

the first public library in the university: bishop Hatfield, his successor, erected a well proportioned room for the reception of this library, and left 4,000 marks in the hands of trustees for the perpetual use of the college. king Richard II. granted four additional advowsons to the society, and Edward III. was also a liberal benefactor.

*Sir Thomas Pope*, having purchased the site and buildings in 1554, of Dr. George Owen, and William Martyn, gent., to whom a grant of them had been made a short time before from the crown; founded the present college and dedicated it to the holy and undivided Trinity.

Here then we commence a new era in the academical history of the university. This was the first college founded after the dissolution of monasteries; and Sir Thomas Pope was the first layman who applied his wealth in the establishment of a collegiate body.

Sir Thomas Pope, knt., of Tittenhanger, in Hertfordshire, was born at Deddington, in Oxfordshire, of parents in that middle walk of life which is so often found prolific of enterprise and genius. He received the rudiments of his education at the school of Banbury, and then removed to Eton. Having afterwards entered a student at Gray's-inn, he became in a short time an eminent lawyer, and after having filled several offices in the service of the state, he at the early age of 27, attracted the notice of Henry VIII., who constituted him in 1536, treasurer of the court of augmentation, then first established by act of parliament. He was subsequently appointed master or treasurer of the jewel house, in the tower of London, warden of the mint, &c.. Sir Thomas was unalterably attached to the ancient religion, and remained in retirement from public business during the reign of Edward VI; but on the accession of queen Mary, he was made cofferer to the household. So implicit was the confidence placed in him by this sovereign, that the princess Elizabeth was consigned to his care, at Hatfield house, Hertfordshire, when the jealousy of the court rendered her removal necessary. The inflexibility of our founder's religious opinions debarred him from office during the reign of Elizabeth. He died at Clerkenwell on the 29th of January, 1559, and was interred in the church of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, with his second wife, dame Margaret. Their bodies were afterwards removed to Oxford, and interred in the chapel of this college. The statutes of this society were transmittèd in 1556, and were revised by cardinal Pole. The generosity of the founder was limited only by his resources. His endowment of the new society consisted of 35 manors and 13 advowsons, besides various impropriations and-pensions.

*Benefactors.*—The original endowment appears to have been considered so

liberal, that few benefactors have appeared, except in aid of the buildings. Richard Blount Esq. of London, nephew of Dame Eliz. Paulet, the founders widow bequeathed £100. for the maintenance of an exhibitioner. Catherine Constable of Yorkshire, gave £10. per annum for another exhibitioner, but the benefaction was never received by the college. In 1647, Sir Rt. Napier of Luton, gave £160. for the use of the college. John Whelstone of Rodden, Dorset, a merchant bequeathed £500. with which land was purchased at Oakley, Brill and Ickford; and Edward Bathurst, B.D. left a small estate in Thorpe Mandeville, in Northamptonshire, in 1667. Dr. Bathurst, (brother to the latter,) who was president of the society from 1664 to 1704, and also dean of Wells, was the greatest benefactor since the foundation of the college. By subscriptions solicited from various quarters, aided by his own liberal donations, the new chapel was entirely built, the upper library furnished with books, presses and shelves, the new building erected eastward of the chapel for the use of the president; and the patronage of the rectory of Oddington upon Otmore, was purchased in 1700 for £400. and presented to the society. Thomas Rowney Esq. of Oxford, conveyed to the college the rectory of Rotherfield-greys in this county. Dr. Hale, a physician, in 1728, gave the perpetual advowson of the rectory of Farnham, in Essex. John Geale, clerk, who died in 1732, bequeathed to the college the donative of Hillfarrance, in Somersetshire, to be given to any person who is the son of a clergyman. Henry Kett, B.D. sometime fellow of the college, left a benefaction of £500. in aid of an advowson fund recently established by the society.

*The foundation of Sir Thomas Pope, which remains still unaltered consists of a president, 12 fellows and 12 scholars.*

The founder directs, that the scholars should be chosen from his manors; but if no such candidates, properly qualified, appear on the day of election, (Trinity monday,) then they shall be supplied from any county in England. Not more than two natives of the same county can be fellows at the same time, except Oxfordshire, of which county five are allowed. The bishop of Winchester is visitor, and the Rev. John Wilson, B.D., president. The number of members on the books is 293, and the patronage of the college, comprehends nine livings, and the morning preachership of St. Nicholas's Abingdon.

*Scholarship, &c.*—There is also a scholarship founded by Rd. Blount, Esq.; an exhibition, called the Unton pension, given by Thomas Unton, clerk, of Drayton, in Shropshire, in 1693; a second, called the Tylney Exhibition, granted by Frederick Tylney, Esq., of the county of Hants, in the year 1720; and a third by the Rev. Edward Cobden, D. D. archdeacon of London, who, by will dated April, 1784, bequeathed the sum of £400. to a certain fund, of