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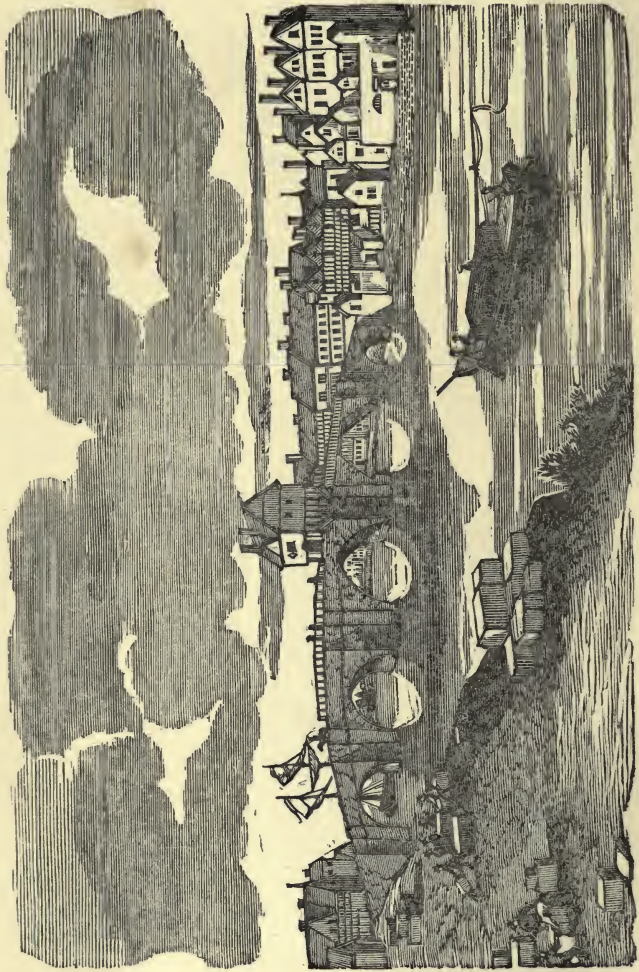
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GOING TO MARKETS
AND
GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.







BEWDLEY OLD BRIDGE. (NORTH.)

GOING TO MARKETS

AND

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS,

BEING A SERIES OF

AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL RECORDS AND SKETCHES

OF FORTY YEARS

SPENT IN THE MIDLAND COUNTIES,

FROM

1830 TO 1870.

*1961 95
26:5:25*

EMBELLISHED WITH THIRTY-FOUR WOOD ENGRAVINGS,
IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

BY

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

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1870.



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Separate Indexes of Schools, of Markets, of Public Meetings, and of Engravings will be found at the end of the second volume.

ERRORS.

Page 861 I say, "the same good Archbishop said," it should have been, *Archdeacon Paley in his Apology for the Spirit of his Controversial Writings said.*

GOING TO MARKETS

AND

GRAMMAR SCHOOLS.

PART SECOND.

CHAPTER I.

“Pepper and Sabean incense take,
And with *post haste* thy running markets make,
Be sure to turn *the penny*.”—DRYDEN.

TEN years had elapsed on the 10th of January, 1850, since the penny postage had been established by the indomitable perseverance of Mr. Rowland Hill.

Nine of my most intimate friends and myself therefore resolved to have a dinner, to commemorate the first decade of this great commercial blessing, and for more reasons than one.

The first reason was because Mr. Hill was a native of Kidderminster, of which we felt very proud, and the second because we believed his victory over “Old Tedium” to be of much greater value, not only to the inhabitants of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, but to the world at large, than were all the victories that ever took place, both by sea and land.

The dinner took place at the Wheat Sheaf, in Worcester Street, Kidderminster, kept at that time by "Dick Cowles," as he was always called; one of the kindest and most obliging landlords in the whole town—aye, or in the whole world!

Dick Cowles! who that ever knew him when a servant at the Lion Hotel can forget his endeavours to please every visitor, or wayfarer; who that ever knew him when he took the Wheat Sheaf, next door to the Lion, can forget the hearty good wishes and support of his fellow-townsmen and of those travellers who knew him whilst he was at the Lion. But he is gone to that bourne from "whence no traveller returns," and where if goodness meets a good reward, Dick Cowles must be supremely blest.

But to the dinner; it was everything that could be desired; there was good company, there was good food, good ale, and good wine, and the number of guests agreed with Sheridan's advice, "not more than twelve, not fewer than six."

After the cloth was drawn, of course songs and toasts followed. Mr. James Tudor, the least selfish of solicitors, and the advocate of all poaching delinquents for many miles around, was our chairman. On this occasion he was

"glorious,
O'er all the ills of life victorious,"

and his speech, when proposing the health of Mr. Hill, was replete with the true eloquence of sense and wit combined.

It had been arranged a week before, that at this first dinner some member of the club should contribute a few stanzas suitable to the occasion, and as a dinner was proposed to be held on the 10th of January in each succeeding year, a vote was to take place as to who should contribute his poetical mite thereupon. In the first instance it was proposed and carried unanimously, that I should contribute an original song or a recitation. Of course I could not resist the vote, especially as it was so complimentary, and at the conclusion of the toast given by our chairman, "success to Mr. Rowland Hill, our fellow-townsmen

and the originator of the Penny Postage system," I read the following:—

THE PENNY AGE.

Hail! age Augustan! No, nor yet the golden;
 Hail, age Olympic! No, nor yet the dark;
 Nor Middle, Grecian, Roman, nor the olden
 Age of past times,—when Noah built the ark;
 Ye all are nought—nay, less than nought in all things,
 When we compare ye to this sagest age,
 This age of steam, of railroads, and young kings,
 Most aptly styl'd the Royal Penny Age.

I recollect the day when Limbird first
 Rush'd to the battle with his double *Mirror*,*—
 I recollect the burning reading thirst
 I weekly quench'd at this my Guadalquiver;
 When yet my youthful breast ne'er dreamt a trio †
 Of penny prints 'gainst him a war should wage—
 When Brougham's penny mag. was in embryo—
 The heralder of this great Penny Age.

The only thing connected with the pence
 When I was young was rock and penny-royal;
 But silver now has lost its consequence,
 And handling gold is counted quite disloyal;
 Pennies for *Satirists*, for mags, for letters,—
 Pennies the paupers' dunning to assuage,—
 Penn'orths of gin (erst vulgarly called Wetters.)—
 Nought, nought, but pennies in this Penny Age.

'Tis said the Queen has called in all the gold,
 Thus joining in the copper-valiant battle,
 And that she's ordered (if the truth be told)
 A penny whistle and a penny rattle;
 'Tis also said the revenue's not sound,
 And five per cent. the debt will just assuage,
 Which monthly is a penny in the pound,
 Thus fitting to a T this Penny Age.

* A very good twopenny publication.

† Penny Magazine, Penny Cyclopædia, and Penny Saturday Magazine.

So hence, ye useless things—ye sovereigns, halves,
 Ye crowns, half crowns, ye shillings and sixpences,
 Henceforth be current coin for pigs or calves,
 Your usefulness we find a base pretence is :
 Copper alone shall be our coin—gold guineas
 And all such things live but in history's page,
 We'll no more handle them like senseless ninnies,
 But straight conform to Hill's new Penny Age.

During the calm caused by the preparations for the hearing of the school suit, I thought it well to appeal in verse to the feelings of the feoffees, on behalf of the town boys. The question I knew had been thoroughly sifted, but yet I thought that such an appeal would do good to our cause, and soften the hearts of some of those, who we felt certain were impelled by might, against their sense of right, to oppose our exertions for the welfare of the sons of poor inhabitants.

I wrote the following lines under this impression, and caused them to be printed and circulated. I headed it as follows:—

“ A Composition which ought to be spoken by the Son of a Parishioner, in the presence of the Feoffees and Visitors, at the Kidderminster Grammar School, at every public examination, until the Free Boys are in possession of their ancient rights.

“ Here I appear a suitor for your care,
 Trusting you'll listen to my simple prayer ;
 The son of parents humble but discreet,
 I lay my just petition at your feet.—
 A time there was when our free school was FREE,
 When all were taught regardless of a fee,
 When those devoid of means possessed the right
 To bless their children with scholastic light,
 And boys who had poor parents fared the same
 As those who claimed the rich man's favoured name,*

* “ The whole of the charity day schools in this town contain about 850 boys—they are stated to be all rent free ; it has therefore been suggested, that as the grammar school rents belong to the parishioners at large, they could be devoted to the various schoolmasters' salaries, and let each parent send his boys to which of the schools he prefers, free. Thus, let the diocesan school be grafted on the grammar school, and £400 be given to the three masters, and give £60 to each master in the other five schools, the remaining £100, at Mr. Fawke's decease, to be devoted to the increase of the latter. The parish would be greatly benefited by this arrangement.”

Nor age, nor faith, were ever brought to bear
 Upon the claims of all, the school to share.—
 But now, alas ! rules, laws, and schemes are made,
 To bar Dissenters and the sons of trade ;
 Some are too young and some too old, forsooth,
 And some too poor to mix with boarding youth !
 And some, the sons of parents long since dead,
 Whose guardians scarce can give them daily bread,
 Are told, unless the classics are their aim,
 To go to other schools of meaner name !—
 Did not the founder of this school decree,
 That every parish boy should be taught free ?



That not the proudest parents' proudest heir,
 Should be preferred 'mongst those who sought its care,
 Nor lands, nor gold, nor pedigree should be
 Esteemed above the sons of low degree?—
 Boys have gone hence of humble rank and birth,
 Who in the world proved men of sterling worth.
 'Twas here that Lee* acquired that mental light,
 Which made him at the bar so erudite :

* Mr. Valentine Lee, the barrister.

Here Johnstone laid that broad foundation stone *
 Whereon he built a fortune all his own.
 Here magistrates and lawyers have been trained
 In soundest lore, by which great heights they've gained,
 And tradesmen, honoured for commercial rule,
 Had their tuition in this ancient school.
 And shall it now in this our day be said,
 When learning's wings are hourly wider spread,
 That Greek and Latin only shall be taught?
 That all else with vulgarity is fraught?
 That faith shall be a bar to learned lore?
 That forty shall be taught, and not one more?
 That station and not merit shall be made
 The scale wherein the children shall be weighed?
 That money shall o'er intellect be placed,
 To guide the age in power, and laws, and taste?
 Nay, rather let society recede
 To those dark days e'er printing was decreed!
 Nay, rather let our commerce be destroyed;
 Nay, rather let our books, of truth be void;
 Nay, rather let all justice be eschewed,
 Than keep the poor man from his mental food!—
*Remember, Sirs, that many e'en of you,
 From this school's stores your erudition drew;
 Hence had your learning free of charge, or cost,
 When half the present rents it could but boast!—*
 Then list to reason, let my claim be heard,
 Let not my right still longer be deferred,
 To justice and true equity take heed,
 And rule the school as erst, by Charles's deed."

Having filled the offices of churchwarden and guardian, I thought myself competent to fill that of town councillor also, so I resolved to announce myself to the burgesses of the North Ward, previous to the election of November the 1st, 1850. I found a strong opposition at the hands of those voters, who were dependent upon the clerical party on the one hand, or who did business with their friends on the other. This opposition was

* "Dr. Edward Johnstone, of Edgbaston Hall, Birmingham, received his entire education in Kidderminster Free School."

principally promoted by the clergy, on account of my moving in the matter of the restoration of the Grammar School.

My neighbour and friend, Mr. William Butler Best (one of the school feoffees), advised me to withdraw and wait another year, which I declined to do, and I at once commenced a canvass by myself, from door to door, throughout the whole of the North Ward. This I found no small task, but as I forestalled the other candidates in canvassing, I was promised more votes than sufficient to insure my success. Nevertheless, the opposition candidates stood to their guns, and the result was the election of Mr. William Grosvenor (a thick and thin friend of the clergy), Mr. Samuel Fawcett, and myself. In the South Ward, Mr. George Turton, a member of the school suit committee, Mr. James Tudor, who was deputy chairman at the town's meeting, and Mr. Henry Chellingworth, my companion churchwarden, when I filled that office, were elected. Thus, four councillors were elected who were in favor of the school reform, and two on the other side. This was considered a great victory, inasmuch as every thing was brought to bear by the school feoffees and their friends to defeat us if possible. To crown the whole, the town council elected our legal adviser, Mr. William Boycot, junior, to be mayor.

I must here acknowledge that two gentlemen more highly regarded by all who knew them, could not have been selected throughout the borough, to lead the opposition on this occasion, than Mr. Grosvenor and Mr. Chellingworth. The first named was one of the most reputable manufacturers in the town, and the other a large landed proprietor at Park Atwood. Their influence was so great, that it was found impossible to keep them out.

I was re-elected twice afterwards, and thus sat as a town councillor for nine consecutive years. On each of these occasions there were very sharp contests, bringing about nearly as much excitement as at the elections of Members of Parliament.

The mayor elected, as stated above, had filled the same office the year before, and as he had interested himself much in the question

of the restitution of the Grammar School, he was re-elected. During the previous year of his office he had attended (officially) at the banquets given at London and York, and on the occasion of his re-election, he presented the Corporation with the new robes he wore on those visits, for the use of future mayors.

We had a contest in the election of aldermen by the town council, as many of us objected to aldermen being elected from the town, instead of from the body of town councillors. The Act can be interpreted either way on this point, but as the aldermen were persons who could not have secured sufficient ratepayers' votes to get into the council, we felt it to be wrong for the council to elect such, as aldermen, whilst so many of the councillors deserved the promotion.

My time was now well filled up; I went alternately on Saturdays to Bridgenorth and Worcester markets, the distances being nearly the same.

At the latter there had been serious struggles between two parties, as to which part of the city a new Corn Exchange should be built in.

The market had been held time out of mind in the Square called the Corn Market, at the bottom of Mealcheapen Street. These names sufficiently denoted their proximity to a corn-market, and as was the case in many other cities and towns, it was held in the open air.

The proposition to have a Corn Exchange was first broached in 1847, and in the next year a desperate struggle (based upon politics) took place, as to whether it should be built in the Square where the market had always been held, or in Angel Street.

The Protectionists adopted the Angel Street site, whilst the Liberals stuck to the old one, arguing that it would be a great injustice to the owners and tenants of the properties surrounding the old site, to remove it to another part of the city.

The Mayor, Mr. Webb, made many efforts to effect an amicable arrangement between the contending parties, but without the least success, and the result was that two were built, which

kept alive the most bitter feelings between the two factions, and their friends and supporters, for a length of time.

The result, financially, was, that the Angel Street market was a heavy loss to the promoters, and the handsome structure in the Corn Market, (though not perfectly finished in the interior,) was a ruinous matter, both to the contractor and the shareholders.

As the farmers, almost to a man, supported the Angel Street Exchange, the Corn Market Exchange was closed, and sold soon after, under the joint stock companys winding up Act, for £1710, the cost having been £4000.

On the 22nd of April, the Worcestershire Agricultural Protection Society dissolved itself, and voted the balance of their funds (£500) towards the cost of the erection of the Angel Street Exchange. This was energetically opposed by the two Mr. Dents, and also by Mr. Francis Hooper, and Mr. Lucy, but without avail.

This struggle brought forth many sarcastic letters, and verses, upon the folly of building two exchanges; amongst which the following appeared in the "Worcester Journal," but without the author's name:—

TO THE FARMERS, MILLERS, AND CORN FACTORS,
WHO "KEEP" WORCESTER MARKET.

Dear Sirs,—We much regret that you,
For centuries more than one,
Have been so ruthlessly exposed
To rain, to wind, to sun.

But now, to make you some amends,
In this our day of changes,
We'll doubly pay a debt long due,
And build you *two* Exchanges.

But, good folks, do not criticise
This over-generous fit;
Nor do not say (though true it is),
That we've more cash than wit.

Upon this appearing I sent the following "Supplication," which I need scarcely say, was the only matter for laughter con-

nected with the sorrowful troubles and trials experienced by the contending shareholders of the two Exchanges:—

THE EARNEST CRY AND PRAYER OF THE KIDDERMINSTER
FARMERS, MILLERS, AND DEALERS, TO THEIR
WORCESTER BRETHREN.

Ye Worcester magnates, dealers, squires !
Ye hopeful sons and happy sires !
We trust ye'll grant us our desires—
 No great request ;
Nor throw cold water on the fires
 That warm our breast.

We hear you're bent upon an act
That seems to give the lie to fact,
Or certes that you're rather crack'd,
 And lost to reason :
'Gainst sense it seems an overt act
 Of rank high treason.

Pray now in time take our advice,
Nor think it 'gainst you a device—
We shall not stoop to give it twice,
 'Twould be such lowness,—
We give it freely without price,
 Or fee, or bonus.

We humbly tell each Corn Committee,
It seems to us a monstrous pity,
That you should build in your fair city
 Two new Exchanges ;
Such madness, did it never hit ye,
 True sense deranges ?

Now, one would be enough for you,
And as you know it to be true
That we have none*—we beg to sue
 You build the other
In Kidderminster, if you view
 It as a brother.

* Since this was written, a Corn Exchange has been built at Kidderminster, and one of the Worcester pair has been converted into a Music Hall.

But if you still resolve on both,
 Perhaps, when time has cool'd your wrath,
 You may at last feel nothing loth,
 Our grief t' assuage,
 To send us one by that great sloth,
 Brunel's broad gauge.

The established church during this period was torn and rent by the divisions of the "upper ten thousand" of the clergy. Publications without end were issued from the press by the opposition parties, viz., the Puseyites, and Evangelicals. The Bishop of Exeter, too, entered the lists, by going to law with the Rev. Mr. Gorham, because he would not accept the dogma of regeneration in baptism.

Amongst the noted persons in this so-called religious stormy period, were Lord Campbell and Miss Sellon, the superioress of Plymouth Nunnery, between whom a long and spirited correspondence took place, and which a waggish critic styled "Lord Campbell's Miss-Sellon-ies." The spirit of Puseyism, as the Ritualistic movement was then called, spread throughout the length and breadth of the land, but when Lord Langdale delivered his famous decision in the case of the Bishop of Exeter *versus* Gorham, the majority of the bye-standers in the court shouted "bravo," and the public feeling against Puseyism was strengthened. The disputation, as a matter of course, reached Kidderminster, and after Lord Langdale's decision, our Vicar (the Rev. T. L. Claughton) preached a special sermon in deprecation of that decision, which was thought so much of that it was published. It was preached on the 10th of March, 1850, and in commenting therein, upon the shout of "bravo" as mentioned above, he denounced it as "the first shout of exultation which is to be raised by her enemies, over this mother of nations as she now is, this *beautiful branch* of Christ's Catholic Church." Although he was what is called a low-churchman when he first came to Kidderminster, he suddenly became enamoured of Puseyism, in all its designs, and even went so far as to allow two tombstones to be erected in the parish churchyard, with inscriptions as follows, thereon :—

“ In Cruce Salus ”
 Of your charity,
 Pray for the Soul of
 PETER GRANT,
 &c., &c.

“ In Cruce Salus ”
 Of your charity,
 Pray for the Soul of
 ANN BATES,
 &c., &c.

An old acquaintance of mine when leaving England for Australia, some time before this religious quarrel sprung up, begged of me to write to him if anything peculiar took place. This I thought was a good opportunity, and I threw the Puseyite quarrel into verse, hoping to amuse him. After writing it, with the sole intention of sending it to him in manuscript, a neighbour strongly advised me to have it published, which I assented to, and sent a printed copy to my friend in Australia instead of the manuscript.

Immediately it was published an angry criticism appeared in one of the county papers (the *Worcester Journal*, I believe.) I soon found out who it was, or rather who they were, that wrote it. Two young clergymen put their critical heads together on this occasion, but their objections were written in so disjointed a manner that I replied very curtly, and dismissed them by saying that it was too bad for two “neddies” (their christian names were Edward) to bray in my ears at one and the same time.

However, it went through three editions, and raised a good deal of debate between the local church contending parties.

AN EPISTLE ADDRESSED TO JOHN BULL, JUNR., PORT
 ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA, ON THE PRESENT TROUBLED
 STATE OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH IN ENGLAND.

Dear Bull, here by my snug fireside
 I sit me down in English pride,
 To tell you how our time and tide
 Together run—
 How we in mother country ride,
 Who's lost, who's won!

Fain would I squeeze within one page
 All that is acted on this stage ;
 Who's suffered wreck, and who's the rage ;
 Depict each star—
 The men who mar or lead the age,
 In character.

Times there have been of bloody war,
 Times, too, of civil strife and jar,
 And times when bickerings secular
 Moved age and youth ;
 But now our greatest quarrels are
 'Bout scripture truth.

Two armies have just ta'en the field,
 With stern determination steel'd,
 Resolved on neither side to yield
 One single yard,
 Declaring both by truth they're sealed
 And bound heav'nward.

The General on th' offensive side
 Is Phillpotts, Exeter's fond pride ; *
 He's raised the war-cry far and wide
 With ink and quill,
 And all opponents has defied
 For good or ill.

* This "Apostolic Bishop," as he was satirically called, from his supporting the claims of the Church Bishops to be descendants of the Apostles, was rather fonder of lucre than the Apostles were. He was appointed to the rich living of Stanhope in 1819, and held it till he attained the mitre in 1830. During his rectorship he spent no less than £12,000 upon the rectory, whilst the church and the schools were left in a wretched condition.

His income whilst at Stanhope was £5,000 yearly, and when appointed Bishop, he attempted to hold both the rectory and the bishoprick, which the Duke of Wellington had promised to support him in ; this was condemned by the public voice, and he had to resign the rectory. But by this he lost nothing, as he was elected to a canonry in Durham Cathedral which was worth more than the rectory. This is proved by the fact that the gross revenue of Durham Cathedral in the years 1861-2-3 amounted to £220,243. out of which the Dean and six Canons clutched £52,193. besides a large amount for fees, and patronage. Surely this shows that the Bishop himself was not regenerated when he was baptized.

A tyrant he, well known of old,
 A pamphleteering Bishop bold,
 Who loves all under him to scold,
 And breed a stew ;
 Who whips and scourges all his fold,
 And shepherds, too.

A fresh recruit in evil hour
 When Phillpott's temper was most sour,
 Denied that Baptism had the power
 Grace to confer,
 And dared the Bishop in the tower
 Of Exeter.

The Bishop cried :—" Refuse who dare
 To wear the uniform I wear ;
 Here on this tower, fearless I swear,
 'Fore all mankind,
 Gorham shall my proud ensign bear
 Like servile hind."

And then he blew his clarion loud ;
 Its threatening caught the distant crowd !
 The craven-hearted cringed and bowed
 To Phillpotts' power,
 But Gorham by his Sov' reign vowed
 To raze the tower.

And forth he came with tranquil breast,
 In panoply of Truth full drest ;
 " Sincerity " was his proud crest ;—
 His arrows bright
 Were proved by God's unerring test,
 The Gospel's light !

Full many an anxious eye was cast,—
 Full many a wishful word was past
 The while the battle hot did last ;
 And many a tear
 Was shed, 'midst prayerful hopes, o'er cast
 With pallid fear.

And long the struggle lasted out,—
Now buoy'd with hope, now weigh'd with doubt.
At last a long and piercing shout,
 A loud bravo!
Proclaim'd that truth had put to flight
 The bigot foe.

Quick from each vale the cry returned,
On ev'ry hill a beacon burned;
The bigots, by the people spurned,
 Retir'd aghast;
And those who long for peace had yearned
 Found peace at last.

But scarce the mighty battle lost,
When, from their coverts, lo! a host
Of pestilential creatures, forc'd
 By envious spleen,
Came forth, and made a braggart boast,
 They yet should win.

Nor cared they for the laws that nurs'd
The Church that gave them birth at first,
But, like rebellious children, curs'd
 The milk they drank,
And rushed to slake their trait'rous thirst
 In Romish tank.

'Tis strange, that in these days of light,
Men in such darkness should delight,
And for old ceremonies fight
 With might and main;
And sigh for that Cimmerian night—
 The Popish reign!

And whilst they peace to others teach,
And blind obedience daily preach,
And hold in horror every breach
 Of priestly law,
They take the road that pleaseth each,
 Sans fault, *sans* flaw!

One cries the Rubric! nothing less;
 While some add to it—some suppress—
 And lay a Pharasaic stress
 On holy feasts—
 And some their backs turn on the west,
 Like heathen priests.

Thus schism spreads, and some, grown bold,
 Fix on the pulpit cross of gold.
 The real presence many hold
 As priests were wont;
 Whilst popish doctrines some unfold
 With shameless front.

But baptismal regeneration
 Has caused the greatest fermentation,
 Excitements, broils, and disputation,
 Rage through the land.
 Prelatic pride and agitation
 Outrun command.

Bishops, who 'bove all should obey
 The laws the Scriptures on them lay,
 Entice the underlings to stray
 By wayward deeds;
 Planting assiduous ev'ry day
 Heretic seeds.

Lord! you would laugh to hear the clatter
 About this deep religious matter,
 How each his cleric foe doth batter
 As if a felon;
 And e'en the ladies join the clatter.
 (*Vide* Miss Sellon.)

Regeneration most in need,
 Is to detach the chaff from seed,
 Each semi-Popish cursed weed
 Throw to the wind,
 Planting alone the gospel creed
 Within the mind.

But, far from that, the Church resounds
 With the "confusion that confounds;"
 Recriminations without bounds
 Fly off the tongue;
 Careless if, or if not, there's grounds
 Each charge is flung.

And stratagems of every shade,
 To cozen and coerce are made,
 Back'd by the all-prevailing aid
 Of powerful gold;
 The god that throws right in the shade,
 Blushless and bold!

And Rome's devices are embraced
 To strike the rude—or win good taste,
 And e'en her specious ways are traced
 And made the rage,
 And by each well-trained artist placed
 To please the age.

Rich painted glass—to win the boor;
 Sweet music—to entice the poor;
 Loud chanting—lipmen to allure,
 Together band;
 And phrases soft for the demure
 Go hand in hand.

Would that they'd sink regeneration,
 And quarrel o'er tithe commutation,
 Glebes, and such snuggish occupation
 As old St. Paul's;
 Pluralities, and installation
 To prebend stalls.

Ah! what did Peter, John, or Paul,
 E'er know about prebendal stall,
 Or that much-coveted windfall—
 A bishoprick;
 Or tithes, church-rates, or college hall,
 Or doctor's stick.

Would that the age would stop this vile
 Cursed patronage, that doth defile
 The Church—and makes her full of guile ;
 Then welcome Gorham,
 To fight in any way or style
 Old Puseyoram !

Ah ! Pusey, how thy name is mauled !
 How oft to prove a point thou'rt called ;
 I'm sure some must be sadly galled
 To think that you
 Should be thus roasted, stew'd, parboiled,
 By such a crew.

Take my advice—go change your name ;
 I do not see that you're to blame ;
 And why should dullards have the fame
 That you deserve—
 Those who have not a shade of claim
 To half your nerve ?

But I digress. What is digression ?
 Why, just a phase of our profession,
 To give a change to the progression
 Of what we write ;
 Or snuff, with author-like expression,
 A fading light.

But, as I've bolted o'er the rope,
 I ask your pardon—not one trope
 I'll use again—because " Wee Pope "
 Absorbed the whole ;
 Without such foreign aid I hope
 To reach my goal.

But, where was it that I left off ?
 At Puseyoram—you may scoff—
 And at this appellation laugh ;
 But, though quite new,
 Whene'er 'tis named, my hat I doff
 With reverence due.

Hail! Puseyoram!—Thou'rt the man
 To head the whole Tractarian clan,
 Foremost in haste you lead the van;
 And right and left
 You deal, remorselessly, your ban
 Of love bereft.

Woe to the wight that hath occasion
 To stand your 'cute examination,
 'Bout Baptismal Regeneration,
 And infant fate;
 Zounds! it will drive to desperation
 Each candidate.

I'd rather ride the black yard-arm
 I'd rather rent a clay-soil farm,
 I'd rather live on rye and barm—
 The Russian's fare—
 Than undergo that pelting storm—
 Your tender care!

But, worst of all, 'tis not Baptism,
 'Tis not this vile Tractarianism,
 'Tis not this variorum prism—
 Cheating the sight—
 That out of doors breeds so much schism
 That makes me dight.

I fear it not in market-place,
 I care not who doth it embrace,
 But, woe is me, I lately trace
 This non-digestic;
 I find it grows and mars the face
 Of bliss domestic.

Our groom, dissatisfied, declares
 He'll leave, unless the window squares
 Are stained with solemn saints and prayers.
 He longs, alas!
 To see their acts and various cares
 Detailed on glass.

EPISTLE TO JOHN BULL, JUNIOR.

The nurs'ry girl says we're to blame,
 Because our first boy's Christian name
 Did not show forth some saint of fame,—
 And that she'll quit.
 She sneers at "Bob,"—so plain a name
 Is far from fit.

The kitchen-maid is quite unable
 To dine from off the old oak table ;
 It should have been a slab from Babel,
 That famous tower,
 Where Latin, as per Romish fable,
 Was God's own dower.

She calls the Vicar "Parish Priest,"
 And every morn prays to the east ;
 Keeps strict each vigil, fast, and feast,
 Day after day,—
 That well-nigh all her work has ceased—
 BUT NOT HER PAY.

Our cook, too, heretofore most tidy,
 Gave notice that on every Friday
 No meat she'd roast ; nor on a bye day,
 Surnamed a fast ;
 So that, unless it is a high day,
 Gastric's aghast !

Our shepherd makes bold protestation,
 Unless we say regeneration
 Takes place in baptism,—situation
 He will not keep.
 Faith is as much his true vocation
 As tending sheep !

My maiden sister's caught the fever,
 And fancies nothing can relieve her ;
 (No mortal's reas'ning shall deceive her,—
 No worldly balm !)
 She'll seek those shades where nought will grieve her !
 The Convent's calm.

She's learnt to pray by intonation,—
 Now murmuring low,—then exclamation ;
 Believes in transubstantiation,
 And purgatory ;
 And looks for Exeter's translation
 To heavenly glory.

She says no pew should have a door,—
 That black-gown preachers are a bore,—
 That pilgrimages she'll restore ;
 Because her time
 She cannot fill up, as before
 She reach'd her prime.

She says the clergy should not marry
 Those who for confirmation tarry ;
 Nor should they either wed or bury
 Dissenting pairs,
 For fear the Church crop should miscarry,
 Mixed with such tares !

Nor should they when near dissolution
 Give erring man God's absolution,
 Until he hath made restitution,
 And full confession ;
 Such end would be a prostitution
 Of priestly mission.

And when—reposing in their graves,
 Deep sunk in purgatorial caves,
 The soul for freedom loudly craves
 To change its doom,
 She in her piety engraves
 Prayers on each tomb.

Th' infection spreads both far and wide,
 O'erwhelming in its priestly tide
 Alike the scholar and his guide,
 With greedy maw ;
 Heralding with Papistic pride
 Its own *éclat*.

Humility is banished far ;
 Fraternal love's too secular !
 Pure Jesuitism alone's the star
 To soar on high,
 The follower of Elijah's car
 In Tractist sky.

Oh ! how it maddens up the blood
 To find two heads beneath one hood,
 Evil disguised 'neath seeming good ;
 Pride its sole aim,
 Its own success its daily food,
 Its only fame.

Gold hides beneath it great men's flaws ;
 A poor man's faults are clothed with gauze ;
 The titled make, but fear no laws ;—
 'Tis far below
 Their dignity to know the cause,
 Or seek to know.

Swift come the time when power and rule
 Shall not be cradled with the fool,
 When talent shall not be the tool
 Of opulence ;
 And justice shall be made the school
 Of government.

When patronage shall seek out merit ;
 When patriots shall rewards inherit ;
 When those who make a tax shall bear it
 On their own lands ;
 And not, as now, seek but to rear it
 By workmen' hands.

Hear me, ye English high-born classes :
 Too long the poor have worked like asses ;
 Too much you've gored the lab'ring masses
 By day and night,
 Till wrong as right unheeded passes
 In broad day-light.

How doubly happy is each band
Who reach Australia's favoured strand ;
There work and pay go hand in hand ;
 Such toil is sweet ;
No paupers curse that teeming land,
 Nor cry for meat.

Mais prenez garde—be not too lax ;
Smother the first-born smallest tax ;
For like a child they grow and wax,
 And when they can,
Outrun your power, take wider tracks,
 And laugh at man.

But truce to thought—I now must close ;
I wish you all success, God knows,
That from His hand continual flows,
 From day to day ;
May florid health and calm repose
 Your toils repay.

And let your thoughts oft hither run ;
Think of the haunts of childhood's fun ;
Think of the scenes where youth begun
 Life's charms to see ;
And think (at least sometimes) upon
 Your friend G. G.



CHAPTER II.

“To decree injustice by a law! diabolic, I say: no quantity of bombazeen or lawyers’ wigs, three readings, and solemn trumpeting and bow-wowing in high places or in low, can hide its frightful infernal tendency! This is the throne of iniquity, set up in the name of the Highest, the human apotheosis of anarchy itself! Every doit of this account will have to be settled one day, as sure as God lives! Principal and compound interest rigorously computed, and the interest is at a terrible rate per cent. in these cases!”

CARLYLE.

The leading counsel engaged for the relators was Geo. Turner, Esq., Q.C. He was considered to be a formidable opponent by the feoffees, and we congratulated ourselves on his being our advocate. He gave it as his opinion that we must win; and he was paid handsomely for this opinion.

At this juncture Sir Launcelot Shadwell, the Vice-Chancellor who had decided against boarders in the Tiverton, as well as the Manchester case, unfortunately died very suddenly. It had been arranged to bring the case into his Court, to be heard before him, but through “the law’s delay” we were too late.

Nevertheless we felt very well satisfied when we heard that our Counsel-in-chief was appointed to fill Sir Launcelot’s place, as he had given us his written opinion that we must win.

Mr. Richard Bethell, another Q.C., was engaged as leading Counsel in his place, on our behalf, and as he had been the pleader for the town’s-people of Manchester, before Sir Launcelot Shadwell, when he decided against boarders being taught in their free school, we felt doubly satisfied.

Here we had Mr. Bethell, the successful pleader as our advocate, and Mr. Turner, who was to have been our advocate, now appointed as our judge; so what more could we wish for?

The suit went on, and a commissioner was appointed by the court to take written evidence for and against the information, and on his arrival from London he took up his quarters at the Black Horse Inn. Great were the searchings of heart and the surmises of the inhabitants as to what the commissioner would require.

The commissioner brought a clerk with him; the former was very stout, and the latter very thin.

The post-chaise in which they travelled was loaded on the top, on the back, and under the inside seats, with boxes. The commissioner and the clerk had flat bundles of writing paper under their arms, tied up with red tape, with which they hastened into the inn. Numerous were the lookers-on; the house was beset with boys and working men peeping in at the windows and bar door; the bar itself had on that night a much larger company than usual, and what from the cold night and the hot question of the school, the landlord was no small gainer. Mr. Clark, the currier was most indignantly eloquent on the rights of the subjects being trampled on by schoolmasters, and wondered what would happen next. Mr. Fletcher, the manager at the savings bank, on the other hand, said, that he should think carriers knew more about leather than schools. Mr. Hunt, the draper, did not see what right schoolmasters had to object to boys who were sent, as he said, ready cut and dried to their hands, but he did not wonder at men who were not parents having no feeling for children, to which Mr. Nichols, the grocer, replied, that unless some check was put upon education, the glorious institutions of the country would no longer be safe.

In the midst of these "saws" the commissioner and his clerk were ushered up stairs, and on it being announced in the bar that such was the case, a sudden calm ensued. After many and oft repeated deep puffs at the cigars the conversation took another turn, as to who the Londoners were, what were their pedigree, politics, and whereabouts, and it was not till a late hour that the wisdom which nightly assembled at the Black Horse strolled off to their respective residences.

The next morning the Town Hall was the scene of unusual bustle. The commissioners court being an open one, it was crammed to suffocation. He sat at a table with his clerk, and the clerk to the feoffees, as their evidence-takers. The school charter was read over in due form—this was a formidable document, and went back as far as the 9th of Charles the 1st. It recorded that that monarch by his “meer motion, will, and consent, granted a free school for the education of children and youth in good literature and sound learning for the benefit of the parishioners, &c., &c., &c.”

After the perusal, the two masters were first examined as to the customary admission of the boys, then the chairman of the feoffees, and lastly the complainants, and various persons who were supporters of the “School committee.” The commissioner then announced that he would make his report as soon as possible, and took his departure as he came.

But who can make sure when a cause in chancery will ever be heard, or set down for hearing. As to ours, it remained till every body for and against it were tired of waiting; and at last two of the relators went to London to know if it was ever likely to be heard, or not.

The agent was delighted to see them. The new leading counsel in the case was consulted; and he declared, that the precedents made the relators' cause a certain victory; and that if any one of their points were granted, the costs would not fall upon them,—so far, so good.

The new V. C. was a very dear friend of the bishop, who had heard the town committee's case at his palace; the bishop was a very dear friend of the counsel in chief for the feoffees; and the counsel in chief for the feoffees was a very dear friend of the head-master's: they were in fact a strong chain made up of sympathetic, and therefore officially powerful links.

The V. C. was a high churchman and a high tory; he hated liberals ever since he had been defeated by one of the leaders of that party in his first electioneering contest in a Cathedral city: and from that day he found no moral difficulty whatever in

retaliating upon any person and persons bearing the name of liberal who fell in his way. Human nature is often found to be as revengeful on the judicial as on the commonest cobbler's bench.

At length the cause was set down for hearing; three counsel were retained for the relators; two for the feoffees; two for the head-master, and two, nominally, for the second master. Such is equity in the nineteenth century, in a kingdom reputed to be the most civilized on the face of the earth, that nine barristers are allowed to be engaged in one case.

The Vice Chancellor's court was a small one for such a large question to be settled in. The V. C. was there as stolid as a statue; the London agents were there as busy as bees; the counsel were there as solemn as gladiators, and the reporters for the press were there as indifferent as children. Now and then a stranger would come in, peep round the entrance-door screen for a moment, and walk off as though a plague was there. Now and then the crier of the Court bawled out "silence," when no one was saying a word, and the unemployed barristers yawned and fidgeted, and at intervals some of them took hasty notes for legal publications.

The clerk of the court called out "The Attorney General *versus* the Bishop of Worcester." These two gentlemen combatants were the least concerned in the matter of any of the parties to the suit. At that precise moment the bishop was denouncing the Roman Catholics in a debate in the House of Lords for not allowing adults to read the Bible, whilst he was at that precise moment the chief actor in a suit, wherein he opposed the sons of protestant dissenters being taught to read any book whatever. At that very moment the Attorney General was speaking in the House of Commons, in behalf of cheap justice being brought to every man's door, whilst he knew that nine barristers were employed in arguing a cause, (in which, nominally, he was the plaintiff) which two would have equally well argued.

The clerk of the Vice-Chancellor's court having done his part, the barristers began theirs. Day after day wigs popped up and wigs popped down, and arguments *pro* and *con* were spun out;

the V. C. looking on with the greatest apparent unconcern. Two days were thus filled up, composed of three or four able speeches containing hundreds of technical phrases.

The V. C. announced that he must take time to consider his judgment, as it was a very important case, and as the forthcoming vacation would be the long one, he believed he should have ample time to digest the whole matter.

Digest it,—what is digestion? what is indigestion? What are they? The one is the pleasure of life, the other its curse. But what is the indigestion of the stomach compared to the indigestion of the mind when filled with revenge? it is ten times less fatal. Indigestion of the mind not only becomes a curse to its possessor, but to the objects of its hate. An indigestion which evades the truth; makes justice knuckle down to injustice; culls the records of the law for the purpose of perverting law; causes the pen to belie the conscience; fills the ink-horn with gall, and the judgment with smoothly-jointed untruths; makes the worse appear the better cause; robs the honest to aid the dishonest; and cozens the poor to benefit the rich! Such is the indigestion of the mind!—especially of the revengeful official mind.

'Twas a long time to wait till the end of the next vacation, but yet a mere wave in the tide of chancery affairs. The relators waited for the result with a calm bearing; justice and precedents were in their favor; fair play and honesty were on their side.

During this suspense the very dear friend of the head-master who argued the cause for the feoffees, visited the town,—he was there for some days,—he was never there before—and when he left it he visited his very dear friend the bishop.

After stopping a few days with his very dear friend the bishop, he hastened to London.

Can anyone tell who anybody is, in London?—can any body tell what anybody is about, in London?—can any one tell what anybody means, in London?—perhaps not: yet the occupations of the residents there are more specific than in the country.

In the country, one man sell groceries, provisions, and seeds;—in London, these goods are sold by distinct persons. In the

country, a miller retails his own flour and corn also; in London the miller and retailer are two people,—and yet, although the country tradesman is so multifariously engaged, he knows everybody, and what everybody does do, means to do, and has done. Not so in London; everyone is distinct, and no one cares a tittle what anybody and everybody else is, can be, or means doing.

There are some cases every day, which, like a thunder storm excite momentary wonder and curiosity; but these cases arrest not the Londoner,—they belong to the surprises of country people, when they happen to be in London. Londoners care not a rap for what is going on,—thundering facts are very little to them, and amongst these is the state of their endowed schools.

I was in London the whole of the time, and attended the Court whilst the trial lasted. I also attended the consultations held between the London lawyer and the leading counsel; and every consultation tended to the conclusion that we should win.

When an opportunity offered of a few spare hours, during the days of the trial, I visited the head Endowed Schools of London and Westminster, and found that they were not conducted according to the instructions of the Founders. At the Charter House School, which was founded for the gratuitous maintenance and education of forty poor boys, there were the sons of the titled and the opulent. This was not because the funds were not ample to teach poor boys, as the annual income was, with that in aid of the Alms' houses, as much as fifty-one thousand pounds; nor was it because the founder placed any limit on the number of the poor boys, as the words in the Charter were "the governors and their successors shall from tyme to tyme, and *at all* tymes hereafter place therein, such numbers of *poore* children or scholars as to them shall seem convenient," and it was also ordered that the number of the *poor* scholars should be increased in due proportion as the revenues increased.

Further than this by one of the old regulations it was provided "that none should be admitted as foundation scholars, whose parents might have any estate or lands to leave them, but only such as wanted *the means* to bring them up."

Irregularities in every shape crept in as a matter of course, in such a compound perversion as this. Upon inquiry I found that the master of the charity was required by the founder to reside on the premises, which he did not; it was also required that he should hold no other office; yet he was an archdeacon, a prebendary, a rector, and a vicar; thus the Kidderminster case appeared a mere pigmy abuse, in comparison with such a gigantic malversation as this. The education given in this school I was told was very barren, but that I did not care about, as the scholars were usurpers of the rights of poor boys, and therefore did not deserve any education whatever within those walls.

And this school was peculiarly fitted for poor boys, inasmuch as in addition to its immense educational revenue, it had a large number of benefices, some of which were worth twelve hundred pounds yearly. Still further, it owned an *unlimited* number of exhibitions of from eighty to one hundred pounds yearly for five years. Here, then, were all the requisites for teaching both at school and college a host of poor boys; and after their full education, there were a number of benefices for them to fill, and thus completely carry out the wishes of the founder.

But instead of the poor boys, I found some two-hundred youths of the upper "ten thousand" sons of lords, of members of Parliament, and of opulent persons, who with eight schoolmasters, swallowed the income, the exhibitions, and the benefices, belonging of right to the sons of the poor and indigent.

We often hear of Carthusians being proud of having been educated at the Charter House school. What! proud of being taught with the money belonging to the poor? What! proud of being sent to college, and of filling benefices, belonging to those whose poverty alone debars them from insisting on the restitution of their birth-right? Away with such pride! it is the pride of might over right, of selfish cognizance over helpless ignorance, of sacrilege committed by the powerful rich, on the goods of the weak poor.

This should be altered; but many people naturally cry out how can it be done, who is there that will do it? The trustees are

ungetatable, and why? because in the first place the occupier of the Throne is always the head trustee, then there are two archbishops, one bishop, a lord chancellor, two dukes, three earls, two lords and one archdeacon. Who will do battle with these for the sake of the poor boys of London? What preacher is there whose voice will reach and soften these hard-hearted trustees? None, no, not one, at least not at present; but a day must and will come, when the poor will say, give us back that which ye proud ones have defrauded us of; aye, defrauded us of so long; or we will take it by force!

In the Rev. Robert Whiston's "Cathedral Trusts and their Fulfilment," published in 1849, he states at page 107, that a dignitary of the church availed himself of one of these exhibitions of the estimated amount of £1000 for one of his own sons, and yet as a member of a Cathedral Chapter, denied to the children of his neighbours, who were poor, that maintenance at school and college, which Henry VIII had provided for them.

Then I visited Westminster school, the school about which so much is said as to its "Plays" being very superior in the acting. Very likely, but the seed costs a large sum, and the crop is not worth reaping. Here I found what were called forty foundation boys, but not poor boys, inasmuch as their fees for education alone amounted to nearly seventeen hundred pounds in 1849.

The statutes of this school are very much the same as those of Trin. Col., Cambridge, in the library of which is deposited a M.S. copy of the Westminster statutes. They were ordained in Queen Elizabeth's time, and mention is made of a Common Hall, as the scholars were to dine there, and it is provided therein that every time an election of scholars took place, strict regard was to be had that the poorest boys should be elected; (*ut ratio inopiæ habeatur*), and to shew still further that they were to be fed, no stipend was assigned to them, but they were to be allowed £3 0s. 10d. for yearly commons, and 13s. 4d. for livery.

And at pages 99-100, Whiston states in his Work, as to Westminster, that the Dean and Chapter levy on the parents and

guardians of the forty Queen's scholars, the following items as "college charges":—

School fees (tuition and board ?)	£694
Matron	168
Servants	168
Washing	210
Fires	105
Lights	105
Medical Attendant	42
Charge in aid of new buildings for the use of Queen's scholars, beyond the amount subscribed.	200
	£1,692

So that instead of teaching *poor* boys, free of charge, they made their own large incomes still larger, by levying the above-named fees on the scholars. What poor parents could, therefore, hope to get their sons admitted into the school under such a system as this ?

I also visited the Blue Coat School amongst the rest, and learnt for the first time, that no boy could gain admittance unless some relative, friend, or patron, paid from three to five hundred pounds, down on the nail. This school was founded for deserted babes and vagrant children, found friendless in the streets, and it has an annual revenue of more than sixty thousand pounds, besides the *small* admission fees of three to five hundred pounds ! yet not one poor boy finds his way there ; verily, justice is blind, as represented by trustees ; blind in their want of sympathy, in their sense of right, in their love and faithfulness to the poor. Justice is called a protector, but in these school cases the protection is not that of justice, it is the protection, as declared by Mr. Macready, of "Vested rights in public wrongs."

At last, on Oct. 8, the judgment in our Case was delivered, and the man who at the outset, was engaged to plead our cause, and for whose written *Opinion* we paid handsomely, and who declared therein our certainty of gaining the reforms and restitutions that we sought, gave judgment against us on every point but that of admitting dissenters' sons to the school.

In the course of the trial a most bare-faced false statement was made, that took us all by surprise, namely, that it was not Lord Ward that had got possession of Greenhill farm, which formerly belonged to the school, but the Marquis of Breadalbane! This we had no notice of until we heard it in Court, and so soon as it was declared we felt that we were opposed by a base set of men.

I will venture to say that the Marquis of Breadalbane and his agents knew nothing whatever about the transaction; this was proved by the fact of the rent being invariably paid to the agent of Lord Ward. The chairman of the school feoffees, who was brother-in-law of Lord Ward, must have known this statement to be false, but he never contradicted it. Of course it was felt to be very desirable, by our opponents, that it should not be known to the Vice-Chancellor, that Lord Ward had anything to do with the exchange of Woodfield for the school farm, as it might open his eyes to the whole matter; therefore this false statement was imparted into the arguments to blind him.

But whether it was merely intended to blind him, or really did so, he, as the first adviser of the school committee, ought to have declined hearing the case; it may be asked why?—because in the first place he intimately knew the grievances of the plaintiffs, and advised them that they must win if they proceeded; and in the second place he must have felt, aye, must have known, that he was suddenly promoted to the bench, not only to get him out of our hands, but with the understanding that he should decide against us. It may be said that this surely could not be; but when the magnitude of the decision in this case as affecting all other cases is considered, when the question of the reform of all the other nests of endowed schools corruptions depended upon this case alone, no wonder that the various bodies of school harpies brought their influence to bear upon the Vice-Chancellor, and no wonder that they succeeded in warding off their own doom, by his assenting to their importunities, which importunities extended from Trinity to Michaelmas Term.

I am warranted in the above assertions from the following words in the judgment—"Incalculable mischief would ensue to all the

charities in this kingdom, if this rule were not strictly observed," and "What had been done by the Court was not to be disturbed, except upon the most substantial grounds and upon the very clearest evidence; showing, not only that the scheme did not operate beneficially, but that the proposed alterations would be consistent with the objects of the founder of the charity." Again he is said to have "considered this case as casting upon him the duty of most carefully guarding himself against being led to adopt, in opposition to what had been already settled by the court, any *mere opinion* he might entertain as to what might be *more or less* beneficial." Thus the legal opinion which he had given us, and for which he was paid, was, after he was elevated to the bench, to be guarded against! He also said that he most highly disapproved of charity informations got up by public meetings, and supported by public subscriptions, in fact he censured the surveyor, the committee, and the parishioners for aiding and subscribing to the costs in prosecuting the suit.

Yet I always believed that even this was a sham, to give him an apparent reason for passing a judgment against us. I also believe that the Vice-Chancellor did not draw up the judgment, and for the following reasons:—

1st. It is not written logically, as proceeding from his pen. It is declared therein that "the Court was not, in cases of charity, bound to act upon such strict principles as those by which it was governed in ordinary cases." It censured the surveyor (because he gave the committee a full and complete survey of the properties free of cost,) it censured our solicitors for getting up the case so fully, and finally, it censured the people for subscribing in aid of the costs of the suit, and for holding public meetings to declare their disapprobation of the school perversion,—all these latter points he knew nothing of, nor had they in fact anything to do with a legal judgment as to the status of the school, which shews that the judgment was got up by parties living in the borough, and fathered by the new Vice-Chancellor, to save himself any more trouble in the matter.

So soon as ever this judgment was delivered, I made a solemn

vow, that I would never, during my life, cease to expose endowed school perversions, wherever I found them existing; and the remainder of this Work will, I think, shew pretty clearly, that I have not forgotten my vow.

The following article appeared in the *Worcestershire Chronicle*, 19th November, 1851; it is so much to the point, that I cannot pass it over:—

"SCHOOL OF KING CHARLES I. AT KIDDERMINSTER.—The decision or judgment in the matter of this school, delivered on the 8th instant, by Vice-Chancellor Turner, is of great importance, not merely in regard to this particular case, but as affecting every such school throughout the kingdom. The possessions and revenues of all the free schools (so-called) in England and Wales amount to many millions in value, and we venture to say that no such extent or variety of abuse exists in the distribution and management of any other species of public property as in this. We do not take up the question as affecting Kidderminster only—although in that aspect it is of sufficient importance to warrant our doing so—seeing that it concerns the county in which we live, and whose interests we are naturally called on to support. Our views are based on broader and more general grounds. We regard the question as one of national import—of vital concernment to the community at large, and as involving the well-being of all that class of persons for whose behoof these foundation schools were designed, and to whom they of right belong, namely, the working and the middle classes.

"To assert that these schools were originally intended merely to inculcate a knowledge of Latin and Greek is beside the question, though it would be easy, we conceive, to disprove the proposition, seeing that, in ancient days, few, if any other schools were in existence, and therefore youths could neither have learned, nor have been instructed in those languages, unless they had been previously taught the elements of English knowledge. But the times have changed, and superannuated institutions should change with them and according to them. The monk and the mass-priest have given way to the minister and the lecturer—a small, an isolated, and ignorant population is superseded by intelligent masses of tradesmen and artizans—that which was suitable to the time of Elizabeth or Charles is quite out of place in the time of Victoria, when stage-coaches have given place to railway trains, sails to steam, and mails to the electric telegraph. The prescription of Greek and Latin, as the mental food and clothing of the present commercial youth of England, we look upon as a sheer absurdity. We need not re-assert this, inasmuch as some of the most important free

schools have thrown off this obsolete restriction. The Birmingham school, for instance (and similar establishments), with its hundreds of mercantile scholars, and its branch schools—of what use would it be, if its classes were fed only on Greek and Latin? Were it even in a country town, it would be of little or no use to the community at large; for ninety scholars out of a hundred, upon finishing their education are drafted into the ranks of commerce. But fancy such a school situated in the heart of a manufacturing district like Kidderminster, and how preposterous and contemptible does it appear, to cram youth to the throat with the learned languages, as they are called, and then send them forth to embark in the pursuits of commerce! Were we to dispense to-morrow with the study of Greek and Latin, and its appendages, robes and trencher-caps, relics of antiquated frippery, we believe that the knowledge would be scarcely missed, and that not a single person would be the worse in mind or morals.

"But to come to the case in hand. Our readers have, at various periods seen in our columns the progress of the suit concerning the Kidderminster school, which originated in a town's meeting, was instituted by a combination of ordinary opposing parties, political and religious—though stigmatised by the Bishop of Worcester as the offspring of party feeling—struggled on through the Rolls Court, and the Vice-Chancellor's Court—the then judges of both these Courts being now deceased—and met at last with an adverse decision in the Court of Vice-Chancellor Turner. Much as this decision is to be regretted, on account of the inhabitants of Kidderminster, it is infinitely more deplorable in a national sense. Scores of similar, schools are scattered over the kingdom, from the cathedral city, to the road side village—and whether in cathedral city, business town or country hamlet—'remote, unfriended, melancholy, slow,'—nothing but eternal Greek and Latin (save in a few cases) is ground into the hungry scholars.

"It has been proved, in the case of Kidderminster, that from time immemorial, *all branches of learning* were taught in the school—that when the school revenue was only half its present amount, all branches of learning were taught free of charge—that up to the time of the adoption of the recent new scheme, as many sons of parishioners as sought admittance were admitted without regard to their parent's religious belief, and without regard to age, so that they could read well. Now, with a doubled income, only Greek and Latin are to be taught gratis—not more than forty boys are to be admitted; should they require any other sort of instruction they must pay £4 a year for it, and, until a boy is eight years of age, there is no admission for him, whether he be a blockhead or a Pascal.

"These things appear sufficiently strange and unreasonable to unsophis-

ticated understandings; but, however strange and unreasonable, we find Vice-Chancellor Turner, in opposition in some points to the opinion of the late Lord Chancellor Cottenham, deciding in favour of them. The old rules are to be observed, except that the nonconformity of parents is to be no longer a bar to admission. How the Vice-chancellor defends these rules, and what conclusion guided his decision, are shown in the report of his judgment. But before we enter upon it, we must notice the very singular and unfair clause in the scheme, wherein it was ordered that, if forty Church of England boys, belonging to the parish, did not attend the school, the number should be made up from without the parish, rather than from the children of Dissenters within it. It was, we believe, the odious bigotry and exclusiveness of this clause, rather than a just consideration and respect for the Dissenters of Kidderminster, though occupying the greater part of the parish, which brought about its alteration.

"His Honour admitted in his judgment (from the feoffees' answer) that the petitions, upon which the recent obnoxious scheme was granted, were presented to the Court without any consultations with the inhabitants—that in the feoffees' minute book, under date the 2nd October, 1756, it is ordered 'that the person to be elected into the place of usher or lower master shall, previous to his election therein, be bound in a bond of £500, that he will as well teach Latin and grammar—as also writing and arithmetic—in the said school;' that 'down to 1704 (except in two instances) the school was styled a FREE SCHOOL;' that 'looking at the evidence in the case, he could entertain no doubt that more boys would resort to the school if the scheme were altered, the scale of education reduced, and the payments for it abolished;' that 'Lord Cottenham was adverse—most adverse—to the admission of boarders into these schools'; and other points upon which the relators founded their complaints and relied for judgment in their favour.

"We confess we find it almost impossible to reconcile the judgment of the Vice-chancellor with the admissions, and we are of opinion that not only the relators in the suit, but the whole body of parishioners of Kidderminster, have great and substantial grounds for disputing it, and that an appeal to a higher tribunal would lead to a reversal of the decree.

"We ask their attention to the admission of the Vice-chancellor in his judgment as follows:—'There is, however, one question in this case, which I feel bound to entertain, regarding it as a question not of discretion but of principle—I mean, the question as to the religious qualification of the boys required by this scheme (of 1844), and as to the other provisions having reference to religious instruction—there is, I think, some reason to suspect that this school was in connexion with the Church of England, but the evidence shows that the usage has been to admit the children of Dissen-

ters ; and in the absence of any positive evidence, confining the benefit of the charity to members of the Church of England, I think the question must be *governed by usage*, and that the Attorney-general is therefore entitled to have this restriction removed.' *Now it has been the usage in the school not only to admit the children of Dissenters, but not to exact any quarterly payment—not to limit the number of the scholars provided they were sons of parishioners—not to impose any restriction on account of age ; therefore, if usage is allowed to govern one point, why, in the absence of positive evidence, should it not rule others ?* A great hardship is entailed upon the relators peculiarly as regards the point which they have gained, for they are condemned to pay the costs—AN INJUSTICE, WE BELIEVE WITHOUT PRECEDENT.

"The result of the judgment is, that the sons of gentlemen who wish to learn Latin and Greek are to have them taught gratis, while tradesmen are to pay £4 a year for the instruction of their sons in commercial knowledge. And here we may ask, why should not the taking of boarders be abolished, as has been done at Manchester, Tiverton, and Ludlow ? The revenue of the Kidderminster school is sufficient to pay for the education of all those who are entitled to share its benefits, without the aid of fees derived from boarders. To say that parents would send their sons to lodge in the town, if the head master did not provide accommodation for them, is very unlikely seeing what sort of a place Kidderminster is. Well-to-do parents don't send their sons as boarders to manufacturing towns.

"We must not pass over the remark of the Vice-chancellor, that 'he most highly disapproved of charity informations being got up at public meetings, and supported by public subscriptions.' What public abuses have ever been removed except by these means ? The corn-laws were extinguished by similar instrumentality. Law reforms have been brought about this way, and we expect that the abuses of the Chancery Court will not yield except to such potent agency. Surely, when a great majority of the inhabitants of a town prefer a complaint, they are more worthy to be listened to than is the peevish and interested puling of a paltry clique.

"Notwithstanding the general adverse tenor of the judgment, we are enabled to congratulate the Dissenters of Kidderminster upon having gained the point as to the admission of their sons as a matter of right and not of sufferance ; and we would suggest that the town council should vindicate their claim to have the name of the mayor for the time being inserted in the new scheme before it passes the court ; and also that, as guardians of the borough, they should take steps for reviving the practice laid down in the original charter, of having all future feoffees elected by and with the consent of the inhabitants, which would prove a wholesome safeguard against abuse, and a guarantee for popular administration. The

ultimate battle for the enfranchisement of these schools from obsolete trammels, their adaptation to the purposes of real education, and to the pursuits of every-day life and every-day people, will probably have to be fought in the House of Commons. As lawyers have scarcely ever aided the work of law reform, but set their faces steadfastly against it, it would be too much to expect the courts will do much for the reform of foundation schools. The House of Commons, then, will be the last resource; but, until that House is composed of real representatives of the people, true and sincere men, the educational rights of the citizen will not be secured to him in full. A real reform of the Commons' House will draw after it the reform of this and all other abuses, and every exertion should be directed towards hastening that consummation."

The following appeared in *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, of January 29th, 1852 :—

'A VINDICATION OF THE RELATORS IN THE CHANCERY SUIT
RELATING TO KIDDERMINSTER FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

"TO THE PARISHIONERS OF KIDDERMINSTER.

"*Kidderminster, December 29th, 1851.*

"The feoffees of the Grammar School have thought proper to issue a pamphlet, containing *extracts* from the judgment of Vice-Chancellor Turner in our school suit.

"We know not what could be their motive for so doing, but conceive that by it they hope to justify themselves in your eyes, and show you that we had no ground for the proceedings we have hitherto adopted, in our endeavours to make the once free school beneficial to the parish.

"For our part, we can say, that at various times during the proceedings we endeavoured to procure an amicable settlement, but at the same time we always kept in view the interests of the parish; in proof of which we beg to refer to the following facts :—

"At the town's meeting, held 1st December, 1848, a deputation was appointed to meet the feoffees on the grievances of the new scheme; but, in reply to their application, the following resolution, inserted in their minute book, was come to at the feoffees' meeting, held 20th December, 1848 :—

'Resolved unanimously, That the feoffees decline receiving any deputation from a meeting of the town, held on the 1st of December last, they having acted wholly according to the directions of the Court of Chancery.'

"On 29th January, 1849, our solicitor wrote to the feoffees, that if they would remove the charge for education—the limit as to forty boys,—cause them to be commercially, as well as classically educated—admit them on

application—and not insist on their being eight years of age when admitted, that the relators would consent to the head master keeping twelve, and the second master eight boarders, and that the town subscriptions should be expended in purchasing necessaries for the poor of the parish in the ensuing winter.

“Instead of trying to make an arrangement consequent upon this offer, the feoffees, at their meeting, held on February 19th, resolved ‘To put in an answer to the information filed by the relators.’ Ten feoffees were present, nine of whom voted in the affirmative, and one in the negative, (W. B. Best, Esq.)

“The town council also appointed a deputation to meet the feoffees on some points in the new scheme, which the feoffees also refused to meet; thus in every way they refused reconciliation, and provoked the prosecution of the suit.

“Independent of these attempts to arrange matters with the feoffees, the following letter was written, on behalf of the relators, to the vicar, as chairman of the feoffees:—

‘*Kidderminster, February 10th, 1849.*

‘DEAR SIR,—The committee are anxious to have the dispute respecting the school amicably settled, if possible, and they have consequently deputed Mr. Griffith and myself to wait upon you to that effect. Will you have the kindness to fix a time, either on Monday, after twelve o’clock at noon, or at any time on Wednesday next, at my office, or at any other place you may please to fix?

Yours faithfully,

‘W. BOYCOT, Jun.

P.S.—The bill is filed against the feoffees.”

“Consequent upon this application, the vicar consented to meet W. B. Best, Esq., and the two parties above-named. The meeting took place, and they all agreed as follows (which, upon being submitted to the committee, was assented to by them):—*That the relators should pay all costs up to that period, and also all the costs of a new scheme, upon condition that the new scheme should provide that no restriction as to numbers nor religion should exist, and that no quarterage should be charged for the parishioners’ sons, and that the masters should be allowed to keep boarders, as allowed by the scheme. To this the Vicar gave his hearty assent.* This, it will be perceived, was a very liberal proposition on the part of the relators; and, on the whole, the benefits of this plan would have been felt by all parties—parents, masters, and scholars; but, strange to say, the feoffees, including the vicar (who had agreed as above), at their meeting, held two days

after, refused, with the exception of W. B. Best, Esq., to ratify this bargain, and so the suit proceeded.

“So much for the suit—now for the judgment. The various points as to quarterage on the forty boys, with such a large income—limiting the town boys to forty, unless they pay £8 per year—shutting out the Dissenters’ sons—and placing no limit on the number of boarders, have been so fully discussed, and are so well understood, that it would be a waste of time to go over them in this letter; but as there are some fresh points brought out by the judgment, not only involving the inhabitants generally, but the intention of the relators particularly, they cannot be allowed to remain unexamined.

“The Vice-Chancellor censures the town’s meeting and the town’s subscriptions, for aiding the purposes we have pursued. We cannot consent to such a doctrine, inasmuch as a few individuals would not be likely to run the risk of a Chancery suit, whereby the benefits sought were for the advantage of the whole town, to say nothing that the public voice seems, in this age, essential to the cure of any great grievance.

“But the most unfounded charge brought against the relators is that wherein the judgment casts the costs on them. On the point where the Dissenter’s sons are legally allowed entrance into the school, the Vice-Chancellor says:—‘I find one of the relators himself objected, before the Bishop, to the children of Dissenters having been admitted to the school.’”

“Now what are the facts? When the relators were before the Bishop, he told them the feoffees *could not depart, in any case, from the provisions of the scheme*. This they disproved, from the fact that they had done so in admitting the sons of Dissenters, and they therefore believed and hoped they would alter the rule as to the quarterage, and the other obnoxious rules also. This was commented on by an anonymous writer in the *Ten Towns’ Messenger*, of the 26th January, 1849, and the following explanation was sent to the *Worcestershire Chronicle*:—(Vide 372-3 *anté*.)

“A perversion of this fact was, nevertheless, adhered to in the feoffees’ answer to the Court of Chancery, and by this means the Vice-Chancellor has been led to cast the costs upon the relators.

“There is but one more point that need be commented upon at any length; that is, where the Vice-Chancellor says—‘I shall therefore direct this scheme to be reformed according to the precedent of the Warwick school case.’

“Now our scheme would be better if made exactly as the Warwick one is. The Warwick scheme limits the boarders to thirty, preference to be given to Warwickshire boys; places no limit on the number of town boys;

orders ten guineas per annum to be devoted out of the boys' quarterage to the purchase of prizes, and the surplus to be divided amongst the three masters; that the playground shall be used by town boys and boarders in common; that all day boys lodging in the town (whose parents reside elsewhere) should pay seven guineas per annum; that all boys whose parents and themselves do not reside in the borough should pay ten guineas per annum; that the mayor and two of the town-councillors should always be three of the trustees; that £50 per annum should be paid to a master of the French language; and that, after the prizes, the quarterage money should be given in certain proportions to all the three masters.

"Our scheme embraces none of these advantages. The head master takes all the quarterage; the boarders are unlimited, and Worcestershire boys are not provided to be preferred; the boys who have to pay £4 per annum are limited to forty; the play ground for the boarders is separated; boys whose parents reside out of the parish, and who therefore do not contribute to the parish burthens, are allowed, whilst lodging in the town, to go to the school on the same terms as the inhabitants' sons; no French master is provided; and the feoffees (although the charter orders them to be elected *by and with the consent of the inhabitants of the borough and foreign*) are self-elected, and the mayor and town-council have no voice in the matter.

"In conclusion, we draw your attention to the admissions by the Vice-Chancellor in his judgment, that the feoffees presented their petitions for the new scheme without consultation with the inhabitants; that in the circular issued by the feoffees for the information of candidates for the head mastership it was stated '*that the school was open to the parish at large, that there was no payment with scholars, and that the course of education was classical and mathematical;*' that, 'looking at the evidence in this case, I can entertain no doubt that more boys would resort to this school if the scheme was altered, the scale of education reduced, and the payments for it abolished;' that 'Lord Cottenham was adverse, most adverse, to the admission of boarders into these schools, is clear from his judgment, not only in that case, but in many other cases which were referred to in argument;' and that the sons of Dissenters must be admitted.

"We trust we have vindicated ourselves in your eyes; that we have shown we have sincerely and laboriously endeavoured to restore the school to your use, wherein so many of your forefathers were educated *free, with about half the present revenues.* That we have succeeded but in one point (that of the sons of Dissenters) is not our fault. We now call upon you to aid us liberally in the costs already incurred, and in that of an

appeal to the Higher Court, in the successful issue of which we are legally advised we shall succeed in obtaining that which we have all along sought, viz., 'the administration of the school funds to the greatest advantage and benefit of the inhabitants and their children.'

"We remain,

"Yours faithfully,

"THE SCHOOL-SUIT COMMITTEE."

