

town or particular district, as a mayor and commonalty, bailiff and burgeses, or the like : some for the advancement and regulation of manufactures and commerce ; as the trading companies of London, and other towns : and some for the better carrying on of divers special purposes ; as churchwardens, for conservation of the goods of the parish ; the college of physicians and company of surgeons in London, for the improvement of the medical science ; the royal society, for the advancement of natural knowledge ; and the society of antiquarians, for promoting the study of antiquities. And among these I am inclined to think the general corporate bodies of the universities of Oxford and Cambridge must be ranked : for it is clear they are not spiritual or ecclesiastical corporations, being composed of more laymen than clergy : neither are they eleemosynary foundations, though stipends are annexed to particular magistrates and professors, any more than other corporations where the acting officers have standing salaries ; for these are rewards *pro opera et labore*, not charitable donations only, since every stipend is preceded by service and duty : they seem therefore to be merely civil corporations. The eleemosynary sort are such as are constituted for the perpetual distribution of the free alms, or bounty, of the founder of them to such persons as he has directed. Of this kind are all hospitals for the maintenance of the poor, sick, and impotent ; and all colleges, both *in* our universities and *out*<sup>e</sup> of them : which colleges are founded for two purposes ; 1. For the promotion of piety and learning by proper regulations and ordinances. 2. For imparting assistance to the members of those bodies, in order to enable them to prosecute their devotion and studies with greater ease and assiduity. And all these eleemosynary corporations are, strictly speaking, lay and not ecclesiastical, even though composed of ecclesiastical persons<sup>f</sup>, and although they in some things partake of the nature, privileges, and restrictions of ecclesiastical bodies.

<sup>e</sup> Such as at Manchester, Eton, Winchester, &c.

<sup>f</sup> 1. Lord Raym. 6.