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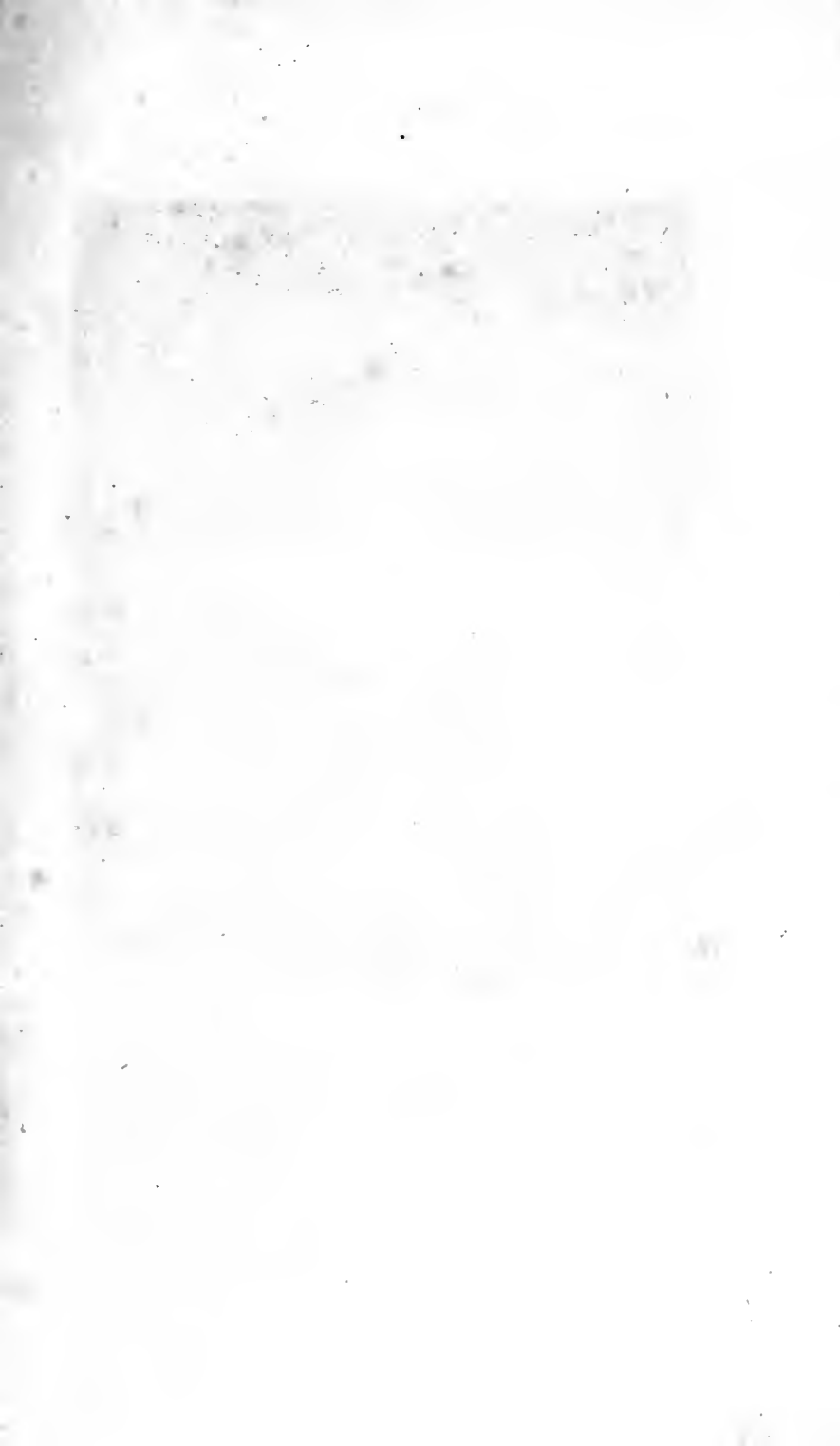
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AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
PUBLIC CHARITIES
OF THE
TOWN OF BEDFORD,
WITH A
FULL AND DIGESTED STATEMENT
OF THE
LAWS, EXHIBITIONS, AND PRIVILEGES
OF THE
Harpur Free Grammar and other Schools,
AND A DESCRIPTION OF
THE TOWN,
ITS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, BUILDINGS, &c.

To which is annexed,

AN APPENDIX,

CONTAINING

THE LETTERS PATENT OF EDWARD VI. GRANTING LICENCE
FOR THE FOUNDATION OF THE HARPUR CHARITIES,
WITH A TRANSLATION.

EMBELISHED WITH

A PORTRAIT OF SIR WILLIAM HARPUR, KNIGHT,

And Dedicated (by Permission) to

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF BEDFORD.

BY R. B. HANKIN,

OF BEDFORD, SOLICITOR.

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TO THE MOST NOBLE

JOHN, DUKE OF BEDFORD,

L. L. D. F. S. A. RECORDER OF THE BOROUGH, &c. &c.



MY LORD DUKE,

THE kind and liberal feeling at all times evinced by your Grace towards the Town and County of Bedford, and the intimate and friendly connection which has ever subsisted between yourself and its inhabitants, have induced me to dedicate the following pages to your Grace's protection; well knowing that the urbanity of your Grace's disposition, the ready and steady support which all Charitable Institutions receive, and the firm opposition which all abuses in their administration encounter, at your hands, render it impossible to select a more fit patron of a work relating chiefly to the extensive Charities of the Town of Bedford.

I have the honour to be,

With the highest respect,

MY LORD DUKE,

Your Grace's most obedient, most obliged
and most humble servant,

RALPH B. HANKIN.

BEDFORD, OCT. 1827.

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P R E F A C E.

THE Author of the present work begs to present to the Public the Laws and Regulations of the Schools, and other Charities founded by Sir William Harpur, Knight, arranged systematically, and divested, in a great measure, of the verbiage and legal phrases incidental to an Act of Parliament; trusting, that a classification of its various enactments, under separate heads, will afford immediately that information which could otherwise only be acquired by a tedious search through a long Statute, and that the absence of technicalities will thus render intelligible, what might be otherwise obscure to the generality of readers. The Author has taken the utmost care not to omit any information he could obtain relating to these subjects, and he has guarded against introducing matter for which there is no sufficient authority, or probable tradition.

An official Copy of the original Letters Patent of Edward VI. granting Licence for the

foundation of the Harpur Schools and Charities, has been procured and added to the work by way of Appendix, with a literal translation.

A brief account of Hawes's, Alderman Newton's, and other public Charities, including the Dissenters', and a description of *the Town of Bedford*, its Buildings, and Institutions, have been added, in the hope of their being received as no unsuitable accompaniment:

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THE NAMES OF THE TRUSTEES
OF THE
Bedford Charity.

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Until November, 1829.

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William Fish Palmer.
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John Green.
Rev. James Donne.
Joseph Brown.

Until November, 1830.

Rev. Samuel Hillyard.
Benjamin Trapp.
Robert Wilkin Robinson.

George Burnham.
Thomas Kilpin.
Thomas Nash.

AN ACCOUNT
OF THE
PUBLIC CHARITIES
OF THE
TOWN OF BEDFORD.

CHARITIES FOUNDED BY
SIR WILLIAM HARPUR, KNIGHT.

SECTION I.

The Foundation.

EDWARD the Sixth, by letters patent, dated 15th August, in the 6th year of his reign (1552), granted licence to the mayor, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty of Bedford, to establish a *free and perpetual grammar school*, in the town of Bedford, and for the warden or keeper of New College, Oxford, and the fellows of the same, or the major part of them, to nominate and elect a master and usher, from time to time, when it should be necessary or just occasion require, with power for the mayor, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty to hold lands, &c. for the sustentation of the master and usher, and for the continuance of the school *for ever*, for the marriage of poor maidens of the town, and for nourishing and educating poor children, and also for distributing in alms the residue and surplus of the proceeds to the poor of the town.

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Sir William Harpur, a native of Bedford, an alderman and afterwards lord mayor of the city of London, and Dame Alice his wife, did, in pursuance of the letters patent by indenture dated 22nd April, 1556, enrolled in chancery, convey to the mayor, bailiffs, &c. the school house in Bedford, and thirteen acres one rood of meadow land in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, in the county of Middlesex, for charitable uses for the benefit of the inhabitants of Bedford.

The land was subsequently built upon, and the Middlesex estate now principally forms Bedford Row, Bedford Street, Gray's Inn Passage, Featherstone Buildings, Hand Court, Three Cup Yard, Princes Street, Red Lion Street, Lamb's Conduit Street, Theobald's Road, New North Street, Bedford Court, Boswell Court, East Street, East Street Mews, Harpur Street, Harpur Street Mews, Richbell Court, Green Street, and Eagle Street. The rents have from time to time greatly increased, and the estates become more valuable, by the expiration of a great number of the leases, particularly in the year 1827.

There are also some other valuable estates, situate in the town of Bedford, belonging to the charity; viz.: eight genteel residences, held on lease from the trustees, forming "Harpur Place;" also four other genteel residences in St. Lloyd's, held on lease by Thomas Davies, Esq. besides some smaller tenements and property in the parishes of St. Paul and St. John. The estates are particularly set forth in a schedule to an act of parlia-

ment passed in the 7th year of the reign of his present Majesty George IV. entitled “ an act for
 “ the better management and disposition of the
 “ estates given by Sir William Harpur, Knight,
 “ and Dame Alice his wife, for a free and perpetual
 “ school, in the town of Bedford, and other pur-
 “ poses, and of the rents and profits thereof.”

The rental of the charity estates was at the time of the foundation of the school £180. per annum. The reserved rents now amount to about £10,000. a year, and will progressively increase by the falling in of leases.

The author does not think it necessary, for the purposes of the present publication, to enter into the discussion of any of those acts of parliament on the subject of these charities, which were passed previously to the above act of the year 1826, as thereby they are all expressly repealed.

The free grammar or classical school is kept on the first or upper floor of a handsome stone building in St. Paul's Square, and the english school on the ground floor; the edifice being an ornament to the town. There is also a large preparatory school for boys and girls in Angel Street; and the trustees contemplate building an infant school for both sexes.

Before entering on the provisions of the act, let it be remarked, how great a blessing this charity has been, and will continue to be, to the inhabitants of Bedford. At the grammar school, the boys are educated for learned professions and the higher departments of commerce; and many of the scholars have attained high honours at both universities, and become ornaments to society. By this charity, exhibitions are granted to maintain some at the universities; apprentice fees are allotted to others; poor maidens of Bedford are provided with marriage portions; and comfortable homes, and decent support, secured to poor, unfortunate, or decayed house-keepers.

To partake of this charity, the rich and the poor are alike invited; and their respective interests are carefully watched

over by efficient trustees, who derive no other reward for their services than the honour of their employment, and the gratification of doing their duty.

II.

Trustees of the Harpur Charity, and the Mode of their Appointment.

The lord lieutenant and representatives in parliament for the county and the town of Bedford, the mayor, recorder, aldermen, common council, bailiffs, and chamberlains, for the time being, and the master and usher of the grammar school, are all trustees by virtue of their respective offices.

There are also eighteen elective trustees chosen from among the inhabitants of the town, six of whom retire by rotation annually, so that every six trustees remain in office three years.

A meeting must annually take place at the Shire-hall on the first Wednesday in November, from nine in the morning till twelve at noon, whereat the mayor, or an alderman appointed in writing by him, must preside, for the purpose of electing six new trustees in the room of the six whose term then expires. They are elected by ballot by the inhabitants of the town paying scot and lot present at the meeting. Their qualification is a three years' previous residence in the town, with the possession of ("seizin of or title to") a freehold estate in the town or county of the clear annual value of £20. or the occupation of a house in the town of the yearly rent of £20. The retiring trustees or any of them may be imme-

diately re-elected. A regular notice of the election is given in and affixed to the doors of the several parish churches of the town, the Sunday previously to the election. If any elective trustee shall remove and reside out of the town, or neglect to act for six months together, or shall die, or become a trustee *virtute officii*, or be disqualified, or incapable to act, or shall give a written notice to the mayor of his desire to retire, he ceases to be an elective trustee ; and within twenty-one days afterwards an election in his stead, similar to the annual one, must take place, with the usual notice. No trustee can act until he shall have taken and subscribed an oath or affirmation before the mayor, or an alderman, of his qualification to act, and for the faithful performance of the trust. The form is prescribed by the act.

Trustees acting without being qualified are to forfeit £50. to be recovered in any court of law at Westminster, for the benefit of the charity.

There is an excellent provision, that no trustee shall be a partaker of the charity (except putting his son or sons to school, or to one of the universities, or a daughter receiving the marriage portion), and that no trustee shall be a lessee of any part of the charity estates.

The trustees, in case of any doubt, may apply to the lord chancellor in a summary way by petition. And they may be proceeded against for misconduct in their office, on the petition of the attorney-general, or of any inhabitant with his consent, to the court of chancery.

III.

Trustees (continued): their Powers, Place of Meeting, Designation, &c.

No act of the trustees is to be valid unless made by a majority of them at their meetings; and the number of trustees at such meetings is not to be less than thirteen, of which the recorder, and, in his absence, the mayor, is to be president; or, in the absence of both of them, one of the trustees is to be elected to take the chair; and the president can only vote in case of an equality of votes.

The trustees at their meetings are empowered to make additional rules and regulations conformable with the provisions of the act of parliament, and which cannot be revoked, except by the order of a greater number of trustees than the number of those by whom the original order was made. Such revocation or alteration must be effected in the manner particularly pointed out in the act of parliament.

The place of meeting is to be a room appropriated for that purpose, or in one of the buildings belonging to the charities, where the common seal is to be kept; and all deeds, &c. relating to the charity are to be deposited under two locks and keys, one of the keys whereof is to be kept by the mayor of Bedford, and the other by the clerk, or some person to be appointed by the trustees.

The meetings of the trustees are held in a room of the building called "The Hospital," where they transact the business of the charity.

Designation or Style of the Trustees.—The trustees are to be designated by the name of “The Trustees of the Bedford Charity,” and to sue and be sued in that name or description in all courts of justice. They must keep a common seal, and they may hold or purchase lands, not exceeding ten acres, for the benefit of the charity, notwithstanding the prohibitory statute of mortmain.

IV.

Messuages and Property vested in Trustees.

The lands, houses, &c. are vested in the trustees by the act of parliament; and they are authorised to let on lease, &c. according to its directions, as mentioned in a subsequent part of this work. (Title Leases.)

The several houses stated to be leasehold in the third schedule of the act of parliament which relates to property in Bedford, (Harpur Place, &c.) are to be holden of the trustees *during the remainder of the term mentioned in the leases of that property, and no longer.*

The late act of parliament confirms leases and contracts made under the style of “The Masters, Governors, and Trustees of the Bedford Charity,” their designation under the former act of parliament.

V.

The Statue of Sir William Harpur,

Is in front of the grammar school, and is directed to be kept in repair out of the charity funds. It is

well executed, and underneath it is the following latin inscription :

“ Ecce viator ! CORPOREA Effigies,
 “ GULIELMI HARPUR, Equitis Aurati,
 “ Scholæ istius,
 “ Quam cernis amplam et ornatam
 “ Munificentissimi Fundatoris.
 “ Si ANIMÆ Picturam spectare velis ;
 “ In Chartâ Beneficiorum invenias,
 “ Delineatam.”

He is sculptured in his robes as lord mayor of London, and the statue is of white marble.

VI.

Schoolmasters' Residences.

The building called “The Schoolmaster’s House” is the place of residence of the master of the grammar school ; the house occupied by the Rev. Thomas Brereton is the usher’s residence ; the adjoining house is the residence of the master of the english school ; and a house in Harpur Street is the residence of the usher of the english school.

VII.

Schools.

The english school is to be kept separate from the grammar school ; and, when the trustees shall think proper, in a distinct building. The trustees are authorised to erect new school houses, if they see fit.

The present school house was built in 1767, and is of stone.

VIII.

Appointment and Salaries of the Masters of the Free Grammar or Classical School.

Present Grammar Master, The Rev. J. BRERETON, D.C. L.

Second Master, or Usher, The Rev. T. BRERETON, B. C. L.

Mathematical Master, (not yet appointed.)

