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**Title:** An academy or colledge, wherein young ladies and gentlewomen may at a very moderate expence be duly instructed in the true Protestant religion, and in all vertuous qualities that may adorn that sex also be carefully preserved and secured till the day of their marriage ...

**Author:** Chamberlayne, Edward, 1616-1703.

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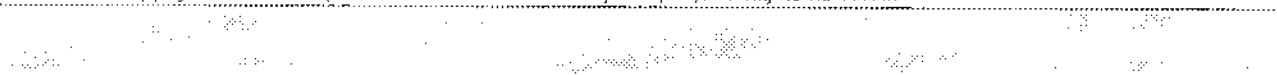
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# ACADEMY OR COLLEDGE: WHEREIN Young Ladies

## GENTLEWOMEN

May at a very moderate Expence be  
duly instructed in the true Protestant  
Religion, and in all Vertuous Quali-  
ties that may adorn that Sex: also be  
carefully preserved, and secured, till  
the day of their Marriage, under the  
Tuition of a Lady Governess, and  
grave Society of Widdows and Vir-  
gins, who have resolved to lead the  
rest of their lives in a single retir'd Re-  
ligious way, according to the Pattern  
of some Protestant Colledges in Ger-  
many.

In the Year 1671, Printed by Tho. Newcomb.

Cms.	1	2	3	4	5
Ins.	1				2



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An *ACADEMY* or *COLLEDGE*;  
Wherein Young Ladies and Gentle-  
women, may at a very moderate ex-  
pence be duly instructed in the true  
*Protestant Religion*, &c.



Efore the late unhappy  
Troubles in *England*, it was  
the usual Observation of  
Forreigners, who had been  
acquainted with this and  
other Nations, that the *En-  
glisb Lady* was the most mo-  
dest, chaste, and pious Woman in *Europe*; that  
she was eminent for Reverence, Obedience,  
Faithfulness, and Affectionateness to her Hus-  
band, for discreet, frugal management of her  
House,

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House and Family, for Sobriety, Retiredness, Taciturnity, Humility, Patience, and all other Graces and Vertues, wherewith the holy Women of old were endowed: Since which, by a general licentiousness, during our late unnatural War, not only all kind of Sects, and with them Irreligion, Atheism, and Debauchery, were introduced amongst the Men of this Nation; but also most of those fore-mentioned excellent Qualifications are now at length (to the great grief of all sober persons) become more rare amongst Women, then perhaps in any of our Neighbouring Countreys: which having been seriously and sadly considered, it is by many Godly prudent men judged very expedient, that most earnest endeavors should speedily be used by some extraordinary way of Education to reduce (if possible) the Female Sex of *England* to their Pristine Vertues; that so by their Godly Conversation, and good Examples, their Husbands, Children, and Servants may in time be won, and at length a general Reformation wrought in this Kingdom.

Some have thought best to set their Daughters to be educated in the Maiden Schools in and about *London*, where either through the Unskilfulness, or Negligence; through the Unfaithfulness,

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faithfulness, or Coverousness of the Mistresses, too much minding their private profit, the Success oft times hath not answered the Expectation of their Parents and Friends; whereof there are divers lamentable Examples, and grievous Complaining.

Others therefore (though of the *Protestant Religion*) have chosen rather to be at the great Charges, and hazard of sending their Daughters to be bred up (till the time of their Marriage) in some Popish Monasteries of our next Neighbouring Countreys: whence they have return'd otherwise very vertuous, but generally tainted with, and enclined to *Romish Superstitions*, and Errours.

Some have assayed to educate their Daughters alwayes at home, but thereby have found them apt to be corrupted; or betrayed by Servants, (of whose unfaithfulness and viciousness there is now a more general complaint than ever;) or else in continual danger to be stoln away by some debauched indigent Neighbours; or if they are rich Orphans, to be sold by the Trustees; whereof there are also divers Examples; or to be wholly ignorant and unacquainted with the World; or at least to want that handsome becoming Deportment, which usually

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usually sets off, and recommends young Ladies to good Husbands, and is to be acquired onely abroad in a vertuous converse with others.

Lastly, Divers Gentlemen of this Kingdom have, of late for the Education of their Daughters, had recourse to the Families of some *Non-Conformists*, where perhaps a stricter Education may sometimes be found, but then if any advantage be there had, it is usually attended with this great mischief, that thereby schismatical and rebellious principles are insensibly instilled into them, which may one day occasion (if not timely prevented) the final overthrow of the present established Church and State.

Now the Premisses considered, and also, that for the Education of Sons in all Vertue and Piety, no way hath been found to succeed better generally, then to let them pass their youth in a Collegiate life, under the eye and care of a discreet, learned, pious Tutor, and under the regular Government of the Head and Fellows of a Colledge: It is not to be doubted but that some such Collegiate life (if rightly instituted) may prove as successful, and perhaps much more, for the Education of Daughters; and that thereby may be founded not onely excellent Seminaries and Nurseries, out of which,  
persons

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Persons of Honour and Worth may at all times make choice of Vertuous Wives; but also Provision (whereof there is great want in *England*) may be made for sober, pious, elder Virgins and Widdows, who desire to separate themselves from the vanities of the World, and yet employ their Talents to the benefit of the Publick.

