LINCOLN'S INN AND ITS LIBRARY.

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THE Inns of Court, fraught with a thousand reminiscences of the glory of his profession—the old chambers, with their strange angular projections; the ancient halls, wherein at one time was heard the grave and learned argument, and at another was held the solemn revel, where princes, nobles, and high officers of state were entertained as guests; those sacred edifices, where so many generations of his illustrious predecessors had knelt and prayed—all these memorials of the past must possess peculiar interest for the lawyer. But it is not only to the members of the legal profession that these edifices present themselves as objects of interest; among the antiquities of London the Inns of Court are pre-eminent; and by a glance at the earlier maps of the metropolis it may be seen that the space of ground between Temple Bar and Westminster was not, as in our own day, crowded with rows of houses, but presented a few mansions of the nobility, with fields and gardens interspersed; and, if the imagination be carried back to the thirteenth century, in the neighbourhood of Chancery Lane, at that time named the "New Street," leading from the Temple to Old-bourne, may be observed the palace of the Bishops of Chichester, three of whom had held the Great Seal of England; the mansion of Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, the friend of King Edward I. whom, while Prince of Wales, he probably accompanied as a crusader to Palestine; and the beautiful church of the Knights Templars, then in all its pristine glory.

At this early period of English history, the ground now occupied by the buildings of Lincoln's Inn was the site of the mansions of persons of the highest eminence in the State, namely, that of Ralph Neville, Bishop of Chichester, Lord High Chancellor of England in the reign of

Henry III., and Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, Constable of Chester, &c. The palace built by the Bishop on this spot is described as magnificent, and in this place he lived in a degree of splendour equal to any of his contemporary prelates. He is much eulogised by historians for his admirable qualities as a judge, and he is said to have been "a person of that integrity and fortitude that neither favour, money, or greatness could make any impression upon him." From the Earl of Lincoln, distinguished by his regard for the professors of the law, and the friend of a monarch who, on account of his improvement of the law, has been named the English Justinian, the possessions of Lincoln's Inn have derived their name. To this nobleman were granted the house and grounds which had belonged to the ancient monastery of Black Friars by Holborn, upon the removal of that community to the quarter which now bears their name, and here the Earl built his mansion, where he generally resided, and where he died, in 1312. There is still preserved in the office of the Duchy of Lancaster an account rendered by the Earl's bailiff of the profits arising from, and the expenditure upon, his garden in Holborn; from which curious document we learn that apples, pears, large nuts, and cherries, were produced in sufficient quantities, not only to supply the Earl's table, but also to yield a profit by their sale. The tradition that the Earl assigned his residence to the professors of the law does not seem in accordance with the statement of Dugdale that he died in his mansion in 1312. It is, however, the opinion of the learned antiquary Francis Thynne, that Lincoln's Inn became an Inn of Court soon after that nobleman's death.

The precincts of Lincoln's Inn comprise the Old Buildings (so called), with the courts in which are situated the old hall and chapel, New Square or Serle Court, the Stone Building, the New Hall and Library, and the Gardens.

THE OLD BUILDINGS, erected at various periods between the reigns of Henry VII. and James I., have their chief frontage on the east, about 500 feet in extent, in Chancery Lane. The suites of chambers, which at present occupy the courts, were built chiefly about the time of James I., and are now giving place to structures more in accordance with the ancient architecture. These will be built in divisions, so as to avoid the displacement of tenants before the new rooms are ready for occupation, and the first division is now in the course of erection on the vacant ground in one of the courts.

THE GATE-HOUSE, forming the principal external feature of the Old Buildings in Chancery Lane, has always been admired, and is now almost the only specimen remaining in London of so early a date. The magnificent gate-house of Lambeth Palace, built by Cardinal Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, of somewhat earlier date; one of the gateways of the ancient priory of the Knights of St. John in Clerkenwell; and that of St. James's Palace, built for King Henry VIII., with this of Lincoln's Inn, are all that remain in the metropolis. It cannot, therefore, but be a subject of regret to all admirers of ancient architecture that the removal of this structure should be rendered necessary by the plan now in progress for rebuilding the suites of chambers of Lincoln's Inn. Liberal contribution was made towards the erection of this building by Sir Thomas Lovell, K.G. one of the Benchers of the Society, and Treasurer of the Household to King Henry VII., the merits of which eminent person have already been set forth by Mr. Brabrook, and it may be added here that his name is rendered familiar to us by Shakspeare's drama of "Henry VIII." where, advanced in age, as he must have been at that time, he is seen in the gay assemblage of lords and ladies in the mansion of Wolsey, and in the saloons of the bluff and arbitrary monarch.

THE OLD HALL. The ancient hall of the Society, situated in the first court, opposite the gate of entrance from Chancery Lane, is the oldest edifice of the Inn now remaining, having been built in 22 Henry VII. A.D. 1506. Respecting the earlier structure, which had become ruinous, and was pulled down in 8 Henry VII. to make room for the present edifice, there is no record as to its dimensions or character. Alterations were made in this hall in the years 1625, 1652, and 1706, and in 1819 the room was lengthened about ten feet, at which time the coved ceiling of plaster was substituted for the open oak roof, quite out of character with the original building, and other alterations were made not in accordance with the period of erection. The exterior was extensively repaired and stuccoed by Bernasconi in 1800, and the arcade, which affords a connecting corridor to the then Vice-Chancellor of England's Court, was built in 1819. The hall is about 71 feet in length, and 32 feet in breadth, the height about equal to the breadth, but it has lately been curtailed of its fair proportions, having been divided in the year 1853 into two parts,* by permission of the Benchers,

* Since the paper was read the partition has been removed.

for the sittings of the Lord Chancellor and the Lords Justices, until such time as suitable accommodation may be provided by the country for the administration of justice; and it may be added, that the intended New Courts of Justice, of which we have heard so much, and which have afforded such scope for pleasant or for acrimonious controversy in our journals, are now really in the course of erection, and it is hoped may be completed during the lives of the present judges.