No doubt but the Vice-Chancellor, incited by a host of interested parties, intended, if possible, to stop suits in chancery, seeking the reform of endowed schools; but so far from that being the case, the public attention became more awakened to the question throughout the length and breadth of the land, and I resolved to visit as many towns as my engagements would allow, and expose by public meetings, the whole of the nefarious system.

Thus, in fact, the reform of these schools was in many cases hastened, whereas, had it not been for the iniquitous judgment of Sir George Turner, they would have remained dormant, so that in this case good sprung out of evil.

As a close to this chapter the following epistle, will, I believe, be deemed very fitting:—

EPISTLE

To a friend in London, upon reading Sir George Turner's iniquitous judgment in the Kidderminster Free Grammar School case, delivered by him in the Vice-Chancellor's Court, in Michaelmas Term, 1851.

Whilst sitting at my own fireside,
 With pipe, and cup, at eventide,
 And all the world shut out:
 I often think you London folk
 Must feel the brick and mortar yoke,
 With which you're hemm'd about.
 Your clearest air a murky fog;
 Your daylight never bright;
 Your eyes must surely feel a clog,
 Amongst such endless night;
 All groping and hoping,
 You pass your rueful days
 Nor e'er find your dull mind,
 Cleared by the sun's bright rays.

Oh! could you but enjoy our health,
 You freely would pay down your wealth,
 Aye, all that you could find;
 And thank your stars, for such rich prize,
 That from the Maker of the skies,
 Descends on country kind.
 'Tis true you've got the Parliament,
 The cream of all the land,
 But they are as the locusts sent,
 An all-devouring band;
 Still dreaming of scheming
 Alone for their own good,
 They watch all and catch all,
 To feed their greedy brood.

'Tis true you've got the Queen, and lords,—
 Of bishops, parsons, many hordes,
 Who prate of the right road;
 'Tis true you've got the cream of trade,
 And all the foreign folks to aid,
 In lightening your life's load.—
 But with them all I envy not
 Your case compared with mine:
 My field, my garden, and my cot,
 My gun, and rod, and line,
 'Midst blessings, caressings,
 We pass our happy hours,
 With no fear, the good cheer
 We have will still be ours.

But, hark ye friend! a word or two
 Altho' you've got a three-deck crew,
 And all the learned talents;
 Altho' you've got the rich and high,
 You've got amongst them many sly,
 And deep, designing, callants.
 Men may be rich and learned, too,
 Men may be chancery judges,
 Yet may not keep the truth in view,
 But follow spites and grudges;

Such men will, you'll find still,
 However high they stand,
Oft stoop to a false view
 Of things they have in hand.

Oh! all ye powers of truth and love—
Who reign supreme in heaven above,
 And o'er the earth preside—
Cast forth your thunderbolts and fires,
And crush each reptile that conspires
 To turn the truth aside ;
The plunderer who the pulpit fills,
The judges who all larger ills
 Sanction—yet brand each trifle,
May they receive a true reward,
Whether a bishop, judge, or lord,
 If they the poor man rifle :
All careless and fearless,
 Of future bliss or woe,
May they at last be downwards cast
 In Hell's deep pit below.



CHAPTER III.

“Thrice is he armed that hath his quarrel just.”—SHAKESPEARE.

“Quis custodiet ipsos custodes.”

The disgust of the inhabitants, and particularly of the committee was so great, that it was resolved to take proceedings against the Vice-Chancellor's decision, and an appeal was consequently entered on February 21st, 1852. But on the 8th of April, I received the following letter and a notice from our chairman, through his solicitor, Mr. Henry Saunders, which precluded our proceeding in the matter as the rules of the Upper House required us, on account of Mr. Minifie's resignation, to begin *de novo* :—

“Kidderminster, March 31st, 1852.

“Dear Sir,—

“THE ATTORNEY GENERAL *v.* THE BISHOP OF WORCESTER AND OTHERS.

“I have been considering the great expenses that have been already incurred in this chancery suit, and which, according to the decision of Vice-Chancellor Turner, appears to be so much money thrown away ; I am extremely unwilling to spend any more money upon it, and have come to the determination not to do so. If you and the rest of the relators like to carry on the suit at your own expense you can do so, but for my part I decline laying out another penny unnecessarily. I am, therefore, decided to have nothing to do with any appeal to the House of Lords, the Lord Justices, or the Lord Chancellor. If you and the others choose to appeal you must do so at your own expense, for I shall be no party to it. I consider it a complete waste of money, and a very great source of trouble and anxiety. With these views I have had a regular notice drawn up by my solicitor, of which I hand you a copy herewith.

“I am dear sir, yours truly,

WM. MINIFIE.”

“To Mr. George Griffith.”

The committee upon receiving this notice, resolved at a special meeting not to carry on their appeal to the House of Lords, as the uncertainty of our success, and the fear of heavy expenses, weighed with a majority of them.

But I determined, whatever others might do, not to let the question cool down. I therefore at once commenced action by calling a public meeting at Worcester, which was held in the Guildhall, on December the 17th, 1851. An account of the proceedings thereat appeared in the *Worcester Journal* the next day, but as the time was so short for publication, only a summary was given, which was as follows :—

“ Yesterday (Tuesday) evening, a lecture was delivered in the Guildhall Assembly Room, in this city, on the subject of the grammar schools of England and Wales—their original formation, and the present state and condition of most of them, as being opposed to the intentions of their founders—by Mr. George Griffith, a member of the Kidderminster town-council, and well known to fame as the principal relator in the late Chancery suit, connected with the grammar school in that borough. The lecture was announced as a free one, and intended mainly for persons of the middle and working classes, of both of whom there was a numerous attendance. Mr. Alderman Cowell, at the request of the meeting, consented to preside. In commencing his observations, Mr. Griffith alluded to the subject he was about to introduce as being of more importance than imagined by some people, and intimated his desire to consider it not strictly as a local but as a national one. He observed that, in the statements he was about to make he should rely only on documentary evidence and recorded facts. He divided his subject into seven different heads, under which he fully considered it, and quoted largely to show how various free schools in the Metropolis, Worcester, and elsewhere, designed by the original founders to be devoted to the education of the children of the poor alone, had been diverted and perverted from such purposes, and made the instruments of educating the children of those classes who could well afford to pay for it.

“ He observed that, looking to the expense and futility of appealing to Chancery to remedy the existing evils, he had come to the determination of visiting all the large towns in this and the adjoining counties, and by means of gratuitous lectures explaining the whole subject, and placing before the people generally the present state of these charitable institutions (in which work he should be seconded by others in various parts of the kingdom), and by the appointment of corresponding committees in each place, form a

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“ He observed that, looking to the expense and futility of appealing to Chancery to remedy the existing evils, he had come to the determination of visiting all the large towns in this and the adjoining counties, and by means of gratuitous lectures explaining the whole subject, and placing before the people generally the present state of these charitable institutions (in which work he should be seconded by others in various parts of the kingdom), and by the appointment of corresponding committees in each place, form a

revenue would maintain. And when such scholars' places and fellowships should be so settled, then such boys as should be educated in his schools at Bromsgrove and Feckenham as for their learning should be thought fit for the university, and such principally as should be of his relations, and for want of such fit boys there—then such fit boys educated in the free schools in Worcester, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, or other free schools in the county of Worcester—preference to be given to boys related to him, and next of such boys whose parents should be of the meanest degree of ability."

"Secondly, as to the masters' salaries :—In the endowment of 1693 it is provided, "That such persons who should for the future be the owner and inheritor of the greatest part of his estate should, for the future, by their wills or deeds, make some yearly additions in aid of the said schoolmasters, or charity boys in the said schools, that thereby the said schools might flourish, and much good redound to such poor boys there being, whose parents should not be able better to help or provide for them ; in failure whereof he devised his messuage and farm, held by John Smith, in the parish of Northfield, the rents whereof were to increase the masters' salaries."

"Thirdly, as to the medals :—It is provided in Catherine Wattell's will, dated 22nd January, 1828, that the boy who should upon such examination (between the 12th and 16th June) "have made the greatest improvement in the books he had read the preceding year, should be entitled to a gold medal to the value of two-third parts of the interest and dividends of the said £200, or to a book of the like value ;" and the second best boy a silver medal or book to the value of one third—(i.e., a gold medal, or book, value £6 13s. 4d., and a silver medal, or book, value £3 6s. 8d.)

"I will make no comment, but will add the Commissioners' words upon these three points. As to the twelve boys' education, they say, "When we consider the ample provision made by the will of Sir Thomas Cookes at the university, for the benefit of boys educated in his schools, to be enjoyed preferably by boys of his own kindred, and in default of such, then by such other fit boys whose parents should be of the meanest degree or ability, we see no reason why any of the twelve blue boys should be excluded from offering themselves as candidates for the six scholarships and other advantages at Worcester College. We think, therefore, that any or the blue boys, whose parents may desire it, are entitled to receive classical instruction in the same classes with the private pupils of the master, thus fulfilling the donor's wish, (as expressed in the deed of 1693, that they should receive not only a virtuous but a learned education.)" And, as to the medals, they say, "As we have before observed that the blue boys ought not to be excluded from any of the benefits of the foundation, such

boys, if receiving classical instruction, ought, of course, to be permitted to compete for these prizes."*

"In conclusion, I may be allowed to ask:—Why do not the blue boys get a classical education, according to the donor's will? In most of these schools *they get nothing else*, unless it is specified differently by the founder. As long as they do not get it, they cannot get the medals; nor can they be sent to college. By losing the classical education of their sons, the inhabitants of Bromsgrove lose the rents of that immense property (worth £10,000 in 1696), which the boarders alone get the advantage of at college.

"The Rev. J. D. Collis is a man of great ability and learning, and very much esteemed. By his at once correcting the abuses complained of, he would confirm the good opinion already entertained of him at Bromsgrove.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"GEORGE GRIFFITH.

"Kidderminster, January 2nd, 1852."

The next meeting held upon the question I fixed at Bromsgrove, on January the 12th, where having many warm friends, I was received most cordially. This school, conducted as it was, against all fair play principles, became a very sore subject to the inhabitants; but what could they do with such men as the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishops of Worcester, Oxford, Lichfield, and Gloucester, who were *ex-officio* trustees, or with the other trustees, of whom three-fourths were absentees. Had the trustees been residents, and elected by the parishioners, there cannot be a shadow of a doubt but that the school would have been made available for the education of poor boys, as intended and ordered by the founder.

"BROMSGROVE.—*Lecture on Grammar Schools.*—A gratuitous historical lecture on 'The Free Grammar Schools of England,' was delivered in the Town-hall, on Monday last, by Mr. George Griffith, of Kidderminster, to a numerous and respectable audience. The lecturer divided his subject under three heads—first, the University schools; second, the Cathedral Schools; thirdly, the Local Grammar Schools. He contended that they belonged to the poor and middle classes, but had, little by little, been usurped by the upper classes, until the others were scarcely recognised, and, in many cases, deprived of the rewards, scholarships, and fellowships,

* Charity Commissioners' Report, pp. 576 to 583.

belonging to them. He dwelt particularly upon the Bromsgrove school, showing that the scholarships and fellowships left by the founder belonged to the twelve 'blue boys,' and if they were not competent, then boys at Feckenham, Worcester, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, or any other free school in the county; and declared to the meeting that if the Bromsgrove people would not see to it, that the other school trustees would, as they were never intended for the boarders. On this branch of the subject it was shown, that that point was successfully contended against at Kidderminster before the recent suit commenced, and that the Court of Chancery would not allow the boarders to participate in the proposed exhibitions. The lecture lasted between two and three hours, in the course of which he laid open the cases of Christ's Hospital and the Charter House, London; the Abbey School in Westminster; and Christ Church, Oxford. Amongst the local schools, he particularly dwelt upon those at Worcester, Stourbridge, Hartlebury, Bromsgrove, Elmley Lovett, Stone, and CutnaII Green.¶ Some of the instances brought forward by him created considerable manifestations of indignation. He aptly compared the system to a corrupt tree, which had flourished in the noxious atmosphere by which it was surrounded, but which was doomed ere long to fall by its inherent rottenness. He paid a merited eulogium to the exertions and perseverance of Lord Brougham, by whom the public had been put into possession of the printed Reports of the Charity Commissioners appointed for that purpose. The subject, although considered a dry one, was rendered extremely interesting by the mode and manner of treating it, and the marks of approval by the audience were very frequent. At the conclusion, Mr. Greening (who had been appointed chairman) proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Griffith for his able lecture, and stated that the subject was taken up by him from purely disinterested motives; that he never calculated on any remuneration, either present or prospective; and that it was the duty of the inhabitants of this parish to assist him in his efforts to reform the abuses which prevailed, particularly in the Bromsgrove school. Mr. Greening stated, that if the Bromsgrove school were conducted as the founder directed, it did not necessarily follow that all the 'blue boys' should go to college on the foundation as vacancies arose; but that, if they received the 'learned' education as expressed by the founder, it would fit them for any commercial or other pursuit. He said, that the blue dress worn by the boys would then be no badge of disgrace, but would be the outward and visible sign of having the advantage of a good education. He also observed, that, at a recent meeting of the parishioners, he had expressed his opinion that the education of these boys was a mere nullity, for that they were not taught even the English grammar, but that latterly they possessed that privilege. The vote of thanks was seconded

by Mr. Scropton, and carried by acclamation. In acknowledging the vote, Mr. Griffith said he should not lose sight of the subject, or cease his exertions, and should probably deliver another lecture here; that if the 'blue boys' did not, after this exposure, receive such an education as the founder of the school directed, to qualify them for the scholarships, the other schools in the county would, no doubt, supply the boys, so that the sons of the aristocracy, residing in Ireland or other parts of the United Kingdom, should not deprive them of their undoubted rights. Suitable petitions to both Houses of Parliament were unanimously adopted by the meeting, and were signed by the chairman on their behalf."

The next public meeting that I attended was held in the Town Hall, Manchester, on January 27th, 1852. For this opportunity of placing the question before the public I was chiefly indebted to Mr. Thomas Clegg, of Cheetham Hill, whose sympathy on this occasion, as on all others where good can be achieved, was of the warmest kind. Before the meeting I dined with him at his club (the Union), and he kindly invited me to his house for the night.

When the meeting assembled, which was of no ordinary sort, Alderman Kay took the chair.* The platform was crowded, and the body of the hall well filled. Amongst the gentlemen present, besides the chairman, were James Heywood, Esq., M.P.; the Rev. James Bardsley, the Rev. J. G. Vance, and the Rev. J. M. Kennedy; Messrs. Thomas Clegg, Malcolm Ross, John Chadwick, Jas. Chadwick (of Eccles,) John Morley, A. Winterbottom, J. Kitts, Joseph Consterdine, J. Kay (brother of the chairman,) R. Marsden, W. Mc.Call, Edward Shawcross, R. R. Calvert, W. A. Partee, J. Danby, &c., &c.

The chairman, in opening the meeting, said, that Mr. Griffith's reasons for commencing a series of lectures on the Management of the Free Grammar Schools of England, was the personal knowledge of the subject which he had acquired in a suit instituted to obtain for the inhabitants the better regulation of the Free Grammar School of Kidderminster.

Upon the chairman resuming his seat, I laid before the

* Condensed from the *Manchester Guardian*, January 31st, 1852.

audience the perversions of schools attached to the Universities and the Cathedrals, as also the larger and smaller endowed schools scattered throughout England and Wales.

I took particular pains (being surrounded by a host of gentlemen favourable to the education of the children of the working classes) to shew that nearly all these endowments belonged to the poor, but that they had been usurped by the rich.

I showed, by quoting from foundation deeds, that the Universities themselves were originally composed of schools, and not for theological training; that the Cathedral schools were also intended for poor boys; and that in ninety per cent. of the grammar schools, large as well as small, the poor were named in the donor's deeds of gift.

Before concluding I announced that I should, if possible, get a League formed for the reformation of these schools, and that a conference of town committees should thereupon be held, either at Birmingham or Manchester. I named the fact of Mr. Mowatt having stated that it was his intention to bring this question annually before the House of Commons. I pressed upon the meeting the desirability of abolishing the present boards of trustees (who were self-elected), and placing the endowed schools under the care of town councils, where such bodies existed, and where they did not, that trustees or "guardians of education" should be elected as town councils were.

"The chairman said that it was in vain to set about the reform of the grammar schools, unless you could sweep away the Court of Chancery, and get a minister of public instruction, who should have the power of redressing grievances by some speedy remedy.

"James Heywood, Esq., M.P., in moving a vote of thanks to the lecturer, expressed his concurrence in the opinion expressed by Mr. Kay, as to the desirability of the appointment of a minister of public instruction, or some central authority, and said that he should be happy to assist Mr. Mowatt in any way he could.

"The Rev. James Bardsley, seconded the motion, which was unanimously adopted; and the vote of thanks was acknowledged by Mr. Griffith.

"Mr. Malcolm Ross moved the adoption of the following petition to the two Houses of Parliament:—

“The following petition, agreed upon at a meeting of the inhabitants of Manchester sheweth—

‘That there are a considerable number of endowed schools founded in the United Kingdom, for the education of the middle and lower classes; that most of the foundations are devoted to the education of the children of the upper classes, contrary to the true intent of their pious and benevolent founders; and that their course of education is little adapted to the requirements of modern times. We, therefore, pray your honourable House to adopt means whereby a thorough reformation of the said evils may be effected.’

“He thought that they ought to see that the most was made of all money left for educational purposes, and that they could not well ask for subscriptions for the erection of new schools, until they had taken care that those already in existence were used for the benefit of those for whose use they were intended.

“Mr. T. Clegg seconded the resolution, which was unanimously agreed to.

“Upon the motion of Mr. Parke, seconded by Mr. Winterbottom, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee ‘for the purpose of aiding in bringing about a remedy for the abuses which exist in our grammar schools, and most other endowed educational establishments:’—Jas. Heywood, Esq., M.P.; the Revds. Jas. Bardsley, J. G. Vance, and J. Kennedy; and Messrs. Alex. Kay, James Nasmyth, Joseph Chadwick, J. Smith, T. Clegg, W. P. Lees, and Jno. Morley, with power to add to their number.

The vacated chair having been taken by James Heywood, M.P., a vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Kay, and the proceedings terminated.

On the morning after the meeting, Mr. Clegg took me in his private cab to look over one of his spinning manufactories at Tildesley. This was an immense mill, newly erected, and near thereto he had built a number of comfortable cottages for his workmen and their families. He conducted me through the factory first, where he shewed me some spinning machines, of a new construction, that cost one thousand guineas each. He afterwards took me to the workmen’s cottages, where he visited those that were sick, and told them he would see to their comfort in any way they would point out.

After taking lunch with him, in a room that he kept near the factory for that purpose, he drove me to the nearest railway station, where we parted.

I went thence to Liverpool on my own business, but as

the train was not due, and rain was falling, I took shelter in a public house, close by, where I sat down and listened to a conversation between three natives of Lancashire, not one sentence of which I could understand !

When the train started I was in high spirits at the reception I had experienced in Manchester, and as I could always write a little when in good humour, I pencilled down by fits and starts the following lines :—

THE TWO WAYS.

The midnight moon had risen high
Sole Empress of a cloudless sky ;—
The calm winds crept with step unheard,
Like dreams, all bodiless ;—the bird
Of night, with melancholy tone,
Screech'd at old silence all alone,
As forth I walk'd, in musing mood,
On times and friends, " lang syne " to brood,
When, 'midst the general calm, arose
Hot disputation 'twixt two foes ;—
So drawing nearer to the clatter,
To learn the quarrel of the matter,
I found the " Ways " in contest met,
Against each other warmly set,
And words and gestures flying fast
As lightning, or the simoon blast.

HIGHWAY.

Thou upstart mushroom of a day,
Who pertly sty!st thyself railway ;—
Thou thing of yesterday, alack,
Who'st got but *one coat* to thy back ;—*
Thou hissing fire-and-water steamer ;—
Thou speculating jobbing dreamer—
Who gave thee leave to trespass here,
On ground of mine this many a year ?
Yes, thousands !—old as Roman sway,
I've dwelt an unmolested way ;

* To repair a road is called " coating " it.

And now to be disturbed by you,
 And all your engineering crew !
 Why now, just look at thy black kettle,
 Thy engines, and thy roads of metal,
 Thy hissing, flying, trains and waggons—
 Just like so many fire-tongued dragons—
 Thy black conductors—like the devil,
 Or imps of hell, let loose for evil :—
 What are ye all, ye steam-born spawn,
 To one stage-coach by horses drawn ?

RAILWAY.

Spawn ! did you say, you vile old drone,
 You compound of mud, filth, and stone !
 Since at my youth you seem to cavil,
 And say that I'm but made for evil,
 Pray is your age the least excuse
 For centuries of foul abuse ;
 Are there not mountains, *old as earth*,
 Which have been nuisances from birth—
 Sterile and rude—of verdure void—
 For nothing good—for nought employ'd ?
 Look at the valley, rich and green,
 Of plenteousness the constant scene,
 Shedding around its various fruits—
 Its grain for man—its grass for brutes,
 Dispenser of both drink and food,
 Sought out by all—a general good.
 Where nought but chance produced the blade,
 Or tillage owned the slow-paced spade,
 The steam plough now upheaves the soil,
 Doubles the ears,—lessens the toil.
 And thus it is with you and me—
 You're old—I'm in my infancy.
 Look now around, ope your dull eyes,
 Let locomotion not surprise ;
 Where once high hills rose to the sky,
 And travellers trudged with weary sigh,
 Now level rails are only found,
 And neat hedge-rows which form each bound.
 All now in equal numbers flow,
 All see the good, but you, old Slow !

Take my advice, be cautious how
 You e'er again kick up a row:—
 How can you think with me to vie?
 Remember every dog must die!

HIGHWAY.

Dog! do you call me?—'tis too bad;
 Ho! every coachman, guard, and cad,
 Weep, weep, with me,—oh! heavy load,
 That ever I was made a road,
 To be thus laughed at—taunted—jeered—
 And openly by young dogs sneered!
 Listen you *railing rail*, you brat,
 (Yet how can I expect but that
 You, who, the first day trains e'er run,
 So basely murdered Huskisson,
 Would treat me thus?) oh! evil age,
 Ingratitude's your title page,
 Thus to avoid a faithful friend,
 One who had strove his best to mend,
 And make things easy for your bones,
 By dint of wise M'Adam's stones;
 Thus to reject one so long tried
 For this young fool—sure proof of pride—
 Solely because he flies along
 With flesh, fish, fowl—a motley throng;
 Cares not for weather, roads, nor corn,
 Nor even sounds the happy horn;
 Laughs at the turnpikes—my old friends,—
 And to the devil mile-stones sends;
 Stops not for lunch, nor glass of ale,
 Nor horse employs, nor swelling sail.

RAILWAY.

Hear me you ranting gray-haired fool!
 Let silent wisdom be your rule;
 Go, groan to mountain, vale, or hill,—
 Go, cry until your ditches fill.
 Of what avails your opposition?
 With me you fain use competition.
 'Tis now all up with your slow trade,
 Take the advice of a young blade,

Retire where paupers rest their bones,
And get thin broth for breaking stones ;
Tell them that your bad ways have been
The cause you're in the workhouse seen ;
And when to them the truth you've shown,
Mayhap they may reform their own.
You cannot hope to cope with me,
Good bye !—my first train comes I see.

Soon after the Manchestrer meeting I received an angry letter from Mr. F. Mowatt, one of the members for Cambridge, for having said in my speech there, that it required a golden key worth from £300 to £500 to get a boy admitted into the Blue Coat School in London. He called the truth of my statement into question, saying that he was a governor himself, and knew of no such rule, upon which I replied, and referred him to the Report of the Select Committee appointed in 1816 by the House of Commons, "to inquire into the education of the *lower orders* of the metropolis," in which he would find a copy of the foundation deed, a statement of the income derived from the properties, landed and funded, and the censures of that committee as to the misapplication of the school funds and the system of admittance adopted by the Board of Management, in requiring the aldermen of the city to pay down £300, and all other persons £500, before they could get a boy admitted.

This he did, and soon satisfied himself that my statements were true, which he acknowledged by letter, and at the same time invited me to call upon him at his residence, on the first occasion of my being in London.

In my reply to his letter I told him that I should endeavour to form a League for the purpose of procuring a reformation of the endowed schools, that I should propose Birmingham to be the centre, and that in each town where an endowed school of any magnitude existed, I hoped to get a branch committee formed.

I asked him, at the same time, the proper way of drawing up the heads of petitions to the House of Commons, and told him that I intended to compile Digests of the Endowed Schools in

each county, from the Commissioners' Reports, and requested him to let me know the name of a good publisher in London; to this I received the following reply:—

“London, 6th February, 1852.”

“Dear Sir,

“I am obliged by your letter. I wish you would even now send me the Manchester paper that has the fullest and best report of your lecture, &c., on the Tuesday. I will most willingly add my name and subscription to your League, and so soon as you can furnish me with the exact nature of it, its promoters, &c., I will endeavour to obtain members and subscriptions here.

“I highly approve of your intention to publish a Digest of the Grammar Schools. I will enquire as to a publisher next week; at present I am wholly engrossed with my Bill for the Water Supply and Drainage of the Metropolis, which I shall move to bring in to-morrow night.

“I am in constant communication with Mr. Whiston.* I wish much to be able to introduce my measure touching the Cathedral and other Grammar Schools early this year; but still will wait a while to see the progress of the League, which, if successful, would be a great support to me. Most of us are in favour of the creation of a Minister of Instruction, but there are great difficulties about it.

“Yours faithfully,

“FRANCIS MOWATT.”

“Since writing I have received yours of yesterday. No particular form is necessary for the Petitions. They must *not*, however, be printed, but written, and signed by at least one person; you will head it—“To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.”

In my speech at Manchester I strongly condemned the misappropriation of the funds belonging to Bromsgrove school, which caused an anonymous admirer of injustice to dispute my statements as follows:—

“BROMSGROVE SCHOOL.

“*To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.*

“SIR,—I have seen a quotation from a report contained in your columns of a lecture by Mr. Griffith, at Manchester, in which he attacks the administration of Bromsgrove school. As your readers may probably be ignorant

* The Rev. Robert Whiston, head-master of Rochester Cathedral Free Grammar School, author of “Cathedral Trusts and their Fulfilment.”

of the facts of the case, as well as of the circumstances which have led to Mr. Griffith's appearance in his present capacity, I am anxious briefly to point out the perversion of truth to which he has committed himself.

"The founder of Bromsgrove school was King Edward VI. He provided none of the endowments imagined by Mr. Griffith, but left only a slender payment to the master, viz., £7 a year. A subsequent benefactor, Sir Thomas Cookes, founded scholarships and fellowships at Oxford for the school, but left only £20 a year for the master, who consequently could not possibly be a classical scholar, capable of preparing boys for the universities. The present head master provides a competent teacher for the foundation boys, at twice the entire stipend he receives from the endowment. They are, therefore, the gainers by his present position, and would not by any means thank your lecturer for insisting on their reduction to the terms of King Edward's insufficient endowment. It should be added, that the benefactor who founded the Oxford scholarships enjoined a preference for his own kindred. It will require some ingenuity on the part of Mr. Griffith to reconcile this provision with his own description of the old baronet's intentions.

"With respect to the medals, Mr. Griffith insinuates that they ought to be given to the foundation boys. The circumstances under which those prizes were bequeathed, by a lady recently deceased, are so well known to all acquainted with the school, that I am afraid Mr. Griffith can hardly have the excuse of ignorance for his misrepresentation. The course pursued in the management of Bromsgrove school,—namely, that of giving a sound English education to the town boys,—is precisely that which has been demanded in similar cases. The plan suggested by Mr. Griffith, of teaching all the town boys Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, on the chance of one out of ten getting a scholarship, is the very thing which has been again and again denounced. In the case of Bromsgrove school, the smallness of the endowment renders it impossible, even if it were desirable. There are quite sufficient abuses connected with our old foundations to satisfy the most thirsty reformer; to invent additional corruptions is as unnecessary as it is uncharitable. Mr. Griffith will be a more useful lecturer when he arrives at this conviction.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"VERAX."

"14th February, 1852."

P.S.—I enclose my name and address. I am in no way connected with the school.

To this I replied as follows:—

" THE BROMSGROVE SCHOOL.

" *To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.*

" SIR,—The extract your correspondent *Verax* refers to appeared in our county paper, the *Herald*. It was introduced in a condemnatory leading article on the subject of the mismanagement of grammar schools in general. The facts are as follow with regard to the Bromsgrove school, as may be seen, by any of your readers, in the Charity Commissioners' Report for Worcestershire, pages 576 to 583:—'We have not seen any charter of foundation of this school, which was *probably* founded by Edward the Sixth. The oldest account we have of the revenues is contained in the School Book, which commences in 1693, the date of Sir Thomas Cookes' gift, viz., King Edward, yearly, £7; Nicholas Lilley, yearly, 10s.; Job Edkins, £2 10s.; John Hill, £1 4s.; Sir Thomas Cookes, for educating twelve boys, £20; ditto, for clothing the same, £16; ditto, for the same when leaving school, if there for six years, £12; ditto, for books and paper for the same boys, 10s.; ditto, for trustees' expenses, and a sermon at the May examination, £1 10s.—£61 4s.' At the time the Commissioners made this report, the rent of Hill's charity had increased to £4 10s.; and there was another payment of £1 10s. from the Lickey Hill land. This made the total, at that period, £66. But in addition to this, Sir Thomas Cookes willed as follows:—'That it was his will and desire that his executor thereafter named should, by his will, or some other writing valid in law, settle for ever, either on the said schoolmaster and his successors, or for the use of the charity boys of that school, some additional yearly sum or annuity, not less than 40s., but as much more as he should please,—that thereby the said schools might flourish and much good redound to such poor boys there being, whose parents should not be able better to help or provide for them.' And in case of non-compliance therewith, he ordered that the rents of his farm in the parish of Northfield should be devoted thereto. And further, in addition, he (by will dated 19th February 1696,) gave to certain trustees 'the sum of £10,000 to purchase lands, and with the rents and profits thereof to build a college at Oxford, and endow it with scholarships and fellowships; and that, when settled, such boys as were educated and fit in his schools at Bromsgrove and Feckenham, principally of his relations, and for want thereof such other fit boys whose parents should be of the meanest degree or ability, should for ever have preference in the said scholarships and fellowships; and, in case none were therein fit, then boys at the Free Schools of Worcester, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, and other free schools in the county of Worcester, were to enjoy them.' From the foregoing, it is sufficiently clear that twelve poor boys were to be taught and clothed at Bromsgrove—that they were to be

sent to college, if fit by education—if not fit, that the free boys of Feckenham, Worcester, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, &c., were to be sent to college. But Sir Thomas Cookes also ordered, in 1693, that ‘the twelve boys should be instructed in the English, Latin, and, if capable, the Greek tongue and to write and cast accounts.’ This is the most important point, as thereby hangs a tale. Your correspondent, *Verax*, says I have committed myself in a perversion of the truth; let us see whether it is I or *Verax* that has done so. He says he is in no way connected with the school; how then did he get his statement? Did any one connected with the present management of the school furnish him therewith—did they make him the medium of such a lame defence? As he was attacking a man by name, why did he not affix his own to his letter? I will leave him to answer these hereafter, now to the point.

At the present moment, the twelve boys are neither taught Latin nor Greek, but sixty-six boarders, sons of opulent strangers, are taught both; the twelve boys, therefore, cannot get the scholarships—the sixty-six boarders do, and go to college thereupon. If the master’s foundation salaries are not enough, surely the income of sixty-six boarders makes them so; and, in that case, is it not the grossest injustice not to give the twelve town boys the *chance* of getting the scholarships? Indeed, it is an injustice to allow the boarders to compete for them at all, so long as the founder ordered them to go to the other free schools in the county. I repeat, that Sir Thomas Cookes was the founder—that the non-teaching the twelve boys the classics is a direct perversion of his will—that the boarders are not, in any respect, entitled to the scholarships and fellowships, and the Court of Chancery would not permit such a misappropriation of the founder’s funds, if petitioned thereupon. Does not *Verax*, therefore, pervert the truth, when he says the twelve town boys are gainers by the present system? Does he not, when he says that I suggested the plan of teaching all the town boys Latin, Greek, and Hebrew? I deny, most unequivocally, that I have invented anything in my statement of the Bromsgrove school case. I have proved this in the Worcester papers, and it remains uncontradicted. But, with regard to the medals: Mrs. Wattell, in her will, orders them to be given to the boys, ‘who should receive classical instruction at the said school.’ The town boys, being ordered by the founder to be classically educated, and not being so taught, lose the medals also, as well as the scholarships and fellowships. As to the master provided for the town boys, I beg to say that he was present at my lecture at Bromsgrove, and heard me state that the twelve boys were thus unjustly deprived of their rights, and not only so, but that the master who taught the boarders in the same two rooms where the twelve town boys are taught,

was not allowed to teach any of the twelve town boys, but that they were left to the special master provided so liberally (?) by the head master. But what do the Charity Commissioners themselves say in their Report? 'The management of this school has for many years been a subject of complaint in the neighbourhood. When we consider the ample provision made by the will of Sir Thomas Cookes, at the university, for the benefit of boys educated in his schools of Bromsgrove and Feckenham, to be enjoyed preferably by boys of his own kindred, and then by boys whose parents should be of the meanest degree or ability, we see no reason why any of the twelve blue boys should be excluded from offering themselves as candidates for the six scholarships and fellowships of Worcester College. We think, therefore, that any of the blue boys whose parents may desire it, are entitled to receive classical instruction in the same classes with the private pupils of the master, thus fulfilling the donor's wish that they should not only receive a virtuous but a learned education.' With regard to the medals they say, 'The medals are given to the boarders. As we have before observed that the blue boys ought not to be excluded from any of the benefits of the foundation, such boys, if receiving classical instruction, ought of course to be permitted to compete for these prizes.'

"The Commissioners seem entirely to have forgotten that other towns were entitled to the scholarships, and not the Bromsgrove boarders.

"I remain, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"GEORGE GRIFFITH."

"Kidderminster, Feb. 21, 1852."

The head master of Kidderminster school having resigned his office, another was appointed in January of this year (1852). The new master, the Rev. J. G. Sheppard, came from Repton school, where he filled the office of second master for some time. It appeared strange to us that he should leave Repton, where he had a better salary as second, than he was to receive at Kidderminster as head master. No doubt he was induced by the prospect of having a large number of boarders, but that did not follow, as will be seen in a latter part of this volume.

He was an M.A. and F.R.L.S., had been a Fellow of Wadham College, and was author of the prize poem, "St. Paul at Athens," Oxford, 1851.

The Vicar of Kidderminster, who was himself an old scholar of Repton, warmly supported his candidature, and as he was

chairman of the school feoffees, the Repton second master's success was almost a matter of course.

Having been a resident in Bewdley for a length of time, as may be seen throughout the former part of this Work, I was invited by some of the inhabitants to attend a public meeting there, on the question of Grammar Schools, which was advertised for February 16th, 1852.

It was held in the assembly-room at the George Hotel, which was crammed. Mr. James Holder (formerly mayor of the borough) took the chair.

In the course of my remarks I entered upon the question, by repeating the same facts I had advanced at the towns visited previously, (see pages 453-4-5) but I dwelt particularly on the decay of the school at Bewdley, and the fact of its being shut up by the infamous system carried on by the Court of Chancery. The Attorney-General, whose special business it was to see that such schools were made the best use of, certified as to the mismanagement of the funds, and consequently the Court took the school into its *care* (?) and would not allow it to do any good whatever.

It was true that the head master had for some time up to 1835 drawn his salary, for which, when the Charity Commissioner visited the town in 1833, he was performing no duty. It was also true that the second master kept a private boarding school, allowing, as a matter of favour, any boy to come to him for elementary instruction. Finding this state of things, the Court of Chancery thought it might as well be shut up as not.

This sad result, I pointed out, chiefly arose from fraudulently long leases, and the order that none but a clergyman should fill the office of head master. By the first of these evils the school was a great loser, and by the latter, as the clergyman had become very old, the school was deprived of the services of any young layman, who might have been willing to undertake the duties.

At the close of the meeting, a petition was numerously signed, of which the following is a copy:—

“To the Honourable the House of Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.”

“The humble petition of the undersigned inhabitants of the borough of Bewdley, sheweth,

“That the free grammar school of this parish, situate in the borough of Bewdley aforesaid, has been shut up about twenty years, and the funds thereof are accumulating in the Court of Chancery.

“We, therefore, pray your Honourable House to grant us relief by ordering the re-opening of the said school, so that the sons of parishioners may have the education they are entitled to.

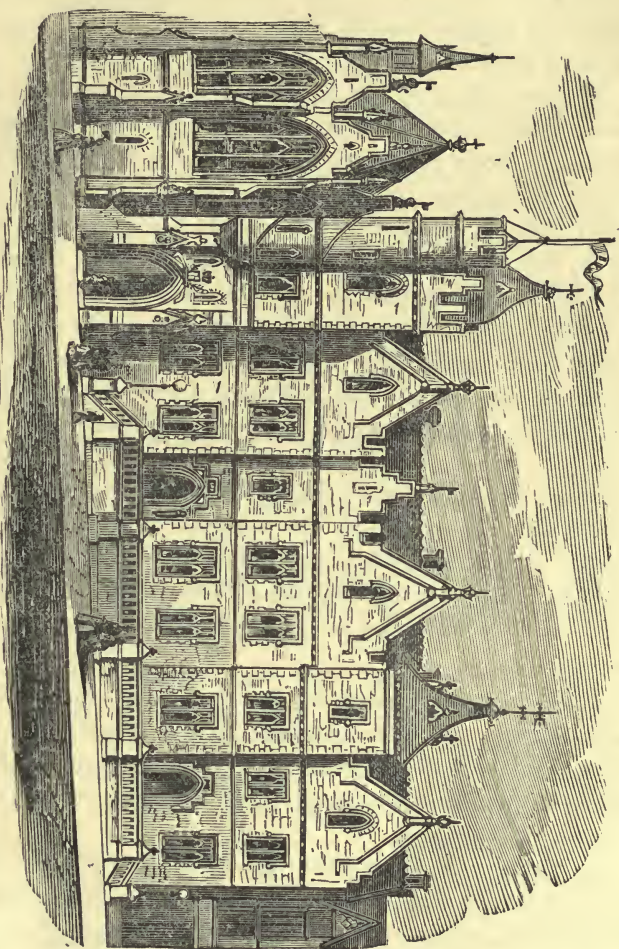
“And your petitioners will ever pray, &c., &c.”

The publication of the Manchester meeting in the Worcester newspapers created some stir. Immediately after it was held, I was asked by several of the inhabitants of Stourbridge, to attend a public meeting there on the same subject.

Having so many things to attend to, I could not consent to their request at once, but at last I fixed, March the first, as a convenient day.

I felt a particular pleasure in this meeting, because I had watched the school, and written a short history of it, which had appeared in the *Worcestershire Chronicle*,—it occupied about two columns, and was nearly as follows :—

The student of ecclesiastical history will remember that when his Highness Henry the Eighth abolished or suppressed the monasterial system, he left a gap to be filled up—for amongst the many sons of iniquity in monasteries—there were doubtless some bright exceptions, some generous, well-intentioned souls, who not only studied hard themselves but superintended the studies of many others; therefore he occasioned a void which it was imperative should be supplied, and this was accomplished by the founding of schools all over the kingdom for the free education of boys in each particular place. Schools were not always founded where monasteries or chantries were set aside. Sometimes it was the case that a foundation was laid for the free teaching of the parishioners' sons, to compensate for the loss of the monks instruction, and it may be to allay the prejudices felt



SCHOOL OF KING EDWARD VI, STOURBRIDGE.

by many at the annihilation of a system which they believed to be sacred; and sometimes an educational foundation was also laid in places which had experienced no such deprivation; the funds being often drawn from some defunct monastery which had existed in another district, where it was not found necessary to establish a school in its place.

Of course a long period elapsed before these alterations could be thoroughly effected; in some places they were soon accomplished, in others the opposition to the new state of things being strong, self-interest surviving in many ways, running through many channels, and the prejudices of men who had been reared in the old system being still active, it was not until the reign of Charles the First that the free school system took firm root.

This is proved by the legal foundation deeds in many cases being dated in the latter king's reign, reference therein being made to the original foundations in Henry the Eighth's or Elizabeth's time, but which had no code of rules laid down clearly. But it will be remembered that Edward the 6th (Henry's son) founded a great number of schools for the benefit of the *poorer classes*. This was doubtless owing to the zeal of Bishop Ridley, as he felt the desirability, when opposing the Italian Church, of setting up schools wherein the rising generation should be instructed in doctrines opposed to its errors and superstitions.

A chapel formerly stood on the site of the school. In the Reg. Silvester, at Worcester, folio 107, it appears that (anno 1514, 6 Henry VIII) a license of the chapel occurs "*celebrandi Divini in capella de Storebrugge;*" this must be the date of the erection of the chapel.

In Bishop Lyttelton's MSS. occurs the following:—"King Edward VI. founded the school at Stourbridge, in the 6th year of his reign, and endowed it with lands; the library was built and many books given by Henry Hickman, of London, about 1665. One Richard Allchurch was schoolmaster thereof, who being a pettifogger and a reputed conjuror, was put in the Chancellor's Court by Mr. Gilbert Littelton, and, being legally con-

victed of such mal-practices, was turned out of the said school, 20th October, 1590, by Arthur Purefoy, the Chancellor."

The Stourbridge Free Grammar School was founded by Edward the 6th. It seems the inhabitants petitioned for it, and by letters patent, dated the 17th of June, in the sixth year of his reign, their petition was granted. There were to be two masters and eight trustees, and the funds for its support were ordained from the following sources:—

The annual pensions and portions of tithes in Martley and Suckley, lately belonging to the dissolved college of Fotheringhay, Northampton. Also several messuages, barns, gardens, lands, meadows, pastures, &c., at Evesham, lately belonging to the charities of the Holy Trinity, the Blessed Mary, and St. Clement, at Evesham, for the maintenance of the priests performing holy offices. Also all those messuages, lands, meadows, and pastures, belonging to the late charities of the Blessed Mary and St. George, in Evesham, for the maintenance, &c., &c. Also all those messuages, lands, meadows, pastures, &c., at Worcester, belonging to the charities of the Blessed Mary and St. Catherine, in St. Helen's, for the support of the priests. Also all those messuages, lands, gardens, premises, &c., at Worcester, belonging to the guild of Holy Trinity, held of the crown, as the manor of East Greenwich.

Such was the endowment, and the following were the original rules, revised and ordained about the year 1700. The eight trustees were to be *residents* in Stourbridge and the parish of Oldswinford, they were to meet four times a year; *one of them* to be treasurer and rent collector. No boys to be admitted under five years of age "neither should any be admitted *only to learn to write and cast accounts*, or either of them, nor should there be any teaching only for one or both of these sorts." That no stranger be admitted to be taught in the school except by consent of one or more of the said governors. No money was to be paid *by the scholars' parents*, and the masters were to be dismissed if the scholars did not profit under them.

By deed, dated 10 April, 2nd Car. I., Nicholas Sparrye gave

the school, school-houses, and land adjoining; and other parties, for certain considerations, granted other lands for the extension of the school-grounds. There was a lease of certain tithes in the parish of Martley given to this school, granted to Lord Foley in 1742 for 900 years, at the annual rent of £7.

The total rental of the school properties in 1832 amounted to £462 6s. 8d. From 1809 for about four years there were about fifty boys in the school, including six or seven boarders; they were principally the sons of neighbouring gentlemen and opulent tradesmen. About 1813 one of the governors objected to pay the usher for the commercial part of the education (which he had adopted), and also against the practice of putting boys into the upper school without first passing through the lower. This put a stop to the boarders and the extra charge, and the masters ceasing to feel an interest in the school, it dwindled away, and for several years there was no scholar at all. Then there were occasionally one or two, and in 1832 there were eight boys in both schools. From 1824 to 1830 the two masters' salaries averaged £322 13s. 4d. per annum; and the annual dinner cost eleven guineas.

An investigation as to the decay of the school took place in 1830 and 1831, which being conclusive against the second master, he resigned. The Charity Commissioners recommended that the statutes should be adapted to the circumstances of the neighbourhood.

On January 8th, 1841, a new set of rules was published as agreed upon by the Governors and the Bishop of Worcester, the chief points in which were that no boy should be admitted under seven years of age, nor unless he could read the New Testament fluently, write, and say the multiplication table; and if above ten, to be well versed in the first four rules of arithmetic, and to quit at the end of the half year after attaining eighteen. The education to be the Greek and Latin classics, writing, arithmetic, the four first books of Euclid, the first part of algebra, geography, history, and English composition. The classics to be the *main object* of instruction; proficiency in them to confer a *preference* in

promotion, and to be the guide as to the place on admission. *One half* the hours to be devoted to the classics, one quarter to writing, arithmetic, or mathematics, and one quarter to the rest. An annual public examination to take place at Midsummer. No boy to be taught writing and arithmetic *unless he learns* the classics. No boy to be expelled unless the governors consent.* The governors to meet at the school four times a year to examine how the scholars profit. That children beyond the parish, but near enough to attend at the stipulated hours, should be admissible, but to pay four guineas per annum to the under master if under him, or six guineas to the head master if under him, but no strangers to be admitted if there are enough parishioners' sons to occupy the masters' time. The head master to be allowed eight guineas per annum for school cleaning and firing. The head master's salary to be £150, and the second master's £90; and after all repairs, &c., the surplus to be divided, five-eighths to the head master, and three-eighths to the second master. A collector of the rents to be employed and paid a salary. No alterations to be made by the masters unless the Governors and the Bishop consent.

Stourbridge is altogether a manufacturing town, situated on the borders of an immense manufacturing district. The gentry are very few; the landholding aristocrats often met with in country towns are not met with here. The squires are not squires of the hall, the kennel, and the whip, but Squire So-and-so, the iron-master, or Squire So-and-so, the nail-master. The leading sporting characters—the men who boast the best tits—are manufacturers' sons and ambitious inn-keepers. The great bulk of the people are uneducated, and a large portion of the tradesmen know nothing beyond the education which the requirements of their trades render necessary. In their youth but few went to school, and the schoolmasters were very often indifferent scholars themselves. There was a free school (of course every-

* A respectable inhabitant told me that his son was sent back on the same day that he was sent to school (without the consent of the Governors) because he could not read well enough, this was a breach of Rule 14.

one knew that), but it made the classics the whole or nearly the whole object of its instruction. Useful education, such as suited the town and neighbourhood, was nearly discarded, in fact it was treated with contempt; it was beneath the intention of a royal foundation; it was too mean an occupation for masters of free grammar schools, to teach the vulgar arts of writing and arithmetic; so the rising generation was neglected; and the ample funds of the donor were devoted to a system which found candidates for Oxford and Cambridge, instead of for the counting houses of the numerous and immense manufactories in the immediate neighbourhood. The bench, the bar, and the pulpit swallowed up the funds; the classics were held to be the only fit system in a school wherein the founder said that none "should be admitted ONLY to learn to write and cast accounts;" "this regulation," as said the Charity Commissioners in 1832, "showing that such instruction was not excluded."

A stranger would never discover that there was a free school in Stourbridge;* there is no prominent erection—nothing to strike the eye. Next door to the bustling Vine Inn there stand two very quiet-looking houses—such as old bachelors with pretty incomes delight to occupy; there is a quiet brass knocker on each door, with no names; the windows are kept sacred by quiet wire blinds; there are two or three quiet stone steps up to the doors; and before you reach the doors you pass through some quiet iron gates; altogether there are not two such unassuming, modest houses, in the busy town of Stourbridge. There is an entry just below the houses, and at the top of this entry you enter an open space, the play-ground, no doubt; and you recognize the school solely by seeing a slate put down by the door. Were it not pointed out, one would imagine it was some back premises where the servants were comfortably housed apart from

* The engraving facing page 468, is that of the new school, which cost about £3,100. This was raised by subscription. On its being opened Lord Lyttleton presided, and the inaugural address was delivered by the Rev. G. D. Boyle of Handsworth. This took place on February 18th, 1862, of which more anon.

the buildings which front the street. Well, here are two houses for the masters, rent-free; a school-house, a play-ground, an ample endowment to teach a great number of boys; and yet in these days of education—in these times of suiting the means to the wants of the day—in the midst of a commercial town and district, there are but 22 boys in this school. What is the cause of this? not the donor's will; this merely provided that writing and arithmetic should not *wholly* be taught in the school, but that other things should have their fair share of attention. Not the wants and requirements of the neighbourhood. Well, then, shall not the following be allowed to be the causes?

There are eight governors, whose powers are only cut short by death or non-residence; these should be elected every three years, because, when a man is elected for life, he gets careless and the institution suffers. The Bishop of the Diocese is the visitor. His lordship is visitor of so many schools that he cannot be expected to attend to their efficiency; therefore, let a resident be elected as visitor; he would of course know really how the school was going on.

The classics are allowed *half the school hours*, the other half is devoted to all other instruction. This should be altered; no boy should be required to learn the classics unless the parents wish it, because the school belongs to the parishioners, and their wishes should be paramount in the instruction to be given to their respective sons. Ten shillings per quarter is charged for pens, ink, and pencils, besides slates, copy, and account books. If any charge is allowable, 10s. per quarter should be charged for every boy instructed in the classics, and the commercial scholars should go scot free; it is evident that boys learning the classics are the sons of the richer parents, whilst the commercial scholars are the sons of the poorer parents, and therefore should go free in a well endowed free school. Proficiency in the classics are the land-marks of promotion; there should be no such partial promotion; every boy ought to be promoted according to his deserts.

So far is a sketch of the school published by me before the public meeting was held.

The following appeared in the *Worcester Herald*, March 13th, 1852:—

“THE STOURBRIDGE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

“EDUCATIONAL MEETING.—A public meeting was held on Monday, the 1st of March inst., to hear from Mr. George Griffith, of Kidderminster, an historical *exposé* of the ancient and present state of the Stourbridge and the Kidderminster free grammar schools in particular, and of the English free grammar schools generally. It appeared therefrom that at the Stourbridge school there are but twenty-four scholars, with a revenue and two masters' residences of the annual value of about £500. Two scholars are under the head master's *special* care, the others under the usher; the cost being about £20 per head, for what they could get at first-rate schools for six guineas. Complaints have been made by the parents, of the education being too classical, also of the charge of ten shillings per annum for pens and ink, whilst the funds are so ample; and a desire exists that the boys should receive such an education as the parents' positions in life indicate. The founder ordered *all sorts* of learning to be taught, and no charge to be made. It seems that another founder left £3 per annum for a scholarship at the university for five years, payable out of three messuages at Worcester. Another benefactor, Henry Glover, left in 1689, £400 to buy lands, the rents to pay for teaching to read English, &c., and for books for six boys, the sons of *poor* inhabitants of the parish of Old Swinford, to be nominated by the governors of the free school; these boys to be transferred to the grammar school when fit, and therein, this fund is to pay for their pens, ink and paper, and school books for three years, and a new Bible at the expiration thereof; and to apprentice one boy yearly with a fee of £5; and 20s. to be paid to some fit person to make a speech thereupon at the Christmas breaking up. The questions to be answered as to these benefactions are, whether they are carried out? and if not, why not? The lecture lasted two hours, and the statements produced from documentary evidence were ample, and satisfactory to a very attentive audience.

Mr. John Wall was called to the chair. Votes of thanks were passed to him and the lecturer, and petitions to the Houses of Lords and Commons passed unanimously. The petitions were as follows:—

The humble petition of the undersigned, chairman of a meeting held in the new Corn Exchange, Stourbridge, on the 1st day of March, 1852, on behalf of the town of Stourbridge, in the county of Worcester, sheweth—

'That the endowed schools of this kingdom were generally founded for the education of the middle and lower classes.

'That it is notorious that the sons of opulent persons do for the most part fill these schools, to the great loss and hindrance of their right inheritors.

'That the education pursued in the grammar school of this town is not of a character to suit the occupations of the rising generation, commercial studies being too much displaced by classical.

'That thereby the parents of numerous boys are deterred from sending their sons to the aforesaid school.

'We therefore pray your honourable House to adopt means whereby these evils may be remedied, not only in the Stourbridge grammar school, but throughout the kingdom.

'And your petitioners will ever pray,' &c., &c.

There were among the audience the Rev. J. Williams, curate of St. Thomas's, the Rev. J. Richards, Messrs. Bailey, Barney, Heming, William Blundell, Joseph Cole, George Corbett, Henry Pagett, Jesse Webb, A. Green, T. Jones, &c., &c."

Sir Thomas Edward Winnington, the member for Bewdley, and a warm supporter of the reform of Endowed Schools, presented the petitions to the House of Commons, from Worcester, Broms-grove, Bewdley, and Stourbridge.

The Stourbridge School adjoined the Vine Inn, where many corn-dealers and others dined every Friday. I had the gratification of being Chairman on those occasions for several years. The largest gatherings were on the Ironmaster's Quarter days, and on the six days of the annual Fair in March; during the latter many Frenchmen attended to purchase horses, and I recollect that when the question of the abuses of English endowed schools was ever broached, they used to shrug their shoulders, and express their surprise and disgust in very plain terms.

The fact of the second master of the Repton school having been appointed in 1852 as the head master of the Kidderminster school, induced me to make some inquiries as to the former, and from the information I received I was satisfied that the case was a bad one—but as I had nothing historical nor statistical to guide me, I resolved to buy the Charity Commissioner's Report for the County of Derby, and see what the case really was.—

Bad as was the Bromsgrove case, this I found was much worse. It appeared that Sir John Port, of Etwall, (a Catholic) bequeathed in 1556, amongst other gifts, the rents of a large quantity of land in Lancashire, for the purpose of establishing a free school for *poor* boys in Etwall, the adjoining parish of Repton, in which there should be a master and an usher-associate.

Unfortunately the founder left his charities to be dispensed by hereditary trustees, and as these did not reside near Repton, and were men of rank and wealth, they left the school and its funds to be managed by the Schoolmasters and a Solicitor, reserving to themselves the right of electing the poor boys, who as a matter of course came from all parts of the kingdom, (certainly for at least half a century,) thus debarring Repton boys from being housed, fed, and clothed, as intended by the founder.

A public meeting was held in 1852, in the hall of the Mechanics' Institute at Derby, as to the abuses of Repton School, to which I was invited. This movement was got up principally by Mr. Briggs, a solicitor, of Derby; the chair was taken by Dr. Brigstock, M.D., a gentleman well known as an advocate of the education of the working classes.

Mr. Briggs had instituted proceedings to attain a reform of the Repton school, but was used by Sir George Turner in the same way as the Kidderminster Committee had been. He resolved to expose the Vice Chancellor's conduct by a public meeting, and invited me to speak on the general question, on that occasion.

The meeting was largely attended and speeches were made condemning Sir George Turner's conduct, and calling upon the Repton people to petition both Houses of Parliament as to the unfairness of his judgment.

I was told at Derby, that some of the bills announcing the public meeting had been posted on the walls at Repton, but that they had been blackened all over with pitch on the first night after; doubtless by order of the Schoolmasters.

CHAPTER IV.

Reuben Reid ("Margaret Maitland," vol. 2, p. 130, c. 4,) says he was licensed to preach, but the license did not confer the gift of preaching. He could not get a presentation—he had not been called; therefore he had to submit to being "*wind-bound*," as a schoolmaster.—Verily the men who have no friends, and are crammed with Greek and Latin alone, often find themselves "*wind-bound*," as they understand little else.

Having gained some experience from attending public meetings, and replying to my antagonists, as recorded in the foregoing pages, I felt that the next best thing I could do would be to write a History of all the endowed schools of the County in which I lived.

From information that poured in upon me from various parts of the county, both from well known friends, and unknown correspondents, I thought this would be the wisest step I could take, not only for immediate satisfaction, but for the purpose of recording the past and present state of these endowments, with a view to their ultimate reformation.

The chief difficulty in this task was the want of time, as I had to attend to my public duties of guardian, and town councillor, in addition to attending five corn markets every week.

To make it as easy as possible I resolved to write and publish the History in monthly numbers, and to take the schools alphabetically.

This rather increased the difficulty, as by taking them alphabetically, I had to travel long distances in some cases, where the information I required was not given promptly. But on the whole I felt satisfied that directly or indirectly I was advancing the education of the poor, and at the same time exposing to

public reprobation, that class of men who applauded the existing system, and who pointed to the judgment of Sir George Turner in our late trial, with a sort of braggadocia satisfaction.

Accordingly I drew out an alphabetical list of all the endowed schools in the county of Worcester, from the Charity Commissioner's Reports. I then borrowed Nash's History of the County, and Carlisle's History of Grammar Schools, as aids to my researches, the latter of which I found to be full of errors.

Having made all the extracts from these that I required, I wrote to the masters of the distant schools, (inclosing a list of questions, statistical and otherwise), requesting as a great favour, the necessary answers thereto.

The near at hand schools I determined to visit, as I went and returned to the corn markets. These embraced exactly half the total number.

In several cases the masters of the distant schools did not favour me with replies, and in two, I was flatly refused any information. In order to get at these I procured from some of my neighbours, as well as persons I met with at the markets, the names of some residents in those places where the masters refused to reply, and in the few cases where I failed in getting any names, I resolved to make special journeys to them on horseback, or by rail, or coach.

By this means I became acquainted with many parts of the County of Worcester, and with many warm supporters of my views, which but for writing the volume I should never have seen or known.

I must say here that I found the management of the schools much worse on the whole than I expected; at Chaddesley Corbett the head master of the school was the sufferer, as the trustees paid him but £50 per annum, whereas he was entitled to £135.

One of the worst managed of the smaller endowed schools I found at Cutnall Green, (a place situated about half-way between Kidderminster and Droitwich,) just clear of the smoke of these two chimney-ridden towns. This was a quiet road-side place, remarkable only for breeding geese, for a very badly

managed endowed school, and very bad annual races. On visiting this place I had some difficulty in finding the school. The road runs through a green, as the name denotes, and the school lies off the road, between which a very broken-up part of the green intervenes, so broken as to make approach difficult. The school, too, was such an obscure-looking place, surrounded with mud and dirt, and ornamented with broken windows and time-eaten doors and walls, that the passers-by knew not that an endowed school for the education of English youth was there.

On the 7th November, 1849, a special meeting was held for the purpose of preparing a new feoffment, and the following gentlemen were nominated as fit and proper persons for the new trusteeships, and Mr. Lett was requested to apply for their consent, and give the required instructions for the preparation of the necessary deed:—J. S. Pakington, Esq.; the Revds. Dr. Harward, J. F. Mackarness, J. D. Collis, John Piercy, H. Perceval; and Messrs. Penrice, Mence, Lett, O. Amphlett, J. Bearcroft, P. Holdham, W. Lea, H. J. B. Hooper, and J. Amphlett.

Of all the free schools that I visited, this was the worst. As I approached it, my mind suddenly had a vision of Goldsmith's "Deserted Village." Here was the green, but no "playful children just let loose from school;" here was the school itself, and the schoolmaster's "mansion," but not even skirted with "blossomed furze, unprofitably gay." A stone was inserted in the school-house wall, which informed the passers-by that "For the glory of God, and training up of poor children in piety, good manners, and useful learning, was this edifice erected and endowed by William Norris, Gent., anno 1702;" and over the fire-place, in the school-room, was another, containing the following words,—“May that person have no prosperity in this world, nor part with God, in a better, that shall ever dare to pervert the founder's religious purpose.” John Evans was the master, and his income was only £10 18s. 10d. per annum, out of which he paid 7d. in the pound income-tax on £5 8s. 10d.! He also lived rent-free, and had some ground; the total being £25 per annum. The boys paid for books and ink, and 1s. per year

for coals.* There were in the school a few labourers' sons, who were taught spelling, reading, writing and arithmetic, but they very rarely got beyond "practice." The master complained of the irregularity of their attendance, and the parents' indifference in sending them. He had held the situation for twenty years (his father had held it for thirty-seven years), and his health was so bad that occasionally he was obliged to teach the boys in the kitchen of his house, which adjoined the school. This accounted for the wretched state of the school room; the grate could scarcely hold a fire; the writing desks were actually tumbling to pieces from decay; the boys' ink bottles were suspended from bacon hooks in the ceiling; and the windows were *glazed with wood*. The master had three boys that paid him 4d. per week each.

It appeared to me that this was not an adequate foundation to pay a master; and it was also quite clear, little as the income was, that it was quite thrown away upon John Evans. His health precluded him from attending to his duties, and he was so illiterate a person (although his father had been master of the school so long, and could thereby have given him a gratuitous education,) that he could not spell words of two syllables. How he managed arithmetic I cannot tell, unless, like some village hucksters, he could reckon mentally whilst even unable to read. When told of his deficiency, he hinted that he could not be dismissed, as he was orthodox.† But the founder's instructions are quite clear in the original indenture, that the feoffees could discharge an inefficient person.

* This ought not to be continued, as the founder left 10s. per annum for coals.

† William Norris, the founder, ordered that the school master should be a "diligent, honest, orthodox person." In Stoke Churchyard is an epitaph on another orthodox man, thus:—

" Here lies the refuse of a mind,
Pious, orthodox, and kind;
When summoned to arise from dust,
His station will be with the just."

Piety, orthodoxy, and humility this!

When I visited Hartlebury School, it had just awoke from a sleep of eleven years in the Court of Chancery. The Attorney General had administered the soporific dose purposely to cure the patient of an old standing complaint. It was found, by the Charity Commissioners, when they visited the school in 1841, that the trustees had from the earliest period, granted leases of the school properties for three lives, and to renew each lease as often as a life dropped, on payment of a fine. The Court cancelled some of these leases, which immediately caused a considerable increase in the school income.

When the school was re-opened, an attempt was made to put a charge of one shilling a week on the parishioners; this was proposed by Mr. John Cookes, and seconded by Mr. Lewty, at a meeting of the Trustees which was held on Aug. 3rd, 1852, and carried by a majority of three, but upon calm reconsideration it was negatived by a majority of two.—As a record I give the names of the Trustees voting on the last occasion.

For the charge :—Messrs. John Cookes, T. W. Lewty, J. W. Chellingworth, Thomas Lingen, and J. R. Ingram. Against the charge :—The Reverends W. C. Talbot, H. J. Hastings, Henry Perceval, and Messrs. T. G. Curtler, John Harris, T. Millichap and H. Griffin.

One of the exceptions to bad management I found to be Alvechurch School. The master, (Mr. William Partridge,) took the same care in the education of the twenty poor boys as of his private pupils,—he was obliged to take some of the latter, as the foundation income was only £20 per annum. The foundation boys' parents pay nothing for education of their sons, nor for books and stationery. The master had in addition to the £20, a dwelling house, the School-house, and two gardens rent free.

Droitwich schools I found also to be exceptions to the general number.—The annual income of the school, called Coventry's Hospital, was derived from 468 acres of land, and £18,000 in the funds, and amounted in 1852, to £1200.

At the time of my visit there were fifty boys and forty-eight girls in the schools, being two short of the number allowed.

The education of both boys and girls embraced a liberal English course.

The founder, was the Right Hon. Henry Coventry, Secretary of State to King Charles the Second.

All the scholars were clothed, educated and apprenticed free, and a fee was given to each of the boys, and new clothing to the girls, when they left the school.

Here then I found no rich men's sons swallowing the revenues belonging to the poor, because the money was absorbed in the purposes for which it was bequeathed.

Amongst the schools from which I could get no answer was that of Shelsley Beauchamp. I therefore resolved to visit it on horseback, as there was no railway nor coach conveyance thereto, from our district.

I was quite familiar with the road so far as the Hundred House at Witley, but beyond that I had never been, except once when I went to Abberley, the adjoining parish to Witley,—the road from the latter to Shelsley runs through a delightful country; the scenery of which has been compared to the landscapes of Gaspard Poussin.

When I reached the School-house, I found that the Master, Mr. Mapp, was absent. I had an interview with his eldest son, who told me there were from twelve to eighteen boys who attended the school, and that his father was 90 years old.

This I found one of the bad type of schools. The benefactions were, first, the interest of £100 given by the Rev. Owen Plwy in 1681; to which the parishioners added £30, and bought land therewith. Second, the Barrel Heald Farm, out of the rents of which, £8 per annum were to be devoted to the apprenticeship fees of two poor children from the school; this benefactor, (Mr. Caleb Avenant,) also ordered forty shillings to be laid out in Bibles and other books to be given to the best scholars, in the Whitsun week. Third, by Margaret Crowther, two tenements and 22 acres of land in Bromfield, Herefordshire, let at £30 per annum.

I found that the Barrel Heald Farm was let by the school

master to one of his sons, who, I was informed, had paid his father no rent for many years. The Whitsun sermon on the old prize giving day at the school had been discontinued, and the prizes too! The only good feature about this school was that the scholars were free of all payments, but I am sorry to add, that on many occasions not more than one or two boys were to be found in the school.

The city of Worcester possessed (in 1850) one of the worst conducted schools in the county, viz., that commonly called Queen Elizabeth's.—When I entered the school the master was absent, and there were but three boys in it; this, one of the boys said, was the total number attending the school, with an income of £293 per annum!

In a book of endowments belonging to the trustees is an account of the founder's wishes:—

“The grant of the Queen's Majesty, at the humble suit of William Langley, of Worcester, surveyor of her Grace's Mint in the Tower of London, in the time of service there, altering the base monies into fine silver, which God long continue. Her Majesty hath erected and founded the free school of Worcester to continue for ever.

“The Queen's Majesty, at the humble suit of William Langley above mentioned, did give unto the free school £6 13s. 4d.”

The following is part of an historical article that I wrote on this school in 1850; it appeared in the *Worcestershire Chronicle*:—

“As you pass by St. Swithin's church to go into High Street, if you look very sharp indeed, you will see, adjoining the church, a little way in from the footpath, an old building, with the following inscription over the door:—‘This school was founded and endowed by Queen Elizabeth, the third year of her reign, and rebuilt in the year 1735.’ It is most gloomy in appearance outside, but to see the perfection of its gloom you must enter. It is an oblong room; at the upper end of it is a raised seat, where the masters, no doubt, in olden times, sat; beneath this there is now a square box of modern build, where the present one presides; scattered about the room are a few old desks (old enough to realise the date of the foundation), and one or two new ones; there is no window at either end or in the roof, and the side windows being hemmed in on both hands, it is scarcely possible to read therein on a winter's day.”

On May day, 1852, the first number of my volume was issued, and having obtained the consent of the Rev. R. Whiston, I dedicated it to him as follows.—

TO THE
REV. ROBERT WHISTON, M.A.,

HEAD MASTER OF THE ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL,
AND
SENIOR FELLOW OF TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE paternal and patriotic manner in which you have endeavoured to restore to the Foundation Boys of the Rochester Cathedral Grammar School their proper share in the revenues of the Collegiate Body of that City, must be a source of great gratification to all those who are interested in the just appropriation of Educational Trust Funds.

Imbued with a profound admiration of your endeavours, I feel the greatest pleasure in being permitted to dedicate to you this HISTORY OF THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS OF THE COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

I am aware that there are some books of reference in connexion with this subject before the public; but they are so meagre and unsatisfactory, that I considered there was need of a closer and more lengthened inquiry into the whole matter, so as to place it in the proper light before the well-wishers of the rising and future generations.

From the valuable aid afforded me, by the use of various books and documents lent me by several influential individuals, I trust I have been enabled to produce an acceptable and useful addition to the historical literature of Worcestershire.