French Master, Mr. DUPONT.

The master and usher of the grammar school are always to be fellows of New College, Oxford, or clergymen of the church of England, being graduates of one of the universities of Oxford or Cambridge; and their appointment rests with the warden and fellows of New College, Oxford, or the major part of them. They are to instruct, “not only in grammar, but also in such languages, writing, arithmetic, geography, and mathematics, and such other branches of literature and education as shall in the judgment of the warden and fellows of New College, and the trustees, be thought proper, to render the grammar school of general use and benefit to the public.”

New college is to elect within three months subsequent to any vacancy; of which, notice is to be given to them by the trustees, who are entitled to appoint, in case the college does not within three months after such notice. The master and usher are enabled to hold any ecclesiastical benefice during the time they continue to be masters of the school, and they are to reside in the houses appointed for them.

The salary of the head master is to be £250. a year; together with as many additional yearly

sums of five guineas, as will be equal to the number of town boys who shall be bona fide educated at the grammar school for at least six months in each year.

The salary of the principal usher of the grammar school, for teaching the latin and greek languages, is to be the yearly sum of £140. ; together with as many additional yearly sums of four guineas, as will be equal to the number of boys who shall be bona fide educated at the grammar school for at least six months in each year.

The salary of every other master of the grammar school is to be a sum not exceeding £100. per annum, to be fixed by the warden and fellows, and trustees.

The mathematical master, in addition to his fixed annual salary (not exceeding £100.), is to receive as many additional yearly sums of three guineas, as will be equal to the number of boys above the age of fourteen years, who shall be instructed in mathematics for six months in each year.

The salaries are payable quarterly.

The master of the grammar school has the privilege of taking boarders, who class with the free boys, and may receive exhibitions to either of the three universities of Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin.

The present french master is Mr. DUPONT. His salary for attending the grammar school is £30. per annum. He attends on Wednesday and Saturday evenings, from six to eight o'clock.

IX.

Appointment of Masters of the English Schools and their Salaries.

Head Master, Mr. WHITE.

Second Master, Mr. MATTHIASON.

French Master, Mr. DUPONT.

The appointment is in the trustees, who may dismiss for just and reasonable causes.

The salary of the master is not to exceed £200. a year.

The usher or assistant's salary is not to exceed £120. nor the salary of the mistress of the girl's school £50. per annum.

The salaries are all payable quarterly.

In the english or lower school the boys are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, and the elements of mathematics. Tradesmen and persons in the town who are not desirous that their children should receive a classical education, send their sons to the english school.

The master of the english school has the liberty of taking boarders into his house.

The salary of the head master is £141. 10s. and that of the usher £100. a year. Mr. WAGSTAFF, the late assistant, received a salary of £70. a year.

The french master has an additional salary of £30. per annum for attending the english school. He attends on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, from six to eight o'clock, and on Saturday afternoons, from four to six.

X.

Duty of the Masters, Ushers, and Assistants.

Every inhabitant of the town of Bedford, whose place of settlement shall be in either of the five

parishes, may send their children to be educated at the grammar school, subject to the regulations made conjointly by the warden and fellows of New College, Oxford, and the trustees of the Bedford charity; and it is the duty of the master, usher, and assistants, to teach them latin, greek, and other useful learning; or to the english schools, where the masters and assistants shall instruct them in such manner as the trustees shall direct.

No fee, reward, or gratuity is to be paid to any of the masters for teaching any of the town boys, except the salaries and allowances prescribed by the act of parliament.

No boy to be admitted under the age of eight years, or who has attained the age of fourteen years, except in the preparatory school, in which all children of persons residing in the town of Bedford may be admitted at the age of five years; nor is any boy to be re-admitted, after he has been removed to be placed out in the world.

It may perhaps here be enquired, who is an inhabitant within the meaning of the Act? to which it may be answered, that any person who proposes to send a boy to any of the schools must have previously *bona fide* rented a house of the clear annual value of £10. for a twelvemonth prior to his sending such boy, and have paid scot and lot, or be *bona fide* the owner of a house and premises of the annual value of £10. at the least, clear of all deductions, and be resident in the town at the time of sending such boy, and so continue during the boy's education, unless taken away by death.

XI.

Further Privilege of the Schools regarding the Scholars.

All printed and other books, pens, paper, slates, coals, candles, and other conveniences, are provided for the children out of the charity estates.

The trustees are also at liberty to give rewards to deserving scholars, not exceeding in the whole £50. in one year : *i. e.* two-fifths are to be the proportion to the grammar school, to be distributed by the head master to meritorious boys (whether free boys or not), and the remainder to the english and preparatory schools.

XII.

Examiners.

Two efficient examiners are to be appointed by the warden and fellows of New College, Oxford, on the first Thursday in May, in every year, to the grammar school ; who shall examine all the classes of boys in their learning. The examination is to be public. The examiners are to inquire into the conduct of the masters and ushers, and into all faults and neglects respecting the grammar school. On the request of the trustees, the examiners are to confer with them on any subject connected with the grammar school. The examiners are to make a report thereon to the warden and fellows, who shall make such orders as they may deem expedient.

The examiners are to be paid the expenses of their journey out of the funds of the charity.

It was determined prior to the passing of the late Act, upon an application to the lord chancellor, that although the examination is public, yet the trustees cannot take any part in it.

The examiners in nowise interfere with the english or lower school, or the preparatory school.

The upper school being subject to the visitation of New College, Oxford, the parliamentary commissioners did not make any report of it.

XIII.

Exhibitions to the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin.

The trustees are to grant exhibitions of £80. per annum each to not more than eight such scholars, (six of whom shall be free boys, and children of inhabitants of the town of Bedford,) going from the grammar school to either of the universities of *Oxford, Cambridge, or Dublin*, after the first Thursday in May 1828, as the examiners sent by New College, Oxford, and the head master of the grammar school shall, after due examination, deem worthy of such exhibition.

Exhibitions are not to be held by scholars who have not been at the school four years in the whole, nor to be received for a longer period than four years; and each of the exhibitioners is to reside in the university to which he shall belong, the whole or so much of every term as lectures shall be given by the tutor or tutors of the college, during the time he holds his exhibition.

The scholar holding an exhibition is to procure, once in every year, to be shewn to the trustees, a

certificate from the principal and one of the tutors of his college, that he has regularly resided in the university, been attentive to his studies, and moral and exemplary in his conduct; in default of being able to procure which certificate, the exhibition is to cease from the last payment.

The respective exhibitions held at the time of passing the late act, are thereby increased to the yearly sum of £80.; and are subject to the regulations before stated.

The exhibitions were, previously to the passing of the present act of parliament, only £40. per annum, and the number of exhibitions but three, and did not extend to the university of Dublin: they were continued for a longer period; viz. six years, and required seven months' residence in the year at the universities.

The scholars at *Cambridge* now enjoying the exhibitions are Messrs. H. Pearse, Amos, and Whitworth.

XIV.

Exhibitions (continued): Privilege of the Head Master of the Grammar School.

The two remaining exhibitions of £80. per annum each, granted by the trustees, may be given to two scholars going from the grammar school to either of the universities of *Oxford*, *Cambridge*, or *Dublin*, though not children of inhabitants of the town. The scholars to be approved by the same persons, and the exhibitions to be enjoyed upon the same terms, as the free boys.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE SCHOOLS.

THE hours of attendance at the grammar school are before breakfast, from Lady-day to Michaelmas, from seven till nine; and the rest of the year from eight till half-past nine. After breakfast, during the summer half-year, from half-past ten till twelve; and during the winter half-year, from eleven till half-past twelve. And in the afternoon, in the summer, from two till five; and in the winter, from half-past three till six. Prayers are read every morning and evening.

N. B. The above is agreeable with the printed regulations respecting the hours of attendance at the grammar school; but, in the winter season, a slight variation is made by the master, nevertheless the same aggregate number of hours is made up.

The boys, from Lady-day to Michaelmas, go into the english school at seven in the morning, leave at half-past eight, return again at nine, leave again at noon, and then return at two. And the rest of the year they go to school at nine until noon, and from two till four in the afternoon. Prayers are read every morning and evening.

The two vacations are at Midsummer and Christmas. The vacations at the grammar school last six weeks, and at the english school one month.

Besides the two vacations in each year, the scholars at the grammar school have holidays on the principal saints' days and fasts of the church; and the boys at the english school have holidays on Easter-Monday and Tuesday, Whit-Monday and Tuesday, Good Friday, Christmas-day, and the King's Birth-day.

There are now about fifty scholars at the grammar school on the foundation, and nearly the same number of private boarders of Dr. Brereton's, who are classed and taught with the free boys.

The grammar school has of late years continued increasing, being conducted in such a manner as to render it in no respect inferior to any public school in the kingdom; consequently there is a continued accession of families coming to reside in the town, and the number of new houses lately erected and others being built is very considerable.

To the married man with a small income, and the widow with a large family, these free schools are an invaluable blessing.

XV.

Marriage Portions to Poor Maidens.

The sum of £800. yearly is directed to be distributed out of the charity funds, by quarterly payments, in marriage portions of £20. each, to ten poor maidens of the town of Bedford, of good fame and reputation.

Every poor maiden resident in the town of Bedford, between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, being a daughter of a resident householder of ten years standing next preceding her becoming a candidate, or whose father or mother's settlement (in case of the death of either of them) was at the time of his or her decease in any of the parishes, and whose residence as a householder would, with the time since elapsed, make up the term of ten years, and who shall have sent to the clerk of the trustees her christian and sur-name, age, place of her birth, and the names of her parents, one week at the least before the time of drawing, is to be permitted to draw lots for the sum of £20. at the meeting of the trustees on the first Thursday in the several months of January, April, July, and October, in every year. As the sum of £200. only is distributed quarterly, there can be but ten successful candidates at every drawing, each of whom is entitled to receive on the day of her marriage, or as soon afterwards as the trustees shall think fit, £20. as her marriage portion, provided she marry within two months from the time of her drawing such beneficial lot, and she be not then an apprentice, nor have been discharged from her apprentice-

ship for misconduct. Her intended husband must be a person, in the judgment of the trustees, of good reputation, and also not an apprentice.

Poor maidens, being daughters of resident householders as before stated, who shall have been apprenticed, or have gone into service, out of the town of Bedford, and gained settlements elsewhere, may be candidates.

Those who have not drawn beneficial lots, are entitled at the next meeting, if then married, to the marriage portions, in preference to any of the other candidates, provided they have married persons, in the judgment of the trustees, of good reputation: and no poor maiden having drawn an unsuccessful lot, is precluded from drawing again, from time to time, upon giving the notice before mentioned.

Daughters of tradesmen and respectable persons in the town, (although, it is apprehended, not strictly entitled under the letters patent,) very often receive marriage portions of £20. from this charity; and not improperly so, considering the extensive funds of the charity, and that none of the poorer maidens are thereby deprived of their portions.

XVI.

The Hospital, in Angel Street.

Master, Mr. FURZE.

Matron, Mrs. FURZE.

The hospital, or building set apart for the habitation of poor boys and girls, born and resident within the town of Bedford, is to be kept in repair out of the charity funds; and the trustees are at liberty to alter or enlarge it at their discretion, or to take

it down, and upon its site to erect separate habitations for the boys and girls, so that the expense of any such building do not exceed the surplus of the rents of the charity estate.

So many poor boys and girls, born and resident in the town, being orphans or children of such parents as the trustees shall think objects of charity, are to be taken into the house, from time to time, and provided with nourishment, bedding, clothes, linen, and other necessaries, and masters and matrons to take care of them, until they attain a proper age to be placed out to trade, agriculture, or other employment.

The children are to be educated and brought up in the principles of the Church of England.

The master and matron, with the boys and girls, are to attend divine worship in one of the parish churches every Sunday; and the trustees are to supply proper seats for their accommodation.

No child to be admitted into the hospital under eight years of age, and not fewer than 26, nor more than 50, such children.

And every boy and girl may be placed out apprentice, or at service, in such manner as the trustees see proper, with the same benefits and advantages as are expressed or directed with regard to apprentices or servants.

The dress of the boys consists of a suit of blue clothes, and a cap; and that of the girls of a blue stuff suit. Their neat appearance, and correct demeanour, reflect great credit on their master and matron.

The tradesmen of the town of Bedford experience great benefit from the hospital furnishing them with apprentices,

whose religious principles have been carefully attended to, and whose habits of industry being early acquired, are a strong recommendation, and a pledge for their good behaviour, when called upon to take an active part in the business of life.

XVII.

The Appointment and Salaries of the Masters and Matrons of the Hospital,

Are at the discretion of the trustees.

The salary of Mr. and Mrs. Furze jointly, as master, and matron, is £40. a year.

XVIII.

Apprentice Money, or Premiums given with Apprentices.

The sum of £1,500. is to be applied for the purpose of placing out, quarterly, poor children as apprentices. They are to be boys and girls in the hospital, or children of resident householders in the town, in any of its parishes, of ten years standing next preceding such putting out, or whose father or mother's settlement (in case of the death of either of them) was at the time of his or her decease in any of the parishes, and whose residence as a householder had been for such a space of time, as would, with the time since elapsed, make up the term of ten years next preceding any of such children's application. The boys are to be of the age of thirteen and not above fourteen years, and the girls of the age of fourteen and not exceeding fifteen years.

The children whose names, ages, and places of birth, and the names of whose parents, shall have

been given to the clerk of the trustees one week at least before the time of drawing, shall be permitted to draw lots at the respective meetings on the first Thursday in the months of January, April, July, and October.

The sum of £30. is to be paid as an apprentice fee with each of ten poor boys, and the sum of £15. with each of five poor girls, who shall draw beneficial lots, at such times and in such proportions as the trustees shall think proper, in case the boys or girls shall be apprenticed within six calendar months after they have drawn beneficial lots, or within such further time as the trustees shall allow, to masters and mistresses of good character and responsibility, to be approved of by the trustees. The boys shall be bound for seven years, and the girls for five years.

The girls to be apprenticed and actually employed in such trades and occupations only as women usually follow (lace-making excepted).

If sufficient boys are not to be found qualified to draw lots, the number to be made up by girls, so that the whole sum of £1500. be distributed.

The children to be bound upon terms and regulations to be approved of by the trustees; and the indentures and assignments thereof to be made with their consent, and to be free from stamp duty..

If any of the children die, or are not put out, the money shall be drawn for by others, on the next day of drawing.

By the late act of parliament, only £700. per annum was applied as apprentice money. The premium given with each boy was £20. and with each girl, £10. The number of boys was fifteen, and the number of girls the same as at present.

XIX.

Donations to Poor Boys and Girls going to and remaining in Service.

Ten poor boys, and thirty poor girls, who, being unsuccessful candidates for the apprentice fees, or who, drawing beneficial lots, but not being put out apprentice within the time limited, shall let themselves to domestic service for a year, with the consent of the trustees, are to have two pounds each for clothing upon going into service, and three pounds each, after having been in service for a whole year.

Two pounds annually are given to every such servant who continues a whole year in the same service, for the second, third, and fourth years respectively; and if such servant remain in the first place of service, the sum of one pound is added to the benefaction of two pounds, at the end of the second, third, and fourth years respectively; and to the servant who shall have continued in the same service, without interruption, for five years, the further sum of five pounds: but their services are not to be with their parents or any relation; and they are to produce to the trustees certificates of their good behaviour, signed by their masters or mistresses, and by the minister and churchwardens of the parish where they have so lived in domestic service.

These poor girls by going out to service and receiving such donations, are not disqualified from becoming candidates for the marriage portions.

If more than ten boys and thirty girls apply for the donations, they are to draw lots for the same.

XX.

Benefactions to Apprentices.

When the term of their apprenticeship expires, every boy and girl who has complied with the tenor of their indentures of apprenticeship, shall upon producing the certificate of the master or mistress, and such other proof as the trustees may require, receive a sum not exceeding £20. nor less than £10. each.

It is observed with pleasure, that the trustees are enjoined not to apprentice girls to lace-making, whereby health is frequently injured, and in learning which, little attention is paid to moral discipline or restraint.

Girls who have been brought up to work at the lace schools, are generally found unfit for household work.

Tradesmen, and other inhabitants of Bedford, are more than ever anxious to procure apprentices and servants from the Harpur schools and the hospital; but such boys and girls may be taken as apprentices, or hired by persons not resident in the town.