On the dais, over the seat of the Lord Chancellor, is the picture of Paul before Felix, painted for the Society in 1750 by Hogarth; and at the opposite end of the room is a statue of Lord Erskine by Westmacott, regarded by some as one of the sculptor's finest works. The heraldic achievements in stained glass, with which the windows were formerly enriched, as well as those on the panels of the room, have been removed to the New Hall.

In this ancient hall were held all the revels of the Society, customary in early times, in which the Benchers themselves, laying aside their dignity, also indulged at particular seasons. The exercise of dancing was especially enjoined for the students, and was thought to conduce to the making of gentlemen more fit for their books at other times. One of the latest revels, at which King Charles II. was present, is noticed both by Evelyn and Pepys in their Diaries. On a second visit of that monarch, on the 27th of February, 1671, he was accompanied by his brother the Duke of York, Prince Rupert, the Duke of Monmouth, and others of the nobility, and those illustrious and distinguished personages were admitted as members of the Hon. Society, having entered their names in the Admittance Book, where their signatures are preserved.

The Chapel. This edifice, independently of the sacred purposes to which it is dedicated, possesses features of peculiar interest to the architect and antiquary. Erected at a period when architecture of a mixed character prevailed in most of our ecclesiastical structures, it has been the subject of much criticism, and has called forth various opinions both as regards its merits and its antiquity.

It had been the opinion of some antiquaries that the present building was a restoration or re-construction of a much earlier edifice. but an examination of the records of the Society, together with the testimony of an inscription in the handwriting of Dr. Donne, in which he states that the first stone was laid by his hand, proves

conclusively that the building was erected in the reign of James I., and that the old chapel was standing at the time of the consecration of the new building. The Chapel was built from the designs of Inigo Jones, and finished and consecrated in 1623; it is sixty-one feet in length, forty-one in breadth, and the height is about forty-four feet. The windows on the north and south sides are filled with a series of figures of prophets and apostles in brilliant stained glass, executed by Bernard and Abraham Van Linge, Flemish artists, whose works are among the most celebrated of their period. The great eastern and western windows, viewed in comparison with those on the sides, are very inferior in point of decoration. The eastern window contains a finely-executed heraldic embellishment, the arms of King William III. occupying the three central lights below the transom, above which are the arms of the Society of Lincoln's Inn; both of these were put up in 1703: the remainder of the window is filled with the arms of the Benchers who have been Treasurers from the year 1680. The western window contains the arms of eminent members of the Society who have been Readers.

In the porch is placed a cenotaph to the memory of the Right Hon. Spencer Perceval, with a mural tablet and inscription, and on the ascent to the chapel is a marble tablet to the memory of Eleanor Louisa, daughter of Lord Brougham, with an inscription in Latin verse, written by the late Marquis Wellesley in his 81st year.

With respect to the elevation of the chapel on a crypt, of which it is said there are very few examples remaining in this country, it may be observed that this mode of arrangement, connected with certain ritual observances, is sometimes found in towns, or wherever space was to be economised. Whatever may have been the original object in the case of Lincoln's Inn Chapel, whether the design was copied or not from the earlier edifice, or from that of St. Stephen's, it is evident that about the period of its erection it was used as an ambulatory, or place for lawyers "to walk in, to talk and confer their learning," from the allusions to this custom by Butler and Pepys cited by Mr. Cunningham in his Hand-book for London. The crypt is inclosed with iron railings, and is sometimes used, under certain restrictions, as a place of interment for the Benchers.

Within the walls of this sacred edifice many of the most distinguished and eloquent divines of the Church of England have exercised their ministry in the office of preacher to the Society, amongst whom shine

conspicuously the names of Donne, Usher, Gataker, Tillotson, Hurd, Warburton, the brothers Cyril and William Jackson, Reginald Heber, and in our own days those of Lonsdale Bishop of Lichfield, and the present Archbishop of York, Dr. Thomson. The earliest recorded appointment to this office is that of Dr. Charke in the year 1581.

There have also been instituted for the exercise of the sacred ministry in this Society the offices of assistant preacher and chaplain, the latter being the oldest ecclesiastical office in the Society, having existed certainly in the time of Henry VI., and probably from a much earlier period.

New Square. The houses in this square were built in the reign of Charles II. upon an open space of ground generally said to have been known as Fickett's Fields (or more properly Fickett's Croft) or Little Lincoln's Inn Fields, by way of distinction from the larger area of Lincoln's Inn Fields; but a reference to some ancient maps shows rather that the ground formed part of the Coneygarth or Cotterell Garden. Henry Serle, Esq., a member of Lincoln's Inn, having laid claim to this ground, or to a portion of it, certain agreements were entered into between this gentleman and the Society, under which the houses were erected about the year 1682, and the area was originally named Serle Court, now more commonly called New Square. The open space, in the centre of which was formerly a Corinthian column on which was raised a vertical sun-dial, with four *jets d'eau* from infant Tritons holding shells at the base of the shaft, was inclosed and planted with trees and shrubs in the year 1845.

