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(incorporating the Cambs and Hunts Archaeological Society)

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## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Ring-Ditch and the Hollow: excavation of a Bronze Age 'shrine' and associated features at Pampisford, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Pollard</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Great Circle: Investigations at Arbury Camp.</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Evans and Mark Knight</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unravelling the Morphology of Litlington, Cambridgeshire</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Oostuizen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Gateways to Heaven': the approaches to the Lady Chapel, Ely</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philip Dixon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Reconstruction of the Medieval Cambridge Market Place</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Bryan and Nick Wise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A late Sixteenth Century Pit Group from Pembroke College, Cambridge</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Hall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Seventeenth Century Water-Meadows at Babraham</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Taylor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Griffin's Journal of a Visit to Cambridge June-July 1811</td>
<td>119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold King</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alison Taylor, Peter Warner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fieldwork in Cambridgeshire 2001</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Lewis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summaries of papers presented at the Spring Conference</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbreviations</td>
<td>162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CONDUIT: local history and archaeology organisations, societies and events</td>
<td>163</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Editorial

After two themed volumes these Proceedings return to the usual PCAS format of mixed papers, covering excavations, local history, landscape archaeology, architecture and historical geography. Indeed, in the finest antiquarian tradition many of the papers involve more than one of these disciplines. There should therefore be something to interest all members in this miscellany.

Two departures from recent practice are the inclusion of Conference synopses and an abbreviated Conduit. The synopses are by popular request, rising from a realisation that many members would be grateful to have a lasting reminder of these important papers. We are grateful to the authors who supplied copy so conscientiously after the event (naturally we had not thought of this in advance), and to Derek Booth who collected them all together. Conduit had to be an even more last-minute construct, when it became clear that the County Council could no longer keep up with the necessary production time-scale. This year’s approach is a bit of an experiment, and it will be useful to know what reaction we have both from members and from affiliated societies.

Alison Taylor

President’s Address

Two years as President is too short a time to see through any substantial programme of reform for CAS. When I was elected there were a number of initiatives I wanted to start in the hope they would mature in another President’s time. To this end Derek Booth as Secretary and I put out a questionnaire in the year 2000 to profile our membership and to canvas opinion on possible changes.

It has been a central part of my Presidency to re-imbue the Society and its membership with confidence in its right to express opinion on heritage issues. It is essential that there remains a well-informed independent Society to safeguard archaeological and related services at a time when other pressures and agenda take precedence within local and central governmental organisations which we perhaps naively assume will be acting in our best interests in protecting the past. It is particularly regrettable that CAS has been excluded from representation within long-established fora to discuss and scrutinise public heritage services within Cambridgeshire at this time.

Another issue I hoped we could address was to reverse the decline of amateur archaeology, perhaps by re-establishing the Society’s post of Director of Fieldwork, and to encourage research-led investigation in the County once more. This latter still awaits the right person and opportunity, but I am pleased there are encouraging signs in the way local groups have attracted grants which will give them solid research foci and draw in new members. Notable amongst these are Thriplow Society, Fulbourn Village History Society, Haverhill and District Archaeological Group and Cambridge Archaeology Field Group.

We asked members if it would be beneficial for CAS to develop other venues for meetings, and would there be interest in workshops on current research topics. We have developed the workshop idea with this year’s conference dedicated to the archaeology, architecture and history of Ely, a town that has had considerable investigation in the past ten years, with some startling new discoveries but little co-ordination or academic discussion. Synopses of the talks are published within this volume. From October we shall be holding our monthly meetings in more comfortable and more accessible surroundings, in the newly built Divinity Faculty at the Sidgwick Site.

Other positive steps are that, after two years I can report that the Web page is now complete and will shortly appear at www.Cambridge-Antiquarian-Society.org.uk, and that the Society has taken back full ownership of Conduit which, over the past ten years, had been produced jointly with Cambridgeshire County Council.

In summary there has been good progress over the past two years and the Society will continue to build upon its strengths as the paramount amenity society guarding Cambridgeshire’s heritage. Government policies at central and local level are capricious and we cannot afford to put faith in them without constant scrutiny and challenge. With the advent of regional government and root and branch reform of the planning system, a Cambridgeshire focus for our heritage provided by CAS will be ever more imperative. The Society is therefore essential and I thank you all for continuing to support and contribute to it. I am pleased to leave it in the capable hands of your secretary Liz Allan, and new President, Tony Kirby.

Tim Malim
Jane Griffin’s Journal of a visit to Cambridge in 1811 on the installation of his Highness the Duke of Gloucester, 27 June to 4 July 1811

Harold King

Edited from an original account in the archives of the Scott Polar Research Institute, University of Cambridge (MS248/4) and reproduced by kind permission of the Keeper and Librarian

Jane Griffin (1791–1875), better known as the second wife of the Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin, was the daughter of John Griffin, a prosperous London silk merchant, and his wife Mary, née Guillemard, both of Huguenot stock. Aware of the educational benefits of travel Mr Griffin encouraged Jane and her sisters to accompany him on tours of England, Wales and the continent; the urge for travel was to remain with Jane throughout her life. Her journal accounts of these travels are now in the keeping of the Scott Polar Research Institute one of which, an account of a visit to Cambridge in 1811 (complementing a previous visit to Oxford in 1809) is reproduced here for the first time.

The occasion of the Cambridge visit was the installation of the newly elected Chancellor of the University, William Frederick, Duke of Gloucester, a nephew of George III and the first member of the Royal Family ever to attend an English university, in this instance as a Fellow Commoner of Trinity College. Jane Griffin’s account of events is contained in a pocket-sized notebook covering 51 pages of neatly written longhand based on her rough notes. Her main source of general reference was almost certainly JW Wilson’s Memorabilia Cantabrigiae (London, 1803).

The opening pages describing the journey by hired chaise from Waltham to Cambridge, accompanied by Jane’s father and sister Mary, provide a fair example of the author’s eye for detail. Her powers of the dramatic are given fair scope when an inn in which the party has taken shelter from a violent thunderstorm is well-nigh demolished. Once settled in the Trinity Street rooms of Joseph Ferard, a family friend, Jane wasted no time in her determination to inspect the colleges and university buildings and to attend as many of the ceremonial events as possible. These centred on the Installation of the Chancellor, namely the Installation Ceremony itself in the Senate House on Saturday 29 June, a commencement sermon on the Sunday, the awarding of degrees on the Monday to be concluded on the Tuesday with awards for prize compositions. Finally on the Wednesday, prior to the departure of the Duke, Trinity College would host a Grand Public Breakfast in Nevile’s Court preceded by a balloon ascent from Great Court by the celebrated astronaut, Mr Sadler. These events were to be duly attended and reported by Jane with the exception of the Installation Ceremony, for which she had to fall back on press reports and hearsay.

Jane’s inspection of the colleges and university buildings commenced on her first full day in town when, accompanied by Joseph Ferard and some obliging ‘young Cantabs’, the young ladies were conducted on a tour of ‘the beautiful walks at the back of the colleges’ taking due note of St John’s (‘dark & gloomy’), thence proceeding to Trinity ‘whose architectural magnitude & splendour stands unrivalled either here or at Oxford’. Since most of her guides appear to have been Trinity men and since the college was hosting the Duke and providing the venue for many of the forthcoming events, Jane’s enthusiasm can be understood, her descriptions of this college being fuller than for any other. Reading these accounts one is at once aware of Jane’s determination to provide the reader with the maximum of factual information and to show off her knowledge of classical architecture. At King’s she approves of Mr Gibbs’ ‘modern’ Fellows building but dismisses Stephen Wright’s eastern extension of the Old Schools as ‘heavy & clumsy’. She much admires King’s College Chapel – ‘as perfect & splendid a specimen of Gothic architecture in its latest and most refined era as any in the Kingdom’. Her account of its interior is accompanied by the expectable array of statistics; and was she perhaps thinking of the poet Milton when she writes of the ‘painted windows’ as shedding ‘a sober chastened light throughout the place, congenial with the religious feelings of the spectator’?

During the course of her six days in Cambridge Jane succeeded in visiting all seventeen of the colleges, from Magdalene in the north to Downing in the south. Her account of the latter is perhaps of special interest as building had only recently begun. Two buildings had by this time been completed, both in the classical style and thus meeting with the writer’s unconditional approval. Her sanguine hope was that the remaining buildings be built in a corresponding style so that ‘Downing College will rank as one of the first in archi-
tectural beauty and magnificence'.