The indentures are prepared by the clerk of the trustees, Mr. Whitehouse.

XXI.

The Preparatory or National School.

Master, Mr. FURZE.

Assistant, Mr. HALL.

Mistress of the Girls' School, Miss SMITH.

The school is open to all male children of inhabitants, at any age which the trustees think proper.

The act of parliament makes very little mention of this school, and does not appear to lay down any directions for its particular manangement. It is, however, subject to the control of the trustees.

The school is a plain brick building, and adjoins the hospital. There are now about 300 boys, generally sons of persons of very limited means. Although the words of the Act are "at any age," the trustees, in their discretion, as they are empowered, have fixed five years as the age of admission.

On the afternoons of Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, in each week, upwards of 200 girls are taught reading, writing, and needle-work in this school, during which periods the boys have half-holidays.

The hours of attendance in the morning are from nine till twelve, throughout the year; and in the afternoon, from two till half-past four in the summer months, and from two till four in the winter months.

The vacations and other holidays are the same as at the english school.

The salary of Mr. Furze is £60. a year; and Mr. Hall and Miss Smith receive £30. per annum each.

XXII.

Best Almshouses.

There are ten poor old men, and ten poor old women (being decayed housekeepers) placed during their lives, by the trustees, in the twenty alms-houses standing on the *Bromham Road*, and each is paid a sum, not exceeding ten shillings, weekly, and three pounds yearly, for clothing, out of the charity funds: but if a man and his wife are placed together in one house by the trustees, they are allowed a weekly sum not exceeding fifteen shillings, and an additional sum for the clothing of the wife, not exceeding two pounds.

If any poor woman survive her husband, the trustees may pay to her during her life, if she con-

tinue his widow, or until she shall, on any vacancy, be placed by the trustees in one of the almshouses, a sum not exceeding ten shillings weekly for her support, and one pound yearly for her clothing.

Inhabitants of almshouses are to attend (if able) some place of public worship; and, upon neglecting to do so, or for any other misbehaviour, or if they contract matrimony, they are liable to be removed.

Vacancies occasioned by death or removal are to be filled up by the trustees from poor decayed housekeepers, being inhabitants belonging to any of the parishes, who have been resident housekeepers in the town for ten years then next preceding.

The inhabitants of almshouses are not liable to the payment of parochial or other taxes, in respect of their occupation of such almshouses.

These houses are pleasantly situated on the Bromham Road, opposite the Friars' Farm, and are very neat and respectable in their appearance, with gravel walks and a grass plat in front. They are commodious in their internal arrangement, and afford a comfortable retirement and competent affluence to the decayed householder and tradesman. The following inscription is on a stone under the clock, in the centre of the buildings.

“ These Almshouses
 “ For Poor decayed Housekeepers
 “ of the Town of Bedford,
 “ were built and endowed
 “ in the year MDCCC.
 “ by the Trustees of the
 “ Charity Estates of
 “ Sir William Harpur, Knight,
 “ the Friend of the Friendless
 “ and
 “ the Father of the Poor.”

XXIII.

Almshouses in Harpur Street.

There are forty-six other almshouses, forming the north side of *Harpur Street*, in which poor old men and women (being decayed housekeepers) are placed by the trustees, who are paid, weekly, a sum not exceeding seven shillings each, and two pounds yearly each for clothing.

If a poor man and his wife be placed together in one of these almshouses, they receive a weekly sum for both not exceeding ten shillings and sixpence, and an extra yearly sum of one pound for the clothing of the wife.

If the woman survive her husband, the trustees may pay to her during her life, if she continue his widow, or until she shall, on any vacancy, be placed by the trustees in one of the almshouses, a sum, not exceeding seven shillings, weekly, and one pound yearly for clothing.

The same general directions and rules are observed with respect to these houses, as apply to the twenty superior almshouses.

This row of brick houses deserves notice, from its particularly neat appearance; and the stranger would scarcely consider them almshouses, unless pointed out to him as such.

They extend from *St. Peter's Green*, in a direct line, to the *Bromham Road*.

At the end nearest *St. Peter's Green*, is a house appropriated to the residence of the clerk of the trustees; and at the other end there is one set apart for the residence of the second master in the english school.

About £1500. of the charity funds are annually distributed among the inmates of the almshouses.

XXIV.

Medical Attendant.

The trustees may, in their discretion, at any time, appoint a medical practitioner, to attend the poor children in the hospital, and the poor old men and women placed in the almhouses, and can remove such practitioner at their pleasure. They may pay him, for medicines and attendance, any sum not exceeding £60. per annum, according to their discretion.

The present medical attendant is Mr. Short, who is paid a salary of £60. a year.

XXV.

Charity Money of £500.

This sum is distributed generally, for the relief and support of poor decayed housekeepers, being inhabitants of any of the parishes, who shall have been resident ten years next preceding such distribution, at such times, and in such proportions and manner, as the trustees shall judge proper.

This money is what the poor people call "Hall Money," from their receiving it at the County hall.

Previously to its being given away, the common crier gives due notice, "that all persons who claim to be entitled, are to apply to the clerk of the trustees for tickets, and may receive their money on proceeding to the hall." The money is distributed in the winter season, when it is most serviceable to the poor.

XXVI.

Receivers, Clerks, and Surveyors.

The present receiver is Thomas Gotobed, Esq. of London, who holds his office for life. He must reside on, or within two miles of, the charity estate in the county of Middlesex. The receiver must attend the trustees at Bedford, whenever required.

Personal security is required from the receiver, together with two sureties, in the sum of £5,000. each, for the due performance of the duties incident to his office.

On the death, removal, or resignation of a receiver, a new one must be appointed by the trustees.

One person cannot act in the joint capacities of receiver and clerk, or be appointed thereto; nor can he fill one situation, and his partner or clerk the other.

The present clerk to the trustees is Mr. Whitehouse. The appointment rests with the trustees, and the office is held by the clerk for life, who is to reside in the house provided for him. He is to give security, by bond, with three sufficient sureties, in £500. each, for the due performance of his office, and to account for all monies he shall receive on account of the charity.

The clerk is, on no pretence whatever, to receive any fee or reward, other than his salary, and his regulated fee on each lease, for any official business done for the charity, on pain of forfeiting his office.

Surveyors may be appointed and removed at the discretion of the trustees. They may be paid by

an annual salary, or for business actually done from time to time.

Mr. Gotobed receives an annual salary of £400.

Mr. Whitehouse is paid £100. a year, as clerk, and £30. per annum, as surveyor of the charity estates in Bedford.

There is no regularly appointed surveyor for the estates in Middlesex.

XXVII.

Superannuation.

The trustees may allow to the present or any future master, usher, or assistant of the schools, and master or matron of the hospital, incapacitated by age or infirmity, a yearly sum for their maintenance, not less in any one year than one-third of the salary which had been previously received.

XXVIII.

Repairs and Insurance of Buildings.

All the buildings of the charity are to be kept in repair, and insured from fire; and the expense of such repairs and insurances, and all parochial and other rates, (except in respect of buildings in the occupation of persons paying rent,) are to be paid out of the charity funds.

XXIX.

Diminution or Surplus of Charity Funds.

If it appear, on the closing of the annual accounts, that too much money has been expended,

such excess must be repaid out of the first monies received from the charity estates ; and the trustees are to diminish and decrease the succeeding yearly payments, so that they do not exceed the annual revenue of the charity.

Any surplus is to be invested in the public funds, in the names of " The Trustees of the Bedford " Charity," and is to accumulate in the nature of compound interest, until it reaches a sum not exceeding £20,000. nor less than £10,000. sterling, which sum is to be applicable for the purchase of messuages, lands, or other hereditaments, or towards discharging sums due for erecting, setting up, or completing buildings in pursuance of the act ; and any remaining dividends and surplus are to form a part of the general funds, and to be applied according to the direction of the trustees.

XXX.

Contracts, Letting Charity Estates, and Leases.

Contracts for building, &c. and agreements for building materials, furniture, or other necessaries, exceeding £100. to be entered into by the trustees, require three weeks notice to be given in each of the parish churches. No such contract to be entered into with a trustee ; but this exclusion is not to extend to ordinary repairs.

Letting Charity Estates.—The trustees may let any of the messuages, &c. belonging to the charity, situate in the county of Middlesex, to tenants yearly,

or on leases, for a term not exceeding ninety-nine years for building, or thirty years for repairing. When houses are let on lease, a surveyor is appointed by the trustees to survey the house, and to make a proper estimate, in writing, of the sum necessary to be laid out, and of the rent which ought to be paid during the term. The trustees are not authorised to take any sum of money in the nature of a premium or fine. The trustees, after having taken the estimate into consideration, may offer the property, either to the lessee or tenant, upon terms not less than the yearly rent mentioned in the estimate; and if the offer be not accepted in twenty-one days, or if the trustees do not think proper to make such offer, then advertisements are to be published in three morning, two evening, and one weekly London newspapers, in most general circulation, once in four successive weeks, at the least, for letting the proposed premises. Persons desirous of becoming tenants, are to send to the Middlesex receiver, proposals of their terms, in writing, which are to be laid before the trustees at a meeting to be held for taking them into consideration, of which meeting and its purpose, notice is to be given in the parish churches of Bedford, and to each resident trustee, at least ten days before such meeting. The proposals to be approved and accepted, if judged beneficial to the charity estates; and if the highest proposal be rejected, the trustees to enter a minute of their reason for not accepting the same.

The trustees, if they think proper, are to nominate

a committee, not exceeding seven of their body, three of whom shall be elective trustees, which committee is to meet within one mile of the charity estate in the county of Middlesex, within sixteen days after nomination, in order to enter into contracts upon the respective offers and proposals which shall have been approved or accepted; and all contracts and agreements signed by the trustees composing the committee for confirming the same, are binding and conclusive upon all the trustees.

Leases are to contain a covenant on the part of the lessees to insure the premises, in an insurance office in London or Westminster, to their full value; to leave the premises in good tenantable repair; and to yield up their quiet possession at the expiration of the lease, with a right of re-entry on non-payment of the rent, during any number of days not exceeding thirty, and for breach of covenants. They are to be prepared and sealed with the common seal, and signed by the clerk at a meeting of the trustees. A counterpart of every lease is to be executed by the lessee, and delivered to the clerk, to be deposited amongst the title deeds and muniments of the trustees; and the leases are to take effect in possession or in reversion, at the expiration of any preceding leases, provided the subsisting leases expire, or are surrendered, within two years after making the new leases. Every lessee is to pay to the clerk of the trustees, for the preparing of his contract, lease, and counterpart, and stamp duty thereon, such sum as the trustees shall approve.

The income to the charity arising from the letting of estates on leases forming an important feature in its revenue, will, it is hoped, in some measure, excuse the author for entering into the subject so fully under the last two heads. Had he curtailed the subject more, the reader would have frequently been obliged to refer to the Act for that information which, it is presumed, this work sufficiently affords.

XXXI.

Trustees' Expenses.—Receiver's and Clerk's Accounts.

Trustees' Expenses are to be paid out of the charity estate.

Receiver's and Clerk's Accounts.—The receiver of the rents, and the clerk of the trustees, are, on the first Thursday in the month of October, to deliver to the trustees, an account, in writing, up to the 24th of June next preceding, of all receipts and payments, and of the application of the rents of the charity estate. The accounts are to be examined by the trustees, and, if approved, to be signed by at least seven of them.

Such accounts are to be yearly printed at the expense of the charity; and one calendar month before the same shall be allowed, a copy is to be left at the house of every trustee residing in Bedford, at least one month before the accounts are passed. A copy of the printed account is also to be delivered by the clerk of the trustees, to every inhabitant paying scot and lot who shall apply for the same. One calendar month's notice, after printing, is to

be given in all the parish churches in the town, of the day on which it is proposed to pass the accounts, which, after they are signed by the trustees, are to be binding on them and their successors, and to be a sufficient discharge to the receiver and clerk. The account is not to be opened or set aside, unless an error to the amount of £100. can be made to plainly appear.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE CHARITY.

THE late lord chancellor, Lord Eldon, decided that Jews were disqualified from partaking of any of the benefits of this charity.

Mr. Whitehouse, the clerk of the trustees, who resides on the charity estates at Bedford, is at all times very obliging in giving information to persons applying to him.

It is a matter of sincere congratulation to the public, and to the inhabitants of Bedford, and highly creditable to the trustees and persons who have the management of the estates, and the application and distribution of the funds appropriated to its public charities; that, whilst complaints are made of the abuses of eleemosynary institutions elsewhere, the administration of those of Bedford has stood unimpeached, and above suspicion. The Author takes leave to add his sincere conviction, that the names of SIR WILLIAM HARPUR and the TRUSTEES OF HIS CHARITIES, will be handed down to posterity unsullied. In his honest wish for the welfare of the charity, his prayer is

“ESTO PERPETUA.”

Monument and Tomb in St. Paul's Church, to the Memory of Sir William Harpur.

In the chancel of Saint Paul's church, opposite the south door, is a handsome marble monument, with medallions of Sir William Harpur and his Lady, placed there by the trustees of the charity, to their memory, on which is the following inscription :

“Sacred to the Memory of

“Sir WILLIAM HARPUR, Knight,

“A native of this Place, and in 1561 was

“Lord Mayor of London, and of

“Dame ALICE his Wife.

“Who by their virtue and industry, and God's blessing upon
 “both, acquired an ample fortune, which, joyn'd with a beneficent
 “mind, both disposed and enabled them to communicate their
 “Benevolence to mankind in general.

“Their peculiar charity and munificence to this town in par-
 “ticular, where in the infancy of the Reformation, they by Royal

“Charter erected a Protestant Free School, for the education of youth in Grammar, Learning, and good Manners; and in the pure and genuine principles of the reformed Religion.

“This Pious Foundation they originally endowed with Land situated in London, which by many fine and stately Buildings since erected on it, is now increased to a large estate: the revenues whereof afford an ample provision for the Master, Usher, and Boys; a large Surplus also for other Charitable Exhibitions in this Town.

“The Mayor and other Gentlemen who are Trustees for this Estate and dispensers of this Charity, and who 'tis hoped will ever continue to discharge this sacred trust agreeable to the spirited design of their munificent Benefactors, have in a grateful sense of their benefits caus'd this Monument to be erected, that the influence of their example may follow the respect done to their memory.

“And their good name, which the wise man compares to precious Oyntment, may for ever retain and communicate its Fragrancy after their bodies (here interr'd) have been long since in noisomeness and corruption.

“Non sibi sed Bono Publico.”

The tomb of Sir William Harpur is situated on the south side of the eastern extremity of the chancel. On the tomb are brass figures of himself and lady, and the following inscription :

“Obiit 27^o die Februarii 1573, Ano ætatis suæ 77^o.

“Here under lieth buried the body of Sir William Harper, knight, Alderman and late Lord Maior of the citie of London, with the Dame Margaret his last Wife. Sir William was born in this towne of Bedford, and here founded and gave land for the maintenance of a Grammar School.”

The monument was erected nearly over the tomb in the year 1768, and was removed to its present situation about three years since.

NOTE. For the letters patent, see appendix at the end of the work.

Miscellaneous Charities.

CHARITIES OF THE HAWES FAMILY.

Thomas Hawes's Charity.

The Hawes family appear to have been great benefactors to the town, and the first of them we find is *Thomas Hawes*, gent. who by his will dated the first January, 1619, gave to the Corporation of Bedford, four chambers and three shops in the butcher row, to be disposed of to four widows, viz. three ancient inhabitants of the parish of St. Paul, and to one of St. Mary's, of good character, and diligent resorters to divine worship.

These buildings being found in a ruinous state, were pulled down and sold, pursuant to the provisions of the improvement act for the town of Bedford. Four other brick tenements were erected with the money, in White-horse Street, and are occupied by four poor widows, rent free. The widows are appointed by the mayor and bailiffs, from a list of poor persons belonging to the town of Bedford, and they receive an annual allowance of £5. 14s. a year, out of the funds of the corporation, which sum is divided equally between them in sums of sixpence each throughout the year, and two and sixpence at Christmas.

The amount exceeds the interest of the money arising from the sale of the three shops and chambers, which were sold with six others, for £225. being £25. for each shop.