The Stone Building, so called from the material of which it is constructed, situated at the north-eastern extremity of the Gardens, was part of a vast design, in 1780, by Sir Robert Taylor, for rebuilding the whole Inn, which fortunately was abandoned. By keeping out of view all consideration of the impropriety of placing Corinthian architecture, in stone, in such immediate connection with the early picturesque gables of the adjacent houses, which were only of brick, this building has been highly praised for its elegance and simplicity.

Having been left for above sixty years in an unfinished state, it was completed in 1845 by Mr. Hardwick, who in the southern wing followed the original design; and the two wings, the only attempt at relief to the length of the façade, conform to each other.

The Library of the Society was in the northernmost wing, occupying several rooms on the ground floor, previously to its removal in 1845.

THE GARDENS of Lincoln's Inn were famous of old time, but have been greatly curtailed by the erection of the New Hall and Library, before which the venerable trees have fallen, and "the walks under the elms," celebrated by Ben Jonson, to which Isaac Bickerstaff delighted to resort, and indulge in quiet meditation, have disappeared. Enough however even now remains to give a very cheerful aspect to the surrounding buildings, and some compensation has been made by the planting of the area of New Square with trees and shrubs.

The walk under the trees in the Coneygarth, or Cotterell Garden, as it was then called, was made in the first year of Philip and Mary, and in the reign of Charles II. the garden was enlarged, and a terrace-walk made on the west side. The name of Coneygarth was derived from the quantity of rabbits found here, and by various ordinances of the Society in the reigns of Edward IV. Henry VII. and Henry VIII. penalties were imposed on the students hunting them with bows and arrows or darts; the name of Cotterell is from William Cotterell, by whom this garden is said to have been given to the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in the year 1186.

In the erection of the garden-wall it is said Ben Jonson was employed in the early part of his life, assisting his father-in-law in his business, and working, as Fuller imagines, with a trowel in his hand, and a book in his pocket. The play of "Every Man out of his Humour" is dedicated by Ben Jonson to "the noblest nurseries of humanity and liberty, the Inns of Court."

Having taken this brief survey of the older edifices of this Inn, I have next to invite your attention to the principal features of the building in which you are now assembled.

In the year 1843, further accommodation being required for the increasing number of the members of the Society and the continued accumulation of books in the Library, the Benchers determined on the erection of a new Hall and Library, commensurate with the requirements of the age, and adopted the masterly designs submitted to them by Mr. Hardwick, who had before, in the erection of several public edifices, given evidence of talents of a superior order; and here the visitor will not have occasion to regret the failure of Sir Robert

Taylor's grand project for the reconstruction of the whole Inn, since in this instance the decided advantage of recurring to ancient models is abundantly manifest in the result. The four Inns of Court were once pleasantly characterised in the following distich:

> Gray's Inn for walks, Lincoln's Inn for wall,
> The Inner Temple for a garden, and the Middle for a hall.

It will now doubtless be admitted that the architecture of Lincoln's Inn is deserving of notice for something beyond its wall, and in the splendour of its noble hall is enabled not only to vie with, but to surpass, the Middle Temple.

The foundation-stone of the new building was laid on the 20th of April, 1843, by Sir James Lewis Knight-Bruce, then Vice-Chancellor, and Treasurer of the Society, afterwards one of the Lords Justices on the first creation of that office, and on this stone is the following inscription:

> Stet lapis, arboribus nudo defixus in horto,
> Fundamen pulchræ tempus in omne domûs.
> Aula vetus lites et legum ænigmata servet,
> Ipsa nova exorior nobilitanda coquo.
> xij cal. Maij MDCCCxliij.

This inscription (Mr. Foss tells us) has been humorously translated by Sir George Rose:

> The trees of yore
> Are seen no more,
> Unshaded now the garden lies;
> May the red bricks,
> Which here we fix,
> Be lasting as our equities.
> The olden dome
> With musty tome
> Of law and litigation suits;
> In this we look
> For a better Cook
> Than he who wrote the "Institutes."

The building was completed within the short space of two years and a half from the foundation. Standing on an elevated terrace, which affords a spacious promenade of nearly fifty feet in width, the edifice is so happily situated as to form one of the most conspicuously-placed architectural objects in the metropolis, whilst the accessories of foliage and vegetation, by which it is surrounded, harmonise and contrast admirably with the building.

On the completion of the building, the ceremony of inauguration took place on the 30th of October, 1845, being honoured by the presence of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, with H.R.H. Prince Albert. On this occasion the Queen received in the Library an address from the Benchers and Barristers of the Society, and, after a banquet in the hall, Prince Albert assented to their invitation to become a member of the Society.

