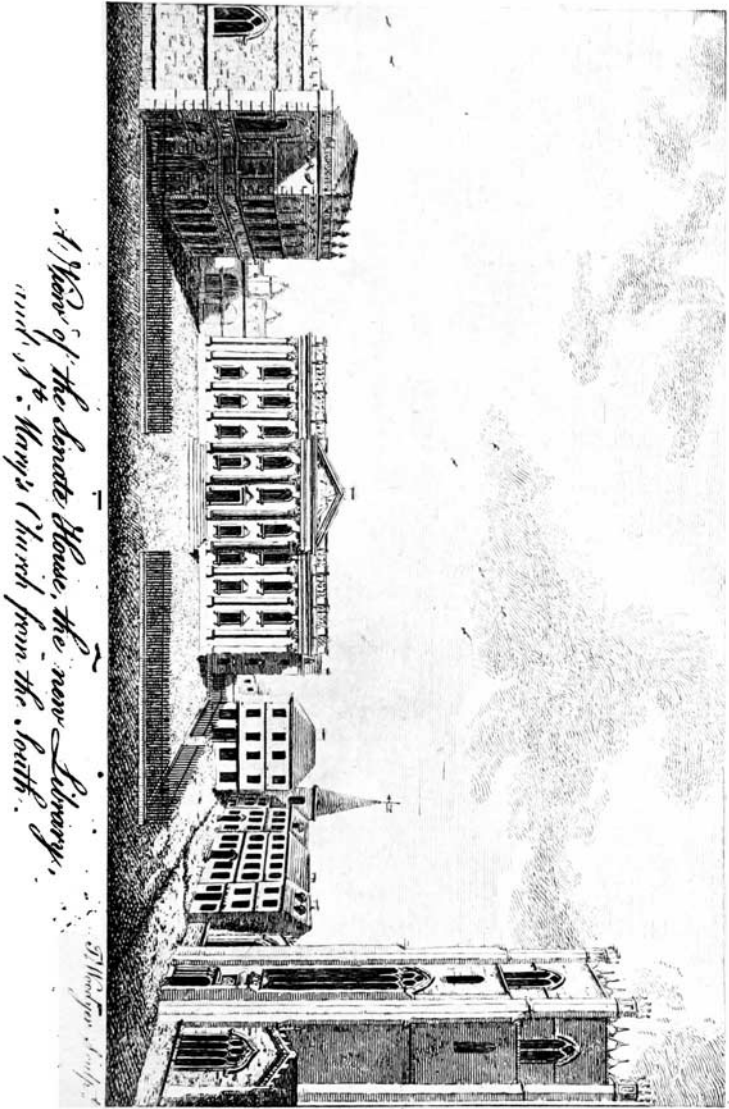
## THE SENATE-HOUSE

Senate-house. Is situate in the middle of the town, and forms the north side of an intended quadrangle, as the schools and public library do the west; and on the south another building is designed of the like form, directly opposite to the senate-house, in which are to be the consistory, registrar's office, &c. and St. Mary's church stands on the east side of the square, but separated by the street. The senate-house is a magnificent and elegant building of the Corinthian order, built by James Gibbs, the architect of the new building at King's college. The foundation was laid June 22, 1722. The outside is of Portland stone, adorned with pilasters, between a double row of sash windows, and a stone balustrade surrounding the top. In the middle of the grand front, on the south, is a magnificent triangular pediment supported by four fluted columns, the capitals beautifully carved: and at the east end is another pediment supported by the like number of fluted columns, which is the usual entrance at present. Within it is ornamented with wainscot and galleries, which are of Norway oak, and beautifully carved. The gallery at the east end is supported by fluted columns, and the ceiling adorned with stucco work. This is allowed to be the most superb room in England, being 101 feet long, 42 broad, and 32 high; and the gallery is supposed capable of holding 1100 persons. There is a fine statue of King George I. by Rysbrack, in the middle of the north side, with the following inscriptions. On the front:

G E O R G I O  
*Optimo Principi,*  
*Magnæ Britannicæ Regi,*

*Ob*

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*Out of the great Devotion  
With which he revered the King,  
And the singular Love  
With which he cherished the University,  
Gave orders for the Statue, which the Senate  
Had decreed, to be made of marble  
At his own expence.*

On the right :

*C A R O L U S Filius  
Vicecomes Townshend,  
Virtutum æque ac Honorum  
Paternorum Hæres,  
Statuam,  
Quam Pater Morte subita abreptus  
Imperfectam reliquerat,  
Perficiendam,  
Atque in hoc ornatissimo  
Academiæ Loco collocandam  
Curavit.*

*C H A R L E S his Son,  
Lord Viscount Townshend,  
Equally the Heir of his Father's  
Virtues and Honours,  
Took care to have the Statue,  
Which his Father from sudden Death  
Left unfinished,  
To be completed and placed  
In this most conspicuous spot  
Of the University.*

On the south side, and opposite to it, is another statue of King George II. by Wilton: on the front of the pedestal is the following inscription;

G E O R G I O



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G E O R G I O *Secundo*  
*Patrono suo, optime merenti,*  
*Semper Venerando;*  
*Quod volenti Populo,*  
*Justissime humanissime,*  
*In Pace & in Bello*  
*Feliciter imperavit;*  
*Quod Academiam Cantabrigiensem*  
*Fovit, auxit, ornavit;*  
*Hanc Statuam,*  
*Æternum, faxit Deus, Monumentum*  
*Grati animi in Regem,*  
*Pietatis in Patriam,*  
*Amoris in Academiam,*  
*Suis Sumptibus, poni curavit,*  
*Thomas Holles,*  
*Dux de Newcastle,*  
*Academiae Cancellarius,*  
*A. D. 1766.*

To G E O R G E II.  
*His most deserving*  
*And most respected Patron;*  
*For having governed a willing People,*  
*With the greatest Justice, Humanity and Success,*  
*Both in Peace and War;*  
*For having cherished, augmented and adorned,*  
*The University of Cambridge;*  
*This Statue,*  
*May it please God to let it stand,*  
*As a Monument of his Gratitude to the King,*  
*Of his dutiful Affection to the Country*  
*And of Love to the University,*  
*Was erected at the Care and expence of*  
*Thomas Holles,*  
*Duke of Newcastle,*  
*The Chancellor of the University,*  
 1766.

At

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At the east end, on each side the entrance, are two more: that on the left hand represents the duke of Somerset, in the Vandyke taste, by Rysbrack. It exhibits a noble figure of the duke in the younger part of his life, raised on a square pedestal, with the ensign of the order of the garter, leaning in an easy posture on his left arm, and holding out a roll in his right hand. The whole piece has a very graceful and majestic look, is extremely well executed, and does honour to the artist. The following inscription is on the front of the pedestal:

C A R O L O  
Duci Somersetensi  
Strenuo juris Academici Defensori  
Acerrimo Libertatis Publicæ vindici  
Statuam  
Levissimarum Matronarum Munus  
L. M. ponendam decrevit  
Academia Cantabrigiensis  
Quam Præsidio suo munivit  
Auxit Munificentia  
Per annos plus sexaginta  
Cancellarius.

T O C H A R L E S  
Duke of Somerset,  
A strenuous Defender of the Rights of the University,  
A most zealous Assertor of Public Liberty,  
This Statue,  
The Gift of two choice Ladies,  
Was most willingly erected  
By the University of Cambridge,  
Which he as Chancellor  
Had protected by his Patronage,  
And augmented by his Munificence,  
During more than sixty Years.

On