THE LINES FORMED ROUND OXFORD, WITH NOTICES OF THE PART TAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY IN BEHALF OF THE ROYALIST CAUSE, BETWEEN 1642 AND 1646.

THAT Oxford was encircled with a continuous and regular fortification, systematically disposed, appears to be undoubted; some slight traces are still remaining where they originally existed. The authority of Anthony à Wood is of itself sufficient to justify the assertion, and an old map of Oxford still remains, where "old fortifications" are delineated in many points, on the circuit of the place.

The exact nature of these fortifications it is difficult at once to state; the sketch which accompanies this notice is copied (nominally) from Anthony à Wood, but yet Wood's own words would appear to disprove the truth of this delineation, while the interpolations in the Latin translation of the "*Historia et Antiquitates Universitatis Oxoniensis*" (where the original plate exists), puzzle the inquirer as to the facts therein related, whether as regards the engineer of the lines, or the entire authenticity of the plan that is given.

As, however, the English edition of "The History and Antiquities of the University of Oxford," by Anthony à Wood, published in 1796, by John Gutch, of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, appears to be that best worthy of belief, being printed from Wood's original manuscript, it will be better, probably, to extract (for want of more detailed information, which I had hoped to obtain at Queen's College) what is said in Wood's Annals, of the making of the lines round Oxford, and the siege of that place, and then to state what there may appear against such statement, and the reasons why, in spite of such objections, credit has not been refused to the Latin translation, although Gutch's edition of Wood has been preferred.

A letter was written by Charles I., at York, dated 7th July, 1642, directed to Dr. Prideaux, Bishop of Worcester, then Vice-Chancellor of the University, which was read in Convocation on Monday, July 11th, 1642. The tenor of which was, that Dr. Chaworth was authorised to receive and give receipts for money which the University might send;

to this application the Convocation assented, and agreed that whatever money the University was possessed of, whether in Saville's Mathematician's chest, Bodley's, or in the University chest, should be sent to the king. On this a large sum was given, for—"after the Convocation was ended, the keepers of the University chest took thence 860*l.* and delivered it into the hands of the said Dr. Chaworth, who gave them an acquittance for the receipt of it." That this was the case is evident by an order from the Parliament, dated 12th July, 1642, stating that—"Whereas the Lords and Commons in Parliament are informed, that attempts had been made to stop the collection of money to be raised by the Parliament for defence of the kingdome, and that the authorities (enumerating them) had endeavoured against law to take away the plate and treasure of the Colleges and University, and to send the same to York, for maintaining wars against the Parliament and the whole kingdome, they therefore declare the said colleges not bound by the Act of Convocation, forbid the giving of the treasure, and promise to bear them harmless."

Upon this the king wrote more than one letter, the first dated from the court at Beverley, 18th July (afterwards published to Convocation), wherein he presents his thanks, through Dr. Prideaux, to the University, for the testimony of their hearts towards him, and promises them protection.

This appears to be the first occasion on which the University had to declare so very decidedly between the Parliament and Charles; but on the 9th of August, the proclamation for the suppression of the rebellion came out, and immediately after the University began to put themselves in a posture of defence, and the "privileged mens' arms were called before Dr. Pinke, Deputy-Vice Chancellor, to be viewed, when not only privileged men of the University and their servants, but also many scholars appeared, bringing with them the furniture of every college that had arms."

They were divided then into four squadrons; two were musketeers, the third pikes, and the fourth halbards, and they were drilled.

"While these things were going on, the highway at the hither end of East bridge, just at the corner of the chaplain's quadrangle of Magdalen College, was blocked up with long timber logs, to keep out horsemen. A timber gate also was

set up at the end of the logs next towards the college, for common passage of carts and horses to bring provisions to the city, which gate was commonly kept shut at nights and chained up. There were three or four cart loads of stones also carried up to Magdalen College tower, to fling down upon the enemy at their entrance. Two posts were set up at South-gate, for a chain to run through them to block up that way against horsemen ; and a crooked trench, in form of a bow, made across the highway at the end of St. John's College Walks, next the New Park, to hinder the entrance of any forces that should come that way ; at which place, as also at East Bridge, was a very strict centinell kept every night."