These are therefore to give notice, to all whom it may any way concern, that near *London*, in a pleasant healthy Soil and Air, there is for both the purposes above-mentioned, proposed a large House, with a Chappel, fair Hall, many commodious Lodgings, and Rooms for all sorts of necessary Offices; together with pleasant Gardens, Orchards, and Courts, all encompassed and well secured with strong high Walls: Also there is a Reverend, Learned, and Pious Divine in the same Parish, ready to officiate daily Morning and Evening as Chaplain; a grave discreet Lady to be Governess, with divers other Matrons, who having taken up a resolution to live a retired, single, and religious life, are to assist in the Government of the Colledge, without expecting any gain, profit, or emolument for themselves; but to bestow *gratis* all their care and pains in governing the Colledge and  
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the young Ladies in their Education. Moreover, there will come at due times the best and ablest Teachers in *London* for Singing, Dancing, Musical Instruments, Writing, French Tongue, Fashionable Dresses, all sorts of Needle-Works; for Confectionary, Cookery, Pastry; for Distilling of Waters, making Perfumes, making of some sort of Physical and Chyrurgical Medecins and Salves for the Poor, &c.

There are also prepared a Body of Statutes and Rules, whereunto all upon their Admission are to submit themselves; until the whole Society, with the consent of the Visitor, who is a Person of great Eminency and Worth, shall think fit to alter, or repeal any of them, for the better promoting this Pious Design.

If therefore any Honourable and Worthy Persons desire that their Daughters, or any Trustees, that their Orphans, should be admitted Commoners or Pensioners of this Colledge; or any Devout Widdows or Elder Virgins, who intend not to marry, desire to be admitted Fellows and Assistants in this Government, and to lead the rest of their dayes without cares and troubles of the World, to live with honour and reputation, to devote themselves to the service of God and the good of their Country, by con-

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contributing their advice and assistance in the training up of young Ladies and Gentlewomen, and securing their Persons and Fortunes, till the time of their Marriage: let them repair either to Mr. *Horn* a Stationer at the South-side of the *Royal Exchange*, to Mr. *Martyn* a Stationer at the Bell in *St. Pauls Churchyard*, to Mr. *Thomas Collins* Stationer, at the *Middle Temple Gate*, to Mr. *Herringman* Stationer in the *New Exchange*, to Mr. *Mortlack* Stationer in *Westminster-Hall*, or to Mr. *Taylor* a Stationer on *London-Bridge*, and they shall be farther informed.

**T**He Reader may also take notice, That near *London* in a good Air, there is a like Design for a Colledge for Old Men, either Batchelors or Widdowers, who may for a reasonable sum of money be accommodated during life with Diet, Lodging, and all other Necessaries; where they may pass the rest of their dayes without trouble or care in a comfortable society and converse with men of the like age and condition, according to the pattern of a Colledge in *Holland*.

For the perfecting of these Designs there are divers Persons of Eminency and Worth, who

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have expressed not onely their approbation, but also their readines to contribute thereunto; and it is to be hoped that many others who are Lovers and Encouragers of Vertue and Piety, will upon right information afford their assistance to a work so much tending to a General Reformation of Manners. Therefore for the better securing all Persons that their Moneys shall be employed to those ends and uses for which they lay it down, these following Proposals are offered, which by Gods assistance will be faithfully and carefully performed.

First, Whatsoever Money shall be subscribed, shall be paid in to the Mercers Company in London, which is of unspotted reputation and clear Credit, and will be accountable for the Moneys received, and give Receipts or Acquittances to every one that shall pay in any Money.

Secondly, That the same Money may be employed no otherwile than for the use intended, it is proposed that it may not be issued out but by Warrant from such Persons as shall be nominated Trustees; whereof there are divers Persons of Worth ready to take upon them that Trust.

Thirdly,

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Thirdly, It is proposed and desired, That all who are resolved to promote this Design, would send in their Subscriptions and take effectual Order for paying in their Money so soon as conveniently they can, and at farthest before the end of next Trinity Term.

Fourthly, It is desired, That every Subscriber would set down the place of his usual abode, with his Name, Quality, and Title, and the Name of every Subscriber which he shall procure, to the end that they may be all registred and recorded in a fair Velome Book, to be carefully preserved in the Colledge to all posterity, and if occasion require, that thereby notice may be given to him of any concernment of this Undertaking.

Fifthly, That in case of want of necessary provision and contribution, this laudable Design should not go on (which God forbid) then the several sums of Money to be repay'd to each Contributor respectively with Interest at 5 per Cent. if it be demanded within two years.

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*The Form of the Subscription  
to be as followeth.*

**W**E whose Names are subscribed, do hereby solemnly promise to pay the several Sums by us under-written, into the hands of the Company of Mercers, or in the Chamber of London, to be disbursed in due time for the purchasing of a Fair House near London, to be made a Colledge, according to the Proposal above-mentioned, and to give Order from time to time to the Trustees to take thence such Sum or Sums as they shall judge expedient for the purpose aforesaid.

**F I N I S.**