Inevitably Cambridge town does not escape Jane's strictures - 'ill-constructed, the streets being inconveniently narrow & confined & the houses irregular and inelegant'. Clearly little had changed since John Evelyn had written in similar vein in the previous century. Nevertheless Jane traversed the length and breadth of Cambridge's main thoroughfares. She leaves the reader with a fair picture of the marketplace as it then was, embellished by the conduit celebrating the proverbial Hobson, thence continuing by way of the Round Church and over Essex's stone bridge to the site of the former castle, its ruined gatehouse still standing and 'with a pleasing view over the town with the noble view of the colleges'. Of a boat trip to Chesterton Jane writes somewhat lukewarmly, the spire of Chesterton Church being 'the only pleasant object in the whole distance'.

Jane's final day in Cambridge must have taxed her energies to the full, with King's College to be inspected before breakfast followed by a brisk survey of the remaining colleges strung along and adjacent to Trumpington Street. All this duly achieved she hastens back to King's to stand in the rain and watch Mr Sadler's much heralded balloon ascent - (he subsequently landed in a field near Stansted, Essex). By now it was time to prepare for Trinity's Grand Ball hosted by the Chancellor. Even in the midst of these festivities Jane manages to absent herself for a brief spell in order to inspect and comment upon the interior of the Wren Library and its furnishings - 'the finest in the University & perhaps in the Kingdom'. This accomplished she returns to join the dancing in Trinity's gardens. And so the evening drew to its close and Jane's party returned to Mr Ferard's rooms. Thus ended, to quote the Cambridge Chronicle, 'a celebrity unexampled in the records of this, and we doubt not, of any university in the world'.

**Thursday 27 June**

We left town on our journey to Cambridge early in the morning of Thursday, the 27th of June. Our first stage was to Waltham Cross where my uncle engaged a chaise & horses to carry us on to Ware.

Leaving Waltham we passed thro' the villages of Turners Hill, Cheshunt, Wash, Wormley & Broxbourn to Hoddesdon, a small market town seated on the descent of a hill, close to the river Lea. 'The market house is built of timber, supported on arches & pillars & bears the marks of antiquity. Adjoining it is a conduit. Hoddesdon is a chapelry in the parishes of Amwell & Broxbourn. The chapel is an ill looking red brick building. From hence we passed thro' the village of Amwell to Ware, where we were detained some time for horses. It is an ill built, ugly looking town, standing on the western bank of the river Lea, which is navigable from hence to the Thames. The new river head is at this place, & the springs of the Chad which supply it, rise in some meadows opposite to Ware Park, the seat of Thomas Hope Bye Esq. 1 mile to the left of the town. Ware has a very considerable trade in malt, sending it is said a greater supply of that commodity to London than any other market. A great proportion of the buildings in the town are deformed by the awkward looking machines inclining above the chimneys to confine the smoke of the malthouses. The country from Waltham to this place & from hence to Buntingford, the next stage, is well cultivated & pleasant but offers no remarkable features for description. About 2 miles from Ware is the pretty little village of Wade's Mill, seated in a bottom & watered by the small river Rib which is crossed by a brick bridge 2 1/2 miles further is the village of Collier's End & 1 mile beyond this on the left at some distance from the road is seen a large, handsome building called St John's College for the education of Roman Catholics.

The next object of attention is the pretty little village of Puckeridge 1 mile beyond which on the left we pass Hamsells, the seat of [?] Blake Esq. Buntingford is a small village looking market town, with an ugly red brick chapel built by voluntary contributions from the parishioners. It derives some interest from its having been the native place of the pious & learned Dr Seth Ward, Bishop of Salisbury, who founded here an almshouse for 8 poor men & women; he was also a grateful benefactor to the free school where he received the rudiments of his education. There are 2 inns at Buntingford, and not being able to procure horses at one, we had recourse to the other with success & immediately proceeded to Royston. A little beyond Buntingford on the right we passed Hormead Bury, the seat of T Welch Esq., & afterwards the pretty little villages of Chipping and Buckland. The pleasing aspect of the country strikingly changes within a few miles of Royston to enclosed dreary downs, bar-
The town of Royston is seated on the borders of Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire, at the edge of the wide open plains which extend thro’ the Eastern counties. The streets are narrow & the houses in general mean. The church has a clumsy embattled tower at the western extremity.

We met Mr & Mrs Hayley here who were travelling down with their own horses, but were afraid of proceeding immediately to Cambridge on account of the lowering aspect of the sky. We were not however deterred by its portentous gloom from pursuing our last stage, but we had scarcely rode 3 miles before the long threatening cloud burst over our heads in torrents of rain & we had scarcely time to take shelter in a little public house in the village of Milbourne before it was accompanied by a violent hurricane & a dreadful storm of thunder & lightning which made us tremble to think how narrowly we had escaped an open exposure to their fury. All the raging force of the tempest seemed to concentrate in the spot whence we had fled for shelter, the hurricane was tremendous & the barns adjoining the house were shattered into ruins. A part of the roof of one of the upper rooms fell in & below this numerous wares ranged round the walls of our kitchen tumbled rattling on the ground & the screams & pious deprecations of the terrified landlady mingled with the sympathetic cries of her children produced a complication of distressing sounds which it is difficult to form an idea of. This scene continued with little intermission for about an hour & a half at the end of which time we found the storm sufficiently abated to induce us to venture on completing our frustrated journey. The village was deluged with water which spread into a lake by the cottage that had afforded us shelter presenting us with the prostrate fragments of the barn, a melancholy spectacle of devastation. We passed thro’ the villages of Harleston & Trumpington across an unvaried dismal flat, inclosed & well cultivated, but naked & void of the lowest pretensions of beauty. We arrived at Cambridge at Joseph Ferard’s rooms in Trinity Street late in the evening & found Mrs Ferard & Margaret there before us.

Friday 28 June

A long & violent storm of rain, thunder & lightning confined us to the house during the morning & we were obliged to have recourse for amusement to our books & looking out of the window which projecting wide into the street afforded a pleasing perspective of the upper part of the Senate House & Square. The ceremonies of the installation had not yet commenced & the Duke had not yet arrived, but the well filled streets & the general bustle of action announced their speedy approach. Mrs Andrew Amos’ dined with us & in the afternoon the weather cleared up & invited us to a walk. Our young Cantabs, justly weighing the effect of first impressions, conducted us to the pride of their university, the beautiful walks at the back of the colleges on the banks of the Cam, which skirt the whole western side of the town & afford the most advantageous view of the principal public buildings. The first of these in the south is Queen’s [sic] College on the brink of the water; near to it is the elegant modern front of King’s College with the gothic west end of its beautiful chapel; then is seen the noble palace-look- ing pile of Clare Hall, which is succeeded by the elegance front of Trinity College Library; & lastly the dark gloomy walls of St John’s receding from the line of the former & washed by the river, close to the range. In front of these are noble meadows & avenues of trees extending to the water which is crossed by numerous elegant bridges & bordered on the opposite bank by corresponding groves & gardens composing a scene of imposing beauty & magnificence.

We passed thro’ the courts of Trinity & St. John’s which rank the two first of the 17 colleges of the university, & the former in point of architectural magnitude & splendour stands unrivalled either here or at Oxford. It consists of two spacious quadrangles, the first of which is entered from the street thro’ a magnificent gateway in a large square tower, having angular turrets at the corners & ornamented within & without with statues, probably of the founders or benefactors of the college. This court is by far the largest being 344 feet in length on the west side, & 325 on the east, 287 broad on the south side & 256 on the north. On the north side is the chapel with a handsome tower & gateway adjoining; the modern built lodge of the master & the hall are on the west, & a lofty tower & gateway called the Queen’s tower on the south. The entrance from the street is on the east.
These buildings occupy nearly one half of this grand quadrangle, in the centre of which is a conduit under a beautiful octagonal building supported by pillars. The south end of the west side of the court has been rebuilt in a modern style different from that of the other sides of the court. We looked into the hall which is a large handsome room upwards of 100ft long, 40 broad & 50 high with 2 bow windows of great depth at the upper end. It is adorned with the portraits of the benefactors & masters of the college, beneath which on one side of the room are the busts of the most celebrated poets, orators & philosophers of the ancients & on the opposite side of the moderns. The ceiling is ornamented with massy frame work in oak.