Wood then goes on to describe the raising of bodies of troops, and their drilling within the University, and ends by saying, that, "August 29th, the court of guard was kept, and the watch solemnly appointed and kept that night by the scholars and certain troopers."

This is the first mention of the University, as connected with the actual defence of the place, and from this time for three or four years during the rebellion, they appear to have lost sight of their natural position as members of a scholastic community, and to have given themselves up to the defence of the place, and their ingenuity seems to have been somewhat primitive, since there is a notice that on "Sept. 2, *barbed arrows* were provided for one hundred scholars, to shoot against such soldiers that should come against them."

Nor was this the only instance in which archery, so long laid aside, was once more proposed to be introduced ; for a plan was devised of raising a regiment of bowmen, as appears from the following letter to the University from King Charles the First :—

"CHARLES R.

"Trustie and wellbeloved, wee greet you well. Whereas John Knightly, Esq. and Colonell, hath undertaken a very commendable and acceptable service for us, namely the raysing of a Regiment of twelve hundred Bowmen volunteers to be levied and furnished with suitable armes, for the furthering wheareof hee hath besought us to recommend his said undertaking to you ; to the end that you may permit him to raise the said Regiment out of this our Universitie

and the priviledged men theareof, whoe will voluntarilie list themselves for this service, and that you would consider of a waye for the maintaining at youre common charge of soe many of the sayd bowmen and officers as shall bee levyed out of our sayd Universitie and priviledged men. This undertaking and proposition is represented to us as that which may bee of very greate use and availe to us in the expedition wee shall make against the Rebells; wee have, theare-fore, given Commission to the sayd John Knightly to proceed in the levying of the said Regiment, and the same to command as Colonell. And wee heereby recommend him and the premises to your consideration and furtherance; and soe wee bid you farewell.

"Given at our Court at Oxford, the first daye of Octob. 1643."

On Sept. 9th, the University were informed that the fair pretences of the citizens of joining with the University and king's troops in the defence of the city, were good for nothing, that their minds were altered, that they had been communicating with the Parliament, and that it was reported that the Parliament had a purpose to send forces immediately against the king's troopers and the University for receiving them; in consequence of which information the troops marched to join the king on Sept. 10th, accompanied by a number of scholars as volunteers.

On the 12th, a considerable body of the Parliament troopers marched in, and were billeted in the place.

Sept. 14th, Lord Say, who had been appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Oxfordshire by the Parliament's authority, entered Oxford, and lodged at the Star Inn. He immediately gave orders that the works and trenches which the scholars had made across the highways about the city should be demolished.

It was now discussed between Lord Say and the chief officers of the forces in Oxford, whether, in consequence of the nature of the place, the strength of the situation, the plenty of the country, the nearness of London, and the disaffection of the University to the Parliament cause, it were not probable that the king, who was coming to Shrewsbury (in the direction of Oxford), might not probably make this a principal quarter for his forces, and fortify the city. It was suggested that it should be fortified and garrisoned on

behalf of the Parliament, and the governorship given to one Bulstrode Whitelocke, an Oxford man and officer of the Parliament, to which it is said the city willingly agreed. Lord Say, however, decided that it would not be advisable, imagining that Oxford would not be a place that Charles would settle in.

Lord Say, however, called the heads of houses together; told them they had forfeited their privileges by taking up arms against the Parliament, and threatened to leave a garrison to overawe them.