Mrs. Ann Collins's Charity.

This lady was the daughter of George Hawes, gent. and by her will dated March 22nd, 1682, gave to the corporation of Bedford, £30. a year, for the maintenance of ten poor widows belonging good to St. Paul's parish, being ancient inhabitants of character, and diligent resorters to divine worship.

By a deed of settlement or assignment, dated the first day of January, 1700, this annuity of £30. is vested in the mayor and corporation of Bedford, and is issuing out of a close called Prebend Close, in the parish of St. Paul, Bedford; and other land in St. Cuthbert's parish, and also out of land at Covington, in Huntingdonshire. The annuity was up to the time of the decease of Leonard Hampson, Esq. paid in respect of the premises in Bedford. The sum received is only £24. the remainder being deducted for land tax. The sum is properly distributed amongst the ten poor widows.

Thomas Hawes's Charity.

This gentleman, (who appears to be the son of the before named Thomas Hawes,) by will dated 16th December, 1626, gave £16. to purchase an annuity of 20s. a year, in the name of some of the most substantial inhabitants of Bedford, the rent of 20s. to be yearly paid to the treasurer of Sir William Harpur's gift, and bestowed amongst the poor of the five parishes, at Christmas, in such manner as to the mayor and others might seem fitting.

Thomas Hawes, the son of the testator, by indenture of feoffment, dated 23rd September, 1630, conveyed to Robert Bamford, then mayor, and five other inhabitants of Bedford, a close of ground, containing three roods, in the parish of St. Paul, adjoining Horn Lane, for the charitable purposes mentioned by the testator; it is occupied as a garden, by one of the masters of the Harpur school, and the rent is applied by the corporation.

Thomas Hawes's Charity.

This gentleman, (who appears to be the son of the last-mentioned Thomas Hawes,) by deed dated 28th July, 1688, gave to twelve trustees named, £150. to purchase certain lands for the uses of the poor of the parishes of St. Paul and St. Mary in this town, out of which yearly profits, two parts to be given in bread to the poor of St. Paul's, and one part to the poor of St. Mary's.

The sum of £150. was laid out by the trustees, in the purchase of seven acres of land in Trumpington Meadow, near the town of Bedford, and upon an inclosure, an allotment was awarded to the then trustees of the charity, consisting of six acres, two roods, and eight poles and a half, situate in the prebend field, in St. Paul's parish. The rent received by the trustees, under a lease granted in 1796, to the late Mr. Alderman Smith, for 61 years, is £10. per annum, which is paid by Mr. Day, a trustee and executor of Mr. Smith's will. It is now let to Mr. Coulson, at an increased rent, but at the time of letting to Mr. Smith, it was considered to be let at a fair rental. Mr. Smith paid all the expences under the inclosure, of fencing, quicking, &c. and laying down the land, and putting farm buildings on it; when the lease expires in 1857, it will produce a greater fund to the charity. The premises are now vested in the mayor of Bedford for the time being, and ten other trustees, and the bread is given away in shilling and sixpenny loaves, in the due proportions, in the several parishes, and an account of the distribution and expenditure kept.

There is a monument in St. Paul's Church, to the memory of the Hawes family, who it appears owned considerable property in Bedford and its environs. The name of Hawes frequently occurs in St. Mary's parish registers, and there are some memorials of the family in the chancel of that church.

CHARITIES OF THE PARADINE FAMILY.

Thomas Paradine's Charity.

The Paradine family also appear to have been benefactors to the town of Bedford. *Thomas Paradine*, gent. by deed dated the 19th November, 1606, gave to the parish of St. Paul, £5. a year, for 400 years, out of the water works of Broken Wharf, London; viz. 48 shillings for preaching eight sermons, and 52 shillings for bread to the poor, weekly.

The poor now receive the bread regularly every week, which is distributed by the churchwardens of St. Paul's, to poor widows, one shilling's worth at a time, on each Sunday, after divine service.

Mrs. Mary Paradine,

In the year 1631, gave £400. to be laid out in the purchase of lands, and out of the rents, to pay £6. a year, to the mayor and bailiffs of this town, by the mayor and commonalities and citizens of London, governors of the Hospitals of Christ, Saint Thomas, and Bridewell, to buy clothes for six poor men of the parish of Saint Paul, nominated by the mayor and bailiffs.

An acknowledgment of the receipt of the money, under the hands and seal of the governors of Christ's Hospital, dated 18th March, 1631, is preserved among the muniments of the corporation. This charity is now administered in accordance with the wish of the donor, in providing as many poor men with a coat, pair of shoes and stockings each, as the money will purchase; the poor men being selected by the mayor and bailiffs.

Mrs. Sarah Paradine,

By will, dated August 21st, 1658, gave £50. to the overseers of the parish of St. Paul, to remain in their hands as stock in hand, to set the poor of the same parish on to work.

The legacy was laid out with the consent of the inhabitants, in the purchase of six acres of open field land, called Newnham and Oake fields; and upon the subsequent inclosure of the parishes of St. Paul, St. Peter, and St. Cuthbert, an allotment was awarded to the charity, consisting of six acres of land, lying in one parcel, in the parish of St. Peter.

The land is let to the directors of the House of Industry, under whose direction it is cultivated by poor persons.

The rent is about £24. per annum, and is carried to the account of the poor rates.

There are monuments in St. Paul's church to the memory of the Paradine family, who resided at Bedford; the name of Paradine also frequently occurs in the registers of St. Mary's parish.

BOTELER'S CHARITY.

Mrs. Ursula Boteler, by will, directed her executors to purchase land of the yearly value of 20s. to be vested in the corporation, for the benefit of the poor of the town of Bedford, to be distributed on Christmas day; and by indenture, dated 3rd of April, 1622, Sir Thomas Boteler, the son of Mrs. Boteler, granted unto the mayor and other trustees named, an annuity of 20s. a year, issuing out of a messuage, and 25 acres of land, at Biddenham, payable on St. Thomas's day.

This lady's family were settled at Biddenham, about a mile and a half from Bedford, for ten generations, as appears by the pedigrees in the British Museum; they also owned property at Harrold and Meppershall, in the county of Bedford.

The annuity until lately was paid by Lord Hampden, the owner of the estate after the Botelers, and now by the Hon. Rice Trevor. The amount is applied by the mayor and corporation, in increasing the endowments of the four poor widows receiving Thomas Hawes's charity.

ANDREWS'S CHARITY.

Jonas Andrews, gentleman, by will dated February 3rd, 1627, gave 40s. a year, for preaching four sermons on four several holidays, and 20s. a year, to the poor of the parish of St. Paul.

This charity is still properly administered. The sum of 20s. a year was formerly paid in respect of a house in Stonehouse Lane, Bedford, which was taken down under the Improvement Act before mentioned, and the annuity is now paid by the commissioners appointed by the Act. The money is paid to the overseers of the poor, who distribute it on the gift sermon days after service in the church, among forty poor widows, selected by the overseers, in sums of sixpence each.

CHARITIES OF
 THE REV. ALEXANDER LEITH,
 MRS. MARY REDDALL,
 AND
 MRS. HAWES.

The Rev. *A. Leith*, who was Vicar of St. Paul's, Bedford, and *Martha* his wife, gave £125; *Mrs. Reddall*, £200; and *Mrs. Letitia Hawes*, £30; to support a charity school, in which are to be taught twenty poor children, of the parishes of St. Paul and St. Cuthbert, Bedford.

The deed of settlement made after the decease of the Rev. A. Leith, by his widow, with the rectors and vicars of the five parishes in Bedford, bears date the 7th of June, 1735, and conveys lands in the parishes of Cardington and Great Barford, out of the rents of which, 10s. a year each, is to be paid, for preaching a sermon on Good Friday, and the feasts of St. Barnabas and St. Thomas, and the remainder for the support of the school.

This school is now kept up in accordance with the bequests of the above persons. The present master is Mr. Lovelidge. The children are taught reading, writing, and arithmetic.

The Rev. A. Leith lies buried in the chancel of St. Paul's church, and appears to have been a Prebendary of Lincoln, rector of St. Cuthbert's, Bedford, and 43 years vicar of St. Paul's. He died in 1732, at the age of 74.

Mrs. Mary Reddall, and Mrs. Hawes, are both buried in the chancel of St. Paul's, Bedford.

The funds of this charity are administered by the resident incumbents of the five parishes of Bedford.

Eleven boys and five girls are the proportion of St. Paul's parish, and three boys and one girl, that of St. Cuthbert's, and they are nominated by the vicar and rector of the respective parishes. The property belonging to the charity, consists of

1. A cottage and barn, with an orchard of about an acre, and twelve acres of land, at Harrowden, near Bedford. Ten acres of this land are arable, and were allotted in lieu of land in the open field in Cardington. This allotment was made by agreement in 1802, between the proprietors of land, of whom Samuel Whitbread Esq. was the principal one; the remaining two acres are pasture and old inclosure.

2. Previous to the late inclosure of Great Barford, there were 22 acres of land in the open field of that parish, in the occupation of Mr. Hart, at the yearly rent of £19. 10s. in lieu of which an allotment has since been made, which produces but £16. per annum.

The whole of the premises are let to Mr. Cranfield, as tenant from year to year, at a rent of £41. 4s.

The master of the school receives the rents, and pays the two sums of £1. and 10s. to the vicar of St. Paul's, for preaching sermons on the days mentioned in the deed, and retains the balance, after providing books, &c. for his salary as Schoolmaster, who discharges his duty with scrupulous exactness. The school is kept in a room adjoining his house in St. Paul's parish. A book is kept in which are entered the admissions of the children.

CHRISTIE'S CHARITY.

Thomas Christie, Esq. by will, dated May 10th, 1697, gave to the minister of the parish of Saint Paul, the great tithes ; out of which are to be paid weekly, 8s. to eight poor widows in the alms-houses, and 52s. a year, in bread, to the poor of the parish of Saint Paul ; and the same to the parish of Saint Mary, in this town. The chancel of St. Paul's, and the alms-houses, are to be kept in repair out of the great tithes.

These alms-houses are situate on the Bromham road, (nearly opposite the County Gaol,) with a piece of garden ground at the back, which is let separately, and the rent distributed to the poor widows. The charity is faithfully administered by the Rev. James Donne, the present vicar of St. Paul's. In addition to the above allowance, the trustees of the Harpur charity allow to each poor widow in these alms-houses, 3s. weekly, which makes them comfortable.

There is a mural monument in the chancel of St. Paul's church, to the memory of Mr. Christie and his family, placed there in the year 1697. The alms-houses were built by Mr. Christie, in his life time, in the usual style of cottage residences. The name of Christie frequently occurs in the registers of St. Mary's parish.

Some years previous to the above gift of the great tithes, the Rev. W. Foster, then vicar of St. Paul's, wrote some lines at the end of a manuscript work, now in St. Paul's library, upon the decease of a parish clerk, W. Marks, a weaver, in commendation of him, he having been 43 years clerk of the parish. The work alluded to, is called "Antilibertinism," (a

theological dissertation,) to which there has since been added, marginal answers and notes, by the Rev. J. Bradshaw, a subsequent vicar of the parish. Among the lines alluded to, are incorporated the following, which he directed to be preserved, and which are copied, not for their poetical diction, but to shew how poor the living must have been in those times.

“Poore Paul’s! what still a pigmy benefice?
 “No benefactor found to redress this,
 “Thy tithes yet to redeem, both *great* and *stall**,
 “That what’s *impropriate*, we may proper call,
 “Oh! for a HARPER, for this thing,
 “Apollo’s like, to touch this well tuned string;
 “Paul’s now looks higher, *sith* she is higher
 “Than Paul’s in London since the fire.”

* The Prebend stall, which had been removed some time previous to Lincoln. There is a farm called “the Prebend Farm,” in St. Paul’s parish, held of the dean and chapter of Lincoln; and one of the constable’s wards, is still called the “Prebend Ward. This stall was formerly filled by one of the incumbents of the five parishes of Bedford.

BAMFORD'S CHARITY.

The Rev. *Robert Bamford*, by will, dated October 24th, 1720, gave to the parish of Saint Paul, £5. a year, to put out as an apprentice every year, a boy or girl belonging the parish of Saint Paul or Saint Peter, in this town; and 40s. to the poor of the parish of Saint Paul, and 20s. a year, to the poor of Saint Peter's parish, to be given in bread, weekly, from Michaelmas to Lady-day.

This charity is still faithfully administered to the poor, by the churchwardens of these parishes.

The Rev. R. Bamford was rector of Little Bamford, Beds.

The sum of £8. a year, is paid on account of the above charities, as a rent charge out of an Estate in the High-street, Bedford, belonging to Mr. E. Mayle; £7. of the money is paid to the churchwardens of St. Paul's, and 20s. to the churchwardens of St. Peter's. The sum of 6s. is added by the latter parish.

WELBOURNE'S CHARITY.

Robert Welbourne, Esq. who resided at Barton, Beds. and also at Milbank, Westminster, gave by his will, dated 30th August, 1716, a close at Barton, called "Burgend," the rents of which are to be applied by the minister and churchwardens, or any two them, whereof the minister to be one, to such of the poor of Saint John's parish, Bedford, as they shall think fit, on New Year's Day.

The rent is now about £12. a year. There is a book kept by the minister and churchwardens, in which is entered persons' names to whom the charity is given; it is distributed in sums of from five to ten shillings to each family.

ALDERMAN NEWTON'S CHARITY.

Gabriel Newton resided at Leicester, and was an alderman of the corporation of that borough; he appears to have been connected with the Hawes's family, by marriage.

By deed, dated 15th March, 1760, he settled certain freehold estates in Leicestershire upon the corporation of Leicester, and directed out of the rents of the same, (among other charities,) the sum of £26. per annum, to be paid to the corporation of Bedford, towards the clothing and education of 25 poor boys in Bedford, sons of persons of the established church of England, in the borough of Bedford, (without regard to particular parishes,) under the following regulations; viz. the boys to be chosen from the age of 7 to the age of 14 years; each boy to be allowed annually, or once in 15 or 18 months, as the corporation should think proper, a green coat, waistcoat, and breeches, not under 20*d.* per yard; one shirt of flaxen cloth, not under 13*d.* a yard; and such stockings, caps, and other apparel, as Alderman Newton had then usually allowed for some time past; the residue of the £26. to be paid to a master, to teach the boys reading, writing, arithmetic, singing of psalms, and toning responses during divine service, in such parish church or chapel, as the corporation of Bedford

shall think proper. The master and boys to be chosen by the corporation of Bedford, and no boy to be admitted, whose parents receive any collection or benefit from the poor rates.

According to the provisions of the deed, also, no town is to receive the donation, where the creed of *St. Athanasius is not publicly read*, in the church or chapel used for divine service, on the days appointed by the rubrick, *and where the boys shall not be permitted to tone the responses in divine service*. And in case the rector, vicar, or curate should refuse to read the said creed, or the boys should not be permitted to tone the responses in divine service, the mayor and corporation of Leicester are at liberty to take away the benefit of the donation from such non-conforming town, and to pay and apply it, for the benefit of the like number of boys, in any other town or place not enjoying the benefit thereof, as they may think fit, under the same regulations and restrictions. And the mayor and corporation are empowered to appoint a steward, treasurer or secretary, or otherwise, when they see fit, to visit the towns and places that receive the benefits of the donation ; to inspect the accounts of the trustees, and to regulate the application thereof.

There are now 25 boys clothed, and their dress is green, which gives rise to their being called "*the Green-coat Boys.*" The corporation of Bedford receive the £26. annually, and they are also in receipt of a further sum of £7, 15s. 6d. being the dividend of £259. 8s. 6d. stock in the 3 per cent. reduced annuities, purchased with some arrears of the annuity formerly received of the corporation of Leicester. The boys are placed under the care of Mr. Furze, at the national or prepa-

ratory school, and are entitled to receive the benefits of the Harrpur charity, and being put out apprentice in the same manner as the other boys attending the school or hospital. If it were not for the regulations which were made by the corporation of Bedford, and which afterwards received the assent of the corporation of Leicester, the funds would be found inadequate for the purposes intended by the donor.

The sum of £2. 2s. is paid for teaching the boys psalmody. The reader is presented with a copy of the rules, for the governance of the charity school, which are properly sanctioned.