The trouble and research requisite for completing a work, the materials for which are scattered over so wide a field, and often difficult to procure, must to you, Sir, be well known; for your writings give ample evidence of the pains and the toil you must have undergone, so as to place before the public the perversions and non-fulfilment of the various Cathedral Trusts of this kingdom.

You have therein proved, unequivocally, how the trees of knowledge—planted in Cathedrals by pious hands and hearts—have been stripped of their fruit by those who were already surfeited, and who left nothing but the leaves and bark for the rightful inheritors; or, in other words, how the poor boys, to whom education would have proved such an enduring feast, have been starved on sterile plains, while Cathedral Dignitaries, have been luxuriating for many years, on the rich pastures provided by the munificence of our ancestors, for the children of other and poorer men.

Facts are now fully established, showing that the benefits intended for

Cathedral Scholars have, with few exceptions, been taken from the legitimate claimants, and lavished upon those who, from their position and profession, ought to have been the first to have maintained their proper uses.

May your great exertions and laudable desires end in the full accomplishment of justice, which will be an ample reward for your labours; and may you live to see the total removal of those abuses, to the correction of which so much of your valuable life has been already devoted.

Allow me, Sir, in conclusion, also to express a hope, that the battle in which you have been engaged on behalf of the boys of Rochester, and the contest which the inhabitants of Kidderminster have sustained on behalf of the boys of their School, may be the Pioneers of a successful reformation of the abuses and perversions, which have, in so many cases, disgraced those noble institutions—the Endowed Schools of England, Ireland, and Wales.

I beg to remain,

My dear Sir,

Yours most faithfully,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Kidderminster,

1st May, 1852.

I have great pleasure in adding here, that Mr. Whiston's valuable work, "Cathedral Trusts and their Fulfilment," has run through five editions.

The costs of his three trials and the loss of salary, amounted to about £1700; to meet this, subscriptions of £2000 were raised in England, and £140 in Tasmania, of which Manchester alone contributed about £520. The balance, beyond the expenses, was laid out in the purchase of a very handsome presentation of plate, made to Mr. Whiston.

The Dean and Chapter of Rochester were very wroth with Mr. Whiston, and although they were professed preachers of the Gospel, they took a most spiteful course against him. They suspended him from his office of schoolmaster, which lasted for three years, but having failed in their action of ejection as to his occupying the school premises, he kept possession of them.

Nevertheless, they elected another schoolmaster, placed him in another school-room, (where they ordered the twenty foundation

school boys to attend) and paid him the salary that Mr. Whiston used to receive.

In the mean-time, Mr. Whiston taught his private scholars in the old school, and carried on his trials against the Dean and Chapter.

But to the success in raising a subscription must be added the much greater success obtained for the foundation boys by Mr. Whiston.

When he first drew the attention of the Dean and Chapter to the boys stipends, they were only paid £2 13s. 4d. each, per annum, as originally in the time of Henry VIII., and only £5 per annum each, for the four University exhibitions, but on his restoration to the office of schoolmaster, they were paid £16 13s. 4d. each, for stipend, and £31 10s. each, for an exhibition annually, and in consequence of subsequent applications to the Dean and Chapter, *pressed upon them by him* in 1863, they were again raised to the amounts of £21 13s. 4d. for each stipend, (with free education) and £41 10s. for each exhibition.

I must not omit to state here, that the Dean and Chapter conferred a fat living upon the schoolmaster appointed by them, as a satisfaction for his being obliged to vacate his office, when judgment was given in favour of Mr. Whiston.

This was indeed a victory, and the results should be well considered by the schoolmasters attached to the other Cathedral schools, where the stipends and exhibitions are kept down to the amounts paid originally in the reign of Henry VIII.

Of course very few can be found who would contest the matter with the spirit that Mr. Whiston did; but were all the Cathedral schoolmasters in England and Wales to petition both Houses of Parliament, to pass an Act for Cathedral school reform, success would certainly follow.

My volume contained the history of some hundred endowed schools in Worcestershire; an appendix; a statistical chart of the schools, embracing the number of the scholars, the amounts of the school incomes, and the fees paid by the scholars; also

a list of the extra privileges possessed by some of the schools and schoolmasters.

The number of pages in the preface and introduction was twenty-two, and of the history and appendix, four hundred and sixty two.

In my preface I laid down the following twenty-two propositions, from which I have never deviated; and I am proud to say that in the "Schools Inquiry Commissioners' Report," published in 1868, they have adopted no less than ten of them:—

That the Court of Chancery shall cease to be the guardian of all educational trusts.

That the trustees shall be elected in the same manner as town-councillors are, and their chairman by the trustees.

That the education of the scholars in each school shall be in accordance with the wants of the locality, the requirements of the age, and the abilities of the scholars.

That the boys shall belong to the class and place of residence contemplated by the founder.

That there shall be a County Board, consisting of one trustee from each school in the county, whose revenues or payments to schoolmasters amount to £50 per annum or more, and that they shall meet annually in the most central town in the county.

That each member of the County Board shall be elected by the votes of the body of which he is a member.

That the property of each school shall be invested in its own trustees.

That there shall be an auditor appointed by a majority of the votes of this Board, who shall be furnished by each trust with an annual account of its receipts and disbursements, one month before the successive annual meetings of the Board, in order that he shall examine and then produce them at the general annual meeting.

That the accounts shall be published once every second year in the county newspapers, and posted every half-year on the doors of all churches and chapels in each place where a school exists.

That all complaints of the inhabitants by deputation shall be heard by the County Board at their annual meetings, as to the mismanagement or the desired improvement of any of the schools.

That an appeal shall be granted from their decisions, to trial by special jury at the next ensuing assizes, which shall be final.

That when the funds are sufficient to remunerate the number of masters required by the schools, no boarders shall be allowed.

That all schoolmasters shall be subject to six months' notice from the trustees to give up their office.

That special visitors shall no longer be recognised or allowed to visit the schools.

That the trustees shall be empowered to sell, as well as exchange, trust properties, subject to the ratification of the County Board at its next annual meeting.

That all transactions shall be put to the vote at the annual meetings of the County Board, and a majority of those assembled shall be empowered to ratify them.

That the exhibitions, scholarships, fellowships, and prizes shall be confined to foundation boys alone, unless ordered otherwise by the founder.

That the County Board shall carry on its transactions in open court.

That no clergyman shall be a trustee or member of the County Board, as their parochial duties would be thereby materially interfered with.

That the Board shall appoint a chairman every year when they meet, who shall have the power to give a casting vote if necessary.

That all new rules or alterations shall be published in the county papers.

That the expenses incurred by such meetings, auditorship and publications, shall be paid by the rate of one penny in the pound, to be levied upon the school rents, where those rents in any single case amount to £50 per annum or upwards.

On the publication of the first number, the following flattering reviews, amongst many others that I have not preserved, appeared :—

“Mr Griffith has here commenced the placing, in an enduring form, the store of information which he has acquired on the history and condition of Educational Charities in Worcestershire, and which he has hitherto disseminated from the platform. Such a body of information must be interesting at all events, and, indeed, should be so much prized that a copy of it ought to be found in every house where children are born, and on whose parents falls the heavy responsibility of preparing the plastic mind to perform the part assigned to it. To a conscientious parent no subject can appear of more importance than the education of children, and to him Mr. Griffith's book must possess much attraction; but to no class or order of men can it be uninteresting, seeing that the mental state and condition of all is materially effected by all, and the mental condition of the Peasant, to a certain extent, determines that of the Peer.” — *Worcester Herald*, May 15th, 1852.

“We have received the first of a series of monthly numbers upon the ‘Free Schools of Worcestershire,’ published under the auspices of Mr. George Griffith, of Kidderminster, who it must be well known to our readers, has taken a great interest of late years on the subject of ‘Free Schools’ throughout the country. Such publicity will greatly assist the Government in any efforts it may make to cure the abuses which have crept into most of these generally ancient charities; for it must be remembered that a Government now-a-days requires great popular support, ‘judicious bottle-holding,’ as Lord Palmerston would say, before it can overcome the difficulties of legislation against *long-established abuses*, which frequently, from the mere lapse of time, are looked upon by the persons who enjoy the fruits of them simply as *long established rights*. We commend Mr. Griffith’s work to the serious notice of all who value the advantages which may be derived from a strict fulfilment in the present day of the objects of the founders of Free Schools in the past.”—*Worcester Journal* May 13th, 1852.

As the Work progressed, many others appeared in the London and provincial press, such as the following:—

“This appears to be a work designed to give the history and present state of all the charitable endowments for purposes of education in England, Wales, and Ireland. The project is one of great public utility. In spite of the labours of the Rev. Mr. Whiston, and the Reports of the Charity Commissioners, the public generally are but very indifferently informed as to the object of these ancient endowments, the extent of their present revenues, and the grossness of abuse under which their managements labour. To insure popular attention to these matters is to go a long way towards their reformation. The Rochester controversy has done much to open men’s eyes. But most of these corporations have become so close and secret, that it is not easy for the ordinary residents of a town to get at enough knowledge of their doings to denounce the wrong from which they, in common with the whole community, suffer. What is wanting, therefore, is, a compact and comprehensive account of the educational foundations in each county, written by an impartial inquirer, whose sole purpose is to learn the real facts, and state them clearly: and this work, so far as we can judge by a single specimen, promises fairly to supply the want. Mr. Griffith’s plan, as described by himself, is, to take the Parliamentary Reports as his basis, to buttress these with whatever he can find for his purpose in county and local histories, and educational registers; and to consolidate and complete the whole by a personal inspection of each school; and, where this is possible, an original examination of the documents of the case. So far, the method of the work appears satisfactory: and this opinion may be

fairly extended to the execution of the part now before us."—*Athenæum*, August, 28th, 1852.

"The whole question of free schools is in a fair way of being dealt with. Mr. Griffith, of Kidderminster, is closely examining into those of Worcestershire. If his statements be well founded, there is ample room for reform. We cite an instance in Bromsgrove school, richly legacied by Cookes, the founder of Worcester College, Oxford. Sir Thomas Cookes bequeathed advantages on certain poor scholars at this school, which it would seem are now open only to the private students of the master."—*Church and State Gazette*, Sept. 10th, 1852.

"THE FREE SCHOOLS OF WORCESTERSHIRE.—The number for August, and a double number for September of this useful work, have just come to hand. They include the free schools of this county from the letter D to K; and we can assert, with reference to the publication, that it will, when complete, constitute a monument to Mr. Griffith's energy, perseverance, and love of justice. All persons, whatsoever, who feel an interest in putting down the shameful abuses which exist in so many of our towns under the name of 'Free Schools,' should purchase this book."—*Worcestershire Chronicle*, Sept. 22nd, 1852.

"This, the concluding part of a most useful work, is illustrated by engraved views of the Kidderminster Grammar School and Alderman Deacle's School, Bengeworth, Evesham, and a chart of the endowed schools of the county, which, as material for reference, is exceedingly valuable. All the friends of education and fair-play should read the work, and especially the preface."—*Worcestershire Chronicle*, Nov. 17th, 1852.

These reviews coming mostly from editors with whom I was not acquainted, encouraged me in the pursuit of finishing the volume, although I found it a much more arduous task than I expected.

The chief cause of this was the difficulty of getting information so as to adhere to the alphabetical arrangement. I found, after the issue of the first two numbers, that I should have to write the Bromsgrove and the Worcester Cathedral School histories, and as these were the two leading misappropriations in the county, I found it very difficult to get at the facts.

As stated at pages 464 and 465, the scholarships were ordered (in case none of the twelve boys at Bromsgrove, or of the twelve at Feckenham were fit) to be thrown open to the other endowed schools in the county, and I found, in the course of my researches in Carlisle's "Endowed Schools," vol. ii., pages 770-71, that "In

the year 1814, there being a vacancy for a scholar on Sir Thomas Cookes' foundation in Worcester College, Oxford, and there being no candidate from the schools mentioned in his will, the provost elected a scholar from Rock school, as an endowed one in the county of Worcester." There were also three boys elected to the Bromsgrove scholarships at Hartlebury school, between the years 1809 and 1818; and it appears from a letter that was published in the Worcester Journal, dated July 4th, 1842, and signed "A Trustee of a Grammar School," that a *poor* boy of Bromsgrove really did succeed in getting a scholarship, and afterwards "entered into matrimonial alliances with two of the oldest aristocratical families in England, and became a rector in the county, and attained to the rank of D.D."

I was enabled, from having a copy of the "Oxford University Commission Report, Evidence, and Appendix," to enter into the hitherto unpublished expenditure of Sir Thomas Cookes' munificent gift to the free schools of the above and other places in the county. This report and appendix was but just published, (1852) and contained between 700 and 800 folio pages. The commissioners were appointed to "inquire into the state, discipline, studies, and revenues of the University and Colleges of Oxford." One of these colleges is that named Worcester, founded by Sir Thomas Cookes, for the reception, education, and maintenance of fit boys, children of people of the *meanest degree or ability*, residing in Bromsgrove, Feckenham, Worcester, Hartlebury, Kidderminster, and all other places wherein are free schools in the county of Worcester.

At the Bromsgrove meeting I showed how the intents of the founder were evaded and abused in the boys taken into that school; I propose now to show, in full, what is done at Worcester College, Oxford, with the revenues bequeathed by the pious and benevolent founder.

Worcester is the most recent of the existing colleges, and was founded at the close of the reign of Queen Anne.*

* Oxford University Report, p. 133.

Magdalene College was founded in 1457; from that time it became the custom to make two classes of members in the foundation, the one consisting of fellows, who, as a general rule, were to be graduates at the time of their election, the other of persons usually elected as undergraduates. An approach to this in the earlier colleges is to be found in the institution of poor boys at Queen's, the scholarships in all colleges being nurseries to the fellowships; yet the scholars (although usually members of the foundation) are excluded from the administration of the college property and business, and from a share in elections.

The duty of the fellows, as such, was not to teach, but to *learn*; hence they were originally called scholars, afterwards *socii*, or fellows; the first designation indicating the original purpose of the founders—the second, their connexion with the community; in some, the word “*scholares*” is still applied to fellows; but, ultimately, “*fellow*” became the designation of the members of the governing body, while “*scholars*” was appropriated to the members of the subordinate foundations for younger students, which, in most of the recent colleges, have been appended to the governing body.

Such are the “*inhabiters*” of colleges; and the colleges are said, by good authority, to be “*charitable foundations for the support of poor scholars, with perpetual succession, devoting themselves to study and prayer—and in the eye of the law, eleemosynary foundations, designed to supply poor students, so long as they were poor, and so long as they were students, but no longer, with a maintenance decent and honest, but of a very frugal character.*”*

Colleges were founded from motives of charity—in that of William Wykeham, next to his kinsmen, “*poor indigent clerks are to be admitted, because Christ, among the works of mercy, hath commanded men to receive the poor into their houses, and mercifully to comfort the indigent.*” In Queen's, the fellows are forbidden to keep dogs, on the ground that “*to give to dogs the bread of the children of men is not fitting for the poor, especially*

* Oxford University Commission Report, p. 136, and the Statutes of New College.

for those who live on alms." Those to be elected are defined in the several colleges as "pauperes," "magis pauperes," pauperes ex eleemosyna viventes," "pauperes et indigentes," "sustentatione indigentes," ex pauperioribus."

It was objected, in the letter signed "Verax," as to Bromsgrove (see pages 462-3 *ante*), that the kindred of the founder were, in some cases, boys of wealth and station; but it is a sufficient answer to this, that most of the founders were men of humble origin, who had risen to high rank in the church, and that by founding colleges they took, as some of themselves say in their statutes, from their kinsmen what would in the ordinary course of things have been theirs, and so left them in poverty, *and in need of such succour as a college afforded.* Gentle birth is often the companion of poverty, and, as such, would not be precluded from these foundations; and Archbishop Peckham, as visitor of Merton College in 1284, said to that society, "Ye ought only to have received the indigent, as ye have no liberty to receive such as have sufficient to provide for their own necessities:"* and in the case of Worcester College, the *division of a surplus* among the head and fellows is expressly forbidden in its statutes.

It is not surprising, with these views as to the qualifications of fellows, that Sir Thomas Cookes should have given a preference to his native county; and, doubtless, poor persons with sufficient capacity could be obtained to receive instruction in this as well as in any other way; and that he intended to provide for those only who could not obtain a subsistence without forsaking their studies, is quite clear.

Strange to say, the code of statutes, drawn up for the regulation of Worcester College by Sir Thomas Cookes himself, gave way, within twenty years after his death, to statutes framed by the trustees;† but colleges and trustees have legally no such power—it requires the *joint consent* of the college, the founder's heir, and of the Crown, to alter the founder's statutes; and it is evidently

* Merton College Regulations, chap. xi.

† Oxford University Commission Report, p. 148.

dishonest that wealthy men's sons should claim the fellowships, as they were founded for the indigent.

Although the founder's kin were of course, so much the worse in property for such a foundation, we see he admitted them to the preference therein as an inheritable right, although perpetual entails (which these certainly are) be not permitted in this country. Property very seldom remains in any one family for more than two centuries; yet, in these kin foundations, they not only do so for ever, but they are inheritable to the most distant kin of the founder, equally with the nearest.*

The evils of Bromsgrove, as at present constituted, have not been overlooked by the Oxford University Commission, as they recommended (p. 177) that, "If two scholarships in Worcester College were offered yearly to all schools in the county of Worcester, the college would find the commutation an advantageous one, and the number of scholarships should be increased."

It will be interesting here to my readers to give the history of Worcester College, as found in pp. 252-3-4 of the Oxford University Commission Report, 1852. It seems that the commissioners applied to the bishop and the provost of Worcester College in the usual way, as follows:—

Downing-street, October 21, 1850.

"Her Majesty's Commissioners for inquiring into the state, discipline, studies, and revenues of the university and colleges of Oxford, have the honour to enclose a copy of the commission under which they act, and beg to express a hope that you will assist them in executing her Majesty's commands, by furnishing such information as may lie within your power.

"S. NORWICH."

To this the bishop replied as follows:—

Hartlebury Castle, near Stourport, October 27, 1850.

"MY DEAR LORD,—I have received an official letter from you, as chairman of the Oxford commission, requesting that I would co-operate with the

* At Wadham College, claims have been admitted in cases where the connexion between the founder and the applicant was through a common ancestor, who had died three centuries before the foundation of the college; and in one case it has been endeavoured to trace consanguinity and kin through the medium of a Saxon king.

said commission through my authority as joint visitor of Worcester College. It is hardly necessary that I should assure you that I will do so with pleasure, although I am not at present aware in what way my authority, as joint visitor of Worcester College, can be exercised for the advantage of the commission.

“I am, my dear lord, yours faithfully,

“*The Lord Bishop of Norwich.*”

“H. WORCESTER.”

But the provost, either not understanding clearly the purport of the letter, or disliking such troublesome inquiries, or being, perhaps, of a very retiring disposition, replied as follows:—

“*Worcester College, October 30, 1850.*”

“MY LORD,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of a letter from your lordship, accompanied by a copy of her Majesty’s commission for inquiring into the state of the university of Oxford.

“I have the honour to be, my lord,

“Your lordship’s obedient servant,

“R. E. COTTON,

“*Provost of Worcester College.*”

“*The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Norwich.*”

So far the Commissioners were foiled, but they inquired elsewhere, and here is the result. They say, “From this college we have received no evidence; but a copy of the statutes has been presented to us by a gentleman who had purchased them from a bookseller. We have caused it to be printed.

“Worcester College was founded, like Trinity and St. John’s, on the site of an ancient monastic college. This ancient institution was known by the name of Gloucester College, because it belonged to the Benedictine monks of that city. On the dissolution of monasteries, Gloucester College passed through various hands before it was appropriated to its present purposes. First, it was seized by King Henry VIII.; then it was granted by him as a palace to the new bishop of Oxford; in a few years it was conveyed back again by the bishop to the Crown; next, it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to a private individual; then it was sold to Sir Thomas White, founder of St. John’s College, and became a hall with a principal and scholars attached to that college, the principal being always a fellow of St. John’s, elected by the

college and admitted by the chancellor. During the chancellorship of the Earl of Leicester, the admission by the chancellor was changed into a nomination, and the connexion with St. John's College was broken. Lastly, in 1701, Sir Thomas Cookes, a Worcestershire baronet, left by will the sum of £10,000, in the disposal of the archbishop of Canterbury, the bishops of Worcester, Oxford, Lichfield, and Gloucester, the vice-chancellor and heads of houses for the time being, to erect an ornamental pile of building, with fellowships and scholarships, or otherwise to endow some existing college or hall with fellowships and scholarships. The sum accumulated to £15,000, and the trustees having purchased Gloucester Hall (or St. John the Baptist's Hall), it became a college, and was incorporated under the name of Worcester College, by letters patent of Queen Anne, July 14, 1714.

“The provost was to be appointed from the fellows by the chancellor, who thus retained his patronage of the hall. The fellows were to be elected from the scholars, the scholars from the schools of Bromsgrove or Feckenham, or, in default of fit and able candidates (*apti, habiles et idonei*) from the Cathedral School of Worcester, from the schools of Hartlebury or Kidderminster, or, these failing, from any school in Worcestershire; always, however, with a first preference to the founder's kin, and a second to those who had been educated for two years in the schools founded by him. These scholars are to be elected fellows after four years, but they must undergo a previous examination. They are forbidden to marry, and must take orders within four years from their degree of M.A., and priest's orders a year after their first ordination, with the exception of two, who may study medicine or civil law. The fellowships are to be vacated by marriage, by property double the value of the fellowship, or by a benefice, with or without cure of souls, if above the value of ten pounds in the king's books. The elections and examinations of scholars are to be conducted at the respective schools, with the assistance of the ministers in whose parishes the schools are situated.

“The provost is to have £80 a year, paid quarterly. The fellows and scholars are to have four-pence a day for commons,

two-pence a day for bread and drink ; each fellow receiving besides £30 a year, and each scholar, £13 6s. 8d. If the revenues of the college decrease, these stipends are to be proportionately reduced. If there is any surplus, after the payment of the stipends of the fellows and those of the college officers, it is to be set aside for the repairs and public uses of the college ; never to be applied to private uses.

“The college officers are, a vice-provost, a dean, a bursar, and moderators. There are to be three college servants,—a cook, a butler, and a porter ; the first two are to have £8 ; the last, £6 a year.

“Divine service, according to the Liturgy, is to be celebrated on Sundays, holidays, and the vigils, between 7 and 9 a.m., and between 4 and 5 p.m., except in winter, when it may be celebrated at 3 p.m. At these services all members of the college are to be present. On all other days, there is to be divine service at 9 p.m., and the Litany is to be read on Wednesdays and Fridays, between 10 and 11 a.m. Instead of the morning service there is to be a short form of prayer in Latin, according to the use of St. John’s College, at 6 a.m., except in winter, when it may be read at 7 a.m. ; and on Thursdays, when it may be read at 8 a.m.

“No member of the college may be absent without the permission of the provost or vice-provost, or senior fellow. The fellows are not to be absent for more than four continuous months, nor the scholars for more than two continuous months, without ‘a great and just cause,’ to be approved by the provost and three senior fellows. The fellows are not to sleep more than two in a room.

“Examinations, declamations, and disputations are to be required from bachelors and undergraduates, at which all members of the college are to be present ; especially before the responsions and degrees.

“The college gates are to be shut before 10 p.m., and the keys given to the provost or vice-provost.

“The provost is charged with the care of enforcing the statutes which are once a year to be read publicly, and a copy of which is

to be exposed to public view in the library. The provost is to administer an oath to the scholars and fellows, to observe the statutes, and promote the advantage of the college. The bishops of Worcester and Oxford, with the vice-chancellor, according to the founder's express desire, are to visit the college.

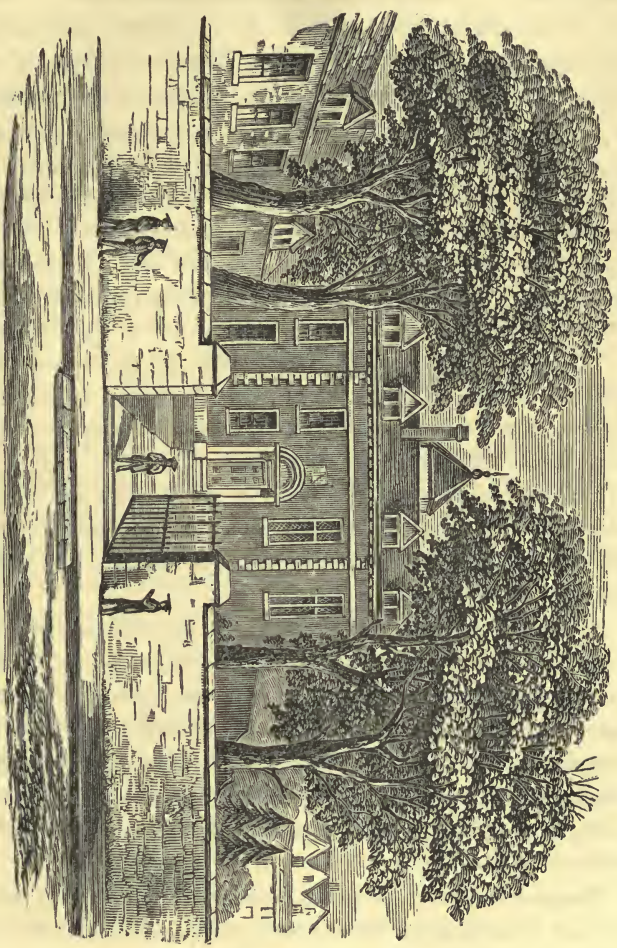
"We have given these provisions at some length, because, with the exception of a body of statutes granted by King George II. to University College, this is the latest of the college codes.

"It is remarkable that two previous codes for this college had been drawn up by the founder himself, of which one was incorporated into the original charter of the college, granted by King William III.; the other exists in MS., in the Bodleian Library. These statutes were superseded by the present code, which was drawn up by the trustees, *notwithstanding that the founder had reserved to himself alone the power of alteration.* The older statutes on the whole, resemble those now in force, though with some important differences.

"The founder provided for the instruction of the students, which is nowhere mentioned in the present statutes. The six senior fellows were to be tutors and lecturers. The six juniors were to associate on familiar terms with the better class of students, to talk and walk with them, and to obtain influence over them. The lectures were to extend over a wide range in theology, history, mathematics, philosophy, philology, Hebrew, Oriental languages, anatomy, chemistry, botany. The Liturgy was to be read in English, Latin, or Greek, according to the discretion of the provost. The Eucharist was to be celebrated once a term, besides the great festivals, and all above the age of fifteen were to attend. The Scriptures were to be read in Latin, Greek, or Hebrew. The statutes were to be *inviolable for ever.*

"According to the copy of these statutes in the Bodleian Library, the chancellor of the university is to be visitor; but in those incorporated in the charter of King William III., the bishop of Worcester is to be visitor, jointly with the bishop of Oxford.

"Various benefactions have been left subsequently to the foundation of the college. Dr. Finney left two fellowships of



BROMSGROVE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

£40, and two scholarships of £10 each, for natives of the moorlands of Staffordshire, or, in default of fit candidates, for natives of Staffordshire generally, and ultimately for the diocese of Durham. Dr. Clarke left six fellowships of £45, and three scholarships of £25 each, for natives of England. Mrs. Sarah Eaton left seven fellowships and five scholarships, for the sons of clergymen.

“The number of fellows accordingly is twenty-one; the number of scholars, sixteen. There are three exhibitors and two Bible clerks. In 1851, there were twenty-eight undergraduate commoners; eight undergraduate fellow-commoners; the total number of names on the college books was 328. There are four tutors, one of whom is at present not a fellow; and one divinity lecturer. There are nine benefices in the gift of the college.

“Of the value of the provostship and the fellowships we are ignorant. The scholarships are stated in an advertisement, inviting pupils to one of the schools connected with the college, to be worth £45 a year, with rooms.

“We recommend that the oath of the provost and fellows be abolished, that they be released from the obligation of taking orders, and from obedience to all obsolete statutes, and that they be permitted to divide the surplus.

“We are further of opinion, that the fellowships and scholarships should be severed, that the scholarships should be tenable for five years only, and that both be thrown open to competition; but that two scholarships should be offered every year to the schools of Worcestershire. We recommend, also, that the Finney fellowships should be amalgamated with the others, and that five fellowships be suppressed, in order to increase the number of scholarships.”

Thus we at last see what the magnificent prizes really are, that the rich men's sons at Bromsgrove school, when sent to college, run away with from the rightful owners—viz., the poor.

1st. The original fund was £15,000;

2nd. The provost gets £80 a year;

3rd. The fellows get £30 a year, and 6d. a day;

4th. The scholars get £13 6s. 8d. a year, and 6d. a day;

- 5th. The surplus was for the college uses ;
- 6th. Fifteen fellowships and ten scholarships left, independent of Sir Thomas Cookes' foundation ;
- 7th. Nine benefices.

If the revenues of Bromsgrove and Feckenham schools are not sufficient for the masters' salaries, why not devote part of the college surplus to their augmentation, so as to make these schools available to the sons of inhabitants, or otherwise, who could then enjoy the above plums, belonging to no one but themselves. Surely, this could be easily done ! And, if easily, 'twere well if 'twere well done, and done quickly. No defence, I humbly submit, can be offered in favour of the present unjust system, unless it be—

“ The simple plan,
That they should take who have the power,
And they should keep who can.”

It is evident, from the foregoing, that even the colleges were founded for the poor ; but the whole system carried on at the colleges shuts the poor out. With regard to the schools at Bromsgrove and Feckenham, the matter is wrong from beginning to end ; and when the boys get to college, there the same wrong system is perpetuated, by the very heavy expenses a boy's parents are put to.

In order to show the amount of expenses incurred at Worcester College, between matriculation and taking a degree, it is stated in page 23 of the Evidence, by the Rev. J. D. Colliss, head master of Bromsgrove school, in answer to the Oxford University Commissioners, that the cost of his own degree was £725 2s. 7d., the time being four years and four months, and he adds “ this is a low sum for Oxford ; I should say the usual cost of a degree is £800 at least ; to very many it is as much as £1000.”

Then the question arises, what becomes of Sir Thomas Cookes's large fund ? Nobody knows but the heads of Worcester College, and it is quite clear, from the Provost's letter at page 497, they do not mean to let any one outside know any thing about it.

The conclusion is, that were poor boys sent to college to be

provided for out of the foundation income, the provost and fellows would not be in the receipt of near so much money as they are.

Such, then, are the cases of the Worcestershire Free Schools' scholarships and fellowships, as they are, and as they ought to be.

Looking at the state of the endowed schools up to 1852, their reform called for imperative action both in and out of parliament, but the vast host of persons interested in the misappropriation of the funds belonging to these foundations, to say nothing of their powerful connections, and the parties who were desirous of confining them strictly as training schools of the Church of England alone, made the case almost hopeless.

In scholastic matters, above all, ancient customs should not perpetuate abuses. Time passes on, most things in their course improve; the rough edges are smoothed down, and day by day society learns what is required, and the necessary ameliorations take place. Our free schools, however, in many cases, are the same, producing an educational influence only by the sufferance we accord to old age. Some admire them for their antique rules, others wonder that these antique rules have not crushed them. Such trusts are not regarded as the less sacred by receiving improvement in their regulations. The donors were public benefactors; they therefore had the greatest amount of public benefit at heart; and this would be extended, were it possible they could return from their graves. Their devotion of private property to public purposes sanctions this view, and the law is bound to protect their intentions, but not to restrain them; it being manifestly against the rules of sound policy not to devote in the best possible manner, the foundations created by private munificence. To sweep away the conditions attached to gifts or bequests by an act of arbitrary power, against which the founder, mouldering in his grave, has not the means of protesting is one thing; but to retain their intentions and enlarge their scope in proportion to the wants of the day or the locality, is but to confirm the design he originally had in view. Instead of being an act of treachery to the dead, it is but making the gift

and the receiver harmoniously beneficial. The tree, planted by the founder, by these adaptations, produces a crop of fruit greater in quantity, and better in quality, than he ever could have anticipated. Thus private munificence is fostered, its intentions respected, and its superabundance judiciously promoted.

I issued the last number of the history in December. It had a good sale, and strange to say no adverse criticism appeared in either the London or the Provincial Press.

I wrote an "Address to Christmas" this year, which will not be an unacceptable close to this chapter:—

Hail! merry Christmas—hail to thee!
 Thy name gives pleasure to the soul;
 With thee comes social revelry,
 The smoking haunch, the wassail bowl.
 Around thy table gladness flies,
 Amid thy circles old friends meet;
 Once more the schoolboy eager hies,
 His mother, father, friends, to greet.

Some loudly praise the Summer's sky,
 And bask beneath the sun's bright rays;
 With thy clear stars it cannot vie,
 Nor yet surpass thy fireside blaze.
 'Tis true the Summer brings us fruit,
 But thou hast plums and currants, too,
 Which plead as rich, as sweet, a suit,
 Which equally the palate woo.

The lovers of the Spring may talk
 About the daisy and primrose;
 They through green lanes may rapt'rous walk,
 And sing to nature as she grows.
 But where are now her gaudy bowers,
 That gaily once bedeck'd the scene?
 Where are her fragile leaves and flowers?
 O'er them thy holly now is Queen.

The loaded boughs of Autumn, too,
 May cause the hearts of some to laugh ;
'Tis not from such, brown ale we brew,
 'Tis not such we in Winter quaff.
Autumnal boughs bear fruit we know,
 But Christmas boughs deserve some praise ;
What is so prized as misletoe,
 With ivy, holly, and green bays ?

Then hail to thee ! sweet Christmas, hail !
 I love thy fireside merry group,
I love thy merry chaunt and tale,
 I love thy morris-dancing troop.
I care not for the Summer's sun,
 For Autumn's fruit, or Spring's gay flowers ;
Give me thy artless fireside fun,
 Give me thy merry, happy, hours !



CHAPTER V.

“The wind blew as ’twad blawn its last ;
The rattling showr’s rose on the blast :
The speedy gleams the darkness swallow’d ;
Loud, deep, and lang, the thunder bellow’d :
That night a child might understand,
The de’il had business on his hand.”

BURNS.

From this point I resolved to place the date of each year at the beginning of the transactions embraced therein.

Having supplied all those persons who subscribed to the History in numbers, I had the remainder bound in volumes, and sent out circulars, including the opinions of the press, to my friends, far and near, soliciting orders.

Whilst the sale of the volumes went on I took a little rest, but a large number of letters reached me week after week on the question. Amongst these was one from a friend, who pressed me to write an account of my visits to the London Schools in a London paper : I took his advice and accordingly a series of letters appeared in the Daily News ; *i.e.* one letter on each particular school every week.

These letters attracted a good deal of notice, particularly in London, and in the month of May, I went up to consult Mr. Mowatt, and other influential gentlemen, on the desirability of holding a public meeting there.

It was agreed upon, and at first I fixed it for the 14th of June, at the Freemasons Tavern, Great Queen Street, but finding that some Members of Parliament could not make it convenient to attend on that evening, I postponed it to the 24th. Above all I was very anxious to get Mr. Ewart to attend on the 14th, but I could not. He wrote to me as follows :—

"6, Cambridge Square, June 8th, 1853.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have been absent for a short interval, from London; and have somewhat neglected my daily correspondence.

Unfortunately I am engaged on the 14th June.

I have promised to preside at the distribution of prizes at Bruce Castle School, an eminent establishment near London.

Any summary statement of your objects, or your case, will be valued by me.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

"George Griffith, Esq."

"W. EWART."

I then issued circulars and cards of admission to various members of the House of Commons, and other friends of education, of which the following is a copy:—

"5, Bishopsgate Street Without, London, June 20th, 1853.

SIR,—A public meeting will be held at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields, on Friday evening next, 24th, at seven o'clock, to petition the two Houses of Parliament as to the reformation of the ENDOWED schools of England, Ireland, and Wales; at which meeting the Charitable Trusts Bill, now before the House of Lords, will be considered, and resolutions adopted thereupon. William Ewart, Esq., M.P., will take the chair.

Your attendance will be esteemed a favour by,

Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Joseph Hume, Esq., M.P., James Heywood, Esq., M.P., Sir T. E. Winington, Bart., M.P., Edward Miall, Esq., M.P., Samuel Morley, Esq., F. Mowatt, Esq., Charles Gilpin, Esq., Rev. J. H. Hinton, are expected to attend.

Mr. James Heywood, M.P., wrote a letter to me after receiving the circular, saying he could not attend.

Upon receiving this I wrote to him and pressed him to attend; to this he replied as follows:—

"5, Eaton Place, June 23rd, 1853.

DEAR SIR,—I shall endeavour to attend the meeting to-morrow evening, before seven o'clock, at the Freemasons' Tavern, on the Reformation of the Endowed Schools of England, Wales, and Ireland.

Yours sincerely,

"To G. Griffith, Esq."

JAMES HEYWOOD.

The meeting was well attended; there were seven members of Parliament and many friends of education on the platform. Resolutions were passed, and a committee was appointed to carry out the objects discussed.

After this meeting I left the arrangements in the hands of the London committee.

On the 21st of July I received the following letter from Mr. James Heywood:—

“5, Eaton Place, London, July 21st, 1853.

DEAR SIR,—I have seen Mr. Ewart, M.P., since I heard from you, and we are both desirous to see a copy of the resolutions passed at the public meeting at the Freemasons' Tavern, about the reformation of endowed schools. I am going out of town for a week, to-morrow morning, but after that time, if there should be a meeting of the committee which was appointed at the meeting, I will try to attend it, and I should advise you to confer with the committee about the form of the memorial and petition, as I believe, that the committee may decide on these forms.

Yours sincerely,

“To G. Griffith, Esq.”

JAMES HEYWOOD.

On the first of November I was re-elected as a Town Councillor with Mr. Samuel Fawcett, and Mr. George Holloway, for the North Ward.

It being represented to me by a member of the “London school committee,” that a popularly written work on the mismanagement of endowed schools, would aid the cause, I resolved to write one.

The title was the “Life and Adventures of George Wilson, a Foundation Scholar,” in which I introduced some of the Kidderminster school transactions, and the state of the Birmingham school when I was a boy. I also included a long account of the Continental schools by way of contrast, condensed from a Work called “The Condition and Education of Poor Children in English, and German towns,” by Mr. Joseph Kay, one of the gentlemen who attended the meeting at Manchester, on January 27th, in the previous year, as recorded at page 455.

The chief point in this book was, that I represented some of

the parties to the Kidderminster proceedings, as having done what they ought to have done, and not what they did do.

The preface to the book was dated November 5th, 1853, but it did not appear until January, 1854. In the book I introduced an idiot boy, for the purpose of shewing the possibility of educating such, and, strange to say, the *Daily News* in its review, pronounced this character to be one of the best in the volume.

I did not forget to give a full account of the vice-chancellor's conduct, in giving such an unjust judgment in the Kidderminster case, and I took care to send him a copy of the book, per post, on the day it was published.

The dedication was as follows :—

TO
THE MIDDLE AND THE WORKING CLASSES
OF
ENGLAND, IRELAND, AND WALES,
THE FOLLOWING WORK
IS SINCERELY DEDICATED,
IN THE HOPE OF
AROUSING THEIR ATTENTION
TO THE GREAT LOSSES THEY SUSTAIN
BY THE SYSTEM
UNDER WHICH
THE ENDOWED SCHOOLS OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
ARE AT PRESENT CONDUCTED,
BELIEVING THAT
UNTIL
THE MIDDLE AND THE WORKING CLASSES
DEMAND WITH ONE VOICE
THEIR REFORMATION,
THIS GREAT EVIL WILL NEVER BE CURED.

The people of Droitwich having often expressed their desire to have a corn market established there, and some millers, maltsters, and corn dealers having been consulted, it was resolved to have the first market held on November the 13th.

Mr. Bodington, of Birmingham, bought the first sample of wheat that was offered in the market room, (the assembly room in the George Hotel.)

There was, of course, an opening dinner held on the first market day, at which Sir J. S. Pakington, M.P., was chairman, and H. F. Fardon, Esq., was vice-chairman.

For the first three months the market was well attended, but it dropped off afterwards, under the influence, it was averred, of the farmers' wives, who preferred Worcester or Bromsgrove, where the drapers' shops had a better variety of goods for sale.

The consequence was, that as the farmers became fewer, the millers and dealers gave up attending. The falling off of a proper supply of grain was a great pity, as the town stood in a good agricultural district, and had the advantages of a canal and a railway. The market was discontinued at midsummer, 1854.

The name of the town is accounted for thus :—Droit means legal, or allowed, and Wich means, salt pit. The word wich is generally found to form part of the name of any town where salt is produced.

Having read in Nash's history of Worcestershire, a strange account of a church, standing, in past times, on, or rather across the bridge, that spanned the Salwarpe brook at Droitwich, I thought it would not be out of place to write a narrative to illustrate such a singular fact.

At page 329, volume 1, of his history of Worcestershire, Nash states "There was formerly dependent on this Church (the Parish Church of Droitwich) a Chapel, erected on the bridge in Droitwich, and through the middle of the Chapel passed the high road leading to Bromsgrove; the reading desk and pulpit being on one side of the road, and the congregation sitting on the other." The bridge is still known as the chapel bridge.

In Ayscough's catalogue it is recorded, that the vehicles went through the stream, and the foot passengers through the chapel, during divine service. It was removed about the year 1760. I made these statements the foundation for my narrative, which I styled "Thomas Thrift, the Droitwich dealer."

When I published the first edition of this poem in 1853, I sent a copy to Sir J. S. Pakington, of Westwood House, near Droitwich; and when I resolved to publish the second edition, I requested him to allow me to dedicate it to him, which he consented to in a very complimentary reply. The dedication was as follows:—

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE SIR J. S. PAKINGTON,
BART., M.P.

SIR,

To dedicate such a trifle as the following adventure of Thomas Thrift to you will to many seem presumptuous, knowing that your time is so filled up with grave matters of legislation; yet I am sure that I shall not be censured by any of those who may have read the *History of Worcestershire* by Nash, wherein we find that the Pakington family have always taken an interest in County as well as National matters—both small as well as great.

Nash records that “Dr. Hammond, and Bishops Morley, Fell, Gunning, and others, always met with hospitable entertainment at Westwood during the troubles of the kingdom, and that, in concert with some of them, the ‘good Lady Pakington’ is supposed to have written the ‘Whole Duty of Man.’”

He also tells us that Westwood often afforded an asylum to learned men, as may be further proved by reference to the preface to Dr. Hicckes’s “Thesaurus,” the greater part of which work was written there.

It is quite clear that your ancestors were of very active minds, and that thereby they were appointed to many high offices—amongst which may be recalled as follows:—

In 1380, a Pakington was Secretary to the Black Prince;—in Henry VIII.’s reign, another had a grant from that monarch to wear his hat in his presence;—another, who was murdered in 1537, was M.P. for the Metropolis;—another was Privy Councillor to Queen Elizabeth;—and another, who was born in 1671, was elected member for his native county, at the early age of 19.

Seeing these examples, it is not to be wondered at that you have reached the high position of Secretary of State, and Privy Councillor, through the exercise of great talents and unceasing activity of mind, and yet amidst your Parliamentary requirements, you have found time to be one of the foremost promoters of every thing tending to improve the mental and bodily condition, of the people of Droitwich and its neighbourhood.

I trust, therefore, you will permit me to dedicate this scrap to you, as no one admires your zeal and ability more than

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

THE HISTORY OF THE MATTER.

The "Chapel on the Bridge" had no other name, and Nash states that "in the windows were the arms of Beauchamp, Le Despenser, Ruding, &c.," and also that "The Commissioners of the Turnpike Roads obtained leave from the Patron and Incumbent of St. Peter's to remove it, on condition of building a new one on some adjoining spot;—this they did about the year, 1763, but the building was so ill executed that it is almost in ruins already."—*Nash*, pp. 329 and 330.

THE FICTION OF THE MATTER.

The adventure of Thrift is of course imaginary, yet I am persuaded that many members of the Corn Trade will, from their own experience, bear witness to the probability of it.

I fear that the chorus of a favourite song,

"Worcestershire ale, my boys, Worcestershire ale,
No liquor on earth is like Worcestershire ale."

was the principal cause of Thrift's stopping so long after the Fair at Worcester.

Malt liquor is a servant good
When used in moderation,
But if you grant it masterhood,
'Twill bring you to prostration.
Pale Wor'stershire is not excelled
From Bristol to old Chester,
And ever since the flood* has held
The name of Father Wor'ster.

The barley grows with modest head,
The hop is all ambition,
But when in barrels they are wed
The mixture is perfection.

* This has no reference to the Deluge, but to the first flood on the river Severn, and when that was, it is impossible to say.

Hail to thee, Wor'stershire ! a draught
 Of thee, in heat or cold,
 Gives wisdom to the veriest daft—
 Converts to youth the old—
 Grants to the tongue-tied fluent speech—
 Sight to the hapless blind—
 Makes grovelling spirits heavenward reach—
 And fires the dullest mind !
 Sad misery's sons forget their grief,
 Each love-lorn swain his pain,
 And e'en the aged find relief,
 When subject to thy reign.

In ancient days 'fore rails were made,
 And coaches were but few,—
 When waggons and canals the trade
 Of carrying, snail-like, drew,
 There dwelt at Droitwich, Thrift, whom trade
 To markets oft did call :
 He dealt in hops, and malt, too, made ;
 Sold seeds both great and small—
 Day after day his life ran on,
 By health and plenty crowned :
 The rising and the setting sun
 Kept not a surer round.

But, truth to say, the longest lane
 A sudden turn oft takes ;
 The brightest day has heaviest rain,
 The straightest tree oft breaks :
 Then why should man's most model ways
 From change be thought exempt,
 Who struggles on in life's mad maze,
 With every thing to tempt ?
 Truly his paths are oft beset
 With troubles and mistakes,
 But mostly his own faults beget
 The misery he makes.

At Wor'ster hop fair, worthy Thrift
 Enjoyed the evening hours ;

Hops were advancing—quite a gift
Had fallen in golden showers.—
Thrift was amongst the lucky few
Who bought before the rise,
What wonder, then, if evil view
Had fled from 'fore his eyes?
Hour after hour passed on, and still
Thrift sat in clouds of smoke;
Anon the empty glass he'd fill,
Anon he'd laugh and joke.

At last the hour of ten struck out
Upon his startled ear,
Bringing to mind his homeward route,
His wife and homely cheer.
Soon on his well-known chesnut cob
He threw his staggering form,
Nor dreamt of those who travellers rob,
Nor of the threatening storm.—

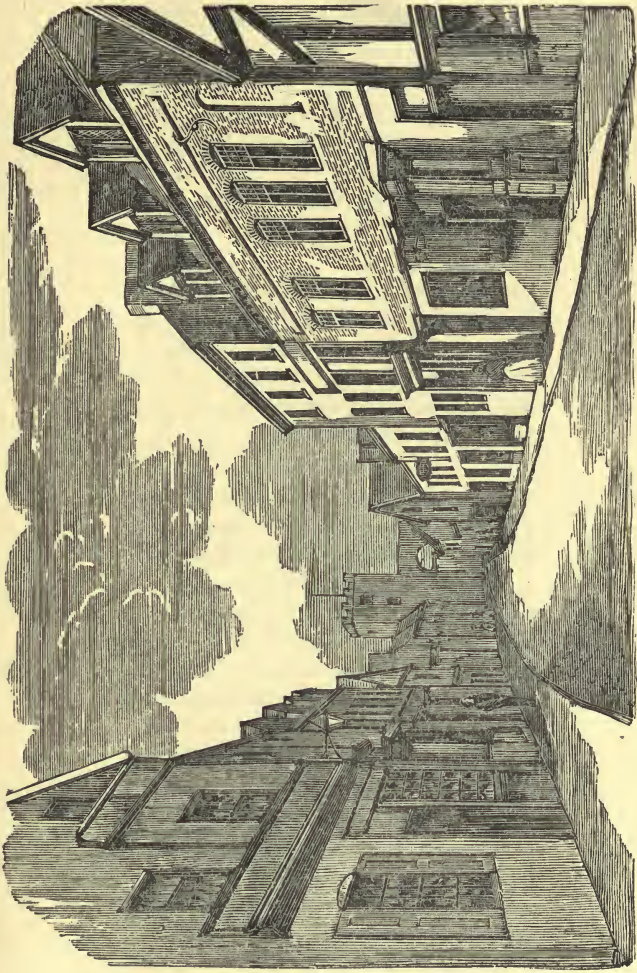
Happy in mind, elate with joy,
Nor caring where to roam;
In age a man, in hopes a boy,
The drunkard oft rides home.
Heedless of milestones, or of time,
Of business, or of pelf:
Chaunting aloud some ballad rhyme,
Or talking to himself.

Thus Thrift jogged on, lost to all sense
Of the impending rain,
Which from the clouds, now gathering dense,
Began to drench the plain.
Midnight was nigh ere he had passed
The turnpike's well-known bar,
The thunder roll'd, the lightning flashed,
In fierce and furious war.
Dripping and breathless man and horse
Both struggled in the strife,
And Thrift began to feel remorse,
And think upon his wife.

"Alas," he cried, "so late to roam—
 Alas, my love for ale!
 If I but once can reach my home,
 No more shall drink prevail.
 Think how my Janet's heart doth quake
 To know I'm out so late;
 Alas! I fear thro' grief 'twill break
 And blight my luckless fate."

Janet, his wife, of course could not
 Imagine why he stayed;
 Anon she blamed the marriage lot,
 Anon for Thrift she prayed.
 "To think," she cried, "how many years
 We've married been and lived,
 And that he never caused my tears
 To flow, nor my heart grieved!
 Oh, weary day when woman's heart
 Gives way to man's address;
 Oh, foolish woman e'er to part
 With single blessedness!
 Oh! what a storm! I wish he'd come—
 Oh, unpropitious day!
 I wish he was but safe at home—
 See how the lightnings play!"
 And thus she mixed up love and blame;
 Alternate frowned and sighed;
 Wished she had never changed her name,
 But had unmarried died.

Now Janet was a frugal wife,
 As frugal as could be;
 Unblemished in her name and life
 And truth's simplicity:
 But yet that deadly sword she used—
 The tongue—without remorse,
 Whene'er she fancied Thrift abused
 The duties of life's course.
 "Patience is patience," she would cry,
 "Poor women want it worst,
 I wonder what he'd say if I
 For ale had such a thirst!



DROITWICH.

I'll never go to bed indeed,
 Until he comes—I'm sure ;
 It makes my broken heart to bleed—
 This life I can't endure.
 I wonder I have lived so long—
 I wish 'fore I was wed
 I had been buried with the throng
 That fills the churchyard bed,
 I wish he'd come—oh dear, how late !
 Surely he's lost his way ;
 A married woman's changeful fate
 Brings trouble every day !"

Oh Thrift ! oh Thrift ! did'st thou but know
 That drinking caused thy wife such woe,
 Thou would'st have left the ale behind,
 And thought of Janet ever kind ;
 Such want of love is sure to be
 The cause of deepest misery !

Thrift now had reached the bridge that strides
 Across the Salwarpe's modest tides,
 Where the old chapel kept the way,
 A beacon both by night and day.
 Dismal the storm how'd all round—
 The swollen stream o'erspread the ground ;
 The thunder's roll, the lightning's flash
 In rage commingled. Crash on crash
 Increased the elemental strife,
 And threatened Thrift with loss of life !

Just as he reached the bridge, an owl
 Dashed right across him, cheek by jowl,
 Struck his good chesnut in the eyes,
 And caused the beast such strange surprise,
 That with a plunge he threw poor Thrift
 Into a muddy running drift,
 And left him for himself to shift.

Alas, alas that friends should part,
 When either feels misfortune's dart ;

But so it was that Thrift's good steed,
 Finding himself from rider freed,
 Made off as fast as he was able
 Straight up the road to his old stable.

Janet, whose ears were on the stretch,
 Heard the horse come, and cried, "The wretch
 Is here at last—the drunken lout,
 If 'twas but dry I'd lock him out,
 But as no doubt he's dripping wet,
 I must forgive—but shan't forget."
 She ope'd the door, but no one came ;
 She call'd aloud the well-known name ;
 The storm's was all the voice she heard,
 No form was seen, no footstep stirred.
 "He's missed the door—the drunken fellow,
 I'll take my lamp and umbrella,
 And bring him in this once, but ne'er
 Will I again show him such care."
 But Janet proved it worse and worse,
 She sought for Thrift, and found his horse !
 Grief then unmingled filled her breast ;
 She waked her neighbours from their rest ;
 Heavenward her wringing hands she tost,
 And begged her friends to find the lost.

Alarm soon spread—the neighbours all
 Responded to poor Janet's call.
 Quick down the road, despite the night,
 Guided but by the lightning's light,
 Both old and young, as with one mind,
 Hastened their neighbour, Thrift, to find,
 Alas no trace—nor high nor low—
 Could they discover—woe on woe !
 The only remnant they could find
 Was Thrift's hat travelling 'fore the wind.
 The sad belief their minds soon crossed
 That Thrift was in the Salwarpe lost.
 They wept—they prayed—and hastened home,
 To search again when morn should come.

Meanwhile poor Thrift, unseen by all,
At last recovered from his fall ;
And stunned and stupid from the blow,
Essayed, but found he could not go.
His hat was gone, so for relief,
His head he wrapped in handkerchief,
Crawled straightway up the pulpit stairs,
And fell asleep o'ercome by cares.

Sleep, welcome sleep, soon closed his eyes ;
Lost to the world, no more he heard
The storm that raged along the skies,
Nor rain, nor hail, nor lightning feared.

The Sabbath morn arose in light,
Scattering the "clouds of envious night."
The storm afar had fled away
Before the world saw break of day.
And now the old church-belfry reels,
Under the throb of deafening peals,
But light nor sound to Thrift brought fears,
Nor ope'd his leaden eyes and ears ;
Lost to all outward sense he sleeps,
And faithful to the pulpit keeps.

At last, the town's-folk gather round
To the "church-going bell's" old sound.
The parson and the clerk are come.
And preparations busy hum
For praise and prayer around begin,
The aged to soothe, the young to win.
The opening psalm, in quaint old rhymes,
Was sung as in ancestral times ;
Praises came first for mercies given,
Then prayers, to draw more down from heaven.
Soon as the happy choir began
To sing aloud, Thrift—hapless man—
Appalled with undisguised affright,
Jumped on his feet at once upright,
And cried aloud—"Oh, Lord! oh Lord!
I beg your pardons on my word ;

Pray do remain ;—stay, do not shift,
You all know me—I'm Thomas Thrift."

As when a railway train appears,
A flock of sheep are filled with fears,
And helter skelter—might and main,
Scour off at once across the plain,
So Thrift's old neighbours quickly fled,
As if he'd risen from the dead.
They elbowed—struggled—ran away,
And left the Priest and Clerk to pray.
The Priest and Clerk alone remained,
The Priest from laughter half refrained ;
The clerk could scarcely trust his sight,
As Thrift descended from his height,
Yet welcomed him as one that came
From distant lands old friends to claim :
Because it had been given out
That Thrift was drowned beyond all doubt.

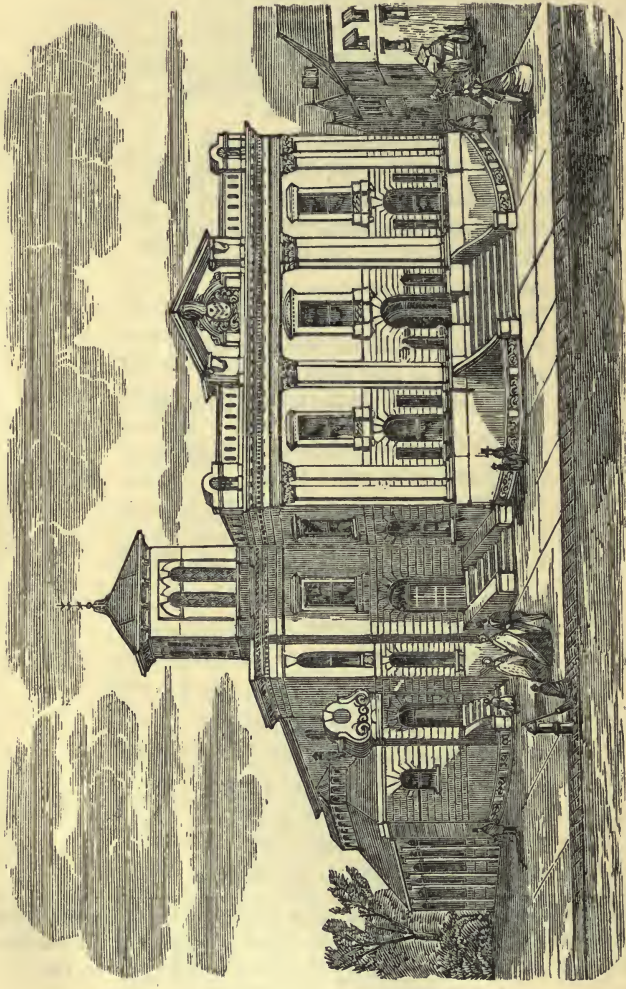
Poor Thrift was overwhelmed with grief,
To find himself in such a mess ;
He doffed his nightcap handkerchief,
And tried to cleanse his muddy dress.
Homeward he slunk, haggard and pale,
Adown back lanes* to shun the shame,
Vowing that Wor'stershire old ale
Should ne'er again disgrace his name.

MORAL.

Now all you dealers, high and low,
Whether the markets rise or no,
Avoid old ale—man's constant foe,
And sober to your firesides go ;
If not, depend upon 't your case
Will end, like Thrift's, in sad disgrace.

* Droitwich still retains these lanes, with all their characteristics. There is an old verse, well known at Dodderhill, which contains more satire than truth as to the town of Droitwich, its more industrious neighbour, viz :—

“ Folks have oft from Dodderhill
Down on Droitwich gazed,
Should they ever visit h—ll
They won't feel much amazed.”



CORN EXCHANGE AND MUSIC HALL, KIDDERMINSTER.

The year 1854 was very quiet, in comparison with any other during the previous part of my business life; the endowed school question waited for the expression of public opinion. In January 1855, a new corn exchange and music hall were erected in Kidderminster, at the bottom of Vicar street. As will be seen from the engraving, it is an imposing pile of building, and has been of great use for public purposes, but of no profit to the shareholders. A free library and news-room were established afterwards therein.

In the chapelry of Hallow, parish of Grimley, near Worcester, there was a commotion in connexion with the free school, in February of this year (1855.)

It appears that the vicar, the Rev. H. G. Pepys, did not approve of any of the children in the endowed school, attending a Congregational Sunday school, which was in the parish, and in consequence, they were threatened with expulsion from the free day school. The vicar was a son of Bishop Pepys, who had given the adverse opinion in the Kidderminster school case, as may be seen at pages 362-3, *ante*.

Upon this, Mr. T. R. Hill, a gentleman well known in Worcester and its neighbourhood, wrote the following letter to me:—

“ Catherine Hill House, Worcester, March 8, 1855.

“ GEORGE GRIFFITH, ESQ.,

“ SIR,

“ Will you excuse the liberty which I take as an entire stranger to you, in venturing to ask for information on a matter in which you are looked up to justly, as best informed.

“ In page 223 of your book, it is stated with regard to Hallow Free School, that the trust directs ‘*all the poor boys of the parish*’ to be taught, &c., &c., and ‘*the poor girls of the parish,*’ &c. And further on, you say that a new trust deed was executed in 1829. What I wish to ask of you is, if you could give me any information or put me in the way of obtaining it, as to the precise conditions of the trust as regards the claim of *all the poor* of the parish to have their children instructed in these schools. I have no direct interest in the matter, but am anxious for the benefit of some of the poor of that parish, where children have been driven away from the school, because their parents send them on the Sunday, to a school established in

the village, by the Congregational dissenters. If the deed gives the trustees power to expel children for such a cause, of course there is an end of the matter; but if it does not authorize it, that is, if the school is designed for *all* the poor irrespective of their religious creed, then one would hope that a representation made to the trustees, would deter them from persisting in such an act of petty persecution to their poor neighbours.

Begging your indulgence for venturing to trouble you in such a matter,

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

“T. R. HILL.”

In reply, I referred him to the chief facts of the foundation, especially as to the school being founded for the benefit of parishioners' children, without regard to their religious relief as follows. (*Vide*, Charity Commissioners' Report.)

There is a free school in the chapelry of Hallow, which was instituted in the year 1712, by the then bishop of the diocese, Dr. Lloyd, to whom the demesnes of the manor belonged; and who, at the instance of the parishioners, granted a certain portion of waste lands, consisting of about twenty acres, to the chancellor and archdeacon of the diocese and vicar of the parish, and their respective successors for the time being, in trust, to receive the rents and to pay a proportion of them to a schoolmaster, in consideration of his teaching all the poor boys of the parish, reading, writing, and the principles of Christian knowledge; and the remaining part of the same rents to a schoolmistress, to teach the poor girls of the parish reading, sewing, and the Church catechism.

A school house was built at the time above alluded to, at the expense of the parish, for carrying on both these institutions, and for lodging the master and mistress; but the building having fallen into decay, two large commodious school rooms were built by the trustees, in the summer of 1829, with a sum of £150, borrowed upon the security of the school rents, which debt was paid off in ten years. The income of the school lands is about £80 per annum. The house affords a convenient dwelling for the schoolmaster and mistress.

A new trust-deed was executed in 1829, introducing the Earl Beauchamp as one of the trustees.

Whilst I was composing this work I wrote to him to know the result, and the following is a copy of his reply.

“ Catherine Hill House, Worcester,

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ In reply to yours of the 9th, the information which you supplied, and which was contained in your work on Worcestershire schools, enabled us to make out a case, that satisfied the rector that he had no power to exclude children from the day schools, because they did not attend the church services and schools. Since that time, I have not heard of any interference with children on account of their attending the Chapel Sunday Schools.

I am, dear sir,

Yours truly,

“ George Griffith, Esq.”

“ T. ROWLEY HILL.”

It is strange that even a bishop's son had forgotten there was a new commandment, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself,” and it is equally strange that any clergyman of the church established by law, should attempt to deny education to children, whose only offence was that their parents did not belong to its communion.

This year was a remarkably bad one for trade, particularly in Kidderminster, as the carpet manufacture was going through a transition state from hand loom weaving to weaving by steam.

In the years 1855 and 1856 the carpet trade became worse and worse, there were some 800 houses empty in the borough, which caused the rates to be very heavy on the tradesmen, and a special meeting of the Town Council was called on the 17th of March, 1855, by the Mayor, “to take into consideration, a memorial from the carpet weavers of the borough, addressed to the Mayor, Aldermen, and Town Council, on the subject of emigration, and to come to resolutions thereon.”

This state of the staple trade of the town had a sensible effect on all other branches of trade; so much so that bad debts were of daily occurrence, and a general gloom prevailed.

Under the depression produced by such a sad state of things,
I gave relief to my feelings in the following lines :—

THE SONG OF THE TRADESMAN.

IN HUMBLE IMITATION OF HOOD.

With aspect haggard by care,
With hair as white as snow,
A tradesman sat in his office chair,
Thinking how things did go ;
Think, think, think,
Thinking by night and by day,
For years he thought he never could sink,
Or fail his debts to pay.—

Plot, plan, and work,
Fretting the brain and the heart ;
And plot, plan, and work,
At home, aye, and on the mart.
Oh ! could he a fair profit win,
Could he a return secure,
He would anew the battle begin,
Again the task endure.

Oh ! fellow tradesmen dear,
Nothing we now do thrives,
Whatever we try we get worse each year,
Our profits fade with our lives.
Taxes, rates, and rent,
Year after year increase,
All our profits in outgoings spent,
And thus our hopes decrease.

You oft call on old death
To finish the struggling war,
To stop the ever-panting breath
And quench life's fading star ;
Yet plenty of pure gold
In heaps is taking rust,
Millions and millions yet untold,
Lie in the earth's dull dust ;

Gold—gold—gold—
For those that cross the sea,
But the tradesman's prospects at home are cold,
A load of anxiety.

In days gone by the tradesman laughed
As he sat in his easy chair,
Whilst his jug of nut-brown ale he quaffed
And snapped his fingers at care ;
But now he plots and strives,
Both morning, noon, and night,
But though he plots and strives,
Each day his hopes are less bright,
Pen, and ink, and book,
Book, and pen, and ink,
Do what he will by hook or by crook,
His profits he finds still sink.

Oh! could he but go back again,
Begin his life anew,
He would leave the land where poor tradesmen
Are taxed to support the few ;
Where right and wrong their places shift,
Where might for right is taught,
And ceaseless workers, fond of thrift,
Down to paupers are brought.

How doubly happy their fate
Whom fortune and love embrace,
Whose children aid them early and late,
To win the tradesman's race ;
Whose wives relieve each fear,
With love and deep emotion,
Their downcast feelings cheer
With pure unasked devotion ;
Life—life—life—
Would then lose half its pain,
And however those, who are our foes,
Might try to add to our daily woes,
With grateful children and loving wife,
Domestic bliss would round us reign.

With features full of dismay,
 With cheeks all pallid and thin,
 The tradesman struggles day by day,
 A fair return to win.
 Plan, plan, plan,
 But misfortune still stands there,
 And however he tries his point to gain,
 It ends still with a sense of pain,
 And laughs at all his care.

Thus the years 1855 and 1856 were quiet and dull with me, with the exception of my election as town councillor for the third time, in November of the latter year. This year Mr. William Green and Mr. George Holloway were elected with me, but we met with a fierce opposition from a Mr. Samuel Broom, a yarn agent. The poll was so close, that between three and four o'clock he and I were neck and neck, and when the latter hour was complete I was only one ahead.

The Councillors elected for the South Ward on this occasion were Mr. Henry Chellingworth, Mr. Pemberton Talbot, and Mr. John Thompson.

The business at our meetings was generally very heavy, and sometimes rather hotly debated. To give some idea thereof, the following list of subjects brought before us on Tuesday, December the 2nd will suffice.

BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER,

COUNTY OF WORCESTER.

"Town Clerk's Office, November 27th, 1856.

"Pursuant to the directions of the Statute 5th and 6th William IV., cap. 76, intituled "An Act to Provide for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in England and Wales," I hereby summon you personally to attend a monthly meeting of the Council of the said Borough, to be holden at the Guildhall, in the said Borough, on Tuesday, the 2nd day of December next, at 11 o'clock,

HENRY SAUNDERS, Jun.,

Town Clerk.

To Mr. Councillor Griffith.

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED :

To appoint an Alderman to preside at elections for the South Ward in the place of Mr. Hooman, resigned.

- To consider the propriety of appointing a Watch and other committees.
- To receive monthly report of Superintendent of Baths and Wash Houses.
- To consider the "Nuisances Removal Act for England, 1855," more especially with reference to clause 9, authorising the appointment of a Sanitary Inspector.

Paving Act.

- To consider the present state of iron gate adjoining Town Bridge.
- To consider as to quantity of land to be given up by Mr. Ankrett, on his erection of intended new buildings in Worcester Street, and to determine on the price per yard to be paid him for the land so to be given up.
- Also as to quantity and price of land (adjoining Mr. Ankrett's in Worcester Street,) to be given up by Feoffees of the Free Grammar School.
- To consider as to proposed removal of certain steps at entrance of premises in Blackwell Street, called the "Ring of Bells."
- To order payment of balance of Mr. Broadfield's Bill for surveying and mapping streets.
- Generally to consider the powers now vested in the Council by the Kidderminster Paving Act.
- And to come to resolutions thereon respectively.