The parliamentary troops, however, having quitted Oxford before the battle of Edgehill (23rd Oct.), the University, too, having been disarmed, the citizens began to fortify their city, setting up posts and chains at every gate and postern, to the end, as it was reported, to keep out Prince Rupert and the king's forces. Wood says, "Whether this (meaning the *intention* of the city) be true, I know not." If it were so, they were shortly frightened into inconsistency, for on Oct. 29th, the king, with his army of footmen, came from Edgehill to Oxford, with Prince Rupert and his brother, Prince Maurice, Prince Charles, and James Duke of York. They came in their full march into the city, with above sixty or seventy colours borne before them which they had taken at Edgehill from the Parliamentary forces, when the mayor and citizens presented themselves to his Majesty at Pennylessbench, and gave him a considerable sum of money. Nov. 2nd., the troops marched to Abingdon; Nov. 3rd., the king, the prince and duke, with a troop of dragoons, went towards Reading, leaving behind Earls Bristol and Dorset, with Lords Andover and Digby, and an escort, who disarmed the city, and commenced providing arms, raising troops, and fortifying the place—particulars, unfortunately, are not given further than that on Nov. 30th, Charles having returned from Reading, a new gate of timber was set on the east bridge, and a bulwark raised between it and the corner of the Physic-Garden wall, which being soon finished, there were planted thereon two pieces of ordnance to secure the entrance that way. A trench, also, at that time, was making near to that of the scholars by the wall of St. John's College walks, for the defence of the University and city. Dec. 5th, the University bellman went about the city warning people to dig at the works through the New Park; and

according to that order the colleges sent men who worked for several days. The citizens, also, were warned to work at the bulwarks on the north side of St. Giles's Church, and the country by St. John's College walks, and the next day the king rode to see the said fortifications, when he found but twelve persons working on the city's behalf, whereas there should have been 122, of which neglect his Majesty took notice, and told them of it in the field.

I find no further notice of fortifications, or, indeed, of any systematic defence of the place, until April 19th, 1643, when a proclamation was issued for the collecting of arms and material of war, swords, corslets, head-pieces, &c., to the end that the University and city might be better defended on the king's going to Reading with his army, which he suddenly intended to do. The works and fortifications, also, did now go on apace, and those in St. Clement's parish, on the east side of Oxford, were about this time begun; these, with other fortifications about the city, were mostly contrived by one Richard Rallingson, Bachelor of Arts of Queen's College, who also had drawn a mathematical scheme or plot of the garrison. His endeavours in this nature gave so great satisfaction to the king, that he forthwith sent letters on his behalf to the University to confer the degree of Master of Arts upon him, which letter being read in Convocation, Oct. 17th, he was then admitted Master of Arts. The words "letters on his behalf," are here significant, as it shows that it was simply a request from the king to the University of Oxford, which does not receive royal mandates as the University of Cambridge does.

On June 5th, the Vice-Chancellor was desired by the king to call the heads of houses together, and with their help severally, to take notice in writing of all scholars and others, lodging and residing in the colleges and halls, between sixteen and sixty years of age, to the end that they be required to work one day in the week, or for every default to pay 12d. a-day. The whole also were to be enrolled for the defence of the place.

The works went on through June, half the colleges and halls working Monday, and half on Tuesday, from six to eleven in the morning, and from one to six at night; and every person to bring his tools with him. The fortifications that they were to work at were drawn through that part of

Christ Church Mead, that is next to Grand Pont Street. Whether or not the sketch given of the lines round Oxford is a tracing plan of an original object not carried out, or an accurate drawing of lines that were made (which I believe to have been the case), cannot now be positively ascertained. It seems certain that, if it were the original intention, it was not immediately and fully acted on, but that the lines were of gradual growth, modified and improved from time to time, as would appear from a notice, that in September and October thoughts were entertained of new fortifying the city (the works that were made not giving satisfaction); an attempt was made to raise new sums of money for the purpose, which was, with some delay and difficulty, done; and, in May, 1644, the scholars were newly arranged in battalions with the city levies, under the Earl of Dover. On the 14th May, "the regiment of scholars and strangers, newly listed and raised, mustered in Magdalen College Grove, to the number of 630, or thereabouts, giving very great contentment to the spectators, in seeing so many young men so docile;" and they, from day to day, manœuvred before the king in Christ Church Mead, and on Bullingdon Green. And now in May, 1644, their prowess was tried for the first time. On the 29th, being the Eve of the Ascension, the Earl of Essex and Sir W. Waller, coming with their forces from Abingdon, over Sandford Ferry, and so through Cowley, and over Bullingdon Green (that they might go towards Islip), faced the city for several hours, whilst their carriages (ordnance) slipped away behind them. Wood says it gave some terror to Oxford, and therefore two prayers, by his Majesty's appointment, were made and published, one for the safety of his Majesty's person, the other for the preservation of the University and city, to be used in all churches and chapels in them. In the afternoon of the same day, the scholars and citizens made an head, and marched out of the works at St. Clements, to see what they could do against the enemy's scouts that rode up and down. At length, meeting together, there was a skirmish between them, and two or three on each side slain or wounded; some of the Parliamentaries came in parties towards the works; but "whilst they were in that bravado, a shot was made by Sir John Haydon, from one of the great ordnance standing on the said bulwarks, which fell so happly amongst them (though at a great distance), that it

