

REPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS.

REPORT

PRESENTED TO THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

AT ITS THIRTY-THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

MAY 19, 1873,

WITH AN ABSTRACT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY

(INCLUDING THE ANNUAL REPORTS XXVII—XXXII),

1866—1873.

ALSO

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XVII.

BEING No. 3 OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

SOLD BY DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; AND MACMILLAN & CO.
G. BELL AND SONS, LONDON.

1878.

Price Eight Shillings.

CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
COMMUNICATIONS,

BEING

PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE MEETINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society.

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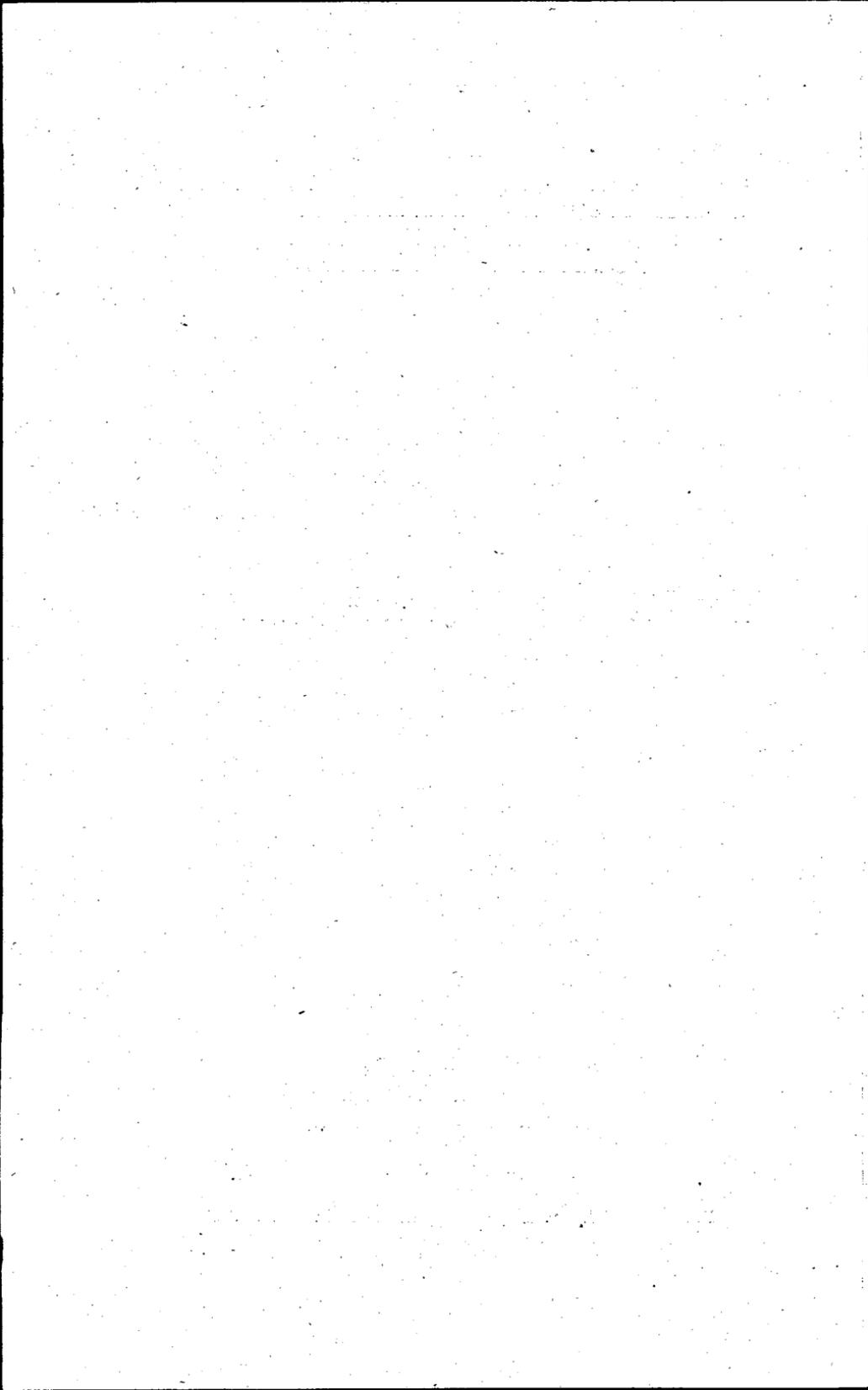
CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED BY C. J. CLAY, M.A.

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

M.DCCC.LXXVIII.

