

The Oxford Journals of Anthony Wood



In some ways, Anthony Wood had the ideal personality for a diarist: bad tempered, obsessive, fond of gossip, and able to give life and colour to events both great and small.

Too often, when we read about the past, it is hard to envisage the human faces behind the events. With Anthony Wood there is never that difficulty. He shows us history as a series of accidents and adventures, of opportunities taken and lost.

*Wood's sense of being a witness to history must have been fostered in his earliest years, growing up in Oxford when it was King Charles I's headquarters during the Civil War. And although his diary technically spans the years 1657 (when Wood was 24) to 1695, he also wrote retrospectively about his childhood and youth, in dated diary-style entries. The different writings were collated by the Victorian scholar Andrew Clark, and published under the title *The Life and Times of Anthony Wood, antiquary, of Oxford, 1632–1695*. It is that text which forms the basis of the abridgement below.*

1632

Dec. 17, M., Anthony Wood or à Wood (son of Thomas Wood or à Wood, bachelaur of Arts and of the Civil Law) was borne in an antient stone-house opposite to the forefront of Merton Coll. in the collegiat parish of S. John the Baptist de Merton, situate and being within the City and Universitie of Oxford, on Munday the sevententh day of December (S. Lazarus day) at about 4 of the clock in the morning, anno 1632: which stone house, with a backside and garden adjoyning, was bought by his father of John Lant, master of Arts of the Univ. of Oxon, 8 December, 6 Jac. I, Dom. 1608, and is held by his family of Merton Coll. before mention'd.

Dec. 23, Su., he was christend or taken into the bosome of the church. At which time he had to his godfathers, Anthony Clopton bachelaur of Divinity of Corp. Christi College, and Edward Dawson Doctor of physick of Lincolne College: and to his godmother, Mrs. Catherine Fisher, the wife of William Seymoure of Oxon an attorney; and afterwards the first wife of Thomas Rowney an attorney also of the same place, father (by his second wife) to Thomas Rowney esq. High Sherriff of Oxfordshire anno 169[1].

1633

He was altogether nursed by his mother (of whome shal be mention made under the year 1666) [1666/7], and by none else. For as she nursed his 3 elder brothers, so she nursed him (whom she found very quiet) and the two next that followed.

1635

This yeare he had the small pox so much that he was for a time blinded with them.

1636

Aug. 29, M., the king, queen, prince Rupert, many of the nobility and others, came from Woodstock into Oxon. A little before which time he was conveyed in a servant's armes, with his father and mother going to the lodgings of Dr Thomas Iles, canon of Christ Church; whence being conveyed to the mount in his garden looking into Fish street, he saw the king, queen and the rest riding downe the said street into Ch. Ch. great quadrangle. This was the first time that he ever saw the said king and queen, and the first time that he ever saw such a glorious traine as that was, which he would often talk of when he was a man.

1637

He was put to school to learne to read the psalter. And about that time playing before the dore of his father's house near Merton coll., one of the horses called Mutton belonging to Thomas Edgerley the university carrier, rode over him (as he was going to be watered) and bruis'd his head very much. This caused a great heaviness for some time after in his head and perhaps a slowness in apprehending with quickness things that he read or heard; of which he was very sensible when he came to reason.

1638

In the beginning of this yeare his eldest brother Thomas Wood (who was borne in Tetsworth in Oxfordshire) became one of the students of Christ Church, by the favour of Dr Thomas Iles, he being then 14 yeares of age. See more of him under the yeares 1642 and 1651.

1639/40

March 8, Su., his yonger brother John Wood died, and was buried the day following in Merton Coll. church.

1640

He was put to a Latine school in a little house, neare to the church of S. Peter in the Baylie and opposite to the street called the North Baylie, which leads from New Inn to the Bocherew. The name of his master he hath forgot, but remembers that he was master of Arts and a preacher, by a good token that one of the beadles of the Universitie did come with his silver staff to conduct him from the said little house (a poore thing God wot) to the church of S. Marie, there to preach—a Latin sermon (he thinks), for it was on a working or school day—before the Universitie.

1641

He was translated to New Coll. schoole, situated between the west part of the chappell and east part of the cloyster, by the advice, as he usually conceived, of some of the fellowes of the said coll. who usually frequented his father's house. One John Maylard fellow of the said coll. was then, or at least lately, the master (afterwards rector of Stanton S. John neare Oxon); and after him succeeded John Davys, one of the chaplaynes of the said house, whome he well remembers to be a quiet man, etc.

1641/2

In the beginning of March his brother Robert, who had lately been taken from the free-school at Thame, left Oxon in order to goe to France with Charles Dufore of Montillet a kind of a merchant at Bloys. After he was settled there, the said Charles was to send his son Dennis to Oxon to live with Robert's father by way of exchange for Robert; but the troubles in England soon after following, Charles Dufore refused to send his son. Wherefore Robert Wood continuing at Bloys and in other places in the kingdome of France till the beginning of 1647 (at which time he was neare 17 yeares of age) he return'd to his native place of Oxon, but had utterlie forgotten his mother tongue, which was a great trouble to his brethren to make him understand what they spoke to him.

1642

August; upon the publication of his Majestie's proclamation, for the suppressing of the rebellion under the conduct and command of Robert earl of Essex, the members of the Universitie of Oxon began to put themselves in a posture of defence, and especially for another reason, which was that there was a strong report that divers companies of soldiers were passing thro the country as sent from London by the parliament for the securing of Banbury and Warwick. Dr Pink of New Coll., the deputy vice-chancellour, called before him to the public schooles all the privileged men's armes to have a view of them: where not onlie privileged men of the Universitie and their servants, but also many scholars appeared, bringing with them the furniture of armes of every Coll. that then had any. Mr Wood's father had then armour or furniture for one man, viz. a helmet, a back and breastpiece, a pyke and a musquet, and other appurtenances: and the eldest of his men-servants (for he had then three at least) named Thomas Burnham did appeare in those armes, when the scholars and privileged men trained; and when he could not train, as being taken up with business, the next servant did traine: and much adoe there was to keep Thomas Wood, the eldest son, then a student of Chr. Ch. and a youth of about 18 yeares of age, from putting on the said armour and to traine among the scholars. The said scholars and privileged men did sometimes traine in New Coll. quadrangle, in the eye of Dr Robert Pink, the deputy-vicechancellour, then warden of the said Coll.—And it being a novel matter, there was no holding of the school-boyes in their school in the cloyster from seeing and following them. And Mr Wood remembred well, that some of them were so besotted with the training and activitie and gaytie therein of some yong scholars, as being in a longing condition to be one of the traine, that they could never be brought to

their bookes againe. It was a great disturbance to the youth of the citie, and Mr Wood's father foresaw that if his sons were not removed from Oxon they would be spoyl'd.

Oct. 23, Su., the great fight at Edghill in Warwickshire, called Keynton-battle, between the armies of King Charles I and his parliament was began.—Upon the first newes at Oxon that the armies were going to fight, Mr Wood's eldest brother Thomas before mention'd left his gowne at the town's-end; ran to Edghill; did his majestie good service; return'd on horse-back well accountred; and afterwards was made an officer in the king's army. See more in 'Athenae et Fasti Oxon' (written by A. Wood) lib. 2 p. 692.

Oct. 29, S., the king with his army of foot, prince Rupert and prince Maurice (his two nephews), prince Charles and James duke of York (his two sons) entred into Oxon. Nov.; his father's house opposite to Merton Coll. was taken up for the quarters of John lord Colpeper, Master of the Rolls, and of the privy councill to his majestie; whereupon Mr Wood's father with his familie removed to a little house in his backside, which he about 2 or 3 yeares before had new built.

About the same time his majestie caused his magazine to be put into New college cloister and tower &c. Whereupon the master of the school there, with his scholars (among whom A. Wood was one) were removed to the choristers' chamber at the east end of the common hall of the said Coll. It was then a dark nasty room and very unfit for such a purpose, which made the scholars often complaine, but in vaine.

1642/3

Jan. 19; his father, Thomas Wood or à Wood before mention'd, died Jan. 19, being Thursday, at about 4 of the clock in the morning to the very great grief and reluctancy of his wife and children. He died in his house in the backside before mention'd in the room over the kitchin; and being a fat and corpulent man, and therefore his body could not keep, he was buried between 8 and 9 of the clock at night on the same day in the north part of Merton Coll. outer-chappell or church, neare to the graves of James Wood his yonger brother, who died in Sept. 1629 and John Wood his son, whome I have mention'd under the yeare 1639. This Thomas Wood (father to A.W.) was borne at Islingdon neare London in January 1580 [1580/1]; was bred in grammar learning in those parts; became a student in Broadgates hall (now Pembroke Coll.) in the yeare 1600, afterwards one of the clerkes, I think, of Corpus Christi Coll. and, as a member of that house, he was admitted bach. of Arts on the 15 of Mar. 1603. Before which time he had taken to wife an antient and rich maid called Margaret, daughter of Hugh Wood of Kent (of the family of the Woods of Waterbury in that county) and sister to Robert Wood a haberdasher of hats living at the Plow and Harrow on Ludgate hill in London, and to Henry Wood living in Kent. They were married at Wood-Eaton in Oxfordshire, where shee lived in the house of Richard Taverner, esq. (uncle to Thomas Wood his second wife). About which time the said second wife, named Mary (who was borne in the said house) being then a child of about two yeares old, Thomas Wood would often take her out of the cradle, dandle her in his armes, and would several times say that he hoped she would live to be his second wife;—which accordingly came to pass, and was mother to A. Wood. ... After the death of his said first wife, which hapned at Tetsworth 14 July 1621, he took to wife Mary Pettie *alias* La Petite, mother to A. Wood (the same who had been the child in the cradle before mention'd): by whome having a good portion, and growing richer thereupon, he

was fined in October 1630 for refusing the honour of a knighthood, a matter then lately brought up to obtaine money for his majestie's use. The money which was paid by all persons of 40*li.* per an. That refused to come in and be dub'd knights, was called *knighthood-money*. ...

1643

It was much lamented by the relations of the father and mother of A.W. that he and his brother Christopher were left yong, when their father dyed, and that no body was left (because of the raging of the civil warr) to take care of them, only a woman. His eldest brother, Thomas, whome I shall mention under the year 1651, was then a rude and boisterous soldier. His second brother, Edward, was now a yong scholler of Trinity Coll. (lately of Merton) and did in this or the next year beare armes for his majesty within the garrison of Oxon, and was so farr from being a governour or tutor to others, that he could scarcely govern himself. And his third brother Robert was in France in the thirteenth yeare of his age. In this condition he continued: and yet went to schoole at New coll.; but, by the great hurry and noise that was this yeare in Oxon, and by the absence of his master, he and his brother lost much time.

This yeare the plate which had been given to A. Wood at his christening by his godfathers and godmother—which was considerable—was (with all other plate in Oxon) carried by his majestie's command to the mint at New Inne, and there turned into money to pay his majestie's armies.

1644

May 29, on Wednesday, being the eve of the Ascension, Robert earl of Essex, generalissimo of the parliament forces, and Sir William Waller, going with their forces from Abendon over Sandford Ferry, and so thro Cowley and over Bullington Green (to the end that they might go towards Islip), faced the city of Oxon for several houres, whilst their carriages slipt away behind them. This gave some terror to the garrison of Oxon, his maj. being then therein; and great talke there was that a siege would suddenly follow. Mr A. Wood's mother therefore resolving, that he and his brother Christopher should be removed out of harme's way, she sent them with an horse and man into the country: and because the infection was then in Oxon, she order'd that they should be conveyed to Tetsworth, ten miles distant from Oxon; where they continued for a fortnight or more in the house of Rich. Sciense, then called the Catherine Wheel, now a great new built inn of brick (1683) at the lower end of the towne. There, I say, they continued till it was thought that they had no infection about them, and then they were conveyed two miles on one side of Tetsworth, to a merkate towne called Thame, and there they were set downe and conveyed into the vicaridge house neare to and on the north side of the church, where they were very lovingly received by the vicar Mr Thomas Henant and his wife Elizabeth one of the daughters of Leonard Pettie gent. kinsman to the mother of A. and Ch. Wood; in which house their three elder brothers had before sojourn'd while they went to the free school in Thame. Afterwards they were entred into the said school, there to be educated till they were fit to be Academians or apprentices. ...