The year 1857 was as dull in trade as its two predecessors. The memory of the Crimean war was revived in Kidderminster by the presentation to the town of one of the guns, brought from Russia. The following inscription appears on it:—

RUSSIAN CANNON,
PRESENTED BY GOVERNMENT TO THE
CORPORATION OF KIDDERMINSTER,
LORD PANMURE BEING SECRETARY OF WAR.
THE CARRIAGE OF THE GUN BEING GIVEN
BY THE RIGHT HON. ROBERT LOWE, M.P.,
VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE,
PAYMASTER GENERAL TO HER MAJESTY'S FORCES,
AND MEMBER FOR THE BOROUGH,
ANNO DOMINI, 1857.

On this occasion I wrote the following address to the Gun :—

Though silent now thy iron tongue,
 How eloquent thou art?
 Thou tell'st of deeds of blood thou'st done
 On Russia's part;
 Of mangled limbs, of wounds and groans;
 Of fields o'erspread with gore and bones.

Oh, could'st thou speak—the blood would chill
 At tales of war's deep woes;
 How thou from Inkerman's steep hill
 Swept Russia's foes;
 How in death's gripe thou saw'st them fall
 The victims of each fatal ball.

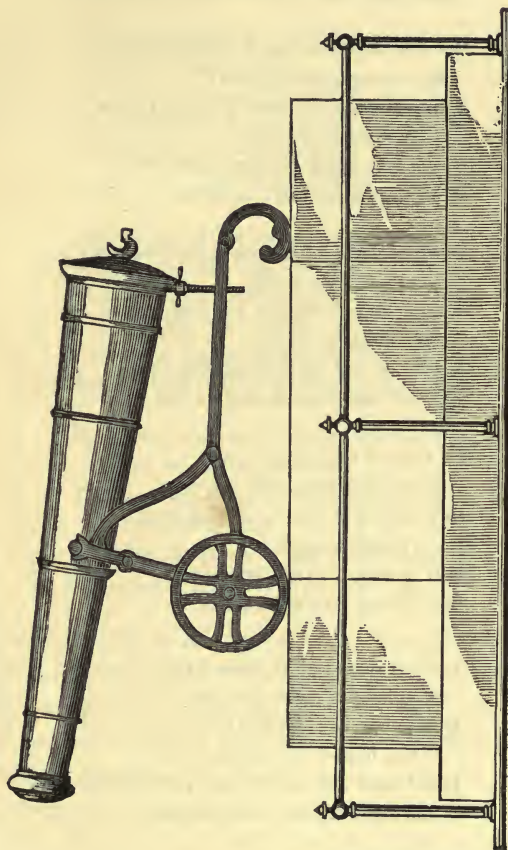
Ah, who can tell the hopeless woe
 Thy frightful strength hath wrought!
 Ah, who can tell how many a foe
 To death thou'st brought!
 What hearts thou'st filled with grief and pain,
 Ne'er to be healed on earth again.

Could'st thou but be endued with life,
 Thy tongue would teem with deeds
 Of men engaged in murd'rous strife,
 Of Christian creeds,
 Who whilst they prayed the God all good,
 Insatiate shed each other's blood.

Carnage their God! his altars high
 They heaped with human hearts,
 Acted with fell demoniac eye
 Satanic parts;
 Nor dreamt that retribution's powers
 Would visit them in their last hours.

Yet silent there thou stand'st, nor hath
 The will or power to speak,
 Or tell of that long tedious path
 Thou first didst seek;
 When from proud Petersburg thou sped,
 By proudly crested horses led.

How of the fields with plenty crowned,
That lined the peaceful roads ;
How of the hills with heat embrowned,
Eagles' abodes !
Frighted from their propriety
By those rude hordes that followed thee ?



How of the timid women, who,
Twixt fear and wonder lost,
Peep'd from their doors with anxious view,
To watch thy host ?
Thy host of followers, full of life,
Companions in war's fiendish strife.

Say of that host with life's blood warm
How many came again ;
Say when all hush'd the battle's storm,
And peace did reign,
How many of that mortal throng
Were found their native bowers among.

Nor can they tell—stern Russia's foes,
How many e'er returned ;
How many died in death's strong throes,
By victory spurned—
Nor victors know, nor vanquished feel,
What time alone can e'er reveal.

Perhaps some youth with ardour charged,
With patriotic heart,
Whose father's words his soul enlarged
“To act his part,”
Rush'd on thy death-devouring jaws,
And fell defending England's cause.

Or veteran hero, grey in war,
By battles past made brave,
Still hoping fortune's favoring star
Protection gave,
Fell as he led his gallant corps,
But fell alas to rise no more.

Perhaps some sad, repentant son,
Who left his mother's side,
Who in one moment had undone
Her hopes—her pride,
Died 'neath thy stroke—no more to prove
The depth of her unceasing love.

Or shall we say the lover's form,
Held up by love's strong power,
Amidst the onslaught's hellish storm
Met his last hour,
Called for the loved one e'en in death,
And spoke her name with his last breath.

Perchance the misanthropic soul,
 Who oft had wished to die,
 Found at thy hands the long sought goal,
 Nor heaved one sigh—
 Calmly embraced his fearful fate,
 Unmoved by love, or fear, or hate.

Or yet, perhaps, the o'erwrought child
 Of genius and of song,
 He, who by baser souls reviled,
 Had shunned the throng
 Of civic life—to roam alone,
 Was by thy power to atoms blown.

Yet, though thou'st acted out thy part
 Upon Crimean fields—
 Thy man-destroying vengeful art
 To peace now yields;
 Peace hath upon thee laid her hand,
 And brought thee to the victor's land.

Make here thy home—though thy deeds bring
 Within our breasts a thrill—
 A thrill,—nay more, each heart-strained string,
 With sorrow still
 Shall feel the pangs of war's wild strife,
 When death devoured so much of life.

Believing, from my knowledge of cattle markets in other towns, that such an establishment would be beneficial to Kidderminster, I brought the question before the notice of the Town Council.

After some discussion a committee was appointed to consider the question, consisting of the following:—Mr. J. L. Dobson, Mr. W. Green, and myself. We met several times and presented our report on September the 1st, when Alderman Geo. Turton moved, and Councillor George Holloway seconded, a proposition that it should be read and adopted.

This was strongly opposed, on account of the bad state of the carpet trade, the opposition contending that it would cause another rate to be put on the householders, which they could not

well bear. I argued on the contrary, that it would pay its way, as in other towns, and, therefore, would not place another burden on the people, and I offered to pay 5 per cent. on the outlay, and take it for a given number of years as tenant to the corporation.

However, after a hot debate, the report was ordered to be received and read, but not adopted, and so the matter ended.

On November 16th I received the following circular and invitation, from Mrs. Griffith, the lady of the Rev. E. Griffith, of Quatford Castle, (formerly Miss Mary Beddoe, *vide* page 261).

“ Quatford Castle,

“ Nov. 16th, 1857.

“ DEAR SIR,—I was requested by Mr. Wasey to send you this circular, as you know Quatford, and have written about it. If you should feel inclined to come to the opening we shall be glad to see you here to luncheon after the service.

“ Remember me kindly to Mrs. Griffith, and believe me,

“ Yours truly,

“ MARY GRIFFITH.”

“ OPENING OF THE NEW AISLE OF QUATFORD CHURCH.

“ Quatford may be called the mother Church of Bridgnorth, and was founded by Roger, Earl of Shrewsbury, cousin of William the Conqueror, in consequence of a vow made by the Lady Adeliza, his wife, in a storm at sea; it was consecrated in the presence of three Bishops, in the year of our Lord, 1086; having an endowment for a Dean and five Canons.

“ In the year 1089, Earl Robert, his son, rebelling against King Henry I., removed the town from Quatford, and built a Castle in the stronger position of Bridgnorth, with a Chapel within its walls, named St. Mary Magdalene, after the mother Church of Quatford. On the forfeiture of Earl Robert's estates to Henry I., Bridgnorth became a Royal Castle, and its Chapel was made a Royal Peculiar, having jurisdiction over the country parishes of Quatford, Alveley, Claverley, and Bobbington, the Tithes of which formed the original endowment of Quatford.

The Chancel arch, and the peculiar stone of which much of the Church is built, and the beauty of the situation, are well worthy of attention.

The population, including Eardington on the other side of the Severn, increased from 553 to 692 between the census of 1841 and 1851.

To meet this increase a new south aisle has been added; and a new porch and other improvements effected. It will be opened for Divine Service at 12 o'clock, on Thursday, November 19th, to implore the continued blessing of Almighty God on this very ancient House of prayer. The sermon will be preached by the Venerable Archdeacon Waring; after which a collection will be made towards the Building Fund.

There will be refreshments in the school room after service.

Quatford is two miles from Bridgnorth, on the Kidderminster road.

There is accomodation for horses in the village.

I was unfortunately under a previous important engagement for November the 19th, which could not be set aside, so that I lost an opportunity of what I felt would be, a pleasant and gratifying meeting, with many old and attached friends.

The year 1858 was an intolerably dull one to me, although I added the trade of malting to that of corn dealing; I therefore filled up my spare hours with translations and new compositions. Of the former, "*Adieu Plaisir, Adieu Folie*," was one of the best, and of the latter the "Commemoration of the Centenary of Burns" was the favourite, being so consonant with the deep feelings of admiration I had always entertained for that great poet.

The Crystal Palace company at Sydenham, had offered a prize of £50 for the best original commemorative poem on Burns, to be read in the Palace, on the centenary of his birthday, January 25th, 1859. The prize was given to Miss Isa Craig, as the committee appointed to read and judge of the poems, sent in, considered her composition to be the best.

The conditions were, that the compositions should be sent in on or before the 31st of December, 1858, with two mottoes written thereon, and that an envelope, addressed to the secretary, Mr. George Grove, should accompany each, with the writer's name and address inclosed.

There was a great concourse of people in the palace on the 25th January, but Miss Craig was not present, as she did not calculate on getting the prize. This she herself told me, at the meeting of the Social Science Congress, held at York, in the year 1864.

ADIEU PLAISIR ! ADIEU FOLIE !

Translated from the French.

SEE "POETIC OFFERING."

Farewell pleasure, farewell folly,
 Seek no longer to deceive me,
 Let the darkest melancholy,
 In obscurity receive me ;—
 My happiness is at an end,
 E'en in the spring-time of my days,
 I've lost my love,—my earliest friend,—
 My heart has lost its brightest rays.

Vain pomp and treasure here below,
 Fill up other mortals' measures ;
 But seek not thus to thwart my woe.
 I prefer it to your pleasures ;
 Vain Fortune ! with thy golden fears,
 Since childhood I have trod thy ways :
 But now, ah ! leave me to my tears,—
 My heart has lost its brightest rays.

A simple, sorrowful, small cot,
 Will satisfy my broken heart :
 A grove, a valley, is a lot
 Most soothing to my mournful part ;
 True ! of a life of pure delight
 And love I've tasted all the ways,
 But now all nature wears a blight,—
 My heart has lost its brightest rays.

Sweet Spring ! yes, thou wilt re-appear,
 But thou canst never smile for me,
 Each tender bud its head will rear,
 But their delights I ne'er shall see,
 My sweetest hours are at an end,
 E'en in the spring-time of my days,
 I've lost my love,—my dearest friend,—
 My heart has lost its brightest rays.

I sent mine in according to the rules, and waited anxiously for the result. On the morning that a copy of the successful poem appeared in the papers, I was going to Bridgnorth market, on horseback, and I was so pleased with Miss Craig's production, that I took it with me, and read it several times as my horse walked up the hills. Soon after this, my composition was returned through the post, with a letter of thanks. It was as follows :—

CENTENARY OF BURNS,

JANUARY 25th, 1859.

The Greeks, monopolists of all the Great,
 Not only of this earth but of that state
 Where bliss uninterrupted reigns above,
 Claim all the Gods and Goddesses men love,
 Jupiter, Juno, Neptune, Vesta, Mars,
 Ceres and Vulcan, and the Queen of Stars,
 Dread night, and Venus, and Minerva too,
 Apollo, and the Muses not a few,
 All, all, were born upon pure Grecian ground,
 Which must be true, as vouched by pens profound.

Well, be it so.—The Gods oft held their courts,
 Where they arranged their pleasures and their sports,
 Adjudged their gifts to men of greatest mind,
 Truth, Wit, Song, Genius, as they felt inclined.

On one of those occasions Comus came,
 With Momus, (arm-in-arm) of jesting fame,
 Venus the daughter of the soft sea foam,
 And Cupid her wild boy, who loved to roam :
 Anterus too, on such days found some leisure,
 And Psyche, mother of the goddess Pleasure,
 Came to the Court in robes of azure bright,
 Diffusing all around unmixed delight.

The one a fresh blown rose held in her hand,
 To Venus sacred and her lovely band,
 The other a small Die, a token true,
 To test the love of Youth to Beauty due,
 The third a branch of Myrtle held on high,
 To teach mankind to live, as they would die,

And prove to higher powers their gratitude
For all Jove's gifts, by doing others good.—

Bacchus was there too, Jupiter's great son,
Whom Mercury from the scorching flames had won,—
And sweet Apollo, meek Latoma's boy,
Led on the Muses, sources of pure joy !
The Muses—who on all confer true grace—
Whom all mankind with fervour deep embrace.

Celestial splendour shone above, around,
The air was redolent of sweets unbound,
From flowers that bloomed eternal in those bowers,
Planted by children of the Happy Hours.
Music's sweet strains, Music with sounds divine,
Rose at the bidding of the heavenly Nine,
Which so enraptured Jupiter's great soul,
"Fill, fill," he cried, "the Bacchanalian bowl."
Thus Wine and Wit, and Love and Grace entwined,
Made a full feast for each immortal mind.

The Genius of sweet poetry, alone,
Advanced to Jove and bowed before his throne,
Complaining that in Scotia's faithful land,
None, none, were found belonging to her band,
And Wit, all jealous added his complaint,
That his bright gifts were held in vile restraint,
And Bacchus prayed that he too might be heard,
For Wine, the drink of Gods, was, he averred,
In Scotia's land, like Verse and Wit, abhorred.

The prayer of all was that auld Scotia's hills,
Her happy vales, her banks and rippling rills,
Should claim one soul endued with heartfelt love,
Of Nature's charms,—endowed by power above.

Jove, who all gifts dispenses with free hand,
Jove, who presides o'er every clime and land,
Who blesses all with his exhaustless gifts,
The proud debases, and the lowly lifts,
Granted the triple prayer, and straight decreed,
That their fond wishes should be done with speed.

* * * * *

Aurora over Scotia's hills arose,
 Whilst the dull world was bound in deep repose,
 The Náiads hovered o'er their fav'rite fountains,
 The Nymphs o'er rivers, streams, and giant mountains,
 The Woods with Dryads teem'd on every hand,
 And Nature op'd her stores o'er all the land.—
 The grateful Lark was soaring to the sky,
 Carolling his glad thanks to HIM on high,
 The milkmaid and the ploughboy gaily sung,
 Whilst listning echo with responses rung,
 When lo! the Muses and the Graces too,
 Hover'd around, their mission to pursue.

Unused to visit with their greatest gifts,
 The palace that on high its proud head lifts,
 Or city where dull commerce holds her sway,
 Or anchorite who dreams his life away,
 Lo! by the winding Doon in health and joy,
 They found and blessed the honest, poor, Ploughboy,
 And as he drove his plough and gaily sung,
 The Mantle of true Genius o'er him flung!

Inflamed with new-born feelings his young heart,
 Bowed to Calliope's bewitching art,
 To Clio's lute, of glory and renown,
 And wond'rous Quill, before which all bow down,
 Euterpe's joy and tragic powers combined,
 With Cupids gifts shed o'er his willing mind,
 Melpomene's full charms fixed in his soul
 Her spells of thought, defying all control!—
 To Erato's enchanting lovely face
 With Polyhymnia's songs of true born grace,
 And Terpsichore's warbling restless flute,
 The great Urania added heavenly fruit.

Thus blest with gifts by these exalted powers,
 He wandered forth amidst fair Scotia's bowers,
 Teacher, and yet disciple of that school,
 Where Nature holds her all subduing rule.
 With heart now filled with joy, now filled with grief,
 Scotia's meek son, yet of her sons the chief,
 The chief in song—in simpleness of mind—
 As chief in love to all of human kind!

The modest Daisy fav'rite of the Morn,
 Drew forth his sighs when by misfortune torn,
 The Mouse, disturbed, his tears at once unbound,
 Dropping like diamonds on the sterile ground ;
 And his poor Maillie (innocency's sign),
 Touched those true chords that proved his soul divine ;—

Higher and higher still the flame uprose,
 His soul enraptured felt impulsive throes ;
 Matchless his verse when virtue was his theme,
 Or when in prayer he sought the Great Supreme,
 But chiefly he delighted to converse
 With nature, and her praises oft rehearse,
 The Nith, the Doon, to him were streams of gold,
 Richer than Eldorado could unfold :—
 The Lark at morn, the nightingale at night,
 Filled his young heart with feelings of delight,
 The red, red rose, the glen, and bonny brae,
 Led him in raptures from the world away,
 E'en the rude rushes filled his thoughts with song,
 Purer than could the proud exotic throng.

Long, long, the simple ploughboy lived remote,
 Full many a year he sung before he smote,
 The city's ear with his inspired lays,
 That spoke of witches, eldritch, and fays,
 Of wond'rous Tam and his undying Meg,
 Of jolly roysterers who loved to beg,
 Of Cottar's happy life—and Holy Fairs,
 Of Hornbrook's art, and Death's destroying snares,
 Of Satan's wiles 'gainst thoughtless human kind,
 And melancholy's powers o'er the mind.—

Long, long he touched the lyre in humble life,
 Far from the world and its unceasing strife,
 Till called by fame and great Edina's crowd,
 He at the altar of new wonders bowed,
 Bowed to the pleasure of each fleeting hour,
 And sunk beneath sin's all bewitching power.

Alas ! that souls like his should go astray ;
 Should flee sweet nature for the world's rough way,

Forsake the Muse, and let Silenus reign,
Silenus, whose deep joys bring deeper pain!—
“ Ah! who can tell how many a soul sublime,”
Hath sunk beneath his yoke from first-born time,
Hath cast the robes of Genius in the mire,
Debased by Bacchus and his imp Desire.

But let remembrance with forgiveness blend,
Let his known faults cause us our own to mend,
Let Scotia, Erin, Albion, join with Fame,
To pay their tribute to the Poet's name,—
A name entwined with love's supreme domain,
A name entwined with Nature's happy reign,
A name engraved upon each Poet's heart,
Undying as the Poet's deathless art.

Here in this gorgeous Palace may we give
Due honour to the name that e'er shall live,
Join heart to heart to own his living verse,
And to our children Burns's themes rehearse.



CHAPTER VI.

“ And is he well content his son should find
No nourishment to feed his growing mind,
But conjugated verbs, and nouns declined?
For such is all the mental food purvey'd
By public hacknies in the schooling trade;
Who feed a pupil's intellect with store
Of syntax, truly, but with little more. ”

COWPER.

I had attended Wolverhampton Corn Market now (1859) on Wednesdays, for some years, and had therefore become acquainted with many persons from various parts of the county of Stafford, who attended that market. They all knew how I had pursued the question of the reformation of endowed schools, and some told me of the mismanagement of those in their own neighbourhood, and showed themselves anxious that I should investigate their condition, and point out remedies for the consideration of the trustees, and the parishioners.

After much consideration I bought the Charity Commissioners' Report for the County of Stafford, where I found not only the particulars of the original endowments, but the progress of every endowed school recorded therein, down to the year 1839.

I then resolved to write a county history, and as a preliminary step I issued a circular, by post, addressed in all cases to each chairman of trustees, and to each head master, separately, as follows:—

29, *Mill Street, Kidderminster, August 10th, 1859.*

SIR,—

I am about publishing a History of the Endowed Schools of Stafford-

shire : please to give me answers to the following questions, and add any remarks you think proper. Your reply will oblige,

Your truly,

GEO. GRIFFITH.

What is your gross Annual Income ?

What Salaries have the Masters, separately ?

What number of Scholars are there in the Schools ?

Have you a rent-free residence ?

What do the Scholars pay ?

Have you any Exhibitions ?

With each circular I sent a stamped envelope, with my address printed thereon, and waited with patience for the replies.

I did not pursue the alphabetical plan as with the Worcestershire volume, so that I was enabled to begin this one, and commence issuing the monthly numbers without any great delay.

During the progress of the publication of the numbers, I had to visit some schools, whose trustees, and masters, would not give me any information by post. This I accomplished by starting early on each Wednesday morning, so as to visit two or three schools, and then reach Wolverhampton in time for market. Much to my gratification I found most of the schoolmasters willing to give me the necessary details when face to face, the reason for their not doing so by post being a reluctance to send the answers in writing, from a fear that some selfishly interested party might get a knowledge thereof, and use it to their disadvantage.

In many cases the school masters merely put the answers to the questions contained in my printed circular, but in some cases a letter accompanied them. The following is a specimen of the uneducated type of that useful class of citizens, to whom the instruction of the rising generation is confided.

Waterfall, August 15th, 1859.

DEAR SIR,—

I have received this form from you and I am glad to inform you any thing that i can about the school we teach 9 schoollars to read and write free allso to knitt and sew free of any expence.* they find their

* The other scholars pay from 3d. to 6d. a week.

own paper and ink for the yearly sum of £7 12s. Od. per annum but till this last three years they had used to pay one peny per week but was alltered when my wife died on May 4th 1856 She was teacher at this school 42 years all but a few days I Thos. Mycock clock and Watch Maker live in the school at present I was husband to her and the present teecher is Charity Wood Nece to the last School Mistris Our School was built by subscription about the year 1765 the salery is paid from land one field lying at Waterfall cros about four acres yearly rent £5 0s 0d tenant Mary Hall and it is Call school field and another field called town end near Waterfall village yearley rent £2 12s 0d tenant Wm. Edge this land was given by the freeholders When the School was built it was cotage land and the owners of it became chargeable to the parish and when they died the freeholders and rate payers give it to the school for iver to teach poor childrey to read and rite as many as it will pay the usual No formerly was six for more than forty years we have six trustees and they meet twice a year the first thursday thursday in June and the first thirsdaiy in December the clergerman allways one and if one dies the old ones nominate another Names of the present trustees :— Revd. J. Wm. Kewley, Isaac Smith, Joseph Howson, Daniel Hall, Mathew Coup, Thos. Readfern.

This is the best information that i am able to give you about the school I have been living in it about thirty years from your Obedient Servant

THOS. MYCOCK.

Waterfall, near Leek, Staffordshire.

A letter of another class, but which, it is to be feared, is not of so satisfactory a character as that from Waterfall, as to its results, came from the Rector of Bilston, it was as follows :—

Parsonage, Bilston, February 29th, 1860.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry to say the charities in this place, referred to by your letter, are in a very unsatisfactory state.

The representatives of the late Humphrey Perye, ceased about 14 years ago, to make any payments on account of his charity, and recently the estates charged with the payment of the amounts, have been sold under a decree of the Court of Chancery, by which decree the charity, to a certain extent has been secured, but I expect only to a certain extent. At present we are all quite in the dark about it.

The school room, which was built upon the ground given by John Perry for 100 scholars, became unfit for use some years ago, and on the construction of the Great Western Rail, which passes close to the original site, the

Company paid to me £100 for permission to take it down. The old materials sold for £25. These two sums were paid by me into the hands of the committee of St. Leonard's national schools, and formed a part of the fund by which the new school buildings were erected. The original site of Perry's school, subsequently to his time, became part of the churchyard, and vaults were made beneath the building. This accounts for the arrangement between the Great Western Railway Company and myself.

Humphrey Perye's additional bequest shares the fate of the former one.

Mrs. Pipe's bequest is also lost.

Robert Rawley's ditto ditto.

A committee was appointed by a vestry meeting, last Easter, to investigate these charities, and see if they could be recovered, and I have hoped by this delay, to give you some better tidings, but I fear their recovery (except Perye's) is hopeless.

Believe me, my dear sir,

Yours faithfully,

"Mr. G. Griffith."

"H. S. FLETCHER."

The history of the school is (in short) as follows:—John Perry gave the ground to build the school on in 1699, and £5 towards the building. This school decayed, and was re-built by subscription, and was large enough to hold 100 boys. Humphrey Perry gave £3 per annum to the schoolmaster for teaching six poor children to read and write, *gratis*, and £1 to buy them books and stationery, and £4 for clothing. About the year 1825, this income had increased to £34 4s. 6d. per annum, in addition to which two other benefactors gave £2 10s. per annum.

It is quite clear that the school and the land was sold to the Great Western Company at a very unfair price; that only one hundred and twenty-five pounds were paid for a school, built to hold 100 boys, as also the land it stood on, cannot be true. I wrote a long letter upon this, and other charity perversions, in Bilston, to the *Wolverhampton Chronicle*, dated March the 1st, 1860,* and three letters appeared in the same newspaper, in the same month, further explaining the matters, and supporting my statements and animadversions.

* See my History of the Free Schools and Charities of Staffordshire, pages 445 to 450 and 628 to 632.

The first number (48 pages), was issued on the 1st of November, 1859. This contained a preface and introduction embracing 28 pages of the 48. On the 19th a review appeared in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, as follows:—

This is the first number of a publication which the author intends for a standard work of reference on the subject of the charitable endowments of Staffordshire. Mr. Griffith has had experience in the matters upon which he proposes to treat, having already published works on the Free Schools of Worcestershire and the Metropolitan Schools. In obtaining the materials for this new work he has spared neither expense nor labour, he having consulted all the published records relating to the schools and endowments, and, with very few exception, having personally visited nearly all the schools. Under these circumstances, we expect that the work, independently of being the means of attracting the attention of the public to the important subject of endowed schools will prove invaluable for reference. The first number opens with a preface, in which is given a succinct history of the state of education in Great Britain from the remotest dates, and the establishment of the Universities and grammar schools in the kingdom. The alienation of the lands and funds left for the support of the endowed schools is remarked upon in terms of fitting severity. The labours of the Charity Commissioners in investigating the state of the endowed schools are referred to as having been most valuable, but in many instances, the author states, these labours have not been productive of the benefits which had been anticipated, in consequence of the delay and expense attendant upon appeals to the Court of Chancery, from which court, under the present state of the law, redress for abuse and malversation can alone be obtained. To remedy this defect he proposes that the Court of Chancery shall cease to be the guardian of all educational trusts, and that the trustees in whom the management of the schools should in future be vested, should be elected in the same manner as town councillors. Several instances in which the funds of schools have been diverted from the object for which they were left by the benevolent founders, are related, together with the abuses which have been permitted in the management of the schools, which, originally designed for the sons of the poor, have been converted into academies for the education of the sons of the wealthy.

"The truth of the whole matter resolves itself into one complexion, and that is, that the system so favourable to the upper classes, and so mischievous to the middle and working classes, is nothing more nor less than a conspiracy on the part of the former to deprive the latter of their birth-right in education. Shall it continue? No! Parents must protest,

towns must agitate, and honest legislators must prefer complaints in the House of Commons, until this foul deprivation of the rights of the middle and working classes be fully and irrevocably reformed.”

In the introduction to the Free Schools and Endowments of Staffordshire, the author, after having, in a concise form, presented his readers with the chief features of the county, proceeds to show the intention of the publication he has undertaken:—

“The endowed schools in Staffordshire number about ninety, and the charity gifts and endowments are innumerable—occupying, in their records, simply, no less than 870 folio pages of the Charity Commissioners’ Reports. The history and statistics of these endowments are very little known, and even where known, very seldom considered, further than a mere perusal by interested parties. To bring them in a familiar form before the public of Staffordshire, with the hope of restitution or renovation where abused, and of improvement where neglected, is the object of the author and compiler. In the present day, when steam in its various ways—telegraphs and a cheap press—are producing such astounding results, the benefits of a sound and improved education are imperatively necessary; and as the charitable funds left by pious founders in ancient days have increased largely during the last half century, it is the duty of all to help in seeing to the best use being made of them for the benefit of those for whose mental and bodily improvement they were bequeathed.”

The closing pages of the number are occupied with particulars relating to the endowed schools and charities of Stafford, the county town, which in Domesday Book is called a city. With most of these details many of our readers are well acquainted, but we expect, as the work is proceeded with, to be able occasionally to extract a few items which may not be so well known. Mr. Griffith has undertaken no slight task, but we trust that the support he will receive will repay him for his trouble, and that the important object which he has in view by the publication of the Work will be in no slight degree achieved.

The Emperor of the French, at this period, created a great distrust as to his professions of peace.—He caused the phrase “*L’Empire est Paix*” to be published, over and over again. How any man possessed of absolute power, and who kept up an immense standing army, ready to do his behests, could preach peace with any sincerity, was of course treated with suspicion by all sensible men, both in France and elsewhere.

What such a man endures mentally, no one can fathom; what

the shedder of innocent blood feels must be hell itself; such a life is perpetual torture, and the only approach to joy is when his mind travels during the repose of the sleeping body, through regions of imaginary happiness.

Such thoughts prompted me to write the following lines. I sent them to the editor of *Berrow's Worcester Journal*, on the 29th of November, for insertion in the next weekly issue of that paper.

LOUIS NAPOLEON'S DREAM.

In deepest sleep o'erwrought with care,
That fills his ev'ry day :
Released from noontide fears that wear
The soul away ;
Louis reclined, the world shut out,
Unmov'd by hope, or fear, or doubt.

But still the mind, the restless mind,
Spurned the worn body's rest,
Wander'd in regions unconfined,
Still to be bless'd ;
Nor space nor time could curb its might,
As winged by thought it took its flight.

He dreamt that France with open arms
Welcom'd his natal day,
That peace with all her lovely charms,
Held sovereign sway ;
That foreign and domestic war
Were from his councils banished far.

That art and science, happy pair,
Went hand-in-hand with joy,
That commerce, free from war's dread care—
Without alloy
Brought plenty to the poor man's board ;
And all enriched the nation's hoard.

That agriculture's sons unbound
The ever willing soil,
And drew from out the grateful ground
Reward for toil ;

Gathering and storing, as they went,
The bounteous crops that God had sent.

That minstrels sang their songs of peace
On harps bestrung with gold :
“ Let love and joy still, still, increase
For young and old,
Let fathers, mothers, children sing,
Long life to our peace-loving king.

May still his life be lengthened far
Beyond man's usual time,
May discord ne'er his councils mar,—
Nor hateful crime
E'er touch him, or his lisping son,
Who peace for us by peace hath won.”

So dreamt he, but when sleep had fled
His couch, with aching eyes
He rose, as one that from the dead
Was bid to rise ;
Oh ! how his heart ached o'er the theme,
That peace to him was but a dream !

As an illustration of the progress of opinion with regard to the unbearable exclusiveness adopted in the election of Endowed School trustees, and school masters, I record the following:—

On the 21st of March 1860, Mr. Dillwyn moved in the House of Commons, the second reading of a bill to remove the disqualifications under which dissenters laboured in regard to the endowed schools of the country, and to enable them to act as trustees, where the deeds by which they were created did not particularise the religious teaching which was to be imparted to them, he also proposed that masters and scholars in such schools should not be confined to members of the Church of England.

After a long discussion, in which Mr. Lowe, Mr. Selwyn, Mr. Longfield, Lord Fermoy, Mr. Baines, Mr. Roebuck, and others, took part, the bill was lost by a majority of 70 in a house of 310 members. Since that time, (in 1868) the Schools' Inquiry Commissioners recommended, in their report, that the same principles

Mr. Dillwyn proposed in 1860 should be adopted in every foundation school.

On the 2nd of August this year, according to notice, Mr. Martin, one of the inspectors appointed by the Charity Commissioners, held an inquiry as to the endowments of Wolverhampton, in the Town Hall. The question of moving the school to the suburbs was the chief topic, in which case Mr. Manby, the solicitor, declared he should oppose any scheme which would allow the master to take boarders. The mayor said he should bring the question before the Town Council, and get them to appoint a committee who would confer with the trustees, and then report to the Council, which would be the means of bringing the matter before the public. This being agreed to by the inspector, the meeting broke up.

The accounts of the Wolverhampton School, published on the 31st of December were as follows:—

Receipts and Balance of last year in hand	...	£2577	13	8
DISBURSEMENTS.				
Purchase of Consols	... ..	958	15	0
Sundries	... ..	293	13	7
Schoolmasters Salaries and Fees	... ..	804	5	0
Taxed costs and other expenses	... ..	227	16	8
Balance in hand	... ..	293	3	5
		£2577	13	8

My Staffordshire history contained 660 pages, with double-page sheet tables of the charities of Lichfield and Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The compilation of this volume, and the visitation of the schools, took all my spare time during seven months. The state of them was disgraceful in many cases.—The school at Brierley Hill, founded by the Rev. F. Ashinhurst, in 1701, was clean gone, nobody knew how, and the £80 worth of land for an endowment also, although it was entered in the parliamentary returns so late as 1786.

At Enville, the girls' endowed school was possessed of £101

per annum from land, but there were only five girls in it, who were clothed, fed, and educated, in the simplest style. The mistress and the girls worked together, their earnings being added to the income for the benefit of the former.

Lichfield Cathedral had no school, although the average annual income of the Dean and Chapter was £2600. The chief schools in the county were those of Wolverhampton, Walsall, Brewood, Newcastle, Rugeley, and Burton; their histories up to 1860 filled 210 pages of the volume, nearly one third of the whole, to which reference can be made by all persons who possess it.

After this history was put into circulation in the Midland Counties, I went to London to see some members of both Houses of Parliament, as to becoming purchasers. I took twenty copies, and on my arrival in London by the half-past ten o'clock train, I hired a cab by the hour.

Having drawn out a list of names and residences before I left home, I instructed the cab-driver where to commence at, and by four o'clock in the afternoon I had disposed of the whole.

During this round I called at Lord Brougham's residence, in Grafton Street, but unfortunately he was not at home.

I wished to see him as to dedicating, to him, any work I should write after that date, and on my return, I wrote to him to that effect. He was at Oxford, and I received from thence the following reply which although dated from London, was sent, as the post mark showed, from the first mentioned city:—

London, 4, Grafton Street, 19th June, 1860.

Lord Brougham begs Mr. Griffith to put down his name for one copy of his work.

He has so often refused to allow any work to be dedicated to him, that he can only break through his rule on account of the subject—Endowed Schools—but Mr. G. need not say it is by permission.

Finding the Wolverhampton district to be the best for my trade, I removed thence at Lady Day, 1861. I had a double object in view for doing so, the one being a better opportunity for placing my sons out than if I remained in Kidderminster, and

the other, the accomplishment of a desire I had long felt to reside nearer to the Liverpool market. By this change, too, I had a larger population to trade amongst, I was as near to Bridgnorth market, much nearer to Walsall, and had many more trains to and from Liverpool, so that I could start to and return from thence, at more suitable hours than I could do if I remained at Kidderminster.

When I had settled down at Wolverhampton I began to think of writing a history of the endowed schools of Birmingham. I felt very desirous of doing this as a debt of gratitude due to the town in which I had spent my youthful days.

As the Wolverhampton Grammar School will occupy a prominent place in this autobiography, I must now commence to notice the proceedings in connexion with it.

As stated at page 550 *ante*, the committee of twelve appointed by the Town Council, met and drew up a Report as to the proposed alteration in the site, and a new scheme of management. The Mayor moved the adoption of the Report, and that the same be entered on the minutes, which Alderman Ironmonger seconded.

Councillor Hawkesford moved an amendment to the effect that boarders should not be allowed, that all capitation fees and charges should be abolished, and that the scholars should be taught a commercial education as well as a classical, without distinction as to grade, or any division of the school into departments; that the school be not removed from the present site, and that the Report be referred back to the committee to adopt these views. He was of opinion that the founder would not assent were he now living, to the propositions contained in the Report.

Alderman H. Underhill said that the proper course would be to receive or negative the Report, or send it back to the committee. The Mayor coincided. Councillor Hawkesford then moved "that the Report be not received nor entered on the minutes," and that the standing orders be suspended. After some expostulation he said that if an understanding was come to, that an opportunity of discussing the question at their next meeting was agreed upon, he would withdraw his amendment.

Alderman Underhill would not consent to any understanding; if the report did not meet with Councillor Hawksford's views, let him and his friends propose a resolution. After a long and angry conversation the report was put to the meeting, and negatived by twenty votes against eighteen.

On the 17th of April, a long circular was issued by Mr. John Gooch, the second master of the school. It was addressed to the trustees, and he began by stating that as he was then the only master appointed before the passing of the "Charitable Trusts Act," he had a just right to give his opinions on the proceedings of the Town Council, as well as upon the Trustees' proceedings.

He was appointed in 1846, and at that date, there were, he said, no written rules or regulations for the government of the school and charity estates. That most of the trustees were unconnected with the town and neighbourhood; that the education was free, and chiefly confined to the classics, that the modern languages and drawing were not taught, and that there were no examinations or prizes; in fact there was nothing to encourage the scholars, or stimulate the masters.

He stated that after the new scheme came into operation, the school income had increased from £735 to £1000 per annum, and he therefore bitterly complained of his salary being reduced £50 per annum by that scheme, especially as he had been usher for 15 years. Thus he was reduced from being second master to be an assistant master, and he was also deprived of his residence.

He complained of the legal expenses of getting the new scheme of 1854 having amounted to £700, and that the capitation fees were not equally divided between him and the head master.

Poor Mr. Second-Master Gooch was not aware that second masters have been too often considered as mere necessary evils, and that their salaries are of no moment.

On May Day, 1861, I commenced the "History of the Free Schools, Colleges, Hospitals, and Asylums of Birmingham and their fulfillment," by writing the dedication as follows:—

TO THE RIGHT HON. HENRY, LORD BROUGHAM AND VAUX.

MY LORD,

In dedicating the following pages to your Lordship, I need scarcely say that there is no person more conversant with the past and present state of the Endowed Schools, Colleges, and Hospitals of the United Kingdom than yourself.

But on the other hand, the general public are not aware that your Lordship was the originator of the Charity Commissions; the publication of whose investigations in the Blue Book Reports places within everyone's reach an authentic History of each and every Endowment in the kingdom.

On every opportunity, and in all places, you have now, for more than half a century, advocated the reform of these Endowments, and their restoration to the use of the middle and working classes.

Nevertheless, few and far between have been the reforms effected; and the continual patching, by the passing of Act after Act, without producing any permanently good results, shows that unless locally governed they will still be what most of them ever have been—sinecures and perversions.

Hoping that public attention will be more drawn to this great question I beg to dedicate this volume to your Lordship;

And remain, with great respect,

MY LORD,

Your Lordship's most obedient and devoted servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

MAY-DAY, 1861.

But previous to doing so I had been to Birmingham and visited each of the institutions named above. I was received most courteously on all hands, especially by Dr. W. Sands Cox, the ardent promoter of the Queen's Hospital and College, as also by Dr. Giffard, the head master of the Free Grammar School.

I feel no desire to praise myself, but the labour, bodily as well as mentally, required to bring such voluminous compilations forth is of no small amount.

Take for instance, *in this one case*, the list of the leases of the Birmingham Free school properties, pages 17 to 20; the translation of the charter, pages 27 to 33, and the arranging, reading, and correcting 623 pages of print, to say nothing of the travelling, walking, and writing connected therewith, and some guess may

be made as to the trouble of the total, but no guess can approach the reality of the task.

During the time that I was writing and compiling this work, the columns of the *Chronicle*, and the *Spirit of the Times* newspapers were crowded with articles and letters on the question of the Wolverhampton school, in fact they would fill a good volume, so that I must confine myself to a summary of their contents.

Seventeen letters, and numerous long editorial articles appeared during and after the Inquiry. Most of the letters were anonymous. The *Chronicle* newspaper took the popular side of the question, and the *Spirit of the Times* the opposite.

A town's meeting was held at the Town Hall Council Chambers, on the 25th of April. This was largely attended; Messrs. Hawksford, Geo. Hill, R. Sidney, James Walker, and others taking the popular side in their arguments, Mr. Henry Underhill being the only speaker taking the opposite. The chief resolution was carried with only two dissentients.

As the question was becoming very hot, I advertised a lecture on the general condition of grammar schools, which I delivered in the Corn Exchange, on the 30th of April.

The Inspector's Inquiry began on May the 2nd, and concluded on the 9th. The inhabitants were represented by Mr. Young, the barrister, and the trustees by Mr. Henry Underhill.

Evidence was given, and intervening interrogations answered by Mr. Henry Walker, Mr. Robert Sidney, Mr. Manby, the Head Master, Mr. Perry, the Rev. G. H. Fisher, Mr. A. C. Pratt, the Second Master (Rev. J. Gooch), Mr. Henry Yates, Mr. Tatlow, Mr. J. Dallow, Mr. Turner, Mr. J. E. Underhill, the Rev. J. H. Isles, Mr. Rupert Kettle, Mr. Talbot Cartwright, Mr. Joshua Jackson, and many others.

During the proceedings I attended the Town's meeting, and the sittings of the Inquiry conducted by the Charity Inspector. Although I had only just commenced my residence in Wolverhampton I had written more about the school in my History of the Staffordshire Endowed Schools than any one else, and more than was agreeable to the parties who wished to make

it a boarding school for gentlemen's and professional men's sons, wherein they could learn the *gentlemanly* classics, at the expense of a charity fund bequeathed for the aid of those who could not otherwise attain to any education whatever.

Of course I entered the lists, and the following letter appeared in the *Chronicle* on the 8th of May:—

To the Editor of the Wolverhampton Chronicle.

SIR,—The Inquiry now in the course of completion as to the past, present, and future of this school is a very effective way of giving every man an opportunity of judging for himself, and we learn thereby that the average surplus yearly amounts to £242, and yet a capitation fee is imposed; that the masters are active, and that the number of scholars has increased of late years under a capitation fee, showing what the school would increase to if free. We also, by the aid of the Press, can read and understand the various feelings and opinions entertained by our neighbours on this important question, whether they be trustees, schoolmasters, or fathers of families. We find that they differ on many points, but that whilst so differing there is one very important point that meets them on the threshold, and staggers their conception; one that seems to absorb the good the school might otherwise largely accomplish; that costs the most money, and is at the same time of the least value to Wolverhampton boys when paid for.

During this Inquiry we have been told by witnesses and others that the school was, is, and must henceforward be *strictly* and essentially a classical foundation; that certain ancient and modern Acts of Parliament rule it; that before Henry the Eighth's time boys had next to no education; that any other instruction than classical is against the founder's intention; that in short, it is not only logically but legally a classical foundation, and that it is out of the power of the whole town to make it a commercial school.

Such is the stumbling block so much made use of in the way of reforming this and such like schools; such is the one and all sufficient bar to making these schools do the greatest good to the greatest number; but it may be that these assertions are not strictly correct, and if it can be shown that so far from being strictly correct, that they are very incorrect, it may at once lead to the settlement of this dispute, and that commercial and artisan boys shall be educated according to their future walks in life, with the foundation fund left by the good-hearted Sir Stephen Jenyns.

The real object of those who consider that *well endowed* schools (for, mind, this dispute is never heard of when the foundation fund is a small

one) are strictly classical is, that these schools should be feeders to the universities, their belief being that it is better to educate 50 boys for Oxford or Cambridge than 500 for commerce.

Now, had this school been reared from the ruins of a religious guild, or grafted on the reconstruction of a learned brotherhood, such as a college or cathedral, thereby giving it a clerical character, there might be some grounds for saying, "We will educate on this foundation primarily for the universities," but when it is as plain as the sun at noonday that it was founded by a tradesman—a master tailor—Sir S. Jenyns—and that he appointed the merchant-tailor fraternity to be his trustees, that no mention is made on its foundation that it should send boys to the universities, but that it was simply for the use and support of a head and second master to teach the boys in—in what?—in good morals, and literature and other necessary things, surely, it is inconsistent with logic, legality, common sense, and a wish to meet the requirements of Wolverhampton, to say that it is strictly a classical foundation.

The point, therefore, of all others, to which all the other points in dispute are, in fact, subsidiary, is as to its being a classical school or not.

The tenacity with which this opinion is clung to by many (interested in most cases) is a source of great danger, because on the other side it produces a desire in the minds of their opponents to see these educational institutions "fused down in the parliamentary crucible," rather than that they should continue strictly classical in their aim. And this is not the only danger, because the pertinacious adherence to this adopted view, hinders to an unknown degree the desire on the part of the benevolent of the present day, to bequeath such like blessings to our successors.

It may be said that the words "pertinacious adherence to this adopted view" is a strong remark; but suppose that there existed in this day any of the charitable ancient "leper houses," and it was objected that these should be turned into the modern useful baths and washhouses, because that would be neither logical nor legal, what would be the general opinion as to the sanity of such an objection.

It is to be maintained, too, that this strict adherence to the classics has been the cause of the non-education of the working and middle classes for many years; that had an English education been given in these schools during those many years, the ignorance of the masses would have been removed long ago; and that the case in too many of such schools has existed and does exist, as described by Lord Kenyon in 1795, that the grammar schools were reduced to a lamentable state—empty walls, without scholars, and everything neglected, "but the receipt of the salary and the emoluments."

Now to show the utter fallacy of this "dead language" interpretation, it is only necessary to take several Grammar School foundation terms, from 1507 to 1673, viz., Enfield, "to read their alphabet letters, Latin and English;" Warmington, "Whittington's Grammar;" Newark, "Grammar, Rhetoric, Ten Commandments, Articles of Faith, and Holy Psalms and Hymns;" Hartlebury, "also to write and cast accounts;" Carmarthen, "Grammar and other inferior books;" St. Bees, "A B C in English, the Catechism, Psalter, Book of Common Prayer and New Testament in English;" Shawell, "the talk of the grammar scholars to be in Latin," showing they were not all grammar scholars; Sandon, "Grammar and other good authors;" Stow, "Latin tongue and other more polite literature and science;" Brentwood, "Virtue, learning and manners;" the Charter House, "to cypher and cast accounts, especially those that are less capable of learning and fittest to be put to trades;" Kilham, "Grammar and other books of learning;" Kirkham, "young children A B C, primer, &c.;" Goudhurst, "to read and write, and tongues and sciences."

Many more can be adduced, and as to Greek especially, it was at one time not only not taught at the universities and great schools, but discouraged—the time when "*Cave à Græcis nefas hæreticis*" was a popular adage.

But enough on the question of the legality of "strictly classical teaching," let us see what many of our eminent writers* say as to the utility of teaching them in our foundation schools, and I may then leave the question to the inhabitants of Wolverhampton, and to the reconsideration of the trustees of the free school founded by Sir S. Jenyns.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

This letter brought down upon me the vituperation of Mr. Monaghan, the editor of the *Spirit of the Times*. He was a gentleman of great natural ability, but the lavish quantity of "Irish Sauce" that he served up with his editorial dishes spoiled the repast. As a specimen of this I insert one of his articles, the latter part being like the postscript to a lady's letter, the most important.

* At the conclusion of the letter I gave the opinions of the following writers against the study of the classics:—H. H. Vaughan, M.A., Reg. Pro. Modern His., University of Oxford, 1854.—Dr. Southey, *Westminster Review*, vol. 4, p. 143.—The *Times* newspaper, Nov. 12, 1853.—Byron in "Childe Harold," c. 14.—Scott's "Old Mortality."—Professor Pillans.—*Westminster Review*, Oct., 1853, and H. B. Hamilton.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL CONTROVERSY.

(From the Spirit of the Times.)

Three weeks have passed since the Inspector of Charities threw out an invitation to all whom it might concern to open their opinions in regard to the Reform of the Grammar School in the public newspapers. His invitation appears to have been a popular one, and to have met with many acceptances. Twelve, or, if we date from the inquiry, seventeen letters have appeared, of very unequal degrees of length, merit, and politeness. Some are plain enough in their meaning; in others a dim purport looms, after much gazing, through a mist of irrelevancy and rhodomontade. We have made it our business to go through these letters carefully, searching with diligence for every trace that can be found either of objections to the Trustees' scheme, or suggestions for another.

In laying before our readers the result of our distillation, we shall leave out of account the large residuum of mere incrimination and abuse that remains. But we cannot but regret that a better tone has not been exhibited, in this respect, by some of the correspondents. The abuse is scattered with the utmost freedom. The Trustees, the Secretary, the Clergy generally, the Rector in particular, are bespattered wholesale. But the richest is always reserved for the Head Master. On the principle, we presume, which is ascribed to the much maligned colliers, "Ere's a stranger, Bill; 'eave 'alf a brick at him"—the choicest reviling is bestowed on the person who has the least power to act or opportunity to reply. "London people who are not satisfied"—"indifferent craftsmen"—"Oxonian redtape"—are expressions found in a single copy; and two or three writers even descend to the *Chronicle's* own level, hurling allegations of greediness, plotting, lying, and the like, without stint, and indulging, to the full of their bent, the pleasures of safe malignity.

But into this discreditable part of the correspondence we do not mean to go. It is a pleasanter task to turn to that scanty portion, which has a practical bearing on the questions at issue. The objections to the proposals of the Trustees appear to be directed against three points—the removal of the schools, the character of the education, and the reception of boarders. On the first of these points, we are happy to see that nothing of importance can be advanced in opposition. Mr. Webb, indeed, recommends, as he is bound, as a Bilston man, to do, that the schools should be placed on the south east of the town, amongst the mines, "which will soon be worked out." *Ecolier* suggests, for the comfort of present parents, that if sanitary improvement continues, the present site will be better "in ten or twelve years time;" while *Free School* asserts that it is already the most

healthy street in the town, and corroborates his assertion by stating "that there is no public house near the school"—the fact being, that there is one at eight yards distance on the one side, and another at twelve yards distance on the other. *Inhabitant* thinks that new schools should be built in a "more airy situation," but suggests the south of the town, rather than the west, not because the latter would be injurious to the school, but because it would be beneficial to the Head Master. This is all that can be advanced against the proposed rebuilding. And no wonder. For the revelations made before the Inspector have effectually destroyed that part of the case. We venture to say that there is now no intelligent man, who does not think the site of the existing school in every way objectionable, and who does not feel that whatever else the Trustees may do, whether they leave the present scheme untouched or not, a removal of the school premises is the first thing necessary.

The opinions expressed touching the character of the education are of much more importance. The subject is naturally a favourite one with the correspondents. Seven of the ten say something upon this head. *Spero* wants his boys educated as "clerks," and says, which is a mistake, that it would cost £9 a-piece to do so. Mr. Webb says that Greek and Latin is "useless lumber"—"filling up the room of better goods." *Ecolier* asserts that "Sir Stephen Jenyns was a merchant, and that we have very small grounds for supposing that he intended the school for learned professions, still less for the universities," and quotes approvingly an opinion that it is not "a grammar foundation," because the feoffment recites (which it does not) that the subjects of education are "good morals and literature, and other necessary things." Mr. George Griffith misquotes the same sentence, and draws the same conclusion. *Inhabitant* holds that the trustees "must give a commercial education, if the intentions of the founder are to be carried out." *Parent* considers that the present scheme provides for a commercial education. *Anti-humbug* thinks that the design of the founder was "to assist the struggling tradesman in giving his son an education suitable to the times." Thus it appears to be the common opinion of these seven champions that a commercial education is, or, at least, may be included in the intentions of the founder.

We cannot but regret that they have not taken the advice which we gave them some weeks ago, to ask the opinion of some friendly lawyer. As they have not done so, we beg their attention, while we tell them, in a few words, how the law stands. It has been ruled, over and over again, in the Court of Chancery, that a "grammar school" means a school for teaching Latin and Greek, and does not contemplate other instruction. The greatest relaxation admissible was allowed by Lord Lyndhurst in the

case of Monmouth School, in 1820; this was the appointment of a writing and arithmetic master, to teach "the classical scholars in extra hours." To remedy the evils of this state of things, the Grammar Schools Act of 1840 was passed. This act commences by reciting what is meant by a "grammar school," declaring it to include, amongst others, all "endowed schools which may be grammar schools by reputation." It then proceeds to allow the appointment of other masters in other subjects, provided that this appointment shall not interfere with the efficient teaching of Latin and Greek, which are "the principle objects of the foundation." It is under the provisions of this act that the French, German, and drawing masters are appointed. But it would appear that the objectors are deluding themselves into the belief that certain words added to the designation of the grammar school, "for the instruction of boys in good morals and literature," remove this particular school out of the general class. There cannot be a greater error than this opinion. So far from it, such words as "literature," "learning," "good arts," and the like, have always been held by the Court to refer to the learned languages, and to constitute a grammar school.

And here it is that we have a grave cause of complaint against one of the correspondents, not for what he has said, which is of no consequence, but for what he has not said. Mr. Griffith, to whom we refer, is a native of Kidderminster, who, when certain reforms were made in Kidderminster School, laid an information against them in the Court of Chancery, upon which judgment was given by Vice-Chancellor Turner in 1851. The allegations in that cause bear a close resemblance to the wishes expressed by the objectors in the present case; and if Mr. Griffith had laid before the town the result of that trial, instead of endeavouring to create the same ferment here, which had met with such a disastrous termination there, he might have dispersed much of the ignorance which, until lately, has prevailed. The judgment of the Vice-Chancellor may be found, by any one who wishes, in the 9th volume of Hare's Reports. The grounds set forth by the petitioners were such as these:—"it was known that the inhabitants did not approve of the scheme of the trustees," "a public meeting had been held, attended by 1,500 persons, condemning the scheme, and appointing a committee to watch the case," "the intention of the founder was that it should be free," "the school was not a grammar school only, if at all; for it was defined in the ancient documents as a free school for the instruction of children and youths in good literature and learning." "history, geography, mathematics, writing, &c., were included in this definition," "the revenues were sufficient without boarders." And now mark the end of this attempt. In regard to every one of these allegations,

the petition was dismissed with costs. Why did not Mr. Griffith state this to the town?

We cannot better conclude this article than by quoting a few passages from the judgment on that occasion. First, as to the allegation that it was only a grammar school, the judge says—"This school appears by the Inquisition to have been founded for the instruction of children and youth in *good literature and learning*, terms which, having regard to the early period of the foundation, go far of themselves to show that it was intended for instruction in the learned languages. In the documents of 1687 and 1696 it is called a free grammar school; and no evidence is given to show that it was not a grammar school except the equivocal description of it as a free school in the Inquisition of the early leases." Then, as to the claims for a commercial education—"the inhabitants have heretofore enjoyed a limited education for their children free of charge, or, at all events, upon a very trifling payment. It has appeared that they were not entitled to it, and they feel, and not unnaturally, disappointed at the discovery; but I cannot alter the foundation for them." The judgment concludes with these words, to which we would call particular attention—"I dismiss the petition, with costs; as, although no just complaint can be made of the pleadings in the cause, *I most highly disapprove of charity informations, got up by public meetings, and supported by public subscription.*"

To this I wrote a reply, which was inserted in the *Wolverhampton Chronicle* of May the 29th:—

To the Editor of the Wolverhampton Chronicle.

"Our Court shall be a little academy,
Still and contemplative in living arts."

Shakespeare's Love's Labour Lost.

STR,—It is no uncommon thing for a writer to become angry when he finds himself without ground for argument, nor is it unusual for such a person to become abusive when he finds that the public will not be persuaded to believe that the worse is the better cause. And thus the triple anger contained in the leader of your contemporary last Saturday may be accounted for.

Persons in the habit of writing may easily detect the *trio juncta in uno* in this splenetic article, the editorial attempt at facetious spleen, the clerical captious spleen, and the legal contentious spleen, dovetailed to make it appear as the work of one and the same hand.

No selfish man will blame them, because they are interested, but they

forget the words that were uttered on a memorable occasion (quite as applicable in the Wolverhampton school case), viz., "the law will never make an interpretation to advance a private good and to destroy the public, but always to advance the public good and to prevent every private, which is *odious* in such matters."* They also forget that truth is as essential in support of an argument as mortar in brickwork, and that unless employed in its proper places and at the proper time, the superstructure falls to the ground.

Now how stands the case in this leading article? It is acknowledged that 17 letters have been written in support of the rights of a free education for the Wolverhampton boys, and in these letters it is asserted that there are to be found "irrelevancy, rhodomontade, incrimination, abuse, reviling, allegations of greediness, plotting, lying, and safe malignity."

This is very mild, very scholarlike, and remarkably classical; a special degree should be created for this new style of composition, so that it should not be allowed to die out; and it would not be amiss to have half-yearly examinations of those who are desirous of excelling in this superior and novel talent, and thus—

"Pick out of mirth, like stones out of the ground,
Profaneness, filthiness, abusiveness—
The scum with which coarse wits abound—
The good may well spare these, yet shine no less!"

The old adage of "throw dirt enough and some will be sure to stick" is attempted, too, in a particular manner against myself. Well, I must meekly bear it. I am accused of the heinous guilt of being a native of Kidderminster. Well, what of that? May I respectfully ask where the editorial "we" was born, and if distance from Wolverhampton in birth be a fault, let us have the two distances measured, and let each offence be visited with its proportionate punishment.

I am also accused of misquoting. This is not true.

Letters patent were granted by Henry VIII., dated the 12th of April, 1513, wherein he gave license to Sir Stephen Jenyns to give to the Merchant Tailors' fraternity, the manor of Rushock, for the better sustentation of one master and of one usher in the grammar school in good morals and literature, and of other necessary things to be done there, according to the orders and sound rules and disposition of Sir S. Jenyns or his executors, or others by him to be deputed or appointed, in that behalf to be ordained settled, and established.

And by *deed of feoffment* of 25th of May, 1515, he confirmed the letters

* Sir Edward Coke on the Magdalene College case.

patent "to the use and intent of the said Sir S. Jenyns, as by his settlement (*compositionen*), or his last will made and declared thereof more manifestly appears."

The above quotations can be verified by the Charity Commissioners' report, from whence I quoted them, and challenge any disproof of their correctness.

But the editor proceeds further, and says that it has been ruled over and over again by the Courts that a grammar school means a school for teaching Latin and Greek. He knows right well that it has been ruled over and over again to the contrary, and that even Lord Eldon altered his opinion after his first decision on that point.

Sir S. Jenyns' deed of feoffment is dated 1515, and Greek had only been taught at the first in 1509, by Lily, in a private school, and Linacre and Grocyn first taught it publicly *at the end of the fifteenth century*, so that this foundation could not be considered a classical one; and so impressed were the Charity Commissioners with the evils arising from the exclusively classical view taken by many schoolmasters, that they conclude their general Report (32nd, 1837,) in these remarkable words, "that the want of a competent jurisdiction was more frequently, and in some cases more strongly exemplified by the state of many of our grammar schools, in which instruction was limited to the dead languages, or extended to other branches of education *only on terms which excluded such children as were the immediate objects of the foundation.*"

Then I am accused of not stating Sir George Turner's judgment in the Kidderminster case—this judgment was acknowledged on all hands to be so notoriously unjust (especially on the grounds of allowing boarders where the income was sufficient without aid) that the inhabitants send their children to a private school in the town, at double the charge made at the once Free School, rather than submit to Sir George Turner's dictum. But it is refreshing after such an unjust judgment to find that the Master of the Rolls is of a contrary opinion—such an opinion being of far greater weight than Sir George Turner's—the former said in his judgment, delivered in March 21st, 1860, on the Bristol School case*—

"He had come to the conclusion not to sanction the introduction of boarders into the school. He did not mean by this decision to lay down any general rule as to the non-introduction of boarders into the Grammar Schools. The principal argument in favour of giving permission to the masters to receive boarders was that by augmenting the income of the masters a tendency arose to raise the character and qualification of the class of instructors, and that without this assistance in some places

* Head Master's Salary £345 and a house.

efficient masters could not be obtained. However, he observed that the head master of the Bristol Grammar School now obtained £345 per annum, beside a house rent free and kept in repair, and he did not doubt that this remuneration would secure a master of very high qualifications, and that on the vacancy of that office the trustees would rather be puzzled which of the admirable instructors who offered themselves as candidates they would select, than feel any difficulty in obtaining a competent person to accept the situation. He did not, therefore, in the present case, feel the necessity of admitting boarders in order to enable an adequate supply of efficient masters to be provided for the sustentation of either the credit or necessities of the school, or for the instruction of the scholars. Another argument frequently relied upon in favour of the admission of boarders into Free Grammar Schools was derived from the advantages anticipated to arise from the intermixture of different classes of society in the same school. This anticipated advantage, however, did not agree *with the result of experience*, and his opinion was, that so far from union being promoted by the admixture of boarders and free scholars, it was impeded and checked. It was found that the two classes of scholars, viz., those educated at the cost of the charity, or nearly so, and those whose parents paid largely for their instruction, do not coalesce or mix harmoniously together. Moreover, the boarders, almost as a matter of course, secured more instruction than the free scholars, and were more subject to the discipline of the master. If the prizes and exhibitions were opened to them they carried them all away; and this circumstance adds to the prestige, if the word could be so abused, with which they were surrounded, owing to their supposed greater wealth. If the boarders, on the other hand, were excluded from such competition, then an additional evil of another sort was introduced, arising from a class of students being excluded from obtaining the due reward of their industry. He believed that the ultimate admixture of classes was promoted by the practical exclusion of boarders from some of the Free Grammar Schools; and one of his main reasons for this was, that no dignity or honour, in Church or State, under the Throne, was excluded from any person, however humble might be his origin, provided his abilities and industry enabled him to obtain them; and that when he had obtained them he was accepted by the highest classes, into whose circles he had risen, exactly as if he had been born into the ranks into which he was adopted. But to accomplish this result the means of a liberal, classical, and extended education must be open to him; *and if there were no Free Grammar Schools open to the lower classes this would be impossible*. The existence of the Free Grammar Schools without boarders provided the necessary instruction for the lower class of the community. The son of a

peer might avoid, or be excused from associating with the son of a small tradesman; but when the son of the tradesman had become eminent in the State or become distinguished for his literary, classical, or scientific attainments, the peer might eagerly seek the acquaintance and friendship of the man who, when a boy, he would have shunned. The interests of society would eventually be best consulted and advanced by holding that, into the Free Grammar Schools, which were from their position and neighbourhood well attended by free scholars, boarders should not be admitted, or should be admitted only to such a limited extent as would not interfere with the general character of the school; and when a school had attained a great amount of scholars under either system, viz., that of taking free scholars almost exclusively, it would, in his opinion, be foreign to the duty or province of that Court to interfere with or alter that system."

Thus I may throw back the accusation by asking, why did not the Editor quote the Master of the Rolls' judgment? and I repeat his own words, that the inhabitants of Wolverhampton "have a grave cause for complaint against him, not for what he has said, *which is of no consequence*, but for what he has not said," or in other words that he has in arguing, learnt "how not to do it."

The result of Sir George Turner's judgment in the Kidderminster case has been that with school properties of about the annual value of £880, the average of town boys since that period has been about 18 to 22, who have to pay £4 per annum; the head master living in a house belonging to the trust, containing dormitories enough to accommodate 50 boarders. So that if we divide the £880 per annum by 20 these free (?) boys' education costs £44 per annum each—so much for the classics, the boarding, and the capitation fee system, in a commercial town! May it never be so in Wolverhampton.

Then I am, lastly, accused of creating a ferment. Who and what are the real causes of the ferment in both cases? Why those who wish to get up new schemes, whereby, at the expense of the foundation, and to the great loss and deprivation of the inhabitants, hope to live and amass large incomes by feeding, lodging, and teaching boarders, and by imposing fees on the town boys, where for centuries before no fee was ever demanded, and for the success of which they can only plead that this was an ancient classical school, which they know to be utterly false.

We are told by the decree of 1751 that the funds of the school were misapplied by the Merchant Tailors' fraternity, and most people are of opinion that the boarding system is a deprivation in the present day. The numerous writers in your columns opposed to the fee and boarding system, and the paucity of opponents show this pretty broadly—and I beg to ask

both parties to go to Tettenhall churchyard, where they will find the following epitaph, upon which I hope they will reflect :—

“STEPHEN FALKNER, died 1st June, 1777.

His application, integrity, and ability in his profession was uncommon for his years, which obtained the esteem of his clients. He was in particular a principal instrument in divesting the Merchant Taylors, of the trust of the Free School in Wolverhampton, which capital service to the public ought not to be forgot by the present, but handed down to the most remote generations.”

In conclusion let us hope that the Free School will become free, and that the day is not far distant when the funds of this and other such schools, will be devoted to a system of education fitted to the wants of the times, and not to unprofitable, dreary, and wearisome monastic studies, which studies are quite unnecessary out of the Universities, inasmuch as nearly every Greek and Latin work can be bought in the English language.

I beg to remain, sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Chapel Ash, Wolverhampton, June 3, 1861.



CHAPTER VII.

“ A PROPHE T IS NOT WITHOUT HONOUR, BUT IN HIS OWN COUNTRY.”

St. Mark 6th, v. 4.

What! shall it e'er be taught to youth,
That our sound Anglo-Saxon tongue,
Is like a Prophet of the truth,
Devoid of honor in its own,
Its native Country!—'tis true 'tis flung
Aside by many a classic drone ;
But Milton, Shakespeare, Bunyan, live,
And still shall live in English lore,
Still rapture to each student give,
When ancient tongues shall be no more.

G. G.

The Wolverhampton Grammar School was founded by Sir Stephen Jenyns, an Alderman of London, by two several letters patent, dated the 22nd of September, 1512, and 12th of April 1513, wherein he appointed as his trustees, the guild of Merchant Tailors, of London, of which he was a member.

His endowment consisted of the rents of the Manor of Rushock, in Worcestershire, and the school and masters' houses in Wolverhampton, the former was valued at £15 per annum, and his object was, that therewith, a master and an usher should teach boys good morals and literature, and other necessary things to be done there.

It is supposed that the deeds of endowment were destroyed in the great fire of London, in 1666, but a copy of the founders' feoffment is preserved in an old book of deeds belonging to the Merchant Tailors' Company, from which the foregoing is taken.

The school-house appears to have been built by Sir Stephen Jenyns. The Rushock estate now contains 823 acres.

During the Inquiry in May, 1861, as narrated, a copy of a Decree in the Court of Chancery, relating to the school, was found among papers belonging to the late Rev. Isaac Fisher, a former second master of the school, by his representative, the Rev. G. H. Fisher, of Willenhall.

Of this document the following is a condensation embracing the most important points therein, which throw considerable light on the early position of the school, and on the founder's intentions, as entertained by Lord Coventry, the Lord Keeper of the Great Seal, by whom the decree was made. The copy of the whole filled one-and-a-half columns of the *Wolverhampton Chronicle* :—

In Easter term, 1626, six inhabitants of Wolverhampton entered a Bill of complaint, in the Court of Chancery, against the Merchant Tailors' guild, stating that for 80 years there had been a *Free Grammar School* in that town, for the "teaching and instructing of children and youth, for such as were born, or abiding, within the town and parishe, as well as such as should come from other parts within this kingdom." It is then stated that the founder bought the land and built the school, and that "commonly every year there were diverse schoolers, as well the sons of men of worth and qualitie, as of mean parentage, taken from the said school, and sent to either of the Universities."

They complained that the Trustees held the school deeds, and appropriated the most part of the funds to their own gain, that they had placed unfit men to be schoolmasters, and let the lands on leases subject to heavy fines.