N.B. No. XVI. was erroneously printed on the title No. XV.



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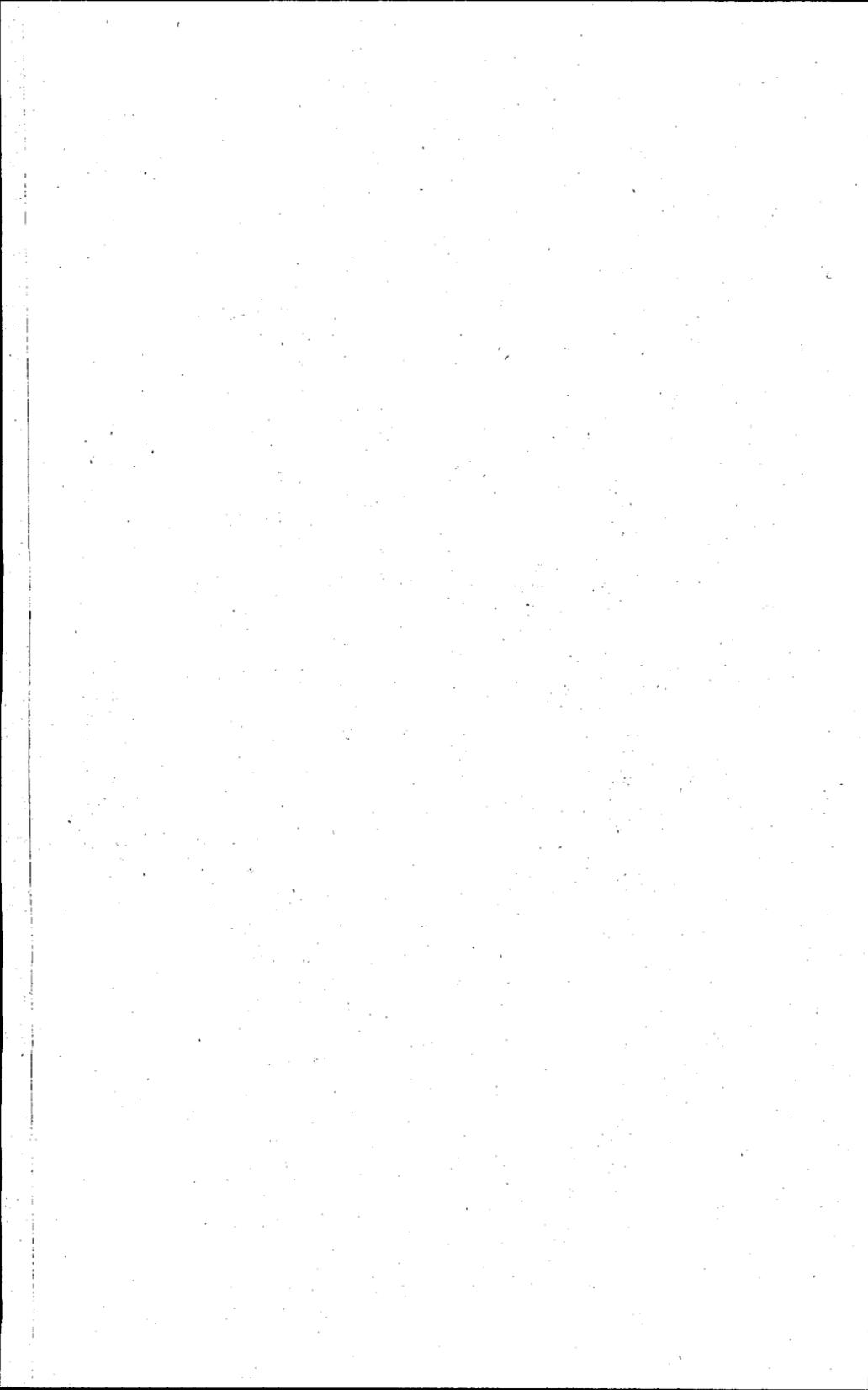
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XVII. LETTER FROM PETER SALMON, M.A., TO SAMUEL COLLINS, D.D., PROVOST OF KING'S COLLEGE, WRITTEN FROM PADUA IN 1630. Communicated by the Rev. T. BROCKLEBANK, M.A., King's College.

[February 28, 1870.]