Thro' a passage to the left of this room we entered the 2d court which was built by Dr Thomas Nevile, Dean of Canterbury & master of this college & hence called Nevile’s Court. It is 228ft in length on the south side & 223 on the north, 132ft in breadth on the east side & 148 on the west. The east side is formed chiefly by the hall, & the west is occupied by the magnificent front of the library. Under this building is a piazza, with a row of Doric pillars dividing it in the centre, & there is a cloister on the north & south sides. The area in the middle is laid out in a large grass plot. The east front of the library looking into the court is ornamented on the top with 4 fine statues, representing Divinity, Law, Physic & Mathematics, executed by Mr Caius Gabriel Cibber, father of Colley Cibber, the Poet Laureat. The upper part of the arches of the piazza is filled up, & on the west side are 3 gates of wrought iron, opening to the lawn & the river, which is crossed by an elegant cycloidal bridge of 3 arches, designed & executed by Mr James Essex FSA. On the opposite side is a meadow, surrounded by a regularly clipped hedge row, & on the north & south sides are handsome avenues of elm, limes & horse chestnut trees. Trinity College was founded by King Henry the 8th on the site of 2 colleges & a hostel in 1546. St John’s College received its name from the dissolved priory of St John’s, on the site of which it is built. It was founded in pursuance of the will of Margaret wife of Edmund Tudor Earl of Richmond & mother of Henry the 7th in 1509. It is a dark-looking gloomy pile of building and consists of three courts lying between the High Street & the river to the north of Trinity. The first quadrangle is entered from the street by a magnificent gate & tower adorned with 4 turrets. On the north side of this court is the chapel; the south side has been rebuilt with stone in a handsome manner. The 2d & middle court is the largest & the 3d which is entered by a handsome portico is the smallest. It has a cloister on the west side & the library on the north. This court is on the brink of the river over which is an old bridge of 3 arches, leading to a fine avenue of lofty elms, on the opposite side, at the upper end of which is the grove or fellows garden.

We returned to Trinity street in time to see the entrance of the Duke of Gloucester, who arrived in a coach & six about 7 in the evening & passed thro’ Trinity street amidst the acclamations of the crowd to Trinity lodge, where he was received by Dr Mansel Bishop of Bristol, the Master. Soon after a deputation from the Senate waited on his Highness, consisting of the Vice-Chancellor, Dr Douglas, the head of Bene’t college, with 2 esquire bedells, his attendants, 2 provosts & 2 representatives of each of the 3 faculties, Divinity, Law & Physic. Mr Leith, a commoner of Trinity, drank tea with us & accompanied us in our evening’s walk when we took a cursory survey of the town, & a few of the colleges. The town is extremely ill constructed, the streets being inconveniently narrow & confined & the houses irregular & inelegant. They are built chiefly of red brick, but the new buildings, of which there is a considerable number, particularly in the lower part of St. Andrew’s street, are built of coarse white brick which has a better effect. Several of the colleges likewise are constructed of a dark, dirty, age tinted brick, & few of them present that wide magnificence of front which throws so striking an air of grandeur in the spacious streets of Oxford. There is indeed no part of Cambridge which can claim any pretensions to beauty except the western outskirt of the town which I have already mentioned, & the Senate House square, which is formed by some of the finest buildings of the university, but is still too small & irregular to be entitled to much admiration.

The figure of the town approaches to an oval, being broadest in the middle & diminishing toward each extremity. The two principal streets are St Andrew’s or Bridge street & Trumpington or Trinity street which run nearly thro’ the whole length of the town from north to south & encompass a variety of smaller
streets & lanes. The north end of Trinity street, which is usually called St John's lane, falls into Bridge street opposite St Sepulchre or the Round Church. The market place is an oblong square, at one end of which is the town & county hall, a white brick building standing upon arches faced with stone. A stone conduit stands in front. The water is brought to it by an aqueduct & supplies the centre of the town. This useful work was the benefaction of the celebrated Hobson, the carrier, whose name is immortalized by a familiar proverb which had its origin in an unyielding[sic] singularity which he exhibited in the practice of a branch of his profession. We went into Caius or Gonville college situated to the south of Trinity & north of the Senate House. It consists of 3 neat quadrangles faced with stone & has 3 gates of honor & with distinctive appellations. The first is called the gate of humility, the 2d in the middle of the college, by which two of the courts communicate, is called by an inscription on one side the gate of virtue & on the other the gate of wisdom, & on the last or back gate towards the schools, is denominated the gate of honor. This college obtained the name of Gonville, rector of Torrington & Rushworth in Norfolk who obtained a charter for its incorporation from Edward the 3d in 1348. Above 200 years after in 1557, John Caius MD added a new court to this college & erected three gates, endowing it also with valuable lands. It is now commonly known by his name.

As we passed thro' Sidney street & Jesus street east of the town, we cursorily looked into the respective colleges from which they derive their names. Sidney Sussex college consists of 2 brick quadrangles, & has very pleasant gardens. It was founded in 1590 by the dowager of Thomas Radcliffe, Earl of Sussex, who ordered that her college should be called after her own name, the college of Lady Francis Sidney Sussex. It was erected on the spot where formerly the monastery of Grey Friars built by Edwd. the 1st had flourished. Jesus college is at the eastern extremity of the town in the road to Newmarket surrounded by groves & meadows. The principal front looks towards the south to the road & is approached by a handsome gateway. The courts are built of brick and have an air of great quiet & solitude. The first is enclosed with buildings on 3 sides, the west side lying open to the fields from which it is separated by a low parapet & iron palisade. The church is built in the conventual form with transepts and a square tower rising from their intersection with the nave. This college was originally a convent of Benedictine nuns founded in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary & St. Rhadegund & endowed with the lands adjoining by Malcolm the 4th, King of Scotland & Earl of Huntingdon & Cambridge, which nunnery falling into decay, was by licence of Henry the 7th, dissolved & a college built on the site by John Alcock, Bishop of Ely in 1490. It was to be styled the college of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St John the Evangelist & the virgin St Rhadegund, & commonly called Jesus College from the conventual church, now the chapel which was dedicated at first to the name of Jesus. In a large marshy meadow adjoining Jesus
John Alcock, Bishop of Ely

Coll., an annual [fair] was at this time being held. It is vulgarly called Pot Fair & is in general well attended, but there was now but a very scanty exhibition of company. We met Mr. Crichton here & his brother Nathaniel. The former is a pensioner or commoner of Trinity & studying for the bar. Having not seen him for several years I found a considerable alteration both in his person & manners. He had lost that bashful reserve which distinguished him when a boy, & now to his natural qualities of good sense & good temper was joined a spirit & sincerity which exhibited them to better advantage. In returning to our lodgings we passed by the Senate House square where a concert was being performed, & the building was encompassed by a crowd of people.

Saturday 29 June

Saturday the 29th was the day of the Installation of the Duke of Gloucester as Chancellor of the University in the Senate House. It was not in our power to gain admission to see the ceremony as we were not sufficiently acquainted with any of the members of the Senate who alone had tickets to induce us to attempt procuring them. The members of the Senate consist of all graduates above & including masters of arts. Tho' disappointed we however found no little amusement in looking at the bustle & crowd in our narrow street which led to the Senate House & in watching the carriages filled with splendidly dressed ladies which rolled in rapid succession beneath us. About 12 o'clock a deputation consisting of 6 doctors, 2 of each faculty, 6 regents & 6 non-regents passed thro' Trinity street to Trinity lodge and soon returned in the train of his Highness to the Senate House. The crowd huzzared as the Duke walked along, the ladies waved their handkerchiefs from the windows & his Highness replied to their congratulations by gracious bows & smiles. In the procession we remarked Sir Sidney Smith, Mr W Smith MP, Sir John Cox Hippesley, Mr Silvester, Recorder of London, Sir John Perring, Alderman Annesley, Sir Eyr Coote, Dr Mansell, Bishop of Bristol Dr Bathurst, Bishop of Norwich, & Dr Bennet, Bishop of Cloyne.