It was observ'd by the vicar Mr Henant, while A. Wood sojourned in his house, that the said A. Wood was very sedulous, was alwaies up and readie the first in the house, and always ambitious of being first in the school in the morning; and if any way hindred, he would be apt to cry and make a noise to the disturbance of the family, as Mr Henant hath several times told him when he was Mr of Arts.

A. Wood did partly remember that he was much retired, walked mostly alone, was given much to thinking and to melancholy; which somtimes made his night's rest so much disturb'd, that he would walk in his sleep (only with his shirt on) and disturb and fright people of the house when they were going to their respective beds, two or 3 houres after he had taken up his rest. This also, besides his owne memorie, he hath often been told by his cozen Henant the wife, who lived at Great Milton neare Oxon in the house of his cozen John Cave after her husbands death.

September. Sir Arthur Aston was governour of Oxon at what time it was garrison'd for the king, a testy, forward, imperious and tirannical person, hated in Oxon and elsewhere by God and man. Who kervetting on horsback in Bullington green before certaine ladies, his horse flung him and broke his legge: so that it being cut off and he therupon rendred useless for employment, one coll. Legge succeeded him. Soone after the country people coming to the market would be ever and anon asking the sentinell 'who was governor of Oxon?' They answered 'one Legge.' Then replied they:—'A pox upon him! Is he governour still?'

Arthur Swayne, leivtenant colonell, was buried in the transept or north isle joyning to the body of the cathedrall, neare to the middle dore leading into the middle north isle, Th., 26 Sept. 1644 . He was slayne by his boy, teaching him to use his armes. He bid his boy aime at him (thinking the gun had not been charged), which he did too well. ... Oct. 8 [6].—On Sunday the 8 [6] of October hapned a dreadfull fire in Oxon, such an one (for the shortness of time wherein it burned) that all ages before could hardly paralel. It began about two of the clock in the afternoone in a little poore house on the south side of Thames street (leading from the north gate to High Bridg) occasion'd by a foot-soldier's roasting a pigg which he had stoln. The wind being verie high and in the north, blew the flames southward very quickly and strangly and burnt all houses and stables (except S. Marie's Coll.) standing between the back-part of those houses that extend from the north gate to S. Martin's church on the east and those houses in the North Baylie (called New Inn lane) on the west: then all the old houses in the Bocherew (with the Bocherew it self) which stood between S. Martin's church and the church of S. Peter in the Baylie, among which were two which belong'd to A. Wood's mother; besides the stables and back-houses belonging to the Flowr de Luce, which were totally consumed, to her great loss, and so consequently to the loss of her sons, as they afterwards evidently found it.

Anno 1644 or thereabouts there was a heart dugg out at the Preaching Friaries Oxon. It was closid in lead as bigg as the bole of a man's hatt. It was carried to the king lying then [at] Christ Church: and when it was opened the heart looked as fresh as if it had been buried but a weeke. What else there was in the lead I have not heard; but Mr Smith of Brasnose College has the lead. Some thought ther was a crucifixe in it. ...

While A. Wood and his brother Christopher continued at Thame, you cannot imagine, what great disturbances they suffer'd by the soldiers of both parties; sometimes by the parliament soldiers of Aylesbury, sometimes by the king's from Borstall house, and sometimes from the king's at Oxon and at Wallingford Castle. The chiefest disturbances and affrightments that they and the family wherein they lived endured, were these.

On the 27 of January, being Munday, an. 1644, colonel Thomas Blagge, governour of Wallingford castle, roving about the country very early with a troop of stout horsmen (consisting of 70 or 80 at most) met with a partie of parliamenteirs or rebels (of at least 200) at Long Crendon about a mile northward from Thame: which 200 belong'd to the garrison of Aylesburie, and being headed by a Scot called colonel Crafford, who, as I think, was governour of the garrison there, they pretended that they were looking out quarters for them. I say that col. Blagge and his partie, meeting with these rebels at Long Crendon, fought with, and made them run, till his men following them too eagerly were overpower'd with multitudes that afterwards came in to their assistance (almost treble his number); at which time he himself with his stout captaine — Walter (they two only) fought against a great many of the rebels for a long while together; in which encounter the brave colonel behaved himself as manfully with his sword, as ever man did, slashing and beating so many fresh rebels with such courage and dexterity, that he would not stirr, till he had brought off all his owne men, whereof the rebels kild but two, (not a man more); tho they took sixteen who stayed too long behind. Captain Walter had six rebels upon him, and according to his custome fought it out so gallantly, that he brought himself off with his colonel; and came home safe to Wallingford with all their men, except 18. Col. Blagge was cut over the face, and had some other hurts, but not dangerous.

After the action was concluded at Crendon, and Blagge and his men forced to fly homeward, they took part of Thame in their way. And A.W. and his fellow-sojournours being all then at dinner in the parlour with some strangers there, of whome their master Burt and his wife were of the number, they were all alarum'd with their approach: and by that time they could run out of the house into the backside to look over the pale that parts it from the common road, they saw a great number of horsmen posting towards Thame over Crendon bridge, about a stone's cast from their house (being the out and only house on that road, before you come into Thame) and in the head of them was Blagge with a bloody face, and his party with capt. Walter's following him. The number, as was then guessed by A.W. and those of the family, was 50 or more, and they all rode under the said pale and close by the house. They did not ride in order, but each made shift to be foremost; and one of them riding upon a shelving ground opposite to the dore, his horse slip'd, fell upon one side, and threw the rider (a lusty man) in A. Wood's sight. Colonel Crafford, who was well hors'd and a pretty distance before his men in pursuite, held a pistol to him; but the trooper crying 'quarter', the rebels came up, rifled him, and took him and his horse away with them. Crafford rode on without touching him, and ever or anon he would be discharging his pistol at some of the fag-end of Blagg's horse, who rode thro the west end of Thame, called Priest-end, leading towards Ricot. Whether Crafford and his men followed them beyond Thame, I think not, but went into the towne, and refreshed themselves, and so went to Aylesbury.

April. The next great disturbance whereby A.W. and his fellow sojournours were alarum'd at Thame, was this. In the latter end of Apr. 1645 a famous Buckinghamshire commander called capt. — Phips the rag-man was in Thame with 20 horse and dragoons to guard their committee for the excise (the chief of which committee were goodman Heywood, and goodman Hen the butcher his servant) and tarrying there two dayes or more, Sir William Campion governour of Borstall house having received notice of them, sent out his captaine lieutenant called capt — Bunce, with a partie of 20 horse; who instantly marching thither over Crendon bridg, as it seems, and so by the vicaridge house, drove them thro the towne of Thame. Whereupon Phips and his committee flying pretty fast till they came to the bridg below Thame mill (which is eastward and a little by north about a stone's-cast from the vicar's house) they faced about, hoping to make good the bridge with their dragoons. But this valiant captaine Bunce, after he had receiv'd a volley from Phips and his partie (which touched only one common soldier slightlie) charged over the bridg, and with his pistols shot one of them dead, and beat them off the bridg, so as they all ran away, but lost just half their number: for besides him that was killed, there were nine taken, whereof two were capt. Phips himself and his lieutenant, ten only escaping, most of which had marks bestowed on them.

Capt. Bunce returned safe to Borstall with 9 prisoners, 10 horses, six fire-lock musquets, and 4 case of pistols. This is that captaine Bunce who shot the pillaging Scot cal'd major Jecamiah Abercromy (belonging I think to Aylesbury garrison) neare Stretton-Audley in Oxfordshire; which entring deep into his side, fell from his horse on the 7 of March 1644 [1644/5]: so that being carried off prisoner, with others, to Borstall house, died there soon after, full of sorrow for his activity in the rebellion against K. Ch. I.

1646

June 10, Wednesday, the garrison of Borstall was surrendred for the use of the parliament. The schoolboys were allowed by their master a free libertie that day, and many of them went thither (4 miles distant) about 8 or 9 of the clock in the morning to see the forme of surrender, the strength of the garrison, and the soldiers of each partie. They, and particularly A.W., had instructions given to them before they went, that not one of them should either tast any liquor or eat any provision in the garrison; and the reason was, for feare the royal partie who were to march out thence should mix poison among the liquor or provision that they should leave there. But as A.W. remembred, he could not get into the garrison, but stood, as hundreds did, without the works, where he saw the governour, Sir William Campion, a little man, who upon some occasion or other laid flat upon the ground on his belly to write a letter, or bill, or the form of a pass, or some such thing.

June 24, Wednesday and Midsomer day, the garrison of Oxon, which was the chiefest hold the king had, and wherein he had mostly resided while the civil warr continued, was surrendred for the use of the parliament, as most of his garrisons were this year, occasion'd by the fatal battle of Naisby which hapned in the last yeare, wherein the king and his partie were in a woful manner worsted. In the evening of the said day, many of the king's foot-partie that belonged to the said garrison came into Thame, and layd

downe their armes there, being then a wet season. Some of whome continuing there the next day, A.W. went into the towne to see them. He knew some of their faces and they his, but he being a boy and having no money, he could not then relieve them, or make them drink: yet he talked with them about Oxford and his relations and acquaintance there; for the doing of which he was check'd when he came home.

September.—In the latter end of Aug. or the beginning of Sept. following, his brother Edward Wood (bach. of Arts and scholar of Trinity Coll.) came on foot from Oxon with Leonard Pettie (the brother of the wife of his cozen Henant the vicar) and another scholar to see him and his brother, the vicar and the master and their wives. They continued at least two nights in the vicar's house and great kindness was expressed by them towards A.W. and his brother Christopher whom, the next day, the said Edward told, that they were soon after to return to Oxon, and that their mother had much suffer'd in her estate by the late dreadful fire in Oxon and therefore was not able to maintaine them any longer at school in Thame &c. A.W. seemed very sorry at this news, because he was well and warme where he was, had good companie, and seem'd to have a fix'd love for the place, even so much that he did never afterwards care to hear of New Coll. school to have given him scholastical education but applied all that he had to that of Thame, etc. But there was no remedy for go he must, and go he did with his brother after Michaelmas following.

After his returne to the house of his nativity, he found Oxford empty as to scholars, but pretty well replenish'd with parliamentary soldiers. Many of the inhabitants had gained great store of wealth from the Court and royalists that had for several yeares continued among them; but as for the yong men of the city and university he found many of them to have been debauch'd by bearing armes and doing the duties belonging to soldiers, as watching, warding, and sitting in tipling-houses for whole nights together. His mother put his brother Christopher to school in Oxon and himself to the tuition of his brother Edward of Trinity college, to whom he went once or twice in a day to receive instruction, and alwaies spent every afternoon in his chamber, which was a cockleloft over the common gate of that college.

While he continued in this condition, his mother would always be soliciting him to be an apprentice, which he could never endure to heare of: and somtimes she would tell him that she would set him out to an attorney or sollicitor, and he remembred well that she often mention'd Mr John Theyer a sollicitor (of whom shall be mention made under the yeare 166[8]) as a fit master for him, but still he drew back and turn'd his eare. Nay she was so silly that she would several times propose to him some inferior mechanical trade, because she found him to have a mechanical head, and alwaies at leisure times very active in framing little trivial things or baubles.

1647

May 26, W., A. Wood was matriculated as a member of the university and a gentleman's son.—This was done by his brother Edward, who obtained a certificate that he was matriculated from Matthew Cross the superior beadle of law, which he kept by him to the time of his death.—But afterwards when he was master of Arts and had a full sight of the matriculation books, he could not find his name registred in any of them.