It was also stated that for the past 40 years the rents had been worth £250 per annum, and that out of this sum the trustees were only paying the masters £50 per annum; that for many years past there had been only four *poor* scholars sent to the Universities, and the petitioners, therefore, prayed that the overplus should be devoted to the further advancement and prefer-

ment of *poor* scholars to be sent to the Universities, or to some other good and charitable uses in the town or parish.

Consequent upon this complaint, witnesses were examined on both sides, and a hearing took place in the Court of Chancery conducted by Counsel, when judgment was given by Lord Coventry to the effect that the whole of the rents and profits should be given to the use of the school, and the Bishop was prayed to see that proper persons were appointed as schoolmasters, and so the matter ended. This judgment was delivered on the 24th of May, in the fourth year of the reign of Charles the First.

It is quite clear that the education and training of *poor* boys for the Universities was the chief object and desire of the founder; but, now-a-days, although the foundation revenue has much increased, fees are put on the scholars' parents, in order, principally, to keep poor boys out, and so make the school select in its ranks, and increase the stipends of the masters.

In this year there was a general election, and for a wonder, four candidates appeared to contest the two seats attached to Wolverhampton; these were the two sitting members, the Right Hon. Charles Pelham Villiers, and T. M. Weguelin, Esq., Staveley Hill, Esq., a barrister, and Mr. Samuel Griffiths, the latter being a resident ironmaster. In three of the districts each of the last named three candidates had a majority, *i.e.*, Mr. Weguelin polled more votes than Mr. Griffiths at Wolverhampton, Mr. Griffiths polled more than Mr. Weguelin at Bilston, and Mr. Hill polled more than Mr. Griffiths at Sedgley.—This singular state of things induced me to write the following, which appeared in the *Wolverhampton Advertiser and Staffordshire News*, on Saturday, August 10th, 1861:—

THE THREE CANDIDATES.

Three candidates to Wolverhampton came,
 All eager travellers in the paths of fame;
 The one to drafts and coinage of the law
 Devoted nights of thought and days of jaw;

The second dealt in drafts and bullion too,
 A chick of the OLD LADY called "The SCREW;"
 But both were found just in the third combined,
 He dealt in gold, jaw, drafts, time out of mind.*
 And truth to say, each candidate has won,
 For whilst old 'Hampton carried the Great Gun,
 Bilston has claimed the third for its M.P.,
 As none had pleased it like its own S.G.,
 And Sedgley placed its Hill upon a rock,
 To crow, proud chicken, o'er the Bilston cock.

Many reviews of my History of the Birmingham Endowed Schools and other Institutions, appeared in the public prints, all of which were favourable, but that by the editor of the *Birmingham Journal* was the most ample and complimentary. It was as follows:—

This volume, of nearly 630 pages, is another example of Mr. Griffith's long and careful study of the history of charitable institutions. With a diligence and care that seemed almost useless, he collected in his former Works, on the Free Schools of Worcestershire, and Staffordshire, a large mass of material of great value. Not content with the Inquiries of the Charity Commissioners and their elaborate Reports, Mr. Griffith took a new and independent course, and not only corrected the errors but supplied the deficiencies which existed, and brought his histories to the latest date. When the present volume was announced, we speculated as to its probable contents, and wondered why it should have been written. Birmingham is not rich in charities, and those which do exist are generally well managed, so that there seemed to be little room for such researches as those of Mr. Griffith into the abuses of the trusts of olden days. The charities of our town are mostly of modern date; so modern, that their history is pretty generally known, and their abuses could be readily exposed. What, then, has our author to do? *Cui bono* is his book, and to those questions we propose to reply by a brief account of its volume and its contents. It is dedicated to Lord Brougham, as the originator of the Charity Commission, and the advocate of a reform of the management of our endowments for more than fifty years. The preface recapitulates Mr. Griffith's views on

* The jaw and law appertained to the barrister, the drafts and bullion to Mr. Weguelin, who had been Governor of the Bank of England, and as to Mr. Griffiths, he had been a banker on a small scale, and a speaker and a drawer of drafts on a much larger.

those important subjects, and briefly traces the history of our schools from the days of the Druid priests and Saxon and Norman clergy down to our own days. He shows that the management of our endowed schools has often been careless, and too often corrupt, that the numbers of scholars have been limited, that the masters might be more highly paid, that the poor and indigent have been excluded that their richer brethren might receive a good classical training and share the honours and emoluments of a university; that trustees have been made self-electors, and consequently that abuses had crept into nearly every school. He shows that the only remedy for these evils has been an application to the Court of Chancery, and as its movements are so slow, and its judgments frequently so conflicting, no real redress of grievances could be expected from such a court. He notes that in one case this court took 150 years to decide a question which an ordinary jury would have settled in a day or two at most; that it sometimes allowed boarders and sometimes not; that it limited the numbers where the population was large and the funds were ample, but imposed no restrictions in cases where the applicants were many and the resources small. He notes many of the minor abuses of the endowed schools of England, and recommends that the difficulties should be met in some such way as follows:—The jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery to cease; the Trustees to be elected like Town Councillors, and their chairman by themselves; the education to be given according to the wants of the locality, the requirements of the age, and the abilities of the scholars; the boys to belong to the class and place of residence indicated by the founder of the school; a county board to be formed by one Trustee from each school whose returns or payments exceed £50 a year; an auditor to be appointed by such county board; that this board receive all complaints and allow an appeal to a special jury at the next assizes, whose decision shall be final; that all such board-meetings shall be open; that no boarders be allowed when the funds are sufficient for the maintenance of the master; and that all the necessary expenditure be met by a rate of one penny in the pound on the rents of all schools which exceed £50 a year. This is a general sketch, omitting some details of the plan which Mr. Griffith's very large experience compels him to propose. The mass of evidence collected in his former works, is a sufficient indication that something must be done in this direction before many years are past, and Mr. Griffith's propositions cannot be too widely circulated or too closely considered. In our town happily few of these abuses exist, but the recent attempt to give the Corporation a position in the governing body of King Edward's School was a step in the direction in which Mr. Griffith thinks all men should go. As the question will come up again ere long, and the position and prospects of this our noblest educational institution will have

to be discussed, we reserve our further remarks on Mr. Griffith's proposal, and conclude our notice with a sketch of the contents of the book. Some sixty pages are assigned to the history of King Edward's School, in the course of which some curious particulars are collected and preserved. The letters patent in 1552 re-granted part of the possessions of the Guild of the Holy Cross for the purposes of a Free Grammar School, and some interesting details are quoted of the names of streets and places three hundred years ago in Brymyncham, as our town was called. Among those we note Chappell Street (Bull Street), Molle Street (Moor Street) Mercer's Street (Spiceal Street), and Goddes Carte Lane, from which our modern Carr's Lane takes its name. A list, not previously published, we believe, is given of the large properties, the leases of which have not yet fallen in, with the amounts of the ground rents, and amounts to be expended by the lessees. The details of the school, the history of its changes and extensions are all given with much minuteness from official documents, and form the completest account of this noble foundation yet published. The author next examines the Blue Coat School, the Deaf and Dumb Institution, the Institution for the Blind, the Protestant Dissenting Charity School, the Queen's Hospital, the General Hospital, the Dissenter's College, formerly at Spring Hill and now at Moseley, and the Queen's College and its Trusts. All these are described with the most patient care, from official and other authentic documents. Among the other matter which Mr. Griffith has collected is the reference in Dugdale's MSS. at the Bodleian Library, in Oxford, to a "Grammar School" in Deritend, now "lost beyond the memory of any of the present inhabitants." An appendix, too, includes a full account of the Parliamentary proceedings concerning King Edward's School in 1842, and also in 1831 and 1832, wherein some important documents appeared which are not very generally known. While, therefore, we cannot agree with all Mr. Griffith's opinions and plans, we very heartily thank him for the valuable book of reference he has given us,—a book which no other man would have projected, and certainly no other would have compiled so well. (*Birmingham Journal*, Sept 14th, 1861).

The sale of the Birmingham History, considering the population of that town, was not so rapid as I expected, and I therefore took a shop in Union Passage, New Street, and employed a person to attend solely to the sale of the book.

By this means, as well as by advertisements and reviews in the magazines and newspapers, far and near, it was brought thoroughly before the notice of the public.

As I was an original shareholder in the Severn Valley Railway, I received an invitation from the Bridgenorth Borough Authorities, to join the first train on the day of the opening of that line, which took place on the 7th of February, 1862.

The line extends from Hartlebury to Shrewsbury, and the train ran through to the latter place, and then returned to Bridgenorth, where a public dinner was provided, in the Assembly Room of the "Public Buildings," then newly erected.

In commemoration of this event I wrote the following verses, and in doing so, took what is called a "poetical license," by introducing imaginary individuals, Jane and her husband, as travellers in the train on the occasion:—

OPENING OF THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY.

FEBRUARY 7TH, 1862.

"Come, Jane, look sharp, put on your best,
To-day we must be smartly dress'd :
I promised long enough, you know,
That we should by the Railway go,—
That we should both at Bridgenorth dine,
When we could reach it by the Line.

You recollect, in days gone by,
We both lived there when young and shy,
We never thought that steam and rail,
Would supersede the coach and sail,—
That road and river should be shorn
Of traffic that should ne'er return.

The Train is coming,—haste I say,
You know it is our wedding day,
We'll laugh, and eat, and drink galore,
'Mongst friends and relatives once more.
'Tis so long since we've seen them, Jane,
We'll soon be there,—see, here's the Train!"

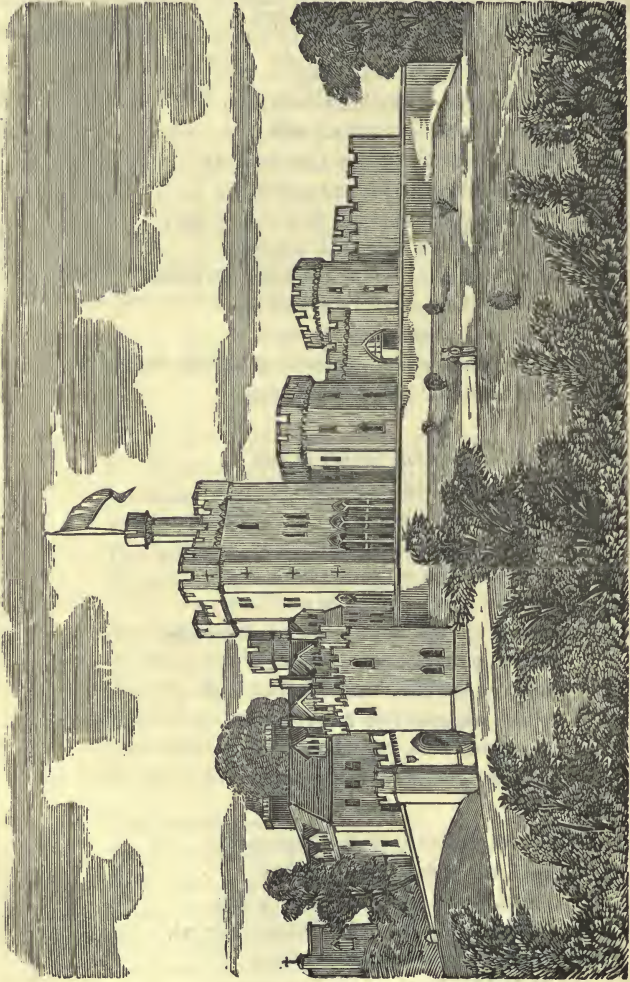
Old Wor'ster's spires were soon behind,
"The Train," says Tom, "goes like the wind,"
See Hartlebury's castle walls,
Recedes like lightning as it falls.

See! how the timid flocks in fright,
 Dash o'er the meadows left and right,
 Whilst quickly on the train doth fly,
 To Stourport in the wink of eye.

Stourport is all alive to day,
 The flags are flying bright and gay ;
 The dusty Miller's left his mill ;
 The anxious Tradesman's left his till ;
 The Tanner's left his pits and skins ;
 The Ploughboy opes his mouth and grins ;
 The Boatman's filled with jealousy ;
 The Coachman, Guard, and Boots, all three
 Declare the world is fill'd with evil,
 And going headlong to the devil,
 Since steam, grim conqueror, spoils their trade,
 And causes all their hopes to fade.

And Bewdley folk cannot refrain
 From seeing the long-talk'd-of train,
 O'er her proud bridge in troops they go,
 To see the entrance of her foe—
 For steam has drawn her trade away,
 And brought her down to sad decay.—
 Yes, proud was Bewdley, when each barge
 Came up the Severn to discharge ;
 Land on her quays each precious load,
 Which waggons took on every road,
 Supplying work and wages too,
 To every gang and river crew.

Off, off, again the train makes head,
 See! how it dashes o'er the bed
 Of many a stream, o'er many a spot
 Where woods and rocks commingling rot,
 Spots hitherto unknown to fame,
 And which for many have no name.
 See! o'er the bridge that spans the stream,
 Almost as baseless as a dream,
 The Engine its huge burden draws,
 Without one bend, without one pause.



ARLEY CASTLE.

Now, now, the other side they reach,
 Their palsied tongues now find their speech;
 Now, now, they praise the work and skill,
 Which conquered all things at their will.

Sweet Arley here arrest's the view*
 Bedecked with beauty ever new,
 With flowers that scent the wooing air,
 With trees of foilage rich and rare;
 With bold uplands and sweeping vales,
 Fruit laden orchards, lovely dales
 With kine and sheep all scattered round,
 And rustics with life's blessings crowned;
 Here, too, the Church with modest head,
 Guards jealously the village dead,
 And here the castle rears on high,
 Its turrets pointing to the sky.

* The Earl of Mountnorris had a great desire to sleep in the Castle after its completion—it is said that he did so only for two nights. He was born at Arley, and died there in the year 1844, aged 74 years. The present owner of the Castle and Estate (Robert Woodward, Esq.), bought them on September 30th, 1852. He took possession of the Estate on March 25th, 1853, and of the Castle on July 4th, 1853. The Park is grouped with very ancient Oak, Elm, Sycamore, and Chesnut Trees. The pleasure ground called "Naboth's Vineyard" is planted with a great variety of Rhododendrons, Acacias, Laurels, &c., and the Arboretum is filled with rare Forest Trees, Evergreen Oaks, Copper Beech Trees, Tulip Trees, &c., &c.

Mr. Robert Garner, F.L.S., of Hanley, tells us in the supplement to his Natural History of the county of Stafford (in which Arley is the last parish on the west side). "Here the church consists of tower, nave, chancel, north aisle, and south porch. The nave and aisle are most ancient, the chancel and porch comparatively modern. The style of the aisle is principally decorated, but one or two of the windows have now depressed heads. The nave has perpendicular clerestory lights; the roofs have been depressed and are battlemented with an ornament of trefoil arches. The old parts are of grey sandstone, the latter of red. The priest's door and another to the north are made up. There is some scanty carving in the ceiling of the nave, but shallow; with Tudor rose, the symbolical triangle, and traces of colouring. Many of the windows have coats of arms belonging to the Lyttletons. The 'crusader' now lies, (1844) under the west window, and is in good preservation; the shield has four bars dauncette, the time probably Ed. 1st. The register goes back to 1564."

Alas! that good Mountnorris died
Just as he finished Arley's pride
Saw the last stone laid on, then gave
His worn out body to the grave.

On, on, they go,—past Highley—on,
Now Hempton's Lode is reached and won,
The fields are lined with healthy life,
The farmer's there and so's his wife,
The waggoner and dairy maid
Stand close, and hold their breath, afraid,—
The buxom girls, and red cheek'd boys
With all their might make all the noise
That Nature's purest air confers
On those who are her worshippers.

But hark! what booms as we draw near
To Bridgenorth town, to us most dear,
Hark! cannons,—music,—lusty shouts!
Now welcome takes the place of doubts!
“How are you?—Oh! we're glad you're come,
It's so long since you were at home,
Come, come, make haste, I long to see
You in the old house, close to me.”

And thus old friends each other greet,
When after many years they meet,
And thus they sit around the fire,
Where in their youth their mother—sire—
Sat with them, telling them old tales,
Of battles, shipwrecks, fires, and gales.

Oh! happy hours when youth and sage,
Together cull'd from ancient page,
The deeds and darings done of old,
When men to lucre were not sold.

Time flies—hopes die—the well-known faces
Are missed from out their wonted places.
Strange life! that seems but like a day!
We breath—move—talk—then fall away;
Morn breaks—noon burns—and night comes on,
We're here one hour—the next we're gone!

On the 18th of February, 1862, the Stourbridge school, having been rebuilt, was opened under the presidency of Lord Lyttelton. The new building faces the street, with a frontage of 101 feet. The architect, Mr. T. Smith, of Stourbridge, adopted the perpendicular style; the tower is 60 feet high, under which is the main entrance. The whole cost of the work was about £3,100.

On the opening, the Rev. G. D. Boyle, of Handsworth, delivered an inaugural lecture in the school room, which he called "Work and Play, or, In and Out of School."

With a new building, new rules "to be observed by the masters and scholars" were drawn up, and having been approved by the Bishop of Worcester, and consented to by the head schoolmaster, the Rev. W. J. J. Welch, they were adopted.

Of course the inhabitants, that is, the owners of the school revenues were not consulted; they had it was true the opportunity of buying the book of rules *after* they were adopted, and that of course was enough for them!

A friend gave me a copy of the rules before they were printed, upon which I wrote a letter to the editor of the *Stourbridge Times*, dated the 30th of August, containing the following objections to various new principles introduced therein.

That the schoolmaster should not be a party to the making the new rules, as that duty belonged solely to the Trustees; that neither of the masters should be allowed to take boarders as their salaries were ample (these were £300 and £180 in 1851, with rent free residences also). That the age of the boys on admission should not be any restriction, but that being able to read satisfactorily should be the test. That stranger's sons should not be admitted, even if willing to pay four or six guineas per annum. That the second master ought not to be under the control of the head, and that his duties should not be confined to teaching the boys writing and arithmetic alone. That commercial studies ought not to be charged for, whilst Latin and Greek were to be taught free.

About the year 1700, it was ordered that the education should be quite free, yet so soon as the income had greatly increased,

fees were laid on in all branches except the dead languages, which proved to be a double evil, viz., charging the poor and letting the rich go free. It is a mystery how Lord Lyttelton, who so often speaks in public as to the desirability of teaching poor boys, could sanction such unjust rules in the case of the Stourbridge school.

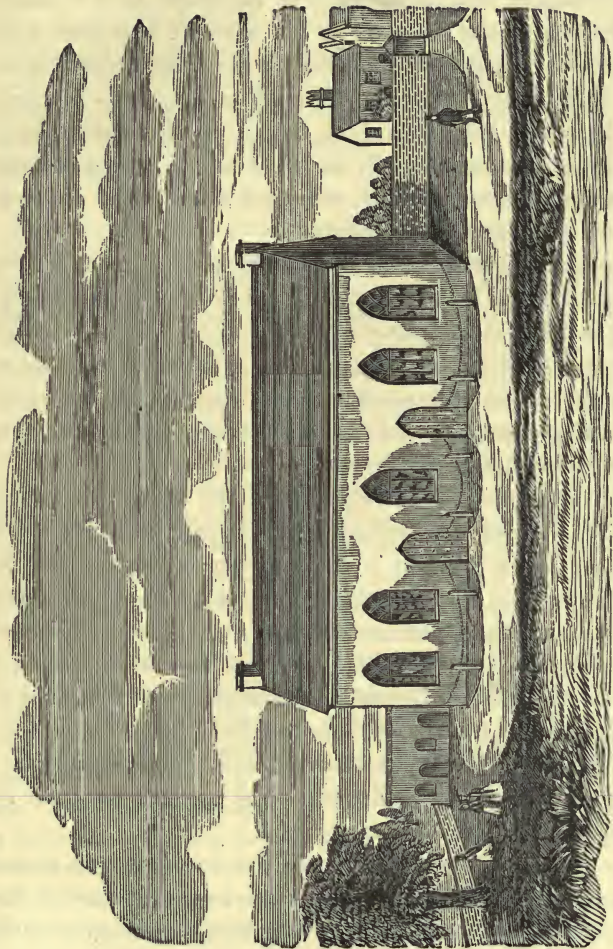
On the 20th and 22nd of June, Mr. F. O. Martin, one of the Inspectors from the Charity Commissioners' office, London, attended at Chaddesley Corbett, to enlarge the number of Trustees in connection with the Free Schools there. This was the chief object of the Inquiry, but the management of the schools in every sense was gone into.

There were present the Rev. F. A. Marriott, (vicar of the parish), Dr. Fitch, Messrs. James Bate, John Bate, J. Corbett, S. Chellingworth, E. Crane, E. Guest, A. Pearman, T. Perry, S. Bough, myself, and others. I attended at the special request of the majority of the Trustees, the most of whom I had known and done business with for many years. A copy of my Worcestershire History of Endowed Schools was handed to the Inspector by one of the Trustees, in order to assist him in the investigation.

The income of the school was £324. In 1852 the school lost £334 by the failure of Rufford's bank, at Stourbridge. At the same time it had its expectations, as part of the interest of £1000 was left to it by Mr. James Pratt, of Sion House, in 1824, upon the decease of his widow and his two sisters; this was to go to the increase of the salaries of the two schoolmasters, and the stipends of the poor people of five alms-houses in the parish.

There are three schools, two for boys and one for girls; the latter was built and established in 1848, on a piece of ground occupied by an old cottage, and cost £300.

The boys' schools adjoin the church-yard, and the master and usher have rent free residences; the boys pay for their books, pens, and ink—there were 46 boys in the upper, and 47 in the lower school, and in the girls' 68, all well taught and free of cost.



CHADDESLEY CORBETT FREE SCHOOL.

There appeared to be a good deal of ill feeling between the head master and the vicar, and a great part of the two days' inspection was occupied by an examination into the cause. The whole reason of this was, as stated to me by the head master, a desire on the part of the vicar to get a curate appointed in his place, should circumstances call for his dismissal. This was not very likely to take place, as the head master, (who had been second master of the Blue Coat School in Birmingham up to 1849,) was much respected by all the Trustees, except two, and by the parishioners generally, as he had educated all the boys well, and given great satisfaction.

It happened that he had been to a coursing meeting one day and was rather late in his attendance at the school the next morning; the vicar called at half-past nine o'clock, as he was in the habit of doing, and found the boys playing outside the school, and the master absent; the scholars' books were locked up, so the vicar read prayers, and told the boys to amuse themselves in the playground until the master came.

The head master lived nearly opposite the school, and feeling nettled at the vicar's not calling upon him, instead of interfering with the scholars, he wrote a letter to him, requesting that he would not meddle with the school any more. This did not please the vicar, and having communicated his views thereon to two of the trustees who had some old grudge against the master, they wrote to the Charity Commissioners, expressing their desire to get some new additional trustees appointed, with the ulterior view, no doubt, (should the Commissioners send an Inspector down) of laying the foundation of the master's dismissal by making a formal complaint against him.

The chief part of the vicar's plan was, to get trustees elected who were favourable to his views, and so secure the master's dismissal, and then get his curate into the office, over whom he could, of course, exercise his power without hindrance.

This view was not confined to the parish, as may be seen from the following editorial article as to the vicar's intent. It is to be remarked, too, that this article was written by a gentleman of

conservative opinions, and therefore not likely to visit the vicar's conduct with much severity :—

THE CHADDESLEY CORBETT CHARITIES.—We conclude this week a very long report of an Inquiry into the management of the charities belonging to the parish of Chaddesley Corbett, chiefly with a view to the nomination of trustees, in the place of some disqualified by incapacity or removal, and making up the full number settled by the last scheme. The materials do not furnish much matter for comment, for there were no disclosures of wasteful or improper application; the business which excited the most interest, and occasioned the most talking, being the behaviour of the upper schoolmaster, Mr. Beresford, towards the vicar of the parish, the Rev. F. A. Marriott, and his general suitability, both of which were impugned by the clergyman. With regard to the nomination of new trustees, we are glad that the existing body did not allow themselves to be warped by the vicar's no doubt well-meant and reiterated suggestion of Lord Lyttelton, of Hagley, and the Rev. H. A. Woodgate, rector of another neighbouring parish, as fit and proper persons for trustees. Few men probably possess a more intimate acquaintance with the classics than Lord Lyttelton—as he has demonstrated in regard to Latin, by the rendering of some of Milton's verse into as near an approach to the ancient idiom and style as can be compassed now-a-days—*proximus sed longissimo intervallo*—or are better calculated to give hints for the conduct of a great public classical school, but we take leave to doubt whether such qualifications are just what is required to fit his lordship to take part in the management of such a school as that of Chaddesley Corbett, which is of a widely different class. Irrespectively of this, we object to the intrusion of strangers into the management of matters which concern the people of any particular parish, as of Chaddesley Corbett in this instance, for whose behalf the institution was founded, and who must be supposed to know their own wants better than those who live at a distance and do not mix amongst them. It is not wanted that the curriculum of study in the school should be pitched too high. It is especially not wanted that the school should be perverted from its destination of teaching the elements to the children of the poor and the lower stratum of the middle classes, to that of teaching the classics and mathematics to the sons of people in the upper circle of society, who can afford to pay handsomely for their children's education, as a great many endowed schools have been—the children's bread being taken and cast—we need not say to whom. This, we conceive, is especially to be guarded against; and, for that reason, as well as on grounds of abstract justice—for it is most fitting and accordant that an institution bequeathed for local purposes should have strictly local managers—we believe the

trustees did quite right in not falling in with the Rev. Mr. Marriott's suggestion. It never could have been intended that the management should be vested even partially in non-parishioners, in persons, we will say, not qualified to take part in a vestry meeting.

"The charges against the schoolmaster (Mr. Beresford) resolved themselves into a particular and a general accusation. The particular accusation was one of being behind-hand in entering upon his duties one morning, and writing an insolent and offensive letter to the vicar, because he sent the boys off to play, owing to the materials necessary to entering upon their studies being locked up, the rev. gentleman thinking it better they should play out of doors than in the school. The general charge was one of unfitness and unsuitability. The vicar alleged that Mr. Beresford's conduct and deportment towards him had been such as to render cordial action between them impossible, whereby the school was likely to incur detriment. Nothing but the excitement of the moment can be pleaded in extenuation of the insolent and offensive letter, which ought to have been apologized for and withdrawn the instant Mr. Beresford had regained the use of his sense of propriety; but the other charges appear to have their origin mainly in parish gossip, or to have been insinuated by spies and talebearers, and are rather of a childish complexion. We will be bound if Mr. Marriott had carried such tales when he was at school, and had been detected, that he would have been kicked in the quarter in which according to some carrier of tales at Chaddesley, he was threatened with a visitation of shoe leather by Mr. Beresford; and he would have done better to have put the talebearer out by the shoulders than to have paid attention to him. He would have shown magnanimity too in not cherishing the remembrance of an affront given in passion, even if it actually occurred. The other items of the general accusation are that Mr. Beresford had spoken disparagingly of the Sunday school—from a not unnatural jealousy as may be supposed, of a kindred establishment—that he was averse to the boys going to church on Wednesdays and Fridays; that two of his smaller children were once seen playing at pitch and toss, church-while, in the churchyard; and that on another occasion Mr. Beresford, after acting as parish clerk in the church, muttered a hasty anathema on the churchyard gate because it would not readily open. At the risk of having it imputed that we are apologists of swearing, gaming, and other immoralities, than which nothing can be further from our view, we must say that the bill of indictment, considered with regard to its foundations, is the reverse of serious or formidable. We do not think we shall be far out if we call it frivolous. Mr. Beresford may have been a little indiscreet and unguarded in his speech; but if every one is to be punished with the

loss of his bread for non-consequential indiscretions and peccadilloes, a great portion of the world would be turned out to starve. Moreover, if a man is to be watched, all his faults observed, set in a note-book, learned and conned by rote to cast into his teeth, how few there are who could possibly go through such an ordeal unscathed.

If Mr. Beresford had been guilty of faults of deportment towards the vicar, Mr. Marriott, at the Inquiry, was guilty of a graver fault—absolute injustice—towards him. He went the way, by asking questions of Mr. Beresford—did you not do this or that, as the case might be—to make him convict himself. We will not say he *desired* to do this, but he *went the way* to do it. Every one acquainted with trials in our law courts knows, that if a barrister were permitted to question a witness in such a manner, he would make him tell just what story he pleased; but this is not permitted even with witnesses, and a person on his trial is simply asked if he has any defence to make after he has been confronted with the witnesses deposing against him. Mr. Marriott went upon the French plan, in which all the astuteness of the examining judge is employed to make a prisoner furnish matter for his own conviction. It is just the plan that used to be pursued by the Spanish Inquisition. The inquisitors first examined the prisoners privately—they were not brought face to face with the delinquent—and then shaped accordingly the questions to which they demanded answers. Mr. Marriott produced no witnesses; he charged Mr. Beresford on heresy, and his screened witnesses having made to him certain disclosures, he questioned Mr. Beresford in accordance therewith. Nothing can be more repugnant to the spirit or the forms of English justice, or to the notion of fair play and an equal field, which is rooted in the English character. A man is entitled to know the exact form and particulars of any charge against him, when and where the offence was committed. He is entitled to be confronted with the witnesses to the truth of that charge or how can he have full and fair means of answering it? Charges, which rest only upon the testimony of witnesses who are kept out of sight, and only breathe their accusations in a private ear, deserve to be accounted unworthy of serious notice. The inspector to whom the Inquiry was deputed by the Charity Commissioners, felt called upon to point out to Mr. Marriott the injustice and impropriety of this method of procedure, which it requires no legal intellect to perceive. Far be from us any idea of countenancing the schoolmaster, in a studied antagonism to the Vicar of the parish—in irreverence of language or insolence of deportment. We should advocate conduct in every way the reverse of this; but when a man is taken at a disadvantage, and dealt with in direct opposition to the rule and principle of English justice, we cannot refrain from holding up to

reproof and avoidance a course which wears the aspect of persecution.”
—*Worcester Journal*, July 8th, 1862.

The Inquiry and the remarks of the public press caused a great amount of censure to fall upon the vicar, the more especially as he had proposed to introduce strangers as new trustees, such as Lord Lyttelton, of Hagley Mr. Noel, of Bellbroughton, the Rev. R. P. Turner, of Churchill, and the Rev. H. A. Woodgate, of Bellbroughton, whilst there were plenty of respectable persons in Chaddesley Corbett able and willing to be trustees.

Notwithstanding this offensive desire to introduce strangers, he himself was nominated by the other trustees, as one of the new candidates, in company with Dr. Fitch, Messrs. John Pearman, W. Nicholls, S. Chellingworth, and E. Higgs.

All this led to a movement being set on foot in the parish, during the autumn, to make Mr. Beresford a present, as a testimony of the esteem in which he was held by his neighbours.

I was invited to the presentation dinner, and drove over with very great pleasure, as there could not be a greater condemnation of the vicar's move against the master, than this public demonstration.

The following account of the ceremony was published in the *Worcester Journal*:—

PRESENTATION TO MR. E. BERESFORD, HEAD MASTER OF THE SCHOOL.

On Monday, Nov. —, 1862, a party of gentlemen met at the Swan Inn, Chaddesley Corbett, to present the head master of the free school with a testimonial as a mark of their esteem. A purse, containing £25, had been subscribed chiefly by the inhabitants of the parish, and, as a matter of course the presentation was prefaced by a dinner.

Shortly after six o'clock, the guests, to the number of 40, sat down to an excellent repast, provided by Mrs. Bate, the landlady of the Swan Inn, Mr. Joseph Lett, of Rushock, took the chair, and Mr. Thomas Savage, of Plenimore, filled the vice-chair.

There were present—Messrs. Cooke, James Bate, George Bate, John Bate, jun., Thomas Parkes, Joseph Corbett, Wm. Corbett, Thos. Lloyd, F. Corbett, E. Corbett, Wm. Nicholls, J. Nicholls, John Pearman, jun., solicitor, Wm. Cooke, F. Lett, Wm. Lett, Geo. Brown, Wm. Bate, Thomas

Watkins, R. C. Bolton, J. Seager, E. Austin, E. Beresford, Mr. Griffith, &c., &c.

The Chairman having given the usual loyal toasts, the Vice-Chairman followed with "the Army, Navy, and Volunteers," to which Mr. Thomas Parker responded.

The Chairman then proposed the health of "The Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese," in complimentary terms. The Chairman: Before I propose the next toast I wish to contradict a statement that has gone forth that this is an opposition assembly. I beg most emphatically to say that I esteem our vicar in the highest degree, and looking to the names of subscribers on the list now before us, no one can imagine that any man in this room does not agree with me in that sentiment. (Hear, hear.) He then addressed the head master of the school, and said—I am deputed to present this testimonial from your neighbours as a mark of their esteem. It is a spontaneous gift, and I myself can say that my own boys were most excellently educated by you, and I believe that this is the feeling of all the parents who have sent boys to you. This will, no doubt, be a stimulus to you in further gaining the future esteem of the present and rising generation. The toast was received with loud applause.

Mr. Beresford, in replying, was overcome with emotion. He said he felt that he should be very ungrateful indeed, did he not feel deeply the mark of regard rendered to him. His neighbours and friends had gone too far in their kindness towards him. What was past he wished to be sunk in oblivion. He thanked the pupils who had joined in this testimonial, and trusted they would be as great a credit to the parish as he could wish. Scholars at a school often said, 'when we grow up we will pay the master off;' and he now found that to be the truth in a pleasant degree. In conclusion, he wished they would all do as well as it was evident they wished him to do. (Cheers.)

Mr. Corbett then proposed the health of the "Trustees of the Chaddesley Corbett School." He was proud to say that it was owing to their discrimination that they had so excellent a head master of the school. He himself was educated at the school; for fifty years he had known it, and Mr. Beresford had improved the school in every way, although it was good before. The trustees knew what the school should be, and although the charities had been well managed in every way, an attempt had been made, a short time ago, to introduce new blood. Strangers, not parishioners were proposed for the purpose of making a gentleman's grammar school of the endowment. That would not suit their children's wants; they did not want a classical school where their sons would have to sit on a lower seat apart from the classical scholars.

Mr James Bate said that as a relative of one of the trustees, he begged to thank them on their behalf. He was sure they would feel proud to hear that this toast had been so well received.

The Vice-Chairman said, in proposing the health of a good landlord, he was proud to find that that gentleman was a man who felt for his tenants as much as he did for one of his own family. The tenants in this parish were not serfs, but were the tenants of a real landlord. He had no doubt the present head of the Throckmorton family would follow in the steps of his father. (Cheers).

Mr. W. Nicholls responded for the Lord of the Manor. He believed the present landlord would make as good a one as the late one.

The Vice-Chairman then proposed the health of the Chairman, a friend of no common sort. He felt great satisfaction in being in company with such a man as Mr. Joseph Lett. As the head of a family, his sons must feel proud of such a father. Ability may come from the parent, but it must be trained by the schoolmaster; therefore, when he saw children doing so well, and respecting their position in society, he felt that both parent and schoolmaster must have done their duty. He agreed with the chairman that their schoolmaster had done his duty. He had no doubt that he would go on in his good intentions. He proposed the health of the chairman as a friend, a good neighbour, and a good and sound agriculturist. (Drunk with three times three).

The Chairman, in replying, said that he felt gratified in presiding on such an occasion. He could have wished that some Chaddesley man had been in his place, yet he was happy to do a kindness to a neighbour. He knew he was not competent to discharge the duties of chairman satisfactorily, except so far as his feelings and good wishes could be testified. He thanked them for their sincerity and wished them all well.

The Chairman then proposed the health of the "Subscribers," who had done their duty on this occasion, especially the scholars of the school, who had pursued the matter in a very hearty manner. (Cheers). He begged to connect with the toast the name of Mr. Corbett.

Mr. Corbett thanked the parishioners for coming forward so handsomely and said the head master had always done his duty.

Mr. Griffith, of Wolverhampton, proposed the "Vice-chairman's" health and entered into the question of the free schools as at present ruled in many places, as injurious to the welfare of the nation at large.

The Vice-Chairman said he agreed that the classics were too exclusively taught in many grammar schools, and thanked his friends and neighbours for the complimentary manner in which they received the toast, which he felt he did not deserve.

The Chairman proposed the "Strangers," and hoped they would often come amongst them.

Mr. F. Corbett replied.

The Vice-Chairman proposed Mr. Corbett's health in a very complimentary manner.

Mr. Corbett responded, and said he felt proud that he and his sons had such an opportunity. Among such friends he thought they could always choose local trustees.

"The Press," "the Landlady," and a variety of other toasts and songs terminated the pleasantest meeting that was ever held in this parish. Unanimity and good feeling characterised all the proceedings.

As will be seen by the following circular, a subscription was set on foot by some of my friends for my benefit, which proved to be very satisfactory as well as gratifying to me :—

TO THE PUBLIC OF THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.

The services rendered by Mr. George Griffith in promoting the reformation of the endowed schools of the kingdom deserve a substantial recompense. He has travelled to give free lectures on the subject in London, Manchester, Wolverhampton, Derby, Worcester, Bromsgrove, Stourbridge, Bewdley, &c., &c., at his own expense; and he has written and published the Histories of the Endowed Schools of London, Birmingham, and Shrewsbury, and also of the Counties of Worcester and Stafford.

The good effected by his endeavours is too well known to need comment; this in itself deserves a liberal recompense; but the expenses he has been at by his publications and lectures being heavy, a number of gentlemen have combined to act simultaneously in different towns to receive subscriptions on his behalf, with the hope of reimbursing him.

The public, not only of the county of Worcester, but generally, are therefore respectfully solicited to come forward and show their appreciation of his labours.

The undersigned have kindly consented to receive subscriptions :—Edward Granger, Esq., Mayor of Dudley; Alvechurch, Mr. William Partridge, Master of the Free Grammar School; Bellbroughton, Mr. George Bate; Bewdley, Mr. M. J. Holder and Mr. M. Farrington; Birmingham, *The Daily Post and Daily Gazette* Offices; Bridgenorth, Mr. Whatmore (Hatter), and Mr. H. Jefferies; Bromsgrove, Mr. Cotton (Auctioneer,) and Mr. Harper, Bell Inn; Chaddeley Corbett, Mr. James Bate; Droitwich, Mr. Richard Smith and Mr. John Emuss; Dudley, Mr. Brooke (Solicitor,) and Mr. Thompson (Maltster); Evesham, Mr. A. H. Wright and Mr. Thomas New;

Elmley-Lovett, Mr. George Winnall; Grafton, Mr. Parkes; Kidderminster, Mr. Thomas Lloyd, Mr. John Turton, Mr. John Thompson, and Mr. George Duncan; Kinver, Mr. Jesson Parkes and Mr. J. P. Morgan; Lye Waste, Mr. Henry Herrin; Stourbridge, Mr. John Wall and Mr. Joseph Cole; Stourport, Mr. John Rice and Mr. George Union; Worcester, Mr. Grainger (Bookseller,) and the *Herald, Journal, and Chronicle* Offices.

TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GEORGE GRIFFITH.—We observe from a notification in our advertising columns, that a subscription has been set on foot in the Midland Counties for the purpose of obtaining a substantial recompense for presentation to Mr. George Griffith, now of Wolverhampton, formerly of Kidderminster, for his exertions in promoting the reformation of endowed schools in the kingdom. For many years, with great ability and heartiness of purpose, and from purely disinterested motives, Mr. Griffith laboured in this cause, travelling to a great number of places at his own expense to give free lectures on the subject, and having written the Histories of the Endowed Schools in London, Birmingham, Shrewsbury, and the counties of Worcester and Stafford. There can be no doubt that the result of his labours has been to keep trustees and managers up to the mark of their duty; to promote better and more efficient administration, and to give a fuller and wider development to these institutions for the public benefit. His services in this respect, considering that, besides the time and trouble he has devoted to the subject, Mr. Griffith has incurred considerable expense in prosecuting the necessary researches, appear well worthy of acknowledgement; and we trust the effort now being made will be successful in obtaining for him a substantial reward, according to his deserts. A list of persons, who have consented to receive subscriptions at various places, is appended to the advertisement.—*Worcester Chronicle, August 27, 1862.*

EDUCATION: PROPOSED TESTIMONIAL TO MR. GEORGE GRIFFITH.—Many of our readers who take an interest in the cause of education will remember the good service performed for it in this county by Mr. George Griffith, then of Kidderminster. Mr. Griffith was indefatigable in ferreting out the actual condition of all the educational charities of Worcestershire, and in 1852 he published the fruit of his labours in a valuable work entitled "The Free Schools of Worcestershire, and their fulfilment." The work is a complete hand-book of its subject, and it is due to Mr. Griffith to say that the work procured him not only no compensation but we question much if the book cleared its cost. In addition to very extended local researches, attended by great expense, Mr. Griffith excited public attention by lectures and addresses, and frequently urged the subject of his labours on the promoters of education through the press, often employing our own columns for that purpose. It is only fair that such a man should not be forgotten, and that

his services should be recognised in a tangible shape: many will therefore be well pleased to notice that a movement has been set on foot for a subscription with that object. Our advertising columns to-day contain an announcement from the promoters of this well-deserved acknowledgment for valuable public services, to which we earnestly request the attention of our readers, and for which we bespeak their most favourable consideration.—*Worcester Herald, August 30, 1862.*

The marriage of the Prince of Wales with the Danish Princess (March 10th, 1863,) was the cause of much festivity throughout the kingdom, and nowhere more so than in Wolverhampton. The high estimation in which the Queen, the late Prince Consort, and the Royal Family were held, tended much to excite every class to do their best to celebrate so important an event. I therefore threw in my mite by writing the following. The Seven Stars is one of the oldest Inns within the Borough of Wolverhampton, and having dined there very often on market days, and visited it occasionally on leisure evenings, I took the liberty of making use of it for a narration of the meeting of its usual evening bar customers, on the occasion of the Royal wedding.

ROBIN WREN.

Do you know the Seven Stars,
 In ancient St. John's Street?
 It has one of the neatest bars,
 And a bar-maid still more neat;
 The chairs, and tables, and jugs,
 In colour and size agree,
 And even the old brown mugs,
 Show a similarity.

You cannot get better ale
 At any house in the town,
 It is better than Burton pale,
 And brighter than Tipton brown:
 It warms and feeds you too,
 And removes all gloomy fears;
 And if you drink enow
 It will lengthen out your years.

The landlord, too, is all right,
He knows how to malt and brew :
And if you'll come there some night,
I'll introduce him to you.

Now, there are seven men
Assemble at night in that bar,
They've met there again and again,
And don't live very far ;
Except it may be one,
And he lives up at Penn,
A lover of 'bacco and fun,
His name is Robin Wren.

Now when the Prince of Wales
Was married to fair Denmark,
The seven men met at the Seven Stars,
As usual, after dark.

I must not mention a name,
(Except that of Robin Wren),
But their trades and well-earned fame,
I may mention as good tradesmen :—
There was one a locksmith bold,
Another a proof-safe maker ;
There was one that fine hats sold,
And another a jolly baker ;
There was one who sold tripe cold,
And the last was an undertaker.

Now these were the six good men,
That met at the Seven Stars,
The seventh was Robin Wren :
The six smoked pipes from eight till ten,
But Robin smoked cigars.
Now, as it was said before, when the Prince
Forsook his single life,
And took the Danish Princess home
To live with him as his wife,
These seven men met at the Seven Stars,
And they smoked, and drank, and sung,
And the roof and walls of this neatest of bars,
With their jokes and laughter rung ;

But Robin, of all, was the merriest,
 For he sung as robins should do,
 And laughed, and joked, and drank, and smoked,
 Till the old church clock struck two.

Of course on this night the twelve o'clock law
 Was not regarded by many :
 For even the soberest took a drop,
 Some at the beer house, some at the gin shop,
 And some at home quite canny.

Well, the clock struck two, and the seven broke up,
 For they had just finished the parting cup,
 And they all went home like loyal men ;
 Some went one way, and some another,
 Some walked straight, and some walked t'other,
 And Robin Wren
 Turned down Cock Street
 (His usual beat),
 And went straight off to Penn.

Now Robin walked straight, as well as he could,
 Till he passed St. Paul's, where a man in white,
 Right in his way, on a ladder stood ;
 The ladder reached up to the starry height,
 And he said to Wren, " Will you have a cigar,
 And come up the ladder with me ?
 And we'll have some wine at Bacchus's store,
 And the best of whisky, too, galore,
 And enjoy ourselves, 'twill be better far,
 Than walking alone to Penn to-night,
 You can then come back by the morning light."

'Tis said that some men
 Get locked out at ten
 (I mean from their houses)
 By their loving spouses,

But Robin was never locked out in his life
 He had such a sensible, loving, wife ;
 So he said to the man that was dressed in white,
 " I'll go with you, friend, with great delight."
 So he followed him up the sky-light ladder,
 And the higher he went he felt madder and madder

To get to the top with might and main,
 And he never cried stop,
 Till they reached the top,
 And stepped quite safe into Charles's Wain.

Robin then said to the man in white,
 "Where are we now! I feel giddy and light.
 I never travelled so far in one night,
 Not even by the limited mail,
 Which goes sixty miles each hour without fail,
 I feel very dry!"
 So the man in white replied so polite,
 "You're up in the sky,
 And as to being dry,
 You can soon cure that,—here we have seven bars,
 Full of the best in these Seven Stars."

Now Robin elate, took the man by his hand,
 And exclaimed, with a countenance full of joy,
 "This beats the Stars kept by Mortiboy!
 I'm all right now, I'm in Dixey's Land."

He then began to sing with all his might,
 A medley he had sung full many a night,
 That is, a verse from every well-known song,
 Some short in metre, and some very long:—
 "We won't go home till morning, till daylight does appear;"
 "Cheer, boys, cheer, no more of idle sorrow,
 Though dark to-day, let's hope a bright to-morrow;"
 "Staffordshire beer, my boys, Staffordshire beer;
 There's nothing on earth like good Staffordshire beer!"

Thus dreaming Wren supposed that he was up
 High in the starry sphere, emptying his glass,
 Which he thought better as he took each sup,
 Until a policeman shook him, "Come you ass,
 Why do you lie here in the ditch? I vow,
 You are as drunk as Davy's famous sow,
 Where do you live? "Live!" hickupped Robin Wren,
 "Come, that is good! you know I live at Penn."

With that the policeman took him by the arm,
 Led him safe home, and knocked, and rung the bell,
 Which filled the household full of dread alarm ;
 Yet 'tis but fair on his behalf to tell,
 That he was never out so late before,
 And vowed he'd never be so any more.

MORAL.

So now, good friends, who frequent bars,
 Remember Robin and the Stars ;
 And mind you go home soon at night,
 Or else you'll meet some " man in white,"
 Who may divert you from your way,
 And lead you upwards far astray,
 Then cast you down in headlong pitch,
 Into some muddy stinking ditch,
 There to remain till morning light
 Finds you from home in dismal plight :
 The laughing stock of sober men,
 Like that good fellow, Robin Wren.

Being desirous of drawing Mr. Gladstone's attention to the endowed school question, I sent him a copy of my Birmingham History, and a pamphlet—the latter containing a series of letters on the disputed meaning of the term "*Libera Schola*," between Dr. Kennedy, head master of the Shrewsbury Grammar School, and myself. In acknowledgment I received the following reply from his secretary :—

11, *Downing Street, Whitehall, 8th May, 1863.*

SIR,—I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to thank you for the book and pamphlet accompanying your letter of the 6th instant.

I remain, sir, your obedient servant,

"*G. Griffith, Esq.*"

"JAS. F. STUART WORTLEY."

At the beginning of September, 1863, a great commotion took place at Bridgenorth, when the trustees, or committee of the Blue Coat School, amalgamated their funds and scholars with those of the National School.

The worst of it was that it was done without the knowledge or consent of the inhabitants, and therefore when announced in the public papers came like a thunderclap on the towns-people.

A host of letters appeared at once in the *Bridgenorth Journal*, Anti Despot called it an "act of spoliation," Publicola called upon the inhabitants "to stir at once," Frank said that there was "something rotten in the state," not of Denmark, but of the National School fund, and that the funds of the Blue Coat School were therefore appropriated to make it sound."—An old Inhabitant exclaimed "truly the town seems doomed," and an old Pupil asked "What would be thought of such a proceeding in any large town?"

I was requested by many of my old Bridgenorth friends to explain the matter, and having an opportunity of getting a list of the sources of the school income, I wrote the following letter to the *Journal* :—

THE BRIDGENORTH BLUE COAT SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Bridgenorth Journal.

SIR,—

"Indeed it is a strange disposèd time,
When men may construe things after their fashion
Clear from the purpose of the things themselves."

The above words were forcibly brought to my recollection whilst perusing the various letters which have appeared in your *Journal*, upon the question of the amalgamation of your Blue Coat School with the National Schools.

I may be excused from entering the lists on this occasion from my having written the Histories of the Metropolitan Endowed Schools, as also those of the counties of Worcester and Stafford, and of the borough of Birmingham; and having many friends, residents in your borough, I feel interested in the question now agitating their minds. The Blue Coat School must be of very ancient date, as we find on the benefactors' tables in the church of St. Mary Magdalene, that in 1631 a Mr. Wrottesley bestowed £50 upon it; the interest thereof to be used as apprenticeship fees for the boys attending it. Therefore the school must have been in existence before that date, yet the first recorded amount now in existence is dated as late as Michaelmas, 1719.

It will be interesting to your readers to know who have been its chief benefactors; they are as follows :—

1631. Wrottesley, £50, interest of, for apprenticing the boys.

1728. Broadfield (London) £50, interest of, for the Charity School.

- 1764. Captain Boulton, of Berwick-on-Tweed, interest of £100, for the Charity School.
1773. John Guest, of the Granary House, interest of £150, for clothing and education.
1780. John Guest, of the Granary House, interest of £200, for the Charity School.
1787. John Yate, interest of £100, to be held by the Bailiffs and Burgesses or invested in Government Securities.
1792. Sarah Russell, interest of £20.
1793. Rev. T. Littleton, minister of St. Leonard's, interest of £50, for apprentice fees.
1795. Rev. D. Llewellyn, curate of St. Mary's, interest of £50, for clothing and education.
1796. B. Wilkes, surgeon, interest of £100, for clothing and education.
1802. Isaac Hawkins, of Burton-on-Trent, interest of £800, in the 3 per cents.
1837. Thomas Milner, interest of £100, for clothing, education, &c.
- No date. John Gilbert, interest of £50.

The total principal of the foregoing is £1,820.

But the total present revenues of the Blue Coat School are what must be dwelt upon. This amounts to £164 17s. 10d. annually, thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Rent of House belonging to Weavers' Charity*	30	0	0
Lent to Local Board of Health, £2,700, which brings in ...	93	1	2
Lent on Cleobury North Roads £340, at 3 per cent. net ...	10	4	0
Lent on Shrewsbury Roads £300, at 3½ per cent. net ...	10	2	2
Subscription	21	10	6

The above amount is ample to provide for a schoolmaster, the clothing, and apprenticeship fees, thus: Clothes, as spent yearly at present, £44; apprenticeship fees, £16; leaving about 100 guineas for the master's salary.

In respect to the clothing it is questionable whether the present antique style could not be abolished, and the ordinary shaped clothes, as worn by the children of the community, substituted. Of course the colour could be still adhered to, but there seems to be no reason for adhering to the shape of two or three centuries back. It would seem to be as reasonable that

* This £30 was bequeathed for the benefit of poor Bridgenorth householders, in both parishes, having three or more children. How it got to be transferred to the Blue Coat School is not in record, and although a decree was made by the Court of Chancery as to the Trusteeship, yet it did not empower the trustees to alienate it.

the trustees should dress in the shapes of that remote date as for the boys to do so.

The step taken by the Trustees of the Blue Coat School is, of course, illegal, and altogether unprecedented. It does not appear, to the public, that the Board of Charity Commissioners have been consulted, and their sanction obtained in this matter. If so, it would have been but courteous to have published it before amalgamating the three schools. But it may be well to know whether that board has such a power, and if they have it should have been published on the two church doors, for the parishioners to object to if they thought proper.

But if amalgamation with any other schools was really desirable, there is another field, much more so wherein the trustees could have essentially benefited the borough. What has become of the Grammar School? There is a house belonging to T. C. Whitmore, Esq., which is only charged with eight shillings per annum as rent, for the schoolmaster; there are £20 per annum, rent charge, drawn from the estates belonging to T. C. Whitmore, Esq.;* there are three exhibitions, bequeathed by Mr. Edward Careswell, of Bobbington, dated 3rd February, 1689, at Christ Church, Oxford, for Bridgenorth boys "*of the least ability to maintain themselves.*" These exhibitions have been accumulating for years. The amount now must be very large, and of no use; but if all parties in your borough were to set aside all bickerings, and join hands in memorialising the Charity Board in York-street, London, to devote the amount thus accumulated † to the uses of the school by providing competent masters, and then at the same time constitute the Grammar School and the Blue Coat School as one, a vast benefit to Bridgenorth would be attained. As it is, the draining of the Blue Coat School funds to enrich the National Schools is a very bold step, and unless reversed the Blue Coat School will soon be amongst the things that were.

I beg to remain, yours truly,

GEO. GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, September, 23, 1863.

* This endowment was the gift of Sir John Hayward, and dated November 10th, 1624, seven years before the first endowment of the Blue Coat School. He also bequeathed £6 per annum, as a rent charge on Golligoyt (Street Marshall) belonging to Earl Powis.

† These exhibitions were founded for eighteen boys, three of which were to be from Bridgenorth. As far back as 1820 the fund in Court was £9,394 7s. 6d., invested in the 3 per cents. After all deductions the income was £1,124 17s. 3½d. The amount must now be much more. The founder ordered the number of boys to be increased as the fund increased.

The item of £30 mentioned above, as the "rent of house belonging to Weaver's Charity," requires some explanation. This gift was originally devoted to the benefit of "poor house-keepers, having three or more young children." Mr. Harry Burton, who was aware of this, wrote to the Charity Commissioners, and received in reply the following letter:—

Charity Commission, 8, York Street, St. James's Square,

"3rd December, 1863.

BRIDGENORTH WEAVERS' CHARITY.

"SIR,—The Commissioners have received from Mr. A. S. Trevor, the hon. sec. to the Blue Coat School at Bridgenorth, a statement of the circumstances under which the boys belonging to that school have been transferred to the National Schools.

"It appears that the income of Weaver's Charity, which was directed by order of the Court of Chancery to be expended for the benefit of poor house-keepers, having three or more young children, of the two parishes of St. Mary and St. Leonard's, Bridgenorth, has been applied by the trustees in educating and clothing 50 boys at the Blue Coat School and in apprenticing them or some of them.

"This application does not seem to have been sanctioned by any competent authority, and the payment of the income in aid of the National Schools is irregular;—the objects specified by the terms of the bequest and of the order of the Court of Chancery being the children of poor house-keepers *generally* of the two parishes, whilst the National Schools are, it is presumed, open only to the children of those who do not dissent from the doctrines of the Church of England. This opinion of the Commissioners has been communicated to the trustees.

"In writing to Mr. Trevor, the Commissioners did not mention your name, it being your wish that your letter should be considered as confidential. They infer, however, that public opinion in Bridgenorth is likely to be excited by the proceedings in this matter; and they would suggest, that instead of a private communication, a memorial, respectably and numerously signed, should be forwarded to them, complaining of the present administration of Weaver's Charity, and requesting the Commissioners to establish a proper scheme regulating its future application. Such a memorial would entail no expense to the promoters of it, or to the charity.

"I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"HENRY M. VANE, Secretary.

The result was that a meeting of the trustees and supporters of the Blue Coat School took place early in December, and that that old and useful institution was restored to its proper uses.

The following analysis of the expenditure of the Birmingham Free Schools for 1863, was published for general information at the close of that year.

It will be seen that the salary and fees paid to the head master (£1,820) were enormous, whilst the salaries of the masters of the elementary schools, were, on the other hand, too small. The best exemplification of this is shewn in the comparative cost per head of the scholars in the head school in New Street, and of the 1,000 scholars in the four elementary schools. Besides this unfairness, it is quite unreasonable that the previous head master should have a pension of £200 per annum. The expenses of the New Street school should be diminished, and more elementary schools established.

HIGH SCHOOL, NEW STREET :—				£	s.	d.
Rev. C. Evans, Salary	...	...	...	400	0	0
Do. do. Capitation Fees	...	...	...	1170	0	0
Do. do. „ „ for Superintendence of						
Elementary Schools	...	...	...	250	0	0
Rev. T. N. Hutchinson, Salary	...	...	...	300	0	0
Do do. Capitation Fees	...	...	...	226	0	0
Rev. Albert Smith, Head Master's Assistant, half-year's Salary				135	0	0
Do do. half-year's Salary for Elementary Schools				75	0	0
Rev. E. Harris, Head Master's Assistant, Salary	...			215	0	0
Do do. half-year's Salary for Elementary Schools				25	0	0
Rev. E. A. Abbott 1 year's Salary	...	...	...	400	0	0
H. M. Fryer, Esq. „	...	...	...	190	0	0
G. R. Klugh, Esq „	...	...	...	200	0	0
Rev. C. P. Male $\frac{3}{4}$ year's do.	...	...	...	150	0	0
J. Hunter Smith, Esq. 1 year's do.	...	...	...	190	0	0
Alexander Vincent, Esq. „	...	...	...	150	0	0
Dr. Karl Damman „	...	...	...	150	0	0
Mr. R. Richard „	...	...	...	150	0	0
Rev. T. B. Stevenson „	...	...	...	250	0	0
R. S. Carpenter, Esq. „	...	...	...	180	0	0
Rev. J. H. Curtis „	...	...	...	185	0	0

				£	s.	d.
W. Lawson, Esq.	„	...	...	200	0	0
Nicholas Biet, Esq.	„	...	...	150	0	0
Mr. John Emery	„	...	...	150	0	0
Mr. Geo. Gore	„	...	...	50	0	0
E. Carter, Esq.	„	...	...	190	0	0
Mr. Isaac Walton	„	...	...	150	0	0
Mr. G. W. Hickman	„	...	...	112	2	0
Mr. T. B. Waddell	„	...	...	60	0	0
School of Design	„	...	...	150	0	0

Rev. Dr. Gifford, late Head Master, 1 year's Pension 200 0 0

GEM STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:—

Thomas Townsend 1 year's Salary	...	...	...	150	0	0
Jas. Turner	„	...	...	50	0	0
Eliz. Hollins	„	...	...	90	0	0
Ann J. Knight	„	...	...	35	0	0

EDWARD STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:—

John Temperley 1 year's Salary	...	...	...	150	0	0
A. A. Chard	„	...	...	45	0	0
Ann Corbett	„	...	...	90	0	0
Catherine Bown	„	...	...	45	0	0

MERIDEN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:—

Thos. Baker 1 year's Salary	...	...	...	150	0	0
R. C. Maidwell	„	...	...	47	10	0
M. A. Topham	„	...	...	80	16	8
Ann J. Fisher	„	...	...	30	0	0

BATH ROW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:—

D. Swanson 1 year's Salary	...	...	...	150	0	0
J. Magness	„	...	...	47	10	0
S. J. Corbett	„	...	...	105	0	0
A. M. Juggins	„	...	...	35	0	0

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE, SHEWING

Cost per Head of each Scholar in High School, New Street,


FROM THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1863.

500 SCHOLARS.

EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.					
Head Master:—														
Salary and Capitation Fees of Head Master, and portion of Rates, say £100	1670	0	0	}										
Pension to late Head Master ...										200	0	0	1870	0	0	3	14	9
Second Master:—														
Salary and Capitation Fees, and share of rates and taxes, say £52 19s.	578	19	0	}					1	3	2			
Assistant Masters:—														
Twenty-one in number (see abstract) and School of Design £150 ...	4157	2	0	}					8	6	3			
Exhibitions, &c.:—														
Scholarships, &c.	520	0	0											
Visitation Fees	134	0	0											
Civil and Military Capitation Fees	80	2	6											
Current Expenses:—							734	2	6	1	9	4		
Repairs, Coals, Gas, Printing, Water, Prizes, &c.	1713	6	1	}					3	8	6			
Secretary's Salary												250	0	0
Cost of each Scholar in High School, for Educational Expenses proper												18	12	0
MANAGEMENT OF ESTATE:—														
Secretary's and Law Charges ...	£417	0	10											
Surveyor	98	5	6											
Bankers' Interest, and Interest on Mortgage	374	6	8	}										
Sundries												257	18	9
							1147	11	9					
Less 1/5th proportion to Elemen- tary Schools	229	10	4	}										
												918	1	5	1	16	10
Total cost per Head of each Scholar in High School												20	8	10

ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE, SHEWING
Cost per Head of each Scholar in Elementary Schools,
 FROM THE ACCOUNTS FOR 1863.
 1000 SCHOLARS.

EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES:—	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Head Master (New Street School)									
Capitation Fees	250	0	0						
Do. do. Assistants	100	0	0						
				350	0	0	0	7	0
Masters and Mistresses				1355	16	8	1	7	1
Monitors				332	14	2	0	6	8
Current Expenses:—									
Repairs, Coals, Insurance, Prizes, &c.				773	3	5	0	15	5
Cost of each Elementary Scholar for Educational expenses proper							£2	16	2
MANAGEMENT OF ESTATE:—									
1/5th share of Expenses				229	10	4	0	4	7
Total cost per Head of each Scholar in Elementary School							£3	0	9

 In making these calculations no account has been taken of Interest on Buildings, which amounts to £6 15s. 0d. per Head for each Scholar in the High School, and about 5s. per Head in the Elementary Schools as appears from the evidence given before the Committee of the House of Commons in 1842, when it was shewn that £67,500 had been expended on the School in New Street,—whilst the Elementary Schools then erected cost £3,490 only!

CHAPTER VIII.

“I believe there is no study which could prove more successful in producing often thorough idleness and vacancy of mind, parrot repetition, and sing-song knowledge—to the abeyance and destruction of the intellectual powers, as well as to the loss and paralysis of the outward senses—than our traditional study and idolatry of language.”—VAUGHAN’S “Oxford Reform and Professors.”

THE year 1864 was the busiest one I ever had in connexion with the endowed school question, as will be seen by the year’s transactions.

The following letter was handed to the editor of the *Wolverhampton Chronicle* for publication, and appeared in that paper on January the 13th:—

“Charity Commission, 8, York Street, St. James’s Square, S.W.,
25th November, 1863.

SIR,—This case has been attended with so much dispute and contention that the Commissioners did not entertain the hope of bringing it to anything like a satisfactory conclusion, and considered that it must form the subject of a reference to the Court of Chancery.

Before, however, taking this step, it has been suggested to the Commissioners that they should put you in possession of the Trustees’ replies (a copy of which is herewith enclosed) to the suggestions and objections transmitted by you, and they will be glad if these replies shall be considered to be such as to remove any serious opposition.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

J. Hawksford, Esq., Solicitor,
Wolverhampton.

HENRY W. VANE,
Secretary.

In connexion with the proposed alterations in the management of the Wolverhampton Endowed School, a Committee of inhabitants was appointed at the towns meeting, held on the 25th of

April, 1861, to watch the proceedings of the school trustees, and act for the benefit of foundation boys.

The trustees had submitted a series of propositions to the Charity Commissioners. These and the Towns' Committee's objections occupied no less than one and a half columns of the *Chronicle* newspaper in small type.

The drift of the trustees propositions was to get a large house and school erected in the suburbs, wherein a certain number of boarders should be received, in addition to the town boys.

Mr. Hawksford, as chairman of the towns' committee, sent a series of objections on behalf of the foundation boys, to the Charity Commissioners, and they sent him a copy of the propositions of the trustees.

This led to a conference of the two bodies on the 11th of February, when the following points were assented to by both :—
“ That two inhabitants in each of the townships of Bilston, Willenhall, and Wednesfield, and the Mayor and Ex-mayor of Wolverhampton, should be trustees *ex-officio*. That no person living more than fifteen miles from the town should be a trustee. That non-attendance at the trustees' meetings for two years in succession should disqualify. That the present school and site might, if necessary, (with the consent of the Charity Commissioners) be sold for the purpose of erecting new buildings, to be aided by public subscriptions. Fees of £4 per annum for the upper school, £2 for the lower, with £1 in addition if the French language was taught. That the head-master be allowed to take twenty boarders, eight of whom should be sons of resident parishioners, and the second master ten, including four parishioners sons.

That £70 per annum be allowed to the head master for rent of a suitable residence away from the school. The salaries of the masters to be £450 for the head, and £100 for the commercial master with a capitation fee of 6s. 8d. per head.

This concluded the business of the conference, after a sitting of five hours, and after some desultory conversation, Mr. Hawksford said, that had it gone to Chancery it had been agreed by the

lawyers that they were to be paid expenses out of pocket only, and they were to be defrayed by public subscription so as to leave the funds of the charity untouched.

Mr. Sidney thought what the present building and site would produce, and the £1,000 the trustees had in the funds, would be amply sufficient for a new school, for the building of which he contended the estate by which it was endowed was not applicable. He pointed out the Deanery, which will eventually come into the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, as an eligible site.

This arrangement was not in accordance with the resolution adopted at the Towns' Meeting, at which the Committee was appointed, viz.,—"That it is the opinion of this meeting that the scheme for the government of the Wolverhampton Grammar School should be altered by the abolition of all capitation fees, and of the privileges enjoyed by the masters to take boarders; and that the school should be free to the sons of inhabitants of Wolverhampton, to receive therein a classical and commercial education, without distinction of persons, or division of the school into departments." Other resolutions were also adopted in order to give effect to those named. In fact, the Committee were 'empowered in their discretion, to propound and do all acts necessary for the adoption of a new scheme embodying the propositions contained in the first resolution.' But what followed? The scheme retained the capitation fees; the school was not 'free to the sons of the inhabitants of Wolverhampton;' and it was to be divided into departments. Boarders to be taken by the masters; and the residence of the masters not insisted upon."

After the proceedings of this conference I wrote to the editor of the *Wolverhampton Chronicle* as follows:—

SIR,—It is much to be regretted, that with such an ample endowment, the Town's Committee consented to any capitation fee being paid by the Free Grammar School boys; especially as at the same time they allowed the Masters the privilege of taking a certain number of boarders.

If they want boarders to increase the masters' incomes, surely they could dispense with any fee at the hands of the foundation scholars' parents,

—the expense of books and writing materials is quite enough for the parents of the boys to incur.

As it was announced, at the conclusion of the conference between the Trustees and the Town's Committee, that a town's meeting would be held to confirm what they had agreed to, I beg to hand you the pith of a pamphlet written by an M.A., of Oxford, in 1855, showing what is done by the Trustees of St. Olave's School, at Southwark.*

This school has an income of about £3,000 per annum devoted to university advantages, for meritorious boys, in contributions to minor parochial schools, and to the salaries of the schoolmasters.

In this school there are 80 classical scholars, 220 commercial scholars, and 250 scholars of minor schools under subordinate teachers.

The system upon which the school is conducted is simple—first, the combination of science with learning; second, the instruction of a portion of the boys in the elements of science, without Latin; third, in the *gratuitous provision of books and stationery to all the boys*; and fourth, in the absence of all boarders from the masters' houses, the *foreigners* lodging in the houses of respectable inhabitants.

For 300 years this school has trained six-sevenths of the boys in commercial studies, and one-seventh in Latin.