Instead of attempting any elaborate description of the noble apartment in which I have the honour to address you, I feel that I cannot do better than invite the assembly to cast their eyes around them, and observe its spacious dimensions; the grandly proportioned bays containing the large windows, with their stained glass enriched with armorial bearings; the oak panelling of the sides with its coloured and gilt cornice; the carved screen with its arches and tracery, and its open arcade—the front of the gallery—where are presented six figures in high canopied niches, representing eminent members of the Society, (Sir Matthew Hale; Archbishop Tillotson; W. Murray, Earl of Mansfield; Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke; and W. Warburton, Bishop of Gloucester;) and the beautiful timber-framed roof, its pendants enriched with gilding and colour, in which lightness, strength, and ornament are combined, and which is, in fact, designed with so much artistic feeling that it may vie with any of the examples of ancient open timber roofs now remaining.

The upper lights of the windows on either side contain the arms, crests, and mottoes of distinguished members of the Society, chronologically arranged from 1450 to 1843; and the lower divisions of each window are diapered with the letters L. I., the latter formed by the milrine, part of the arms of the Society. On the panelling of the dais are the full heraldic achievements, removed from the old hall, of Charles II., and the other royal and distinguished visitors of 1671 before-mentioned; and beneath these, and continued along the panels on either side of the hall, are the armorial bearings of legal dignitaries who have been members of the Society, and those of bishops who have held the office of preacher.

In the great southern window of this room is now placed the beautiful heraldic composition, designed by Mr. Willement, representing the arms of Queen Victoria; the brilliant colours and the broad treatment of the design of which make it one of the finest examples of this splendid mode of embellishment. This ornament has lately been

brought here from the library, where it occupied originally the whole of the lower division of the window immediately facing the doors. By Mr. Willement the other armorial insignia in this room and in the Library were also designed.

The oriel window on the eastern side contains all the stained glass removed from the old hall, consisting of the armorial insignia of noblemen, legal dignitaries, &c. The western oriel contains in the upper lights the arms of Ralph Neville, Bishop of Chichester; Henry Lacy, Earl of Lincoln; William de Haverhyll, Treasurer to King Henry III.; Edward Sulyard, esq. by whom the inheritance of the premises of Lincoln's Inn was transferred to the Society, and those of Lincoln's Inn. The arms of King Charles II., James Duke of York, and Prince Rupert, are in the middle of the window; and beneath these are the arms of Prince Albert.

The noble fresco painting on the wall above the dais was executed in 1859 by Mr. George Frederick Watts, who obtained one of the highest class prizes at the first Westminster Hall competition. The work represents an imaginary assemblage of the great early law-givers of various nations, from Moses down to Edward I., and has been entitled "The School of Legislation," as bearing some analogy to Raphael's fresco of the "School of Athens" in the Vatican. It has been said that "this fresco is conspicuously distinguished from all the mural decorations hitherto executed in this country by its architectural character, seeming to fit into and form part of the hall it adorns."

The busts ranged along the dais, on either side of the folding doors, are those of Lord Brougham, Lord Denman, and Lord Lyndhurst.

Beneath this hall is an apartment forming an essential appendage to all collegiate establishments, namely, the kitchen. This lofty and spacious room is 45 feet square and 20 feet high; the ceiling is vaulted, and supported on massive pillars and bold arches. Besides the vast fire-place, one of the largest in England, the kitchen is well furnished with stoves and all necessary appliances for the exercise of the culinary art.

Council Chamber and Drawing Room. The folding doors from the dais of the hall open into a spacious vestibule, 58 feet in length by 22 in width, on the eastern side of which is the Council Chamber, and on the western side the Drawing Room. The walls of these rooms are adorned with portraits of legal dignitaries and eminent members of the

Society, and also with a valuable and extensive collection of engravings from portraits of legal dignitaries, eminent prelates, &c. from an early period, a great number of whom have been connected with the Society, There is also a large painting of the athlete, Milo of Crotona, by Giorgione, and a drawing in water colours, by Joseph Nash, of the interior of the hall, as seen at the ceremony of inauguration.

THE LIBRARY. The oaken folding doors directly opposite to those of the Hall open into the Library. This noble apartment was originally 80 feet in length, but so rapid has been the accumulation of books, that, at the end of a quarter of a century after its erection, it has been found necessary that it should be enlarged, and it has accordingly just received an addition to its length of fifty-one feet. In the extension of the building the original plan was adhered to; the execution of the work was entrusted to Sir Gilbert Scott; the great oriel at the eastern extremity was taken down stone by stone, and re-erected in the same form. The dimensions are now 130 feet in length from east to west (exclusive of the depth of the great oriels at the extremities, which are each about six feet more), the breadth 40 feet, and the height 44 feet. The admiration excited by the lofty proportions of this room is heightened by the excellence of the plan of its arrangement, and by the whole of its internal decoration. The roof, of open oak, differs in composition from that of the Hall, but is equally remarkable for skill and elegance in its design. The oriel windows, as well as the windows on the southern side, are enriched with heraldic insignia, displaying arms of the Benchers of Lincoln's Inn. Convenient access is afforded to all the book-cases by light iron galleries carried round the projecting piers, or by the upper galleries, which extend through the whole length of the room; and these galleries are easily reached by stone staircases at the end of the room, or by iron spiral staircases, one at each corner.

In the extension, a handsome turret has been built at the south-eastern angle, containing a spiral staircase leading from the garden up to the Library, by which means the main building is relieved from much of the traffic incidental to the use of the Library.

