

**A SKETCH OF THE HISTORY
OF
HARVARD COLLEGE AND
OF ITS PRESENT STATE**

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A sketch of the history of Harvard College and of its present state by Samuel A. Eliot

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SAMUEL A. ELIOT

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SAMUEL A. ELIOT.

BOSTON:

CHARLES C. LITTLE AND JAMES BROWN.

1848.

PREFACE.

THE following short account of Harvard College was originally intended to be an abridgment of President Quincy's full and interesting History ; and the design has been so far followed that his authority has been deemed sufficient for the statement of the facts appropriate to a brief narrative. But it was not thought necessary that the small book should be a mere abstract of the large one. Other sources of information have, therefore, been consulted, different views occasionally presented, and the opportunity has been taken to make some additions to the history of the College. Still it is proper to say that a prominent motive for this work

was the wish to excite rather than to gratify curiosity ; and to induce the perusal of the more elaborate book, by giving brief intimations of the various subjects of interest which are there treated at length.

Mr. Peirce's History stands upon the same high ground of authority, for the shorter period to which it relates, as President Quincy's ; and reference to it has been constantly made, with similar confidence, in the following pages.

The Appendix contains a list of donations to the College, both from the legislature and from individuals, on which much labor has been bestowed. It was first prepared three or four years ago ; was revised, to be communicated to a committee of the legislature the last winter, and has now been re-examined in every part, and carefully corrected. The liability to error is so great in such a catalogue of particulars, extending over the space of two centuries, that entire freedom from mistake can scarcely be expected, notwithstanding the pains taken, and the aid obtained, in forming the list. The librarian.

Dr. Harris, a learned antiquary, has furnished some important items; and all the names, dates, and sums of the private donations have been diligently investigated by Mr. Edward Richardson. The records of the General Court were thoroughly searched, for all appropriations to the College, by Mr. George W. Peck.

The plan of the College enclosure has been compiled from original deeds, as far as practicable. The descriptions in those early documents are so imperfect, that the boundaries of the more ancient estates must be, in some degree, a matter of conjecture. The limits of the recent purchases, however, are well ascertained.

AUGUST, 1848.

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