The writer of the pamphlet goes on to say that if this system was carried out in all endowed schools, the result would be thus:—There are now 18,000 classical scholars and 14,221 commercial scholars in our endowed schools; whereas, if the Southwark plan was adopted, there would be 215,000 commercial and scientific scholars and 35,000 Latin boys. And this writer is not alone in his views, as we find the official reporter on the census (report for 1851, page 41) saying,—“Neglect of school instruction is not confined to the working classes. Indeed, when the charge for education at such schools as alone are suitable for children of the middle classes is remembered, it must be apparent that the plea of ‘poverty,’ as a cause of non-attendance, must be often much more applicable to parents of respectable position, though with limited incomes, than to those on whose behalf it is most usually urged.”

As to boarders, the late Vice-Chancellor Shadwell abolished them in the Manchester School (the present Lord Chancellor being then the successful advocate in procuring that abolition), and the present Master of the Rolls abolished them at Bristol. In addition to this the community to whom

* The Free Grammar Schools of England, dedicated to the Lord Bishop of Lichfield (visitor), and the Trustees of the Shrewsbury Free Grammar School. (Davies, Shrewsbury.)

these schools properly belong are opposed to the boarding system; the Court of Chancery and most of the members of the House of Commons are opposed to it, and as the funds of the Wolverhampton school are ample without boarders, it is very desirable that the inhabitants should protest against boarders at the proposed town's meeting.

Now for a few words as to the question of these schools being classical. Mr. Leslie says, in the "Encyclopædia Britannica," that "*most of these schools were erected in the reign of Edward VI., and, therefore, were destined by their founders merely to teach the dead languages;*" but herein he is mistaken, because there were only 181 founded before 1601, whereas there were 221 founded between 1601 and 1801.*

But the simplest way to prove that this is an error is by quoting from the foundation deeds of several of these endowed schools. No one can doubt but that each founder knew what *he meant* when he ordered *certain studies* to be pursued, nor can any believe that he wished his benevolence to be perverted to the study of the classics alone, and his funds to be devoted *in aid* of the education of rich men's sons.

That this notion of the exclusive right as to the teaching of the classics has led to great evils is well known, both in past times and the present; as in 1795, when Lord Kenyon, in the case, "*King v. Archbishop of York,*" before the Court of Queen's Bench, observed on the lamentable state to which Grammar Schools were reduced—empty walls, without scholars, and everything neglected but the receipt of the salary and emoluments. So in the present day, when we find as follows in the reports of the Education Commissioners of 1861:—†

"That they found (vol. 2. p. 40) endowed schools to be a hindrance to education; that they quench private zeal (p. 42), and give no adequate substitute, which, we are sorry to say, is overlooked by the Charity Commissioners, by their not having brought *propria motu*, any effective influence to bear upon their improvement or resuscitation. (p. 43.)

"That in too many cases the trustees are indifferent as to the school being full; that the masters teach the same things over and over again; that the Bishop of Durham said the endowed schools were the curse of his diocese; that the Dean and clergymen agreed thereto (p. 336); that a clergyman asserted (p. 465, Mr. Jenkins's report) that he hardly ever heard of an endowed school doing any good; whilst another says that, as a whole, these schools are worse than any others, the Dean of Carlisle denouncing them generally as unmitigated evils, and that in most cases we should do

* Education Report on the Census of 1801, page 45.

† In six vols., to be had for 18s. 3d. at Eyre and Spottiswood's, Strand, London. Total pages, 3,489.

better altogether without them; and, as a finale, we find the Rev. D. Coleridge, of St. Mark's College, stating that, *as now constituted*, they are hindrances to popular education."

The following are a few of the cases wherein the foundation deeds do not contemplate a classical education:—

- 1507. Enfield—Alphabet letters, Latin and English.
- 1526. Whittington—Grammar; but none should be charged anything who did not learn grammar.
- 1531. Newark—To read and learn grammar, rhetoric, the Ten Commandments, and holy psalms and hymns.
- 1560. Hartlebury—Writing, casting accounts, to write fair hands, and learn reckoning and accounting.
- 1575. Carmarthen—Grammar and other inferior books.
- 1583. St. Bees—The usher to teach the children to read and write English, beginning at the A B C.
- 1592. Giggleswick—Godly authors and a knowledge of the liberal sciences.
- 1603. Wrexham—Good education and learning.
- 1609. Sancton—Grammar, in Latin and English.
- 1613. Haverfordwest—Virtuous education, discipline, and learning.
- 1618. Great Crosby—Grammar and rules of learning.
- 1627. The Charterhouse, London—It shall be the schoolmaster's care and the usher's charge to teach the scholars to cypher and cast accounts, especially those that are less capable of learning and fittest to be put to trades.
- 1658. Kirkham, Lancashire—A B C primer, and accidence, grammar, and Latin.
- 1670. Goudhurst—Greek and Latin, the arts and sciences, and to read and write.

These are a few, but in no case did the word grammar mean "Greek;" in fact, the word grammar is often used in deeds of an anterior date to the teaching of Greek in England, which was first taught by Linacre and Grocyn at Oxford, and was considered a dangerous innovation. Its study gave rise to the faction of the Trojans in opposition to the Greeks, who became violently opposed to each other, and the disputes even brought about open hostilities.

Even were it true that Greek and Latin at that period were the only subjects of instruction, is it not clear that the founders, being obliged to name the education then most in vogue—as the best of that age—did so as the best? And is it not monstrous that the intentions of these pioneers of education should be bound down by the rule of study in those ages,

whose benevolent intentions were to educate the rising generation in the way most beneficial to their prospects in life? *

In conclusion, it will, no doubt, be admitted by nine-tenths, if not more of your readers, that if capitation fees should be paid by any, they ought to fall on the Greek and Latin, and not on the commercial boys; and that the school revenues being ample, no boarders ought to be allowed to take the master's attention from the foundation boys.

An able pamphleteer says on this subject—"We shall do well to take a thorough survey of these schools and reform them. Universal education is soon to be established amongst us; and these schools will be found to be a surpassingly good portion of that measure, closely connecting the coming new world with the best of by-gone things, and linking together all ranks of men in a common and kindly brotherhood. This will be part and parcel of 'the something great,' which, as an Oxford divine† tells us, men are bent upon attaining, and which he earnestly calls upon that University to attain. All will be honoured who further its due development. All who impede it will assuredly come to shame."

I beg to remain, yours truly,

Wolverhampton, March 7, 1864.

"GEORGE GRIFFITH."

WOLVERHAMPTON TOWN'S MEETING.

On the 27th of May, the second town's meeting was held in the Town Hall, to receive the Report as to the arrangement assented to by the Grammar School Trustees, and the Town Committee. Mr. Hawksford (the Mayor) took the chair.

Mr. Sidney moved "that the scheme now propounded by the trustees of the Wolverhampton Grammar School, and now produced to this meeting, be, and is hereby adopted.

Mr. E. Collett seconded the motion.

Mr. George Griffith complained that the committee had exceeded their powers under the resolutions of the public meeting. He went on to say that the income of the school last year, irrespective of capitation fees, was £1,265 10s., and at the same time there were only forty boys in the school. That being the case he would ask what did they want with capitation fees

* The Statutes of Eton (A.D. 1444), after styling the boys "pauperum et indigentium," finish up with "ecclesiae, sanctae profectum, divini cultus liberaliumque artium, scientiarum, et facultatum augmentum."

† The Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Oxford (in his sermon at St. Mary's, Oct., 1854).

and boarders? If they would divide the amount paid to the masters among the boys they would find that it would give £14 per head. That, he thought was quite sufficient to pay for education, even if the education included French, German, and drawing. Yet the parents of the scholars were made to pay a capitation fee in addition. The school belonged to the boys, and therefore to ask them to pay a capitation fee was like asking a person to pay rent for his own house. But in addition to the capitation fees there was the charge for books and stationery, which was quite sufficient for the parents, whose boys the school was intended for, to have to pay. He did not quite agree with Mr. Sidney in thinking that the school was not intended for tinkers and tailors, but believed it was designed for the sons of any man of good character and honesty, who could not afford to pay for his children's education elsewhere. The children of professional men, and of the higher orders generally had no more right to their education in the school than the sons of the poor man, and if the artisan and the struggling tradesman were not to benefit of the school what was the use of £1,265 to the town? At one time, when the income of the charity was very much less than it was at present, the school was free, and in this great day of education, when people were subscribing right and left in its support, according to different people's tastes and creeds, why should not this school be made available for all classes without charge? Mr. Griffith mentioned several prosperous schools which are now free, even books and stationery being furnished without charge. He contended that the trustees of this school had no right to charge a farthing for educating the boys they admitted until the number of scholars became so great that more masters were required than the funds would pay. As to boarders he inquired what did a rich school like this want with boarders? Boarders ought not to be received where the funds of the school were large enough to pay the masters a sufficient salary, without giving them the privilege of receiving boarders. Wherever there were boarders the prizes and exhibitions might be expected to go into their hands, owing to the extra care and superior training they would receive at the hands of the masters. The present Lord Chancellor (when Sir Richard Bethell) by his able advocacy, was the cause of Vice-Chancellor Shadwell abolishing the boarder and capitation fee system in several instances, and surely the opponents of the present scheme might reckon on having his sympathy now he was Lord Chancellor. Sir Stephen Jenyns left his estate to the Wolverhampton Grammar School because he gained his early knowledge in the town, and he would naturally wish town boys to have the benefit of that estate, and not that it should be reaped by boys from all parts of England. If he had intended it to be an open school he would have established it in London, where he was a

merchant. Having expressed himself in favour of Latin being taught in the school, and having referred to the fact of boarders having been turned out of the Bristol, Manchester, and Tiverton schools, Mr. Griffith said he had no doubt the committee had done their best, but he believed that the town, while giving them credit so far, would not be satisfied that through their exertions the school would produce the greatest benefits of which it was capable. He should take the liberty of moving an amendment to Mr. Sidney's resolution, to the effect that the "meeting was of opinion that the parents of boys attending the Free Grammar School should not be called upon to pay any capitation fees, as the rate for each boy, in 1863, out of the funds amounted to £14 per annum, without capitation fees; that this meeting is also of opinion that the school revenues are sufficient for all purposes without the aid of boarders, and that boarders would not conduce to the benefit of the school; that the committee memorialize the Charity Commissioners not to assent to any new scheme that does not embrace these principles."

Mr. Jones, house agent, seconded the amendment.

The Mayor said the committee had not been able to accomplish the acts which the town's meeting requested them to attempt, and they had now come forward to report what they had been able to accomplish.

Mr. H. Walker, having been invited to speak, said he attended the meeting as one of the inhabitants, and not in his capacity as a trustee, or as representing the trustees. As an inhabitant he must oppose the amendment of Mr. Griffith. That gentleman had informed them what was the practice of other schools, as to capitation fees, boarders, &c., but he had not informed them on what conditions the trustees enjoyed the property, the management of which was committed into their hands. It might be that the benefactors had left funds for the specific purposes, providing stationery, for instance, which Mr. Griffith had mentioned. He (Mr. Walker) could not tell how it might be in other schools, but if the trustees of the Wolverhampton school were to provide stationery for the boys they would be acting against the law. Mr. Griffith thought that if there were to be any fees paid, they should fall on the parents of those boys who learned Greek and Latin, but this would be contrary to the will of the founder. Sir Stephen Jenyns left the estate to the town "for the better sustentation or support of the masters of the school there." When he left the money, there was a school established in Wolverhampton, and the masters received some kind of fee from the scholars, but it was not sufficient in the benefactors opinion for their support. The trustees were faithfully carrying out the intention of the founder, but they were anxious to admit into the school certain branches of study not contemplated by Sir Stephen Jenyns,

and proposed a certain capitation fee to enable them to pay the masters, taking care to provide, however, that if any boy was satisfied with the education which Sir Stephen provided he should have it freely, as was always the case. (Hear, hear.) But they did not suppose that in these days of education there would be a single parent who would be so blind to the interests of his boy as to say he should learn Latin and Greek only. (Hear, hear.) Sir Stephen Jenyns seemed to have thought, that in his time Latin and Greek were not sufficiently taught, and, therefore, left money to encourage that branch of learning, and the trustees or any other person had no right to deviate from that intention. For the children of the artizan and the struggling tradesman, who could not afford to give their offspring a very extensive education if they desired to do so, there were the National and Congregational schools, which, in accordance with the spirit of the age, had been nobly provided and elaborated by clever men, so that they were now perfect. The trustees would go wrong if they were to follow Mr. Griffith's views, the founder having devoted his money to the teaching of classical knowledge; indeed there was no possibility of their doing so, and if their opponents went to the Court of Chancery what would they get? Doubtless they would spend their money, but would they improve the school—would they do away with Latin and Greek? He ventured to say "No." Mr. Griffith, he might tell the meeting, went into Chancery in the matter of the Kidderminster school, in which town he formerly lived, but he (Mr. Walker) was sorry to say he came out with the costs to pay, while he did not prevent the teaching of Latin and Greek in the school, for those languages are the main branches of instruction there at the present time. And no power, except an Act of Parliament could prevent the teaching of Latin and Greek in the Wolverhampton school, under the founder's will. If the meeting were to carry the amendment that day, the effect would be that the school would stand still, for he did not suppose that the trustees being again defeated, would move further in the matter. Mr. Walker appealed to the meeting as to whether, after the efforts of the committee and trustees, without resorting to expense to make the school efficient, they would repudiate the acts of the committee, and assume that they knew the facts of the case better than the committee and the trustees, whose object had been to render the school of importance to the town. The trustees knew with regret that they had had only forty boys in the school, and had done all they could to mend that state of things, and would the meeting that day upset the new scheme and say the school should go on the same as it was—for that would be the effect of voting for the amendment? As to the capitation fee it had tended to increase the number of scholars, and he argued that it would in

every way improve the value of the school. With regard to the boarders, Mr. Walker said their number would be only twelve unconnected with the borough, if the school were full; and he contended that there were instances in which it would be hard to refuse the masters the privilege of taking a few boarders, whose friends did not happen to live in Wolverhampton. On other grounds he contended that the introduction of a few boarders into the school was likely to be beneficial. Mr. Walker explained the object of the trustees in dividing the school, and in answer to the assertion that the school belonged to the poor, reminded the meeting that the funds were not left for any one class, but for the teaching of a particular kind of knowledge to any boys whose parents wished them to be so instructed. He urged the meeting not to resolve in favour of going into Chancery, telling them that if they went there they would probably come out with their money spent, and with no better scheme than they had now before them, and the school would go on in the dull and stupid manner in which it was going on at present.

Mr. Griffith said the funds were left "for the sustentation of a master and an usher, and for instructing the boys in the school in good morals and literature, and other necessary things to be done there." He added that the terms were ample enough, and that the school was intended to give education of all sorts, for Sir Stephen Jenyns was a tradesman, and felt the necessity of a commercial education, as well as Latin and Greek.

Mr. Sidney appealed to that small meeting not to take the responsibility of overthrowing the resolution. (The original motion was put to the meeting and carried.)

After remarks from Mr. Broughall and Mr. Ridges,

Mr. Walker proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for the trouble he had taken concerning the school, and for presiding that day, stating that any one who knew Mr. Hawksford could not for a moment have entertained the imputation which Mr. Sidney said had been thrown out against the Mayor—that his only object in opposing the scheme was to get money for his own enrichment.

Mr. Griffith seconded the motion, which was carried. The Mayor briefly replied, and the meeting separated.—*Midland Counties Express*.

The very bad state of the Bridgenorth Endowed School had often been mentioned to me when I was at the corn market there; time after time I was solicited to publish my views thereupon.

There was a double difficulty, in this case seldom, if ever, met

with, viz., the endowment of the school being too small, whilst there was a large sum left for exhibitions.

The foundation income was but £46 9s. 4d., which included £16, the estimated rental of the master's house.

On the other hand there are three exhibitions bequeathed in 1689, by Edward Careswell, of the Blacklands, in the county of Stafford, the revenue to support which is derived chiefly from land.

On the 2nd of May I fully explained the whole question to the inhabitants in a letter, as follows :—

THE CARESWELL EXHIBITIONS.

To the Editor of the Bridgenorth Journal.

SIR,—The history of the Careswell Exhibitions is as follows :—Edward Careswell, Esq., of the Blacklands, in the parish of Bobbington, Staffordshire, by will (3rd February, 1689,) demised the Walker's Low Farm, in Stottesdon, the Sydnal Farm, at Priors Ditton, the Hill House Farm, in Quatford and Quatt, Barrett's Farm, in Alveley—the messuage and appurtenances called Astlay Parva, in Alveley—Bobbington Mansion, in Bobbington, and its tenths and tithes of hay, also Hawkes-Field, and Perry Croft, with the tenements thereon, in Bobbington, also a rent charge of 2s. upon lands in Alveley, belonging to Sir William Whitmore, with all his (E. Careswell's) houses and lands in the counties of Salop and Stafford, to the use of certain persons then living, and at their deaths, for 500 years, inclusive of the term of their lives, for the support and encouragement of eighteen scholars in the schools of Shrewsbury, Bridgenorth, Newport, Shiffnal, Wem, and Donnington.

He ordered that the eighteen scholars should be elected as follows :—From Shrewsbury, 4; Bridgenorth, 3; Newport, 4; Shiffnal, 3; Wem, 2; Donnington, 2; and allowed the following stipends :—Scholars, as undergraduates, for four years, £18 per annum each; as Bachelors of Art, for three years, £21 per annum; as Masters of Art, for three years, £27 per annum each; and, he added, that “If the rents of the properties should be improved, the increase of the rents should be applied towards the maintenance of a greater number of university scholars, proportionately, from the six schools as above named.”

He also ordered that the scholars so elected should be of those “not sufficiently enabled to *maintain themselves* at the university; that they should be sent to Christ College, Oxford, or in case they could not be

therein received, that they should be sent to some other College or Hall, of the same university.

The boys were to be either natives of the several parishes where the estates lay, or elsewhere of the count of Salop, and of *the least ability* to maintain themselves.

In 1813, the rectorial tithes of the Walkers Low and Walkham Wood farms were purchased for £1,500, out of the surplus fund, and in 1815, a sum of £1,515 7s. was laid out in a purchase of land, house, and barn, at Quatford, contiguous to the Hill House Farm.

The following are the acreages of the different farms belonging to this Endowment:—

	A.	R.	P.
Walkers Low Farm	302	3	34
Walkham Wood ditto	81	3	13
Sydnal ditto	228	0	8
Hill House ditto	196	0	3
The public-house called The Fox, at Quatford, formerly belonged to this farm, and still belongs to the Charity.			
Barretts and Astley Parva Farm ...	100	1	2
Bobbington, Hawkesfield, and Perrys Croft	166	1	33

To which must be added a cottage and tenement at Blacklands, and Whitmore's chief rent.

On the 25th of January, 1820, the surplus in the Court of Chancery amounted to £9,394 7s. 6d. (three per cents), and £1,093 18s. 1d. in cash. In the year 1820 the net annual income for the exhibitions amounted to £1,124 17s. 3½d.

The inhabitants of your borough are not aware that a scheme was procured, at the instance of the Attorney-General, so late as in 1861. He moved the Court as against Christ Church, Oxford, and an order was made by the Court of Chancery, for a new scheme, dated 11th February, in that year, the main points of which are as follows.

At that period the surplus money in hand of the eighteen exhibitions bequeathed to six towns in Shropshire, (from an insufficient number of scholars presenting themselves to go to college) amounted to £11,720 invested in bank three per cent. annuities, in trust in the name of the Accountant-General.

It was ordered (*inter alia*) that three boys be elected yearly from the Bridgenorth School, and sent to Christ Church or any other college in Oxford.

It was ordered that if no Bridgenorth or Shropshire boy presented them-

selves as candidates, then any boy from any county or country, who should present himself, and prove himself qualified, should be elected and sent to Christ Church.

It was ordered that a Careswell prize should be competed for annually (amounting to £100 in money) by the boys in the six schools as given above—but without regard to the boys *being natives of Shropshire* or their ability to go to college at *their parents' expense*.

It was ordered that if no scholar presented himself as a candidate at any one of the schools, for the annual exhibition, then the vacant exhibition should be transferred to any of the other five schools for competition.

The Careswell prize to be contested for and adjudged during the fortnight before Easter, but, by arrangement, to be given at other times.

It was ordered that the scholars should be elected by the Dean of Christchurch, or his deputy, and by the Justices of the Peace for the Hundreds of Bradford, Stottesden, and Brimstree, (by majority), such election to be held in the town, wherein the particular school is situate, but in case that no scholar presents himself, then the competition to be held in the Shrewsbury School.

It was ordered that the examination and election for the annual prize should always take place at Shrewsbury.

It was ordered that the expenses of the scholars going to college, should be paid out of the Endowment fund, and also their matriculation and other fees on their arrival there.

It was ordered that the exhibitions should be allowed as under:— Previous to taking the degree of B.A., £60 per annum for four years; after being B.A., £21 per annum for three years; after being M.A., £27 per annum for three years.

It was ordered that the Careswell prize of £100 should be in addition to the above stipends, all of which are to be paid half-yearly.

Now the bent of the above rules of the new scheme is to encourage Shrewsbury scholars, at the expense of the boys attending the other five schools. Surely Shrewsbury School is rich enough, with its foundation income of upwards of £2,000, its numerous exhibitions,* and its paltry number of free scholars, without absorbing the Careswell exhibitions, if not filled up elsewhere.

You will perceive, Mr. Editor, that the evil lies in the classical element; the donor did not foresee that a commercial education would become more desirable in the six towns he fixed upon, than a classical one.

* Nineteen exhibitions and twenty-three fellowships, amounting to £1,400 per annum, positively, and £840 per annum, contingently.

Now it remains with the people of Bridgenorth to get such an alteration in the appropriation of their share of this Endowment Fund, as will benefit the town, and get their sons taught what they require in aid of their after-life pursuits.

The Bridgenorth share of the accumulated fund, in the first place, would be about £2,600. Now, if the Court could be induced to allow this sum to be laid out in land, and pay the interest in due proportions to two masters, in addition to the present income of the school-house, and some fees in aid, Bridgenorth would be greatly benefited.

As it is, it is doing nothing, and Bridgenorth runs the risk of seeing this £2,600 absorbed by boys at the other five schools, or by boys from any other free school whatever.

It will be universally felt that the founder never could intend to see his gifts to these favourite places ran away with by the sons of strangers.

As to the difficulty of getting the Court's consent to such an arrangement or appropriation, let the people of Bridgenorth address memorials to the Board of Charity Commissioners, and the Lord Chancellor, expressing their desire, and it will soon be gained. "Never venture, never win," is very true in most cases, and in this let it be tried by the town, and the town will win.

Besides, no objection can be raised as to departing from the founders intentions, they are departed from *over and over again in this new scheme*, and, therefore, can be again; and as the benefit to the town boys, and to the town generally, would be so great, it behoves the inhabitants to see to it at once.

I beg to remain, yours truly,

GEO. GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, May 2, 1864.

P.S.—The Corporation would be the proper persons to be the Trustees of the Careswell Endowment, under a new scheme, as it is clear that not ten persons in Bridgenorth know of the 1861 scheme. And why? Because the trustees are non-resident, therefore they are not so fit as the Corporation would be, nor can they be so watchful over the town boys interests.

This letter fully satisfied the inhabitants that if the Careswell exhibition accumulation could be made available, a good school might be established. The following article appeared in the *Bridgenorth Journal*, on June 11th:—

THE BRIDGENORTH TOWN COUNCIL AND THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

The Town Clerk read a draft of a memorial which had been prepared by the committee appointed by the Council, and which was proposed to be addressed to the Charity Commissioners, requesting their sanction and certificate to address the Court of Chancery upon the subject of the present position of the Bridgenorth Grammar School, apprising the Court that, as at present constituted, the school was of little benefit to the inhabitants of the town; that the present salary was inadequate to provide any teacher of acknowledged ability, although since the will of Mr. Careswell (the liberal donor of the six schools in Shropshire nominated by him), a fund of £11,000 had accumulated beyond the outlay—and urging that such sum may be so distributed between the schools in question as will enable the trustees of the Bridgenorth school to obtain the services of a fit and proper instructor for a commercial as well as a classical education.—Alderman Deighton, Mr. Edkins and Mr. Whatmore urged that in addressing the Charity Commissioners the Town Clerk should apprise them that had the Council been aware of the adoption of the Court of Chancery of the code and scheme of regulations in 1861, they should most strenuously have urged the Lord Chancellor to object to such a recommendation, which they deem to be ill-advised and injurious.—Mr. Bangham proposed, and Mr. Kirtlan seconded, that a memorial be prepared for signature by the Mayor and Town Council, and seal attached, and that a similar document be provided for signature by the inhabitants generally of the town.—The form of memorial was approved, and the proposition adopted.

The following editorial article appeared in the same paper :—

BRIDGENORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL.—The present position and prospects of this school—by far the most important of our local institutions—with its foundation and exhibitions to Christ Church, Oxford, and the “new scheme” adopted in 1861, has latterly been brought before the public in the reports of the meetings of the corporation; and the Town Council agreed, at their meeting yesterday week, that memorials be addressed to the Charity Commissioners (one from the corporation, under their seal, and the other from the inhabitants generally), praying to be allowed to appeal to the Court of Chancery for permission to alter the present scheme so as to extend the usefulness of the school. The object which the petitioners seek to obtain will be gleaned from the memorial, of which the following is a copy :—

“To the Charity Commissioners of England and Wales. In the matter of the Grammar School Charity, in Bridgenorth, in the county of Salop.

“The memorial of the inhabitants of the town interested in the said institution

“Sheweth,—That the Free Grammar School of Bridgenorth was founded by the father of Sir John Hayward, Knight, about the year 1503, and is not so useful and helpful to the inhabitants of the town as intended by its founder and benefactor.

“That the progress of civilization and natural change of circumstances have rendered a modification of the governing rules of the charity necessary, to enable the town to derive that benefit from the ample funds of the foundation which was intended by its benefactor.

“That the appointment of Head Master of the Grammar School is vested in the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses, by their Council.

“That the salary of the master still continues at the small sum of £34 per annum, with a house, by permission of Sir William Whitmore, the ancestor of the present Mr. Whitmore, of Apley Park, at the nominal rent of eight shillings, the annual value being about £25 per annum,—this your memorialists submit is quite inadequate to remunerate a talented teacher of itself.

“That the school is entitled to send three boys to the University, namely ‘boys of the least ability to maintain themselves,’ but for reasons obvious to your memorialists, few of the scholars so qualified have sought this benefit amongst the number (not over twenty) who have obtained exhibitions from the said Grammar School within the last century.

“That your memorialists are informed that the trusts of the said charity, with others, were dealt with by the Court of Chancery, and a code of regulations established, in the year 1861, in a suit entitled “Attorney General *v.* Christ Church, Oxford, and in the matter of Careswell’s Estate Act, with a view to better distribution of the beneficial interest in the said trusts and privileges;”—but such proceeding was not known to your memorialists, otherwise they would have petitioned against the same, and it does not appear in any way to meet the requirements of this town.

“That the extent of the interest of the town of Bridgenorth in the said charity under the will of Mr. Careswell, is about the proportion of one-sixth of the whole—and that the accumulations of income unappropriated as your memorialists are informed, at present amounts to a sum over £11,000, and it appears to your memorialists possible, under the existing state of arrangements, that the town may become unable to derive any benefit whatever from so beneficial and invaluable a charity, unless some other and better scheme can be devised—conferring upon each of the towns indicated by the will, a special benefit, according to their respective interests.

“That your memorialists beg to submit that by a division of the trust of

the said charity amongst those towns so indicated to the extent of their several interests under the same, an opportunity might not only be afforded to increase the salary of the Head master of the Grammar School, but also to employ a competent teacher of a good commercial education to the sons of the inhabitants of such towns, and thereby render the said charity available to those individuals for whose benefit the munificent donor was desirous the advantages should flow.

“Your memorialists therefore submit to the Commissioners the favourable consideration of the above statement; trusting that they will be pleased to grant to your memorialists a certificate to enable them to apply in the usual course to the High Court of Chancery with the view to obtain such a modification of the trust of the said charity under Mr. Careswell's will, as may restore to the town those benefits which the donor and benefactor of the said institution was ever desirous should be realized.”

We intend, next week, to publish the Report of the Charity Commissioners on this school, showing the unmistakeable intention of the donor, that each school should enjoy the proportion of the benefits allotted to it, which is entirely upset by the scheme of 1861. In the meantime it may suffice to say that the income derived from the property left by Mr. Careswell to support eighteen exhibitions at Christ Church, Oxford, (of which Bridgenorth was to have three,) amounts to nearly £1,200 per annum. In consequence of so few boys having availed themselves of the benefits which the donor intended this charity should confer, the annual surplus has accumulated to the formidable sum of £12,000! making an additional income of about £350. This of itself is sufficient evidence that a new scheme could greatly extend the usefulness of this highly valuable institution. We therefore earnestly entreat the inhabitants of this town not only to sign the memorial, but also to use every endeavour in assisting to obtain the object for which they are petitioning. In the event of the Charity Commissioners granting the certificate allowing an appeal to the Court of Chancery, a town's meeting should be called, and at that meeting a new scheme agreed upon for presentation to the Court of Chancery. It is not generally known, but the new scheme, passed in 1861, has so completely altered the charity from the provisions contained in the donor's will, that, unless something is done, Bridgenorth will virtually lose all interest therein—though it should reap a benefit in the proportion of one-sixth of the whole.

THE CARESWELL CHARITIES AND THE TOWN COUNCIL OF BRIDGENORTH.

In consequence of certain proceedings taken by the Town Council of Bridgenorth, having reference to the Careswell Charity, the Trustees of

that Charity have caused the following letter to be addressed to the Council:—

London, 18, Essex Street, Strand, W.C.,
4th July, 1864.

To the Mayor of Bridgenorth.

SIR,—Our attention has been directed to the proceedings of the Town Council of Bridgenorth, with reference to the Bridgenorth Grammar School, as reported in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of the 20th of May, and *Eddowes's Shrewsbury Journal* of the 15th June last. From these reports it appears that the Town Council of Bridgenorth are under the impression that their Grammar School is entitled to a share in the funds of the Careswell Charity, and that those funds have been misappropriated and diverted from the channels into which Mr. Careswell intended they should flow.

It is to be regretted that the statements upon which these reports are founded should have been made, because it would have been easy to ascertain all the facts relating to the Careswell Charity had any pains been taken with that object. Mr. Councillor Whatmore might have procured a copy of Mr. Careswell's will, or of the Act of Parliament relating to the Careswell Estates, passed in the 48th year of the reign of George III, cap. 144, in which the will is recited. Had this been done it would have been seen that it was not Mr. Careswell's intention to endow the Grammar Schools alluded to by Mr. Whatmore, or to provide for the salaries of the masters of those schools; and if Mr. Whatmore had applied to the master of the Grammar School at Bridgenorth, we think he would have found that was the case.

For the information of yourself and the Town Council we beg to say that the objects for which the Careswell Charity was founded as described by the testator himself are as follows:—"Now I, the said Edward Careswell, designing and intending to dispose of certain estates for a public benefit, and taking notice that the scholars of the several free schools of the said county of Salop were destitute of any place of preferment in either of the Universities, whereby learning in the said free schools was much discouraged; for the supply, therefore, of that defect, and for the support and encouragement of such scholars of the free schools hereinafter mentioned as are not sufficiently enabled to maintain themselves at the University, I do hereby devise, order, direct, and appoint, that the said Estates shall be at all time, for ever, hereafter charged and chargeable with the maintenance of the number of eighteen scholars in the College of Christ's Church, in Oxford, or, in case the said scholars cannot be incorporated with, and made

part of the foundation, or admitted into the Society of the said college of Christ's Church, and to have chambers there, then in some other college or hall of the said university, where the said scholars may best and most conveniently be accommodated in such manner and proportion, and for such time as hereinafter mentioned.

The will then proceeds to direct the amount each scholar is to receive, and directs that four of such scholars should be chosen from Shrewsbury School, three from Bridgenorth School, four from Newport School, three from Shiffnal School, and two each from Wem and Donnington Schools. From this it will be seen that Mr. Careswell confined the benefits of his charity to the holders of these particular scholarships, and does not appear to have contemplated increasing the endowments of any of these schools or of their masters. But of course the schools and the masters of the schools are manifestly benefited by the above provision, because the fact that scholarships are attached to the schools is an inducement to parents to send their children there.

In the memorial of the Bridgenorth Town Council, a copy of which appears in *Eddowes's Journal* of 15th June, there is a paragraph as to the code of regulations approved by the Court of Chancery in 1861, and stating that those proceedings were not known to the memorialists, otherwise they would have petitioned against the same. On this point it is sufficient for us to state that the Town Council would have had no *locus standi* before the court; but the head master of Bridgenorth School had the opportunity of making any suggestions with reference to the regulations alluded to, and, if inquiry be made of him, it will be found that the solicitor acting for him, and the head masters of the other schools, took an active part in settling those regulations.

Except as above shown, the town of Bridgenorth has no interest under Mr. Careswell's will, and the Court of Chancery, in the administration of charities, is careful to follow the directions of the founders, although (as in the case of the Careswell Charity), whereby good management or other causes the income has greatly increased, the Court will deal with that increased income so as to extend the benefits of the charity, but always in the manner best calculated to promote the intention of the founder.

We have thought it right to notice the proceedings of the Town Council of Bridgenorth at once, not with any wish or desire to prevent an investigation into the management of the Careswell Charity, but because the Trustees of the Charity think it desirable that the Town Council should after what has taken place, be made acquainted with the real objects of the charity.

Upon reflection, we think, you will be of opinion that the very circum-

stance of the administration of the charity, having been revised and approved by the Court of Chancery so lately as the year 1861, is in itself a sufficient proof that the funds are not misapplied; but, beyond that, we must inform you that a duly verified account of each year's receipts and expenditure of the Careswell Charity is sent to the Charity Commissioners, so that if the charity funds had been, or were being misapplied, the Commissioners would have been in a position to interfere long ago in the interests of the charity.

We send a copy of this letter to the Charity Commissioners, and to the Editors of both newspapers above mentioned; and we shall be ready, on behalf of the trustees, to give any further information, either to the Commissioners or yourself, which may be consistent with our duty as Solicitors for the Trustees of the Charity.

We remain, Sir, your obedient servants,

BENHAM AND TINDELL.

CARESWELL'S CHARITY.

To the Editor of the Bridgenorth Journal.

SIR,—Allow me to make a few remarks on the letter of Messrs. Benham and Tindell, addressed to the Mayor of Bridgenorth, and published in your last *Journal*.

I am not aware that any member of the Town Council has ever said that the funds of the Careswell Charity have been misappropriated, but some of the Council have, with myself, been under the impression that our Grammar School is entitled to a large share of the accumulated funds of the Careswell benefaction.

Mr. Careswell *did* endow the Bridgenorth School with three exhibitions, and the scholars are the school, and the endowment is theirs.

I wish Messrs Benham and Tindell had given us a farther extract from Mr. Careswell's will; it would then have been seen that the boys for whose benefit this charity was left were to be natives of the several parishes wherein the estates lay (and the greater part are in the neighbourhood of Bridgenorth,) or elsewhere of the county of Salop, and of the *least ability* to maintain themselves. Has there been a strict adherence to the letter of the will in this respect? I have reason to believe that not more than two Bridgenorth boys have been sent from the school within the last fifty years who were not sufficiently enabled to maintain themselves.

I will now notice an item or two of the "New Scheme or Code of Regulations," that it seems was recommended by some of the masters of the other schools and their solicitor, and see whether there has not been a departure from the will of the founder. First, it is ordered that £40 be paid out of

the *Funds* to the minister of Bobbington. Under the Will that gentleman was to receive £10, and this sum to be made up by deductions from the Exhibitors' stipends. It is ordered also that an annual prize of £100, to be called the "Careswell prize," shall be open to the competition of the scholars of all the six schools, viz., Shrewsbury, Newport, Shiffnal, Bridgenorth, Donnington, and Wem, without regard to the question whether such scholars are natives of the county of Salop or not, and any *foreigner* may also compete for this prize, and it is not necessary that any of the candidates shall be of "little ability to maintain themselves." Mr. Careswell makes mention of no other boys than those belonging to the county of Salop, as being entitled to these exhibitions, and to prevent any elections *contrary to the will*, he ordered that a catalogue of the scholars from time to time elected, should be carefully kept.

Although the Scheme was revised and approved by the Court of Chancery so lately as the year 1861, it may be superseded by making another application to the Court.

The fact of the accumulations having amounted to £11,720 1s. 6d., shows the difficulty there must have been in obtaining candidates such as Mr. Careswell intended to benefit by his munificent charity.

I cannot conceive it was ever his intention to give, in addition to the eighteen exhibitions, an annual prize of £100 out of the funds intended for boys of "the least ability to maintain themselves," to be competed for, it may be, by the sons of the wealthy who can well afford to pay educational and college expenses, and though it may be true, as Messrs. Benham and Tindell affirm, that the Town Council, as such, have no *locus standi* before the Court of Chancery, yet surely every inhabitant of the Town has an interest in the well-being of the school, and must and will be heard in the matter.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

Bridgenorth, July 13, 1864.

"J. L. WHATMORE."

I followed Mr. Whatmore's letter with the following :—

To the Editor of the Bridgenorth Journal.

SIR,—I take the liberty of again drawing the attention of your fellow-townsmen to the question of Careswell's Exhibitions.

The letter signed by Benham and Tindell, solicitors to the trustees (which appeared in your paper of the 9th of July) must of course have been written by the request of the trustees.

It is very well that this letter was written, as it opens the question more fully than hitherto, and will be of use no doubt hereafter to the inhabitants.

It may be asked why did not the trustees write a letter themselves, or why did not they communicate with the Mayor of Bridgenorth? This latter course would have been much more appropriate than the one they adopted.

It has been mooted whether the trustees have not been moved in the matter by the action of a D.D. at Shrewsbury. Why this should be the case will appear hereafter.

The letter starts first with asserting indirectly that the Town Council of Bridgenorth have no right to say that the Bridgenorth Grammar School is entitled to a share of the Careswell Charity.

Secondly, that the Town Council think that these funds have been misappropriated and diverted from the channel into which Mr. Careswell intended they should flow.

These two things are exactly what the Town Council wish to be cleared up, and the inhabitants feel most interested in.

It is a mere evasion of the question in dispute to say that the exhibitions are not an endowment for the benefit of the school. Who were the three exhibitions left for? For boys brought up in the Bridgenorth Grammar School certainly. Therefore were not these exhibitions a true, and pure, and well intentioned endowment of that school?

No one ever said that the exhibition money was intended to augment *directly* the salary of the Head Master. But as these three exhibitions were confined to boys going to the school, they did serve to increase the master's salary because a greater number of boys resorted to the school on account of these exhibitions being established for the most deserving, and thereby the masters fees were much greater in the total than if the exhibitions did not exist.

And it will be seen that the boys attending this school who should be permitted to go to the university by means of these exhibitions were to be such "as are not sufficiently enabled to maintain themselves at the university."

Strange to say, that after the solicitors to the trustees assert that these funds were not intended to improve the master's salary, they state that the head master was consulted when the last scheme was passed. But were the inhabitants at all consulted? Were their Town Council consulted? a body of gentlemen appointed by the votes of the inhabitants to watch over their interests—of course not; the proceedings were not even carried on in Bridgenorth, the inhabitants, who are the OWNERS OF CARESWELL'S THREE EXHIBITIONS, were never thought worthy to be noticed in a matter of the greatest importance to their children. It seems to be too much forgotten that trustees hold office for the benefit of the inhabitants,

and that the masters of such schools are the paid servants of the inhabitants.

Upon a strict investigation it will be found that the intentions of the founder are not adhered to : that his orders, as laid down in his Will, upon which point the solicitors lay so much stress, have been broken, and that not for the benefit of the Bridgenorth boys, but to their hurt and hindrance. The inhabitants of Bridgenorth being in the dark when the scheme of 1861 was passed are not to blame. It is usual to find advertisements in the papers and notices on church doors when such alterations are proposed, but in a quiet town like Bridgenorth these notifications would be looked upon as matters of course, emanating from the commissioners, and not to be interfered with by any one else.

The question, therefore, is not so much what has been, but what is to be done. If the last scheme broke into the founders Will (and that injuriously to the inhabitants of Bridgenorth) why may it not be allowed to benefit the inhabitants by another departure from the Will? If the founder could rise from his grave would he not try to improve the operation of his benefaction, and not wrong one or more of the schools to benefit the others.

But not only are some of the schools (by their exhibitions) wronged, but the election of the scholars is carried out wrong, even where the wrong is adopted.

By referring to the report of Her Majesty's Commissioners, published in the present year, vol. 4, pages 317 and following, we find that the scholars at Shrewsbury on Careswell's foundation *are never examined by the masters*; and the Careswell Exhibitions having been thrown open by the trustees, and a special prize of £100, *contrary to the Will of the founder*, having been founded, it is a matter of course that the Shrewsbury boys alone will carry that prize, to the profit of the masters of that school, as that prize draws boys there, to the loss of the other schools, who cannot of course run the race for it.

And this doubtless will continue to be the case if not contested, as the head master of Shrewsbury replied to a question put to him by one of the commissioners (H. H. Vaughan, Esq.), that "It would be better for us (the schoolmasters) if there were no preference to Shropshire at all."

Doubtless that would be for the benefit of the masters, but would it be for the benefit of Bridgenorth?

Let it be put clearly thus. Suppose these exhibitions were thrown open to all comers, would not Shrewsbury take all Careswell's Exhibitions, and would not Bridgenorth lose their share of Careswell's gifts? Was it this that he intended? Will Messrs. Benham and Tindell, as solicitors to the trustees dare to repeat that this is "carefully following the directions of the founder?"

In page 333 of the above quoted vol., we find that if none of the other five schools, viz., Shiffnal, Donnington, Newport, Wem, and Bridgenorth, educate boys to take these exhibitions, that Shrewsbury would take them all. The head master of that town says that Shiffnal and Donnington* never do send candidates, and Bridgenorth very seldom, and therefore Shrewsbury, like a big fish, swallows its three smaller brethren's rights. Was it this that the founder intended? Is this the procedure that B. and T. calls "extending the benefits of the charity."

And not only does Shrewsbury swallow these, but ever since the £100 prize has been instituted (out of Careswell's fund) it has also taken that, none of the other schools having pluck enough to enter into the lists, their opponents at Shrewsbury being too numerous and powerful.

The most important question, therefore is, would it not be better that the Bridgenorth share of the Careswell accumulated fund should be devoted to the building and re-establishment of that school, than to be dead in the bank, or be allotted to the benefit of the already too well fed school at Shrewsbury.

The Mayor and Town Council of Bridgenorth are well-wishers to the town, especially in educational matters, if they will persevere in bringing their desires before the Board of Charity Commissioners as to a new school scheme, they will, no doubt, accomplish a restoration of Careswell's exhibitions, and a transfer of the Bridgenorth share of the £11,000 accumulation to build a school, and create a liberal income for the master.

I remain, yours truly,

Wolverhampton, August 2, 1864.

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

In the second edition (p.p. 48-49) of my "History of the Endowed Schools of Worcestershire," I inserted the following editorial article, which had appeared in the *Worcester Journal* of the 28th of May:—

"KIDDERMINSTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL."

"For some time past this school has been the subject of public comment with regard to its management, it being well known that parents were removing their sons, under the impression that the boys were not making the progress in their studies which the parents had a right to expect. This at length came to the knowledge of the feoffees, and a meeting of that body was held on Wednesday, to inquire into the case. It would appear that the

* It seems that Newport and Wem generally have candidates, why not Bridgenorth?

receipts of the charity are large, and the number of pupils on the foundation have gradually decreased to about twelve, which shows that there must be something wrong somewhere. We believe the matter will now be thoroughly inquired into."

Upon this article I commented as follows :—

The way to shew the evils of the endowed school system, is to contrast this case of the Kidderminster endowed school with the other schools in the town. The endowed school has twelve scholars, there are two masters, and the cost is as follows :—

First.—Free (?) Grammar School.

	£	s.	d.
Head master's salary	240	0	0
Rent of house and grounds altogether 11 acres ...	120	0	0
Second master's salary and two houses ...	150	0	0
Twelve boys who pay £4 per annum each ...	48	0	0
	£558	0	0

Divided by twelve boys, gives £46 10s. each! (simply day scholars).

Second.—Mr. Askin's School.

Mr. Askin commenced as proprietor in 1847, with thirty boarders and ten day boys; he has now sixty boarders and thirty day boys; thirty-six are learning Latin; forty French; forty drawing; forty euclid, algebra, mensuration, surveying, book-keeping, &c., &c. The whole are trained in sound commercial and scientific studies.

Third.—Four day schools and one night school, aided by Government grants, under the new code (for the first year).

	£	s.	d.
St. Mary's Church School	88	9	3
Ditto Night School	12	0	0
St. George's ditto	68	13	4
St. John's ditto	63	10	6
New Meeting School	52	14	10
	£285	7	11

After looking at these three statements, the conclusion must be that the education which prevails at the grammar school was a

complete failure,—boys having been, in many cases, transferred thence to Mr. Askin's school, after some years of study.

Here is no less than £558 paid for educating *some* twelve boys in the grammar school. There is a second master. These masters must have an easy time of it! What does that matter? The salaries are the same whether they have one scholar or one hundred.

These contrasts show how the endowed system sinks with the dead weight of the classics on its back, and how a useful education is appreciated by the majority of the parents elsewhere.

But there is another question; here is a sum of £285 7s. 11d. paid out of the taxes to educate boys in the four schools, (as enumerated above) *in the same town*. Is this fair towards the inhabitants? Are they to be called upon, year after year, to pay taxes to educate their children, when there is a free foundation school in the town (the £4 per annum being a modern charge) with a gross income of at least £800 per annum?

Then there is a further question, there is the difference between the two master's salaries, and this £800 per annum. What is that devoted to? Is it accumulating to provide exhibitions for the boarders?

It is high time that the trustees petitioned the Court of Chancery, or the Charity Commissioners, to abolish the teaching of the dead languages, and to substitute a sound scientific and commercial education in their place,—this is the evil throughout the three kingdoms, and, however safe classical teachers may consider themselves by Act of Parliament, another Act may, and no doubt will, be passed, to get rid of them, and place more fitting and more able teachers in their places.

On the 31st of May and the 6th of June, two long letters appeared in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, signed M.A., with the singular address of "The School House." Which M.A. it was, and which of the rent-free school houses M.A. lived in, was a puzzle, but it was hinted to me that it was not far from the middle of High Street, in Dudley.

In the first letter he complained of the smallness of the salary

paid to the head master of the Birmingham Free School being only £1500 per annum, because the masters at Harrow, Rugby, and Elm got much more, and that whilst the assistant masters at Harrow had £300 per annum for each of their boarders, the assistant masters at Birmingham were only paid £400 per annum for doing full duty.

But it afterwards appeared that the great object of his writing at all was to shew that the words “*Libera Schola*” do not mean a school free from payment, but free from ecclesiastical jurisdiction.

Having written a series of letters on this question of “*Libera Schola*” in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* in 1860, against the views of Dr. Kennedy, head master of the Grammar School in that town, (and which doubtless M.A. had read as they were published in a pamphlet,) I at once entered the field of controversy on that question with him, by permission of the editor of the *Gazette*.

I wrote a long reply dated 11th June, to which he replied on the 17th. My next was on the 30th, to which he did not reply until the 15th of August, and the series was closed by my reply on the 3rd of September.

As I intend to place the correspondence on this Question of “*Libera Schola*,” in the Appendix to this Autobiography, on account of its great importance, I need say no more about it here.

The question of the utility of teaching the dead languages became, at this period, more and more discussed every day; almost all the newspapers had something about this vexed question in their columns.

This of course brought out explanations from those who were pecuniarily interested in the continuance of the huge sham, and, amongst the rest, the Dean of Worcester entered the lists.

To his remarks on this occasion, I replied as follows:—

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Worcester Herald.

SIR,—On the Speech Day at the breaking up of the Cathedral Grammar School, last month, the Very Rev. Dean Peel made some pointed remarks on the study of the classics.

He is reported in the *Journal*, of the 25th of June, to have said as follows :—“The learned and pious men, by whose advice the school was established in connexion with the Cathedral, by its royal founder, thought that a competent acquaintance with classical literature was most desirable to *strengthen* the mind and prepare it for its future occupations in life. He had read with great surprise the remarks that had been made in another place, from which they might have expected different things—that the time devoted to the acquirement of those languages was a great waste of time and that no boy found, when he had acquired a knowledge of them, that they were of the slightest use in after life. He thought those remarks quite uncalled for, and he entirely differed from that opinion, for even the most indolent boy could not fail to derive advantage from an acquaintance with the ancient as well as modern languages.”

Now the persons who object to the learning the classics do not do so on account of the study of them. They say, “Let parents who love the classics cause their sons to be educated therein by all means, but let them pay for such studies out of their own pockets, and not at the expense of a foundation school, whose revenues were intended, and ought to be devoted to the education of boys whose parents are not able to pay for such a boon themselves.”

By all means, if parents think that the classics are *strengthening plasters* to their sons' minds, let such plasters be applied, but let them not be paid for by money truly belonging to the working and hard-tasked middle classes. Let not the doctors, by whose hands such strengthening plasters are applied to the minds of the rich, be paid their handsome fees out of the poor boys' chest.

But it may be doubted whether the classics are strengthening plasters, as many of the most eminent classical men declare they are not, (who shall decide when doctors disagree ?) in proof whereof the following opinions are quoted :—

H. H. Vaughan, Reg. Pro. Modern History, University of Oxford, in his work entitled “Oxford and Oxford Professors,” says that the devotion of the powers of the young intellect to the Latin and Greek languages (from six to twenty two years of age) is a disgrace to our conduct and education of the human understanding.

Dr. Southey asserted that our English auxiliary verbs give us a greater power of language than the ancients ever enjoyed.

Canon Sydney Smith said that classical schoolmasters taught the youth of this country as if they were all to be teachers of Grammar Schools in provincial towns.

The *Times* (in an article on the question) points out that the study of the

classics stifles the observation of nature, and human feelings, and incidents, and at the same time leads the young mind to the study of authors who were unobservant of nature, which is a double loss.

Sir Walter Scott said that the study of the classics produced sullenness, and was merely a pursuit of monotonous recitation.

Professor Pillans asserts that the classics were not written for schools, but for the perusal of persons of ripe age.

Sir E. Bulwer says that to learn languages spoken by the dead, to the neglect of those spoken by the living, has been felt to be a curse.

Professor Vaughan, in another part of his work before quoted, says that our study and idolatry of the dead languages produces most successfully thorough idleness and vacancy of mind.

These may suffice as to the non-strengthening qualities of the classical plasters. But there is another matter belonging to the question. Why should the classical plasters be applied so assiduously, when other descriptions of plasters would be more to the purpose, and much more beneficial to the patients?

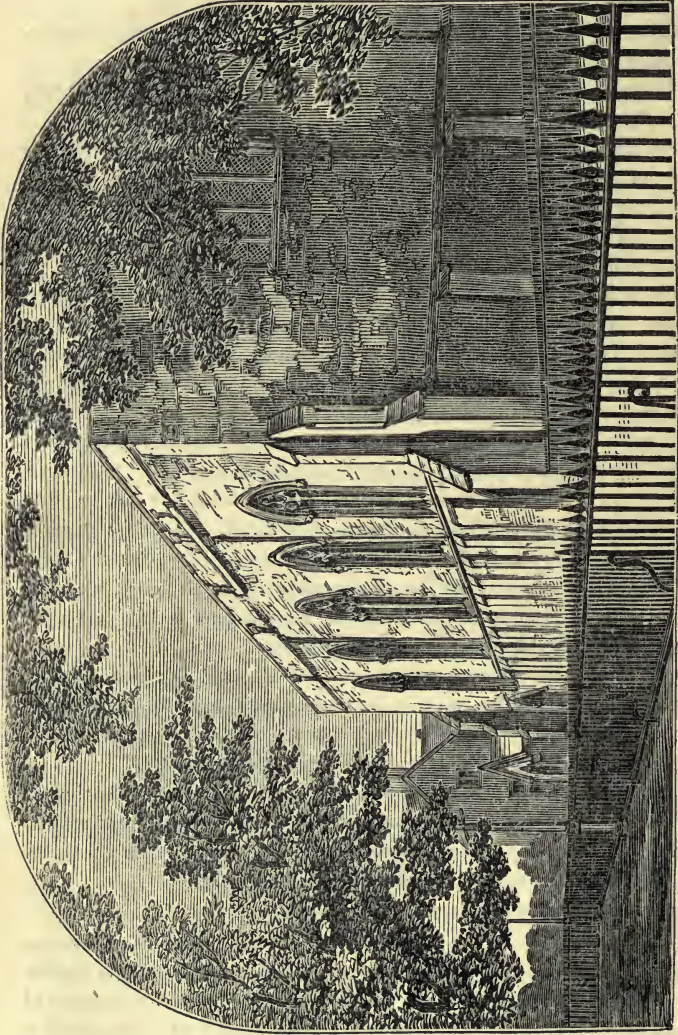
It is well understood that the three strengthening plasters recommended by the Very Rev. the Dean are called "The Hebrew Plaster," "The Greek Plaster," and "The Latin Plaster." These plasters were invented or made a long time ago. The Hebrew plaster was very useful in ancient days, so far back, in fact, as we can trace anything by history. The second plaster was invented (some say) by the people whose name it bears, viz., the Greeks; and the third by the Romans, but now, and for a long period, it has been called "The Latin Strengthening Plaster."

These three plasters were introduced into England at three different periods. The Hebrew one was first in the field, and no doubt, in the early ages, was singularly in vogue, because it was the only ancient plaster, there being no other foreign article of the kind known in England.

Well, the people got on very peaceably with this one plaster—but, when the Greek plaster was imported the doctors fell out violently, and we find it recorded that the advocates of the Greek plaster were very roughly handled by the "Old Original Plaster Society of Doctors."*

This is nothing uncommon, even in our day, as you will often see, in

* Some classical advocates say that the word grammar meant (in foundation deeds) the classics; but, long before Greek was taught by Linacre and Grocyn, at Oxford, the word grammar was known and used. The study of Greek gave rise to the faction of the Trojans in opposition to the Greeks, who became violently opposed to each other, and the disputes *even brought about open hostilities.*



WORCESTER CATHEDRAL SCHOOL.

small market towns, a pill and plaster vendor, (commonly called a quack) vociferously declaring that his articles are superior to all others. By and bye a second vendor erects his platform close to the other, and the consequence is a Trojan and Grecian row. Of course the gaping people back their favourites, and the result is that the whole of the pills and plasters are sold off at much more than their true value, and the people are gulled, because their money might have been laid out in the purchase of things *really of use*, instead of these so-called strengthening nostrums. Meanwhile the vendors go and enjoy themselves together in snug quarters, laughing at the dupes who pay so much for things of such little utility.

The great questions after all are—What are the classics doing for the nation?—What are they hindering?—and, What would be the result if abolished from our endowed educational establishments?

Many men, well versed in this question, declare that these schools were not founded for the teaching of the classics; that the word grammar meant in early days "education;" but why not go further, and say that these noble foundations ought to be made use of for the study of useful things? Why may it not be conceded at once that Lord Ashburton was right when he said, in denouncing this classical monomania, "In this practical country the knowledge of all that gives power over nature is left to be picked up by chance on a man's way through life; in this religious country, the knowledge of good works form no part of the education of the people, no part even of the accomplishments of a gentleman."

Now were the classics shut out from our endowed schools, great and small, other and more practically useful studies would take their places—architecture, agricultural chemistry, the modern commercial languages, engineering, sculpture, painting, music, telegraphy, mineralogy, geology and a host of other essentially useful studies, would spring into active life, giving vigour to each scholar in mental pursuits, and producing an incalculable benefit to the nation at large. If the classics must be learnt by some who feel an antipathy to learning anything else, they can do so by paying qualified persons; but let the exhibitions, scholarships, and fellowships, be given to superiority of acquirement, in any and every branch of study and knowledge. Why should the Oxford standard bear away all the gifts of our benevolent forefathers to the hindrance of other and more useful studies?

And what effect has the classic study in keeping down other knowledge? Let us see.

In the report of the Education Commissioners, dated 1861, (vol. 2, p. 140) they say that "they found Endowed Schools to be a hindrance to education; in too many cases the masters teach the same things over and over

again; that the Bishop of Durham told them that Endowed Schools were the curse of his diocese, that one experienced clergyman told them he hardly ever heard of an Endowed School doing any good (p. 465, Jenkins's report); that the Dean of Carlisle said they were generally unmitigated evils; and that the Rev. D. Coleridge, of St. Mark's College, stated that, as now constituted, they are hindrances to education."

It is lamentable to be told such things in this age; but it has been published over and over again, that in these schools, useful things, such as arithmetic, English grammar, and good penmanship, are not only neglected but positively discouraged. In some of them there are boys who do not know that two and two make four, and some who cannot spell English words correctly.

This shows that to impart the knowledge of figures to the scholars is distasteful to the masters, and explains, in some degree, the ignorance of the masters themselves in such matters, especially as to the "Rule of Proportion."

I beg to refer the Very Rev. the Dean to the pamphlet of the Rev. Robert Whiston, called "Cathedral Trusts, and their Fulfilment," wherein we are told that when Henry the Eighth founded the Cathedral body of Worcester, he allotted certain revenues for the use of that Ecclesiastical Corporation, and he ordered that as the value of the properties increased from which the revenues arose, the increase was to be divided in due proportions, amongst all the members of the Corporation; that eight out of the forty scholars at the Cathedral should be maintained at the universities, (the original charter having fixed the number at twelve); and to carry this latter out, Edward the Sixth (A.D. 1547) bestowed upon the Dean and Chapter of Worcester, valuable manors, rectories, and advowsons.

In a M.S. (No 639) in the library at Lambeth Palace, the table states the original Endowment of Worcester Cathedral to be £1,301 11s. 10½d., out of which the Dean and Chapter were to expend £40 yearly on alms, and £40 yearly on the highways.

In the Lansdowne M.S., No. 683, in the British Museum, there is a list of the Deans' shares of the different Cathedral incomes, and that of the Dean of Worcester was put down at £133 6s. 8d., whilst the forty scholars were ordered to have £2 13s. 4d. each; so that with the present income of £12,000, the boys ought to be paid £27 each.

On referring to Whiston's pamphlet, I find, at page 103, the following statement:—In 1542, the total Worcester Cathedral income was £1,301; in 1834 it was £10,338; in 1542 the Grammar School absorbed £136 12s. 8d., and in 1834 only £240 7s. 10d.

Now any Worcester parent can see that the forty boys ought to have at

least £27 per annum each, for if out of £1,301 they were paid £136 12s. 8d., they ought now to share about £1,085. There can be no doubt about that, and if the best classical scholar of the Cathedral will explain why the boys get such small stipends instead of £27, the people of Worcester will be very much obliged and enlightened.

The Headmaster announces that he takes twelve boarders. There are the King's scholarships, and Meek's four scholarships in addition, besides the possibility of the Cookes' scholarships and fellowships; now all these belong to the forty free Worcester boys; but not one of the boarders ought to be allowed to compete for them.

Therefore, if the Dean will use his power to get the forty Worcester boys their legal £27 per annum each, and the scholarships strictly confined to the same forty Worcester boys, he will doubtless be called in all future time, the "Good Dean of Worcester."

I beg to remain, Mr. Editor,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, July 9th, 1864.



CHAPTER IX.

"Here's patronage, and here our heart descries,
What breaks its bonds, what draws the closer ties,
Shows what awards our services may gain,
And how too often we may court in vain."

CREECH.

As a new Endowed School Commission was about to be appointed I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to make application for an Assistant Commissioner's office.

My experience I considered would enable me, and my exertions somewhat entitled me, to fill such an office, which I flattered myself, I could do to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Thinking that Mr. Gladstone would forward my views, I wrote to him for a testimonial or recommendation, to the Board of Commissioners. I took the liberty of doing so as I had previously sent him copies of some of my Works.

To this I received the following reply :—

11, *Downing Street, Whitehall, 19th August, 1864.*

SIR,—The Chancellor of the Exchequer desires me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, and to say that he fears he has no power to promote your wishes, but you should make application to Sir George Grey, with whom it rests to select the members of the Commission.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

C. L. RYAN.

George Griffith, Esq.

I at once took his advice, and wrote to Sir George Grey, sending with the letter copies of my Histories of the Staffordshire Endowed Schools, and of the Birmingham Free Schools, &c., &c.,

to show him what I was capable of. To this I received the following reply:—

August 22nd, 1864.

Sir G. Grey presents his compliments to Mr. Griffith, and has forwarded his letter and his Works on the Staffordshire and Birmingham Endowed Schools to the President of the Council, by whom, as the Head of the Educational Department, the selection of the members of the proposed Commission will principally be made.

Upon receiving this I applied to the chief magistrate of our borough (Mr. Hawksford) for a letter of introduction to Earl Granville. He gave me the following, with which I went off to London:—

To the Right Honourable the Earl Granville, K.G.

Town Hall, Wolverhampton, 24th August, 1864.

MY LORD,—I know the bearer Mr. George Griffith, of this town, who is soliciting an appointment as inspector under the new commission for investigating the present state of endowed schools.

Mr. Griffith has published several useful Works, on the subject of endowed schools, and in my opinion is in every way equal to the appointment he is seeking.

I am, your Lordship's obedient Servant,

J. HAWKSFORD, Mayor.

Earl Granville was from home when I first called, and on my second call he had left the following note:—

16, Bruton Street, London, W, Aug. 26th, 1864.

Lord Granville presents his compliments to Mr. Griffith, and has made a note of his application.

The National Association for the promotion of Social Science, having announced, on the 3rd of August, that their Annual Congress for 1864, would be held in York, I sent my subscription, and was enrolled as a member.

I was induced to do so because one of the subjects upon which Papers were to be written was as follows:—"Education Department," "In what way can the Grammar and other Endowed Schools be made more available for the education of the middle class."

The conditions were as follows: That each paper should not occupy more than twenty minutes in reading. The choice of papers to rest wholly with the Committee of each Department. No paper already published to be read. No paper when read to be published by the author (unless by permission of the Council) previous to the publication of "*The Transactions of the Association for 1864.*" The Council may print any paper, either in whole or in part, or exclude it from the "*Transactions*" as they see fit. Every Paper to be sent to the general secretary, on or before the 1st of September. On the first page of every Paper must be written the question or subject, the name of the author, and his address.

The ticket of membership was as follows:—

MEMBERS

TICKET.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE
PROMOTION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING
YORK, 22ND TO 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1864,
PRESIDENT—THE RIGHT HON. LORD BROUGHAM.

ADMIT GEORGE GRIFFITH, ESQ.

No. 742.

R. W. STOLLON, LOCAL TREASURER.

NOT TRANSFERABLE.

G. W. HASTINGS, GENERAL SECRETARY.

I wrote a Paper very carefully, embodying my views on the question of education given in Endowed Schools, and received the following acknowledgement:—

London, 3, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, S.W., August 31st, 1864.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your paper, which shall be laid before our Committee on Education.

Yours faithfully,

ISA CRAIG.

G. Griffith, Esq.

Isa Craig is the authoress of the prize poem on Robert Burns, read at the Tercentenary at the Crystal Palace, in 1859.

The paper was selected to be one of the five that should be read, of which the secretary advised me as follows :—

London, 1, Adam Street, Adelphi, W.C., 14th Sept., 1864.

DEAR SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that your paper on Endowed Schools will be read on Saturday, the 24th inst.

The Council trust that you will be able to be present on the occasion.

I have the honour to be,

Your faithful Servant,

G. W. HASTINGS, General Secretary.

George Griffith, Esq.

I went to York on the 21st September, the Association granted first class single fare tickets for the double journey.

Here was a new scene, and a new opportunity whereby I could still further explain my views to a large body of intelligent educationalists. The President of the Association, the warmest supporter of my oft published views, was Lord Brougham, whilst the President of the Educational Department was the Archbishop of York.

The inauguration dinner of the Association was held in the "De Grey Rooms," on Saturday, the 24th. Lord Brougham was chairman, and after dinner a variety of gentlemen spoke. The assembly was magnificent, and everything went off with great *éclat*.

Religious and political questions, during the sitting of the Congress, were eschewed, yet the Archbishop when he delivered his special sermon to the Association, managed to blend these two unmanageable giants with science and education in a very able manner, and to make it appear that each was necessary to the other. I shall never forget the scene in the Cathedral on that day. The Association filled every seat, and many of the late comers had to stand; the fine old Cathedral, with its unequalled east window, its splendid toned organ, and large body of clergy and choristers, its congregation of intelligent minds from all parts of the United Kingdom, formed the most imposing sight I ever witnessed, whilst my mind's eye vainly endeavoured to grapple

with the varied talents brought together to improve each other, and the world.

The Special Questions for Discussion in the Department of Education, were as follows :—

1.—What improvements can be introduced into the present System of Public School Education.

The Discussion will be opened by a Paper on the Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the Revenues and Management of certain Colleges and Schools.

2.—In what way can the Grammar and other Endowed Schools be made more available for the Education of the Middle-Class ?

3.—What is the state of Education in Rural Districts and Small Town Populations? and how can the peculiar difficulties attending it be removed.

Voluntary papers are invited under the following heads :—

1.—Higher and Middle Class Education.

2.—General Elementary Education, including Pauper and Reformatory Schools.

3.—Schools of Art, Mechanics' Institutions, Evening Schools, &c.

There were five papers selected by the committee from those sent in for selection. These were written and read by the Rev. Canon Hey, Rev. Canon Robinson, Rev. R. Daniel, Mr. J. G. Fitch, and myself, on the 24th of September, to the assemblage, Lord Brougham being in the chair.

He delivered the opening address, a most elaborately written Paper, which occupies twenty five pages of the volume in which are published the "*Transactions of the Association.*"*

A condensed report of my Paper also appeared in the same volume at pages 454-455.

MIDDLE-CLASS EDUCATION.

"In what way can the Grammar and other Endowed Schools be made more available for the Education of the Middle Class.?"

* Transactions of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, York Meeting, 1864, edited by G. W. Hastings, LL.B., General Secretary of the Association. London: Longman, Green, Longman, Roberts, and Green, 1865.

In addition to the papers on this question by the Rev. Canon Hey, the Rev. Canon Robinson, and Mr. Fitch, printed at pp. 360, 367, 380

Mr. George Griffith read a paper, of which the following is a condensation:—

“The education of the sons of the opulent is too often given at the expense of endowments bequeathed for the benefit of the middle and working classes, and this is more the case where the endowment is large, than where it is small.

The founder of Christ's Hospital, Edward VI., designated it to be for the benefit of “poor fatherless and motherless children, and sick, sore, and impotent people.” The present income is about £64,000, and the Treasurer when giving his evidence before the Education Commission of 1861, stated that the “regulations provide that no child be admitted who has any adequate means of being maintained and educated,” yet, “that numbers of children during the last twenty or twenty-five years have been admitted whose parents incomes exceeded £400, and in some cases £500 per annum.

The founder of Charter House School (Thomas Sutton, in 1611) ordered “the governors and their successors from tyme to tyme, and at all tymes hereafter, to place therein such numbers of poor children as to them shall seem convenient, and that the number should be increased in due proportion as the revenues increased.” The first number of foundation boys (40) is still adhered to, though the income is upwards of £50,000; and though there are eight schoolmasters and 180 boarders.

These evils arise in a great measure from nominating governors, who from their high rank or other reasons do not watch over the interests of the school. The system is spread over the whole country, as witness the schools of Shrewsbury, Bromsgrove, Repton, Birmingham, and others.