Oct. 18, St Luke's day and Munday, he was entred into the buttery-book of Merton college, being about that time made by Mr Edward Copley, fellow of that house, his

postmaster, and put into the chamber under him in the great quadrangle. He had not then any tutor in that Coll.; but continued still under the instruction of his brother Edward in Trin. coll.

December.—At that time Christmas appearing, there were fires of charcole made in the common hall on Allsaints eve, Allsaints day and night, on the holydayes their nights and eves between that time and Christmas day; then on Christmas eve, Christmas day and holydayes and their nights, and on Candlemas eve, Candlemas day and night.

At all these fires every night, which began to be made a little after five of the clock, the senior under-graduats would bring into the hall the juniors or freshmen between that time and six of the clock, and there make them sit downe on a forme in the middle of the hall, joyning to the declaiming desk: which done, every one in order was to speake some pretty apothegme, or make a jest or bull, or speake some eloquent nonsense, to make the company laugh. But if any of the freshmen came off dull, or not cleverly, some of the forward or pragmatcal seniors would '*tuck*' them, that is, set the nail of their thumb to their chin, just under the lower lipp, and by the help of their other fingers under the chin, they would give him a mark, which somtimes would produce blood.

1647/8

February.—On Candlemas day, or before (according as Shrove-tuesday fell out), every freshman had warning given him to provide his speech, to be spoken in the publick hall before the under-graduats and servants on Shrove-Tuesday night that followed, being always the time for the observation of that ceremony. According to the said summons A. Wood provided a speech as the other freshmen did.

Feb. 15.—Shrove-Tuesday, Feb. 15, the fire being made in the common hall before 5 of the clock at night, the fellowes would go to supper before six, and making an end sooner than at other times, they left the hall to the libertie of the under-graduats, but with an admonition from one of the fellowes (who was then principal of the under-graduats and postmasters) that all things should be carried in good order. While they were at supper in the hall, the cook (Will. Noble) was making the lesser of the brass pots ful of cawdle at the freshmans' charge; which, after the hall was free from the fellowes, was brought up and set before the fire in the said hall. Afterwards every freshman, according to seniority, was to pluck off his gowne and band, and if possibly to make himself look like a scoundrell. This done, they were conducted each after the other to the high table, and there made to stand on a forme placed thereon; from whence they were to speak their speech with an audible voice to the company: which if well done, the person that spoke it was to have a cup of cawdle and no salted drinke; if indifferently, some cawdle and some salted drink; but if dull, nothing was given to him but some salted drink or salt put in college beere, with tucks to boot. Afterwards when they were to be admitted into the fraternity, the senior cook was to administer to them an oath over an old shoe, part of which runs thus—"Item tu jurabis quod penniless bench non visitabis" &c. the rest is forgotten, and none there are now remembers it. After which spoken with gravity, the Freshman kist the shoe, put on his gowne and band and took his place among the seniors.

Now for a diversion and to make your laugh at the folly and simplicity of those times, I shall entertaine you with part of a speech which A. Wood spoke while he stood on the forme placed on the table, with his gowne and band off and uncovered.

“Most reverend Seniors,

May it please your Gravities to admit into your presence a kitten of the Muses, and a meer frog of Helicon to croak the cataracts of his plumbeous cerebrosity before your sagacious ingenuities. ...

I am none of those May-pole freshmen, that are tall cedars before they come to be planted in the academian garden, who fed with the papp of Aristotle at twenty or thirtie yeares of age, and suck at the duggs of their mother the University tho they be high Colossus's and youths rampant. These are they, who come newly from a country bagg-pudding and a good brown loaf to deal with a penny-commons, as an elephant with a poor fly, tumbles it and tosses it, and at last gives him a chop. ...

I am none of the University blood-hounds, that seek for preferment, and whose noses are as acute as their eares, that lye perdue for places, and who, good saints! do groan till *the Visitation* comes. These are they that esteem a tavern as bad as purgatory, and wine more superstitious than holy water: and therefore I hope this honourable convocation will not suffer one of that tribe to tast of the sack, least they should be troubled with a vertigo and their heads turne *round*.

I never came out of the country of Lapland. I am not of the number of beasts—I meane those greedie dogs and kitchin-haunters, who noint their chops every night with greese and rob the cook of his fees” &c.

Thus he went forward with smart reflections on the rest of the freshmen and some of the servants, which might have been here set downe, had not the speech been borrowed of him by several of the seniors who imbezel'd it. After he had concluded his speech, he was taken downe by Edmund Dickenson, one of the bachelaur-commoners of the house; who with other bachelours and the senior under-graduats made him drink a good dish of cawdle, put on his gowne and band, placed him among the seniors, and gave him sack.

This was the way and custome that had been used in the college, time out of mind, to initiate the freshmen; but between that time and the restoration of K. Ch. 2 it was disused, and now such a thing is absolutely forgotten.

1648

The Visitors appointed by Parliament having sate several times in the lodgings of Sir Nathaniel Brent, warden of Merton coll., in the last yeare, but to little purpose, they proceeded this yeare with very great rigour, to the ruine of the Universitie. The members of every college were all summoned to appeare on a certaine day, and somtimes two or 3 colleges or more appeared in one day, and if they did not give in a positive answer whether they would submit to them and their visitation as appointed by parliament, they were forthwith ejected.

May 12.—Friday (May 12) the members of Merton College appear'd, and when A.W. was called in (for the members were called in one by one) he was ask'd this question by one of the Visitors: ‘Will you submit to the authority of parliament in this visitation?’ To wwhich he gave this answer, and wrot it downe on a paper lying on the table, as he was directed: ‘I do not understand the business, and therefore I am not able to give a direct answer.’

Afterwards his mother and brother Edward, who advised him to submit in plaine termes, were exceeding angry with him, and told him that he had ruined himself, and must therefore go a begging. At length, by the intercession of his mother made to Sir Nathaniel Brent (who usually cal'd her his little daughter, for he knew her, and us'd to set her on his knee, when shee was a girle and a sojournour in her husband's house during the time of his first wife) he was conniv'd at and kept in his place, otherwise he had infallibly gon to the pot.

August.—Aug.; his eldest brother Thomas Wood, who had served in the quality of a lievtenant of horse for his majestie during the warr, did, after the warr was terminated, returne to his coll. of Ch. Ch. and there receiv'd the profits of his place; but about the beginning of Aug. this yeare, he very abruptly left the universitie, went into Ireland, and finding out his school-fellow colonel Henry Ingoldesby, became an officer in his regiment, to fight against the rebels there. The reason of his sudden departure was this: viz. that he being one of the prime plotters of the remaining cavaliers in Oxon to seize on the garrison, Visitors, and all the armes they could find, to the end that they might joyne themselves to others that had plotted in the same manner in other parliament garrisons, to relieve the distressed cavaliers that were besieg'd in Colchester, the plot was discovered by one or more of them when they were in their cups; which made every one shift for themselves as well as they could. ...

November.—Nov. 6, M., Edward Wood before mentiond, bach. of Arts and scholar of Trin. Coll. (who before had submitted to the Visitors), was with others admitted probationer-fellow of Merton. Coll. ... Soon after, E. Wood being settled in the bay-tree chamber in the first quadrangle next to the gate of Merton Coll., A. Wood was put into the cockloft over him. So, then and after, his trudging to Trin. Coll. to receive his instruction was saved.

1649

A. Wood's mother (Mary Wood) being much out of purse in reedyfying the stables and out-houses of the Flowr de Luce, and in repairing the inn it self, she gave off house-keeping; and taking her son Christopher and a maid with her, went to Cassington neare Woodstok, and sojourned in a fair stone-house then inhabited by one —— Tipping lately sequestred from the vicaridge of Shabbington in Bucks, neare to Thame, who had married an Oxford gentlewoman the daughter of one William Dewey who had been acquainted with M^{rs} Wood from her childhood. In the same house did then sojourn Mr John Lucas lately senior fellow of New College, and Mr Richard Sherlock lately chaplain of the said college, but now (1649) curat of Cassington. A. Wood did often retire thither to see his mother, and somtimes lodge there for a night or two. Mr Sherlock was civil to him, and would give him good instruction and talk fatherly to him. Mr John Goad was then vicar of Yarnton, a mile distant from Cassington; (to whom Christopher Wood went dayly to school) and being a suffering cavalier, did go often to the said Mr Tipping's house to visit his brother-sufferers. This person A.W. did often see there and received instruction from him in many particulars and found him an exceeding loving and tender man.

Mr Anthony Hodges rector of Wytham in Berks (a mile distant from Cassington) would often come among these royallists at Mr Tipping's house and there make them merry. He was a very good scholar, and fit in many respects to oblige posterity by his

pen; but delighting himself in mirth, and in that which was afterwards called buffooning and bantering, could never be brought to set pen to paper for that purpose. He was the mirth of the company, and they esteem'd him their *Terræ filius*.

Twenty horse of Hind's company, the great robber, committed about 40 robberies about Barnet, not far from London, in the space of 2 houres, about 22 Sept. 1649.

This James Hind (borne at Chipping Norton) was a little dapper desperat fellow. ... I remember one James Dewy (son of Mr William Dewy of S. Ebbs parish in Oxon), who, long before my acquaintance with him, was one of his desperate companions—a little man, but verie metalsome and daring. Also I remember one —— Haywood of Einsham neare Oxon, a tall, slender man, who, carrying on the trade of robbery, about the time that Hind was executed was taken [and] committed to Oxford Castle. But soon after, endeavouring to make an escape by the help of his sheets and bedcords tyed together to let him downe from a high place, brake his legg and was taken. Arthur Roe, a tanner of Oxford, was his servant, a downright drudge at fighting, a rustical hero: from whome I have heard many of the pranks committed by Hind. This Arthur Roe, being eaten up with the scurvies, died at Oxon in the beginning of March 1680/1, aged under 60; buried in the yard of St Peter's Church.

Dec., John Blanks, a handsome yong man and contemporarie with A.W. in Merton Coll., being sent for home to keep his Christmas, A.W. went with him to the house of his father James Blanks, gent., impropiator of Bledlow in Bucks, neare to Thame in Oxfordshire, where he continued more than a weeke. ...

In the church here were some armes in the windowes, and an inscription or two on grave stones, of which A.W. toke notice according to his then capacity, but afterwards obtained a better method of taking them. These things are here set downe; because they were the first matters of that nature that A.W. took notice of.

1649/50

February.—Feb. 16, S., his brother Edward who was his tutor thinking it more fit that he should change him for another, he was put under the tuition of Clinton Maund, an Irish man borne of English parents as being descended from the Maunds of Chesterton near Bister in Oxfordshire. He was a bach. fellow, well growne in yeares, but a grand Presbyterian, alwaies praying in his chamber, and when master of Arts preaching abroad. A. Wood's brother was peevish and would be ever and anon angry if he could not take or understand Logical notions as well as he. He would be sometimes so angry that he would beat him and turne him out of his chamber; of which complaining to his mother, she was therefore willing that Anthony should take another tutor.

1650

April.—In the beginning of this yeare A.W. was made one of the Bible Clerks, by the favour of Sir Nathaniel Brent, the warden. ...

April 5, F., he answer'd Generals in the public schools, and James Bricknell, his chamberfellow and clerk of Merton Coll., opposed him.

Apr. 22, M., he left the cockleloft over his brother's chamber in the first quadrangle, and removed to the chamber in the little or old quadrangle, opposite to the Exchequer chamber, which was appointed for the clerks.

August.—In the latter end of Aug. several juniors of Mert. coll. as John Blanks, Brian Ambler, A. Wood, &c. got horses and rode to Wallingford in Berks, purposely to see the castle there, being then about to be demolished. They were in number about eight, and when they came to desire the guards to let them come into the castle, they refused to do it, for no other reason, as the scholars supposed, but that their number was too great and may have some design upon them. Col. Arthur Evelin was then, as it seems, the governour, but was not at home, otherwise, as 'tis believed, they might have had entrance. So going back to the towne of Wallingford, they dined there, and return'd to Oxon.

