bridge, and others to Reading.@@1 Not satisfied with this, they even applied to the pope, and obtained an interdict against the town, and against all persons who should settle in it for the purpose of teaching. The inhabitants finding them­selves thus deserted by those on whom the prosperity of the town chiefly depended, waited upon the pope’s legate, and obtained absolution, on conditions which induced the students to return to their former habitations. The king likewise bestowed on the students some new immunities, exempting them from any foreign judicature, and even granting them the power of taking cognisance in causes where one party was a scholar, or the servant of a scholar, (a. d. 1214.) From this year Meiners dates the commencement of the university properly so called.

Henry III. took advantage of a serious dispute which arose between the students and citizens of Paris in 1229, to advance the interests of Oxford, and invited the Parisian masters and scholars to settle there, promising them great­er privileges than those which they had enjoyed in Paris.@@\* A thousand accordingly accepted his invitation ; but, pre­suming too much on the immunities which had been held out to them, they introduced a levity of manners, which gave rise to frequent tumults, and caused great alarm and dis­quiet in the town. The reign of this monarch is particu­larly memorable in the annals of the university. In the year 1244, he granted to it the first charter of privileges as a corporate body,@@3 and in 1255 confirmed and extended the privileges which he had formerly conferred. Pre­viously to this period, the scholars and students lodged and studied in halls rented from the townsmen ; nnd this was one great source of the numerous quarrels which con­stantly took place between them. To remedy the evil, and also to encourage learning, several public-spirited in­dividuals purchased or built large houses for the recep­tion of the teachers and scholars, and thus set the ex­ample of appropriating funds for the support of those who had not the means of prosecuting their studies to ad­vantage. Such was the origin of the English colleges, which at first modified, and have at length entirely super­seded, the universities. Additional charters, some of fresh privileges, and others of general confirmation, were granted by Edward I. in 1275, Edward II. in 1315, Edward III. in 1827, and by succeeding kings. The English universities, it appears, solicited a recognition and renewal of their pri­vileges at the beginning of every new reign. Their privi­leges now depend upon the act of the 13th Elizabeth, a. D. 1570, “concerning the Incorporations of the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and the Confirmation of the Char­ters, Liberties, and Privileges, granted to either of them.” The *corpus Statutorum,* or body of statutes, by which the university of Oxford is governed, was compiled, chiefly from existing statutes, by a committee appointed during the chancellorship of Archbishop Laud, and was solemnly ratified by the king, chancellor, and convocation, in 1636. These statutes, however modified by subsequent interpre­tations, additions, or restrictions, still determine the law and constitution of the university ; and every member is bound by oath and subscription to their faithful observance.@@4 Various accounts are given of the number of students at Oxford in the reigns of the early Norman kings. Wood, in his Annals,@@3 says, that in the time of Henry III. they amounted to 30,000 ; and even when Merton College was founded (1264), the number is said to have been 15,000. It may readily be granted that these statements are great­ly exaggerated ; still they seem to imply that the real number was very great.@@6 Of the students, many were fo­reigners, from Paris and other places.

The university of Oxford was confirmed by papal authori­ty, and received from the see of Rome those privileges which it claimed the sole power of bestowing. It obtained a con­firmation of its privileges from Innocent IV. in 1252 ; and from Boniface VIII. in 1296, the doctors and masters received permission to become lecturers and regents in any univer­sity in Christendom, without further examination.@@7 Oxford is mentioned along with Paris, Bologna, and Salamanca, in the constitutions published by Clement V. after the council of Vienne, a. D. 1311. By these constitutions it was ordain­ed that schools for Hebrew, Arabic, and Chaldee, should be erected in each of these *studia;* and that all prelates and ecclesiastical corporations in England, Wales, Scot­land, and Ireland, should be taxed for the maintenance of professors of these languages at Oxford.@@8 The interference of the Roman pontiff was frequently solicited on the part of the university, and his assumed authority submitted to in silence, especially by the less able of the English kings. It is clear, however, that by the more vigorous of the early monarchs the authority of the pope in matters relating to the universities was little regarded, or rather that it was utterly disclaimed. They considered the universities as not amenable to ecclesiastical superintendence, but took them under their own peculiar authority. Thus Henry III. on going to Gascony, appointed the archbishop of York and two others guardians of the university, to receive complaints during his absence, though, according to the canons, the government of it was vested in the bishop of Lincoln, the bishop of the diocese, and the archbishop of Canterbury, the metropolitan of the province.@@9 Edward I. published a brief, which was confirmed by a parliament assembled at York, against the conduct of the preaching friars, although they were supported by papal bulls.@@10 Ed­ward III., in the fortieth year of his reign, in consequence of petitions from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge on the one hand, and from the friars of the four mendicant orders on the other, made an ordinance, with the assent of parliament, by which, after removing a prohibition imposed by the universities upon the admission of young scholars into these orders, it was enacted, “ that all bulls and processes issuing from the court of Rome, and pro­cured by the friars against either of the universities, or any person in them, should thenceforth be absolutely null and void ; and the friars were forbidden to use or allege them.”@@11 The same king, nine years after, abrogated sta­tutes made by the chancellor, proctors, and heads of the university, cited the official persons before him, and re­moved them for contumacy, although they pleaded in jus­tification the pope’s bulls.@@12 Indeed the whole tenor of the privileges conferred by the various kings upon the univer­sities may be considered as proving that, constitutionally, the power of the king and parliament was held to be su­preme, and that the interference of the pontiff was submitted to only by sufferance.

Our space will not allow us to pursue in detail the his­tory of this university. Beside the unfortunate incidents already alluded to, others occurred which gave a temporary check to its prosperity. In the reign of Edward I. a violent dispute arose between the university and the bishop of Lincoln, in whose diocese Oxford was then included, con­cerning the limits of the bishop’s jurisdiction in university matters, which ultimately led to the total emancipation of the learned body from ecclesiastical authority, under the

@@@1 Matth. Paris, cited by Mr Hallam, Mid. Ages, iii. 527.

@@@3 Dyer’s Privileges, i. 437, &c.

@@@5 Vol. i. pp. 206 and 266.

@@@, Bulaei Hist. Univ. Par. iii. 133 Meiner», i. 214.

@@@\* Edinburgh Rev. No. 106, p. 387.

@@@e Hallam’s Mid. Ages, iii. 526.

@@@, Bulæi Hist. Univ. Par. iii. 250. Ayliffe, i. 89. Meiners, ii. 97.

@@@s Dyer’s Privileges, i. 426.

@@@\* Bulæi Hist. Un. Par. iv. 141. Malden. p. 76.

@@@,0 Ibid. i. 426.

@@@u Dyer's Uist. of the Univ, of Cambridge, i. pp. 71 and 72. Privileges, i. pp. 71 and 72. Ayliffe, i. pp. 136-7.

@@@" Dyer’s Privileges, pp. 380, 381, 426.