From the newspaper paragraphs the correctness of which was established by the testimony of Joseph & others who as undergraduates had seats in the Senate House I have extracted the following account of the ceremony of the Installation. At the steps of the Senate House the Duke was met by Dr Douglas, the Vice Chancellor, who walked up the Senate House at his Highness's left hand, when they ascended to the chair of state, His Highness standing on the left hand of the chair & the Vice Chancellor on the right. A band of music in the gallery at the lower end of the room struck up the coronation anthem immediately on the Duke's entrance into the house. This being ended the V C made a speech in English & then presented His Highness the book of statutes & the patent of office, the latter of which was read aloud by the Senior Proctor, the Revd J Aspland of Pembroke. After this the Vice-Chancellor taking His Highness's right hand in his own, the Senior Proctor administered the oath; His Highness then was seated by the V C in the chair of state & thereby installed. After a pause the Public Orator delivered a Latin oration after which the Chancellor rose from his seat & taking off his cap, replied in an English speech to the Vice Chancellor & Public Orator, the company standing while he was speaking. Having concluded & sat down the rest of the company sat down likewise & listened to the Installation ode composed by Professor Hague which was performed in the music gallery by a large band. This being concluded the assembly was closed and the grand procession marched from the Senate House to Trinity College in the following order: Fellow Commoners preceded by Yeoman Bedells, Bachelors of Medicine, Bachelors of Law, Inceptors (MA), Regents, Non Regents, Bachelors of Divinity, Registrary-Librarians, Taxors, Proctors, Professors, Incepting Doctors of Medicine, Incepting Doctors of Law, Incepting Doctors of Divinity, Public Orator, Non-Gremial Doctors in each faculty without robes, Gremial Doctors of Medicine, Law & Divinity in robes, Noblemen in habits, Commissary, High Steward, Vice Chancellor, Chancellor preceded by 3 esquire bedells & attended by noblemen, bishops etc. A grand dinner was given this day by the Chancellor in the cloisters of Nevile's Court, Trinity College at which Joseph was present. Nathaniel Crichton dined with us & in the afternoon we walked down to the river at the backs of the colleges. We looked into the courts of Trinity Hall.
& Clare Hall, the first of which is a small college faced with stone within & without. The entrance is in Trinity Lane a little to the north of Clare Hall. It was founded in 1351 by Wm Bateman, Bishop of Norwich.

Clare Hall consists of one noble quadrangle, adorned with 2 handsome porticos & gates. The west front towards the river is very handsome. It is divided into 2 regular orders of pilasters, the lower or grand floor being of the Tuscan order and that above which includes 2 stories, of the Ionic, the whole surmounted with an entablature & balustrade. The Chapel is a neat elegant building of the Corinthian order on the right hand as you enter the gates. A handsome stone bridge crosses the river at the back of this college communicating with a fine vista, beyond which is a lawn surrounded by lofty elms. Clare Hall was originally founded by Richd. Badew or Badow of Great Badow near Chelmsford in Essex, Chancellor of the University in 1320. It was destroyed by fire 16 years afterwards & rebuilt & endowed by the bounty of the Lady Elizabeth, 3rd sister and coheiress of Gilbert, Earl of Clare, wife of John de Burgh Lord of Connaught in Ireland, in the year 1347, & henceforward the college was denominated Clare Hall. There is no difference between a hall & a college in Cambridge. It was begun to be rebuilt in 1638.

We rested on the bridge to listen to the distant music & the shouts of great applause which came from the festive tables in Nevile’s Court, & on our return home found that Joseph had escaped from the company & was impatiently waiting to take us into the court that we might see the declining splendor of the fête. With some difficulty we gained admittance thro’ the crowd, but Margaret terrified with the pressure fainted as soon as we had entered the cloisters. At night we resorted to the same place to a fête given by the Chancellor. His Highness’s band played in an illuminated pavilion erected in the centre of the grass & the crowded company paraded in the cloisters. On the banks of the river were some grand fireworks the beauty of which was a little diminished by a drizzling rain which fell during the evening. I walked with Mr Crichton & Mr Andrew Ames. Mr Leith & Nathaniel Crichton came with the rest of our party. The crowd separated us all from each other & we could not effect a meeting till it was time to return home.

Sunday 30 June

We went to Great St Mary’s the University church, when the Chancellor & University attended to hear a sermon. It is a handsome building & stands on the east side of the Senate House Square opposite the schools. The body of the building is 75 ft. long, the chancel 45 ft. & the breadth of the church 68. It has 2 broad side aisles. The Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, heads of colleges, noblemen & doctors sit in a handsome gallery between the nave & the chancel; the body of the nave is appropriated to masters of arts, fellow commoners & strangers & in the gallery along the side aisles sit the Bachelors & Under-graduates. Towards the middle of the nave is the pulpit & at the
West end is the organ in a handsome gallery. On the Duke's entrance in to the church, a large band of musicians played the overture to the occasional oratorio of Handel in the organ gallery which was enlarged & brought forward to accommodate them. This being ended a sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr Illingworth of Pembroke which consisted almost entirely of declamatory invective against the Methodists after which it being Commencement Sunday Dr Illingworth read a long & tedious list of the benefactors to the University. This was succeeded by a long anthem written by FA Rawdon & composed by GH Polegreen-Bridgtower as an exercise for his bachelor's degree in music. The prayers after the sermon followed, & the blessing was delivered by Dr Milner, President of Queen's [sic], who sat on the right hand of the Chancellor in the gallery.

St Mary's Church was erected by contribution & is said to have been above 100 years before it was completed. It was begun in 1478, built without the steeple in 1519. The Duke of Brittany tho' anxious to have his own church, was willing to consider a signal & flattering mark of his gallantry. Mr Amos called in & waited a short time with us. He had come down to this theatre of splendor & gaiety with an elderly gentleman of his acquaintance, but tho' he moved in the impelling tide of the multitude as we had observed from our window it was with the abstracted air of a man unconscious of its impulse. We dined with Mr Crichton at his apartments where we met Mr Andrew Amos & Mr Leith. In the afternoon we attended divine service at Trinity College Chapel. It is a simple & elegant modern building, 204 ft in length including the ante-chapel, 33 ft, 8 inches broad & 32 ft high. It has a flat stuccoed ceiling & profusely wrought pediment & a little gallery on each side. On each side of the entrance at the east end is a statue - that on the right is an emblematic figure of Glory, an Italian statue by Barrata presented to the University by Peter Burrell Esq., and that on the left a figure of the Duke of Somerset by Rysbrack. In the middle of the north side is a statue of George the 1st by Rysbrack & on the south side a corresponding one of George the 2d by Wilton.

On the walls on each side of the altar are 2 old paintings representing the figures of our Saviour & St John the Baptist on one side, & the Virgin Mary & Elizabeth, the mother of John on the other in perspective niches. In the ante-chapel is an exquisitely beautiful statue by Roubiliac of Sir Isaac Newton. The intensity of thought & eager brightness of his countenance seem to express the mental act of pursuing one of his second original conceptions, his left foot is advanced & in his right hand he holds a prism. The drapery is admirable. This monument was erected at the expense of Dr Smith, Master of the College in 1755. The Chancellor after the service of the chapel, walked with the Bishop of Bristol in the cloister of Nevile's Court & was followed by a multitude of people of which we contributed to form a part.

Monday 1 July

We went between 11 & 12 o'clock to the Senate House where the Chancellor presided to confer degrees. It stands in the centre of Trumpington street & forms the north side of a small quadrangle as the Schools & the Public Library to the West. On the south side of the square is part of King's College Chapel & on the East St Mary's Church separated by the street. The Senate House is a handsome edifice of Corinthian order built of Portland stone & adorned with pilasters between a double row of windows with a balustrade surrounding the top. In the centre of the south & principal front is a pediment supported by 4 fluted columns, & at the east end a similar one which is the usual entrance into the building. The magnificent room within is 101 ft long, 12 broad & 32 high. It has a flat stuccoed ceiling profusely wrought & the lower part of the walls is wainscoted. At the west end the wainscoting is framed in a little bow with fluted columns supporting a pediment & a little gallery on each side. Below this on steps covered with crimson carpeting is the state chair of the Chancellor & on the left one for the High Steward. A small gallery is carried along the walls on each side of the room. On each side of the entrance at the east end is a statue - that on the right is an emblematic figure of Glory, an Italian statue by Barrata presented to the University by Peter Burrell Esq., and that on the left a figure of the Duke of Somerset by Rysbrack. In the middle of the north side is a statue of George the 1st by Rysbrack & on the south side a corresponding one of George the 2d by Wilton.

