

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Cambridge Antiquarian Society,

26 OCTOBER, 1891 TO 25 MAY, 1892,

WITH

Communications

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXXIV.

BEING No. 1 OF THE EIGHTH VOLUME.

(SECOND VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)

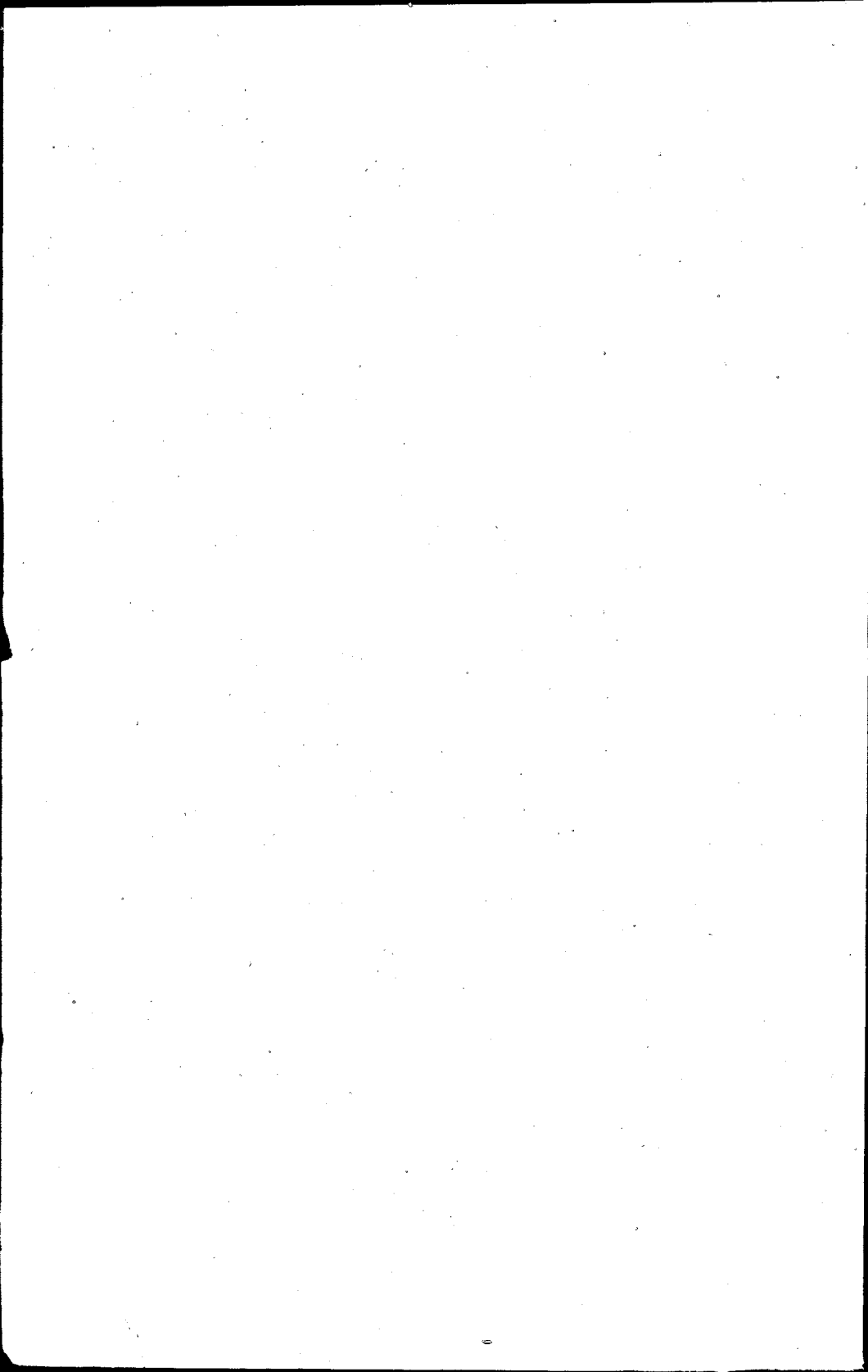
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when the library was first fitted up, and kept in stock, as usual, to be used as new books came in. The chains vary a good deal in length, and in the number and stoutness of the links. One chain is 42 in. long, and the links composing it vary in length from 2 inches to 2 inches and a half. Another chain is only 32 in. long, and none of the links are longer than 2 inches. These differences may probably be explained by the position on the shelves that the books to which they were attached were to occupy. Those on the shelves farthest from the bar would require the longest and stoutest chains. The links are longer and straighter than those of the chains at Hereford (fig. 8), and the swivel is not central, as it is there, but immediately succeeds the ring that was to pass round the bar. This is proved by examination of the books that still retain fragments of their chains. It should be further noted that the chain is attached to the top of the right-hand board of the volume, instead of to the left-hand board,—an arrangement which I have observed in the library in Wimborne Minster. The importance of these chains as dated examples has been already alluded to in the notes on the library at Wells.