killed a trooper and hurt a horse, and put them into such a fright that they ran all presently towards their body, in great confusion and amazement."

In the year 1645, Sir Thomas Fairfax sat down before Oxford, for fifteen days, commencing May 22nd, and ending June 5th; he made his appearance first by some scattered horse near Cowley, May 19th, from thence they, with their horse and foot, passed over Bullingdon Green to Marston, showing themselves on Headington Hill.

May 22nd, he sat down before Oxford, and then began the siege, making a breastwork on the east side of Cherwell River, and a bridge over that part of the said river near Marston.

May 23rd, Godstow House was fired by the owner, David Walter, Esq., lest the enemy should make it a place of defence.

May 26th, Sir Thomas Fairfax put over four foot regiments and thirteen carriages, at the new bridge over the Cherwell River; he having his head quarters at Marston, Oliver Cromwell at Wytham, and Major Browne at Wolvercote.

May 27th, two regiments (the white and red), with two pieces of ordnance, marched over Isis at Godstow Bridge, and so by Botley to South Hinxsey; which party were continually playing on that in Sir Oliver Smyth's house (held by him of University college), standing without the south port, and continually guarded and relieved with soldiers out of Oxford garrison; but for the most part repelled with the loss of men and members. All this while the Governor of Oxford, Colonel W. Legge, seeing the Parliamenteers quiet besiegers, and that they fought only with their perspective glasses, was resolved to quicken them, and therefore, June 2nd, about one o'clock at night, he went himself, with nearly 1000 horse and foot, towards Headington Hill, where the Parliamenteers kept a strong guard, as well of horse as foot. While the Governor advanced up the hill, the Parliamenteers vapoured and cried aloud, that "the Cavaliers did only flourish, and durst not come up to them," wherefore, fearing lest their stay would not be long there, he sent Colonel David Walter, Sir Thomas Gardiner, and Captain Grace, with parties of horse, to fetch a compass by St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and to leave the end of Cheyney Lane, next to Shotover, on the

left hand and, at a certain sign given, they were to set on them on their rear, when the Governor and his men were ready to do so on the fore part.

The sign being given, they fell on them so vigorously, that of 137 musketeers, which was the Parliamentarian number, but one escaped. The horse also shamefully ran away, and left their foot to have been cut to pieces, had not the Governor ordered to give quarter.

They had for some hours before most insufferably railed against the king and queen's majesty, which much incensed the Oxford horse. Of these Parliamenteers fifty-two were killed (whereof seven were horsemen), with their captain, one Gibbons, and their lieutenant, a preaching silk-weaver. With these prisoners were taken thirty or forty cows, which the Parliamenteers the same evening stole back again through the negligence of the guard ; but whilst they were in action, the garrison of Woodstock (which was for the king), came forth to visit them, took twelve prisoners, and killed a lieutenant-colonel of horse.

This sortie is the only thing worthy of note, connected with this attack on the city of Oxford. On the 6th of June, Fairfax endeavoured to storm Boarstall House, near Brill, but was courageously repelled by Sir W. Campion, the Governor, and the defendants of the place.

In July 1645, the fatal field of Naseby was fought in Leicestershire, where, after the king's defeat, almost all the cities, castles, towns, and forts that belonged to him, and stood out in his defence, were soon surrendered to the Parliament.

