bishop were made in the early part of the reign of Edward III.; and in the thirty-sixth year of the same reign, letters patent were granted, by which the scholars were protected from being summoned out of the university into any eccle­siastical court ; and appeals to any ecclesiastical court what­ever were prohibited in cases cognisable by the chancellor. These immunities were confirmed by royal letters to the bishop of Ely in the 15th of Richard II.@@1 The university elected its chancellor and other principal officers, but the confirmation of the bishop of Ely was anciently required.@@1 This confirmation was however dispensed with by a bull of Boniface IX. in 1401 ; and in 1430, Pope Martin V. appoint­ed a commission to inquire whether the university by grant or custom was subject to the ecclesiastical jurisdiction of the chancellor, and exempted from that of *all others ;* em­powering his delegates, if they should find it so, to confirm by his authority that jurisdiction and exemption, which was accordingly done. The sentence of the delegates was ra­tified by a bull of Eugenius IV. in 1433. The university was thus relieved from the jurisdiction of the bishop of the diocese, but not from that of the archbishop of the province. Two examples of metropolitan visitation are recorded, the one in 1309, and the other in 1401 ; but in neither case does the archbishop appear to have acted on his own authority. Mr Dyer@@3 shows that the former visitation was undertaken by the authority of letters patent from the king. The pro­ceedings of the latter, which had special reference to the heresy of Wycliffe, were confirmed by act of parliament. The right of visitation and inspection is vested in the sovereign.

In the reign of Henry V. the university obtained two re­markable privileges. The one was a public statute, ordain­ing that none should practise the art of medicine except those admitted in the universities, and approved by them ; offenders were to be punished at the discretion of the privy council. The other was a mandate from the arch­bishop, granted with the consent of the prelates of his pro­vince, that patrons should bestow ecclesiastical benefices only on graduates and students of the university. Some addi­tional privileges were conferred by Edward IV. and Henry VII. The changes which took place in the religion of the state during the four succeeding reigns affected consider­ably the internal arrangements and prosperity of the uni­versity. Queen Elizabeth, in the third year of her reign, granted to it an extensive charter ; and by the act of par­liament 13 Eliz. c. 29, for the incorporation of the two English universities, this and all preceding grants from Henry III. downwards were confirmed, and the university was declared to be incorporated by the name of the “ Chan­cellor, Masters, and Scholars.”

Our materials do not enable us to give so minute an ac­count of the collegiate foundations of Cambridge, and of other religious houses for the residence of students, as we have already given respecting those of Oxford. In the early part of the thirteenth century, the halls or hostels are said to have been very numerous, and to have been crowd­ed with students. This is indeed implied in the public letters of Henry III. ; and it would appear from the terms of the Composition, that the *hospitia,* to which it referred, were liable to fluctuation and change. The principal houses were those of St Mary, St Bernard, St Thomas, and St Augustin, assigned to artists ; and St Paulinus, St Nicho­las, St Clement, and Hovens, to students of the civil and canon law. Several of these houses were at length de­serted, and sunk into decay ; others, being purchased by patrons of literature, and obtaining charters of incorpora­tion, are represented by the present colleges. Caius says there had been twenty hostels, of which seventeen remained in his time.@@4 Of the existing colleges, Peter-house, or St Peter’s College, was founded so early as 1257 ; five were incorporated during the succeeding century, four in the fifteenth, six in the sixteenth, and one, Downing College, so late as 1800. The term *hall* is not applied, as at Ox­ford, to houses without endowment, but is used indiscrimi­nately with *college.*

The university of Cambridge is incorporated (13 Eliz. c. 29) by the name of the “ Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Cambridge,” and consists of seventeen colleges, or societies, devoted to the study of learning and science. Each college is a body corporate, bound by its own statutes, but is likewise controlled by the paramount laws of the university, each furnishing members both for the legislative and executive government of the whole. The statutes of Elizabeth are the foundation of the existing go­vernment, and form the basis of all the subsequent legisla­tion ; indeed no grace of the senate is considered valid which is inconsistent with these statutes, and certain nearly contemporary interpretations of them, or with king’s letters, which have been accepted and acted on by the university. The principal officers of the university have nearly the same offices and titles as at Oxford ; namely, the chancellor, high steward, vice-chancellor, public orator, two proctors, a li­brarian, two taxers (who regulate the markets, assize of bread, &c.), professors and public lecturers, two scrutators, &c. There are also two officers peculiar to Cambridge, styled moderators,@@5 who are deputies of the proctors, and whose office it is to superintend the exercises and disputa­tions in philosophy, and the examinations previous to the degree of bachelor of arts. There are, besides, a commissary, who is an officer under the chancellor, and an assessor, whose duty it is to assist the vice-chancellor in his court. The chancellor is always a nobleman, and is elected by the senate. His office is biennial, or tenable for a longer period by the consent of the university. The other officers are elected nearly in the same manner as at Oxford.

The business of the university is conducted by the Senate, which consists of two Houses, denominated the Upper or Re­gent House, and the Lower or Non Regent House. All masters of arts, or doctors in one or other of the faculties of divinity, civil law, or physic, having their names upon the college-boards, hold­ing any university office, or being resident in the town of Cam­bridge, are members of the senate. Masters of arts of less than five years’ standing, and doctors of less than two, compose the regent or upper house, or, as it is otherwise called, the *white, hood* house, from the members wearing their hoods lined with white silk. Masters of arts of more than five years’ standing, but who have not advanced to the degree of doctor, constitute the non­regent or lower house, otherwise called the *black-hood* house, its members wearing black silk hoods. But doctors of more than two years’ standing, with the public orator, may vote in either house, according to their pleasure.

Besides the two houses, there is a council called the Caput, chosen annually on the 12th of October, by which everv univer­sity grace must be approved before it can be introduced in the senate. The caput consists of the vice-chancellor, a doctor in each of the faculties of divinity, civil law, and physic, and two masters of arts, who represent the regent and non regent houses. The vice-chancellor is a member of the caput by virtue of his office ; the other members are chosen in the following manner : the vice-chancellor and the two proctors severally nominate five per­sons properly qualified for the trust, and out of the fifteen the heads of colleges, doctors, and scrutators, choose five. The vice- chancellor’s list is, in general, honoured with the appointment. Λ few days before the beginning of each term, the vice-chancellor publishes a list of the days on which a Congregation or assembly of the senate will be held for transacting university business ; but in case of emergency, the vice-chancellor summons a congregation for the despatch of extraordinary affairs. Any number of mem­bers of the senate, not less than twenty-five, and including the proper officers who are obliged to be present, constitutes a con-

@@@‘ Dyer’s Priv. i. 19 and 28.

@@@∙ Ibid. ii. 233.

@@@’ Priv.i. 468. Hist. i. 73.

@@@« Dyer’s Hist. i. 60 and 63.

@@@’ The moderators were first appointed in 1680. Monk's Life of Bentley, 11.