Rules, which must be observed with respect to children admitted into Alderman Newton's Charity School, at Bedford.

I. No child can be admitted under the age of seven years, or above the age of fourteen years; and previous to admission, each child must produce a certificate of his baptism, under the hand of the officiating clergyman; also a certificate from the officiating clergyman of the parish in which he resides, that his parents are indigent or necessitous persons of the established church of England; and a certificate under the hands of the churchwardens and overseers of the poor, that his parents belong to or are legally settled in one of the parishes in Bedford, and do not receive any collection or benefit from the rates and levies raised for the maintenance of the poor there.

II. Each child must be regular in his attendance at school, in the dress of the charity, always clean and decent, and never in rags. He must regularly attend (in like manner,) with the schoolmaster in St. Paul's church, at morning and evening service every Sunday; and he must at no time frequent any other place of religious worship, than that of the established church of England.

III. If all the above rules are not constantly observed, the child will lose the benefit of the charity, and the charity itself may be removed from the town.

Dissenters' Charities.

CHARITIES BELONGING TO THE CONGREGATION OF THE OLD MEETING.

NICHOL'S CHARITY.

William Nichol, by will, dated 17th June, 1707, gave to certain trustees named, £400. for the purchase of land, the rents to be applied as follows, viz. to the Pastor, £5. per annum ; and the remainder of the yearly rents to be given out every half year, to the poor of the church or meeting, at the discretion of the trustees.

The estate purchased with the legacy, is situate at Turvey, Beds. and was conveyed, with other estates, to the trustees of the Old Meeting, in the year 1808, upon the trusts mentioned in Mr. Nichol's will. The inclosure of that parish altered the nature of the estate, and it now consists of a farm house, homestead, and 32A. 3R. 22P. of land, and produces a rental of £30. per annum, or thereabouts.

A book is kept of the distribution of the charity funds, and the account is audited yearly, at a meeting of the trustees.

TAYLOR'S CHARITY.

Mr. John Taylor, by will, dated 30th June, 1735, gave all his real estate in the parishes of

Colmworth and Eaton Socon, Beds. unto Thomas Woodward, and Thomas Vincent, and the survivor of them his heirs.

There are no trusts declared by the will respecting the letting, but there is an entry in a minute book kept in the Old Meeting, that the trusts were ;—that half the rents should be paid to the pastor of the church of the Protestant Dissenters' Meeting, in Bedford; and the other half to the poor of that church, with liberty to apply a fourth, to the poor of the congregation, though not members of the church.

The estate derived under the devise, is comprised in the general deed of conveyance, executed in 1808, mentioned in the last charity : it consists of a close of 5A. in Eaton Socon, awarded above 30 years ago, upon the Inclosure of that parish ; and of a farm house, and 25A. 0R. 28½P. of arable land, principally in the open field of Colmworth, and 7A. 3R. 14P. of sward land, in the same parish. It produces in all a rental of about £24. per annum. The rents, after the usual deduction for repairs, are applied half to the pastor, and the remainder among the poor of the congregation, in the same manner as in Nichol's charity.

BAYNES'S CHARITY.

Mary Baynes, by will, dated the 29th June, 1730, gave to certain trustees, all her meadow grounds, lands, and premises, in the parish of St. Mary and St. John in Bedford, and Cardington, to pay the rents after the death of a person named (long since deceased) ; and she gave to the same trustees, all her messuages, lands, tenements, and estate in Stagsden, to pay thereout, the sum of £5. unto the minister belonging to the congregation of the dissenters of *the Calvinist* persuasion, dissent-

ing from the established church of England in Bedford. And she directed all the residue of the rents of the estate, to be applied by her trustees among poor persons living in Bedford *or elsewhere*, *no distinction of parties in religion* to be made, *the most needy and calamitous always to have preference*, but above all she directed her trustees not to apply them for their *own benefit*, or for *easing or relieving the poor rates*, or persons partaking of any other charity.

The trustees are to use their discretion in appropriating the residue of the rents, in educating poor youths, or to such other purposes as they see fit. And she directed an account to be kept in a book of the charities, for perpetuating the same and the names of the trustees to posterity.

The members of the congregation, claimed these estates upon the death of Mrs. Baynes, considering themselves *moderate Calvinists*, and at that time there was no other congregation in Bedford, to answer the description of the will. The property which is comprised in the general conveyance to the trustees, consists of

I. A close at Cardington, Beds. containing 5A. 3R. 29P. allotted on the inclosure of that parish, in 1803, in lieu of the property in the parishes of St. John and St. Mary's, Bedford, and in Cardington. The rental of the close is about £10. 16s. a year.

II. A farm house, out buildings, and 76A. 1R. 20P. principally arable, at Stagsden, allotted upon the inclosure of that parish, in lieu of the land derived under the will. The annual rent is £56. per annum, or thereabouts.

The whole amount of the rents is £77. 12s. or thereabouts, out of which about £25. per annum is paid to the minister of the Old Meeting, and £5. to a neighbouring pastor of the

same persuasion, or between two of them; and the remainder, after deducting a sum for interest of money borrowed to defray expences of the Inclosure, is distributed among poor persons of all persuasions, and particularly in subscriptions to sunday schools *for children of any persuasion* in Bedford and the neighbourhood, and a subscription of four guineas to the Bedford Infirmary.

The annual sum of £5. to the minister of the Old Meeting, was raised in 1812, to £25. in consequence of the rents having been nearly doubled, but no increase was made to the neighbouring pastor.

The distribution is confined to poor persons, who do not receive parochial relief, or participate in other charities; and no regard is made to their religious persuasions.

No school is kept for the education of youths.

A regular account is kept of the distribution of the fund.

STEPHEN ODELL'S CHARITY.

Stephen Odell, gentleman, by will, dated 15th December, 1788, gave his estate in Goldington, in the occupation of Mr. George Palmer, to his wife for life, (since deceased,) and after her decease, to three trustees named, members of the Old Meeting, but not so stated.

There are no trusts declared by the will, as to the estate, but by a deed of settlement, dated in May, 1793, the devised estate was conveyed to four trustees for the benefit of the testator's wife, for life, and after her decease, to apply the rents, for the benefit of the minister of the Old Meeting, and the poor of the congregation, at their discretion.

In the year 1815, the estate consisted of arable and sward land in Goldington parish, containing 24A. 2R. 4P. It pro-

duces a rental of about £50. per annum, and is received by the trustees named in the general deed of conveyance and settlement of 1808, in which it is comprised; the sum of £25. is paid to the minister, and the remainder is distributed among poor persons, and in subscriptions to sunday schools: an account of the distribution is kept in a separate book.

MARTHA FURNESS'S CHARITY.

Mrs. *Martha Furness*, (who was, at the time of making her will, married, but by her marriage settlement had the power of making a will,) by her will, dated 21st November, 1794, gave, after the decease of her husband, Richard Furness, the sum of £400. 3 per cent. Old South Sea annuities, to trustees, to pay and apply the dividends among the poor persons belonging to the congregation of protestant dissenters, who should for a constancy attend divine worship, in the Old Meeting-house, Bedford, *and take the sacrament there.* Mrs. Furness also gave by her will, the house and premises in which she resided, in St. Cuthbert's parish, Bedford, to the same trustees.

In the year 1796, the trustees under Mrs. Furness's will, conveyed the premises mentioned in her will, subject to Mr. Furness's life interest, to five trustees, members of the congregation of the Old Meeting, upon trust, to apply £5. to the minister, and the remainder among the poor persons, according to the will of the testatrix, Mrs. Furness.

The house is let to the Misses Brightman, at a rent of £30. 10s. per annum. The sum of £400. Old South Sea annuities, is standing in the names of four of the trustees. The

dividends, amounting to £12. are distributed among poor persons receiving the sacrament.

The above property was by deed, dated 8th March, 1808, vested with the other estates and property, in new trustees.

ELIZABETH PRIEST'S CHARITY.

This lady, by will, dated 5th May, 1784, gave unto certain trustees named, £400. 3 per cent. consols, the dividends to be applied for the joint and equal benefit of the minister and congregation of Protestant Dissenters, in Bedford; and the minister and members of the congregation at Cotton End, in the parish of Cardington, Beds.

In a letter addressed by the above lady to the minister of the Old Meeting, she directed that out of the dividends should be paid to the minister at Bedford, £4. per annum; £1. to the widow, (if any,) of the pastor of that meeting, and if no widow, to some poor minister of the gospel, and £1. to the poor members; £4. a year to the minister at Cotton End, and if any widow there, £1. to her, and £1. to poor members of that congregation, in the same manner as at Bedford.

The sum of £400. 3 per cent. stock is now standing in the names of trustees, and the funds are properly administered.

COSTIN'S CHARITY.

John Costin, Esq. who resided at Bedford, and who died, December 18th, 1805, gave £200. to the trustees of the Old Meeting, the interest thereof to be distributed among the afflicted poor of the congregation, at the discretion of the trustees.

The sum of £180. was received, (the legacy duty being deducted,) of which sum £130. was applied in defraying the expences of the inclosure of the land at Stagsden, belonging to *Mary Baynes's* charity, and the remaining £50. together with £150. arising from the bequest of Mr. Richard Furness, of which an account will be next given, was laid out in the purchase of a cottage, garden, and orchard, and two small closes adjoining, containing about 2A. in Cople, Beds. which were conveyed to trustees, in the year 1815, for the trusts of the will.

The annual rent of the cottage and land is £12. and the money is properly distributed, and an account kept in a book.

RICHARD FURNESS'S CHARITY.

Mr. *Richard Furness*, by will, dated 20th August, 1801, directed his executors, after payment of certain legacies, to apply the principal money arising from the residue of his personal estate, to the *Deacons of the Old Meeting House*, to be placed out at interest on government security, the dividend to be applied in purchasing bread, to be distributed among the poor of the congregation, at their discretion.

The sum of £150. was received under this bequest from the executors, and was applied in purchasing the cottages and premises at Cople, as mentioned in the account of Mr. Costin's charity. The sum of £7. 10s. is distributed in bread, and an account kept of the distribution.

WHITBREAD'S CHARITY.

Samuel Whitbread, Esq. by will, dated 13th July, 1795, gave to the trustees of the *Old Meeting*, out of respect to the memory of *John Bunyan*, and for the relief of the poor of the congregation,

£500. to be laid out by his executors, in the 3 per cent. consols. and the dividends to be annually applied, in giving bread to the poor, in quartern loaves, every Sabbath morning, from October to May.

After the death of Mr. Whitbread, the £500. instead of being laid out in stock, was allowed to remain in the hands of his son, Samuel Whitbread, on the security of his bond, conditioned for the investment of £980. 3 per cent. consols. being as much stock as the £500. would purchase. A bond with the same condition has been lately executed by W. H. Whitbread, Esq. eldest son of the late S. Whitbread, in lieu of the former bond.

The interest received on the bond, is £29. 8s. per annum, which is distributed as directed by the testator.

WELLS'S CHARITY.

Edward Wells, of Bedford, by will, dated 15th March, 1804, gave to the trustees of the Old Meeting, after the decease of his wife, £500. to be invested in government security, and the dividends thereof to be laid out in bread, and distributed to the poor of the congregation weekly, in quartern loaves.

Mrs. Wells died in 1806, and the sum of £460. was afterwards received under the bequest, the legacy duty being deducted, and was laid out in the purchase of £750. 3 per cent. consols. now standing in the names of four trustees. The dividends, amounting to £22. 10s. per annum, are laid out in the purchase of bread, and properly distributed, and a separate account kept of such distribution.

GENERAL REMARKS ON THE DISSENTERS'
CHARITIES.

Perhaps there is not another congregation in a town of the same size and population, having such munificent charities attached to it.

The first bequest noticed under the head "Dissenters' Charities," appears to have been made in 1707, (the year in which the chapel was rebuilt,) by Mr. Nichol, of £400. and the charities have ever since progressively increased, as the reader will readily perceive, the trustees being now in possession of land in the parishes of Cardington, Goldington, Cople, Turvey, Colmworth, Eaton Socon, Thurleigh, and Stagsden, and other property in the town of Bedford, besides money in the funds, &c. There are about 177A. 2R. 37P. which consist principally of allotments in lieu of land upon late inclosures, besides houses and cottages. The revenues of their charities amount to the annual sum £300. and upwards, which however is subject to the usual deduction for repairs.

In general the funds are vested in trustees, for the benefit of the poorer part of the congregation, and the minister, or pastor; the sum of £76. composed of different small legacies, is now the proportion received by the minister and pastor.

Formerly but little attention was paid to the declaration of the trusts, regarding the application of the funds of their charities, and the trustees had to frame new deeds of trust, direct in what manner the funds should be applied, and to conjecture the intention of the benefactors. This observation also applies to their ancient deeds of settlement, no trusts being particularly set forth, but of late years it has been different.

The late JOHN WESLEY foresaw the inconvenience of the want of particularly setting forth the trusts, and a general form, or deed of settlement, was framed under his direction to remedy it.

The difficulty experienced by the author in procuring correct information respecting the dissenters' charities, leads him to observe, that a tablet, or board, of the different bequests, to be fixed in a conspicuous part of their meeting house, or vestry, (which might be added to, and renewed as occasion required,) would form perhaps a useful and pleasing appendage to the building, and keep in perpetual view of the persons partaking of them, the different benefactors, and their intentions.

This is the case in some of the churches of England; and much praise is due to the memory of Mrs. Mary Baynes, who appears to have directed the funds left by her, not to be confined to their own congregation, but for them to have regard to cases of the greatest need and calamity.

It is believed that the estates are properly let, and the funds duly administered.

In conclusion, it is hoped, that the trustees of these CHARITIES will ever continue to be mindful of the different bequests, and that the administration of the funds will reflect that honor on them, which is the surest and best reward to persons holding that sacred trust,

NOTE. Besides the before-mentioned schools, there are several sunday schools attached to the parish churches and meeting houses, in the town of Bedford; and a clothing society for poor persons, is supported by voluntary contributions from the ladies of Bedford.

A
DESCRIPTION
OF THE
TOWN OF BEDFORD.

1870

REPORT OF THE

COMMISSIONERS

OF THE LAND OFFICE

IN RESPONSE TO A RESOLUTION

PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON FEBRUARY 2, 1870

AND

PRINTED BY

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON, 1870

1870

1870

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1870

1870

1870

A DESCRIPTION
OF THE
TOWN OF BEDFORD.

BEDFORD is the chief town in the county, and is situate about $50\frac{1}{2}$ miles N. W. of London. It is a Borough, and the Corporation is composed of a Mayor, Recorder, Deputy Recorder, two Bailiffs, thirteen Common Councilmen, Town Clerk, and an uncertain number of Aldermen. The Mayor is elected annually, on the 1st September. It returns two Burgesses to Parliament. The town was anciently called **LETTIDUR**, by the Britons, and afterwards by the Saxons, **BEDICANFORD**, signifying the Fortress on the Ford. It was the burial place of **OFFA**, a King of the Mercians, but no trace is now to be found of his tomb; the chapel in which it was placed having been swept away by an inundation of the Ouze. The Castle was a strong fortress, and withstood repeated attacks by the Saxons and Danes; upon its demolition, the stones of it were given to the Canons of Newham and Caldwell Priors, and to the Church of St. Paul, Bedford. It sustained a siege against King Stephen and his army, in the year 1137, besides subsequent ones; and Camden asserts, that

the last seige of the castle, which ended in its demolition, lasted 60 days: there is still to be seen, in an inclosure adjoining Castle Lane, a small portion of the wall which surrounded the Castle. The site of the Castle, after the siege, was granted to the family of the Beauchamps.