The original foundation of the Library of Lincoln's Inn is of earlier date than that of any now existing in the metropolis—I say now existing—for the libraries which were of earlier foundation have for the most part perished. The Library of the City of London, founded

by Richard Whittington in 1421, underwent much spoliation, a certain nobleman, for instance, having at one time borrowed about three cart-loads of books which were not returned; and the remainder perished in the great fire of London. Of the old library of St. Paul's, built by Walter Shiryngton, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in the reign of Henry VI., there now remain only two or three manuscripts; the present library owes its existence chiefly to Bishop Compton. Lambeth Library was founded by Archbishop Bancroft, 1604-10; and Sion College in the reign of Charles I.

In the 13th year of the reign of Henry VII. A.D. 1497, John Nethersale, "late one of this Society, bequeathed forty marks, partly towards the building of a Library here for the benefit of the students of the laws of England, and partly that every priest of this house, in the celebration of divine service every Friday, should sing a mass of requiem, &c., for the soul of the said John."

The building, the site of which is not now known, was finished in the 24th Henry VII. Previously to their removal to the present edifice, the books occupied a suite of rooms in the Stone Building, to which they had been transferred in the year 1787 from the Old Square.

There are various entries in the records of the Society relating to the Library in the reign of Elizabeth. It seems, however, that little progress was made in the accumulation of books; for, at a Council held in 6 James I., A.D. 1608, "because the Library was not well furnished with books, it was ordered that, for the more speedy doing thereof, every one that should thenceforth be called to the bench in this Society should give twenty shillings towards the buying of books for the same Library; and every one thenceforth called to the bar thirteen shillings and four pence; all which sums to be paid to Mr. Matthew Hadde, who for the better ordering of the said Library was then made Master thereof." Three years afterwards it was ordered that Mr. Hadde, thus constituted the first Master of the Library, an office now held in annual rotation by each Bencher, "should buy and provide for the Library 'Fleta,' and such other old books and manuscripts of the law, and to cause those that be ill bound to be new bound." At a subsequent meeting it was ordered "that ten pounds should be paid by Mr. Hadde out of the money received from Sir William Sedley for copies of 'Corpus Juris Civilis,' in six volumes, and 'Corpus Juris Canonici,' in three volumes, and that he should

cause them to be bound with bosses without chains,* and pay the charges of binding out of that money."

The Library has been enriched at various periods by donations from members of the Society, as well as from the directors and curators of libraries and institutions, the public authorities, and the liberality of private individuals.

One of the earliest of these benefactors was Ranulph Cholmeley, Serjeant-at-Law, Recorder of the City of London, and three times Reader at Lincoln's Inn in the reigns of Edward VI., Philip and Mary, and Elizabeth. To him the Library is indebted for several rare volumes of the early Year-Books, four of which had belonged to William Rastell, nephew of Sir Thomas More, and one of the Judges of Common Pleas, and contain his autograph; a very beautiful copy of the first edition of Fitzherbert's Abridgment; a manuscript of Bracton of the fourteenth century; and several other books. The Year-books, as well as some other volumes presented by him, chiefly in the original oak binding, had a small paper label, on which was written the title of the work, with the name of the donor, curiously fastened on the side of the covers under a piece of transparent horn; but, in consequence of the decay of the oak covers, which were crumbling to powder, these volumes have been re-bound.

Among other benefactors are to be mentioned the names of the celebrated William Prynne, who, besides copies of his own multifarious writings, presented the invaluable work known as his "Records," and several other books, many of which contain inscriptions in his own handwriting; Sir Matthew Hale, who bequeathed a large and valuable

* It was formerly the custom in public libraries to fasten books with chains to the shelves or book-cases; and many of the volumes in Lincoln's Inn Library still retain, attached to their covers, the iron rings by which they were secured. In these cases an iron rod was passed through the rings of the books, as they were ranged on the shelves, and fastened by a padlock at the end; a usage practised till the last century in most collegiate and public libraries.

A curious instance of what certainly has some appearance of laxity in the custody of libraries in former times is thus naïvely related by Dugdale in his account of the Middle Temple: "They now have no Library, so that they cannot attaine to the knowledge of divers learnings, but to their great charges, by the buying of such bookes as they lust to study. They had a simple Library, in which were not many bookes besides the law; and that Library, by meanes that it stood allwayes open, and that the learners had not each of them a key unto it, it was at the last robbed and spoiled of all the bookes in it."—Orig. Jurid. p. 197, ed. 1608.

collection of manuscripts; John Brydall, esq. author of many legal works, who in 1706 gave a collection of pamphlets, chiefly theological and political, some of them very curious; John Coxe, esq. a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, who in 1785 bequeathed his library, consisting of many manuscripts in his own handwriting, together with about 5000 volumes of printed books; and the late Charles Purton Cooper, esq. also a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, who presented nearly 2000 volumes of books on the civil law and the laws of foreign nations, in various languages.

At the time of the removal of the books to the new building in 1845 the number of volumes was about 18,000, but the number is now increased to nearly 40,000. In addition to a collection of law books, admitted to be the most complete in this country, the shelves of the Library are well furnished with books in historical and various other classes of literature; and, if the audience will have patience to listen, we will take a survey of these classes in somewhat systematic order, beginning with that of English law.