Dec. 14, S., one Anne Green a servant maid, was hang'd in the castle of Oxon, for murdering her bastard-child, begotten by Jeffry Reade grand-son to Sir Thomas Read of Duns-Tew in Oxfordshire. After she had suffer'd the law, she was cut downe, and carried away in order to be anatomiz'd by some yong physitians, but they finding life in her, would not venter upon her, only so farr, as to recover her to life. Which being look'd upon as a great wonder, there was a relation of her recovery printed, and at the end several copies of verses made by the yong poets of the Universitie were added. ...

1650/1

Jan. 16, Th., twelve postmasters of Merton coll. were expel'd by the Visitors, viz. John Blanks, John Wright, Brian Ambler, Richard Philipps, &c. Some of which, who were *godly youths*, as Georg Pricket, Stephen Richmond, William Staine &c. they afterwards restored to, and confirmed them in their places. So that had A.W. continued postmaster a little longer, he had without doubt received his quietus. As for John Blanks, he afterwards retired to his father's house and became an attorney: John Wright, after the king's restoration, became master of the King's School at Worcester: Brian Ambler, a curat or minister in Shropshire: and Richard Philipps, upon a second answer given in to the Visitors, was kept in; and, after he had taken a degree in arts, he became a mortified and pious minister in Shropshire, &c.

Jan. 22, W., Edward Wood, fellow of Merton coll., was, for divers pretended miscarriages and misdemeanors, suspended by the Visitors from the commons and all profits from his place, as also from being tutor in that coll., untill farther order. The miscarriages were, first, for entertaining strangers at his chamber with more wine than 'twas thought convenient; (2) for drinking the king's health at Medley neare Oxon two yeares before with some of his contemporaries of Trinity coll. &c. Which suspension was occasion'd by the uncharitable information made to the Visitors by Thomas Franke, a junior fellow of Merton Coll.; who now did lay in wait, as 'twere, to bring the said coll. into distraction and trouble.

This Thomas Franke, after all his obsequious flatteries, fals tales, cringing to the Presbyterians and Independents, and his being actually in armes in the troop raised by the university of Oxon against King Charles 2 at Worcester, an. 1651, had the impudence after the restoration of the said king to turn about, and for his money to get the rectory of Cranfield in Derbyshire; whilst others that had been great sufferers for his majestie's

cause and had no money were forced to starve and live as opportunity served. He was a most vile person and not fit to live in a society; yet, if I am not mistaken, he did, when he used to retire to the college, after he had been settled at Cranfield, express some repentance of what he had done to the injury of several of the society before Mr Peter Nicolls and John Powell senior, fellowes of the said coll.

This yeare Jacob a Jew opened a coffey house at the Angel in the parish of S. Peter, in the East Oxon; and there it was by some, who delighted in noveltie, drank. When he left Oxon he sold it in Old Southampton buildings in Holborne neare London, and was living 1671.—See in 1654.

1651

December.—Thomas Wood, eldest brother to A.W., died of the flux at Drogheda, commonly called Tredagh, in the month of December. He was borne at Tetsworth neare to Thame in Oxfordshire (where his father then had a farme), on the 24 May 1624; educated mostly in the free school at Thame under his kinsman Mr W. Burt; was made student of Ch. Church in 1638, as I have before told you; and afterwards was the first, or one of the first young scholars in Oxon that threw off his gowne, and ran to Edghill battle. See more under the yeare 1642. At his return thence he was actually created bach. of Arts among soldiers that had done service at the said battle: and then his father seeing that he could not persuade him from being a soldier, he bought a horse, armes, cloaths, &c.; set him up for a troper; and got him a place to ride in the troop of captaine Thomas Gardner of Cudesdon neare Oxon. Afterwards he became a stout and desperat soldier; was in several battles; and besieged in divers garrisons, particularly, if I am not mistaken, at Basing in Hampshire; and was made a lievtenant of horse. When the warr was terminated, and the king's cause utterlie vanquished, he return'd to his college; was actually created Mr of arts, an. 1647; but in the next yeare being deeply engaged in the cavaliering plot, as I have told you under that yeare (1648), he, to avoid being taken and hanged for it, fled into Ireland, where finding out his quondam school-fellow at Thame, called col. Henry Ingoldesbie, he became a lievtenant in his regiment, afterwards a captaine, and, as I have heard, had a commission, a little before his death, to be a major. About a yeare before that time, viz. in 1650, he returned for a time to Oxon. to take up his arrears at Ch. Church, and to settle his other affaires; at which time being often with his mother and brethren, he would tell them of the most terrible assaulting and storming of Tredagh, wherein he himself had been engaged. He told them that 3000 at least, besides some women and children, were, after the assailants had taken part, and afterwards all the towne, put to the sword on the 11 and 12 of Sept. 1649; at which time Sir Arthur Aston the governour had his braines beat out, and his body hack'd and chop'd to pieces. He told them, that when they were to make their way up to the lofts and galleries in the church and up to the tower where the enemy had fled, each of the assailants would take up a child and use [it] as a buckler of defence, when they ascended the steps, to keep themselves from being shot or brain'd. After they had kil'd all in the church, they went into the vaults underneath where all the flower and choicest of the women and ladies had hid themselves. One of these, a most handsome virgin and arrai'd in costly and gorgeous apparel, kneel'd downe to Tho. Wood with teares and prayers to save her life: and being stricken with a profound pitie, took her under his arme, went with her out of the church,

with intentions to put her over the works and to let her shift for her self; but then a soldier perceiving his intentions, he ran his sword up her belly or fundament. Whereupon Mr Wood seeing her gasping, took away her money, jewells, &c. and flung her downe over the works, &c.

In the latter end of 1680, when the parliament sate at Oxon, A. Wood was walking with Sir Henry St Georg, Clarentius king of armes, in the school-quadrangle. Sir Henry then meeting with col. Henry Ingoldesbie before mention'd, and telling him who A. W. was, A. W. thereupon did discourse with him concerning his brother Thomas: and, among several things that the colonel told him, was, that Thomas was a good soldier, stout and ventrous, and having an art of merriment, called buffooning, his company was desired and loved by the officers of his regiment. He told him then he was buried in a church at Tredagh answerable to his quality, but could not tell him when he died.—This Thomas Wood was a tall, proper, and robust man, like his father; but black and swarthy, unlike in that to any of his brethren, or father.

This yeare A. W. began to exercise his natural and insatiable genie he had to musick. He exercised his hand on the violin; and, having a goode eare to take any tune at first hearing, he could quickly draw it out from the violin, but not with the same tuning of strings that others used. He wanted understanding friends and money to pick him out a good master, otherwise he might have equal'd in that instrument and in singing any person then in the universitie. He had some companions that were musical, but they wanted instruction as well as he.

1652

July.—Friday, July 2, A. Wood was examin'd for the degree of bac. of Arts in the natural philosophy school, by William Broune, M.A. of Magd. Coll., a native of Oxon. He had before answer'd twice under a bachelaur among the crowd in the divinity school, and once, if not both the times, under Matthew Bee, a determining bachelaur of Universitie Coll. in the Lent-time 1650/1: which M. Bee was afterwards minister of Windlebury neare Bister in Oxfordshire: and on the 6 of the same month he was adm. Bach. of Arts.

July 26, Munday, and Shabington Wake as it seems; he rode in the company of a mimick and buffoon, called Thomas Williams; and the horse of A. W. being bad, or else that he was no good rider, he had a fall, and put out his — arme. When he came to Shabbington, he put off his doublet, and found his arme swel'd and exceeding tender. Thomas Williams, who had been bred an apothecary, would needs perswade him, that his arme was not out of joint, only bruised, and so applyed a cloath and oyle to it; yet notwithstanding this he could not use it, which caus'd all his mirth to be turn'd into melancholy. In this condition he continued about a week there, rode to Thame, eat and drank, but with little comfort or rest, and at length came home in a most afflicted condition.

After he had been at home some dayes he was advised to go to — Adams a lock-smith living in Catstreet who was an expert bone-setter, to the end that he might look upon it, and see what was to be done. T., Aug. 10; he spoke mildly to A. W. when he look'd on his arme, gave him sweet words and told him all was well. At length casting his head aside, Adams fastned one of his hands above and other below the elbow, pluck'd the arme straight, and set it. But the paine being great and unexpected (because that the

arteries had been shrunk) he fell into a great swoon, and could see nothing but green before his eyes. Adams then laid him upon the bed, gave him cordials, and put him to sleep. Afterwards he found himself at ease, and better every day, but never before that time or since, knew what swooning was or is.

Thomas Williams before mention'd had an estate in land, houses, and money left to him by his father; but never would follow his trade, onlie live a loose life and take all advantages to do it *gratis*. Afterwards when A.W. came to understand the world better, he found him a debaucher of youth, and not fit to live in an Universitie among gentlemen. His usual way was, that after he had let out money to any man, he would hang upon him, eat and drink in his house: and if he could meet with any of his acquaintance, whose nature was easie, he would take him with him to eat, drink, and lodge on the debtor. And to this farmer of Shabington did he go to hang upon him and take A.W. with him, as he afterwards understood.

August. —In the latter end of Aug. or beginning of Septemb. A.W. went to angle with William Staine of Mert. coll. to Wheatley bridge and natted in Shotover by the way. The day was hot and A.W. sitting and standing some houres in fishing he got an ague, came home faint and dry, with the loss of an appetite of eating. It prov'd a quartan ague, and an hour or two before it came on him he would be exceeding prone to vomit, and what in the well-days his stomach had contracted, he would on the sick-day vomit it out with great wretching and payne. This brought his body low, but made him grow much taller: and much physick and slops being taken in the winter following, yet he could find no remedy. At length he was advised to retire into the country to take better ayre than in Oxon, follow the plow, and use what exercise he could there to shake the ague off.

1652/3

February.—Tuesday (Feb. 15) A.W. went to Cassington before mention'd, and because Mr Tipping and his wife had quitted their quarters in that towne, he took up his quarters at the next dore, in the house of an honest and sufficient farmer called Francis Bolter; whose house tho thatched, yet he had a very fair chamber therein with a chimney and a place to lay his books in.

Feb. 21, M., A.W. had a very sad dreame in his sleep. He was in a melancholy place, had no companion &c.

His body was much out of order, and on those nights, wherein he had his hot fit (for his cold fit would come with extreame vomiting about 5 or 6 at night) he would have disconsolate dreames, which would make him melancholy of the dayes following.

While he continued in the country, he followed the plow on his well-dayes and somtimes plowed. He learnt there to ring on the six bells then newly put up: and having had from his most tender yeares an extraordinary ravishing delight in musick, he practiced privately there, without the help of an instructor, to play on the violin. It was then that he set and tuned his strings in fourths, and not in fifths according to the manner: and having a good eare and being ready to sing any tune upon hearing it once or twice, he would play them all in short time with the said way of tuning, which was never knowne before.

Mar. 4, F., his landlord did once perswade him to drink his ague away: and thereupon going to the alehouse an hour or two before it was come, they set hand to fist and drank

very desperately. But then vomiting all up before it made any continuance in his stomach or before it got up in his head, he was forced, after he had spent three shillings, to lead his landlord home, notwithstanding he had put in Mr Wood's cup tobacco. This country man (a merry fellow, and one that pretended to wit) thought, that the ague was a little spirit or devil, that had got within him; and therefore when hot weather came, he would have him go into the water and drowne it, or go to Oxon in a boat and so shift it from him into the water and row hastily from it, and leave it to shark for it self. A.W. told him this was a Pythagorean opinion of his: at which hard word being startled, he thought it was none of his, but the little devil within him that sent it out of his mouth, &c. In this condition he continued till the weather was alter'd and grew hotter, and then his ague and fits grew less; yet when cold weather came againe it would be apt to return, and would have fastned on him againe had he not prevented it by taking physick.