WEDNESDAY, *November 11th*, 1891.

Professor E. C. CLARK, LL.D., President, in the chair.

Mr J. W. CLARK made the following communication :

ON SOME FRAGMENTS OF SEVENTEENTH CENTURY BOOK-
CASES AT CLARE COLLEGE.

In the course of the repairs undertaken at Clare College after the fire of 28 October, 1890, a quantity of carved woodwork was found in a forgotten lumber-closet. It was at once evident, from the style of the ornaments with which the several pieces were decorated, that this woodwork had some connexion

with the detached bookcases in the Library,—which are known to have been brought from the old Library; and further examination shewed that we had before us ends of cases, cornices, etc. which had been left over when those bookcases were set up in their new position. It appeared further that the old cases must have been a good deal altered; for the pieces which had done duty as ends carried brackets which had evidently once supported a desk. I have been allowed, by the kindness of the authorities of the College, to figure two of these ends; and I hope to be able to reconstruct the original design of the cases of which they formed part, and the arrangement of the old Library in which they stood. Before doing this, however, I must briefly recount the history of that Library, so far as it is possible to recover it.

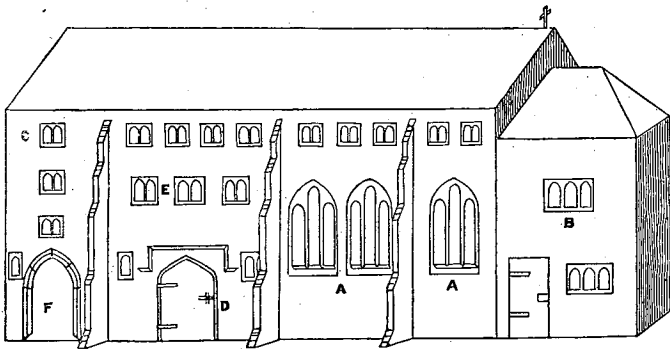


FIG. 1. Cole's sketch of Clare College Chapel. (Lent by the Syndics of the University Press.)

A. Chapel. B. Porter's Lodge. C. Library. D. Ante-chapel. E. Chamber over Ante-chapel. F. Staircase to Library.

The old Library of Clare College was over the old Chapel, which occupied part of a range of buildings extending from the east gable of the existing Hall to within about 25 feet of the street, then called Milne Street. This range is shewn in the general view of the old College, to which I lately drew attention¹;

¹ Camb. Ant. Soc. *Proceedings and Communications*, New Series, i. 197.

and also in Loggan's plate, for it was left standing after the east range was rebuilt in its present position. Cole, moreover, gives a very instructive sketch of the south side of it (fig. 1)¹ dated 1742, which shews that next to the Hall was the staircase leading to the Library; eastward of that the Ante-chapel, with a chamber over it; and eastward of that again the Chapel itself. The united length of these buildings was about 95 feet². If nine feet be deducted from this length for the staircase, we get 86 feet for the length of the Library. Cole shews that it had nine windows on the south side, exclusive of the westernmost window in his sketch, which doubtless belonged to the staircase; and, having regard to the usual arrangement of medieval libraries, the north wall was probably pierced with as many windows as the south wall. In the notes that accompany the above sketch, written after the new Library had been built, Cole says:

"The old Library is over the Chapel, and, had they not one so much better, would not be reckoned a despicable one, being fitted up with wainscote classes on both sides."

These classes were put up in or about 1627, in which year it is recorded that the Duke of Buckingham, then Chancellor, was specially taken by the Master to see "a new librarie they are building in Clare Hall, notwithstanding it was not yet furnished with books³." As the Duke was then meditating a gift of £7000 to the University to build a Senate House or a Library, it may be presumed that the fittings at Clare Hall were regarded as specially worthy of his notice.

¹ MSS. Cole, ii. 9, Add. MSS. Mus. Brit. 5803.

² The whole distance from the gable-wall of the Hall to the street is 119 feet, from which may be deducted 24 feet for the width of the east range, which extended past the Chapel to the extreme northern limit of the site. See also the plan of the old College in the *Architectural History of the University and Colleges*, Vol. iv. Plate 5.

³ Mede to Sir Martin Stuteville, in Heywood's *Puritan Transactions*, ii. 355. The word "building" in this quotation does not mean construction, but fitting up.

The present Library, which occupies the first floor between the Combination Room and the Master's Lodge, was built in 1689; and subsequently fitted with the shelves that still line the walls. The exact date of their construction has not been recorded, but they were certainly there before 1742, when Cole described the Library as "a very large well-proportion'd Room *à la moderne*, with the Books rang'd all round it, and not in Classes as in most of the rest of the Libraries in other Colleges." When the old Chapel was pulled down in 1763, the Library of course shared its fate; but the bookcases were taken to pieces and altered, and set up in the new Library in front of the modern shelves.