The lower part of these statues was now concealed.

The Senate House
by little rostra raised for the occasion & the side walls & lower end of the room were hid with scaffolding. The area below was filled with benches leaving only a narrow passage in the middle. The upper end was divided by a low partition & occupied by noblemen, doctors, heads of houses &c in their robes, & ladies of distinction, who being all magnificently dressed, formed a brilliant constellation of gaiety & splendor.

Sir Sydney Smith as he walked up the room to this spot was saluted with loud huzzas & the Duke who arrived about ½ an hour after, met with a similar greeting. Some delay took place after His Highness was seated in his official chair on account of the diplomas not having properly styled the graduates for honorary degrees, & a long & tedious discussion took place which was conducted in low whispers round a table covered with papers between the Chancellor, Proctors, Orator &c. At length a string of noblemen came forward to receive their degrees & the Public Orator, Mr Tatham MA of St John’s, delivered a Latin oration in praise of each.

The noblemen advanced to the entrance of the partition where the Orator was standing, according to the order of their rank, & when each had received his quota of panegyric, was ushered within the division & took his station standing in a range on each side of the Duke. They presented themselves in the following rotation – Marquis of Lansdowne, Marquis of Hartington, Earl of Bristol, Earl of Hardwicke, High Steward, Lord Carylston, Lord George Cavendish, Lord John Townshend, Lord Henniker, Lord Erskine, 2 sons of Lord Dundas, Honble. Mr Cavendish, Honble. David Erskine, Mr Penn, Sir Eyre Coote – Doctors ad Eundem – Bishop of Norwich, Sir Sydney Smith & Sir James Crawford. To each of these noblemen & gentlemen the Public Orator paid an appropriate compliment in Latin & the applause of the assembly was proportional to the popularity of its object. In Lord Erskine’s panegyrics the Orator descanted on his attachment to the trial by jury & a thunder of applause vibrated thro’ the assembly. Sir Eyre Coote seemed to imagine this to be the climax of his eulogy & was advancing to take his station within the hall, when the Public Orator gently detained him, & telling him that he had not yet finished his declamation, resumed his rhetorical flourishes. Sir Eyre Coote was received with considerable marks of favor & the short but comprehensive eulogy on Sir Sydney Smith was interrupted & followed by reiterated bursts of applause.

Having taken the oaths & advanced by turn to the foot of the throne, the Chancellor took their hands & conferred on them the honorary degrees of Doctors & then whispered something in the ear of each & dismissed them with a shake of the hand. About 20 other gentlemen followed who received the degrees of master of arts which they were entitled to at this time as members of the University. We left the house some time before these ceremonies were concluded & employed an hour or two in continuing our survey of the town. Margaret & Mary had quitted it some time before to go with Mr Crichton & Mr Leith to a public breakfast given by the University in the gardens of Sidney college; the Chancellor honoured it with his presence when the formalities at the Senate House were concluded.

We walked up Trinity street to the point where this & Bridge street meet, which is remarkable only as being the situation of the Sepulchre church, a curious little old building of a perfectly circular form. It is said originally to have been a Jewish synagogue, but according to the Cambridge guide is more likely to have been built in the reign of Henry the 1st, a few years after the order of the Knights Templar was instituted, & given to the Templars by some of their relations or friends who were in the crusade when that order was in the low state of poverty which preceded its immense opulence. St Sepulchre is the oldest church of the form in England. Proceeding up Bridge Street we crossed a handsome bridge over the Cam which after washing the west side of the town, turns to water the northern also, & came to St. Mary Magdalene college, the only one that stands on the northwest side of the river in that part of the town called the Castle End. It is a small & mean looking college consisting of 2 courts, the first of which is the largest. On the north side of the court is the chapel & master’s lodge & on the east the hall. A passage on the right of the hall leads into the 2d little court on the east side of which is a stone building supported on round arches forming a cloister; in the centre of the building are the words Bibliotheca Pepysiana. There is a wing on each side containing the apartment of the fellows, & at the back is a pleasant garden bounded by the river on the South side & ornamented with a terrace walk & green on the North. This college was founded by Edward Stafford, Duke of Buckingham in the year 1519 on the
site of the priory of St. Giles's, by the name of Buckingham college, & it seems to have been unfinished at the time of the attainder & death of this nobleman & must have been forfeited to the crown since in the year 1542, Henry the 8th made a grant of it to Lord Audley, Baron Walden & Lord Chancellor of England, & the society was incorporated by the name of the master & fellows of Magdalen College in the fair University of Cambridge.

Magdalen street leads to the Castle at the north western extremity of the town. Nothing remains of this castle except a square tower of very large dimensions with an arched entrance towards the street blocked up. Mr Grose in his antiquities says it was built by William the Conqueror in the 1st year of his reign for the purpose of awing his rebellious subjects. At a little distance from the building is a large artificial mound, probably the site of the keep, tho' no vestige of it remains. The summit of this elevation commands a pleasing view of the town with the noble view of the colleges, the windings of the Cam & the champain level on all sides beyond. Near the castle is a handsome county gaol, created in 1804. Mr Crichton & his brother drank tea with us, & in the evening my father, sister, Joseph & I went to a grand miscellaneous concert at the Senate House. The music was under the direction of Professor Hague of Trinity Hall. The principal singers were Braham, Catalani, Mr Ashe, & Bellamy; & Mr Lindley was the first instrumental performer. The Chancellor entered the house amidst the loud huzzas of the crowded assembly & as soon as he was seated God save the King was called for, & sung by the first voices in the music gallery with much energy & feeling. The Duke retired at the beginning of the second act in order to sup with the Master & Fellows of Peter House, & just at this moment Braham came forward with his second song & not perceiving what was going forward below, mistook the cheers which the Duke received on his exit as expressions of favor towards himself, which he acknowledged by repeated bows. It was not till His Highness had nearly gained the door & still louder huzzas & the waving of hats arrested the attention of poor Braham, that he discovered his mortifying mistake. His performance concluded with Rule Britannia which was demanded with enthusiasm by the patriotic assembly.

Tuesday 2 July

The Chancellor again went to the Senate House to preside at the creation of degrees & bestow the awards of the prize compositions. He sat on the throne as before, with the Vice Chancellor on his right hand & the High Steward on his left. The gallery was filled with undergraduates, bachelor of arts & ladies who occupied the front row; the area was crowded with members of the Senate & their visitors & the upper inclosed part was occupied as on the preceding day. I was not in the house at the commencement of the ceremonies but was informed of what passed there by some of the party who went before. Masters of Arts were first created after which Dr Ramsden, Deputy Regius Professor of Divinity in the room of Dr Watson Bishop of Llandaff, charged 4 doctors of Divinity in a Latin oration in which he alluded to the late bill of Lord Sidmouth & protested against an injudicious interference with the Dissenters, on whose talents & integrity he bestowed great commendation. Dr Jowett of Trinity Hall, Regius Professor of Civil Law, next charged 2 doctors of Civil Law in a speech of some length etc & afterwards Dr Hague presented Mr Jay for his Doctor’s degree in Music.

Many ludicrous ceremonies attended these initiations, such as putting a matrimonial ring on the fingers, kissing the cheeks etc which excited much amusement among the spectators & even the self-collected dignity of the Chancellor was not entirely proof against some risible emotion. The conferring of degrees was succeeded by the recitation of the prize compositions which were delivered from the little rostra erected before the statues of the Kings. The first was a Latin essay by Mr Edward Alderson of Caius, comparing the merits of the Ancients & Moderns in Dialogue, which gained the first of the prizes of fifteen guineas, given by the representatives of the University to the Senior Bachelors. This composition was received with great applause, & followed by another on the same subject from Mr Edward Smedley of Trinity. These two young men were then escorted to Chancellor by the Senior Bedell & received from his hands with a whispered compliment, a check for the amount of their prizes. The next reciter was Mr RC
Blomfield of Trinity, one of the Chancellor's Medalists for the last year, who delivered a declamatory panegyric in Latin on the preceding Chancellor of the University, followed by a general compliment to Alma Mater & particularly to the present Chancellor. His manner was energetic & the composition obtained considerable applause. Mr Blomfield was followed by Mr Bailey of Trinity, who recited a Greek ode in imitation of Sappho & 2 Latin elegiacs, one after the manner of Anthologia, & the other of Martial. The ode was 'In obitum Illustriissima Principissa Amelia' received gold medals worth 5 guineas each, being Sir William Browne's prizes for the present year. The last mentioned ode in imitation of Horace 'Proelium cum Gallio in Busaci Montibus commissum' received gold medals worth 5 guineas each, being Sir William Browne's prizes for the present year.