Saturday, Mar. 12, his brother Edward and Robert Wood, with Mr Thomas Cole steward of Merton Coll., were with him to comfort him in his disconsolate condition; they dined with him and then departed.

1653

September.—After he had spent the summer at Cassington in a lonish and retir'd condition, he return'd to Oxon; and being advised by some persons, he entertain'd a master of musick to teach him the usual way of playing on the violin, that is, by having every string tuned 5 notes lower than the other going before. The master was Charles Griffith, one of the musitians belonging to the city of Oxon, whom he thought then to be a most excellent artist, but when A.W. improv'd himself in that instrument, he found him not so. Th., Sept. 8; He gave him *2s 6d* entrance, and *10s* quarterly. This person after he had extreamly wondred how he could play so many tunes as he did by fourths, without a director or guide, he then tuned his violin by fifths, and gave him instructions how to proceed, leaving then a lesson with him to practice against his next comming.

The last yeare, after he was entred into the publik library (which he took to be the happiness of his life, and into which he never entred without great veneration) he could do but little in it, because he was entred but a little while before his ague took him. But this yeare being a constant student therein he became acquainted with the places in the Arts library (for no farther could bachelours of Arts then goe) where the books of English historie and antiquities stand. He lighted upon 'The Description of Leycestershire' written by William Burton: and being exceedingly delighted with the performance, he did, this or in the yeare following, take notes thence and make collections from it, which he had lying by him in his last dayes. He took great delight in reading 'The Display of Heraldry' written by John Guillim, and in other books of that faculty, written by John Bossewell, John Ferne &c. and endeavour'd to draw out and trick armes with his pen. And afterwards when he came to ful yeares, he perceived it was his natural genie and could not avoid it. Heraldry, musick and painting did so much crowd upon him that he could not avoid them; and could never give a reason why he should delight in those studies more than in others, so prevalent was nature, mix'd with a generosity of mind and a hatred to all that was servile, sneaking, and advantageous for lucre sake.—But his brother Edward Wood was much against these studies, and advised him to enter on those that were beneficial, as his mother did. He then had a gentile companion of the same

Coll. (J.W.) who delighted in vertuous studies as he did, and would walk several times with him in shady recesses and retired walkes, to each others content; but the same J.W. being a gent. of a good descent and an heir to an estate of 700*li.* per an. at least, he went afterwards to London, mixed himself with idle company that flatter'd and admired him, and at length debach'd him: which did not a little trouble A.W.

November.—Nov.; his kinsman Charnel Pettie, esq, an old puritan, and an honest and quiet man, became high-sherriff of Oxfordshire. His estate was at Tetsworth and elsewhere, but lived now at Stoke-Lyne neare to Bister, the inheritance of his daughter's son, named Ralph Holt, who being a minor, the said Charnel Pettie was his guardian.

1654

July.—July 25, T., — Hussey and — Peck, two gentlemen that were lately officers in the king's army, were hanged in the Castle-yard in Oxon to the great reluctancy of the generous royallists then living in Oxon. They were out of commission and employ, had no money to maintain them, which made them rob on the high-way. After a tedious imprisonment in the jayle at Oxon they were condemn'd to dye by that inveterate enemy to the royal partie John Glynn, sergeant at law, who this yeare went Oxford circuit.

Hussey was the eldest of the two, had received some marks of honour in his face, and no doubt in his body also, and died penitent. Peck, who was yonger, was proper, robust, and seemed to be a stout man. He died resolutely, and not so penitent as Hussey. As soon as they were cut downe, they were carried away by some royallists, and Hussey was on the same day at night buried by them in the church of S. Peter in the Baylie. This was the first or second execution that A.W. ever saw, and therefore it struck a great terror into him to the disturbance of his studies and thoughts. They were exceedingly pittied by all men, etc.

August.—Aug. 10, Th., A.W. was examined for the degree of master of Arts by William Bull of Trinity, afterwards fellow of All-souls, Coll. The other examiners were Georg Weldon of Magd. Coll. and John Whitehead of Exeter Coll. who examin'd the rest of the class. He had certificats by him for the performance of other lectures, but they are imbezeld and lost.

By his sedulous and close studying in the publick library, and by conversing with books not used by the vulgar students, especially MSS, he was taken notice of by Mr Thomas Barlow the Head-keeper of the said library; who began thereupon to express some kindness towards him, with the offering his assisting hand. ...

Having by this time got some musical acquaintance, a frolick by all meanes must be taken by us; and what should it be, but to disguise our selves in poor habits, and like contry fiddlers scrape for our livings? Farringdon fair this yeare was the place designed to go to: and all of us (five in number) lodging in a house in the middle rew in Magd. parish, belonging to one Gregory a chandler, wee sate out very early the next morning, and calling first on Mr Th. Latton's house at Kingston Bakepuze, wee bid him good morrow by 2 or 3 tunes.—He came in the hall among us, listned to our musick, gave us money, and ordered drink to [be] carried to us. After wee had done with him, wee retired to the in standing on the road going to Farringdon, dined there, and after dinner wee were entertain'd by some of the neighbours, who danced (as I remember) in the green, gave us

some money and victuals, and I think wee returned very late that evening to Oxon. The names of those in this exploit were, myself and William Bull before mentiond, who played on the violins; Edmund Gregorie, BA and gent. com. of Merton Coll., who playd on the bass viol; John Trap of Trinity, on the citerne; and Georg Mason of the said Coll., on another wyer instrument, but could do nothing.—Soon after wee took another voyage northward, called at Hampton Poyle, play'd at Mr West's house, had some money, but more drink.—Afterwards wee went (I think) to Kidlington, got something there, returned in the evening, and certain soldiers overtaking us, they by force made us play in the open feild and then left us without giving a penny. Most of my companions would afterward glory in this, but I was ashamd, and could never endure to hear of it.

1655

Apr. 25, W., Edward Wood, eldest brother to A.W. and fellow of Merton Coll., was installed Junior Proctor of the University of Oxon. Whereupon he soon after appointed A.W. his collector in Austins; which office he kept till he was admitted Mr of Arts.

May 3, Th., A.W. made his first declamation in the Natural Philosophy school for the degree of Mr of Arts.—The subject was 'Bonum quoddam quilibet efficiat, optimi autem solum perseverant.'

May 16, W., A.W. made his second declamation in the said schoole.—And his subject was 'Utrum praestantius esset Ciceroni[s] libros comburere quam mortem subire.'

May 22, T., Edward Wood died to the great reluctancy of his friends and relations, in his mother's house against Merton Coll., being the fourth week of his proctorship.—He was administred to in his last days by Ralph Button his quondam tutor, but now Canon of Ch. Church. He died of vomiting blood and consumption with it, and made a most religious end.

May 24, Th., his body was carried into the common hall of Merton Coll., where the society and such masters of Arts that were pleased to come to pay their last respects to him, had gloves, wine and bisket in abundance, as also had the Doctors, Heades of Houses, and his brother Proctor (Samuel Bruen), to which last E. Wood had bequeathed money to buy him a mourning gowne. Afterwards his body being carried to Merton coll. church, there was a sermon preached for that occasion by his aforesaid quondam tutor; which being not extant, I cannot refer you to it. ...

Oct. 12, F., a handsome maid living in Catstreet, being deeply in love with Joseph Godwin, a junior fellow of New Coll., poyson'd herself with rats-bane. This is mention'd because it made a great wonder that a maid should be in love with such a person as he, who had a curl'd shag-pate, was squint-ey'd and purblind, and much deform'd with the small pox. He was the son of a father of both his names who was a bookseller at the upper end of Catstreet; and, before he had been translated to Winchester school, had been in the same forme with A. Wood at New Coll. school.

Oct. 17, W., on the vigil of S. Luke, part or half of the roof of the south part of Merton Coll. outer-chappel, joyning to the tower, fell within the church about 9 of the lock at night, and broke all the stones laying on the floor, of which some were monumental stones. Afterwards when the ruins were taken away A.W. retriev'd the brass plates that were fixed on them, and transcrib'd and sav'd the inscriptions on them, which he afterwards printed in his 'Hist. et Antiq. Univ. Oxon.' lib 2.

Dec. 17, M., he was admitted Master of Arts, being then his birthday, and at the same time he was admitted *ad regendum*. It was his intention to be admitted 2 or 3 dayes after he had last declaim'd; but being troubled with the aking of a tooth, he drew it, which caused a swelling in his cheek, and that a tumour, and that a lancing thereof, which made him unfit to appeare in public.

1655/6

In the beginning of March he published five sermons of his brother Edward Wood lately deceased, which he had preached before the Universitie. ...

In this yeare Arthur Tillyard, apothecary and great royallist, sold coffey publickly in his house against All-soules Coll. He was encouraged to do so by som royallists, now living in Oxon, and by others who esteem'd themselves either *virtuosi* or *wits*; of which the chieftest number were of Alls. Coll.—as Peter Pett, Thomas Millington, Timothy Baldwin, Christopher Wren, Georg Castle, William Bull, etc. There were others also, as John Lamphire a physitian, lately ejected from New Coll., who was somtimes the natural droll of the company; the two Wrens, sojournours in Oxon,—Mathew and Thomas, sons of Dr Wren bishop of Ely: &c. This coffey house continued till his majestie's returne and after; and then they became more frequent, and had an excise set upon coffey.

1656

By this time A.W. had genuine skill in musick, and frequented the weekly meetings of musitians in the house of William Ellis, late organist of S. John's Coll., situate and being in a house opposite to that place whereon the Theater was built. The usual company that met and performed their parts were (1) John Cock, MA, fellow of New Coll. by the authority of the Visitors. He afterwards became rector of Heyford-Wareyne near Bister: and marrying with one of the Woodwards of Woodstock, lived an uncomfortable life with her. (2) John Jones, MA, fellow of the said College by the same authority. (3) Georg Croke, MA, of the same Coll., also by the same authority. He was afterwards drown'd, with Brome, son of Brome Whorwood of Halton neare Oxon, in their passage from Hampshire to the Isle of Wight, 5 Sept. 1657. (4) John Friend, MA, fellow also of the same house and by the same authority. He died in the country anno 1658. (5) Georg Stradling, MA, fellow of Alls. Coll., an admirable lutinist, and much respected by Wilson the professor. (6) Ralph Sheldon, gent., a Roman Catholick of Steple-Barton in Oxfordshire, at this time living in Halywell neare Oxon, admired for his smooth and admirable way in playing on the viol. He died in the city of Westmister — 165—, and was buried in the chancel of the church of S. Martin-in-the-fields. (7) Thomas Wren, a yonger son of Matthew Wren bishop of Ely, a sojournour now in the house of Francis Bowman bookseller living in S. Marie's parish in Oxon. (8) Thomas Janes MA of Magd. Coll. would be among them, but seldome played. He had a weekly meeting in his chamber at the Coll., practiced much on the Theorbo lute, and Gervace Westcote being often with him as an instructor, A.W. would sometimes go to their meeting and play with them.