As a remedy Mr. Griffith proposed that an Act should be passed for the election of the trustees of endowed schools by the ratepayers in the same way and over the same areas as in the election of boards of guardians for the poor; except that the trustees should be elected biennially or triennially instead of annually. By this means the intentions of the founders would be more fully carried out; the absorption of extravagant salaries for small duties would be checked; the sons of the opulent would not be admitted; the masters would be elected on the ground of their ability to teach useful studies; and the exhibitions and prizes would be conferred on the sons of those who are unable to pay for a university education. By this means, also, portions of large endowments in small populations could be conferred on adjoining parishes devoid of such benefactions; sites of schools abandoned by population might be exchanged for others more convenient; two or more foundations, doing little or no good separately, might be amalga-

mated, and the admission of boarders might be regulated by the amount of endowment. The present Charity Commissioners might preside over these Union Boards of Charity Trustees as a board of appeal and advice, and to receive their accounts and statistics half-yearly. The principle of electing trustees by vote is advocated, as to another class of schools, by Dr. Temple, of Rugby, who recommended to the Education Commission of 1861, that the parents of children attending the lower class schools, and paying 2d. a week, should have a right to vote in the election of the school committee. There would probably be these further advantages, that the charity trustees would be resident; that they would do their business with open doors; that the masterships would be thrown open to laymen, and that the education would be adapted to the wants of the place and the scholars. Mr. Griffith also pointed out that such a reform is still more needed in Ireland, where the total amount of revenues of endowed schools is £76,463, and where there are 296 endowments with an income of £7,000 not put to any use. A Commission of Inquiry was issued in 1854, and a report published in 1858, which made the following recommendations:—free admission of scholars; alteration of educational system; removal of schools from non-populated to populated places; public visitation and inspection; competitive examination of scholars; a public office for the registration of all school deeds; an audit board in Dublin, and a periodical report to the Lord Lieutenant. Mr. Griffith stated that none of these alterations have been as yet carried out."

The chairman of our department (The Archbishop of York) gave his opinion as to each of the five selected papers in writing. The following was as to mine:—

I think this a useful suggestive paper, full of well-chosen facts and not badly argued. Its main proposal is to substitute for the existing Boards of Trustees, who now have the control of Endowed Schools, committees of management to be elected by the ratepayers in the same way and embracing the same areas, as adopted in the election of Boards of Guardians. I do not agree with the theory, but I think it deserves attention, and that the paper ought to be put down for Saturday, notwithstanding the length of the list for that day.

24th Sept., 1864.

The Meeting at which these Papers were read was very interesting. There were long discussions upon the contents of the papers when read, it being understood that the writers should give

way as much as possible to those who did not write papers. The chief speakers were Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P., Sir John Pakington, Bart., M.P., Dr. Hodgson, Mr. Dent, M.P., Mr. H. S. Thompson, M.P., and Mr. Bruce, M.P.

These discussions were very instructive, and the contents of the volume containing them is very valuable. The education part thereof fills no less than 160 pages.

Soon after my return from the Congress at York I resumed my applications to the Commissioners, and as comments upon my paper read at York had appeared in several of the London papers, I calculated that they would be helps towards my obtaining an Assistant-Commissionership.

The following are the comments published by some of the London and Provincial newspapers :—

Mr. George Griffith delivered a paper "On the Reformation of Endowed Schools." It stated the principle of endowed schools to be the provision of education for the poor; and referring to some of the chief schools, it adverted to Christ's Hospital in London, for the purpose of showing that its funds were diverted from their legitimate objects by the admission of boys, sons of parents in good circumstances. The Charterhouse was no longer in any respect a school for the children of poor parents, although it was essentially intended to be a middle-class school. In fact, the rich all over the country were filling with their sons, schools, which were founded for children of the poor. This usurpation was especially to be noted at Bromsgrove school, and the same might be stated of Repton, of Shrewsbury, and even of Eton. In order to remedy this state of things it would be necessary to pass an act of parliament doing away with the present governors and trustees of these schools, and placing their conduct in the hands of committees elected by the ratepayers of the districts; by whom the present improper distribution of patronage, the narrow and confined system of education, and the adoption of a comprehensive, practical and useful plan of teaching might be attended to. It was calculated that if the funds of the existing endowed schools were properly administered they would be capable of educating all the poor boys in the kingdom. At present, when there were large endowments they were absorbed by the rich while in the case of small endowments the operations of the schools were circumscribed, and comparatively inutile. In many places there were endowed schools, which, owing to the education afforded by them, were utterly useless to the bulk of the inhabitants, and there were consequently

set up national or parochial schools, aided by government grants, or provided for out of the rates paid by the people who could reap no advantage from the existing endowed schools. In Ireland the case was still worse, no less than 296 of them, with a revenue of £7,000, being actually not in operation at all. In the plan of government of the schools proposed, the governing body would conduct their proceedings openly, would live on the spot where the schools were situated, and be acted upon by all the influences which were calculated to inspire them with vigour, and tend to a conscientious discharge of their duties. By some such plan those English schools would be devoted to the English education of English men, and their operation largely and beneficially extended.

A discussion ensued, in the course of which Mr. Thompson, M.P., expressed an opinion that middle class schools, self-supporting, might be established by a payment of £30 a year for each scholar, and which should be in the nature of public schools, which should be subject to some inspection; and he suggested that steps should be taken to apply the funds of endowed schools to their legitimate use, the education of the middle classes.

Sir S. Northcote, M.P., observed that it was necessary that the mind of the public should be made up as to what was to be done in the matter of middle-class education. The suggestions of government inspection, of registration of teachers, and the extension of the training colleges to preceptors, were very valuable, and well worthy of consideration. He looked with great jealousy on any attempt at centralising and placing under government control the education of the middle class, and was in favour of a certain freedom in the operations connected with that education. A great deal was to be done in the improvement of grammar schools; but he questioned the sweeping assertions which had been made with regard to the perversion of the endowments of those schools, although there were some, the endowments of which were thrown away, which might well be rendered useful and active. He expressed his dissent from a statement of Mr. Fitch, that Latin as it was generally taught was of no use, direct or indirect, in the education of boys; his opinion being that that study was calculated to elevate the tastes and form the mind of the middle classes, while it would be a step towards harmonising the education of the whole country.

The Rev. Canon Trevor contended that Eton and other great endowed schools had been practically confined to one class—the wealthy; it was now proposed to pervert the smaller endowed schools in a like manner, although on a modified scale; instead of their being retained for the purpose of affording the best education to the sons of the poor man; and he could

agree to none of the propositions which had been made with regard to these schools.

Sir J. Pakington observed that the proceedings of the day afforded ample proof of the feeling which was prevalent with regard to the necessity of something being done in reference to the question of middle-class education, and he hoped that the papers which had been read would be brought under the attention of the commissioners who were about to inquire into this subject. It was that portion of the middle-class which was typified by the shopkeeper.

After some further discussion,

Mr. H. A. Bruce, vice-president of the Committee of Council for Education, addressed the meeting, and said that he came there only as a listener, but after the course the discussion had taken he could not remain altogether silent. All the government had undertaken to do was to appoint a commission to inquire into the subject of middle-class education, and he knew that it was being constructed with care and attention. He would not attempt to forestall its recommendations. Complaint had been made that the government had not acted on the reports of the commissioners on education which had been published; but as regarded that on public schools there had been no undue delay, for the report had been received only a few weeks before the end of the session. He was not in the secrets of the government, but he knew that they were considering this subject with a view to legislation. With regard to endowed schools, much good had been done by the charity commission, but its hands had been somewhat tied, and experience showed that its powers ought to be enlarged with advantage. The discussion of the day had been of much value in eliciting opinion, and the government was anxious to reflect the opinion of intelligent men in their acts on this question; but they were unwilling to undertake to interfere with middle-class education, as there was a strong desire in that class to do what was necessary for themselves.

Shortly after the proceedings closed.—*Daily News, September 26, 1864.*

EDUCATION.

At the Social Science Association meeting at York, on Saturday and Monday, the special question set down in the educational section for discussion was, "What is the state of education in rural districts and small town populations, and how can the peculiar difficulties attending it be removed?"

On this question a paper was read by the Rev. Canon Trevor, who sought to show that the difficulty of affording education in the large towns was greater than in rural districts, and took objection to the conscience clause

in the Revised Code, which he regarded as no contribution to real religious liberty. As a rule, where parishes were sufficiently large, their area should be that of the schools, and in the case of small parishes several might unite in supporting a common school. By that means the education required would be obtained without trenching on parochial organisation.

In the discussion which followed, Sir J. Pakington looked on the Revised Code, and the subsequent minute as the first step towards a more complete adaptation of the present system to the wants of the country. He dissented from the opinions expressed by Canon Trevor, which really raised the question whether the clergy of the Established Church were to assist in the extension of education in an exclusive or in a tolerant and comprehensive spirit. As a churchman, he protested against the rev. gentleman's view. Without the conscience clause they could not have one good school formed out of several bad ones in small districts, although abstractedly he was of opinion that in national schools the national religion should be taught, and that where it was practicable there should be separate schools for members of the Established Church, and for Dissenters. He agreed, however, with Canon Trevor, in regard to uniting small parishes to form one good school.

Canon Trevor replied that his whole paper was intended as a protest against Sir J. Pakington's principles and public acts in reference to national education. He defended himself against the charge of intolerance, and said that he had always endeavoured, in every school with which he had had to do, to bring children of all denominations together.

The Rev. D. Melville (Witley) thought the condition of the country was not such as to warrant the extension to national education of the principle of free trade, so wisely applied to commercial matters. Perhaps the plan well known as that of Mr. Walter, M.P., might seem to extend to the small rural schools the possibility of receiving a share of the education grant, yet it would not confer any real benefit on the poor to offer them an adulterated and false article, instead of a good one, by allowing them to obtain education without a stamp and guarantee for its efficiency.

The Rev. D. Melville then read a paper on the report of the Commissioners on Public Schools. It referred to the character of the report, its object and possible effects; real dependence of the subject on public opinion; necessity therefore of public opinion being better informed and more elevated. The divisions of the subject were:—1, Finance; 2, Government; 3, Teaching of public schools. Present state and recommendations of commissions on each head. A reform in the Government had their chief panacea for what is wrong in the two first. A matriculation on entrance examination for the evils of the last. The real and proper

means for attaining these ends were referred to; and then the point of teaching and what is to be taught. Then came the Universities, the proper source of correction, as the bodies which ought to set and maintain the highest type of education in the country. The paper then regarded the present condition and future prospects of this point; and concluded with some consideration of the minimum of interference with the maximum of quickened intelligence, the desideratum, and the means and instruments necessary for acquiring this result.

We give a little more space than we have devoted to the above to Mr. Griffith's paper on Endowed Grammar Schools, because he recommended a certain practical object, and we do so without "prejudice," as the lawyers say, in respect to our own opinion, which has been frequently and freely stated in these columns. We fear the very curt *resumé* of the discussion on Canon Trevor's paper is indifferently reported, as we cannot understand the assertion that his paper is a protest against Sir John Pakington's educational views and work. Mr. Griffith, as usual, asserted the superiority of modern literature and languages as mental food for the youthful mind, and scathingly exposed the infamous pillage and barefaced robbery of the means and substance devoted to instruct the poor by the harpies who for ages fattened on that special spoil—the property of the poor, and which by an infamous tacit compact they shared with the well-to-do and rich classes.

Mr. Griffith read his paper on Saturday. He took as the greatest step in effecting the restoration and improved operation of the schools, the necessity of an Act being passed whereby power should be given for all trustees to be elected for two or three years by votes of parishioners, in the same way and over the same area as Boards of Guardians now stand elected; their election to be either biennial or triennial, and their title to be "Board of Charity Guardians." These boards to take cognizance of all charities in the so-formed unions, and a head board—say the present Charity Commissioners, sitting in London—to be a board of direction and appeal, as they are now in fact, and as the Poor-law Board is in relation to the Boards of Guardians of the Poor, throughout the kingdom. The Act he urged, should extend to the whole of the United Kingdom, inasmuch as the charities of Ireland and Scotland, particularly the first-named, are in a disgraceful state, a great number of the endowed schools not being in operation and the salaries paid to men as schoolmasters, although no schools are in existence; in fact, no less than £27,000 per annum was received without anything being done in return. By such an elective body the charity transactions would doubtless be carried on in open court. Hebrew and Greek studies would give way to German and French. The

education given would be that suitable to the wants of the locality in each case—accumulated and accumulating funds in over-endowed parishes would be (according to the recommendation of the Royal Commissioners in their late Report on the state of education) transferred to the use of adjoining parishes. Boarders would not be allowed where the school revenue was large enough to pay efficient masters. If any scholars should be called upon to pay fees, they should be the sons of the rich; and, should the revenues be ample, then let the fees for the poorer sort be paid out of the school funds, as at Birmingham Free School, which encourages the masters to increase the number of the scholars. Arguments, too, were advanced for the exhibitions to be given to the best scholars *in all branches* of education, and not, as hitherto, confined to the classics; for the masterships to be thrown open to laymen as well as clergymen, and the amounts of income expenditure, and number of scholars, to be published half-yearly in the local papers, after being transmitted to, and examined by, the Board in London. In the course of the reading of this paper Mr. Griffith quoted largely from the late Report of the Education Commissioners, wherein they record that these schools are too much devoted to the teaching of the classics—that the oft-repeated assertion that “Grammar” meant the classics is historically erroneous—that Lord Eldon’s judgment in this respect was afterwards corrected by himself—that at Eton, where the “*oppidans*” or head class boys pretend to learn the classics, the classics are put aside for field and water sports, and learning of all sorts is despised, indeed so much so that they cannot spell or read English so well as boys in our National Schools. The paper enlarged upon the schools at Bromsgrove, Shrewsbury, Repton, and elsewhere, showing that with large incomes the schools contained very few or no free boys whatever—the masters attending to the education of boarders, for whom they were handsomely paid by their parents. One of the most important points raised was the fact of so many of the schools aided by Government being established in towns where there were richly endowed grammar schools, side by side with them, doing little or nothing, no less than £2,298,000 having been paid out of the taxes of the country for parochial schools in three years ending in 1860, whilst the united funds of the grammar schools could afford £6 per annum for every poor boy in the kingdom between the ages of eight and fourteen if properly made use of. Another good would arise if the trustees were elected by the ratepayers, viz., they must be residents, and therefore the case of electing non-resident trustees would be extinguished and the school management be better supervised. Thus a great evil would be avoided—that of electing persons of the highest positions as trustees, such as at the Charter-house, the school called Christ’s Hospital

(better known as the Blue-coat School), and at Repton. This was the case in numerous instances throughout the three kingdoms, and the consequence was that the parishioners could not well approach them except by legal proceedings, and, as trustees were held exempt from costs, people submitted to the evil because the case was so expensive. Another point was the teaching of the classics free and charging for the commercial education—an evident injustice, as the classical scholars were the sons of the rich, and the commercial, the sons of tradesmen and artizans. Thus the argument that a non-paid-for education was little esteemed showed that a classical education could be but little esteemed if not paid for. The paper concluded with a hope that some Member or Members of Parliament would bring the question before the House of Commons and introduce a bill embracing the election of the trustees, as proposed, by the inhabitant rate-payers, and so place these schools within the reach and adapt them to the uses of the people.—*Worcester Herald, Sept. 31st, 1864.*

Finding, on my return from York that the announcement of the names of the Commissioners was not yet made, I filled up the interregnum by applying to various official gentlemen, to promote my views.—Amongst these was Sir John Pakington, who sent me the following:—

Westwood Park, Droitwich, October 13, 1864.

DEAR SIR,—I have to thank you for sending me copies of your books on the “Free Schools and Endowments of Staffordshire,” and the “Free Schools and Asylums of Birmingham.”

I also remember your publishing a book of a similar character with respect to this county.

I cannot, therefore, doubt that your experience on these subjects would render you very competent to fulfil the duties of an Assistant Commissioner under the intended Royal Commission on Middle Class Education, if Assistant Commissioners are required, and you are at liberty to make any use you please of this letter.

I remain, yours faithfully,

JOHN S. PAKINGTON.

George Griffith, Esq.,

I inclosed this letter in one that I wrote to Earl Granville, as follows:—

Wolverhampton, October 18th, 1864.

MY LORD,—I beg to enclose you a letter from Sir J. S. Pakington to myself.—I take this liberty so as to further my hope of gaining an Assistant

Commissionership.—I need scarcely say that such an appointment would be very satisfactory to me, chiefly because I should be able to bring my experience into operation on a larger and more useful scale than hitherto.

I beg to remain, my Lord, your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

To the Right Hon. Earl Granville.

Being very desirous of getting Lord Brougham's support, I wrote to him, requesting a written recommendation from him on my behalf.

15, *St. John's Square, Wolverhampton, October 18th, 1864.*

MY LORD,—When I was at York, during the Social Science Congress gathering, I took the liberty of leaving a copy of one of my Works on Endowed Schools, at the Lord Mayor's mansion for your Lordship.

I am informed that a new Royal Commission is about to be appointed to examine into the state of Endowed Schools.

I therefore take the liberty of soliciting your Lordship's recommendation in my favour, as to getting appointed as one of the Assistant Commissioners.

I have now for fifteen years written upon this subject without the least remuneration, and I should feel pleased to have my experience brought into action in such a wide field as this Commission would afford me.

Please to send me a written testimonial if you think me worthy.

I beg to remain, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient servant,

To the Right Hon. Lord Brougham.

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

He sent me the following reply :—

Brougham—Penrith, 22nd October, 1864.

Lord Brougham presents his compliments to Mr. Griffith,—he received Mr. G.'s work from the Lord Mayor of York, and considers that his paper read at the Congress was of material service.

He has not the least means of furthering Mr. G.'s desire to be nominated as an Assistant Commissioner, but he considers Mr. G. is under a mistake as to the Commission, which is not to examine the endowed schools, but to inquire into middle-class education generally.

Seeing that he was labouring under an error, I wrote to him again, as follows :—

Wolverhampton, 24th October, 1864.

MY LORD,—I beg to thank you for your letter of the 22nd. I find on referring to the reported speeches and proceedings of the Deputation which

waited on Lord Palmerston, at the close of the last parliamentary session, the following :—

“The Council of the Educational Association for the Promotion of Social Science strongly urge on your Lordship the necessity for inquiring into the whole condition and management of Grammar Schools, and other Endowed Schools, by means of a Royal Commission.”

If such an Inquiry should be carried out a number of inspectors will be required.

Earl Granville has the appointments in his own hands. I have sent him some testimonials from Members of Parliament and other official gentlemen, to whom I am personally known, but as you are President of our Association a recommendation from you would be of great weight.

Soliciting that favour, I remain, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

To the Right Hon. Lord Brougham, Penrith.

To this he replied by return of post, as follows :—

Brougham—Penrith, October 25th, 1864.

Lord Brougham has much pleasure in recommending Mr. Griffith as an Assistant Commissioner, under the Education Commissioners. He has known him for many years, during which he has given much time to the subject of Endowed School Reform without any remuneration.

Lord Brougham considers that he is most fit for the office he seeks.

This testimony I sent at once to Earl Granville with the following letter :—

To The Right Hon. Earl Granville, K.G.

15, *St. John's Square, Wolverhampton, Oct. 27th, 1864.*

MY LORD,—Herewith I beg to hand you a testimonial from Lord Brougham, and on the other side I have written a clear copy thereof.

Trusting that you will excuse this further intrusion.

I beg to remain, my Lord,

Your Lordship's obedient Servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

I attended a meeting held at Birmingham, on Nov. 11th, in the large room of the Hen and Chickens Hotel, New Street, which was convened for the purpose of considering “whether any, and what steps should be taken for the preparation of

evidence to be submitted to the Commissioners on their visit to that town." The chair was occupied by Mr. W. L. Sargant, and there was a full attendance of the friends of education.

The chairman read the circular convening the meeting, and made some remarks upon the subject. The following residents spoke:—the Rev. J. Eagles, Mr. J. S. Wright, Alderman Lloyd, Mr. Middlemore, Rev. S. Bache, Rev. S. Vince, Mr. G. Dixon, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Sebastian Evans, Mr. Allbright, Mr. Alderman Manton, Mr. Brooke Smith, Mr. O. Pemberton, and the Rev. G. B. Johnson.

As Birmingham men have ever been foremost in supporting the principle of local government, I took this opportunity of bringing before the meeting the election of the school trustees by the ratepayers, as follows:—

Mr. Griffith, of Wolverhampton, advocated the appointment of the Governors of the Grammar School by popular vote. He said the whole kingdom would be looking for the proceedings of that meeting, next morning, for there were in all parts of the country trustees who totally neglected the schools over which they were placed. Birmingham was now called upon to set an example to the whole kingdom. He said that if there was a proper infusion of the popular element into the government of the endowed schools of the country, the number of persons educated by those schools would be much increased. Those schools alone had a sufficient income to educate every poor boy in this kingdom at the rate of £6 per head per annum, from the age of eight to that of fourteen years.—*Daily Gazette*, Nov. 12, 1864.

Two days after this meeting was held, I wrote the following letter to the Birmingham *Daily Gazette*:—

THE FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

To the Editor of the Daily Gazette.

SIR,—One word more about your Free Grammar School and its Branches, whilst your Inquiry Committee are drawing up their Report.

The leases were not mentioned in the programme of the points referred to them for examination. Are these leases in existence? If so ought they not to come under the committee's notice?

The population of Birmingham is as fifteen working class, to five middle and upper classes combined. The question, therefore, arises, are three-

fourths of the school revenues or income devoted to the education of the working class? By no means.

The Head School, with its 500 boys (middle and upper classes), absorbed, in 1863, the sum of £9,900. (This does not include the secretary's £500.) The Branch Schools, with 1,000 children, absorbed, only £2,800. Therefore the 500 boys absorbed three and a-half times as much as the 1,000 children in the Branch Schools. If we went by numbers, the Working Class Schools should have £8,450, and the Head School £4,250 per annum for their use. A house, if built without a foundation, would require continual repairing, and so it will be with your richly endowed schools, unless the ratepayers have the election of the Governors. This would be a firm foundation for the present and future generations to build upon. And who so fit to elect the Governors (more properly styled trustees). Private individuals elect trustees to manage their properties—then why not the owners of public property? The Birmingham ratepayers are the owners of the school properties. Elected trustees would transact their business in open court, would publish elaborate accounts as to the disposal of the funds, would promote the education of those children whose parents are too poor to pay, would bury the dead, and raise the living languages to their proper positions, and best of all, would not only be subject to public opinion, but would go hand in hand with it.

I remain, Mr. Editor, yours truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, Nov. 14, 1864.

In the midst of all my business and correspondence I found time to compile another book of 144 pages. This I entitled "The Endowed Schools of England and Ireland." It was published on the 1st of December.

It contained a fair epitome of the misappropriation of the Educational Endowments, including some of the Cathedrals of England and Ireland, with selections from high authorities against the teaching of the classics, and criticisms on the public schools from some of the leading reviews and newspapers, as also extracts from pamphlets issued by private individuals. It contained in addition to these a condensation of Miss Harriet Martineau's letters contributed to the *Daily News* in 1858, upon the state of Endowed Schools in Ireland.

The following are some of the reviews thereupon:—

Mr. Griffith, who, we may state, is a resident in this borough, as our readers are aware, has devoted not a little time and exertion, and, we may add, money, to promote reform in endowed establishments for education, or more distinctly and properly speaking, to bring them into greater accordance with the wishes and intentions of the many generous benefactors to whom they owe their existence. To forward this purpose Mr. Griffith has published Histories of the Endowed Schools of Worcestershire, the Endowed Schools of Staffordshire, the Endowed Schools, Colleges, &c. of Birmingham, Letters on the Metropolitan and Shrewsbury Schools, and, through the Newspaper Press, has also repeatedly called attention to the subject. In his present publication, which is dedicated to Lord Brougham, Mr. Griffith takes a general view of the position of many of the Endowed Schools throughout the kingdom, showing, in many instances, how largely endowments left for the purpose of bestowing free education have been perverted into something like sinecures and easy positions for masters who have had the good fortune to be appointed to manage them, and contends earnestly for the position, that Grammar Schools, as they are called, were intended to give a popular education as well as that classical instruction to which they are now restricted. In support of his view he quotes eminent authorities, and he also urges, with not a little force, that the term "free schools" meant total freedom from payment for the instruction given. His array of authorities, on this and other points, is formidable, and, as we think, convincing. Indeed, in a large portion of the book it is not the author that we listen to, but authorities of high repute; Mr. Griffith fortifying every position he assumes by legal and scholarly authority. The book ought to be in the hands of every one who desires to be acquainted with the educational question as presented in endowed schools in England.—*Wolverhampton Chronicle*, Dec. 21st, 1864.

Ever since the year 1848, Mr. George Griffith, then of Kidderminster, but now of Wolverhampton, has been engaged in an energetic crusade against the abuses by which the endowed schools of England and Ireland are perverted from their proper and legitimate destination—the provision of education for the poor to supply education for the children of the wealthy. The funds appropriated by charitable individuals—from royal personages down to yeomen,—and now available for the purposes of education in England and Wales, are so vast that, according to Mr. Griffith's estimate, they amount to £6 per annum for every poor child between the ages of eight and fourteen in the United Kingdom. What that gentleman aims at is that these educational funds should be strictly applied, as originally devised, for the benefit of the poor, and teaching those branches of knowledge in which the middle and working classes take most interest, and

which will the most conduce to their benefit in after life. At present this is very far from being the case. Masters of schools are too apt to consider that the school properties are to be devoted to their benefit alone; educational foundations, meant solely for the benefit of the poor in certain places are mis-employed for the benefit, not of poor men's children in these places, but for rich men's children in strange places, while the children of the working men are deprived of their just due and lawful inheritance. Mr. Griffith is for reforming the present system of management altogether, and having the trustees of educational endowments elected in the same way as guardians of the poor and town councillors—by vote of the ratepayers. He read a paper embodying this proposition before the Educational Section of the Social Science Association, at York, in September last. It was objected to, we are told, on the ground that such appointments required to be made with great discernment; but it does not appear that any feasible suggestion was offered in its place. We expect it has been one of the consequences of the great discernment alleged to be necessary in choosing trustees, that they have been too much selected with a view to the maintenance of the existing system—under which the misdirection of the funds complained of by Mr. Griffith is carried on—and the prevention of all thorough reform. Whether the existing system is calculated to realise great discernment in the choice of trustees we will leave an open question, but it is palpable that great discernment has not been exercised by the objects of choice in discharging the duties of management devolved upon them. What is wanted we take to be—by whatever end it is arrived at—a strong infusion of the popular element into the Trusteeships or Boards of Management, by which their conduct may be brought more into accordance with the popular feeling, and be chiefly guided towards the end of properly supplying the popular educational wants. Mr. Griffith also levels his battery against the notion, prevalent in the ruling of endowed schools, of teaching the dead languages in preference to all others, and contends for the substitution in their stead of the living languages of Europe. This proceeds, as he points out, on a misinterpretation of the word “grammar,” which is assumed to mean the Greek and Latin classics, and nothing beyond them, whereas it is pretty clear that the word, in the sense in which it was used in the sixteenth century, did not bear any such contradicted signification, but embraced a much wider course of study. Moreover, it so happens that the words implying “good learning and literature” are apt to be conjoined with “grammar” in the deeds of constitution and direction of endowed schools, so that there is really no obligation to confine the education imparted to the teaching of Latin and Greek; and it is now commonly recognised that such schools as those of which we are treating were

designed to afford a general education. Not that we are for having the classical part of polite learning dispensed with—far from it; but that in the case of those who are likely to have no use for it in after life, and are so circumstanced as only to be able to devote a small portion of their youth to receiving instruction, it is better that that small portion of time should be devoted to studies of more general utility. At present nine-tenths of the boys who learn Latin at school never make the least use of it afterwards, while the time which has been squandered away in acquiring the mere smattering they leave school with, would, otherwise employed, have led to their being turned out good writers and good arithmeticians, with a decent quantity of knowledge adapted to the ordinary pursuits of life.

It is certain that most of the endowed schools were founded for the native and resident poor of the district within which they exist, and that they have gradually been wholly alienated from their original destination. Instances might be adduced in abundance, but we will take one that offers in our own county. At Bromsgrove, the educational foundation of Sir Thomas Cookes for twelve boys is entirely overlaid by the superadded establishment of a large boarding school for the profit of the head master; and the exhibitions at the University, designed for these twelve native boys, are appropriated to stranger boys from all parts of the kingdom. This is only one of a heap of similar instances that might be brought forward. The founder of Shrewsbury School directed that, first, boys born in Shrewsbury, next in the parish of Chirbury, and, these failing, in the county of Salop should be the boys to be admitted to his school. He mentions no others. But now the number of natives, and to the privilege born, has dwindled down to twenty or twenty-two, about one-tenth of the stranger boarders; and five-sixths of the exhibitions and fellowships at the Universities, intended for Shropshire boys, are scattered all over the kingdom. The institution, originally bequeathed for local poor boys, has been entirely wrested from this benevolent destination of the testator, and has become a large establishment for boys of an entirely different class and character. The children's bread is taken away and given to strangers.

It is further certain—it was ascertained on incontrovertible evidence before the recent Commission—that the great endowed schools, as at present constituted and conducted, yield a most inadequate amount of fruit, and that of a very flavourless and immature character. The scholars they turn out are exceedingly few and far between; amusement is very much more cultivated than study, which is unfashionable, and they rather contribute to the aggregate of ignorance and dulness than do anything to dispel it by sending forth men of great learning and high intelligence.

The educational endowments provided for the middle and lower classes

are very far from being administered as they ought to be. When good teaching is provided, it is not the sort of teaching that is required; the things taught are not adapted to the want presenting itself. The parties intended to be benefited by these endowments, and standing in need of them are supplanted by others who have neither claim nor need; their original destination is wholly lost sight of, and what was meant for the use and profit of the poor is devoted to the use and profit of the rich. A general laxity pervades the whole system, and an amount of educational resources, which as we have seen if discreetly applied should suffice for the wants of the poor children of the whole kingdom, is cut to waste in a most sleeveless, extravagant, and spendthrift way. Inefficiency is the rule, misemployment the order of the day. The results bear a most inadequate proportion to the revenues expended, and institutions, which should be the pride and glory of the country, are turned into its opprobrium and disgrace.

Mr. Griffith, in his latest publication on this subject, suggests as remedies—a Board of Educational Appeal on the footing of the present Charity Commissioners; the election of all trustees by the ratepayers, with a certain property qualification for the office of trustee; the transaction of business with open doors; the banishment of Hebrew and Greek from the curriculum of study in endowed schools; that no boarders should be allowed to attend well-endowed schools to the hindrance of the sons of parishioners; that laymen as well as clergymen, should be rendered eligible for schoolmasters; that where exhibitions, scholarships, and prizes exist, they should be thrown open to competition in all branches of study, in fair proportion (this would hardly be compatible with the two first, for which proficiency in special branches of study is bound to be the test); that only children should be admitted free as ordered by the founders, others paying a small sum for their education; that, where the income of the school is ample, the masters should be paid out of the revenues according to the number of boys, but, where they are not ample, then that the parents should pay fees; and that, when the endowment of a school trust much exceeds the requirements for which it is specially appointed, the surplus may be appropriated to the benefit of poorly endowed parishes. Most of these suggestions appear to be well worthy of adoption, and if adopted would certainly effect a great reform in the present vicious system, but there will be great difficulty in overbearing the opposition which would be raised in behalf of vested interests—vested interests in abuses—against any attempt to procure the recognition of an efficient scheme of reform in this direction. All who take an interest in the subject will be amply rewarded by the perusal of Mr. Griffith's book, and it will be very likely

to create an interest in the subject where that has not hitherto been felt.—*Worcestershire Chronicle*, December 28th, 1864.

The author of the book now before us is already well-known to the public, by reason of the efforts which he has put forward in the cause of free education for the poor at the endowed grammar schools of the United Kingdom. Several volumes have previously issued from his pen on the same subject, and containing statistics of the most varied and interesting nature in reference to these institutions in particular portions of the kingdom. In the present pages, however, the subject is treated more at length, and the author enters more minutely into details than it had been possible to do in a more compressed volume. Referring to the report of the Education Commission, in 1861, in which it was pronounced that most of the Endowed Schools were from the earliest times founded *for the native and resident poor*, the writer says: "It appears that a great deal of mischief was caused to Endowed Schools by a judgment given by Lord Eldon, in 1805, in the Leeds Grammar School case (*Attorney-General v. Whiteley*, 11 Ves. 241)—he therein pronounced that 'Grammar' meant Greek and Latin, and, therefore, that nothing else should be taught in Endowed Grammar Schools. From this decision, many schools really belonging to the poor, and intended to be the means of giving instruction in other branches of learning, were practically rendered of little or no use; and, as if with the full intent of keeping the sons of industrious persons of limited means out of such schools, the trustees thereof in numerous cases have ordered the classics to be taught free, and all other branches of education to be charged for; thus wilfully ignoring the good intentions of the founders, by letting the sons of the rich go free, and charging for the education of the sons of those parents ill able to pay."

With reference to education being imparted by clergymen, the author observes: "The desirability of separating the office of clergyman from that of schoolmaster, is daily becoming more apparent. The natural desire to teach boys for the Universities alone, by clergymen, cannot be wondered at. Commercial studies are too often despised by clerical schoolmasters, and even the word 'commercial' is shunned, as may be seen in the evidence given by the Head Master of Shrewsbury School, before Her Majesty's Commissioners, so lately as the 22nd of May, 1862, (Report, vol. 4, page 320,) when, in reply to Lord Clarendon, he stated (referring to the establishment of a commercial class in Shrewsbury School) 'I call it a non-collegiate class, because I have never allowed the word *commercial* to enter in among us!' Laymen could be found in the present day quite as competent to teach Latin as clergymen, and much more able to teach the modern languages and other useful studies. They have been pronounced to be so by

the Education Commissioners themselves, who have also pronounced that the two offices of clergymen and schoolmaster are incompatible."

We subjoin one other extract referring especially to the results of education: "Education (especially of the working classes) is the great pacificator—a vital requirement—the condition of England question, as Thomas Carlyle calls it. Are they to stand like beggars at the door, to be repulsed time after time, for simply asking for their own; to go on, for the want of education, filling our gaols, our unions, pawn-shops, and gin-palaces, at a terrible expense to the tax-payers? Until they are educated, they will crowd these four paths! Those who keep from them the education offered by our noble endowments, are accountable for their crimes and misfortunes. Those who do so are legion, but the public are awaking from their torpor as to this greatest of all abuses. They will arise, and demand a full reformation, led on by Brougham, Clarendon, Gladstone, Russell, Shaftesbury, Carlisle, Westbury, and Romilly, in our two Houses of Parliament—by Eyell, Arnold, Stanley, Herschel, Brewster, and Dickens, on our platforms,—by a host of Editors of the leading magazines and periodicals of the day, by a still greater host of fearless Editors and Contributors to our daily and weekly press. With such Generals and such a Fellowship, the opponents of misappropriation must succeed—before such, the foes of education must succumb—and, as England rises in the scale of nations, her commercial and working sons, generation after generation, will, by a wise administration of her great Educational Endowments, be taught to carry her name to all quarters of the globe, and draw from all sources those mental riches, which now, alas, are smothered by a strong confederacy of avarice on the one side, and usurped power on the other."—*Dudley Guardian*, December 31st, 1864.

Having seen in the *Educational Times* that the Education Commission Board would soon be announced, I sent Mr. Gladstone a copy of my work on the Endowed Schools of England and Ireland, thinking that (although he was not likely to be one of that board), it would tend to strengthen my application. His secretary acknowledged it thus:—

11, *Downing Street, Whitehall*, Dec. 23rd, 1864.

SIR,—I am desired by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to convey to you his thanks for your book on Endowed Schools.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

W. H. GLADSTONE.

George Griffith, Esq.

At the close of the year, amidst the Christmas festivities, I wrote the following lines on 1864 and 1865 :—

I saw an old man with a load
 Of care upon his back,
 Travelling along a lonely road,
 Deepened by many a track ;
 His eyes were dim, weak every limb,
 His feet were scarred and sore :
 He wept, and sighed, breathed hard, and died ;—
 Thus ended Sixty-four.
 A child then pass'd, it stood aghast
 At him just now alive :—
 " Thy race is run, mine's just begun,
 Your offspring—Sixty-five."

And things will run as they have done,
 Hope, fear, love, hate, and joy,
 Will each have place in this year's chase,
 Please, puzzle, or annoy ;
 Our cousin Abe, that Yankee babe,
 Will look on war as fun :
 Nor care for strife, nor loss of life,
 But make on each a pun ;
 And Nicholas, his alias,
 To Poland send his duns,
 To drain the cash, by use of lash,
 And turn out all the Nuns.

And France will still be mystery,—
 And Prussia still a bore,—
 And Victor reign o'er Italy,
 Which makes the Pope feel sore,—
 And Gladstone hold his policy,
 Because with gold his Bank's full,—
 And Russell at democracy
 Exclaim " Rest and be thankful,"—
 And " Punch" will pun, and so will " Fun,"
 Some sink and some will thrive,
 As 'twas before, in Sixty-four,
 'Twill be in Sixty-five.

'Gainst Church and State, Dissent will prate,
 And then, as "tit for tat,"
 The Church for all Dissent feel hate,
 And cry "A rat, a rat;"
 And D.D.'s still their brethren will
 Denounce across the sea :*
 Oh ! who shall preach or doctrines teach,
 When doctors disagree ?
 You quiet folk who love a joke
 Will think learned lore a bore,
 And those alive in Sixty-five,
 Will say " 'Twas so before."

Poor Denmark has been sadly mauled
 By Prussia's greater might,
 And Bull through Russell sorely galled,
 Because he would'nt fight ;
 Fierce "Little John" assumed the Don,
 But proved a true "Bob Acres,"
 Because John Bright exclaimed "Don't fight,
 Love peace and join the Quakers,"—
 Those quiet folk, who hate war's yoke,
 Hate slavery's reign much more,
 But, strange to say, they day by day
 To Lincoln cry—"Encore."

And some who lived in Sixty-four—
 The "old familiar faces"—
 We meet not as we've met before,
 Others now fill their places.
 Thus death with unrelenting scythe
 Sweeps down each generation :
 Those who 'midst poverty are blithe,
 Or grieve, though high in station.
 We may be wretched though in wealth,
 Merry though we don't thrive :
 Riches are nought without good health,
 May both crown Sixty-five.

* Query "SEE" (P.D.)

CHAPTER X.

“ Have you, then, no higher standards, fixed ere human laws began
By the voice of man’s Creator, by the moral sense of man ?
Rules may alter, codes may perish, customs change, but these abide,
Truths no practice can abolish, no enactment override.
Vain the fine-drawn web of sophisms, vain the brazen mail of lies ;
Means condemned by God and Conscience, no expedience justifies.”

By an Oxford Professor, vide Harrow Gazette, April 1st, 1865.

A public meeting of the citizens of Manchester was held in the Town Hall there, on January, the 26th, 1865. The Mayor, Mr. J. M. Bennett, presided. The business of the meeting was to consider the desirability of enlarging the premises, and improving the income of the foundation by having a fee placed upon a given number of scholars, and devoting the foundation funds to the education of 250 free boys at least. The speakers were Dr. J. Watts, Mr. W. R. Callender, jun., Mr. S. Cottam, Mr. Charles Oldham, Mr. Ernest Jones, Dr. Royle, Mr. Walmsley, of Salford, Mr. Poole, Mr. J. Neild, and Mr. F. Taylor.

Dr. Watts stated in his speech that I had argued in my last Work, “The Endowed Schools of England and Ireland,” that fees at the Birmingham schools were paid by the parents of the boys ; as this was a gross mis-statement, I wrote the following contradiction to the *Manchester Examiner and Times* the next day :—

To the Editor of the Examiner and Times.

SIR,—In the report of the meeting of the Manchester citizens on the question of altering the constitution of your Free Grammar School, published in your paper of this day’s date, it is stated that Dr. Watts said : “Mr. Griffith, of Wolverhampton, said that if the capitation fee was to be

taken it should not be taken by the schoolmaster, but as in the Birmingham school, it should go into the general funds, the trustees paying the master. This was the precise plan proposed."

I beg to say that I never *spoke nor wrote* such a statement. What I said in my work on the "Endowed Schools of England and Ireland," published last month, was, "The Birmingham Endowed Central and Elementary Schools are about the best in the kingdom. Other school trustees would do well to adopt the plan pursued here, of paying the fees *out of the revenues.*"

Your readers will perceive that this is very different to the words of Dr. Watts. His statement is that the Birmingham boys' parents pay fees which are added to the school revenues, and that from these two sources the master is paid—the fact being that the boys' parents pay no fees whatever for education, but the trustees, in addition to fixed salaries, pay the masters so much a-head for each boy in the school, which induces the masters to teach a larger number, and brings a larger number of boys to the school than if the parents had to pay fees.

If your trustees would adopt this plan I doubt not but that your school would be well filled with the proper class of boys—viz., those whose parents can ill afford to pay for their sons' education; and then the words of Dr. Watts would be fulfilled—"The grammar school was intended for people who could not pay the expenses of education."

I beg to remain, &c.,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, January 26, 1865.

In confirmation of the above contradiction to Dr. Watts's statement, I give the following letter, which was written three days before the public meeting was held, and could not have escaped his notice:—

To the Editor of the Manchester Courier.

SIR,—The proposition about to be laid before the citizens of Manchester as to adopting the plan of charging some of the boys of your free school (through their parents) for their education is very undesirable on many grounds. In charging fees one feeling no doubt is paramount, viz., to encourage the masters to increase the number of scholars, and thereby increase their income; now the best plan of giving the masters a capitation fee for each boy (if it is at all desirable to do so) is that adopted by the governors of the free school at Birmingham. There the masters receive fixed salaries, and in addition a capitation fee for each boy, which is *paid out of the school revenues*, instead of by the parents—as is the case in other

schools where fees are charged. By the accounts published as regards that school for the year 1863, it appears that the masters' salaries and fees amounted to £6,333 4s. 6d. This embraced the services of seventeen masters, for educating 250 classical and 250 commercial scholars. There is a new argument made use of by some persons, that whatever costs nothing is but little esteemed—meaning that a free education is not esteemed so much as one that is charged for, whether the school funds are ample or not of themselves. This argument has been made use of as an apology or excuse for charging fees in free schools, where the funds are ample without any fees; but, strange to say, in such schools a charge is only laid upon the commercial branches of education, and not laid upon the boys who only require to learn the classics—*ergo*, the classical education is not esteemed. Therefore those who argue for fees on the ground of esteem are in a dilemma here; and not only so, but they argue for a bad purpose, *viz.*, that of charging the middle-class boy, and letting the rich man's son go free. The real object of allowing the classics to be taught free is to enable the rich man's son to carry off the exhibitions and so get to the university at the expense of the school revenues; and the new custom of charging for the commercial branches is adopted to disgust the parents, and deter boys from entering those schools, where such unfairness is introduced. There are many persons, especially those who fill the pulpit, who look upon commercial studies with contempt. One declared that to educate fifty youths for the pulpit was better than to educate 500 for trade—another (Dr. Kennedy, the headmaster of Shrewsbury School) stated, when examined by the royal commissioners appointed to inquire into the state of education in public schools, that he had one class in the school for middle-class education, but that he called it the *non-collegiate class*, because he did not like the word commercial to be mentioned in the school. With regard to the intention of the founder of your free school (Bishop Oldham) as to the freedom of the scholars from payment of fees, there can be no doubt—as he went much farther than many other founders by ordering that upon the nomination, or appointment of the master and usher, they should respectively “take an oath, impartially and indifferently to teach and correct the boys and children, and to use diligence therein, and that they should not take any the smallest gifts by colour of their office, or further teaching except their stipends.” The question therefore arises: Did the present master and usher take oaths to the above effect, when they were appointed? If not, they were not properly appointed; but if they did they should attend the meeting next Wednesday, and protest, in the name of the founder and in honour to their oaths, against any charge being laid upon the scholars. The admixture of paying and non-paying scholars,

if allowed to exist, would be evil in its consequences in many ways. The paying boys would not associate cordially with the non-payers; the paying boys would as a matter of course, be more attended to than the non-payers, the one body would increase and the other decrease in numbers, until, little by little, the non-paying boys would at length become extinct. Enough of this is seen on every hand. At Shrewsbury the free boys have dwindled down to twenty-two, although the school revenues are £2,000 and upwards per annum. At Repton the non-paying boys have become entirely extinct although the school foundation revenues amount to nearly £2,000 per annum. At Bromsgrove the original number of twelve free boys is rigidly adhered to, although the founder ordered that the number of free boys should increase, *pro rata*, with the increase of the school revenues. This is likewise the case at the Charter House in London. It would be well to ask the chief promoter of the fee system, at the meeting next Wednesday, if he would approve of such a perversion of a school (should he some day or other found and endow one) as that of charging fees in despite of his orders, where the masters should be sworn not to receive such fees, and to be satisfied with their stipends. Besides, such a proposition is unfair to the taxpayers (especially the middle and artizan classes) of the city of Manchester, and at the forthcoming meeting it should be known how much Government aid money is paid to your parochial schools—and why? because so long as such large sums are contributed out of the general taxes, your free school should be thrown open to the sons of the tax-payers. The promoters of the fee system, who wish to see the free school buildings enlarged, and more scholars taught therein, should put their hands in their own pockets, and build a school in which the fee system should be adopted, and then let the two schools compete, and let the most assiduous boys in the fee school be transferred annually to the free school as a reward for their industry. It is argued by some that freedom of charge prevents such schools from becoming respectable—such respectability being estimated by the money position of the parents; but apart from knowing that the founders did not intend that the schools they endowed should be usurped by the sons of those who could well afford to pay for their education, the Birmingham School is a sufficient example to prove that a non-paying foundation school is filled with respectable boys, and that freedom from payment is not felt as any meanness by the hardworking middle class men of Birmingham. The time is not far distant when trustees of free grammar schools will be elected by the votes of the ratepayers. Then we shall not have such bodies trying to destroy the good intentions of such benevolent founders as Bishop Oldham; then their business will be transacted in open court; then we shall find the masters of such schools

teaching useful studies, and making the requirements of the localities and not the "Oxford standard" their guide in what they shall teach; then we shall cease to see the boarders usurp these schools and swallow the day scholars' mental food, and the masters become mere boarding-house keepers; then we shall cease to see the dead languages absorb the best years of many a classic crammed youth—crammed against his will and appetite—against his utility in after life, creating not only a disrelish for the classics themselves, but a disrelish for the ordinary pursuits of other men, and ending with a profound wish that the dead languages had been buried before he was born. A general cleansing of these schools will never be effected until the trustees are elected by the ratepayers—and let not any one be afraid of the adoption of such a system by law. The Edinburgh High School governors are an elective body, so are those of the Glasgow High School, and the City of London School (one of the best in the kingdom) is governed by the City Corporation.—Trusting that the citizens of Manchester will contend as effectually for free trade in education as they did for free trade in corn,

I am, yours truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, January 23rd, 1865.

Being desirous of seeing Lord Granville, I wrote to him to appoint a convenient day for an interview, and received the following reply from his secretary:—

Privy Council Office, Jan. 26, 1865.

SIR,—I am directed by Lord Granville to inform you in reply to your letter of yesterday's date, that it is very uncertain whether his Lordship will be in town on Monday next, but that if you will call upon him at the Council office, at 3 p.m., on that day, Lord Granville will see you if in town.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. Griffith, Esq.

R. H. MEADE.

I went to London on the following Monday, but found that Lord Granville had not returned from Osborne, Her Majesty's residence in the Isle of Wight, whither he had gone on the Saturday. His secretary said that he was expected by the noon train, but a dense fog prevented the steamer from crossing the water. I walked to and from the Waterloo Bridge Station

and the Privy Council Office, Downing Street, all the day to meet each train, and on my last visit in the evening to the latter place, I found he had arrived there by another line.

His secretary soon announced that he was ready to see me, and we had a full conversation upon the object of my visit. His Lordship was very polite and affable, and I left him with the impression that I had a fair chance of being appointed.

I resolved, as I had an hour or two to spare, to take a cab and seek an interview with Lord Taunton, at his residence in Belgrave Square. Very fortunately he was at home, and upon sending my card in, he saw me at once. We had a long conversation with regard to my wishes, and also upon the general question of Endowed Schools, after which, he assured me, that my application should meet with every consideration at his hands. I returned home by the night mail, with an impression that I should succeed.

When I found that Mr. Roby was appointed secretary to the Schools Inquiry Commission I wrote to him for a list of the Board, and sent him a copy of my proposed application before I despatched any to the Commissioners. To this I had the following reply :—

*Schools' Inquiry Commission, 2, Victoria Street,
11th Feb., 1865.*

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, applying for the appointment of Assistant Commissioner under the Commission. I will take care to put your name before the Commissioners, when the selection is taken into consideration.

Anything you please to forward here for the Commissioners shall be delivered to them. If however you would still wish for the addresses of each Commissioner, you shall have them at once.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

H. J. ROBY.

George Griffith, Esq.

I requested him to let me have the list at once, if convenient, which he did. They were as follows :—

The Right Honourable Henry, Baron Taunton, 27, Belgrave Square,

London; the Right Honourable Edward Henry Smith Stanley (commonly called Lord Stanley), 23, St. James's Square, London; the Right Honourable George William Baron Lyttelton, Hagley, Worcestershire; Sir Stafford Henry Northcote, Bart., C.B., 16, Devonshire Place, Portland Place, London; the Very Reverend Walter Farquhar Hook, D.D., Dean of Chichester; the Reverend Frederick Temple, D.D., Rugby; the Reverend Anthony Wilson Thorold, M.A., 16, Bedford Square, London; Thomas Dyke Acland, Esq., Killerton, Exeter; Edward Baines, Esq., 119, St. George's Road, Pimlico, London; William Edward Foster, Esq., 80, Eccleston Square, London; Peter Erle, Esq., one of Her Majesty's Counsel, 12, Park Crescent, Regents Park, London; and John Storrar, Esq., M.D., Heathside, Hampstead, London.

After receiving Mr. Roby's list, I resolved to send each member of the Schools' Inquiry Commission copies of my three best Works on Endowed Schools, addressed to their residences, with which I inclosed a formal application for an Assistant Commissionership, of which the following is a copy :—

15, *St. John's Square, Wolverhampton, Feb. 19th, 1865.*

MY LORD, OR SIR,

I am desirous of being elected an Assistant Commissioner under the new Royal Commission, appointed by Her Majesty the Queen, to "Inquire into the State of Education in Endowed Schools."

I have sent testimonials in my favour to the Right Hon. Earl Granville from Lord Brougham, Sir John Pakington, the Right Hon. C. P. Villiers, J. P. Brown-Westhead, Esq., M.P., W. O. Foster, Esq., M.P., and other gentlemen who know me personally.

I beg to refer you also to Sir T. E. Winnington, M.P., F. W. Knight, Esq., M.P., and Kenneth Macauley, Esq., M.P.

I take the liberty of sending you herewith copies of three of my Works on Endowed Schools, by which you will see that I have some knowledge of the Question. My other three Works on the same subject are out of print.

I shall be very greatly obliged if you will look into these Works, and give me your support in regard to being elected to the office of an Assistant Commissioner, if you think I am deserving.

I beg to remain, your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

On the 22nd of February, the Vicar of St. Mary's church, in Wolverhampton, gave me a testimonial, as follows :—

St. Mary's Vicarage, Wolverhampton, February 22nd, 1865.

TO THE SCHOOLS' INQUIRY COMMISSIONERS.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,—

I hereby express my highly favourable opinion of the ability and efficiency of G. Griffith, Esq., as an earnest and diligent inquirer into the present condition of the Endowed Grammar Schools of the country.

He has for years, without fee or reward (I believe,) given his close attention to this important subject, the results of which he has made known in several publications and histories, which have furnished to those who take an interest in this matter, much valuable and reliable data.

His present knowledge and past experience have made him, in my humble opinion, a well and suitably qualified candidate for the office to which he aspires.

GEORGE FRASER, Rural Dean of Wolverhampton.

When he sent this to me he inclosed this very kind note:—

MY DEAR SIR,—If you are successful in obtaining office under the Commission, no one will more heartily congratulate you than

Yours very truly,

GEORGE FRASER.

February 22, 1865.

In reply to these applications and presentations of my Works, I received the following letters:—

23, St. James's Square, London, Feb. 20th, 1865.

SIR,—I lose no time in acknowledging your letter, and the volumes sent therewith.

I will make a note of your wish for employment as an Assistant Commissioner, and see that your claims are duly considered with those of others.

I remain, your obedient Servant,

STANLEY.

G. Griffith, Esq.

Park Crescent, London, Feb. 22nd, 1865.

DEAR SIR,—I am much obliged by receiving the Works, which you have been so good as to send to me, accompanying the communication of your

desire to discharge the duties of an Assistant Commissioner, under the Schools Inquiry Commission.

I have read the Work which is of most general application, and shall refer to the others with much interest.

The Commissioners have been too much occupied by preliminary considerations to permit them yet to make any selection of Assistant Commissioners from among the many gentlemen who have offered their assistance, but I am quite sure that this will be done with an anxious regard only to the public interest.

I am, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

P. ERLE.

George Griffith, Esq.

2, Victoria Street, Feb. 24, 1865.

SIR,—I beg leave to thank you for the works you have been so good as to send me, which will, I doubt not, be of great use to our Inquiry.

We have not yet decided upon the names of gentlemen who should be asked to accept the office of Assistant Commissioners; your wish to act in that capacity will be considered as soon as we come to the discussion of the question.

I remain, your obedient servant,

STAFFORD H. NORTHCOTE.

George Griffith, Esq.

Killerton, Exeter, Feb. 24, 1865.

SIR.—I beg leave to thank you for the present of your three volumes which I found here last night, on my return from London. I will examine them with attention as soon as possible.

I am, Sir, your faithful servant,

T. D. ACLAND.

G. Griffith, Esq.

Belgrave Square, Feb. 25th, 1865.

SIR,—As I have no more to do with the appointment of the Assistant Commissioners than any one of the other Commissioners, I requested Lord Granville to send any papers he might receive on the subject to our secretary, Mr. Roby.

I will also place in his Lordships hands the letter from your Rural Dean. I have received the volumes which you were so good as to send me.

I remain, your obedient servant,

G. Griffith, Esq.

TAUNTON.

With the application and books addressed to Lord Granville, I sent a sheet of testimonials, of which the following is a copy, and to which allusion is made in the letter from his secretary. In my letter accompanying these, I said, that when perused, I should be much obliged by their being sent to Lord Taunton.

TO THE RIGHT HON. EARL GRANVILLE, K.G.

Lord President of the Council.

We beg to recommend Mr. George Griffith of Wolverhampton, to your Lordship's notice, as a fit person to fill the office of Assistant Commissioner or Inspector of Endowed Schools, under the new Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the Grammar and other Endowed Schools in the kingdom, and into the condition of the Education of the Middle Classes.

His publications, based on his own researches, qualify him, in our opinion, for such an appointment.

Thomas E. Winnington, M.P., William O. Foster, M.P., J. P. Brown-Westhead, M.P., C. P. Villiers, M.P., J. Hawksford, Mayor of Wolverhampton, Thomas S. Simkys, J.P., Wolverhampton, Edward Banks, J.P., Wolverhampton, Henry Willcock, T.C., Henry Walker, J.P., Wolverhampton, Chas. B. Mander, J.P., Wolverhampton, Wm. Wallace, Alderman, Wolverhampton, John Hartley, J.P., Wolverhampton, John Gaunt, T.C., William Mortiboy, Alderman, Wolverhampton. George Fraser, Vicar of St. Mary's, Wolverhampton, and Rural Dean.

Privy Council Office, Feb. 27, 1865.

SIR,—I am directed by Lord Granville, in reply to your letter of the 24th instant, to inform you that your testimonials have been forwarded to Lord Taunton, in compliance with your request.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.

R. H. MEADE.

G. Griffith, Esq.

The separate recommendations on my behalf by Lord Brougham and the Mayor of Wolverhampton (Mr. Hawksford,) I also forwarded to Earl Granville, and his private secretary sent them after perusal, to Mr. Roby. This Mr. Roby acknowledged thus:

*Schools' Inquiry Commission, 2, Victoria Street, S.W.
27th February, 1865.*

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 25th inst., I beg to state that Lord

Granville has transmitted to me some testimonials in your favour, viz., one from Lord Brougham, and one from the Mayor of Wolverhampton.

I will ask Lord Granville's private secretary for any others.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

HENRY J. ROBY, Secretary.

George Griffith, Esq.

The Deanery, Chichester, Feb. 28th, 1865.

The Dean of Chichester presents his compliments to Mr. Griffith, and begs to acknowledge the receipt of Mr. Griffith's letter and parcel.

The parcel was left at the residence of the Dean's son, the Rev. W. Hook, and, as both the Dean and his son were absent from home, the Dean has only just received it on his return from London.

The Dean regrets therefore that he has no opportunity of laying Mr. Griffith's application before the Commission, and can now only state that the Assistant Commissioners have been already chosen.

The Dean of Chichester will return the books if Mr. Griffith will mention any place in London where they may be left. He gives his London address on the opposite side, as he returns to London (D.V.), on Saturday, 28th July, 1865.

The Very Revd. the Dean of Chichester,
31, Great George Street, Westminster, S.W.

Hereupon I wrote to Mr. Lloyd, of Bridge Street, Westminster, asking him to call and inquire, on my behalf, from Mr. Roby, if the Assistant Commissioners had all been chosen. He took my letter to Mr. Roby who wrote to me as follows:—

*Schools' Inquiry Commission, 2, Victoria Street, S.W.,
6th March, 1865.*

SIR,—A gentleman has just called on me with a letter from you, to ask whether the appointments of Assistant Commissioners were made. I have told him that some are appointed, and that for the others a selection of names has been made, on some of which the appointments will probably fall, and that your name is not among the number. As soon as the appointments are definitely made, I will return your testimonials.

I need not add that the Commissioners considered carefully all the applications made to them. In some cases, and I think in yours, the applicant appeared not to be fully aware of the nature of the duties, which consist

not so much of an inspection of the charity, as an examination of the boys and testing of the education given.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,

HENRY J. ROBY.

George Griffith, Esq.

Upon receiving Mr. Roby's letter, I at once wrote to the Chairman of the Commissioners, Lord Taunton, as follows:—

To the Right Hon. Lord Taunton, 27, Belgrave Square.

15, *St. John's Square, Wolverhampton, March 7th 1865.*

MY LORD,—I have been informed that some of the Assistant Commissioners on Education have been appointed.—As there are still more to be appointed, I trouble you thus much further to say that I am quite capable of examining and making Reports as to the state of the education imparted in schools, and also of making suggestions as to whatever may strike me as to improving the education so imparted.

I trust, therefore, that in some way or other I may be employed by the Royal Commissioners, feeling not only that my many years of unpaid labour in the field of improving Free Grammar Schools deserves some notice, but that I should zealously carry out the duties of such an employment. Apologizing for thus troubling you and soliciting your support in my favour,

I beg to remain, my Lord,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

To this I received no reply. The following came to hand from Mr. Roby:—

*Schools' Inquiry Commission, 2, Victoria Street, S.W.,
11th March, 1865.*

SIR,—I am directed by the Schools' Inquiry Commissioners to return you their thanks for the offer of your services as an Assistant Commissioner, and to state that the appointments are now completed.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

HENRY J. ROBY, Secretary.

George Griffith, Esq.

Testimonials returned herewith.

It must appear strange to the reader, that, after all my labours, and after transmitting to the Commissioners such very strong

recommendations, they should have declined to appoint me ; but as to this a full explanation will appear hereafter.

The remarks made use of by Mr. Roby, in his letter of March the 6th (*vide* page 674 *ante*) "In some cases, and I think in yours, the applicant appeared not to be fully aware of the nature of the duties, which consist not so much of an Inspection of the charity as an examination of the boys and testing of the education given" could not be the real cause. This remark, in fact, does not agree with the Reports drawn up afterwards by the Assistant Commissioners, and to shew that they must have been instructed not only to report upon the state of Education, but upon every other feature of the schools, it is only necessary to refer to the Reports of Mr. Green and Mr. Bryce, for the counties of Stafford, Worcester, and Warwick.

But before doing so, I may state that I found at page 123, vol. ii. of the Schools' Inquiry Commission, that the secretary, Mr. Roby, in the "Instructions" issued to the Assistant Commissioners, by "order of the Commissioners," and countersigned by him, lays down for the Assistant Commissioner's guidance, the following points (*inter alia*):—"The cost of the present system, the probable cost of a better, the burden which the parents are willing to bear, these and similar facts must be the basis of any measures which it would be wise to recommend. In regard to the grammar and other endowed schools, it is desirable to ascertain not only what is their present condition, but also how far they seem to be fulfilling the purpose for which they were founded. You will therefore endeavour to inform yourself both what sort of education the founder meant to prescribe, and to what class of children he meant to give that education. You will report whether the school appears to fulfil these two purposes ; and if not, whether this is due to some fault in the management, or whether the two purposes have become incompatible with each other by lapse of time, and scholars are no longer to be found whose parents wish them to learn what the school was founded to teach. You will report whether the results, taken all together, are satisfactory and proportionate to the amount of endowment ;

and if not, whether the fault appears to lie with the school or with the parents, or is due to circumstances independent of both. You will also inspect the grounds and buildings, and report on the school-rooms, the accommodation for boarders, if any be provided, and the playground. Finally, it will be desirable to ascertain the estimation in which the school is held in the neighbourhood, and whether there is any general wish to have a change in the character of instruction, or in the laws or regulations of the foundation; and if so, what are the reasons for such a wish, and whether they appear to have any ground to rest on. *Besides inquiring into the state of education*, it will be your duty to find out from the parents what are their own wishes, and what expense they are willing to incur. Upon their co-operation all improvement must mainly depend. You will endeavour to find out how far it is the wish of the parents to alter the subjects of instruction; how far to introduce teaching of a more professional character; whether they are at all aware of the cost of a really sound education, and whether they are willing to incur that cost; what are their prejudices in reference to associating with the class below them and the class above them; under what circumstances they would prefer day schools or boarding schools respectively. The answers to these and similar questions will be of the utmost importance in determining what measures of improvement are not only desirable but practicable. The main object of your mission will be to collect matters of fact, and ascertain the opinions of others. At the same time the Commissioners do not wish to preclude you from expressing any opinions of your own as to the remedial measures which you may think expedient."

From the above parts of the "Instructions to Assistant Commissioners," it is quite clear that their duties were not confined to a mere examination of the modes of education adopted in each school, but that they were to make inquiries as to anything and everything connected therewith, and make suggestions to the central board of Commissioners as to any improvements they deemed to be desirable.

These instructions also gave the Assistant Commissioners, not only permission, but powers, to investigate any and every point, beneficial or injurious to the operation of the schools; of which ample proofs are given in their Reports.

There were no less than twenty volumes of these Reports issued in 1869, varying from 300 to 1000 pages in each, and which of course could not be filled with opinions of the systems of education carried on in the schools only. The fact is that they contain commendations or strictures upon every feature, both good and bad, of the endowed schools of England and Wales.

In the first place there are "Introductory Summaries" of each division of the Kingdom, and of the Principality, such for instance as that for the West Midland Division, which includes the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Salop, Stafford, Worcester, and Warwick. This Division fills 851 pages inclusive of the Preface, in vol. xv., and 170 pages in vol. viii., and represents a fair average of the whole twenty volumes. This "Summary" gives the population, as well the total of the six counties, as of the towns of various magnitudes, the gross and net annual incomes of the schools of each county, and of their exhibitions, their educational *status*, the number of Primary schools, and statistics of other kinds.

And the separate Reports of each school teem with remarks unconnected directly with the education: such as the histories of the schools, and particulars of the founders' gifts, intentions, and orders, as to the class of boys to be admitted; the duties of the trustees; the past, present, and probable future amounts of revenue; the occupations of the class of people inhabiting the localities, and their objections to classical teaching and the boarding system; the incomes of the masters; the fees paid by the scholars' parents; full descriptions of the state of the school buildings and whether they are in healthy localities or not; in fact everything connected with the management of the school funds, buildings, and their future prospects.

And not only so, but lists of the trustees, of the occupations of the children's parents, of the exhibitions and their values,

and full debit and credit accounts of the incomes and expenditures of the schools.

There are suggestions too, as to improving the school revenues, of amalgamations of schools, in short, everything embracing the welfare of these foundations.

So that the cause of my non-appointment did not rest upon my knowledge or ignorance of educational studies. What then did it rest upon?

One of the Royal Commissioners resided in Worcestershire. This Commissioner was a nobleman of great influence, and he was a trustee of Bromsgrove school. This school, founded by Sir Thomas Cookes for poor boys, I fully dissected and held up to public odium in this autobiography in chapter iii. part 2. Am I right in supposing that this was the cause of my non-appointment? Am I right in believing that this was the moving cause? Am I right in asserting that this was the real cause? I believe it was. Well I feel no regret; if to try to remove or cure public evils, brings down upon one's self, a revenge both powerful and silent, the pity must rest upon him who inflicts, and not upon him who suffers by the revenge. In this case it may be well said in the words of Shakespeare:—

“What we oft do best
By sick interpreters, or weak ones, is
Not ours, or not allowed: what worst, as oft
Hitting a grosser quality, is cry'd up
For our best act.”

I must now revert to the part I took in the reformation of Repton school, in Derbyshire. This was a very important case, the history of which is as follows:

Mr. Joseph Wright, one of my fellow relators, or plaintiffs, in the Kidderminster School Suit, had about ten years thereafter purchased, and removed, to a farm in the parish of Etwall, which parish adjoins that of Repton, not many miles from Burton-on-Trent.

It will be seen at page 123, *ante*, that I made some remarks upon the misappropriation of the funds of the Repton School

(founded and endowed by Sir John Port, for the joint benefit of the parishes of Repton and Etwall,) when I attended the public meeting at Derby, on February the 17th, 1852.

Mr. Wright communicated with me upon the sad misuse of the funds belonging to this foundation, and the result was that a Committee was formed in the parish of Etwall, to carry out a reformation of the school, for the benefit of the joint parishes.

I was solicited to examine the whole case, to which I readily assented, and the Committee of parishioners resolved to have a public meeting to inaugurate the movement.

This was held at the Spread Eagle at Etwall, and the following is the Report of the proceedings as published in the *Derby Reporter*, July 1st 1864.

THE FREE SCHOOL AND HOSPITAL AT REPTON AND ETWALL. PUBLIC MEETING.

A public meeting was held in a large room at Mr. Hardy's, Etwall, on the 21st ult., to take into consideration the state of the Free School and Hospital. The proceedings commenced at seven o'clock, under the presidency of Mr. Robert Jerram. The room was completely crowded, and amongst the auditory were the Rev. E. Alder, (vicar); Messrs. Thomas Jerram, Mr. Camp, Mr. Wall, sen., Mr. Wall, jun., and Messrs. F. Harpur, J. Platts, R. Platts, W. Platts, T. Cooper, H. Pickering, W. Pegg, W. Meers, W. Archer, J. Stone, S. S. Ward, J. Doxey, J. Newham, Joseph Platts, J. Shepherd, E. Platts, W. Salt, J. Ecob, C. Finney, J. Wright, and others.