In the mean time, however, seeing that another and a stricter siege would follow, his Majesty issued proclamations for the collecting of provisions, which was done, and in the May following (1646), Fairfax, resolving to besiege it again, came out of the west of England, and on the 1st of May appeared before the city, where was Prince Rupert, Prince Maurice, and a great part of the nobility and gentry of England, the king having gone away in disguise about four days previously.

Charles had now in Oxford about 5000 regular troops, besides the regiments raised in the University and city, thirty-eight pieces of ordnance, whereof twenty-six were of brass, seventy barrels of powder in his magazine, and two

mills at Oseney, which brought in a daily supply of powder. The place was provisioned for six months, and although there is no doubt but that he must ultimately have surrendered, still a very good stand might have been made, and he might have obtained better terms for himself than were ultimately given.

However, on the 1st of May, Fairfax rendezvous'd between Abingdon and Garsington, and had his head-quarters that night at the latter place.

May 2nd. There was a general rendezvous of the army, horse and foot, on Bullingdon Green, and thence the forces were distributed to several quarters, viz., at Headington, Marston, and the towns thereabouts.

May 3rd. The general, with the officers of the army, took a survey of Oxford by perspectives, (telescopes) and found the place to have received many alterations and additions of great advantage since last being there before it; and it was made incomparably more strong than ever, it being the king's head-quarters and garrison, and his chief place of residence and retreat. The situation, in reference to the ground it stood on, rendered it very apt for defence, being placed between the River Isis on the west, and the Cherwell on the east, both meeting on the south side; which rivers, especially the first, spreading themselves into several branches, which run through, and under some parts of the city, were so ordered, by locks and sluices placed upon them, that the city could be surrounded with waters (except the north parts) when the defendants pleased, and thereby make the place absolutely inapproachable. As for the said north, part of it was indifferently high in relation to the other ground, having so many strong bulwarks so regularly flanking one another thereon, that nothing could be more exactly done. Round about the line it was strongly pallisadoed, and without that again were digged several pits in the ground, that a single footman could not, without difficulty, approach the brink of the trench. Within the city was 5000 good foot, most of them of the king's old infantry, which had served him from the beginning of the wars, and they were well stored with a plentiful magazine of victuals, ammunition and provisions for war. In a word, whatever art or industry could do to make a place impregnable, was very liberally bestowed here.

All this strength being apprehended and considered by Sir Thomas Fairfax, he concluded that this was no place to be taken at a running pull, but likely rather to prove a business of time, hazard, and industry.

Whereupon, at a council of war at Headington, it was resolved to fix their quarters. Their first to be upon Headington Hill, where was ordered to be made a very strong and great work, or intrenchment of capacity to receive and lodge 3000 men ; also that a bridge should be laid over the River Cherwell, close by Marston ; that another quarter should be established between Cherwell and Isis, that is, on the north side of the city, wherein it was intended that most of the foot should be lodged, that being all the ground they had to make an approach near the walls. These matters beng resolved, were quickly despatched, even to admiration, and a line also began to be drawn from the great fort at Headington Hill straight to St. Bartholomew's common road, and from thence to Campus-pits, or thereabouts, all within cannon-shot : which being done, and the four quarters settled, and the small garrisons about Oxford blocked up, viz., Boarstall House, Wallingford Castle, Farringdon, and Radcote, Sir Thomas Fairfax sent a summons to Sir Thomas Glenham, Governor of Oxford, requiring the surrender of that garrison.

In reply, Sir Thomas Glenham asked for safe conduct for two officers, who met Fairfax, and requested to be allowed to go to the king, saying, that on his signification of his pleasure they would return a positive answer to the general immediately. Fairfax strove to dissuade them, saying that they might not get such good terms at a later period ; but as the Princes, Rupert and Maurice, besides the Duke of York, were there, they delayed an answer till they could hear from the king. "Whereupon," as Wood says, "that what time would be lost in that way might be saved in the other, all things went on for the siege, the dispatch of the prince was hastened, and order was given for drawing up the batteries."