English Law. How vast has been the increase of books on the study and practice of the law since the days of Lord Chief Justice Coke may be seen by reference to the preface of one of the volumes of his Lordship's reports, where, after observing that "right profitable are the ancient books of the common law yet extant, as Granville, Bracton, Britton," &c., and mentioning several of them with commendation (about twenty or thirty in number), he continues: "then have you *fifteen* books or treatises, and as many volumes of the Reports, besides the Abridgments of the Common Law, for I speak not of the Statutes and Acts of Parliament, whereof there be divers great volumes." In addition to the fifteen treatises here mentioned by Lord Coke, the Library now contains about 1,200 volumes of treatises on the Law; about as many volumes of reports; of abridgments of the law about 50 volumes; and the statute law is extended to nearly 50 volumes in quarto.

Law-books were among the earliest works that issued from the press in England on the invention of the art of printing. It does not appear, however, that any of these were given to the public by the Father of the English press, with the exception of the statutes of Henry VII. printed by William Caxton shortly before his decease.

The first of the Abridgments of the Law, written by Nicholas

Statham, who was Baron of the Exchequer in the reign of Edward IV., is comprised in 380 pages; the Abridgment of Mr. Charles Viner, published about the middle of the last century, is in 24 vols. folio, of which a second edition was published in 24 vols. 8vo. 1791-94, and a Supplement in 6 vols. 8vo. 1799-1806.

It was observed by an eminent lawyer that "a mind anxious for information and the discovery of truth will be amply gratified for the toil in investigating the origin and progress of a jurisprudence which has the good of the people for its basis, and the accumulated wisdom of ages for its improvement." "There is not, in my opinion," says Sir James Mackintosh, "in the whole compass of human affairs, so noble a spectacle as that which is displayed in the progress of jurisprudence; where we may contemplate the unwearied exertions of a succession of wise men, through a long course of ages, withdrawing every case, as it arrives, from the dangerous power of discretion, and subjecting it to inflexible rules."

But I hasten to relieve the dismay of this audience, if they imagine I am about to enter into a dissertation on the various merits of the treatises on English law that are arranged on the shelves of this Library, pausing only to mention one of the writers, who, notwithstanding the changes that of late years have taken place in the law, has been still able to hold his ground, though of course often obliged to change his front—I mean Sir William Blackstone.

"It has been well observed that the cannonade which for the last half-century has been playing on the Commentaries, exposing as they do so wide a front, has rendered them, as they were left by their author, a mere wreck. Edition after edition has been called for, and given by editors more or less eminent. But, in spite of all the alterations, much still remains, not only unaltered, but unequalled for correctness and beautiful statement." In Colonel Fremont's account of his disastrous exploring expedition across the Rocky Mountains there is an interesting note relative to his perusal of these volumes. He states that while encamped on the side of the wintry mountain, 12,000 feet above the level of the sea, with the thermometer at zero, and the country buried in snow, the volumes of Blackstone's Commentaries, which he had taken from the library of his wife's father, formed his Christmas amusements. He read them to pass the time and kill the consciousness of his situation. "You may well suppose," he adds, "that my first law lessons will be well remembered."

REPORTS. I will now offer a few observations on the collections of reports. "The practice of collecting judicial decisions," says M. Dupin, "is of great antiquity. Craterus, the favourite of Alexander the Great, was the author of a work, the loss of which is much regretted by the learned; it was a collection of Athenian laws, amongst which were the decisions of the Areopagus and the Council of Amphictyons. The Roman lawyers often quote the judgments of the Prætors, and the ordinances of other magistrates." That this practice prevailed at an early period in England is shown by a passage in Chaucer,—

> In termes hadde he cas and domes alle,
> That from the time of King Will. weren falle.

The reports of cases in England are extant in a regular series from the reign of Edward II. inclusive; from whose time to that of Henry VIII. they were taken by the prothonotaries or chief scribes of the court at the expense of the crown, and published annually, whence they are known under the denomination of the Year-Books. Many volumes of these Year-books, as first printed in separate years and terms by Pynson, Redman, Berthelet, &c. are in the Library of Lincoln's Inn. When the ten volumes of the Year-Books were printed by subscription in 1679, they were recommended by the judges to all students and professors of the law, as an essential part of their study; and Serjeant Maynard is said by Roger North to have had such a relish of the old Year-Books that he carried one in his coach to divert his time in travel, and chose it before any comedy. When the compilation of the Year-Books was discontinued, the Reports were published at various times by men eminent in the legal profession, such as Edmund Plowden, Sir James Dyer, Sir Edward Coke, &c.; but the regular periodical publication of reports did not take place till the latter part of the last century; and since that time the multiplication of reports had become so inconvenient that in the year 1866 a new system of reporting was established under the direction of a body named the Council of Law Reporting, the object of which was the preparation of one complete set of reports, by barristers of known ability, to be published with promptitude and regularity.

STATUTES. The importance of these enactments in the study of history as well as in the attainment of a scientific knowledge of the law is very evident. "Our Acts of Parliament," says Bishop

Nicholson, "give often such fair hints of the humours most prevailing at the time of their being enacted, that many parts of our history may be recovered from them, especially if compared with the writers, either in divinity or morality, about the same date." The Library of Lincoln's Inn *possesses copies of all the principal* editions of the Statutes, from the volumes printed by Berthelet, the King's printer in the time of Henry VIII., to those of the present day.