The borough of Bedford sent representatives to parliament as early as 23rd Edward I. The present Members are W. H. Whitbread, Esq. and Lord G. W. Russell; the returning officers are the Mayor and two Bailiffs. The right of election is in the Burgesses, Freemen, and Inhabitants, being householders paying scot and lot, and not receiving alms. A committee of the House of Commons decided that persons receiving Sir Wm. Harpur's, Hawes's, and Welbourne's Charities, are not disqualified from voting at elections. The principal market for grain, is held on Saturday, when the Sandy Gardeners attend with vegetables; the pig market is held on the south side of the Bridge, on Mondays; there are 8 fairs in a year, principally for cattle. The town is neatly built, and contains many handsome residences; the principal streets have lately been Macadamized, it having been previously ill paved: its foot ways are flagged, and it is lighted and watched, and is kept particularly clean by the poor men from the House of Industry. It abounds with public institutions and buildings, but there is no particular manufactory, the poor being employed principally in making lace and straw plat. The air is salubrious, the soil dry, and

the excellence of the roads around it is proverbial. The residence of the present member, W. H. Whitbread, Esq. is at Southill, whose ancestor, Samuel Whitbread, purchased the mansion and estate, in 1795, of Lord Torrington. It ranks among the first seats in the county. The family of the Whitbreads were settled at *Ion House*, Upper Gravenhurst, in this county, in the time of William the Conqueror. Besides Southill, Mr. Whitbread possesses considerable estates in the county. The present member, emulating the good example of his ancestors, has at all times shewn kindness and liberality to its inhabitants, allowing them permission to course once a week on the manor of Cardington, which is a mile and a half from the town; also to shoot in the season, on Elstow manor, which is the same distance from the town.

Lord G. W. Russell, the other member, was aid-de-camp to the Duke of Wellington, and was in the charge of the 23rd Light Dragoons, at the battle of Waterloo. He is now Lieutenant Colonel of the 8th Hussars.

The present member for *Reading*, C. F. Palmer, Esq. has a residence at Bedford. His family possessed considerable property at Northill.

The present Master of the Rolls, Sir John Leach, is a native of Bedford.

The Rev. Charles Abbott, D. D. (who was in his life time Vicar of Goldington, and Rector of

Oakley, in this county,) was a skilful Botanist, and published the “*Flora Bedfordiensis*.” He was also a collector of Antiquities.

There are five parish churches in Bedford, viz. St. Paul’s, St. Mary’s, St. John the Baptist’s, St. Peter’s, and St. Cuthbert’s; St. Peter is designated *St. Peter Martin*, so called to distinguish it from St. Peter Dunstaple, some time since pulled down.

The five several parishes have been inclosed under the provisions of different acts of parliament, and allotments made to the several livings, in lieu of tithes.

At the entrance of the town, on the south side, formerly stood St. Leonard’s Hospital; the site of it is in St. John’s parish, and is now a farm belonging to the Duke of Bedford. This hospital was founded by a townsman of Bedford, before the year 1302, and dissolved in the time of Henry VIII. together with several other religious houses in this neighbourhood. Its inhabitants were formerly “six Freres Chapleynis, wearing a religious habit.” Its revenues, at the time of its suppression, were £46. 6s. 8d. The manor of Everton, in this county, (now belonging to William Astell, Esq. M. P. for Bridgewater,) formerly belonged to this hospital,

A short distance from St. Leonard’s, is St. John’s church. The rector is styled “Master,” it having formerly belonged to an hospital. The

mastership of the hospital and the rectory annexed, are in the gift of the Corporation of Bedford*. The *ancient hall* still remains, and is adjoining the rectory house. The hospital ceased to be used for many years previous to the reformation. The hospital was founded in 1280 †, by Robert de Parys, for a master and two or more brethren priests, who were to pray for the souls of the founder John St. John, Henry St. John, and John St. John, grandson of John St. John.

The present rector and master is the Rev. J. Parker, who has been incumbent for the last 40 years, having been appointed in May 1787, by the corporation. The master and co-brethren (which latter are 10 poor freemen of Bedford appointed by the master, receiving a weekly allowance of 9*d.* each,) have a common seal, and grant leases for 40 years,

* The corporation does not appear to have always exercised the right of presentation to the rectory and hospital annexed, for there is to be seen, upon reference to a list of the different incumbents and masters kept in the church, the following entries. "Robert le Rouse, of Steeple Morden, 1533, when John de Cantebriges was patron." Probably the patron was at that time a descendant of the founders of the hospital. And again, "Robert Lynford, fellow of Queen's College, Cambridge, B. D. 1568, presented by the Earl of Bedford."

† Some writers mention the foundation to have been in the year 980, and this date is mentioned in one of the parish registers. However, true it is, that there are muniments in the possession of the corporation, the writing of which will shew it to have been of much earlier date than 1280; but tradition has always ascribed the latter to its foundation, although it might have existed previous to that period.

or three lives. The rectory house is nearly surrounded by a moat.

It was determined upon a suit in 1552, that the hospital did not come under the description of superstitious establishments intended to be abolished by the statute. The hospital and rectory were under sequestration for 27 years: i. e. from the year 1633, to the year 1660; at which latter date, Theodore Crowley, A. M. was again restored to both offices. Besides property in the parish of St. John, and other parishes in the town of Bedford, there is a farm-house and 75 acres of land, belonging to the living and hospital, at Lavendon, in Buckinghamshire,

A little further in the town, commences St. Mary's parish, in which are the remains of Caldwell Priory, founded by Simon Bauscot, alderman of Bedford, in the reign of King John. It was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, for brethren of the holy cross, or holy sepulchre; and upon the extinction of that order, it was replenished with Austin canons, stated so to be at its suppression in the time of Henry VIII. Its site now belongs to George Livius, Esq.; and what is called the Caldwell estate is the property of Francis Geen, Esq. The mansion has long since been pulled down. It was granted to the Leigh family in 1563, and was afterwards in the possession of the families noticed in this work as being buried in the chancel of St. Mary's church. Upon its dissolution, the clear revenues were stated at £109. 8s. 5d.

The church of St. Mary's is very ancient, and has lately been extensively repaired. Exactly opposite the west side, or principal entrance, is an open square, surrounded by trees, where formerly stood the old church of St. Peter Dunstaple, built before the year 1400, and pulled down in the year 1545. The materials were used in enlarging St. Mary's church, and repairing the old bridge. The church is supposed to have been frequented by the inmates of Caldwell Priory. St. Mary's is a rectory, in the gift of the Bishop of Lincoln. The present incumbent is the Rev. Theodore Bouwens. The rectory house is a modern commodious building. In the square, an annual fair is held, and the tolls are received by the rector.

The parish registers, which are in a good state of preservation, and appear to have been kept for the joint parishes of St. Mary and St. Peter Dunstaple, commence at a very early date, (above two centuries ago,) in which are to be found, entries of the burials of *three nuns*, formerly of Elstow Nunnery, in the years 1557 and 1558: viz. " Dame Anne Preston," " Dame Elizabeth Fox," and " Dame Elizabeth Napier." Messrs. Lysons, (in a work called *Magna Britannia*, containing an account of Bedfordshire) and subsequent authors, have stated, no doubt by mistake, that these entries are to be found in the registers of the adjoining parish of St. John, but the Author has satisfied himself by a search made in both parishes; and the registers of St. John's parish do not commence at so early a date as 1557. In an

account of the nuns of Elstow Monastery, their names are also mentioned as receiving pensions. In the same register is likewise to be found, an entry of the burial of Alicia Boyvill, a nun of Elstow Monastery. This lady's name is also noticed in the account of the nuns at its dissolution, as receiving a pension. In the same register there appears an entry of the baptism of William Gostwicke, in the time of Elizabeth, (1565,) a son of the family of that name, (so stated in the register,) then residing at Willington *, about 4 miles from Bedford, where they had settled, (according to the Beds. pedigrees in the British Museum,) so early as 1209, and it is here worthy of remark, that the family of the *Gostwicks* were among the oldest of the county; one of the male branch having been created a Baronet in the year 1612. The family has been extinct about thirty years; but there are to be seen, in Willington Church, many marble monuments and brass effigies of them. John Gostwicke, probably the father of the above named William, was one of the Commissioners appointed by Henry VIII. to receive the surrender of Elstow Nunnery, and other religious monasteries in this county. That King, to whom John Gostwicke was Master of the Horse, was at Willington, at the family mansion, on the 21st October, 1541, where he held a Council.

* Willington was part of the Barony of Bedford, and passed from the Beauchamps to the Mowbrays, Dukes of Norfolk, and was, previous to its coming into the family of the Gostwicks, part of the possessions of Howard, Duke of Norfolk, who fell at Bosworth Field.

This latter circumstance is mentioned in the council books in the Marquis of Buckingham's Library, at Stowe. In the time of William and Ann, Sir William Gostwicke represented the county in Parliament. The property principally owned by the Gostwicke family, now belongs to the Duke of Bedford. The author hopes that the occurrence of the name of so ancient and distinguished a family as that of the *Gostwicks*, in the parish register of St. Mary's, will plead his excuse for digressing thus much.

In the chancel of St. Mary's church, are to be seen some ancient monuments, with the arms emblazoned, of Doctor Thorn, bearing date 23rd June, 1671, who was Chaplain in Ordinary to King Charles II. Archdeacon of Buckingham, and rector of St. Mary's and St. Peter's, Bedford; with the figures of his lady and three daughters, in brass. In the north part of the chancel, set apart, and now belonging to the family of Francis Green, Esq. as owner of an estate at Caldwell, are to be seen, several ancient mural monuments of the families of *Gardiner*, *Barber*, and *Green*, former owners of the estate at Caldwell; also in Mr. Green's part of the chancel, is a monument to the memory of the Rev. William Stafford Done, Archdeacon of Bedford, and Prebend of Lincoln. In the register of St. Mary's, the name of "Bonion" frequently occurs, at a very early date, supposed to have been the family of the celebrated *John Bunyan*. In the chancel on either side of the altar, are two ancient

rough stones in the shape of coffins, without any inscriptions, having on them crosses. They were found some few years ago, underneath the pews, quite obscured from public view, and have been since removed to their present situation.

The new bridge over the river Ouze, connecting the two divisions of the town, is a fine structure, having five arches of *Bramhall Fall* and Portland stone. It is built on the site of the old bridge. Over the central arch is this inscription :

“ The original Bridge over the River Ouze, at this place,
 “ was of remote antiquity ; its date is not known, but
 “ there was certainly a bridge of stone before the one built
 “ in the early part of the 13th century ; of its existence
 “ and dimensions, many indisputable traces have been
 “ found upon the demolition of the castle of Bedford ; in
 “ the year 1224, a larger bridge was founded of the
 “ materials, which having fallen into decay, was, after the
 “ lapse of nearly six hundred years, taken down and
 “ replaced by the present structure.

“ Designed and executed by J. Wing, of Bedford,
 “ Under the direction of Commissioners, authorized by
 “ two acts of Parliament, of the 43rd and 50th of George
 “ III. The first stone was laid by Francis, Marquess of
 “ Tavistock, on the solid rock, below the piles upon which
 “ the foundation of the ancient bridge way was placed, on
 “ the 26th day of April, 1811.

“ Grant David Yeats, M. D. Mayor of Bedford.
 “ It was completed and opened for public use, on the 1st
 day of November, 1813, in the Mayoralty of William Long,
 Esq. in the 54th year of the reign of King George III.”

The workmen employed in removing the rubbish of the foundation of the old bridge, discovered

several Roman coins and rose-nobles of Edward III. besides antiquities which are still preserved by the inhabitants; some pieces of oak were also found in a good state of preservation, and capable of taking a fine polish, furnishing another instance of the durability of that sturdy ancient tree, the pride of English growth, whether exposed to the elements of air or water. Some of the inhabitants possess specimens of it made into the shape of small boxes, drawers for coins, &c. The new bridge was erected at an expence of upwards of £15,000. The old town gaol, which was taken down in 1765, stood upon the ancient bridge. There was also on* the *old* bridge, or adjoining to it, a *free chapel* †, or *oratory*, with a hospital, dedicated to St. Thomas the Martyr, built in the 16th century. It was dilapidated before the reformation.

In crossing the bridge, the traveller's attention is attracted by a handsome stone building, (erected by his Grace the Duke of Bedford,) the *Swan Inn*, which has been recently fitted up at a considerable expence. Behind the Swan Inn, on an eminence formerly the keep of the old Castle of Bedford, is a *Bowling Green*, which is very little frequented.

The river Ouze is navigable to Lynn, in Norfolk, from whence the town is principally supplied with

* Pat. 42nd Edward III.

† It is pretty certain that formerly there were no bridges without chapels; the intention was to obtain alms from travellers, for repairing them.

coals, timber, &c. and corn is brought from St. Ives, Cambridgeshire.

The making of a road to Northampton being in contemplation, will, if carried into execution, considerably increase the traffic of the town.

The Leeds mail coach passes through Bedford.

St. Paul's church, is a fine Gothic building, with a lofty steeple and spire, and a peal of eight very musical bells. The church contains many handsome monuments, most of which are in the chancel. The pulpit is in the Gothic style, and built of stone. The living is a vicarage in the gift of Lord Carteret; the present incumbent is the Rev. James Donne, A. M. The great tithes have been re-annexed to it, (in the year 1697,) as may be seen on reference to the account of *Christie's charity* in this work.

There is a Library* over the north side of the

* This Library was first established in the year 1700, by the contribution of gentlemen and clergy of the town and county. It was formerly kept in St. John's parish church, in this town, from whence the books were removed to their present situation, that church having no convenient place for keeping them, there being not even a vestry room. It does not now seem to be generally known, and has fallen almost into disuse; but in it there are upwards of 700 volumes, and among them, the Polyglot Bible, and appendix, (a copy of this work was sold for 70 guineas, in this county;) Fuller's Worthies of England, Holy War, Fuller's Holy State, Camden's Britannia, Burnett's History of the Reformation, Augustini Opera, 11 vols. Baronii Annales, 12 vols. and its continuation; Ten Precepts, (black letter,) Du

chancel, which contains many useful and curious old works ; it is now very little used. In the chancel is a monument to the memory of the *Beauchamps*, who formerly owned the barony of Bedford, and founded the priory of Newnham.

Over the porch of the entrance on the south side of the church, opposite the Sessions-house, is a room called the *Evidence Room*, in which the records belonging to the corporation are kept ; and there are two stone figures on the outside in front of the porch, in Gothic niches, the one having the key, (there is only one key,) and book, representing *St. Peter*, the other representing *St. Paul*. In the church yard, is a tombstone to the memory of

Pin's Eccl. History, (presented by dame Elizabeth, widow of William Hillersdon, Esq. of Elstow, and afterwards the wife of Sir Thomas Becher, of Howbury, in this county;) *Lexicon Heptaglotton*, written by Dr. Castrel, rector of Higham Gobion, Beds. Clarendon's History of the Rebellion, besides many other useful and scarce Works and Tracts. Also the Parliamentary Debates, from the Reformation, (1668, to the year 1741,) and two Roman *Missals*, in good preservation, one dated Paris, 1510, the other, Paris, 1664, (both presented to the Library, by Ralph Smith, Esq. of Islip, Oxfordshire.) The Archdeacon of the Diocese, the Rev. H. K. Bonney, has suggested that the Library should be kept up, and added to from time to time, for its original intention, viz. the use of the Gentry and Clergy of the town and county, which it is hoped may be carried into effect ; and that he will shortly communicate his proposed plan, for its future management. It is now under the care of the Vicar, the Rev. J. Donne, who is very obliging in granting permission to persons wishing to have the use of it, for the purpose of reading any of the works.

Shadrach and Patience Johnston, who had 24 children; the wife was 38 years of age at her decease.

St. Peter's is a rectory, in the gift of the King; the present incumbent is the Rev. Philip Hunt, L. L. D. who is also a magistrate of the county and vicar of Goldington and Willington, in this county. The south door way of St. Peter's, is a beautiful specimen of Norman architecture, with zig zag mouldings. The summit of the tower has lately been restored, and a key placed thereon, which acts as a vane. Under the chancel window is a monument to Nicholas Aspinhall, formerly rector, a very learned orientalist: the sculptured octagonal stone is extremely beautiful. The windows contain some valuable specimens of stained glass. The church-yard, blending with the garden and parsonage house, with the green in front, are very picturesque.

In the dining room of the parsonage house is a very elegant marble chimney piece, of Italian sculpture, presented to the present rector by his Grace the Duke of Bedford.

