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OUR FIRST AMERICAN COLLEGE.

A recent article in the FREE LANCE entitled, "Goettingen and its University" has led to a call for a similar article on the leading American University—our own "Fair Harvard." Such an article would seem to commend itself for two reasons: first, because it calls for a brief discussion of the history of our oldest and largest university; and second, because it invites an inquiry into its resources for higher collegiate education.

Harvard College was founded by an order of the general court of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay and opened Oct. 28, 1636. The language of the minutes was as follows:

"The court agree to give four hundred pounds towards a *school* or *college*, whereof two hundred pounds shall be paid the next year, and two hundred pounds when the work is finished, and the next court to appoint where and what building."

On the following year a board of regents consisting of twelve prominent men of the colony was appointed, with instructions to select a site and give out the contract for the erection of a building. "Newtown" was the chosen place, but the name was soon afterward changed by the court to Cambridge, in recognition of the English Cambridge which carried so many pleasant memories to the Pilgrim host. The bequest of John Harvard amounting to about eight hundred pounds, together with a library of three hundred volumes, was received in 1638. This was sufficient to insure the success of the institution, and it was accordingly opened during that year under the name Harvard College in honor of its most munificent benefactor. In 1645 the general government of

the college, together with the management of its funds, was intrusted to a board of overseers, which conduct of affairs, with but little change, has remained the policy of the college down to the present time.

The first president of the college was the Rev. Henry Dunster, who through the scholarship and executive ability he brought to his work in aiding and stimulating the pioneer college, must be considered not only the first, but one of the best of American educators. To show the requirements for admission at that early day we quote President Dunster's dictum, in that respect, issued in 1842:

"Whoever shall be able to read Cicero or any other such like classical author at sight and make and speak true Latin in verse and prose, *suo ut ainet martē*, and decline perfectly the paradigms of nouns and verbs in the Greek tongue; Let him then and not before be capable of admission into the college."

From this it will be seen that a good English training was presumed, and a classical training in Latin and Greek, which at that time was furnished by the parish ministers, was peremptorily demanded.

The course of study extended over three years, being respectfully designated Freshman, Junior Sophister and Senior Sophister. Below is appended a scheme of the college course, which will suggest a very striking contrast, both in range and order of studies, with most of our colleges of today:

Freshman year:—Lectures upon logic and physics; etymology and syntax; disputations and declamations; Greek, rhetoric and Hebrew grammar; the Bible, and Divinity catechetical; history and botany.

Junior Sophisters:—Lectures upon ethics and politics; disputations and declamations; prosody and dialectics; rhetoric and practice in poetry; Greek, Hebrew and Chaldee; Bible: Ezra and Daniel.

Senior Sophisters:—Arithmetic, geometry and astronomy; disputations and declamations; Greek,