TRIALS. Collections of trials are valuable not only to the lawyer, but afford rich materials for the study of history, indicating in some degree the character of the times in which they occur, the manners and habits of the people, as well as their moral and intellectual condition. The trials of former times give life and reality, and what may be termed dramatic effect, to history; and exhibit a great variety of character under circumstances of difficulty and danger. Besides the various editions of the State Trials, the Library possesses a large collection of criminal and civil trials; a set of the trials at the Sessions of the Old Bailey, now the Central Criminal Court, from 1730 to the present time, a portion of which set was formerly in the magnificent library of the Duke of Roxburghe; and a collection of papers, printed and manuscript, bound in 58 volumes, folio, relative to the memorable trial of Warren Hastings. This trial called forth some of the most brilliant speeches of Burke, Fox, and Sheridan; and an unpublished speech of the latter is found in the collection. The collection belonged formerly to Mr. Adolphus.

CIVIL AND FOREIGN LAW. The importance of the study of the Civil or Roman Law, and the great influence which that law has exercised over the judicial institutions of England, as well as of other European nations, are now generally admitted. It was observed by Sir Matthew Hale, "that the true grounds and reasons of law were so well delivered in the Digest, that a man could never understand law as a science so well as by seeking it there."

The Library is very rich in works on the civil law, containing, besides the best editions of the "Corpus Juris Civilis," some fine early printed editions of the Code and Digest, and the edition of the Pandects, printed by Torrentini at Florence in 1553, a large collection of the works of all the principal commentators, as Cujas, Doneau, Du Moulin, Alciati, Pothier, &c.

With respect to the "Codex Legum Antiquarum," a collection containing the Codes of the Visigoths, Lombards, Franks, Burgundians, and other "barbarous" nations, it has been mentioned as a curious fact that law should be "attached not to place but to persons—a sort of moveable chattel, or piece of household furniture, which each *individual shall be at liberty to transport with himself from place to* place, in every capricious change of his abode. Such, however, was the law of the dark ages. The Lombard, the Goth, the Frank, the Burgundian, the Saxon, the Roman, residing in the same district, all enjoyed their separate laws." It constantly happens, says Agobard, Archbishop of Lyons, in a letter to Louis le Debonaire, that, of five persons who are walking or sitting together, not one is subject to the same law as the other.

FOREIGN LAW. On the laws of France, Spain, Germany, and the other nations of Europe, the Library possesses a rich and extensive collection of authors. Among those on the law of Germany are some curious specimens of early printing, as Der Sachsenspiegel, printed at *Augsburg in 1484, and the Golden Bull of the Emperor Charles IV.*, also printed in 1484, at Ulm. Among those on Danish law are two volumes beautifully printed in large Gothic characters at Copenhagen in 1683; both of these had been used by King Frederick IV. when presiding in the College of the Chief Tribunal.

In the class of THEOLOGY the Library possesses the two celebrated Polyglot Bibles, viz., the Antwerp Polyglot and the London Polyglot; the Hebrew Bible of Dr. Kennicott; the Septuagint by Holmes and Parsons; the Greek Testaments of Robert Stephens, Mill, Wetstein, &c.; Latin and other versions of the sacred text; most of the Greek and Latin Fathers; Collections and Histories of Councils; the principal ecclesiastical historians; and a large collection of the works of the most eminent divines of the Church of England. Among the Latin versions of the Bible is that with the Commentary of Nicholas de Lyra, in six vols. folio, given to the Society by Dr. Donne, with an inscription in his handwriting on the fly-leaf of the first volume, in which he alludes to his change of life, and transition from the study of the law, and various other pursuits, to the sacred office of the ministry.

In the class of ENGLISH HISTORY are found the most valuable historians, from the early period of Gildas and Nennius to those of our

own era, as Sharon Turner, Lingard, Mackintosh, Macaulay, Froude, &c. Here are also the pulications of Thomas Hearne; the Chronicles of Monstrelet, Holinshed, &c.; of the latter the original editions of 1577 and 1586-7. Time does not suffice to do more than mention the collections of State Papers, and the very valuable publications still in progress of the Master of the Rolls. But I must steal a minute (with your permission) to speak of an acquisition of great value and interest in this class made in the year 1849, that of a volume, the very existence of which was unknown to bibliographers until a recent period.

This is the volume, forming the INTRODUCTION to Prynne's Records, purchased at the sale of the Duke of Buckingham's library at Stowe, and supposed to be the only copy extant.

Three volumes of this remarkable work, entitled "An exact Chronological Vindication and Historical Demonstration of our British, Roman, Saxon, Danish, Norman, English King's Supreme Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction in and over all Spiritual Affairs, Causes, Persons, as well as Temporal, within their realms of England, Scotland, Ireland, and other Dominions, from the original planting of Christian Religion therein," &c., had been given to the Society by the author, William Prynne, who was one of the Benchers of this Inn.

The first volume of the work commences with Book the Second; and this Introduction is called Book the First; the pages are partly occupied with arguments maintaining that the supreme ecclesiastical power or jurisdiction over all persons and causes resides in the civil magistrate; and contain a history of the gradual encroachments of the papal power. The volume terminates, unfinished, at page 400, with the words, "coepiscopi tui et coma," and is without title-page.