St. Cuthbert's is a rectory in the gift of the King; the present incumbent is the Rev. Henry Tattam. The church is very small. The late John Miller, Esq. who was chairman of the county quarter sessions for upwards of 20 years, and receiver general of the county during 45 years, is buried in a tomb in the

church yard. He married Sarah Ann, the daughter of Newdigate Poyntz, Esq. of Hexton, in the county of Hertford, and died in the 74th year of his age, in the year 1815. Mr. Miller in his lifetime had a residence in St. Cuthbert's parish. In the church is a monument to the memory of the Rev. Henry Lamb, rector of the parish and prebendary of Lincoln, who died in the year 1749. There is no vicarage or parsonage house, but a terrier in the church makes mention of the site of one.

The Rev. A. Leith, founder of one the Bedford charities, who is more fully noticed in a former part of this work, was rector of this parish.

The living at the time the Rev. B. Beresford, (also rector of St. Mary's,) was incumbent, was under sequestration for upwards of 20 years, and continued so till his decease.

In St. Peter's parish is a Moravian Establishment, with a house for Single Sisters adjoining it, who embroider and work on tambour, lace, &c. ; ladies who visit Bedford seldom fail to go to see their establishment. The chapel is very neat and commodious, and was built in the year 1751. There is a cemetery, or burying ground, behind the chapel, in which is buried one of their bishops ; they have a school for young ladies, which is conducted in a house adjoining, where scholars are also admitted who do not profess the Moravian religion. The Moravians settled in Bedford, in the year 1745.

Dr. Mosheim, in his ecclesiastical history, mentions that the Moravians, from which people this church takes its name, were converted to christianity with the Bohemians, and several other nations, in the ninth century, by Methodious and Cyril, two Greek monks. An act of the British parliament acknowledges the Moravian protestant church in terms of great respect. A regular minister is appointed, who however is not stationary. In the chapel is an organ, and the singing (of which some of their services almost entirely consist,) is of a pleasing, solemn, and soft nature. The Moravians are a particularly peaceable and well-ordered community. Their doctrines approach very near to those of the established church of England; they designate themselves the United Bretheren, (*Unitas Fratrum.*) Their affirmation, like that of quakers, is admitted instead of an oath, in civil cases. Their marriage custom may be here mentioned, as formerly not taking place immediately on each party accepting the proposal of the other, but waiting to be sanctioned by lot, when they received their partner as a divine appointment. It is not, however, at the present day, considered necessary to have recourse to the lot. They have a regular episcopal ordination, which they received from the Waldenses. As it would take up too much space, in a work like the present, to enter more particularly into their history and synods, the author begs to refer the reader to "Holmes's History of the Church of the United Bretheren," for a succinct

account of them: merely adding, that they differ more in discipline, than doctrine, from the church of England, endeavouring to adhere, as closely as circumstances will admit, to the practices of the Apostles, as mentioned in the acts and apostolic epistles, observing the agapæ, or love feasts, and other customs of the primitive church.

There are several dissenting meeting houses. In one of them (the Old Meeting) is still preserved the chair in which JOHN BUNYAN *, one of their ministers, and the well known author of the "Pilgrim's Progress," used to sit, in the vestry. There is also a Jewish Synagogue. The late JOHN WESLEY foretold, that Sectarians would not increase or prosper in Bedford, because they were not persecuted by the church: such however has not been the effect of religious toleration in this place, for they appear to have gone on increasing, and there are now four dissenting meeting houses, besides the Moravian chapel, and Jewish synagogue.

* John Bunyan resided at Elstow, near Bedford, and was born in 1628, of mean parentage. On the restoration of Charles II. he was imprisoned, at different periods, 12 years and 6 months, in Bedford gaol, where he wrote the first part of the "Pilgrim's Progress," and other works. The following is a copy of his indictment:—"John Bunyan, hath devilishly and perniciously abstained from coming to church, to hear divine service, and is a common upholder of several unlawful meetings and conventicles, to the disturbance and distraction of the good subjects of this kingdom, contrary to the laws of our Sovereign Lord the King." He was released upon the intercession of Dr. Barlow, the then Bishop of Lincoln.

The dissenters' chapel in Mill Lane, called the *Old Meeting*, appears to have been rebuilt in 1707. A stone tablet outside the chapel makes mention of one of its pastors, John Gifford, in 1650, who had been a major in King Charles's army. In Mill Lane, there is also a handsome brick built chapel, for Independents, erected in the year 1772. HOWARD*, the philanthropist, frequented the chapel during his residence at Cardington, and contributed handsomely towards the cost of the building. There is likewise a Baptist meeting-house situated near the latter chapel. There is also a Wesleyan chapel in Angel Street.

* Howard resided at Cardington, near Bedford, and was once an unsuccessful candidate for the representation of the borough of Bedford, in Parliament. He served the office of Sheriff for the county, in 1773. That eloquent statesman, Burke, in speaking of HOWARD, has paid a just and well merited tribute of respect to his memory. "Howard," said the orator, "was a man who traversed foreign countries, not to survey the sumptuousness of palaces, or the stateliness of temples; not to make accurate measurements of the remains of ancient grandeur, nor to form a scale of the curiosity of modern art; not to collect medals or manuscripts: but to dive into the depths of dungeons; to plunge in the infection of hospitals; to survey the mansions of sorrow and pain; to take gauge and dimensions of misery, depression, and contempt; to remember the forsaken; and to compare and collate the distresses of all men, under all climes." In the prosecution of this godlike work, Howard made "a voyage of discovery, a circumnavigation of charity." The Emperor Alexander, some few years since, ordered a monument to be erected at Cherson, to his memory. The monument in Cardington church is very simple and plain, and, according to Mr. Howard's request, without any tribute to his worth.

Some years ago, an act of parliament was passed for the improvement of the town, from the operation of which much benefit is derived, as the commissioners are careful not to let any opportunity escape of availing themselves of its useful clauses, without encroaching too much on the funds or rights of individuals. There is a space near the new Market Place, viz. the Butchers' Row and Butter Market, whereon it is hoped that some day a Town Hall or Court House will be erected. Near this space are several houses, on the west side of the High Street, which the commissioners are empowered by the Act to purchase and take down, and should their funds at any time enable them to do so, St. Paul's Church, the Grammar School, and Sessions House, would become important and pleasing objects from the High Street; and St. Paul's Square would present to the farmers frequenting the market, a fine space for them to pitch and sell their grain.

In the year 1802, a fire happened on the north side of the bridge, which commenced at a blacksmith's shop in St. Peter's, (in consequence of a piece of a red hot horse shoe lodging in the thatch,) which destroyed 72 houses in the parishes of St. Paul, and St. Peter; their sites were principally built upon by his Grace the Duke of Bedford, and now form very neat residences. Since the passing of the late act of parliament for the improvement of the town, thatched buildings are not allowed, that act forbidding them, or the repairing of the thatch

of such of them as were then in existence; a regulation worthy of imitation in every county town throughout the kingdom. The population has of late years much increased, and according to the last census, taken in the year 1821, it contained 5466 persons.

The *Harpur Free Grammar School*, so fully noticed in a former part of this work, combined with the advantages of a respectable neighbourhood, has rendered the town of Bedford a desirable place of residence for families, since parents, whilst conscious that their children are receiving a sound classical education, have the pleasing satisfaction of noticing their improvement from time to time, and watching over their moral and religious conduct; and probably there is not a town in England endowed with such extensive charities. It is also worthy of remark, that Bedford has ever kept pace with the improvements of the age, as its public institutions, buildings, and streets fully evince.

The High Street is the principal one, and is about a mile in length from St. John's to St. Peter's. There is a crescent of new houses forming on the north side of the bridge, and it is expected to be soon completed; many of its houses are already inhabited. Land in and near the town has of late years been much sought after, for building purposes, and has been sold at from £200. to £300. an acre. In the high-street is a news or reading room, the mode of admission to which is by ballot.

There are the remains of two priories on the north side of the bridge. The *Grey Friars* was on Bromham road, and there are still some remains of the conventual buildings ; it was founded by Mabel Pateshull, lady of Bletsoe, before the year 1311. Its site was granted to John Gostwicke, master of the horse to Henry VIII. and it is at present occupied as a farm house, lately the property of the Earl of Ashburnham, by whom it was sold to Thomas Becket, Esq. the present owner. A barn adjoining is said to have been the refectory. Tanner states the clear revenue at its dissolution to be only £3. 15s. 2d. Dr. Yeats, a physician, lately residing at Bedford, attributed mineral properties to the water of a spring at the Friars' farm.

The ruins of Newnham Priory are situate about a mile from Bedford, a little on the right of Goldington road, on the banks of the river Ouze, which is a favorite walk ; the boundary walls, and porter's lodge of the monastery, are now almost the only remains of it ; Newnham Priory was founded by Simon de Beauchamp. Newnham was formerly the residence of Robert Catlin, chief justice of the King's bench in the year 1574 ; and was afterwards the property of William Lord Cobham. The site is now the property of the Duke of Bedford.

About a mile from St. Peter's green is Brickhill, the seat of John Foster, Esq. a magistrate for the county, and chairman of the agricultural meetings

in London. The walk to it is pretty, and there is a fine view of the town from the summit of the hill.



The author hopes he may be pardoned for not entering into a lengthened account of the grant of the manor of Bedford, and the means by which it became vested in the corporation, or of the different sieges which the castle withstood during the civil wars, as it would not only increase the size of the work, but would for the most part consist of dry extracts from Leland, Camden, and other authors: the reader who may be curious respecting them, may find some account of them in *Magna Brittainia*, and the *Topographical Description of Bedfordshire*; the object of the writer being to present to the public the town *as it now is*.

It may be safely added, that the inhabitants, and particularly *the ladies*, have at all times shewn themselves sensitively alive to the promotion of the charitable institutions of the town; and that an appeal to them is never made in vain.



Public Buildings.

THE LUNATIC ASYLUM.

Before entering the town on the Ampt^hill road, in St. Mary's parish, the stranger's attention is drawn to the Asylum, for pauper and criminal lunatics of the county of Bedford, which is a very handsome brick building, and was erected and opened for the reception of pauper lunatics in the year 1812, according to act of parliament. It is placed at a convenient distance from the road. During the last year, a considerable addition was made to it. The building, with its late alterations, cost the county upwards of £13,000.

The establishment is subject to the visitation of the county magistrates, and has a physician, surgeon, governor, keepers, &c. attached to it. The cells are all warmed and ventilated on Mr. Sylvester's plan. The building is calculated to contain 65 patients; and there are now confined in it, 31 males, and 29 females. Private patients and lunatics from neighbouring counties are admitted when there is room, on paying for their maintenance and care.

No admission is allowed to strangers, except on the order of a county visiting magistrate, or Dr. Thackeray, the physician.

In a public county institution, like this asylum, regularly and frequently visited and inspected by magistrates, the comforts of the unfortunate inmates are, generally speaking, much better attended to, and the relief afforded them much more effectual, than in private madhouses, since abuses cannot creep in without being open to the detection of the magistrates at their frequent visitations; and no possible inducement can be supposed to exist for detaining a patient a day after he may be safely allowed to return to society.

The number of patients admitted since the first establishment is 240. The weekly sum of 14s. is paid to the institution for the care and maintenance of each private lunatic; 12s. per week for each patient of any other county, and 9s. per week for each Bedford county patient.

The average number of patients in the Asylum in 1826 was as follows:—County patients, 35; Out-County, 7; Private, 11.

The salary of the surgeon and secretary is £20. a year; and the salary of the master and matron £80. per annum.

THE INFIRMARY.

On the same road, a little nearer to the town of Bedford, stands the County Infirmary, a neat and substantial brick building, but without much pretension to architectural beauty. It has been lately enlarged, which has added very much to improve its external appearance, as well as its

internal accommodation, which is also very perfect, from numerous convenient offices being added to the original building.

The Infirmary was originally built to hold only 36 patients, but, as the rooms were large, more beds were added so as to accommodate 48; even this number was found insufficient for the wants of the county, and subscriptions were raised to enlarge the building, which is now capable of containing upwards of 80 patients; a number which in all probability will not be found too great for the increasing population of the town and county.

This building must be considered as an ornament to the town, and will prove a long-enduring monument of the philanthropy of its beneficent founder, for whose statue a niche was left in the front of the building, but which is yet unoccupied, owing to the smallness of the funds of the institution. This, it is to be hoped, will not always remain so; for if any memory deserves to be cherished, surely it is that of Samuel Whitbread, Esq.; a name which ought ever to be held in grateful remembrance by the sick poor. Over the place left for the statue are the following words, "I was sick and ye visited me: I was a stranger, and ye took me in."

The building consists of a centre and two wings, forming three sides of a square; it is divided into wards of a convenient size, offices necessary for the accommodation of in and out-patients, and private rooms for the resident officers, &c.

The comfort of the out-patients has been very much increased by the addition of waiting rooms

for their reception, which are kept at an agreeable temperature in the winter by a stove, erected by Mr. Cutler, of London.

There are four great officers, namely, a grand visitor, His Grace the Duke of Bedford; a perpetual president, W. H. Whitbread, Esq. M. P.; and four trustees, His Grace the Duke of Bedford, the Right Hon. Lord Grantham, F. Pym, Esq. and W. H. Whitbread, Esq. M. P.

The medical establishment consists of one Physician, (Dr. Thackeray;) two Surgeons, (Messrs. Short and Pulley;) a resident House Surgeon, and two pupils.

Patients are admitted to the benefits of the charity, by a letter from a Governor, on Saturdays and Wednesdays, and, in cases of emergency, without any recommendation, and on any day. The business of the institution is conducted by a committee of governors, who meet at the Infirmary on the first Monday in every month, and appoint a House Visitor to attend the establishment in the interval of their meetings.

The expenses of the Infirmary are defrayed by voluntary subscriptions, legacies, and the interest of a small funded property; and though the Bedford Infirmary may be called poor, there are few institutions in so small a county more liberally supported.

Every subscriber of two guineas annually, or a benefactor of twenty guineas, is a governor, has a vote in all elections, and is allowed to send a certain number of in and out-patients; which

number is increased in proportion to any increase of subscription or donation.

There is a sermon preached annually at St. Paul's church, in the town of Bedford, for the benefit of the institution, and the sums so collected are recorded on tablets in the committee room, as well as all donations and legacies of £20. and upwards.

The want of such an establishment must have been long felt; but it was not until the year 1797, that there was any prospect of carrying so desirable an object into effect, when Samuel Whitbread, Esq. left £6,000. to build, and £4,000. to endow, an Infirmary for the sick and lame poor of the county of Bedford; and though he must be considered the founder, yet had it not been for the active exertions of his son, the late member for the town, the county would probably still have been without this excellent charity.

He contributed largely himself, and was indefatigable in obtaining subscriptions from the nobility and gentry of the county, who liberally forwarded his charitable undertaking.

Among the most liberal supporters are recorded the names of the late and the present Dukes of Bedford, the Earl of Upper Ossory, the Marquess of Bute, Lord Grantham, Viscount Hampden, Lord Holland, Marquess of Tavistock, Lord Ongley, Lord G. W. Russell, W. H. Whitbread, Esq. F. Pym, Esq. G. Thornton, Esq. the late H. Brown, Esq. T. P. Macqueen, Esq. &c. &c. In the year 1825, Dr. Thackeray (to whom much is due for his liberal contributions and active exertions in

aid of the charity) called the attention of the governors to the propriety of enlarging the building, which was found insufficient to accommodate all the applicants for admission; the subject was referred to the great officers, who approved of the measure, and recommended a general meeting of governors to be convened for the purpose of considering the best means of carrying it into effect; a meeting was accordingly held in August, 1826, when subscriptions were entered into, and upwards of £4,000. collected, of which £2,000. were given by the Marquess of Tavistock, to whom the county is much indebted, for without that beneficent donation the Infirmary could not have been enlarged to its present extent.

By an inspection of the report (which is published annually) it appears, that since the opening of the Infirmary for the reception of patients in the year 1803, there have been 9,229 persons admitted in and out-patients, of whom upwards of 8,000 have been cured and relieved; it also appears from the same source, that the average number of patients in the house, during the last year, has been forty-nine.

THE SESSIONS HOUSE,
OR
COUNTY HALL,

Is a fine stone building, where the assizes are held twice a year, and is situate in the area of St. Paul's square. In the hall is a full length portrait of the late Samuel Whitbread, Esq. M. P. placed there since his decease. This place is used indiscriminately, by the town and county. The deputy recorder, William Russell, Esq. presides at the town sessions, and in his absence, the Mayor, or one of the Justices of the Borough.