After leaving the Senate House we employed an hour or two in examining a few of the colleges in the South Eastern part of the town. The first to which attention was directed was Christ Church opposite to St Andrew's Church in the street of the same name. It is a pretty looking college faced with stone, & is entered from the street by a handsome tower & gateway, which opens into a large modern quadrangle, on the north side of which is the Hall, a pretty room with 6 windows, one of which at the upper end is a bow. The lower sides of the room are wainscoted & painted green, the upper end is ornamented with the picture of an old lady kneeling at her devotions with some carved arms above. The portrait represents the Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond & Derby, & mother of Henry the 7th who founded this college in the year 1505, on the site of a monastery called God's House. Henry the 6th, having founded this religious house, is also commemorated as a founder. Thro' a passage on the east side of the quadrangle we enter a kind of garden court, in which is a handsome & uniform pile of ground building, & behind this is a meadow, ornamented with a row of lime trees in the middle & surrounded by a wall.

To the south of Christ Church in the same street is Emmanuel College, a handsome stone building consisting of one spacious modern quadrangle. The west side towards the street presents an elegant regular front of the Ionic order, with a pediment & pillars in the centre. Within on this side is a handsome arcade, & on the east side opposite is a cloister of 13 arches with a gallery above which appears of earlier architecture than the rest of the court. The south side of the quadrangle is formed by a uniform range of apartments, adorned with a balustrade & parapet at top, & opposite to it on the north side are the hall, combination room & master's lodge. The hall is a neat room with a rich fretwork ceiling & wainscoted walls. There are two large corresponding bow windows at the upper end of the room, & over the screen at the lower end is a music gallery. In the middle of the clois-
ter in the east side is the entrance into the chapel, which including a small antechapel is 84 feet long, 30 broad & 27 high. It is a gloomy room with dirty wainscoating & shabby stalls. The pavement is of black & white marble, the ceiling is stuccoed & the windows plain. At the east end is a pediment of oak supported by fluted gilt pillars, with a painting over the altar by Ammiconi of the prodigal son. There is an organ with a little gallery on each side. In a small room on the right hand of entrance into the chapel, is the skeleton of a man in a glass case, said to have been a fellow commoner of this college who was hanged for the murder of his father’s servant.

A range of brick building fronting a meadow behind this eastern side of the quadrangle extends in a parallel line with the chapel to the South. Emmanuel College was founded by Sir Walter Mildmay of Chelmsford in Essex, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster & of the Exchequer, upon the site of a Dominican convent of Black Friars. He obtained a charter of incorporation from Queen Elizabeth in 1584. We surveyed this college while the Duke was visiting it in his circuit of all the colleges of the University, & followed him to Downing, a little way out of the town near the entrance from London. This college is now building in pursuance of the will of Sir George Downing, Bart. of Gamlingay Park in the county of Cambridge, who died in 1749 & ordained the application of his estates in default of heirs from his nearest relatives, to the founding & endowing a college in this University. It was incorporated by charter in 1800. The architect employed in the erection of this new college is Mr Wilkins of the town, & the architecture is an ornamented Ionic.

There are at present but two detached houses completed which are constructed of white brick with handsome stone fronts. The smallest is inhabited by the Professor of Medicine, Sir Busick Harwood who is at present the only resident member. The other which is intended for the head of the college, is a large noble building with 6 fluted columns raised on steps forming the west front & 4 columns the South. If the rest of the buildings of this college are constructed in a style corresponding with these two, Downing College will rank as one of the first in architectural beauty & magnificence in the University. There are about 20 acres of land belonging to it which remain for the present in an undressed & neglected state. In the afternoon we walked down to a little willowy island in the Cam below Jesus College where we took 2 boats & rowed down the river to Chesterton, a village on its banks about 2 miles distant. Nathaniel Crichton, my sister & I were rowed by Joseph & Mr Amos, & Mr Crichton took the skulls of the other boat in which were my Father, Mrs Ferard & Margaret. The banks of the river are flat bordered with willows & rushes & the spire of Chesterton Church rising above the trees on the left as you approach the village is the only pleasing object in the whole distance. A naked flat on the right between Cambridge & Chesterton is the place where Stourbridge fair is held within the jurisdiction of the University. The Cam is not navigable above Cambridge. It rises in Hertfordshire & after washing the classic walls of this consecrated seat of the Muses, passes on towards Ely, above which it meets the Ouse & loses its distinctive name in a union with this river which from hence pursues its course to Lynn where it falls into the ocean.

Wednesday 3 July

Before breakfast we visited King’s College. It is situated south of Clare Hall on the banks of the river & consists of several detached buildings. The old court is situated on the north side of the chapel between the Public Schools & Clare Hall. The new building fronting the river forms the west side of an area which has the chapel on the North & a brick building on the East. This modern building is 236 ft. long, 46 broad & near 50 high, & was built by Mr Gibbs of fine Portland stone. It has 3 stories in height & in the centre of the second one is a high Doric arch or portico leading from the court at the back to the lawn & river in front. There is a handsome bridge over the river & a fine vista of elms on the opposite side. The chapel of this college is as perfect & splendid a specimen of Gothic architecture in its latest & most refined era as any in the Kingdom. It is a regular building, 316 ft. long, with 12 large beautiful windows on each side between equidistant buttresses which terminate at top in beautiful knotted pinnacles rising 11 ft. above the rich open-work parapet that surmounts the walls. The 5 buttresses on each side nearest the west end are ornamented...
mented with roses, crowns & portcullises, the rest are plain. Below the large windows are 9 smaller, projecting in a low wing from the base of the upper & occupying the spaces between the buttresses. They begin under the 2d window from the east end & terminate under the 9th towards the West. Under the 11th large window on each side toward this end is a highly ornamented entrance. In the centre of the east & west ends is a fine arched gateway with a canopied niche on each side, & from each of the four angles of the building arises an elegant slender octagonal turret to the height of 140 1/2 ft, the upper part of which from the level of the open-work parapet of the walls, is very richly ornamented. The breadth of the east and west ends is 84 ft. & the height from the ground to the top of the battlements of the walls 90. The length of the interior of the chapel from east to west is 291 ft., the breadth 45% & the height 78.

On entering the chapel, the eye passes thro' the long-drawn perspective of the noble building, arrested only by the screen or rood-loft of the choir to the great east window whose richly stained panes form a noble termination & in conjunction with the other painted windows of the chapel, shed a sober, chastened light throughout the place congenial with the religious feeling of the spectator. The west window alone is left plain to give light to the chapel. The other 25 are all painted, & the ornamental walls & vaulted roof of the chapel frequently receive the partial & softened reflection of their many-coloured rays. The upper division of the windows represents the history of the Old Testament, & the lower part the various events of our Saviour's life. They have the usual indistinctness & confusion of this branch of the arts, but the colors are strong & vivid.

There are 2 roofs to this chapel between which a man may walk upright. The upper one is of timber covered with lead, the inner roof is on stone & arched. It has no pillars to support, being upheld by the turrets & buttresses of the walls alone. It is of exquisite workmanship in the most elegant & florid style of Gothic. The intersecting ribs which mark its fan or palm-tree sculpture are united in the centre with large pendant projections, fixed at equal distances & adorned alternately with roses and portcullises. Each of these perpendicularly hanging stones is a tun in weight & 3 ft in thickness. The clustered ribs of the antechapel which run up between the windows are ornamented with various scattered pieces of carved work, such as the flower de luce & large roses & portcullises surmounted by regal crowns & canopied niches. In the centre of one of the roses on the West side towards the South is a small figure of the Virgin Mary. About the middle of the building a curiously carved wooden screen divides the antechapel from the choir. It was erected in 1534 when Anne Boleyn was Queen to Henry the 8th & in a pannel[sic] nearest the wall on the right, are the arms of this ill-fated Queen, impaled with those of her royal husband. On one of the pannels on the same side is a curious piece of sculpture representing the casting down [of] the rebellious angels from heaven, & in the pannel nearest the choir door on the left are the arms & supporters of Henry the 8th, executed with great beauty. The other parts of this curious screen are ornamented with grotesque heads & figures, elegant fancy scrolls &c. A handsome organ with 2 rows of gilt pipes rests upon the screen, in the centre of which are finely carved folding doors leading into the choir. They were erected in the reign of James the 1st & are ornamented with the sculptured arms of that monarch. The stalls of which there are two rows on each side [of] the choir are beautifully carved in wood. The back part of the upper row consists of 34 pannels in 15 of which on each side are the arms of all the kings of England from Henry the 5th to James the 1st, the arms of the 2 universities of Cambridge & Oxford & of the 2 colleges King's & Eton. The supporters of the arms advance from the pannels in full proportion. On the right & left of the entrance into the choir are Provost's and Vice Provost's stalls. At the back of the Provost's are sculptured St George & the Dragon. A part of the walls on the north & south sides has been disfigured with oak wainscoating adorned with Corinthian pilasters, but the eastern extremity has fallen under the classic hand of Mr Wyatt who has harmonized its character with that of the rest of the building.