The musick masters, who were now in Oxon and frequented the said meeting, were (1) William Ellis, bach. of musick, owner of the house wherein the meeting was. He alwaies

play'd his part either on the organ or virginal. (2) Dr John Wilson, the public professor, the best at the lute in all England. He sometimes play'd on the lute, but mostly presided the consort. (3) — Curteys a lutinist lately ejected from some choire or cath. church. After his majestie's restoration he became gent. or singing-man of Ch. Church in Oxon. (4) Thomas Jackson, a bass-violist; afterwards one of the choire of S. John's coll. in Oxon. (5) Edward Low, organist lately of Ch. Church. He play'd only on the organ; so when he performed his part, Mr Ellis would take up a counter-tenor viol and play, if any person were wanting to performe that part. (6) Gervace Littleton *alias* Westcot, or Westcot *alias* Littleton, a violist. He was afterwards a singing-man of S. John's coll. (7) William Flexney, who had belonged to a choire before the warr. He was afterwards a gent. or singing-man of Ch. Ch. He playd well upon the bass viol and sometimes sung his part. He died 6 Nov. 1692 aged 79 or thereabouts. (8) — Proctor a yong man and a new commer. He died soon after as I shall tell you anon.—John Parker, one of the Universitie musitians, would be sometimes among them; but Mr Low, a proud man, could not endure any common musitian to come to the meeting, much less to play among them.—Among these I must put John Haselwood an apothecary, a starch'd formal clisterpipe, who usually play'd on the bass-viol and sometimes on the counter-tenor. He was very conceited of his skill (tho he had but little of it) and therefore would be ever and anon ready to take up a viol before his betters: which being observed by all, they usually call'd him *Handlewood*. As for other musitians who were about this time beginners, you shall have the names of them under the yeare 16[58].

July.—The lady Wilmot of Berks, a light huswife, and one notorious for her salaciousness, being among other ladies at the musick schoole on Act Saturday 1656 and there hearing Mr Henry Thurman of Ch. Ch. declaiming eagerly against women and their vanities, she therupon openly and with a loud voice cried:—‘Sir, you are out; you are wrong; you are to begin againe,’ etc., thinking therby to abash him. But he being a verie bold fellow, answered thus with a loud voice:—‘Madam, if I am wrong, I am sure you are right.’ Upon which all the auditory laughing, she sate downe and pluckd her hood over her face.

July 22, T., — Proctor died in Halywell; and was buried in the middle of the church there. He had [been] bred up by Mr John Jenkyns (the mirrou and wonder of his age for musick); was excellent for the lyra-viol and division-viol, good at the treble-viol and treble-violoin; and all comprehended in a man of three or four and twentie yeares of age. He was much admired at the meetings, and exceedingly pittied by all the faculty for his loss.

This summer came to Oxon ‘The Antiquities of Warwickshire’, &c. written by William Dudgale, and adorn'd with many cuts. This being accounted the best book of its kind that hitherto was made extant, my pen cannot enough describe how A. Wood's tender affections and insatiable desire of knowledg were ravish'd and melted downe by the reading of that book. What by musick and rare books that he found in the publick library, his life, at this time and after, was a perfect Elysium.

The 4 of September (Th.), 1656, I bought me a periwige of my barber, 6s.

Oct. 29, W.; in the latter end of October he began to survey and transcribe the monumental inscriptions and armes in the several parochial churches and college chappels, within the city and universitie of Oxon.

1656/7

Jan. 10, S., A.W., his mother, and his two brothers, Robert and Christopher Wood, gave 5 *li.* to Merton coll. towards the casting of their five bells into eight. These five were antient bells, and had been put up into the tower at the first building thereof, in the time of Dr Henry Abendon, warden of Merton Coll., who began to be warden in 1421. The tenor or great bell (on which the name of the said Abendon was put) was supposed to be the best bell in England, being, as 'twas said, of fine mettal silver found. The generality of people were much against the altering of that bell, and were for a treble to be put to the five, and so make them six: and old serjeant Charles Holloway, who was a very covetuous man, would have given money to save it, and to make the five, six, bells, that is, to put a treble to them. But by the knavery of Thomas Jones, the sub-warden (the warden being then absent) and ——— Derby, the bell-founder, they were made eight: and Dr John Wilson, Dr of musick, had a fee from the college to take order about their tuning.

Janu; whereas A.W. had before learned to play on the violin by the instruction of Charles Griffith, and afterwards of John Parker one of the universitie musitians, he was now advis'd to entertaine one William James a dancing master, by some accounted excellent for that instrument, and the rather, because it was said that he had obtained his knowledge of dancing and musick in France. He spent in all half a yeare with him, and gained some improvement from him; yet at length he found him not a compleat master of his facultie, as Griffith and Parker were not: and to say the truth, there was yet no compleat master in Oxon for that instrument, because it had not been hitherto used in consort among gentlemen, only by common musitians, who played but two parts. The gentlemen in privat meetings which A.W. frequented, play'd three, four and five parts all with viols, as treble-viol, tenor, counter-tenor and bass, with either an organ or virginal or harpsicon joyn'd with them: and they esteemed a violin to be an instrument only belonging to a common fiddler, and could not indure that it should come among them for feare of making their meetings seem to be vaine and fiddling. But before the restoration of K. Charles 2 and especially after, viols began to be out of fashion, and only violins used, as treble-violin, tenor and bass-violin; and the king according to the French mode would have 24 violins playing before him, while he was at meales, as being more airie and brisk than viols.

1657

Mar. 27, F., at the funeral of Jane Wickham the widdow, and somtimes the second wife, of William Wickham of Garsingdon neare Oxon gent. Shee was buried in the chancel of the church there by the remaines of the said William Wickham. This woman was sister to Henry Brome of Clifton near Banbury in Oxfordshire (of the same familie with the Bromes of Halton) and died in Oxon, W., 25 March. A.W. did not then survey the monuments in Garsingdon church, because of the company there, but rode immediatly home to Oxon.

Apr. 30, Th., he began his perambulation of Oxfordshire: and the monuments in Wolvercot church were the first that he survey'd and transcrib'd.

May 14, Th., all the eight bells of Merton coll. did begin to ring—And he heard them ring very well at his approach to Oxon in the evening, after he had taken his rambles all

that day about the country to collect monuments—The bells did not at all please the curious and critical hearer. However he plucked at them often with some of his fellow-colleagues for recreation sake. They were all afterwards re-cast, and the belfry wherein the ringers stood (which was a little below the arches of the tower, for while the five hanged the ringers stood on the ground) being built of bad timber, was plucked downe also; and after the bells were put up againe, this belfry, that now is, above the arches, was new made and a window (broke thro the tower next to Corpus Christi Coll.) was made to give light.

July. At a commencement at Cambridg an. 1657 the prevaricator told the Oxonians that ‘the deane of Ch. Ch.’ (Dr John Owen) ‘had as much powder in his haire that he would discharg eight cannons.’ But Mr Daniel Danvers of Trin. Coll. who was *Terrae filius* the same yeare at Oxford told the Cantabrigians that were then there, in his speech, that ‘he wondred how that powder could make such a report, seeing that it was white because white makes no report.’ You must know that Owen, being a vaine person, weared for the most part sweet powder in his haire, sets of points at his knees, boots, and lawn boot-hose tops, as the fashion then was for yong men.

The 15 day of July, W., Vavator Powell preacht at Allhallowes Oxon, where he rayl’d against the Universities, against Hickman of Magd. Coll., and said ‘the pope should provide him a miter and the devill a frying-pan’—which was occasioned by Hickman’s answering in the Vesperies where a question was ‘An ministri Anglicani habeant validam ordinationem?’, Hickman being respondent, the Vice-cancellor opposing him; and moreover Hickman said (not that he was drawne by force of argument, but by his opinion) that ‘Rome, for ought he knew, was a true church.’ Vavator Powell was denied entrance at first to preach . . .

Aug. 4, T., he began to peruse and run over all the manuscript collections of the great antiquary John Leland that are reposed in the archives of Bodlie’s library. He was exceedingly delighted in them, was never weary of them, but collected much from them.

Aug., the 12 day, W., I began to read John Leland’s Itineraries, bibl. Bodl.

Aug., the 13, Th., and 20, Th., I plaid at the Musick Schole.

Memorandum, F., Aug. 14, 1657, Mrs Read of Ipston departed this life, who three weeks before her death was taken with as fitt of vomitting and vomitted a live spider. Her name was Acton before she married.

This summer rages a new kind of feaver, especially in the country villages.

Aug. 14., F., in his rambles about the country, he went to Dorchester seven miles distant from Oxon to see his old master David Thomas, who, from being usher of Thame school, was now the head-master of the free school at Dorchester, founded by John Feteplace, esq. an old bachelaur.—He had succeeded in that office John Drope, lately fellow of Magd. Coll., who was the first master appointed by the founder. A.W. could not but here acknowledge his owne weakness, you may call it folly if you please, as being startled at his first sight of this most antient city, famous for its being a station of the Romanes, for its entertaining S. Birinus, and afterwards for giving him burial, &c. The church is large and antique, and hath contained many monuments of antiquity, which are since spoyled and defaced. Those that remaine he took account of, as also of the armes in the windowes, and tricked out with his pen the ichnography of the church and cloyster and buildings adjoining. And at his departure Mr David Thomas gave him some Roman coynes found within the libertie of Dorchester.

Sept. 5, S.—Brome Whorwood lately gent. commoner of S. Marie's hall, only son and heir of Brome Whorwood of Halton neare Oxon, was drown'd in his passage from Hampshire to the Isle of Wight.—He had been at the election of scholars at Winchester and being minded to see the Isle of Wight, did with George Crake of New coll. hire a vessel that was leaky, which sunk by that time they were half way in their journey.—I set this memoire downe, because A.W. had acquaintance with both of them.

The mother of the said Brome Whorwood who was drown'd, was Jane, daughter and one of the two coheires of — Ryther of Kingston upon Thames in Surrey, somtimes surveyor of the stables to K. James I, and daughter in law to James Maxwell esq. one of the gromes of the bed-chamber to K. Charles I as having married her mother after Ryther's death. A.W. remembred her well, as having often seen her in Oxon: she was red-hair'd as her sone Brome was, and was the most loyal person to K. Charles I in his miseries, as any woman in England, as it appears by several exploits that she performed in order to his preservation. ...

Sept. 16, W., A.W. went to Einsham to see an old kinsman called Thomas Barncote. He was there wonderfully stricken with a veneration of the stately, yet much lamented, ruins of the abbey there, built before the Norman conquest. He saw then there two high towers at the west end of the church, and some of the north walls of the church standing. He spent some time with a melancholy delight in taking a prospect of the ruins of that place. All which, together with the entrance or the lodg, were soon after pul'd downe, and the stones sold to build houses in the towne and neare it. The place hath yet some ruins to shew, and to instruct the pensive beholder with an exemplary frailty.

Dec. 24, Th., at about eleven or twelve at noon (Merton college bells being then ringing) William Bull, fellow of Allsouls coll. and Henry Hawley, fellow of Oriel, were with A.W. at his lodging neare Merton coll., and smiling upon him and upon each other, they told him, he must walk with them to S. Barthelmew's hospital neare Oxon and dine there with them and others of his acquaintance, but would not tell him, who they were, or upon what account. He went forthwith with them and comming there about one of the clock, who should he see there, newly up from his bed and ready but Edmund Gregory, bach. of Arts, lately gentleman commoner of Merton Coll., who, in the evening before had conveyed thither a yong gentlewoman of 15 yeares of age, named — Pottinger of Choulesley neare Wallingford in Berks, whome he had stole from her parents. They were married early that morning in the chappel of S. Barthelmew's hospital, which being done he bedded her for feare of a pursuit. The company sat downe to dinner between one and two of the clock in the afternoon, after the bridegroom had presented his bride (smiling) to them. They tarried till 'twas dark and then went to Cuxham neare Watlington, where, or neare it, his father lived.—Afterwards this Edmund Gregory, who had a faire estate left him by his father, and had a good estate with his yong wife, lived afterwards very high, far beyond his income, was high-sherriff of Oxfordshire in 1680; at which time being deeply in debt and beyond recovery, his aforesaid wife died of grief at Cuxham in June 1683. About which time Mr Gregorie's estate being all either sold or mortgag'd, he kept some small matter for himself, retired to or neare Bagshot neare Windsor under a strang name, and died and was buried there.

This year, viz. 1657, was great resort to a well broke up in Goring parish, com. Oxon; about July, Aug. and Septe. Some say that 20 yeares agoe it was much resorted unto; but people quarriling about the vendition of the water, it was stoped up.