May 12th. Prince Rupert, and with him about 100 horse, went forth on the north side of Oxford towards Colonel Thomas Rainsborough's soldiers, to take the air only, as it was then said, being without boots. Towards them a party of the enemy marched up, and gave fire. In which skirmish, Prince Rupert had a shot in the right shoulder, but it pierced

no bone ; whereupon they retreated to Oxford, where all sorts of people were very much concerned ; that and the two following days were spent in consulting and advising.

On Thursday, May 14th, the governor, by direction of the lords, and others of his Majesty's privy council, in Oxford, sent a letter to Fairfax to make known his desire to treat by commissioners, which was accepted, and a council of war being called, it was concluded that Mr. Unton Croke's house, at Marston, should be the place, and on Monday following, the treaty to begin ; but, on the 16th, there was doubt among the lords, as to making such treaty without the assent of the king. On the 17th, a treaty was accepted on both sides, which Fairfax sent to the Parliament, that they might consider the terms demanded by the garrison. And Fairfax having waited for an intimation of their satisfaction, they afterwards returned them to him, telling him to do as he should think fit.

The general (Fairfax) sent fresh terms to the garrison on May 30th, whereupon, at the desire of the Oxonians, the treaty was renewed again, they being willing to treat upon the general's propositions, "submitting themselves to the fate of the kingdom, rather than in any way distrusting their own strength, or the garrison's tenableness."

A few days before the treaty ended, when the Oxonians perceived it was likely to succeed, they played their cannon day and night into the enemy's leaguers and quarters, discharging sometimes near 200 shot in a day (at random as it was conceived), rather to spend their powder than to do any execution ; however, they showed good skill in that they levelled their pieces so as they shot into the leaguer on Headington Hill, and there killed Lieutenant-Colonel Cotsworth, and likewise into the leaguer on Colonel Rainsborough's side, where they killed a sutler, and others in their tents. The enemy's cannon, in recompense, played fiercely upon the defendants, and much annoyed them in their works, houses, and cottages, till at last, a cessation of great shot was agreed to on both sides.

On Saturday, May 20th, the treaty for the surrender of Oxford was finished, and concluded upon twenty-six articles; and on the 24th of June, the city was surrendered to the Parliamenteers. The Royalists marched out through a guard of the enemy, extending from St. Clement's to Shotover Hill,

armed, with colours flying, and drums beating. Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice had left, with the people of quality, on the Monday and Tuesday.

It gave great discontent to the soldiers that the place should have been given up, and it seems extraordinary, and only to be explained as a consequence of the uncertain character of Charles, that having squandered the whole resources of the University and city for three years to fortify the place so completely, having lost almost everything else, having no one on whom he could depend, as he could on the tried loyalty of the University, he should have left the place to its fate; or (if that were not thought best) without, at least, insisting that all that had been done should not be utter waste of time and money, as it proved in the end. This was the more annoying to the troops, as there was every chance of their holding so strong a place for some time; and shortly after the place was surrendered, the weather seems to have become unfavourable, the meadows were flooded, and Fairfax's communication was cut off between Headington and the north side; he must, therefore, have given up one or other of his positions, probably the one on Headington, from whence he could annoy the town greatly, though he would hardly have assaulted the town by Magdalene bridge; he could only then have approached on the north side, between St. Giles' and Holywell churches, and the defence might have been confined to that side.

That Oxford should have been given up, instead of standing a siege, is now a matter for happy reflection, considering the state into which the University had fallen during the previous three years. It was exhausted in its finances, and Dr. Fell says,—"Wee now perceive what a miserable condition wee are like to be in concerning our rents; our tenants from all parts take strange advantages, and, complying with country committees (some of them being *in eadem navi*), seek to undoe the Universitie utterlie. Wee have not in public or private wherewithal to supply our necessary burdens." And Wood adds,—"It was deprived of its number of sons, having few in respect of former times. Lectures and exercises for the most part ceased, the schools being employed as granaries for the garrison. Those few also that were remaining were, for the most part, especially such that were young, much debauched, and become idle by their keeping company with