Over the altar is a painting presented to the college by the Earl of Carlisle, formerly of this college. It was purchased by his Lordship in his travels as the work of Danl. da Volterra. The subject is the taking down from the Cross. On the north and south side of the chapel are nine little rooms or chantries, some of which on the south side are used as libraries. In one is a marble monument to the memory of the Marquis of Blandford, eldest son of the great Duke of Marlborough, who died of the smallpox. King's College was founded & endowed by Henry the 6th in 1441. Henry the 7th & 8th completed the building of the chapel. After breakfast we visited the Public Library & completed a hasty examination of the remainder of the colleges.

The Schools & Public Library form the West side of the Senate House Square. The building is low & the arcade in front is heavy & clumsy. It is constructed of stone & the top is ornamented with urns. The ground floor of this structure is occupied by the schools, & the Public Library is above them, surrounding a small court. At the SE corner of the building is a geometrical staircase leading up to the library from a small vestibule filled with ancient & chiefly mutilated statues & monuments many of which were brought from Greece by the present Dr Clarke of Jesus. We were conducted thro' the library in so hurried & negligent a manner that we could not examine any things worthy of observation. In a cabinet we were shewn the ancient Papyrae engraved with a stylus, some Chinese playing cards, coins, medals, &c, in other parts of the room, an uncased mummy falling to decay by its exposure to the air, a head of Charles the 12th cast immediately after his death with the impression of the ball in his forehead &c. Among the most curious contents of the library are the first editions of the Greek & Latin classics, & the greatest part of the works of
William Caxton, the first printer in England, a very ancient manuscript of the Gospels & Acts of the Apostles on vellum in Greek & Latin capitals, given to the University by Theodore Beza, some fine Eastern manuscripts &c., none of which we saw. A great part of this public library consisting of 30,000 volumes, was given to the University by George the 1st who purchased it from the executors of Dr Moore, Bishop of Ely.

The colleges we had now to visit were situated chiefly in Trumpington St. The first we entered was Catharine Hall, east of Queen's College. The western front opposite this college has a covered arch or portico, & the eastern is open to Trumpington street, from which it is divided by handsome iron palisades & an area planted with tall and handsome elms. This college was founded in 1475 by Robert Woodlark, STP Chancellor of the University in the reign of Edward the 4th. It consists of a large quadrangle on the north side of which are the chapel & hall. Queen's college is situated on the river west of Catharine's Hall & South of King's. It is comprised of 2 quadrangles, the first open to the street can hardly be deemed deserving of that name. The chapel with a little cloister on each side is on the west side of this front, & the north & south sides are formed by the projecting extremities of this line of buildings which form the parallel side of the larger court behind. The chapel has an altar piece of Norway oak & a painted window above, representing our Saviour's crucifixion between the two thieves. The ceiling is of oak, ornamented with gilding. The master's lodge is a large brick & stone building on the east side of Trumpington street facing the college gates. This college, the most ancient in the University was founded by Hugh de Balsam sub-
prior of Ely & afterwards bishop of the see in the year 1257 [sic]. The church of St. Mary the Less adjoining St Peter's College, stands upon the site of St Peter's Church whence the college took its name.

At the southern extremity of the town on the eastern side of Trumpington Street, is a plain modern brick building, called Addenbrooke hospital, from the name of the founder Dr John Addenbrooke, fellow of Catharine Hall. It was opened in 1766, & has since been supported by voluntary contributions. Benedict or Bene't college, also denominated Collegium Corporis Christi & Beatæ Mariæ Virginis is situated near St. Benedict's church, which is appropriated to it, in a little street of the same name leading out of Trinity Street to the East. It consists principally of 1 quadrangle of neat stone buildings, supported by numerous buttresses. This college was founded in 1350 by 2 religious societies or guilds in the town of Cambridge, called Corpus Christi, or the Blessed Virgin Mary, which united under the protection of Henry, Duke of Lancaster, surnamed Torto Collo, who obtained a license from Edward the 3rd to convert these houses into a college.

We hastened from this college to see the balloon which Mr Sadler was to ascend in from the great court of Trinity, where crowds of people had been assembling during the morning. We chose our station on the lawn before King's College where we shivered in a cold drizzling rain above an hour & a half waiting its appearance. The Duke of Gloucester ascended the turret of the great gate of Trinity at 2 o'clock, & in about ½ an hour afterwards the shouts of the spectators announced the disengagement of the aerial vehicle from the ground. It rose gradually, & crossing the south side of Trinity court, passed over Clare Hall where it first met our sight, to the west end of King's College Chapel, whence it proceeded to rise steadily in a southern direction piercing the thin clouds that floated in the sky, till it was gradually enveloped in their folds & hid from our sight. It was visible between 2 & 3 minutes. We then hurried home to dress for a grand public Breakfast given by the Undergraduates of Trinity College in Nevile's Court. They had subscribed 3 guineas each for 4 tickets & 1200 were issued.

The tables were placed under the cloisters in the north, south & west sides, & were covered with meats, ices, fruits &c, arranged & adorned with considerable taste. After rising from the benches, we found the doors of the Library were thrown open, & retired for a few minutes to see this magnificent room which is by far the finest in the University & perhaps in the Kingdom. It is ascended by a handsome staircase from a little hall or vestibule in which is a small but valuable collection of ancient Roman monuments, the gift of Sir John Cotton of Stratton. There is also an ancient marble with a long inscription from Sigeum, bequeathed to the college by Edwd Wortley Montague Esqr, & sent here by his daughter the Countess of Bute, with a sum of money to purchase a bust of her father. The steps of the staircase are of black & white marble, similar to the flooring of the library & the
wainscoating is of cedar. The library is 200 ft long, 40 broad & 30 high. The roof is flat & quite plain & the walls are ornamented with pilasters of the composite order. There are 24 classes or book-cases on each side, ornamented with beautiful wreaths of flowers, little angels heads in lime wood, executed by Gibbons. On the top of the classes on one side of the room are ranged some fine busts of the ancient philosophers, poets &c. & on the other of the English moderns. Over the folding doors which open into the room are 3 full length portraits, & there are 3 corresponding ones at the opposite end. They represent the Duke of Albermarle, son to Genl. Monk, who was so instrumental in promoting the Restoration, Dr Gale, Dean of York, Mr Gale, Sir Henry Packering, Dr Nevile who built the court of this college which bears his name, & Dr Abraham Cowley, the poet. At each end of the room are 2 beautiful busts on marble pedestals of Ray, Willoughby, Bacon & Newton, executed I believe by Roubiliac. At the south end of the room is a painted window, executed by Mr Peckett of York from the design by Signor Cipriani which does but little credit to his taste and judgment [sic]. The disregard of the unities in its composition is flagrant. His present Majesty is represented seated on a throne under a canopy attended & advised by the British Minerva, & is in the act of presenting a laurel chaplet to Sir Isaac Newton, a member of this college, who is brought forward by the Genius of the place, while the Lord Chancellor Bacon, another distinguished member of this society, is seated in a corner below with a pen & scroll, apparently registering [sic] the event. This painting cost 500£ & was the gift of Dr Robert Smith, Master of, & a great benefactor of this college. At each end of the room are two little recesses or niches in the book cases, in one of which on the right hand of the door as you enter, is a copy of the original Magna Charta, & in the other on the left the skeleton of a man & a monkey. In the niche at the opposite end of the room are small antique figures of Esculapius, & a brick covered with hieroglyphics which was found with 3 others among the ruins of ancient Babylon & presented to the college by Col John Malcolm. The building of this library was projected by Dr Isaac Barrow, who collected the subscriptions for it amounting to 20000£. Sir Christopher Wren was the architect.