THE COUNTY GAOL, AND OLD HOUSE
OF CORRECTION,

Is situate at the entrance of the town from Newport Pagnell, in which persons are confined for offences committed in the county and town; the building was completed in the year 1801, since which time it has been considerably enlarged. The present Mr. Whitbread's grandfather, gave £500. towards its erection.

There was a Town Gaol, which has been lately pulled down, the Magistrates having contracted with the county to take in prisoners for offences committed in the town, which they were empowered to do by a late Act of parliament; and indeed this is a great saving to the town, inasmuch as there were seldom above one or two inmates for trial at the sessions. This circumstance may be attributed

to the efficient magistracy, the good state of the police, and the moral and peaceable character of the inhabitants in general.

There is a tread mill in the house of correction ward, used for grinding and dressing corn, at which the male prisoners work who are sentenced to hard labour. They are kept to work on the wheel about ten hours in a day, allowing proper intervals for rest and meals.

This prison is visited weekly by a committee of magistrates, and there are a Surgeon and Chaplain appointed to it, who also attend at the Penitentiary.

The salary of the Chaplain is £150. and of the Surgeon, £102. 10s. per annum, for the duties at both places; and the Governor's salary and allowance are £200. the Matron's salary is £20. and the Turnkey's £52. per annum.

The gaol cannot be visited except by the written order of a magistrate.

NEW COUNTY PENITENTIARY.

This building is of brick, and is situate on the high road leading from Kettering to Bedford; it was completed in the year 1819, after the design of Mr. Elmes, and is well arranged on the panopticon system; the classification of the prisoners, being carried on as perfectly as practicable. To this place are sent males and females sentenced to hard labour, and persons convicted under the game laws, and for various misdemeanours.

The male prisoners work at the tread mill, (as in the old house of correction, but females are not put on the wheel. The gaoler's windows are so formed, as to command a view of the several court yards of the prisoners, and of the tread mill.

Persons committed under the game laws are not put on the wheel. Grain is ground at the tread mill for the use of the prisoners, and persons also send corn to be ground, as to other mills.

On an examination of an active magistrate of this county before a committee of the house of commons, appointed to enquire into the increase of crime, it was stated, that the most numerous inmates of prisons were young agricultural labourers, to whom small wages had been paid out of the poor rates, who had thus been driven to poaching; and that the increase of crime in the county was to be attributed, in a great measure, to the present abuse of the poor laws, and the temptation to crime offered by overstocked preserves of game. The prisoners sentenced to hard labour work at the tread mill about ten hours in a day.

The Penitentiary is visited weekly by a committee of the county magistrates.

This building is to be seen upon the parties obtaining an order from a magistrate.

The salary of the Governor is £140. the Matron, £20. and the Turnkey £52. per annum.

HOUSE OF INDUSTRY.

This is a well-built brick edifice, situate on the road from Goldington to Bedford, and was erected

by Act of parliament, and completed in the year 1796. A board of directors assemble every Tuesday for the dispatch of business, when paupers of the five parishes are relieved, and if necessary taken into the house. The building cost about £5,000.

There are thirteen directors (of whom the mayor of Bedford for the time being is one,) who are chosen from inhabitants of the town, and have for some time been elected principally from tradesmen. It is pleasing to add, that the poor rates have experienced a considerable diminution from the good management pursued.

In the year 1819 the poor rates of the five parishes amounted to £3115. 5s. 4d. and the greatest number of poor rates, (St. Paul's being the largest,) was ten, but they have gradually decreased; and in the present year 1827, ending 25th March, they amounted to £2334. 19s. 6d. and the number of rates for St. Paul's parish was seven. The other parishes have varied in the number of rates, and in the same ratio according to the number of poor, &c. The Mayor is perpetual president, and has, upon an equality of votes, the casting vote: in his absence, the chairman or president is chosen from among the directors, weekly. The poor rates are collected by the overseers of the respective parishes, and paid over to the board of directors.

Flannel was formerly manufactured by the females, but owing to its being found more beneficial to allow paupers money out of the house, lace and straw plat work have been substituted. Those paupers who are capable of out-door labour are provided with employment by the directors.

There is a chapel attached to the building, and a regular chaplain appointed, with a salary of £25. per annum, who performs duty every Sunday evening.

Rules and Regulations for the governance and good order of the house are printed on a tablet, and placed in the dining hall.

From the regular attendance of the persons composing the Board, more effectual relief is given to the poor than can be effected by overseers, who have necessarily but a short time to apply to the investigation of cases. The directors are elected by the inhabitants of the town. Four directors go out by rotation, annually, but are generally re-elected. The average number of poor inmates for the year ending 25th March, 1827, was 93. The receipts in the same current year, including the poor rates, were £2,572. 11s. 5d. and the disbursements, including salaries, interest of money borrowed for the building of the house, annuities, relief of the out-door poor of the parishes, &c. £2334. 19s. 6d.

His Grace the Duke of Bedford lent to the directors, on security of the rates and building, to enable them to complete the structure, the sum of £2,000. and the late S. Whitbread, Esq. £800. besides other sums lent by inhabitants of the town and county. A great portion of the money borrowed has been paid off. Mr. Edward Wells, late of Bedford, by will dated 15th March, 1804, gave £100. to the House of Industry, being the only bequest since the erection of the building.

There is a resident master of the house and

overseer of the poor, who receives a salary of £40. per annum, and a matron with the like yearly salary of £40. The directors also appoint a Surgeon, at a salary of £52. per annum, to attend the poor of the five parishes. A visiting director is appointed, in rotation, weekly, from among the directors, who directs in what manner casual paupers applying between the board days, shall be relieved. The directors derive no emolument in respect of their office.

In front of the building is a fine piece of grass land, containing about 15 acres, and forming an admirable and extensive frontage to the Goldington road. The directors have very lately advertised the ground for sale, and for persons to send in plans of proposed buildings. A row of houses, of the middle class, built with white brick, and having a terrace walk in front, seems admirably adapted for the situation. An offer made for the purchase of 12 acres of this land for £3240. a short time since, by an individual, was refused by the guardians of the poor. Should, however, the ground be sold for building purposes, the poor rates will experience a considerable diminution from the application of the rents, or the interest of the purchase-money, towards the relief of the poor.

It is the intention of the directors to have a man and his wife as resident overseers or governors of the house, whereby a great saving is expected to be effected.

APPENDIX.

THE LETTERS PATENT OF EDWARD VI.

GRANTING LICENSE FOR THE FOUNDATION OF THE HARPUR CHARITIES.

In presenting the reader with a copy of the original Letters Patent, procured officially for the present publication, the Author begs to state that he has taken the liberty of printing the words at full length instead of the obsolete and almost unintelligible law latin contractions; he has nevertheless retained the original spelling. The difficulty of making out contractions of the nature of those alluded to, even by persons in some measure conversant with the reading of ancient records, will, he hopes, be a sufficient apology for his having so done.

(PAT: 6 Edw: 6 P 8)

Rex Omnibus ad quos &c. Salutem **SCIATIS** quod nos ad humilem petitionem Majoris Ballivorum Burgencium et Communitatis Ville nostre Bedfordie nobis pro Libera et Perpetua Schola ibidem erigenda et stabilienda exhibitam pro institutione et instructione Puerorum et Juvenum De gracia nostra speciali ac ex certa sciencia et mero motu nostris necnon de advisamento Consilii nostri Concessimus et Licenciam Dedimus Ac per Presentes Concedimus et Licenciam Damus pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris quantum in nobis est dictis Majori Ballivis Burgensibus et Communitati dicte Ville nostre Bedfordie et successoribus suis Quod ipsi aut successores sui quandam Liberam et Perpetuam Scholam Grammaticalem in Villa nostra predicta erigere facere fundare et stabulire possint et valeant pro educacione institutione et instructione Puerorum et Juvenum in Grammatica Literatura et Bonis moribus perpetuis temporibus futuram duraturam Ac Schola illa fore de uno magistro sive Pedagogo et uno Subpedagogo sive Ypodidasculo pro perpetuo continuare Et ut

dicta intencio predictorum Majoris Ballivorum Burgencium et Communitatis Ville predictæ meliorem capeat effectum de uberiori gracia nostra Concessimus et Licenciam Dedimus Ac per presentes Concedimus et Licenciam Damus pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris predictis quantum in nobis est predictis Majori Ballivis Burgensibus et Communitati Ville nostre predictæ quod ipsi aut successores sui Dominia Maneria Terras Tenementa Redditus Reversiones Revenciones Servicia et Hereditamenta quecumque et alias Possessiones quascumque ad annum valorem quadraginta librarum ultra omnia Onera et reprisas ex dono concessione legacione demisione vel assignacione cujuscumque parsonæ sive personarum quarumcumque ea eis dare concedere legare vel assignare volentis vel volencium licet Dominia Maneria Terre et Tenementa illa de nobis in Capite vel aliter mediate vel immediate teneantur aut de aliis parsonis sive alia parsona teneantur habere gaudere percipere acquirere perquirere et recipere possint et valeant Habenda et tenenda eisdem Majori Ballivis Burgensibus et Communitati Ville predictæ et successoribus suis in et ad sustentacionem predicti Magistri sive Pedagogi et Subpedagogi sive Hypodidasculi et pro Continuacione Schole predictæ imperpetuum pro Pauperibus Virginitibus Velle predictæ maritandis ac pro Pauperibus Pueris ibidem nutriendis et informandis Ac etiam ad Elemosinam de residuo sive superfluitate Premissorum perveniente remanente Pauperibus Ville predictæ pro tempore existentibus distribuendam Ac etiam Concessimus et Licenciam Dedimus ac per Presentes Concedimus et Licenciam Damus pro nobis heredibus et successoribus nostris de avisamento et assensu predictis quod Gardianus sive Custos Coligii Beate Marie Wintonie in Oxonia vulgariter nuncupati Novi Collegii Oxonie et Socii ejusdem pro tempore vel eorum major pars pro tempore existentium de tempore in tempus cum necesse fuerit vel justa occasio postulabit per eorum discreciones dictum Magistrum sive Pedagogum aut dictum Subpedagogum sive Hypodidasculum Schole predictæ in Villa predicta nominare eligere et admittere possint vel possit ac pro bonis justis et rationabilibus causis et occasionibus illos de tempore in tempus mutare et removere aliosque habiles et idoneos homines in dicta loca sive officia Magistri sive Pedagogi ac Subpedagogi sive

Hipodidasculi Schole predicte nominare eligere et admittere possint et valeant possit et valeat Et Eidem persone sive parsonis quod ipsa vel ipse Dominia Maneria Terras Tenementa Redditus Revenciones Reversiones Servicia et Hcreditamenta predicta ad annum valorem predictum prefatis Majori Ballivis Burgensibus et Communitati Ville predicte pro tempore existentibus dare concedere legare vel assignare possit aut possint Habenda sibi et successoribus suis sicut predictum est tenore Presencium Similiter Licenciam Dedimus ac Damus specialem absque impedimento impeticione seu gravamine nostrorum vel heredum aut successorum nostrorum Justiciarum Escaetorum Vicecomitum Coronatorum Ballivorum seu aliorum Ministrorum nostrorum vel heredum nostrorum aut aliorum quorumcumque et absque aliquibus aliis Litteris Regiis Patentibus aut aliquibus Inquisicionibus super aliquo Brevi de Ad quod dampnum vel aliquo alio Mandato Regio in hac parte quovismodo habendis proseguendis seu capiendis Statuto de Terris et Tenementis ad Manum Mortuam non ponendis vel extendendis aut portandis aut aliquo alio Statuto Actu sive Ordinatione inde in contrarium factis editis sive ordinatis aut aliqua Concessione vel aliquibus Concessionibus prefatis Majori Ballivis Burgensibus et Communitati Ville predicte per nos vel aliquem progenitorum nostrorum ante hac tempora factis in Presentibus minime factis existentibus aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacumque in aliquo non obstantibus Et hoc absque aliquo fine seu feodo nobis Premissis seu aliquo Premissorum in Hanaperio nostro seu ilibi reddendo solvendo vel faciendo Eo quod expressa mencio &c. IN CUJUS rei &c. TESTE REGE: apud Ely XV die Augusti.

PER BREVE de PRIVATO SIGILLO &c.

TRANSLATION.

THE KING to all to whom &c. Greeting. KNOW YE that We, on the humble Petition of the Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of the Town of Bedford, to us made, for erecting and establishing a free and perpetual School there, for the institution and instruction of Boys and Youths, of our special grace, and of our certain knowledge and mere motion; also, by the advice of our Council, Have granted and given licence, and by these presents, Do grant and give licence, for us, our heirs and Successors, as far as in us lies, to the said Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of our said Town of Bedford, and their Successors, That they or their Successors may and shall erect, make, found and establish a free and perpetual Grammar School in our aforesaid Town, for the education, institution and instruction of Boys and Youths in Grammar, Literature and good Manners, to endure at all times for ever. And the same School to be and consist of one Master and one Usher, to continue for ever. And that the said intention of the aforesaid Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of the aforesaid Town may take better effect, of our more abundant grace, We have granted and given Licence, and by these presents Do grant and give Licence, for us, our Heirs and Successors aforesaid, as far as in us lies, to the aforesaid Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of our aforesaid Town, that they or their Successors may and shall have, enjoy, perceive, acquire, purchase and receive Lordships, Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Reversions, Revenues, Services and Hereditaments whatsoever, and other possessions whatsoever, to the annual value of £40. above all charges and reprises, of the gift, grant, bequest, demise or assignment of any person or persons whomsoever, willing to give, grant, bequeath, or assign the same to them; although the same Lordships, Manors, Lands and Tenements be held of us in *Capite* or otherwise,

mediately or immediately, or be held of other person or persons, *To have and to hold* to the same Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of the aforesaid Town, and their successors, in and to the sustentation of the aforesaid Master and Usher, and for the continuance of the aforesaid School, for ever; for marrying poor maidens of the said Town, and for nourishing and educating poor Boys of that place, and also for distributing alms of the remainder or surplus of the premises accruing and remaining to the poor of the aforesaid Town, for the time being. And also We Have granted and given licence, and by these presents Do grant and give licence, for us, our Heirs and Successors, by the advice and assent aforesaid, That the Warden or Keeper of the College of the Blessed Mary Winton, in Oxford, commonly called New College, Oxford, and the Fellows of the same for the time, or the major part of them for the time being, from time to time, when there shall be necessity or just occasion shall require, by their discretion may nominate, elect and admit the said Master or said Usher of the aforesaid School in the aforesaid Town, and for good, just and reasonable causes and occasions, may and shall change and remove them from time to time, and nominate, elect and admit other fit and proper men into the said places or offices of Master or Usher of the aforesaid School. And to the same person or persons that he or they may give, grant, bequeath or assign Lordships, Manors, Lands, Tenements, Rents, Revenues, Reversions, Services and Hereditaments, to the annual value aforesaid, to the aforesaid Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses and Commonalty of the aforesaid Town for the time being, to be holden by them and their Successors as is aforesaid by the tenor of these presents. In like manner We Have given and Do give special Licence without hindrance, impeachment or trouble of us or our Heirs or Successors, of the Justices, Escheators, Sheriffs, Coroners, Bailiffs or other ministers of us or our Heirs, or of any other persons whatsoever, and without any other Royal Letters Patent, or any Inquisitions upon any Writ of *Ad quod Damnum*, or any other royal mandate on this part in any way to be had, prosecuted or taken; *the Statute of mortmain* or any other Statute, Act or Ordination thence to the contrary made, published or ordained, or any Grant or Grants to the aforesaid Mayor, Bailiffs, Burgesses and

Commonalty of the aforesaid Town, by us or any of our Predecessors before these times made, in these presents not made or being, or any other thing, cause or matter whatever in any wise notwithstanding. And this without any fine or fee to us for the Premises or any of the Premises to be rendered, paid or done in our Hanaper or elsewhere. To the end that express mention &c. In Witness whereof, &c. **WITNESS THE KING,** at Ely, the fifteenth day of August.

BY WRIT of PRIVY SEAL, &c.

FINIS.

ERRATUM.

P. 65. l. 7. *after 1st insert Monday in.*



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