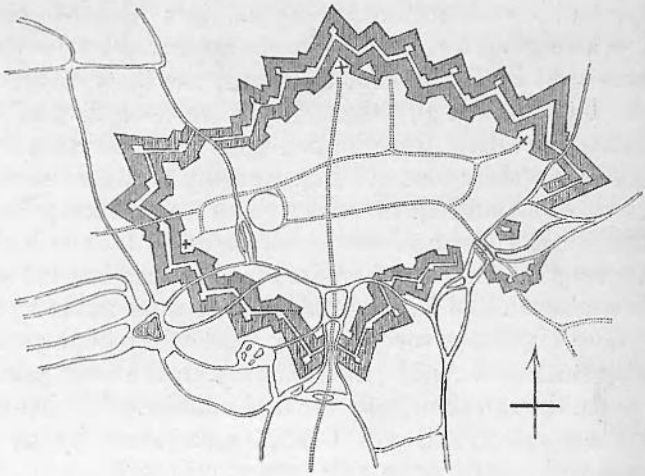
rude soldiers. Most of their precious time was lost by being upon the guard night after night, and by doing those duties that appertained to them as bearers of arms, and so, consequently, had opportunities as lay soldiers had, of gaming, drinking, swearing, &c., as notoriously appeared to the visitors that were sent by Parliament to reform the University. The truth is (I blame not all) that they were so guilty of these vices, that those that were looked upon as good witts and of great parts, on their first coming, were by strange inventions (not now to be named), to entice them to drinking and to be drunk, totally lost and rendered useless. I have had the opportunity (I cannot say happiness) to peruse several songs, ballads, and such like frivolous stuff, that were made by some of the more ingenious sort of them, while they kept guard at the Holly Bush and Angel, near Rewley, in the west suburbs; which even, though their humour and chiefest of their actions are in them described, yet I shall pass them by as very unworthy to be here, or in any part mentioned.

"The colleges were much out of repair by the negligence of soldiers, courtiers, and others that lay in them, a few chambers that were the meanest (in some colleges none at all) being reserved for scholars' use. Their treasures and plate were all gone, the books of some libraries embezzled. and the number of scholars few and mostly indigent. The halls (wherein as in some colleges beer was sold by the penny in the butteries) were very ruinous, occasioned through the same ways as the colleges were, and so they remained except Magdalen Hall and New Inn Hall (which were upon the surrender replenished with the Presbyterian faction) for several years after. Further, also, having few or none in them, except their respective principals and families, the chambers in them were, to prevent ruin and injuries of weather, rented out to laiks. In a word there was scarce the face of an University left, all things being out of order and disturbed."

Such is the account that Anthony à Wood gives of the making of the lines round Oxford, and of the siege; it now becomes necessary to say something of the sketch of the fortifications and its probable authenticity.

In Skelton's "Oxonia Antiqua," a plate is given of the lines, this is called a "*fac simile* from Anthony à Wood;" in the edition of Anthony à Wood, as published by Gutch, it is

not to be found, nor could I discover any such sketch amongst the manuscripts, in the Bodleian Library.



Plan of the Lines around Oxford—Reduced from the plate in the Historia Univ. Oxon.

In looking at the above plan, there would appear to have been an entire *enceinte* of bastions (bulwarks) and curtains on a small scale, such as are given by engineers prior to Count Pagan's time, with distances, from 100 to 120 toises to be defended by harquebusses or muskets. Beyond this again there appears in the sketch, an entire *envelope*, something like that in later days suggested by Montalembert, and a second ditch. As early as Blondel's time counter-guards over the bulwarks had been suggested, and he himself proposed making such works continuous round the whole *enceinte*. Whether such works were anywhere actually constructed I cannot find. Now Wood only mentions one line (of bulwarks and curtains), and then one ditch, palisades, &c. He gave the name of Rallingson, of Queen's college, as the engineer who constructed them; and in Queen's College Library I hoped to find some original papers of Rallingson's connected with the siege, but I was disappointed. I found there, however, a French manuscript, dated 1631, given to the Earl of March, by P. Jourdain, arithmetician, at Saumur, which contains the different systems of fortification then known in France, the Low Countries, Spain, and Italy. It is entitled, "*Extraites des œuvres de St. Gerard, de Bas le*