The weather cleared up in the evening & the festivities of the table were followed by a dance between the avenue of lime trees, chalked with the Chancellor's & University's Arms & intersected by a cord which divided the dancers into 4 sets. My sisters Chancellor's & University's Arms & intersected by a cord which divided the dancers into 4 sets. My sisters Mansels, the Bishop's daughters who attracted all the young noblemen about them. They are young & of graceful figure but rather diminutive in height & with little pretension to beauty. The Duke's band & that of the 2d Royal Somerset Militia played on the walks & the lawn. The south of the avenue was ornamented with marquees in which were distributed tea, coffee & ices.

The Duke walked round several times & when he approached the platforms, the lively jig of the country dances was suddenly exchanged for God save the King, an interruption which was not congenial with the exhilarated spirits of the dancers, & the shout of welcome & respect which had hitherto unanimously hailed His Highness's appearance was now mingled with the hiss of irritability & the murmur of impatience. This little ebullition of selfish feeling was however soon overruled, & His Highness's last appearance before the company previous to his quitting the University was saluted with loud & unmixed applause. He left Cambridge about 6 o'clock & in about 2 hours after another burst of noisy acclamations announced the approach of Mr Sadler who had just been dragged in his chaise thro' the town by the mirthful populace. He had ended his aerial excursion in a field near Stanstead in Essex, 23 miles from Cambridge. I danced one dance with Mr Waddington the young man who had recited his cousin's ode in the Senate House the preceding day, & towards the close of the evening we were joined by his brother, & returned with Mr Crichton & Nathaniel to Joseph's rooms. Mr Loft, a pensioner of Caius was of the party & staid to supper after Crichtons & Waddingtons had taken their leave. The Trinity entertainment crowned the whole festivities of the Installation, & the following morning, we bade adieu to Cambridge & set off to my uncle's at Waltham to be present at the anniversary dinner.

"FINIS"
Law at University College, London and afterwards Downing Professor of the Laws of England


17 Giovanni Baratta (1670–1762). His statue ‘Academic glory’ is now in the Fitzwilliam Museum.

18 John Michael Rysbrack (1693?–1770). One of the principal sculptors working in England during this period.

19 Joseph Wilton (1772–1803). Royal Academician and sculptor to George III.

20 Thomas Erskine, 1st Baron (1750–1823). A former alumnus of Trinity and for a short period Lord Chancellor of England. He was an eloquent supporter of Liberals.

21 Doctors with the same degree from another university.

22 Sir Eyre Coote (1762–1823). An army man, at one time Governor of Jamaica. Ill health forced him to resign and he subsequently became increasingly eccentric.

23 Sydney Smith (1771–1845). There is no evidence that he was knighted. A Canon of St. Paul’s and a leading preacher of his day. His wit and argumentative powers contributed greatly to changing public opinion on the question of Catholic emancipation.

24 Mary Griffin, one of Jane Griffin’s two sisters.


27 Angelica Catalani (1780–1849). Italian soprano whose bravura performances were said to bring audiences to their feet.

28 Andrew Ashe (1759–1838). Irish flautist.


31 Angelica Catalani (1780–1849). Italian soprano whose bravura performances were said to bring audiences to their feet.

32 Andrew Ashe (1759–1838). Irish flautist.

33 Hymn by Charles Wesley to celebrate a victory of the British over the French at the Battle of Blenheim.

34 Giovanni Battista Cipriani (1727–85). The first exponent in England of Neoclassicism playing an important part in directing 18th century English academic taste.

35 William Wilkins (1778–1839). Architect whose buildings in the Greek and Gothic style are to be seen in a number of Cambridge colleges.

36 The building of Wilkins’ screen fronting King’s College (1824–28) involved the demolition of some existing buildings of which this was presumably one.


38 Jacopo Ammiconi (fl.1568). His ‘Descent from the Cross’ is best known.

44 ie the University Library.

45 Presumably Charles XII of Sweden (1682–1718) killed in a war against Norway on 30 November 1718.

46 Theodore Beza (1519–1605). French theologian. In 1581 he donated to Cambridge University the celebrated *Codex Bezae* (D), a 5th century manuscript containing texts of the Gospels and Acts.

47 Sacrae Theologiae Professor (Professor of Sacred Theology) denoting degree of Doctor of Divinity.

48 Bishop Hugh of Balsam founded the college in 1380.

49 Literally ‘twisted neck’.

50 Old Final Greek city in the vicinity of Troy.

51 John Ray (1627–1705) naturalist, predecessor to Linnaeus. He was accompanied on a number of his botanical expeditions by a fellow botanist from Trinity Francis Willughby (Willoughby).

52 Also spelled Peckitt.

53 Giovanni Battista Cipriani (1727–85). The first exponent in England of Neoclassicism playing an important part in directing 18th century English academic taste.

54 Isaac Barrow (1630–1677). Master of Trinity, eminent mathematician and classical scholar. He was succeeded in the Lucassian professorship in 1699 by his former pupil Isaac Newton.

55 Andrew Ashe (1759–1838). Irish flautist.

56 Flamboyant French Benoît de Sainte-Croix, Bishop of Tonnerre (1655–1712) who led an unorthodox life. On his death a large sum of money was left to Cambridge University.

57 Classical Greek poetess (610–580 BC).

58 Classical Greek poetess (610–580 BC).

59 A collection of classical Greek epigrams, songs, epitaphs etc.

60 On the death in 1810 of Princess Amelia, youngest child of George III.

61 Celebrating Wellington’s defeat of Napoleon’s General Masséna at the Battle of Busaco, Portugal, 27 September 1810.

62 Henry Addington, 1st Viscount Sidmouth (1757–1844). A zealous churchman. In 1811 he brought in a bill requiring all dissenting ministers to be licensed and restraining unlicensed preachers. There was a considerable outcry against it and the bill was thrown out of Lords on its second reading.


64 Calcium carbonate. An important component of the shells of molluscs.

65 They contained a number of poems celebrating events of the century including the Battle of Blenheim.

66 Also spelled Peckitt.

67 Giovanni Battista Cipriani (1727–85). The first exponent in England of Neoclassicism playing an important part in directing 18th century English academic taste.

68 Isaac Barrow (1630–1677). Master of Trinity, eminent mathematician and classical scholar. He was succeeded in the Lucassian professorship in 1699 by his former pupil Isaac Newton.

69 Their father, Bishop Mansel, Master of Trinity, was widowed in 1803. According to GM Trevelyan, in his history of the college, Mansel’s aim in later life was ‘to make the Lodge a pleasant centre of hospitality whence he could marry off a bevy of pretty daughters who adored their venerable papa’. [Trinity College; an historical sketch. Cambridge, 1972, p.83.]

The prints reproduced in the text are taken from Joseph Wilson’s *Memorabilia Cantabrigiae*. London, 1803
Contents

The Ring-Ditch and the Hollow: excavation of a Bronze Age ‘shrine’ and associated features at Pampisford, Cambridgeshire
Joshua Pollard

A Great Circle: Investigations at Arbury Camp.
Christopher Evans and Mark Knight

Unravelling the Morphology of Litlington, Cambridgeshire
Susan Oostuizen

‘Gateways to Heaven’: the approaches to the Lady Chapel, Ely
Philip Dixon

A Reconstruction of the Medieval Cambridge Market Place
Peter Bryan and Nick Wise

A late Sixteenth Century Pit Group from Pembroke College, Cambridge
Andrew Hall

The Seventeenth Century Water-Meadows at Babraham
Christopher Taylor

Jane Griffin’s Journal of a Visit to Cambridge June-July 1811
Harold King

Reviews
Alison Taylor, Peter Warner

Fieldwork in Cambridgeshire 2001
Helen Lewis

Summaries of papers presented at the Spring Conference 9 March 2001,
Lady Mitchell Hall, Cambridge: Ely – archaeology, architecture, and historical perspectives

Index

Abbreviations

THE CONDUIT: local history and archaeology organisations and events