THE following letter seems worthy of notice as giving a sketch, however slight, of an Italian university as seen by a Cambridge man in the seventeenth century. It has been preserved in our College archives among a number of letters¹ addressed for the most part to Dr Samuel Collins, who was Provost of King's from 1615 till his ejection in 1644 by the Parliamentary authorities. They relate almost exclusively to College business, and in the present case the pith of the letter is contained in the application at the end for 'a physician's place' in the College. It is perhaps necessary to explain, that all fellows, except four, were at that time required, in accordance with the statutes, to study divinity, and proceed to the higher degrees in due

¹ They have been roughly arranged in four volumes; and Salmon's letter is found in Vol. iv. No. 30.

course. Of these four two were students in law and two in physic, and all four had to proceed to the higher degrees in their respective faculties. The few facts afforded by our College books will show that Salmon was unsuccessful in his application. Born at Lee in Essex at Midsummer 1601, he was admitted a scholar of King's College June 30, 1619; a fellow June 30, 1622; B.A. in 1622-3, and M.A. in 1626. He was diverted to the study of Astronomy Dec. 23, 1631, and thereby obtained a temporary respite from the divinity studies which he wished to escape; but he only held his fellowship for a few months after that date; his formal act of resignation was executed July 30, 1632, and his connexion with the College ceased finally August 17, 1632. For the last three years of his time he seems to have been almost wholly out of residence.

Right Worrth

That I am soe bould as to interrupt y^a, I haue noe other plea, but y^e conscience of my duty, and y^e experience of y^r former fauours. the one serueinge as an injunction, y^e other as an encouradgment for y^e tender of my seruice to y^r fauourable acceptation. although there bee a separation of place, and that I haue exchaunged my Country; yet not my zeale to endeauour y^r Worr' satisfaction, y^e greatest fruite of my poore trauailes.

to giue y^a an account of my present estate, I nowe reside in Padoa, a citty of the Venetians, most remarkeable for antiquity, beinge of 2700 yeeres Continuance, by y^e relation of those who for there learneinge seeme to be ἀξιόπιστοι. there remaineinge as yet the tombe of Antenor, and the house of Liuie wth his statue. the cytty is replenished with many faire built monasteries, especially one of the benedictines called S^a Justina, y^e fabricke whereof seemeth to exceed our Trinity Coll'. and y^e

entrée or reuenue annuall, very neere that of our whole vni-
 uersity, beinge at least a 100000 duckets per annum. but y^e
 vniuersity hath noe greater shewe then that of our schooles,
 where 2 professors of euery faculty reade at y^e same houre, wth
 greate emulation one of another, contendinge for y^e greatest
 number of auditors. y^e professors of ciuile lawe and physique
 reade daily 1 houre in y^e forenoone, another in y^e afternoone,
 after w^{ch} they goe wth there auditors to practise. w^{ch} 2 sciences
 only are eminent here. for y^e rest, here is not any of note,
 especially for humane l^{res}, w^{ch} haue decaide since y^e proscrition
 of y^e Jesuites who taught them here wth greate acclamation,
 and in that respect there absence is much lamented. the num-
 ber of students is not inferiour to those of Cambridge, but
 promiscuously Consisteinge of most nations in christendome;
 but nowe the greatest part is dispersed by reason of y^e plage.
 w^{ch} hath ragèd heare almost to y^e depopulation of the Country.
 there beinge 100000 persons dead of it in Verona. not many
 less in Brescia, Bergamo. and nowe, it is crept into Venice,
 where there dye daily 1000 persons. and nowe also it is crept
 into Padoa. but as yet praise to God with noe greate mor-
 tality:

the originall of this place is deriued from Mantua. y^e sub-
 iect of a greate warre betweene y^e French and Venetians as-
 sisteinge y^e newe duke, and the emperour spaniard and duke
 of Sauoy opposeinge him. y^e effect whereof hath beene y^e
 ouerrunneinge of Sauoy by the French: and of y^e Venetian
 territory by y^e imperialists. if these warres Continue, the
 miseryes of these places though greate, are like to bee redoubled.

but craueinge pardon I Cease to ouerpress vpon y^r Worr'
 patience, yet in confidence of y^r fauour I Conclud wth one pe-
 tition, w^{ch} is that to y^r former benefitts, y^a will please to add
 this. that seinge I haue nowe imployed my studies to physique,
 y^a will conferr vpon mee a physitiens place in y^e coll', when any

shall bee vacant, for w^{ch} I shall bee bounde to pray for y^r W.
happines and rest

Y^r Worr' obliged and affectionate seruant

PETER SALMON

PADOA August 2 1630
stilo nouo

Addressed on the outside:

To y^e right worr^d D^r
Collins prouoste of
Kinges coll.
Cambridge