The woodcut (fig. 2) shews one of the case-ends as seen from the exterior, which has been left quite rough, having originally stood against a wall. A bracket, evidently intended to support a desk; is let into the upright; and on the inside there are scars which indicate that originally there were three shelves. It is evident too, from marks on the cornices, that there was once a central vertical division, probably a pilaster. There are several benches in the Library, evidently seats for readers, like those figured above from Corpus Christi College, Oxford (fig. 6). In the old Library these doubtless stood in front of the windows, while the cases occupied the spaces between them, their rough ends turned towards the wall, and their ornamental ends, which are elaborately carved, turned

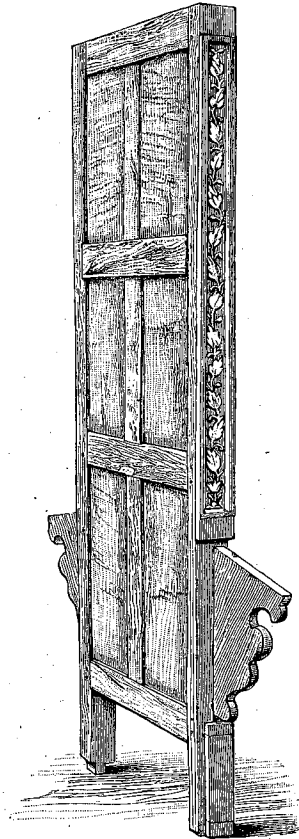


FIG. 2. Exterior of end of bookcase, Clare College.

towards the centre of the room. I have not been able to detect any indications of chaining, either on the woodwork or on the books; and the elaborate decoration of the uprights, to which the ironwork for the bars to carry the chains would have been attached, seems to prove that chaining was never intended..

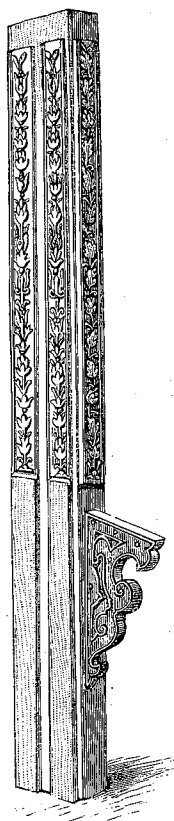
When the cases were moved into the new Library the desks and brackets were taken away, and the mortices concealed by nailing over them pieces of carved work in continuation of the strip which originally stopped above the desk. This proceeding can easily be detected, as wood of a different texture and colour was used. No other changes were made, except that the shelves were placed at different levels from those originally employed, and that the four cases which stand on the south side of the Library next the court were made more ornamental by using a carved upright at either end.

It is not difficult to estimate the number of cases originally made. There are 10 cases in the Library, with 6 plain ends, 14 ornamented ends, and, of course, 10 cornices. In the lumber-closet there were 9 plain ends and 5 cornices. These figures shew that the number of cases was 15, one ornamented end having been lost. Cole tells us that they stood on both sides of the old Library; and, as his sketch shews 8 spaces between the windows on the south side, it is probable that

FIG. 3. End of bookcase,
Clare College.

they were occupied by 8 cases, while only 7 stood on the north side. It is evident that one space on that side was occupied by a fireplace, for Loggan's plate shews a large chimney-stack there, nearly opposite to the middle buttress on the south side.

I have also figured (fig. 3) a richly carved end of a book-



case which differs considerably from the others. It is much narrower, and has three bands of carved work instead of one. I conjecture that it is the end of a cupboard for MSS. which may have stood against the east wall of the Library.

Professor HUGHES made the following communication :

EXHIBITION AND DESCRIPTION OF OBJECTS FROM ANCIENT
INDIAN CAVE-DWELLINGS AND CLIFF-DWELLINGS IN
ARIZONA.

Very little is known about the origin and racial affinities of the North-American Indians. Those with whom we came in contact during a rapid journey through the Western States reminded me of Eskimo in their features and dress and habits. But they were a more developed and cultivated people in stature, physiognomy and appliances.

The short accounts given of what is known of the pre-Spanish inhabitants of Central America point to a high civilization, which we should be inclined to think would require a longer time for its elaboration than has been usually assigned to it, and we have to speculate upon the probability of there being some remains of these people among the North-American tribes.

We turned therefore with great interest to some deserted Indian villages in the neighbourhood of Flagstaff in Arizona, on the far boundary of modern civilization, to see whether we could find there evidence of some ancient people living under conditions differing in any respect from those prevailing among the Indians of to-day. From the accounts received, we thought the position and character of the dwellings offered favourable opportunities for such a research, seeing that one village consisted of caves, excavated in the top of a steep hill of lava, under the towering San Francisco mountain, and the other consisted of cliff-dwellings, built under the overhanging ledges of Walnut Cañon, just as the caves and abris along the rocky banks of the rivers of Dordogne have been adapted by the erection of walls under the rock-shelters.

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