It is supposed that not more than twenty-five sets of the three volumes exist, most of the copies of the first volume, and a great number of the second, together with this introduction, having perished at the house of the printer in the Great Fire of London, and it is worthy of remark that this loss occurred to the author, whilst he himself was occupied in endeavouring to rescue the public records of the kingdom from destruction. It is probable that the introductory volume had been reserved in the author's hands for his own use during the progress of the work through the press; and that, if any other copies were rescued from the flames, they have since perished, from the circumstance of their being unfinished, and without title-page, and having consequently

been disregarded by persons into whose hands they may have fallen.

In the department of TOPOGRAPHY the Library is especially rich, possessing descriptions of every county in England which can boast of its historian, beside numerous histories of particular towns and parishes, from the Perambulation of Kent by William Lambarde in 1570, the first separate county history that was published, to the History of Buckinghamshire by Dr. George Lipscomb, and the recent work (unfinished) on the county of Suffolk by the Rev. James Suckling. I will only pause to mention the names of the author of the "Monasticon Anglicanum," Sir William Dugdale; of the historian of Leicestershire, John Nichols; of Cheshire, George Ormerod; of Surrey, Manning and Bray; of Wiltshire, Sir Richard Colt Hoare; the History of Richmondshire, by Thomas Dunham Whitaker, remarkable for the elegance of its descriptions, as well as for the beauty of its illustrations by engravings from the pencil of Turner; and the History of Durham, by Richard Surtees of Mainsforth, the friend and correspondent of Sir Walter Scott, distinguished by the fidelity of the engravings of ancient seals and other excellences.

Among the engravings in Strype's edition of Stow's Survey of London is a "Prospect of Lincoln's Inn," as it appeared in 1720. In this view is seen the Corinthian column, with the fountain, in the area of Serle Court, and various figures exhibiting the costumes and equipages of the period. In the gardens, here laid out with straight walks, according to the taste of the time, with rows of trees and a fountain, may be observed some of the statues described by Hatton in his View of London, "whether finely done in metal, or lively represented carved in fine white marble." These are Julius Cæsar; Augustus; Pompey the Great, described as "sprightly carved in stone;" and Mark Antony, "with a dagger wherewith he slew himself."

FOREIGN HISTORY. In a cursory glance at the class of Foreign History in the Library, the visitor will notice the collections of Grævius and Gronovius in illustration of Greek and Roman Antiquities; the "Monumens de la Monarchie Françoise," by Montfaucon; the "Rerum Italicarum Scriptores" of Muratori; and those splendid publications, the "Recueil des Historiens des Gaules et de la France," begun by Dom Bouquet in 1738, and continued by Dom Brial and

other Benedictines of St. Maur; and the "Monumenta Rerum Germanicarum," by George Henry Pertz. With these will be found also the principal works on the history of each nation of Europe, as well as many on American and on Oriental History.

GREEK AND LATIN CLASSICS. The works of nearly all the Greek and Roman authors, to whom as poets, philosophers, orators, or historians the name of the CLASSICS has been given by the common consent of the world of letters, are to be found in the Library; but the editions in general are not those which are remarkable for their rarity or typographical splendour, but rather for their critical merits, as those of Böckh, Wesseling, Schweighäuser, Becker, Bentley, Gaisford, &c.

DICTIONARIES. The word does not sound inviting, but how infinitely the world is indebted to the erudition and patient industry of the authors of dictionaries and grammars, must be evident upon a few moments' reflection. By the aid of these silent guides the boundless fields of literature and science are opened to the view of the student, and he is enabled to hold converse with the mightiest spirits of all lands. With these keys to the languages of ancient and modern nations, I think it may be said that the Library is fairly, if not richly, stored.

BIBLIOGRAPHY. In the class of Bibliography, and the History of Literature, and the Catalogues of Public Libraries, most of the principal works are to be found here; and this may be a fitting place to mention many eminent members of the legal profession who have been distinguished as collectors of books. One of the first of these was Arthur Annesley, Earl of Anglesey, whose name appears at the head of the Readers of Lincoln's Inn, to whom Prynne dedicated the third volume of his Records. Another eminent collector was Philip Carteret Webb, of Lincoln's Inn, the sale of whose library in 1771 occupied seventeen days. Then follows the name of Matthew Duane, also of Lincoln's Inn, a collector of books and coins. Among those of the present century it may suffice to mention the names of Serjeant Heywood, Baron Bolland, Justice Littledale, John Miller, B. H. Bright, Sutton Sharpe, Louis Hayes Petit, C. P. Cooper, and Clement Tudway Swanston.

In the class of POETRY AND THE DRAMA I will only mention that the illustrious writers of the Elizabethan and later eras, with some of

earlier date, find their place here, but not many as yet of modern times have been admitted; and in other branches of polite literature may be observed the works of Swift, Addison, Johnson, Fielding, with other chieftains of mighty name in those noble ranks. In the department of mental and natural philosophy we can only glance at the names of Bacon, Boyle, Locke, Newton, Leibnitz, &c. Of the writers on modern science there is yet but a scanty array; but so rapid and important have been the discoveries of late years in its various branches, that of necessity, ere long, an entrance must be accorded to the volumes which contain its wondrous records.

And now, having thus long occupied your attention with subjects that could hardly fail to interest if worthily treated, viz. buildings and books—I have to thank you for the patience with which you have listened to these remarks, and to solicit your indulgence for all the shortcomings; and, if you should desire further information on the subject of "Lincoln's Inn and its Library," I may perhaps be permitted to mention that the details are already before the public in a little work written some years ago by the author of this paper.