

The schoolroom of Winchester college.

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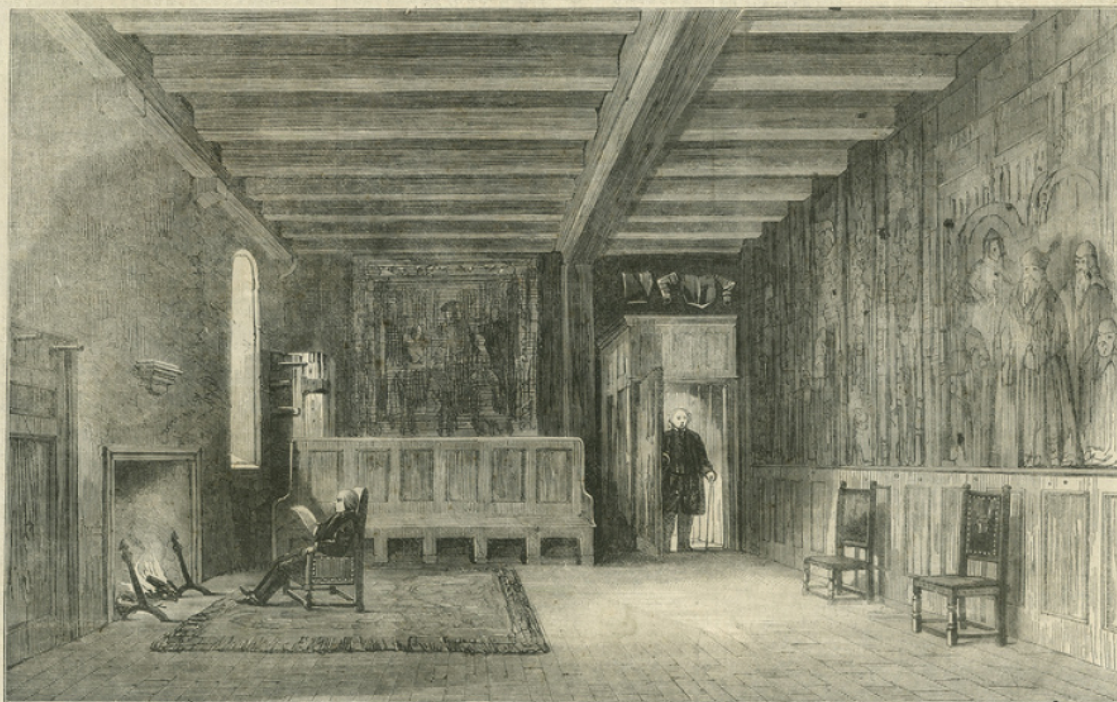


THE SCHOOLROOM OF WINCHESTER COLLEGE.

Wylliam Wykeham, who was to great with the King that all thing was done by him, and without him nothing done,"—*Protestant*, Lord Berners's trans. *Cress.* cap. cxxiv, vol. i, p. 864. In the last year of Edward's reign Wykeham's good fortune experienced a check through the intrigues of a party headed by the Duke of Lancaster, upon whose accusation he was charged with misapplication of the public funds and other acts of impropriety. Upon one charge only, and that of very trifling import, did the Court appointed to investigate the insinuations proceed to judgment. The other articles, having neither proof nor evidence to sustain them, were suffered

to drop. On this charge, one of irregularity in the form of procedure in a case of license of feoffment, his enemies triumphed. Judgment was given against him. The temporalities of his bishopric were seized, and he was excluded both from Parliament and the Court. The triumph was not of long duration. Convocation, urged by the Bishop of London—who stood up, with firm and ardent eloquence, to vindicate his noble friend—demanded satisfaction for the injured prelate. In a short time Wykeham was restored to his beloved see, where, on his return to Winchester, he was received in solemn procession. Upon the death of Edward, Wykeham was appointed one of the Commissioners to inquire

into the abuses of the former reign, and when Richard attained his majority one of his first measures was to make him Lord Chancellor, a post he held till his resignation of it in 1391, when he withdrew from active participation in political affairs. He had then almost reached the term of years allotted by the Psalmist as the bound of human existence. But he had not waited for the leisure which his retirement from public life would afford him to carry out the great designs which had long been germinating in his mind—namely, the establishment of two colleges, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, at Oxford and Winchester, and called after her St. Mary's Colleges. Very shortly after he entered on



THE AUDIT-ROOM OF WINCHESTER COLLEGE.