Duc, Samuel Marollais de Praissac, et autres." From this very manuscript Rallingson may have traced his plan, as he has apparently followed the lines suggested by the Dutch system of Marolois. At Queen's College I examined the Latin translation of Wood's "Antiquitates Universitatis," in which I found the plan of the lines as shown by the accompanying woodcut. Mr. Skelton has copied them accurately, but has not made a *fac simile;* his plate being in a quarto volume, and the original in a folio, the plan being folded in the middle, and therefore the size of two folio pages. Finding the plan there and not in Gutch's Wood, or the manuscript, I looked for explanation, and found that the Latin translation differed considerably from the original English text of Wood; in fact, after the notice of Rallingson's plan for fortifying the place, there follows, in the Latin,—"Hic de *primis* loquor munimentis, *ea quæ postea* extruebantur *Bechmannum* architectum habuere," without giving any clue as to who Bechman was. Remarking, however, Wood's own notice, that, after Fairfax's first attempt in 1645, Charles was not satisfied with the works, and after a time fresh ones were taken in hand, I think it very probable that a new suggestion was made by some one else, Bechman most likely, and that the *envelope* was actually executed, and not, as I originally supposed, that the plan might have been laid down by Rallingson, but that want of means and zeal prevented its being carried out. I am the more inclined to this opinion, as in comparing the passage in the Latin edition with Gutch's Wood, where the nature of the works is described, I find that the Latin translation varies from the English, and that, after the words, "from the North, &c." the Latin text is as follows: —

"Ab aquilone autem (ubi scilicet intumescit terra vel stagnantia recipit flumina), propugnacula comparabant frequentia tantâ in sui invicem defensionum arte constructa, ut validiora vix alibi in Angliâ compereris; in quibus perinde ac *interjecti muri Lorica* secundum extremos munitionum limites *duplici vallo* insultus hostiles arcebantur; extremum vero fossæ labrum, præterquam quod palis firmatum erat, invium reddebatur, accedentibus porro qui sparsim effodiebantur scrobiculis innumeris, adeo ut vix singuli pedites, absque summo discrimine, *ad valli marginem* appropinquarunt. Ut autem ista melius intelligantur munimentorum icnographiam apponendum duximus."

The word *vallum* evidently here signifies a ditch or trench, because the foot soldiers are said not to be able to approach

"ad valli marginem," and therefore the words "duplici vallo," or double ditch, imply to my mind that the work was two-fold, *enceinte* and *envelope;* moreover, the introduction of the plate in 1674, shows that it was intended to represent the fortifications that were really made, not merely such as were suggested. The difference between the Latin translation and Wood's own manuscript, appears to have arisen from the following cause: the Latin translation is not from Wood's own pen, it was made by one Richard Peers, a student of Christ Church, who offended Anthony à Wood by permitting Dr. Fell to insert passages not in the original; but where one can detect no motive for alteration, save a regard for the preservation of facts, I am ready to receive and acknowledge him as worthy of credit, and believe the works at Oxford to have been such as are represented in the plan which he has given,—such as never before or since were constructed in England, or, as far as I am aware, in any other country.

GIBBS RIGAUD,
Capt. 60th Reg. Royal Rifles.

ON THE LATE, OR DEBASED, GOTHIC BUILDINGS OF OXFORD.

FROM THE REIGN OF ELIZABETH TO THE END OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

READ AT THE MEETING OF THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AT OXFORD, JUNE, 1850.

GOTHIC Architecture seems to have attained its ultimate perfection in the fourteenth century, at which period every thing belonging to it was conceived and executed in a free and bold spirit, all the forms were graceful and natural, and all the details of foliage and other sculptures were copied from living types, with a skill and truth of drawing which has never been surpassed. Conventional forms were in a great measure abandoned, and it seems to have been rightly and truly considered that the fittest monuments for the House of God were faithful copies of His works, and so long as this principle continued to be acted on, so long did Gothic Architecture remain pure. But in the succeeding century, under the later Henrys and Edwards, a gradual decline took place, everything was moulded to suit a preconceived idea, the foliage lost its freshness, and was moulded into something of a rectangular form, the arches were depressed, the windows