About these times and before maltsters increased much in Oxon, having now the number of 7 to one 20 or 18 years ago—notwithstanding cider becomsde common now and 8 years before, 3*d* and 4*d* a quart, sold by Earles in St Toll's.

Thomas Hyll, student of Ch. Church, a great eater, was reported to have eaten up a pound of candles. ... He was the miller's son of Osney and died as I remember about 1657u. He was a good scholar but managed and spent his time so that he comprehended it in these 2 verses:—

'Morn, mend hose, stu. Greeke, breakfast, Austen, quoque dinner:
Afternoone, wa. me., cra. nu., take a cup, quoque supper'

i.e. in the morning, mend his hose or stockings, study Greek, break his fast, study Austen, then go to dinner; in the afternoone, walk in Ch. Ch meade, crack nuts, and drink, and then for supper.

1657/8

Mar. 12, F., Edmund Gregory and his new wife in Oxon. A.W. attended them, shew'd them the public library, Anatomy school, &c.

Mar. 23, T., he walked to Osney, where seeing a poore man digging in the ruins, he shew'd A.W. a leaden impression or the seal of pope John 23, which he bought of him.

In the latter end of this yeare Davis Mell, the most eminent violinist of London, being in Oxon, Peter Pett, William Bull, Kenelm Digby, and others of Allsoules, as also A.W., did give him a very handsome entertainment in the taverne cal'd The Salutation in S. Marie's parish Oxon, own'd by Thomas Wood, son of ——— Wood of Oxon, somtimes servant to the father of A.W. The company did look upon Mr Mell to have a prodigious hand on the violin, and they thought that no person, as all in London did, could goe beyond him. But when Thomas Baltser, an outlander, came to Oxon in the next yeare, they had other thoughts of Mr Mell, who tho he play'd farr sweeter than Baltsar, yet Baltsar's hand was more quick and could run it insensibly to the end of the finger-board.

1658

Apr. 5, M., William George, bach. of Arts and student of Ch. Church, was buried in the chancel of Garsingdon church neare Oxon.—This person had been tutor to the children of John Wickham of that towne gent.; and when resident in the Universitie, was accounted a noted sophister, and remarkable courser in the time of Lent in the publick schooles. He was poore and therefore ready to make the exercise of dul or lazy scholars. He could not for want of money take the degree of Master; yet the generality of scholars thought that if he had money, he would not, because otherwise he should not be accounted the best scholar of a bach. of Arts in Oxon, as he was. He look'd elerly and was cynical and hirsute in his behaviour.

Apr. 13, Easter-Tuesday, Christopher Wood (brother to A.W.) was married to Elizabeth Seymour.

Apr. 13, T., at Cuxham, with other of his acquaintance, in the house of Mr Gregory; where continuing 3 dayes, he went to several townes to collect monumental inscriptions and armes, as at Watlington, Brightwell &c.

Apr. 19, M., alderman John Nixon's school in the yard belonging to the Guildhall of Oxon being finishd, the first boyes made their entry; some of which were afterwards (by the help of another school) Academians.

May 4, T., a maid was hanged at Greenditch neare Oxon, for murdering her infant-bastard. After shee was cut downe and taken away to be anatomiz'd, Coniers a physitian of S. John's Coll. and other yong physitians, did in short time bring life into her. But the bayllives of the towne hearing of it, they went between 12 and one of the clock at night to the house where shee laid, and putting her into a coffin carried her into Broken hayes, and by a halter about her neck drew her out of it, and hung her on a tree there. Shee then was so sensible of what they were about to do, that shee said 'Lord have mercy upon me,' &c. The women were exceedingly enraged at it, cut downe the tree whereon shee was hang'd, and gave very ill language to Henry Mallory one of the baillives when they saw him passing the streets, because he was the chief man that hang'd her. And because that he afterwards broke, or gave up his trade thro povertie (being a cutler), they did not stick to say that God's judgments followed him for the cruelty he shew'd to the poore maid. See Dr Plot's 'Natural History of Oxfordshire', pp.197, 199.

July 14, W., A.W. entertain'd two eminent musitians of London, named John Gamble and Thomas Pratt, after they had entertain'd him with most excellent musick at the meeting house of William Ellis. Gamble had obtain'd a great name among the musitians of Oxon for his book before publish'd, entit. 'Ayres and Diologues to be sung to the Theorbo-Lute or Bass-Viol.' The other for several compositions, which they played in their consorts.

July 24, S., Thomas Balsar or Baltzar, a Lubecker borne, and the most famous artist for the violin that the world had yet produced, was now in Oxon; and this day A.W. was with him and Mr Edward Low, lately organist of Ch. Church, at the meeting-house of William Ellis. A.W. did then and there, to his very great astonishment, heare him play on the violin. He then saw him run up his fingers to the end of the finger-board of the violin, and run them back insensibly, and all with alacrity and in very good tune, which he nor any in England saw the like before. A.W. entertain'd him and Mr Low with what the house could then afford, and afterwards he invited them to the tavern; but they being engag'd to goe to other company, he could no more heare him play or see him play at that time. Afterwards he came to one of the weekly meetings at Mr Ellis's house and he played to the wonder of all the auditory; and exercising his fingers and instrument several wayes to the utmost of his power, Wilson thereupon, the public professor, (the greatest judg of musick that ever was) did, after his humoursome way, stoop downe to Baltzar's feet, to see whether he had a huff on, that is to say to see whether he was a devil or not, because he acted beyond the parts of man.

About that time it was that Dr John Wilkins, warden of Wadham Coll., the greatest curioso of his time, invited him and some of the musitians to his lodgings in that coll. purposely to have a consort and to see and heare him play. The instruments and books were carried thither, but none could be perswaded there to play against him in consort on

the violin. At length the company perceiving A.W. standing behind, in a corner neare the dore, they haled him in among them, and play forsooth he must against him. Whereupon he being not able to avoid it, he took up a violin, and behaved himself as poor Troylus did against Achilles. He was abash'd at it, yet honour he got by playing with, and against, such a grand master as Baltzar was. Mr Davis Mell was accounted hitherto the best for the violin in England, as I have before told you; but after Baltzar came into England and shew'd his most wonderful parts on that instrument, Mell was not so admired; yet he playd sweeter, and was a well bred gentleman and not given to excessive drinking as Baltzar was.

July the 27, T., the vice-cancellor (Dr Connant) caused all the booksellers to appeare before him, and commanded them not to sell any of Mr Osborne's booke. He was complained of then by severall ministers in the country that [he] bred severall principall[s] of Atheisme in country gentlemen. The book afterwards sold the more.

Aug. 30, Munday, a terrible raging wind hapned, which did much hurt. Dennis Bond, a great Olivarian and antimonarchist, died on that day, and then the Devil '*took Bond*' for Oliver's appearance.

Nicholas Wadham, founder of Wadham Coll. Oxon., was wont often to say to one Mr Orang (?) a neighbour of his (who was accounted a wise discrete man in that country) that 'he had a good estate and had noe children to leave it too, and his kindred to whome he thought to leave his estate did not care for him.' 'Why' (said Mr Orang) 'doe as Sir Tho. Bodley hath lately done. As he hath built a library, soe you build a College and you shall be remembred every day. It will last from gen[eration] to gen[eration].' Soe Mr Wadham proceded and did all according to his counsell. Ex relatione Mri Bull, Omn. Anim., Aug. 1658.

Sept. 3, F., Oliver Cromwell the protector died. This I set downe, because some writers tell us that he was hurried away by the Devill in the wind before mention'd.

Sept. 6., M., Richard Cromwell his son was proclaimed Protector at Oxon at the usual places where kings have been proclaimed. While he was proclaiming before S. Marie's church dore, the mayor, recorder, townclerk, &c. accompanied by col. Unton Croke and his troopers, were pelted with carret and turnip-tops by yong scholars and others who stood at a distance.

Oct. 4, M., 1658, Cummore. ... At the west end of the church is the ruins of a mannor house, antiently belonging as a cell or place of removall (as some say) to the monkes of Abington. ... In the hall, over the chymney, I find Abingdon armes cutt in stone, viz., a cross patonce inter 4 martletts, and alsoe another escutcheon viz. a lyon rampant; and several miters cutt in stone about the house. There is alsoe in the said house, as the inhabitants tell me, a chamber, called 'Dudley's chamber', where the earle of Leicester's wife was murdered: the manner how and their intentions to poyson her before that, I shall endeavour, according to the relations I heard from some of my freinds there and other private observations to demonstrate it.—Robert Dudley, earle of Leicester, a man of very goodley person and singularly well-featured, being much in grace and a great favourite with Queen Elizabeth, it was thought and commonly rumor'd that if soe be he had bin but a bachelour or a widdower the Queen would have made him her husband. To this end, to make him selfe free of that obstacle, he commands, or perhaps with faire and flattering intreaties desires, his wife to repose her selfe here, at his servant's, Anthony Foster's, house, who then lived in the aforesaid mannor house; and also prescribed to Sir Richard

Varney (one of the earle's promoters of this designe) at his coming hither that he should first attempt to take away her life by poyson, and in case if that tooke not effect then by any other way to dispatch her however. This it seems was proved by the report of Dr Walter Bayley, who was sometimes fellow of New Coll. and then lived in Oxon and professor of the phisick lecture in the same University. This man, it seemes, reported for most certaine that there was a practice in Cumner among the conspirators to have poysoned the poore lady a little before she was killed, which was attempted in this order. They, seeing the good lady sad and pensive, as one that well knew by her other handling that her death was not farr remote, presumed to perswade her that her present distemper was abundance of melancholly and therefore would needs advise her to take some potion; which shee utterly refused to doe, as still suspecting the worst. Wherupon they sent a messenger one day, unknowing to her, for Dr Bayley aforesaid and intreated him to perswade her to take some little potion by his direction. ... He peremptorily denied their request, misdoubting, as he after reported, lest if they had poysoned her under the name of his potion he might not have been hanged for the colour of their sin. And the Doctor remained still well assured that this way taking not place, shee would not long escape violence; as after in this manner ensued. For Sir Richard Varney aforesaid, the cheife projector in this designe, who, by the commandement of the earle, remayned that day of her death alone with her, with one man only, and also Forster who had that day sent away perforce all her servants from her to Abingdon market about 3 miles remote from that place—they, I say, whether first stiffling her or else strangling her, afterwards flung her downe a pair of staires and broke her necke, using much violence upon her. ... But behold the mercyes of God in revenging and discovering this woman's death! For the man that was coadjutor aforesaid with Sir Richard Varney in this murder was afterwards taken for a fellony in the Marches of Wales and offering to publish the manner of the said murder was made away privily by the earle's appointment in the prison. And Sir Richard him selfe dying about the same time in London cried pitiously, and blasphemed God, and said to a gentleman of note (who hath related the same to others since) not long before his death that all the divells in hell did teare him in peices. Forster likewise, after this fact, being a man much formerly given to hospitality, company, mirth and musick, was afterwards observed to relinquish all this, and with much melancholly and pensiveness (some say, with madness) pined and drooped away. The wife also of Bald Butler, kinsman to my lord, gave out the whole fact a little before her death. Neither are these following passages to be forgotten:—that as soone as ever shee was murdered they made great hast to bury her before the crowner had given in his inquest, which was condemned above by the lord as not advisedly done. Which her father Sir John Robertset, as I suppose, hearing off, came with all speed thither, caused her corpp to be taken up, the crowner to sett upon her, and further enquiry to be made concerning the business to the full: but it was generally thought that the earle stopt his mouth and made up the business betwixt them. ... This earle, after all his murderings, poysonings, etc., was himselfe poysoned by that which was prepared for others (some say, by his wife) at Cornbury Lodge com. Oxon—though Baker in his 'Chronicle' would have it at Killingworth—anno 1588.

Feb. 11, F., Nathaniel Crew, MA and fellow of Lincoln Coll., brought to A.W. a petition to present to the parliament against standing Visitors in the university: to which, upon his desire, he set his hand, &c. ... No person was more ready than Crew, a Presbyterian, to have the said Visitors put downe, notwithstanding he had before submitted to them, and had paid to them reverence and obedience.

In this Lent, but the day when I cannot tell, A.W. went as a stranger with Thomas Smith, Mr of Arts, (ejected his clerkship of Magd. Coll. by the Visitors 1648) but now living obscurely in Oxon. I say he went with the said Mr Smith on a certaine morning to a private and lone house in or neare to Bagley wood, between Oxon and Abendon, inhabited by the lord of Sunningwell called Hannibal Baskervyle, esq. The house (called Bayworth) is an old house situated in a romancey place, and a man that is given to devotion and learning cannot find out a better place. In this house A.W. found a pretty oratory or chappel up one pair of staires, well furnish'd with velvet cusheons and carpets. There had been painted windowes in it, but defaced by Abendon soldiers (rebells) in the grand rebellion. He also found there an excellent organ in the said oratory: on which Mr Smith perform'd the part of a good musitian, and sang to it. Mr Baskervyle was well acquainted with him, and took delight to heare him play and sing. He was civil to them, but A.W. found him to be a melancholy and retir'd man; and, upon enquirie farther of the person, he was told that he gave the third or fourth part of his estate to the poor. He was so great a cherisher of wandring beggars, that he built for them a larg place like a barne to receive them, and hung up a little bell at his back-dore for them to ring when they wanted any thing. He had been several times indicted at Abendon for harbouring beggars. In his yonger days while he was a student in Brasnose Coll., he would frequent the house of his kinswoman the lady Scudamore, opposite to Merton Coll. church: at which time the mother of A.W. being a girle and a sojournour in his father's house neare to it, he became acquainted with her: and when he knew that A.W. was her son, he was civil to him. And [A. Wood] afterwards frequented the house, especially in the time of his son Thomas Baskervyle, to refresh his minde with a melancholy walke, and with the retiredness of the place, as also with the shady box-arbours in the garden.

March 20, Su., 1658/9, Sir Henry Lea of Ditchely, kt and bart, departed this life.

In the latter end of this yeare (in Mar.) scurvy-grass drink began to be frequently drunk in the mornings as physick-drinke.

All the time that A.W. could spare from his beloved studies of English history, antiquities, heraldry and genealogies, he spent in the most delightful facultie of musick, either instrumental or vocal: and if he had missed the weekly meetings in the house of William Ellis, he could not well enjoy them all the week after. ...

After his majestie's restoration, when then the masters of musick were restored to their several places that they before had lost, or else if they had lost none, they had gotten then preferment, the weekly meetings at Mr Ellis's house began to decay, because they were held up only by scholars, who wanted directors and instructors, &c. ...

1659

Apr. 4, M., he went to Middleton-Cheyney in Northamptonshire with his mother and other of his relations at Stoke-Lyne, to visit his cozen John Cave and those of his family. He continued there two or three nights, in which time he took his rambles to Banbury,

visited the church and antiquities there much broken and defaced: and thence to the antient and noble seat of Werkworth, then lately belonging to the Chetwoods; of whom it had then, some yeares before, ben bought by Philip Holman of London scrivener, who dying in 1669, aged 76, was buried in the church there. One John Lewes his kinsman conducted him thither, where wee found the eldest son and heir of the said Philip Holman named —— who was lately return'd from his travells, had changed his religion for that of Rome, and seemed then to be a melancholy and begotted convert. He was civil to us, and caused the church dore to be opened, where wee found several antient monuments; the chiefest of which are of the Chetwoods, which A.W. then transcrib'd with the armes on them. ... At Banbury is a very fair church, but of 60 coates of armes that were in the windowes there before the warrs began, he could then see but 12 or 13. The monuments there were also wofully defaced in the late civil warr, yet what remained he transcrib'd and return'd to Middleton againe.

Apr. 6, W., he returnd to Stoke-lyne with a great deal of company (two coaches full) that went thence with him to Middleton.

Apr. 7, Th., a fire hapned in Halywell in the suburb of Oxon, in the house next on the east side to that which Mr Alexander Fisher had lately built. Mr John Lamphire, the then owner of it, was visiting his patients in the country, and lost his books, many of his goods, and some money.

Apr. 9, S., the day I came from my coz. Pettye's of Stok-Line, a tertian ague tooke me; which held me 10 dayes. My apothecarye's bill came to 11s 6d: besides lemmons, oranges, pruius, etc., came to 3s.

May 20, F., at Dorchester and thence to Warborow to the house of Adam Hobbes a farmer, to desire leave to see a book in his hands, containing matters relating to the church of Dorchester. He denied him the sight of it, but Hobbes being acquainted with Thomas Rowney an attorney of Oxon, A.W. perswaded him to leave it in his hands for my use, which he did the next mercate day that he came to Oxon. 'Twas a book in 4to written in parchment, in the raigne I thinke of Qu. Elizabeth, and in it he saw the larg will of Richard Beauforest, dat. 13 July 1554 and proved the 8 of June 1555, whereby he gives the Abbey Church of Dorchester, which he had bought of the king, to the towne of Dorchester.

It was reported that Thomas Fuller, the great writer, died at London in Whitson weeke.

June 2, Th., a great meeting of the Anabaptists att Abendon, in order to make a disturbance in the nation.

July 7, Th., a fast held at St Marie's Oxon for raine. But it was supposed that that fast with 2 more held at C.C. Coll. and St Aldate's by the presbiterians was that God would prosper the proceedings on foot in relation to a plott that afterwards broke out Aug. the 1, M., following.

July 20, W.; his mother's house against Merton Coll. was searched for armes by a couple of soldiers. Some other houses were searched, and the stables of Colleges for horses. This was done to prevent a rising of the cavaliers here, and so the easier to suppress the rising of Sir George Booth and his partie in Cheshire and elsewhere on the first of August, which was the time when they were to appeare.

July 31, Sunday, a terrible wind hapned in the afternoon, while all people were at divine service. Two or three stones, and some rough-cast stuff were blown from off the tower of S. Martin *alias* Carfax: which falling on the leads of the church, a great alarm

and out-cry was among the people in the church. Some cried 'murder!'—and at that time a trumpet or trumpets sounding neare the Cross-inne dore, to call the soldiers together, because of the present plott, they in the church cried out that the day of judgment was at hand. Some said the anabaptists and quakers were come to cut their throats; while the preacher, Mr Georg Philips, perceiving their errour, was ready to burst with laughter in the pulpit, to see such a mistaken confusion, and several of the people that were in the galleries hanging at the bottom of them and falling on the heads of people crowding on the floor to get out of the dores. This was on the very day before Sir Georg Booth and his party were to appeare in Cheshire. Col. Edward Massey at that time was to appeare in Gloucestershire, but being taken, he was put behind a trooper, to carry him away to prison. And as they were going downe a hill in the evening of this stormy day, the horse fell, and gave the colonel an opportunity to shove the trooper forward, and to make an escape into an adjoining wood.

In the beginning of Sept. the library of the learned Selden was brought into that of Bodley. A.W. laboured several weeks with Mr Thomas Barlow and others in sorting them, carrying them up stairs, and placing them. In opening some of the books they found several pair of spectacles which Mr Selden had put in and forgotten to take out, and Mr Thomas Barlow gave A.W. a pair, which he kept in memorie of Selden to his last day.

Sept. 16, F., one — Kinaston, a merchant of London, with a long beard and haire over-grown, was at the Miter-Inn; and faigning himself a Patriarch, and that he came to Oxford for a model of the last reformation, divers royallists repaired to him, and were blest by him, viz. John Ball, Gilbert Ironside, and Henry Langley—all of Wadham Coll.: Bernard Rawlins a glasier was also there, and crav'd his blessing on his knees, which he obtained. John Harmar also, the Greek professor of the University, appeared very formally, and made a Greek harangue before him. Whereupon some of the company, who knew the design to be waggish, fell a laughing and betray'd the matter. It was a piece of waggery to impose upon the royallists and such that had a mind to be blest by a patriarch instead of an archbishop or bishop; and it made great sport for a time, and those that were blest were asham'd of it, they being more than I have before set downe. Mr William Lloyd, then living in Wadham Coll. in the quality of a tutor to William Backhouse of Swallowfield in Berks, was the author of this piece of waggery, as he himself used to make his braggs. And because the deane of Ch. Church, Dr Owen, and some of the canons of that house and other Presbyterian doctors, resorted to him, or he to them, for to draw up and give him a modell, they were so much incensed, when they found the matter a cheat, that Lloyd was forced to abscond for the present, or, as he used to say, run away. This Mr Lloyd was afterwards successively bishop of S. Asaph, Lichfield and Coventry.

...

Sept. 29, Michaelmas day; the eldest brother then living of A.W., named Robert Wood, was married to Mary Drope, daughter of Thomas Drope, bachelor of Divinity. It must now be knowne that when his father died, he did by his will leave all his estate, except that at Tetsworth, to the longest liver of his children; and therefore Robert Wood being not in a capacity to settle a joynture on his wife, having but the third part of the said estate which laid in Oxon (because 3 of his sons were now living) A.W. did therefore upon Robert's request resigne the interest he had in the said estate, as survivor or longest liver if it should so happen; which no body else would have done. Afterwards he did the like to his brother Christopher upon his request. Which in after times did in a manner

prove A. Wood's ruin, for he could hardly get his own share from the children of his brethren.

Oct. 24, M., A.W. began to peruse the Registers or leiger books of S. Frideswide's Priory, Osney and Einsham Abbeys, which are kept in Ch. Church Treasury. They were taken out thence by Mr Ralph Button, canon of the said house, and reposed in his lodgings in his cloyster there. To which lodgings A.W. did recurr dayly till he had satisfied himself with them. It was an exceeding pleasure to him, and he took very great delight to be poring on such books and collecting matters from them.

In this month James Quin, MA and one of the senior students of Ch. Church, a Middlesex man borne, but son of Walter Quin of Dublin, died in a crazed condition in his bedmaker's house in Penyfarthing street, and was buried in the cathedral of Ch. Ch. A.W. had some acquaintance with him, and hath several times heard him sing with great admiration. His voice was a bass, and he had a great command of it. Twas very strong and exceeding trouling, but he wanted skill and could scarce sing in consort. He had been turn'd out of his student's place by the Visitors; but being well acquainted with some great men of those times that loved musick, they introduced him into the company of Oliver Cromwel the protector, who loved a good voice and instrumentall musick well. He heard him sing with very great delight, liquor'd him with sack, and in conclusion said: 'Mr Quin you have done very well, what shall I doe for you?' To which Mr Quin made answer with great complements, of which he had command with a great grace, that 'his Highness would be pleased to restore him to his Student's place;' which he did accordingly, and so kept it to his dying day.

Nov. 26. His acquaintance Henry Stubbe of Ch. Church sitting in the upper chamber of his friend (William Sprigg, fellow of Linc. Coll.) opposite the back-gate of the Miter Inn, a soldier standing there and discharging his gun, the bullet came thro' Stubbe's haire and miss'd him narrowly.

We are still working on the later years of Wood's diary. Further entries will be added over the coming months.

Glossary

Ch. Ch.: Christ Church College

cockleloft/cockloft: an upper loft, usually reached by a ladder

cut: woodcut, engraving

F.: Friday

furniture: armour, weapons, munitions

huff: hoof

M.: Monday

portion: inheritance

quartan: (of an ague) characterised by the occurrence of a paroxysm every forth day

quietus: a discharge from office

S.: Saturday

stifle: stifle, suffocate

strangly: strongly

Su.: Sunday

T.: Tuesday

Th.: Thursday

trouling: merry, jovial

W.: Wednesday

Warding: guarding