The Chairman opened the proceedings by remarking that the present state of the hospital and school was very unsatisfactory. There was a memorial to the trustees very numerously signed, now ready, and which would no doubt have its due effect.

Mr. Joseph Wright addressed the meeting, recommending a petition to the House of Commons, and a memorial to the Charity Commissioners, requesting them to send an Inspector down to investigate the present state of the hospital and school. He animadverted upon the fact of so many boarders being in the school, and the absorption of the exhibitions, and the books bequeathed by Mr. Ward, by the boarders. He trusted that the parishioners would join as one man to get the school restored to what the founder, Sir John Port, meant it to be, and that the hospital might be extended now that the joint revenues (£2,700) were so ample. He thought it was high time that such a noble foundation should be properly devoted

to the use of the sons of parishioners only, and to old decayed parishioners. It was altogether unjustifiable that boarders should swallow the funds, and that gentlemen's servants should be put into the hospital. He had requested his friend Mr. George Griffith to come from Wolverhampton (who had for sixteen years devoted a great deal of time and research to charity investigations) to address them, not only on the Repton and Etwall abuses, but also on the general question.

Mr. George Griffith was received with general applause, and entered into a statement of the whole question. He said that he hoped some of the young men present would purchase the Charity Commissioner's Report for the county of Derby, and give a history of its charities through the columns of the county papers, for the benefit of the public. He divided the question into four classes, viz., the educational charities of the Universities and Cathedrals, the large public schools, the smaller free schools, and the Repton and Etwall charities. As to the Universities, they were all or nearly all founded for *poor* young men, "*pauperum et indigentium*," being employed in most of the college charters as the designation of the young men to be admitted. He quoted the Chancellor of the Exchequer's words, delivered by him at a meeting of the middle-class examination at Liverpool, upon a recent occasion in support of this view. The Chancellor was chairman of the meeting, and asserted that the colleges were founded for poor, and not rich men's sons. With regard to cathedral schools great abuses exist. At Westminster the boys were charged no less than £1,800 one year in fees alone, the fact of the Abbey revenues being originally intended to pay all the boys' expenses being ignored by the Dean and Chapter; the men who refused to bury Byron in the Poet's Corner, being so capacious in their consciences as to bury the whole of the cathedral revenues in the wallet of self-interest. This school at one time had 600 scholars, whereas now there are but 120, not one of whom were free! At Worcester Cathedral, the ten pound entrance fee had been abolished, but the benefices belonging to the scholars when leaving the University, were all lost, or transferred to those who had no claim to them. The founder (Henry VIII), having not only provided education at the Cathedral School and at the University, but also benefices (when their studies were completed there), in the County of Worcester. At Rochester also, the Rev. Robert Whiston (who was educated at Repton School), finding that his boys' moneys were absorbed by the Dean and Chapter (he being head master of that Cathedral School), took proceedings against them, and after three trials, succeeded in getting £21 13s. 4d., for each scholar, instead of £2 13s. 4d., and £40 10s. 0d., instead of £5 for each exhibitioner: the Dean and Chapter thought the moneys were theirs, but seamen might as well

claim the fleet they manned, or soldiers the fortresses they garrisoned. They not only absorbed the boys' money unjustly, but the bedesmen's names who had been dead a century were called over—of course they did not appear, and the Chapter absorbed theirs also. To conclude the cathedrals, no scholars were found at Lichfield—only a few choristers, who were called scholars, but who were discharged when their voices broke. Now these mal-practices were not only denounced by such laymen as Lord Brougham and Sir James Mackintosh, but the late Bishop of London and the present Bishop of Exeter reprobated them strongly in the House of Lords. Thus it would be seen that Repton was not alone; it was only one of a number, it was only one link of a chain that deprives the poor and middle classes of their birthrights and gave them to the rich. So much for the Cathedral Schools—now for the Free Grammar and Endowed Schools. Too many of these reminded him of the words in Hudibras—

“Ye little rascals must submit to fate
That great ones may enjoy the world in state.”

The value of the Endowed School properties was £15,000,000 at the least. This, at 5 per cent., gave £750,000 per annum, or £6 for every *poor* boy and girl in the kingdom between the ages of eight and fourteen. This would, if properly made use of, do away with our immense public grants for education and the expenses of inspection, which, in 1863-4 (the year ending 31st March) amounted to £43,565 9s. 1d., and it would also do away with subscription lists, charity sermons, and voluntary benefactions. The endowed schools at Harrow, with its head master receiving a gross income of £10,000, and wishing to abolish the foundationers little by little, so as to have none but boarders, is a true specimen of what the boarding system can be brought to. The founder, John Lyons, only placed a charge of £2 17s. per annum on the boys, and the trustees have added £15 to that, so that the school is dearer to the inhabitants than any private school. At Eton the head master nets about £5,000, and the original number of 70 free boys is adhered to, whilst the boarders are without limit. At the Charterhouse, the original forty are adhered to, with a swarm of boarders and an unlimited number of exhibitions, which, of course, the boarders absorb, and the income of £51,000 also. At Christ's Hospital, commonly called the Blue Coat School, in London, no boy can get admission unless an Alderman pays £300 down, and in any other persons case £500 must be paid down, although the foundation income amounts to £60,000. The charge for boarders is not at all lessened on account of the foundation funds at these schools. At Eton the boarders of the assistant masters pay no less than £300 each, so that whilst the masters shirk the foundation intentions they bleed even the

boarders to death, so that parodying the words of one of our most popular songs, "Whilst they fleece the rich, they also fleece the poor." The Blue Coat School, in London, was the first ragged school founded in England, it was founded for destitute children picked up in the streets, and for deserted babes for whom nurses were provided. Shrewsbury School too is a great maladministration; the income, besides the rent free masters' houses and the school, is upwards of £2,000, and the fellowships and exhibitions amount to £1,400 per annum positively, and £840 contingently. In this school there are now but eighteen free boys. The boarders pay high, and of course get the exhibitions and go to the Universities. Birmingham is on the other side a good specimen of what a free school for the benefit of parishioners' sons should be. There is a head school containing 500 scholars, about half classical and half commercial, with four branch schools in addition, from which many of the cleverest boys are drafted to the central school, and the capitation fees are paid out of the school fund and not by the parents, thus encouraging the masters to educate the boys in greater numbers, and not drawing from the parents' pockets anything but for the books.

In almost all the charters or foundation deeds of these schools the words "poor boys" are used, and yet wherever there is a large foundation income the rich are encouraged and the poor thrust to the wall; where there is a poor income the poor are of course not interfered with.

With regard to your own school of Repton the following state of things exist. The Head Master's foundation income is £350, the second £180, the third £150, and there are about ten assistant masters. The net foundation revenue of *the School alone* is about £2,000, besides £30 per annum left by Mr Ward to buy the poor boys books. There are but eighteen boys receiving a free education, and there are about 200 boarders, the sons of strangers, paying large annual sums to the masters, which may be fairly estimated as follows:—200 averaging £60 per annum, say half profit, £6,000; Foundation fund, £2,000; Ward's books, £30; Book profits, £170. Total, £8,200. There are two exhibitions of £50 each; these are taken by the boarders. But there are no foundationers, as they are called, viz., four who were to be paid £45 per annum each, and four who were to be paid £40 each. These sums go to the boarders or into the master's pockets, as none of the free or foundation boys get them. Now this is a most glaring case, and it has followed other irregularities, as it is averred that in 1831 and 1832, when Mr. Macaulay was head-master, there were £500 of the foundation money laid out on a building, called "studios for boarders," upon land belonging to Sir R. Burdett. The last foundation boy of Repton is now eighty years old (Mr. Maddock), and the last Etwall boy (Dr. Bosworth) was admitted fifty to fifty-five years ago; he was the son of a joiner and small

farmer. Since these two not one foundationer has been admitted. Is this state of things to continue? The two Acts of Parliament passed regarding this school forbid it. No scheme can override an Act of Parliament; no custom of doing wrong can create a right; no examination will tolerate it. What then is to be done? Memorialize the trustees, also the Charity Commissioners to send an inspector down to sift the case, and petition the House of Commons through your members, form a committee of parishioners (both Repton and Etwall), and so fight the battle as to regain your rights. These evils could be removed permanently by abolishing the boarding system, by admitting laymen as well as clergymen to compete for the masterships, by allowing none but parishioners to be trustees. Let nothing hinder you from pursuing these objects, and you will confer a lasting benefit on future generations.

The speaker sat down amidst great applause, and after a vote of thanks had been accorded to him on the motion of the Chairman, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, the meeting terminated.

[We are informed that the inhabitants intend to adopt active measures to get the school restored to the use of the sons of the Repton and Etwall parishioners.]—*Derby Reporter*, July 1st, 1864.

The Committee of parishioners set to work at once, and I travelled to and from Etwall on several occasions to examine the state of the case, up to that date. My friend, Mr. Wright, was indefatigable, and we drew up a memorial to the Charity Commissioners, which was numerously signed, and therein urged them to have the matter investigated by one of their Inspectors. To this the following reply was given:—

Charity Commission, 8, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W.

July 25th, 1864.

SIR,—I have laid before the Board the memorial which accompanied your letter of the 5th instant; and I am to inform you that one of the Inspectors attached to this office will be directed to institute a local Inquiry into the circumstances of the charities.

The precise time at which such Inquiry will be held cannot at present be fixed, owing to the engagements of the Inspectors, and to the approaching vacation; but due notice will be given of the time and place of holding it, and all persons interested will be entitled to attend.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY M. VANE, Secretary.

Mr. Joseph Wright, The Hepnalls, Etwall, Derby.

To bring the matter fully before the parishioners, I wrote the following statement :—

“MIRA TEMPORIS INCLINATIO.”

To the Editor of the Derby Reporter.

SIR,—The time is coming when the Endowed Schools of England will be inspected by Her Majesty's Commissioners. The school at Repton will be in their catalogue, and it will not be out of place now to take a review of what that school was intended to be, what it is, and what it ought to be.

Repton School was founded in the year 1556, during the reign of Philip and Mary, by Sir John Port, Knight of the Bath, of Etwall, in Derbyshire.

His will is dated the 9th of March in that year, and he ordered (*inter alia*), that his five executors, Sir Thomas Gifford (his father-in-law), Richard Harpur (his nephew), Thomas Brewster, vicar of Etwall, John Harker, and Simon Starkey, and their heirs, should possess all his lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Mosley, Abraham, and Brockhurst, in the county of Lancaster, upon condition of finding a priest well learned and graduate, “*freely to keep a grammar school in Etwall or Repton from time to time for ever* ;” he also willed that an “Usher Associate” should be appointed with the schoolmaster for the school.

He fixed their then stipends at £20 and £10 respectively, and appointed as first schoolmaster, Sir William Perryn, Bachelor of Divinity, who had been his chaplain, willing and leaving the future appointments of masters to his issue male in succession for ever ; (he had three daughters, Elizabeth, Dorothy, and Margaret) ; and in failure of male issue then to his heirs.

He also willed that two school houses should be built for the schoolmasters, and a schoolhouse for the scholars, “in the place and precinct of the north side of the Church at Etwall, or at Repton.

In 1621, Sir John Harpur, the Earl of Huntingdon, Lord Stanhope, and Sir Thomas Gerrard (the latter three being the descendants of the founders three daughters), agreed, that after the death of Sir John Harpur the right heirs of the founder should be the future trustees.

By the petition of the co-heirs the school (and the hospital at Etwall), were made a body corporate, under the style and title of “The Master of Etwall Hospital, the Schoolmaster of Repton, Ushers, *Poor Men* and *Poor Scholars*,” and thereupon the estates were conveyed by Sir John Harpur to the Corporation.

Next in importance to the founder's will is the Charter of King James. In this the boys are uniformly styled “Four Poor Scholars.”

This charter was granted on the petition of the Earl of Huntingdon,

Lord Stanhope, and Sir Thomas Gerrard, and the Four Poor Scholars were included as a part of the Corporate Body.

In this charter a third master was ordered to be appointed (George Ward) "to teach to write, cypher, and cast accompt there," and the first four poor scholars were named, Francis Hind, William Fairbarne, Thomas Goodanter, and Gilbert Ward.

By this charter it was ordered that the head-master should be at least a Master of Arts of Oxford or Cambridge, and should hold no spiritual living or promotion, and have £40 per annum, and a house and garden, free for his services—that one of the ushers should be a B.A., and hold no other living, with a salary of £20, and a house and garden rent free, and that the under usher should have £15 per annum and free lodgings.

Amongst the orders in this charter, are the two following :—

1. "That *every one* of the poor scholars of the said free school shall be the son of some such *poor man as is not able* to maintain his child to learning, and every such poor scholar shall have for his stipend or allowance five pounds for every year he shall continue scholar in the said school, to be paid to him quarterly."

2. "That the master of the hospital should annually, within thirty days of the feast of St. Michael, give an account of the hospital and school revenues and disbursements, to the trustees, or their appointed agent, and, in default, to the Bailiff and Recorder of Derby, and that the surplus should be applied to the use of the hospital and school.

Mr. Thomas Whitehead, one of the upper ushers, left by will (1654) a field of four acres at Repton, for the benefit of the head-master, and in 1656 Mr. P. Ward left a small estate at Ticknall, for the purchase of books for *poor scholars*, "who have *not other means* to buy them," and the donor says that "this small gift is of great necessity, by my own experience."

In 1854, the author of the History of Repton, Robert Bigsby, M.A., and LL.D., tells us the corporate revenues were £2,300 per annum, but that they had been £2,500 shortly before.

In 1832 the governors made a bye law, amongst others, that the freedom of the charity should be limited to the children of persons residing in the parishes of Etwall and Repton.

There are two exhibitions of £50 per annum for the boys at the University, also an annual book prize "for the best English essay on a sacred subject," provided from the interest of £120 raised as a perpetual testimonial by the admirers of the late Sir George Crewe, of Calke Abbey.

The corporation used to dine once a year and audit the accounts. In 1854 the head master received £360, the usher £180, and the second usher £150 per annum, and had rent free residences.

The vicarage of Willington, near Repton, is in the gift of the corporation, and is usually held by the master of the hospital or the school.

Lady Huntingdon (mother of Lord Huntingdon) a trustee, took a very active part with the hope of restoring the school to the use of poor scholars. In "The Life and Times of Selina, Countess of Huntingdon," vol. ii. chap. 2, pp. 450-458, we find that she was instigated to this by Lady Gerrard, who was excluded from any active share in the charity on account of being a Catholic.

Lady Gerrard died on 20th August, 1782, just three months after Lady Huntingdon's first application to Lord Chesterfield (May 8th, 1782) as to reforming the school. In this application she said "Great abuses to the poor most certainly do subsist, which with proper care might be made one of the noblest endowments in the kingdom, *according to its original institution*, for the poor, and the education of *poor boys* at the school, and that "very large sums of money have been and are at present yearly received *without benefit to the charity.*"

In his reply Lord Chesterfield said "I am ashamed to say that I am entirely ignorant of the nature of those charities and of the funds by which they are supported."

Lady Huntingdon then addressed a letter to the Rev. W. Cotton, of Etwall (17th May, 1782) he being second master; in this she says that "the intentions of the founder seem hitherto but too little regarded."

To this the rev. gentleman did not deign to reply, and her ladyship again appealed to Lord Chesterfield in a second letter dated July 5th, 1782; in this she says "that the combined influence of the master of the hospital, who possesses the living of Etwall from Mr. Cotton, and the hope that inquiry may drop from his silence, probably engages *these cautious reserves*, and thus justice to the poor must end."

With this letter she sent a number of queries—amongst which she suggested a strict inquiry and an increase of the number of poor men and poor scholars in proportion to the increase of the revenues. The Countess said in her letter that the hospital and school were founded for "poor disabled day labourers, and the education of poor boys who would otherwise be left without the possible chance of instruction.

In 1824 a pamphlet was published as to the state of this endowment, by Drewry, of Iron-gate, Derby; in this it is stated that up to 1814 there were sixteen poor men in the hospital, and twenty poor scholars in the school, with two exhibitions; that at the date of the pamphlet the number of the men had been reduced to twelve, and of the boys to four, and that the surplus (about £1,000 per annum) was pocketed by the superior members of the Corporation.

In 1851 and 1852 Mr. J. Briggs and Mr. D. Wheatcroft petitioned the Court of Chancery as to a reform of the endowment and its management, but the petition being unfortunately brought into Sir George Turner's Court, was dismissed with costs.

In Bigsby's History we find that in 1768 there were 150 free scholars in the school, and this able writer, in his indignation says (page 222) "We do not feel an iota of respect for any man who comes to Repton, making use of the office of head master of the school, for the purpose of realizing, in a certain number of years, a certain sum of money: and who, for the earlier attainment of such object, would unhesitatingly sacrifice the conflicting interests of others, by depriving poor scholars of their right to board with whom they please, by suppressing the boarding houses for free scholars in the village, and by raising the terms for private boarders to an amount that must exclude all but the wealthier portion of the public from the ampler enjoyment of the school. No, give us the man who sets aside *all selfish considerations*, earnestly striving to make the institution *all that the founders and the public could desire it to be*, and who is content to become rich by slow degrees, or rather not to become rich at all, but to remain satisfied with a reasonably moderate recompense, from year to year, for his faithfully rendered services."

In 1811 there were nineteen boys clothed, boarded, lodged, and taught free but in 1824 an act was passed "*to extend and increase the objects of the charity*," whereby the number of the poor scholars was limited to eight! Four of these were to be paid £45 per annum each, to procure board, &c., &c., and four junior boys £40 per annum each for the same purposes; but as the masters' terms are higher than these sums the parents pay the difference, and the poor are thereby entirely shut out—thus the rich take the poor boys' endowments, the actually rich supplant the actually poor, and in some cases even the relatives of one or other of the noble governors have occupied this degraded position. Even the clothing is abolished, as of course the sons of men of rank and fortune could not stoop to wear the founders' clothes, although they refuse not to have their minds clothed at his cost, and at the expense and loss of the poor.

But Dr. Peile, the late head master, went a step further than any of his predecessors—he advertised to the public that he would receive a very limited number of pupils to be educated *with his own sons*, thus, as it were, suspending Sir John Port's school altogether, and appropriating at the same time the endowment to his own uses.

We find in later times that the master of the hospital was the son of the clerk to the trust, and that the auditor was a partner as a solicitor to the same clerk of the trust, and at the same time private solicitor to

one of the governors or trustees. These connections are, or were an evil, and that evil has left its effects to be felt even now.

It seems that Mr. Bigsby, the historian, who had been educated at Repton, and lived there subsequently for eleven years, applied about ten years ago to investigate the documents of the school.

In the first place he applied to the Clerk of the Corporation, who did not even acknowledge the application. He then went to the Earl Howe (who was acting guardian of the Marquis of Hastings, an infant governor), and he referred him to Sir Charles Hastings, executor of a deceased governor—George Marquis of Hastings. Sir Charles politely regretted that his continued absence from Willesley Hall would prevent any opportunity of access to the papers in his possession. He then applied to the Earl of Chesterfield and Sir John Gerrard, the other two trustees, but got no reply from either. For the last named gentleman it may be said there was some excuse, as he was ill at the time, and died soon after.

Failing with the trustees, he applied to Sir J. H. Crewe, lord of the manor; and Sir R. Burdett, lord of the Priory, manor of Repton, for any documents connected with the school, but herein he failed also. [Vide Bigsby's History of Repton. Preface pp. 14. It is said that this work has been bought up by interested parties.]

Still the historian wished to get information as to what the school had been, and he wrote to two persons who were formerly scholars therein. In their replies the following information was given. The first letter is dated September 5, 1854:—"I was a foundation boy from 1815 to 1821—seven years. Every year my pay from the school increased, and during the last two more than covered my school bills."

The second letter, dated Sept. 12, 1854, contains:—"When at school there were eight boys on the foundation; four received £45 each, and four £40 each. No boy was allowed to board in the village, *even if his parents lived there*, and it cost more than the above to board with the master—say full £20. Formerly the boys boarded in the village, and the school foundation money sufficed for board and clothing."

It is apparent that the very recollection of Sir John Port's school is attempted to be stifled, and that step by step it has as it were become a dissolving view. Even Dr. Sleath's portrait, and the magnificent stained glass windows which were given by him to the school have been removed to the head-master's house (some say with Dr. Sleath's permission).

And so with the arms of the governors of the school, they have also been removed to the head master's house, which is not school property, but belongs to the Burdett family.

The school now contains eighteen day boys receiving a free education. The

income is absorbed, but no publication of its disposal is made. Mr. Ward's books for poor boys are either taken by the boarders or not taken at all—the two exhibitions of £50 per annum each, and the £320 for the eight foundationers folloy in their wake—there are no Repton or Etwall foundation boys in the school.* The last Repton boy, Mr. Maddock, is now eighty years old, and the last Etwall boy (Dr. Bosworth, the son of a farmer and joiner, and author of an "Anglo-Saxon Dictionary," and other works) was admitted upwards of fifty years ago. Since these two not one native foundationer has been admitted.

It is evident that a thorough reform is wanted, but that will never be accomplished until an Act is passed enabling the inhabitants to elect the trustees. What! break through Sir John Port's will? No, we want to get his will carried out, because the present trustees neglect to do so. Is not his will broken through by the present system? In fact in what particular is it regarded? Or, otherwise, let the masters take their boarders off the foundation premises and make them their own private scholars. Let the school be free to poor boys under paid masters, giving the preference to Repton and Etwall boys. Let another school be built at Etwall as a partner to that of Repton, as Etwall boys could not well travel daily to and fro, and £2000 per annum is plenty to support two schools. Let this school be built with the surplus now in hand, which must be a large one.

With the exception of this surplus, let by-gones be by-gones, and then in the words of Bigsby, the historian, we shall no longer see men "who, instead of feeling their hearts expand with joyful gratitude, as they witnessed the signs of Sir John Port's daily continued liberality, and participated, through their office, in the uninterrupted blessings of his bounty, could think only of enriching themselves out of the coffers of that sanctified abundance, regardless, so far as they dared to appear so, of the lofty purposes of their great patron."

"Under any circumstances the public claim is imperative so long as salaries are allotted to the masters on the foundation for their support." "In the present period of advanced enlightenment, and growing popular rights no Act of Parliament will ever be set in array against public claims of this

* The eighteen boys mentioned here were day boys, but the whole of the income of the foundation ought to have been spent in housing, clothing, feeding, and educating Repton and Etwall poor boys, whereas the trustees sent boys from all quarters to receive these benefits, and with the exception of the expenses of these boys, the whole of the income was appropriated by the masters for teaching eighteen day boys!

nature, and any limitation, under a bye-law, or other regulation emanating from the governors alone, is merely of the value of so much waste-paper. The public know their power, and will sooner or later exercise it."—(History of Repton, pp. 219 and 221.)

I beg to remain, Mr. Editor, yours faithfully,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, Sept. 12, 1864.

The Committee, through two of their members, Mr. Joseph Wright and Mr. George Wall, applied to the Charity Commissioners for copies of the income and expenditure of Sir John Port's benefactions, for the five years ending with 1863, to which the Commissioners replied as follows :—

Charity Commission, 8, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W.

25th October, 1864.

SIR,—In compliance with the request contained in the letter addressed to this office by yourself and Mr. George Wall, I forward to you copies of the statements of accounts of these charities for the four years ending 1862.

The stationer's charge for making such copies is twenty shillings, which may be remitted by Post Office Order, to be made payable to Henry Morgan Vane, at the Charing Cross Office.

The account for 1863 has been applied for, and when received a copy of it will be made and forwarded to you.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY M. VANE, Secretary.

Mr. J. Wright,

The Hepnalls, Etwall, Derby.

The reason for this application will be sufficiently seen hereafter.

Soon after my letter appeared in the *Reporter*, (September 12th), I sent a copy to the Rev. R. Whiston, the head master of Rochester Grammar School. At the same time or soon after I asked him as to a letter he had written to the *Times* on the Question of Cathedral Grammar Schools. To this I received the following reply, which, as he was a Repton boy in past days, I feel great pleasure in recording here :—

Rochester, October 29, 1864.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am very sorry that my negligence has given you the trouble of writing again, especially as I can only now write to say that the

letter which you have already read is the last I have written on the subject in question.

I was much interested and pleased with your Repton letter. I was at Repton School, and little enough did I learn then, except what I taught myself. It was then in a fair way, and almost under the control of its solicitor, the trustees being minors or absentees. All you have said was partly near the truth, and without going into further matter, I quite agree with you that something should be done for Etwall.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT WHISTON.

Mr. Wright became impatient at the delays of the Charity Board as to the investigation, and tired of applying by letter, he went to London to see Mr. Vane, the secretary. He was promised that the matter should be seen to, and on the 23rd of November he received the following assurance by post :—

Charity Commission, 8, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W.

22nd November, 1864.

SIR,—Adverting to your recent interview at this office, I am to inform you that on the 15th instant, the Commissioners directed Mr. Francis Offley Martin, one of the Inspectors attached to this office, to hold an Inquiry into the circumstances of these and the other charities existing in the above-mentioned parishes.

As soon as the necessary preliminary arrangements shall have been made, he will inform you as to the date and place of the Inquiry.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. J. Wright,

HENRY M. VANE, Secretary.

The Hepnalls, Etwall, Derby.

Christmas passed over, and in January another application was made to the Charity Commissioners. Their reply was as follows :—

Charity Commission, 8, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W.

20th January, 1865.

SIR,—Mr. Martin has not yet fixed the day for holding his Inquiry into these charities; but he will do so at the earliest possible date, which may be consistent with his other engagements, and due notice will be given of the day and place.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HENRY M. VANE, Secretary.

Mr. Joseph Wright,

The Hepnalls, Etwall, Derby.

In a week's time the Inspector wrote to Mr. Wright, thus :—

*Charity Commission, 8, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W.
27th January, 1865.*

SIR,—I propose to commence the Inquiry into this case, on Wednesday, 15th February, at eleven o'clock, at the Spread Eagle.

I remain, your obedient servant,
F. O. MARTIN.

And on the next day the following formal Notice of Inquiry was sent down to Etwall :—

*Charity Commission, 8, York Street, St. James's Square, S.W.
28th January, 1865.*

SIR,—I have to inform you that, under the authority of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, I shall on Wednesday, the 15th day of February, 1865, at eleven o'clock in the forenoon of the same day, be at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Etwall, in the county of Derby, for the purpose of inquiring into the foundation, endowment, and objects, and also the present circumstances of Sir John Port's "Hospital and Free School" in the parishes of Etwall and Repton, in the county of Derby, and that I shall be ready, at the time and place above mentioned, to receive evidence concerning the same "Hospital and School."

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

Mr. J. Wright,
The Hepnalls, Etwall, Derby.

F. O. MARTIN,
Inspector of Charities.

This put the parishioners on the *qui vive*; I was sent for at once, and took up my residence with Mr. Wright at the Hepnalls. It was very satisfactory to us that all the parishioners of Etwall and a large number of those of Repton supported our exertions; therefore, whatever information we wanted was easily procured, and many volunteered to lay before us various important circumstances of which we had no previous knowledge.

I must mention here that the question of the grievances of the almsmen, who were supported by Sir John Port's benefactions, formed a part of the Inquiry; this I do not intend to incorporate in the extracts of the evidence given before the Inspector, as the school occupied my attention solely.

Mr. Inspector Martin opened his inquiry at the Spread Eagle Inn, Etwall, on Wednesday, the 15th of February. There was a large attendance, and

amongst the representatives present were the Right Hon. Lord Chesterfield and Sir Robert Gerrard, Governors (the only absentee being the Marquis of Hastings), Mr. John Mousley, who represented the Governors; Mr. John Barber, who advised Dr. Pears; and Mr. Samuel Leech, who had been retained for the inhabitants of the parish and for the poor men; Dr. Pears, head master of Repton School, the Rev. J. M. Gresley, master of the Hospital; Rev. J. M. Messiter (1st usher), Rev. J. P. Clark (2nd usher); Mr. E. S. Gisborne, surveyor to the Corporation; Mr. Wright, George Griffith (Wolverhampton); Mr. Prime, Mr. F. Camp, Mr. Doxey, and many parishioners who have taken a prominent part in bringing about the Inquiry.

Mr. Inspector Martin in opening the investigation said, he proposed first to go into the special question of the hospital, and on Friday to adjourn to Repton to look over the schools, but he did not propose to examine the boys, for if he did no doubt they would pluck him for his Greek and Latin, and the School's Inquiry Commissioner would do all that.

Dr. Pears—But, Sir, there are certain questions which affect the school and hospital alike, such for instance as accounts.

Mr. Leech—I appear, Sir, on behalf of the memorialists, and for all the poor men in the hospital.

Dr. Pears—The memorialists? We have seen nothing of any memorial.

Mr. Inspector Martin—No doubt it will be read.

Mr. Leech.—I propose, Sir, to open very briefly one or two of the grievances of which my clients complain, in order that the rev. gentleman may know what we propose to prove.

The Inspector—In these matters I generally begin by suspecting that there is nothing wrong. I take for my guide the old Commissioners report, and accept it as *prima facie* evidence of the history of the case, and I proceed to inquire into the endowment, the income, and expenditure. I have already done that to a certain extent, and I have here a table showing the income and expenditure for the last ten years, or rather, I should say, from 1853 to 1862, for I have not received any accounts since then. The table is as follows:—

	Income.			...	Expenditure.		
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
1853.	3,011	4	4½	...	2,573	13	5½
1854.	3,164	4	4	...	2,499	16	8
1855.	3,339	12	11	...	2,613	15	6
1856.	3,345	16	5	..	2,564	8	1½
1857.	3,324	11	0½	...	2,515	9	9½
1858.	3,325	2	6	...	2,123	0	9½

	Income.		Expenditure.
1859.	3,745 10 8½	...	2,194 12 2
1860.	4,475 9 6½	...	3,221 5 8
1861.	3,645 14 4½	...	2,573 12 11
1862.	3,788 8 11½	...	2,326 15 5½

I shall want to see an actual rental of your property, and I may say here, that when I have enquired into similar charities elsewhere, I have generally found that there might have been more economy exercised in the management, and I have found that when a charity has been supported by rates it was generally managed more economically than in case of an endowment. Now, I shall be obliged to any person who will come forward in a fair way, and tell me all about these charities, but I have generally found that on inquiry the grievances vanish to a great extent, but, of course, I don't know that it will be so here. I have seen the minute books, but I cannot compliment the gentleman who wrote them, because I think he could not have read Lord Palmerston's lecture on handwriting; they are very imperfect, and I shall have a good deal of difficulty in finding out the sales. Your Corporation is one of a very peculiar and anomalous kind, for it consists not only of the master of the school and the master of the hospital, but of one or two ushers and of part of the old men. I have tabulated the meetings of the Corporation during the last ten years, and I find that Lord Hastings (by his governor, Lord Howe), attended two meetings, Lord Chesterfield once and Sir Robert Gerrard once. Certainly the masters have met more frequently—Mr. Mousley, 21; Mr. Gresley, 4; Dr. Peile, 2; Dr. Pears, 19; Mr. Messiter, 22; and Mr. Clarke, 18. The old men have attended irregularly, but of the seven who have been on the Corporation all except two had to make their marks when they signed any accounts. You will see that the masters of Etwall and of Repton have attended pretty regularly, and that will show you how the charity has been managed. With respect to the old men, it is difficult to say that a person who cannot write his own name ought to have a share in the management of the property, and I find that the amount expended in building from 1855 to 1865 was £17,700, including £3,500 for a chapel.

Dr. Pears—Not one shilling has been expended out of the Corporation fund for boarders. Mr. Messiter has been assisted in improving the Corporation property by two small votes only.

Mr. Messiter—For every £1 given by the Corporation, I have given £4 of my own money.

The Inspector—I should like to have a list of free scholars.

Mr. Leech—As to that point, Sir, it will be important to know where they came from.

Dr. Pears said, the memorial stated that there were only eighteen house boarders at Repton School and that was not correct, and it was a pity that the memorialists should begin with a mis-statement.

The Inspector—I never found a school where there were so many home boarders. The memorial I find is signed by sixty persons, twelve of whom make their marks; perhaps they were not aware where the school was.

Mr. Leech—That is one of the grounds of complaint that we have in our neighbourhood so good a school, and that there are so many who cannot take advantage of it.

The Inspector—I think you said you were prepared to state the case of the memorialists, and I should like to hear you.

Mr. Leech said—May it please you, sir, I appear here not only for the memorialists, who are the leading inhabitants of Etwall and Repton, but also for the poor men of the hospital, and at the outset I wish to state that we are not actuated by any improper feeling against the Governors of this noble Charity, nor against any member of its Corporation. Those who instruct me start on public grounds, and say that since the year 1782, when a memorable correspondence took place between Lady Huntingdon and the late Lord Chesterfield, the funds of the charity have not been expended according to the object of the founder, or in consonance with the spirit of the times. It is true I have a great deal of evidence as to the general mis-management of this charity, but I may here say that we do not intend to confine ourselves to the strict text, or letter, of the memorial; but we claim that which I know we shall receive, a full, entire, and impartial investigation into each department of this noble charity; and if, during this inquiry, there should appear to be objections or grievances which we are not at present aware of, we shall not be prevented from taking proceedings on them to have them removed. I say further, by way of contention, that with respect to one very important part of the charity, the Repton School, we must confine ourselves strictly to the letter of the will of the founder. We say that Sir John Port gave lands in Lancashire only, to find a master and usher for the school, and upon that we contend that the school cannot be supported by revenues arising from any other portion of the property. Clearly, the school was to be supported by those lands in Lancashire, and it must be confined to them, or to such other lands as may have been purchased and substituted for them.

The Inspector—You say that there was a special appointment for the school?

Mr. Leech—Yes, Sir; the words in the will are “All my lands, tenements, and hereditaments in Mosley, Abraham, and Brockhurst, within the county of Derby, upon condition that they shall find, or cause to be found,

a priest, well learned and graduate, and of honest and virtuous conversation, freely to keep a Grammar School in Etwall or Repton, from time to time, for ever." I find also that Sir John Port by this will gave twenty shillings annually out of lands at Burnaston for the repair of roads, bridges, &c., "round about the town of Etwall, and betwixt Etwall and Radborne," but we have not observed the expenditure of a single farthing on these roads for a great number of years, and I shall call on those whose duty it was to do it to show whether it has been done, and if not what has become of the money. Sir John Port also left the yearly charge of 23s. 4d.—which would be a considerable sum now—out of lands at Burnaston, "to find a perpetual lamp with oil and light ever burning before the most holy and blessed sacrament, in the parish church of Etwall. I am not aware that this is now carried out, and though the times are changed and it should no longer be done, we shall want to know what has become of the fund.

The Inspector—It probably went to the Crown.

Mr. Leech—The will of Sir John Port is silent as to where the poor scholars of Repton School were to come from, but we find, sir, and you will find, that, in every single instance of the appointment of a "Poor Scholar," he is the son of a gentleman who can well afford to "maintain his child to learning," and it will be a matter for inquiry as to who the present scholars are, the position in life, and the income of their parents.

Dr. Pears—I have handed in to Mr. Martin a statement, which will shew you the position in life of the parents, but of course I cannot go into the question of incomes.

Mr. Leech—I wish to show that the sons of poor inhabitants of Etwall and Repton do not reap the advantages which they ought to have, and we say that Dr. Bosworth, the son of a cow-keeper, was the last poor scholar sent to College from the parish of Etwall, and that is forty or fifty years ago. The next thing is an order of the governors made in 1832—that the free scholars should pay for their books and stationery, which must deter many from sending their sons to the school, whilst I find, sir, that in 1656, a Mr. Philip Ward left a cottage, &c., at Ticknall, the annual rental of which was to be devoted to the purchasing of books for poor scholars—the words being that the schoolmaster shall out of the rent buy such books as he shall think most useful, and give them to such poor scholars as have not other means to buy them. We shall want to know what has become of this gift.

The Inspector—There is about £10 a year derived from it.

Mr. Leech—It has been stated that these books have been given to the boarders.

Dr. Pears—May I know who states that ?

The Inspector—No ; it is best to hear on matters of this kind what people do say.

Mr. Leech—With regard to the schoolmaster's house at Repton, the will of Sir John Port says that he shall reside in a house at the north end of the school, but he lives in another, and the accounts will show that he charges the Corporation £30 a year for the rent of it ; that we object to, and it is further stated that a sum of £400 or £500 was spent out of the charity funds for enlarging the schoolmaster's house in the time of the late Mr. Macaulay, although this house does not belong to the Corporation. By the 1st and 2nd sections of Geo. IV. cap. 38, it is enacted "That certain deductions shall be made from the salaries of the masters, ushers, and poor scholars, which shall be added to the surplus revenues, and form a fund to increase the objects of the charity." Now, if these sections have been faithfully observed, there is, or ought to be, a fund amounting to £11,800, and we shall want to know where that fund is, and what has been done with it, whether it is in existence at all, and if not, why not. We again complain that there has been £1,500 in the funds, and £1,600 in Exchequer bills (exclusive of interest) making together upwards of £3,300 accumulating for the last thirty years without any steps being taken, according to the Act of Geo. IV., to make a proper use of it by the purchase of lands within the prescribed limits.

Dr. Pears—Do you say that that £1,500 has been in the funds for thirty years ?

Mr. Leech—Not all of it, but we say that there has been an unaccountable delay in appropriating these funds to the objects of the charity, and we shall want to know whether no opportunity has occurred during the last thirty years to purchase lands under the powers of Geo. IV. I contend, too, that the managers of this charity have sold lands, of the annual value of £1,160, and replaced them by purchasing others, of the annual value of £487 only, leaving an unexplained loss of £673 per annum. [Sensation.] But as I wish to, and will, deal fairly with the question, we must put against that serious loss, the income derived from the £1,600 in Exchequer Bills, mainly raised by the sale of land, and which would amount to about £50 per annum, deducting which, we still have a loss of £420 or £430 a year. Under the 19th sec. of Geo. IV., a court of managers was appointed, and the court was to consist of the master, the school-master, the ushers, and three of the ancientest poor men ; the audit meetings to be held at Repton, and to be called by the master giving a written notice of seven clear days to each member. We say, too, that Repton School was founded as much for the benefit of the children of Etwall

as of Repton, but from the unwholesome restrictions which exist the result has been that out of 80 boys at Etwall, eligible for such a school, there is only one boy in the whole parish that takes advantage of Repton School, though I am bound to mention one single exception—the master of the hospital sends his four boys, and these are irrespective of the isolated young individual I have alluded to. Now, Sir, it may, or may not, be the fault of the masters, but true it is, that the day boys are looked upon in a very different light to the boarders, and it is even said that the boarders have the exclusive use of the play ground belonging to the Corporation, whilst the day boys have to pay for the shelter and such-like which they need. I am sure, Sir, that we have no wish whatever to dissipate any benefits which may accrue to the masters from the boarders; we have no desire to destroy the *prestige* of Repton School, but we say that the number of boarders is now too large, and quite inconsistent with the intention of the founder or the justice of the case; and there can be little doubt that the attention of the masters is naturally directed to the education and advantage of the boarders to the exclusion and detriment of the other boys, who, it is said, are almost entirely confined to the lower forms and taught by the under masters. As I have said before, the foundation boys are sons of gentlemen instead of being children of the parishioners of Repton and Etwall, and to my mind it is quite clear that the founder had not the most remote idea of benefiting any others than those of his own parish, and I am sure that nothing could further from his intention, than that so important a fund should be distributed amongst strangers. There are now only eight boys on the foundation, and there were formerly twenty.

The Inspector—When?

Mr. Leech—In or about 1820. These boys board with the master, and it seemed impossible that the masters can afford to board them for the allowance given by the Corporation, and we state that this restriction is unwholesome, and that the lads ought to be allowed to board elsewhere.

The Inspector—Is any extra charge made?

Dr. Pears—None, except for washing; but I believe when the new studies were built they had to pay for the use of them, but never in my day, and I may here say, that when a foundation boarder is elected, it is a clear loss of £30 a year to me.

Mr. Leech—We contend that if the school at Repton is inadequate to receive the sons of parishioners of Etwall as well as Repton, we ought to have a school at Etwall, and we ask for an investment of the surplus fund for insuring this object, and suggest that the present master's house is a very proper building for the purpose (Laughter.) Another restriction

placed upon the boys at Etwall is the fact that the masters of the school require them to be there at half-past seven in the morning.

Mr. Gresley—Only part of the year.

Mr. Messiter—It is now half-past eight.

Mr. Leech—I am informed that it is half-past seven all the year round.

Dr. Pears—Then you are wrongly instructed.

THURSDAY—(SECOND DAY) FEBRUARY 16TH.

Mr. Martin re-opened the adjourned Inquiry at eleven o'clock, at Etwall, when Lord Chesterfield, Sir R. Gerrard, Dr. Pears, Mr. Leech, Mr. Mousley, Mr. Barber, Mr. Griffith (Wolverhampton), Mr. Messiter, Mr. Clarke, Mr. Wright, and the principal parishioners were present. The large room was densely crowded.

The Rev. J. Smithard Hind was examined by Mr. Leech—I am incumbent of a parish in Northumberland. I was at school at Repton from 1836 to 1845, partly under Mr. Macaulay and partly under Dr. Peile. I started at the bottom and was at the head form for two years before I left, and took several prizes. I had no reason to complain of partiality on the part of the masters, but I never knew in my experience a single case of a Repton boy being placed on the foundation, nor of a Repton boy having an exhibition when he went to college.

The Inspector—He could not have one, they are confined to the foundation scholars.

The Witness—The boys placed on the foundation, were in many instances friends and relations of governors coming from distant parts of the country. None of the scholarships were competed for. Boys are prohibited at ten, which is too high a limit. When I was nine and three quarters I was refused till I was ten. As for Mr. Ward's gift, I never heard of any one receiving books from it—none were given to the Repton boys. I have not the slightest idea of what became of it. The foundation boys were looked upon as a kind of unnecessary evil, of which the masters would have been very glad to have got rid, but so far as tuition was concerned the town boys had the same facilities as the others. Generally they were looked upon as a disagreeable evil—they were never allowed to use the play-ground, and the spirit of exclusion amongst the boys was fostered, I fancied, by the masters. I think if the boys of Etwall and Repton are to be considered, and the school is to be made useful to the inhabitants of these two villages, the management of the Corporation estates, with the appointment of the masters, should rest with a body of trustees under a scheme. The benefit of Repton and Etwall has not been looked after, but I think the foundation scholarships

are capable of being increased and given to the Repton and Etwall boys in preference. The accounts ought to be published in the newspapers.

The Inspector—It is always best—it saves a great deal of trouble.

The Witness continued—The generality of scholars were looked upon by the head master more as a means of accumulating wealth by drawing to the school as large a number of boarders as possible, than as a means of instructing the boys of Etwall and Repton.

In reply to the Inspector, the rev. gentleman said—There were not more than five or six village boys, when I was there, at the school. By grammar I understand at the present day, not only a thorough English education, but also a little classical knowledge. I should think there were fifty or sixty boys at Repton to whom the education given at the school might have been beneficial. I don't see why a plough boy should not be taught Latin, but he would be taken away to work about twelve, and it has always been thought useless to send them to a school where they must of a necessity have been taught Latin. I think there were always twenty or thirty boys in Repton to whom Latin would be useful. The site of the school is convenient for the parish of Repton, but the early hour at which it commenced might affect Etwall. I have no reason to suppose that the masters failed in instructing the Repton boys. I don't think the village boys ever wished to go into the play ground. I think it was as good a school, as far as honours taken, as it is now, but there were fewer boys. I think the fluctuation was caused by the severity of Mr. Macaulay's flogging, which was very severe. I cannot say, of course, what honours have been taken for the last six or seven years, but in the year 1842 two Repton boys took the first and fourth honours in classics.

Re-examined by Mr. Leech—Considering the distance of Etwall and the class of inhabitants it would be advantageous to this place to have a school. Sir John Port was a native of this village and the Repton School is of very little advantage to it.

Mr. Stodhard, second master of the school under Dr. Peile, said in reply to Mr. Leech—I was informed that I should receive £200 a year, but I actually received only £180. I had seven boarders as Dr. Peile said, he thought I could not take an interest in the school if I did not. He charged me a capitation fee of £1 1s. per head per annum, to which I agreed. A short time afterwards he said he should require £4 4s. per head, and he increased it to £8 and to £10. There was a meeting at Chesterfield House, and thereat Lord Howe in the presence of the other governors offered me £120 to resign. I had an opportunity of examining the accounts and complained of the excessive expenses of management, and I protested against charges for repairs of the master's house at

Etwall as I thought it was not necessary to lay out money for ornamental decoration, especially as it was not for the accommodation of the master, but for a stranger to whom it was left. The master himself took the rent, though the repairs were paid for and the ceiling gilded out of the Corporation funds. I objected from time to time of the mode of auditing the accounts, which I thought was of comparatively little use the old men knowing nothing about the matter. It is a fact that the school-master's house has been enlarged, I presume, at the expense of the Corporation for the accommodation of boarders. It is by no means desirable that the master of the hospital should have the management of the estates, nor is it desirable, that those who have salaries out of the funds should have the sole management of the charity. I think it most desirable that there should be a school at Etwall. I objected to the building of a cow shed at £100 cost, on the Burdett property. I never knew any one benefit by Ward's gift. My connection with the school was before any member of the present Corporation belonged to it.

Dr. Pears was sworn and examined by the Inspector—I am head master of the school, being appointed in June, 1854. There were forty boys left by Dr. Peile, and ten new ones came with me. I found, I think, twenty-one home boarders, including three from Etwall; the rest from Repton and Milton. The general *status* of the boys was thus, half of them were the sons of poor gentlemen, who came to Repton for the purpose of education, the fathers of the others would be independent gentlemen, and the others farmers and tradesmen. We have now thirty from Repton, the number having steadily increased simultaneously with the boarders. It is almost unique in that respect. Of the thirty there were five sons of persons who have come on purpose, all the rest are sons of *bonâ fide* residents. One is the son of a labourer, but there are others sons of artisans. I don't know any, qualified by age or attainment, sons of residents, who don't come. There was formerly a private school, where such boys might have gone, but not now. We have a national school, but I should not call it a first-class one. I get boys in many instances from that school. There is no difference whatever made in the tuition given to the different classes of boys. The home boarders are competent to go in for a competent scholarship. They must be qualified by age. Only three or four go in for it, because after they have been in the school two years, each boy knows what he can do—it is like a race. Most of the Repton boys are called away by other avocations before they can get up to the sixth form. The Repton boys have gained during the ten years 150 form prizes, out of which I have given thirty-six. The £20 from Ward's charity is charged to me, and

it is deducted from the foundation scholars account. The four seniors receive £3 each, and the four juniors, £2 each.

Mr. Leech—That is not doubted, but we say that they are not the proper recipients of it.

Dr. Pears—With respect to the management of the property, I may say that I should very much prefer acting as a schoolmaster, under a body of independent governors, and have nothing whatever to do with the estates. I have a considerable acquaintance with other schools, and at Rugby, for example, it is a great advantage to the master to be relieved of the responsibility of sharing in the management. With regard to the trustees, my feeling would be that they should not be selected from the immediate neighbourhood, as they might be subjected to personal interference. At present the constitution of our board is absurd, and it leads to imputations which are not just. When I came here, ten years ago, I contemplated a school for Etwall, and I consulted a friend upon it, and he opposed it. At that time there was no surplus, and my position was rather precarious. At present the state of things is much altered, but in the face of the fact that the Schools' Inquiry Commission are about to inquire into this and other schools, I think it would be unwise to take any step, at all events till they have made their Report. I just mention these facts to show you that the question of having a school at Etwall occurred to me ten years ago without a suggestion from any one, but there were then great difficulties in the way. However the Schools' Inquiry Commission will go into the whole question of local education, and, I presume, into the question of gratuitous education, and if they do, I venture to say, that there will be such views stated thereon, as will not suit the ultra-conservatives of Etwall.

The Inspector—I don't imagine that any scheme will result from my Inquiry here, for the reasons you have so ably put; but the probability is that I can make here on the spot a fuller Inquiry than they will make, and that my report will save them trouble.

Dr. Pears—I should like it to be understood that in this school there are three classes, the foundation scholars, the master's boarders, and the home boarders. The foundation boys are the only boys alluded to in the will or deeds, and the freedom of the school implies the freedom for the sons of parents residing at any distance, if they like to send them. Our difficulty is to deal with the two classes of boys, and I think it must be granted that my system cannot have worked amiss when the home boarders have increased regularly with, and just in the same proportion as the master's boarders, and just as the upper boarders have increased in wealth, in numbers, and in station, so the home boarders have been taken

from the lower ranks in life till I have had boys from our National School. My endeavour has been to do full justice to both; to give them absolute equality in school, but not to force companionship. My reason for this is, that having a large acquaintance with schools of this kind, I never knew a single instance in which, as in large towns, the day boarders had not driven out the upper boarders, or the upper boarders, as in Rugby and Harrow, had not driven out the day boys. The remedy is to keep them perfectly distinct out of school. If the day boys were to have permission to go into the play-ground they must be subject to the same rules as my boys; they must attend the calls, which they are not compelled to do now, they would have to pay their share of the expenses, and would be thrown into the companionship of boys who have twenty times as much pocket money; in fact they would speedily become a new set of fags to the other boys.

The Inspector—If you had no boarders you could not have a first-class school, and therefore there would not be within the reach of the Repton boys the excellent education there is now.

Dr. Pears—They receive from us, on account of the boarders being there, what they could not have if we were not permitted to have boarders. It has been put before you, sir, that we have built rooms, but they are lighted, warmed, and furnished by us, and the day boys use all these advantages without paying one penny for them.

Mr. Leech—I have cast no aspersion upon the conducting of the school, which I believe to be a most valuable one.

Dr. Pears—Indeed, Mr. Leech, you have not, everything you have done and said, has been done and said with ability and with perfect good humour.

SATURDAY—(THIRD DAY) FEBRUARY 18TH.

The Inspector took his seat at eleven o'clock this morning, and there were also present, Right Hon. Lord Chesterfield, Mr. Mousley, Mr. Leech, Mr. J. Barber, Dr. Pears, Rev. J. M. Messiter, Rev. G. P. Clarke, Mr. Griffith (Wolverhampton), Rev. E. W. Foley, Rev. J. M. Gresley, Rev. S. Hind, Mr. E. S. Gisborne, Mr. Wright, and many parishioners.

A long conversation, without any ultimate resolution, then took place upon the proposed establishment of a school at Etwall.

The Rev. Mr. Hind then said that he believed that the governors were not much to blame for any abuses that can be proved to have existed in the management of the trust, but they have unfortunately left points of detail to the masters of the hospital and school, and I think we cannot but consider that they have been somewhat remiss in the discharge of the trust confided

to them. I believe that a more right-minded, straightforward, popular nobleman than Lord Chesterfield does not exist, but, unfortunately, he and the other governors have, almost unwittingly joined in the continuance of a system, which I cannot but consider as most prejudicial, and in fact most unjust, to the inhabitants of Etwall and Repton. I have great pleasure in stating, that from an intimate acquaintance with the present inhabitants of Repton, a more kind and liberal-minded, and large hearted master of the school than Dr. Pears, has not been known in the memory of man, and I have much pleasure in thanking him on behalf of the great majority of the inhabitants of Repton, for the excellent improvement he has effected in the school, so far as regards the children of Repton parents. It forms a strong contrast to what it was when I was there. I think a middle class school would be very advantageous to Etwall.

Dr. Pears—I am much obliged to Mr. Hind, and I can speak as well of him in return.

Mr. Joseph Hilton said in the year 1824, I lived with Dr. Sleath at Repton School. There were thirty-six boarders when I went there, but the school got down to a low ebb. There were then about fourteen boys on the foundation, clothed and fed free of charge, and his master told him that the allowance was so ample, that at vacation times they had money to take home. Their clothing was of blue cloth with brass buttons, bearing Sir John Port's crest. They had to show themselves in their clothing once, and after then they generally cut off the buttons and put plain ones on. I never remember one Repton or Etwall boy on the foundation—they were strangers and were sons of gentlemen—one came even from Ireland—indeed from all parts of the kingdom.

A villager of Etwall, with a large family, said one of his lads was very intelligent, but a cripple. He went to Mr. Gresley, and asked him if he could get the boy on the foundation as a poor scholar, as he was not able to get his living. That was about three weeks ago, and Mr. Gresley said there was no chance—he should be glad to get his own boys on, but he could not; one governor had told him that he had on his list a number of applicants, and some as young as six months old—(laughter)—it was not for labouring classes, but for those poor gentlemen who could not educate their own sons.

Dr. Pears urged that the Will did not limit the freedom of the school to the boys of Repton and Etwall, and Mr. Leech examined two or three witnesses to show that they had failed to get their boys on the foundation. Amongst others

Mr. George Wall, of Etwall, said he had three sons, and had sent one of them to Repton about 1857, for three years. He found that the lad got on

well, but the distance was too far, and he had to get up very early to be there at half-past seven, and he had to be kept in school till half-past five, and in the winter walk home in the dark. His boy had complained very much that the boarders beat him and abused him. He told his son to name it to Dr. Pears, and he said he was afraid to do so, for if he did, they would lay in wait for him and abuse him again. A lad named Tomlinson was also beaten, and his parents wrote a note to the Doctor, who had the boarders all up, and threatened to suspend the offenders if ever such a thing occurred again. The lad failed in reading and arithmetic, but got on well in Latin and in geography.

By Dr. Pears—He had to leave at half-past five only three times a week. I never knew of a charge against my boys of illusing boys at Repton.

Dr. Pears—Your boy was well behaved and a good natured boy, but I am sorry to learn that he did not get on in arithmetic, for my system is not to make a lad's progress in the school depend altogether on classics.

John Green, a former Reptonian, said—I became an assistant in the Barnsley Grammar School, and am now a candidate for an appointment in the civil service. During the time I was at Repton, I found the early and late hours very irksome on account of the distance, but I found that the masters paid equal attention to all classes of boys. At times the boarders treated the day boys very cruelly; on one occasion I went into the Fives Court, and was immediately kicked out. I was never permitted to play under the archway. I did not know that there was a rule against it. I made much advancement in my education, but I never got out of the lower form. A Repton boy was the head of the school, and another was at the head of the fifth form. My parents found the books, the toll-gate, and the shelter place, at Repton, expensive. I could not have got as good an education at an ordinary village school, as I got there, and I found what I learnt there useful to me at Barnsley.

By Dr. Pears—I always stayed away on wet days by your directions. The main expense in books was at the entrance to a form. I would not say that I was on good terms with all the home boarders.

Dr. Pears—I have nothing more to ask you—you were a very good boy.

Mr. Leech—And a good specimen of what a good education will do; the son of a gardener.

Inspector Martin—I suppose, Mr. Green, that there was no difference between the treatment of boarders and day scholars?—None whatever.

Mr. Leech—It is right that the public should know that, I am satisfied of it, and I wish everybody was.

FOURTH DAY.

At the close of yesterdays proceedings the Inspector and myself were appointed by consent of both parties to go to the School, and examine the school deeds and leases. These were lodged in a chest which had three locks upon it, one of which was kept by the head school master, another by the Master of the Almsmen, and the third by the senior Almsman. On examination we found many deeds missing, the cause of which I dare not mention here. A list was made of all that we found in the chest, and the Inspector said he should in due time examine them closely.

THURSDAY—(FIFTH DAY) FEBRUARY 23RD.

The adjourned Inquiry was resumed by the Inspector, on Thursday, 23rd of February, at eleven o'clock. There was again a very large attendance of parishioners and others interested in the Inquiry. The Rev. J. M. Gresley (Master of the Hospital), Dr. Pears, J. H. Mousley, Esq., E. S. Gisborne, Esq., T. Worthington, Esq., Mr. Griffith (Wolverhampton), and Mr. Wright were also present.

Mr. John Brown—I am a school-master, residing at Etwall. I am Secretary to the Committee. There is a subscription, and £140 16s. 6d. has been collected to defray the expenses which might be incurred in this Inquiry. The Committee has been in existence about two months. The chief members of the Committee are Major Mosley, Mr. Wright, Mr. Stone, and most of the principal inhabitants of Etwall.

Dr. Pears examined by Mr. Leech said: Ward's gift for books is £20 per annum. It is divided half-yearly among the eight foundation scholars. Three pounds each to the four seniors; two pounds each to the four juniors per annum. Their books when in a lower part of the school cost them less, but when they rise to the upper, they cost on the average more. In my time this gift has been given to none but foundation scholars. The names on the foundation are—Fitzherbert, son of the widow of a barrister, living at Weymouth. I should call him a very fit person to have it. The next is—Smith, the son of a barrister, residing in London. The third is Fanshaw, the son of a clergyman at Bedford. The next is Aldons, the son of a clergyman at Sheffield. Those four are appointed by competition. The first appointed by the Governors is—Tillard, son of a clergyman in Norfolk, appointed by Lord Chesterfield. The next is Brickwell, the son of a medical man at Amershaw, appointed by Lord Hastings. The next

is—Robinson, the son of a clergyman at Walmsley, near Birmingham, appointed by Sir R. Gerrard. The last is—Purchase, whose father lives at Stroud, but I do not know his profession, appointed by Sir J. H. Crewe. I ought to say when the Governors gave up the nomination, Sir John Crewe had four times only. I live in a separate house from the school, the Act of Parliament gives me leave. I do not receive £30 for rent, that sum is provided for me. Small sums have been paid for repairs by the Corporation, but certainly not £500. I have no knowledge of what was charged before my time. Etwall and Repton boys are allowed to compete for the scholarships. I have read the documents constituting this charity and my opinion is, that it was contemplated by Sir John Port, that the scholars should be strangers by offering board and lodging. Not to the exclusion of Etwall and Repton boys, however, I think it is offered to the whole world. I think it would be injurious to allow the boarders to play with the free boys. My belief is, there was no corporation playground. The boarders play inside the gateway, the free boys are not permitted to do so. I do not know that the home boys pay for a playground. It is not improbable that one of the home boys might have been kicked out for playing in the fives courts. It would be, however, by some of the younger ones, I don't think the elder ones would do so. He would be regarded as an intruder. The amount of my stipend is £360. The charge of £10 in the accounts is paid to the examiner, who is a stranger. It is a loss to me, it is the order of the Governors. I have sixty boarders in the house with me, besides four of the foundation scholars. The terms are sixty guineas each. The allowance for the foundation scholars if seniors is £45. I have two seniors and two juniors. The only extra charge to them is for washing, except some trifling expenses. Mr. Messiter has thirty boarders at the same terms, and two foundation scholars. I receive five guineas a head from each of those boys. Mr. Clarke has eight boarders, his terms are the same, and I receive the same from each of those scholars. There are four other boarding houses; and six under masters. There are at present 156 boarders. There are 198 boys altogether in the school; 156 boarders, eight foundation scholars, and thirty-four home boarders. The rent for the playground in the account is charged to the corporation fund—the day boys do not play in it. I am aware this school offers but little to Etwall. I have only one boy from Etwall, except four sons of the master of the hospital. I think it would be desirable for a school to be erected at Etwall, provided it was not a mere elementary school. Something that would draw the population up to it, and be a kind of ambition for the boys to get up to, as a sort of ticket of admission to Repton. It would do what my lowest form at Repton now does.

By the Inspector—French is part of the school work, and all the boys down to the two-third form learn it. Every boy pays a fee to the French master. I ask the parents first if they wish the boy to learn, and if they do not, I find them other work. If they do they pay 10s. a term, or 30s. a year. It is made quite a part of the school work. The Repton boys from the village prize it quite as much as the others, and I have seen where it has been of great use to a boy. If there were no boarders we could not have French taught then at all. If there were no boarders it would not be worth my while to be at the school at all.

By Mr. Leech—Since the opening to competition, the boys generally go to the University. I should feel greatly relieved if the management of the estates were removed from us.

By the Inspector—German is not taught in the school. Drawing is not taught in the school. The foundation boys in the house are a loss to me. The style of living is greatly changed to what it formerly was, and they have the benefit of it. I think, as a general rule, that the estates would be better managed by a practical surveyor or land agent than a clergyman, although I know some clergymen who are excellent men of business. I cannot give an opinion as to the working of fines on renewal of leases, but I think it is not a good plan to grant leases for twenty-one years. I think it would be better that trustees should not be local men. I do not think it at all necessary that they should be gentlemen in the neighbourhood. I should think it preferable to be extended over a considerable area—over three or four neighbouring counties. I do not think it desirable to have local trustees for the hospital. The main point is the difficult question, the association of day boys and boarders. I was invited to the school as a public school. I believe the sum of £6 was first charged by Dr. Peile, when the boys had only the little space within the arch to play in. He surrendered part of his own paddock for the purpose of a play-ground, and in consideration of that, the governors I believe, ordered this payment to be made towards the rent. My belief is that the Governors have never ordered any money except for the foundation scholars, therefore, the play-ground was intended for them. I do not think it was intended for the home boarders. It must be borne in mind the home boarders have their play-ground at their own homes, and the boarders have not.

Mr. Griffith differed from Dr. Pears as to the foundation scholarships, not being exclusive for Etwall and Repton, because board and lodging was mentioned. The Blue Coat School at Wolverhampton, was an analogous case, board and lodging being mentioned; but it was held that it referred to Wolverhampton children alone, and none others were admitted to the school. Mr. Griffith read an extract in proof of his statement.

Mr. Smedley said: In 1833 the governors made an order that five or six acres of land was to be rented for the boys to play at cricket in; so much land could not be obtained, therefore the late master let a meadow of his own, which he rented under Sir F. Burdett. The boys were not allowed to go into this ground while the grass was cut and carried, but they played anywhere they could. After the grass was cut they were allowed to go into the master's meadow, and he charged them £25 or £30 a year for it.

Joseph Wright, examined by Mr. Leech, said: I am owner and occupier of the Hepnalls farm in Etwall. I am sixty years of age. I am a guardian of the poor. My attention has been called by the parishioners to this charity. Beyond what is done in the school for four boys at the school, nothing is done for Etwall by this charity. Three of these boys are the sons of the master. Since I have lived here there has been a great deal of agitation and several meetings have been held. The parishioners are quite unanimous in their action on this matter. I have paid particular attention to the will, the charter, and two Acts of Parliament. It is the unanimous opinion of the parishioners that the Lancashire property only was left to the school. There has been a legal opinion upon it. This is a point we wish particularly to impress upon the Commissioner's attention. As to the appointment of the foundation scholars the parishioners think they ought to consist of boys from Repton and Etwall only. We have had a legal opinion upon this subject also, which is favourable to us. I think it would have been inconsistent for Sir John Port to have drawn others here to become members of this corporate body. In 1832 the governors made an order that none but Etwall and Repton boys should be taught free. In defiance of that they have been strangers at a cost of £340 per year. I think their having to wear clothes with Sir John Port's crest, shows they were not to be strangers. The distance is so great, and costs of tolls and shelter makes it equal to what they would have to pay at another school. The boys also complain of the stigma cast upon them by the boarders. I do not think the people of Etwall care for Latin and Greek education; they wish for a good commercial school, which would benefit in after life, more than classics. It is the unanimous wish that a school of this kind was established. This is a point we press more than any other point. I see no reason why the benefit of such a school should not be extended to girls also. I am of opinion that the management of the charity should be entrusted to a general body of trustees, and that the trustees should be local, elected by the ratepayers of the two parishes. I consider Sir John Port wished to benefit these two parishes. If we had had a body of resident trustees, I do not think the present Inquiry would have been

needed. I think that every judicial act should be done at a meeting. I have looked into the management of the estates, and find the present system a complete farce. I consider the estates should be managed by a practical surveyor, which could be done at a much less cost than the present system. The surveyors accounts are also very heavy now. The master of the hospital has charged £21 for visiting the estates. He has a stipend of £180 a year, a house rent free, which the late master let for £70 a year. There is no mention made in the will of a house for the master. I consider it a waste of the property. My opinion is that fines upon leases are very injurious to the landlord. It takes a portion of the tenant's capital, which should be placed upon the farm; consequently these leases are held by the same family for generations. I think these farms should be let from year to year. There is no doubt there has been a diminution of income of £600 a year. I find there is a sum £13,900 lost between the value of sale and purchase of property. It is my opinion that these accounts should be printed and published in the newspapers every year. If the estates were properly let they would bring in a larger income than now. The income is now paid away to what it was never intended. I would dispense with the porter and his wife and save £40 a year. The rent of the master's house should also come into the funds. The £1,600 and £1,500 in funds and exchequer bills would be more remunerative if invested in land.

The Inspector: You tell me the income has been reduced to £640 a year. I wish you to know that all that has been done was by the orders, and under the authority of the Court of Chancery, who is responsible for what has been done. Before any sale or purchase was made it was referred to the Master of the Court of Chancery, and every step has been taken under the sanction and protection of the Court.

Mr. Leech: In this case we have nothing to thank the Court of Chancery for as to any paternal care.

Mr. Ward (examined by the Inspector), said—I was at Repton school from 1819 to 1821. I resided at Repton up to 1851. I have known twenty foundation boys there at one time. Two were Repton boys before 1819, and one since. I found there was a distinction between the boarders and house boarders, but much greater than now. I know Dr. Peile, the late Master, paid a school-master, Jarvis, £40 a year, on condition that he took Repton boys at half-price, so as to prevent them going to the free school. I was fourteen years of age when I entered the school. When I was ten my father took me to Dr. Sleath, but he said the school was full, and there was no room for the village boys. He recommended my father to send me to Mr. Pattinson, the incumbent, who kept a middle-class

school. I went there three or four years. Mr. Pattinson became paralysed, and I then got into the school.

WEDNESDAY—(SIXTH DAY), MARCH 1st.

The adjourned Inquiry was resumed at the Spread Eagle Inn, Etwall, on Wednesday last, by the Inspector, F. O. Martin, Esq., Rev. J. M. Gresley, J. H. Monsley, Esq., J. Barber, Esq., Dr. Pears, Rev. J. Messiter, Rev. — Clarke, Mr. Griffith (Wolverhampton), Major Mosley, Mr. Wright, Etwall, and a large number of parishioners were present.

The Inspector read a lengthy statement which he had prepared, showing the amount paid into Court for sales, and the amounts withdrawn for purchases, and stated that the last sale appeared to have taken place in 1842.

The following is an abstract:—

	£	s.	d.
Produce of Sales paid into Court	37,733	18	10
Interest on Exchequer Bills	3,299	2	1
Ditto	386	0	1
			<hr/>
	41,419	1	0
Investments	35,258	19	1
			Costs.
Before the Act	600	0	0
For obtaining the Act Taxed at	1,216	16	1
Other Taxed Costs	2,895	16	8
Ditto	192	8	10
Bill not Taxed paid in 1833.....	1,310	0	0
			<hr/>
	6,215	1	7
Investments and Costs	£41,474	0	8

Dr. Pears, in answer to Mr. Leech, said he had received an application from Mr. Hare, as late assistant master, for leave to take boarders, which he declined to accede to. He considered it very essential that the boys should either board with their parents or with the masters actually engaged in tuition. He certainly should decline to conduct the school on any other plan. He attributed the great fluctuation which had formerly taken place in the school to this plan not being adopted. They had purchased the Mitre at Repton, which was being fitted up as a boarding house. Some of the assistant masters would reside there, which would be no deviation from the principle he had mentioned. There was a National school at Repton; he believed the sons of small farmers and tradesmen went there, and it acted as a preparatory school to his own.

Mr. Leech—I have received several letters from Repton on this subject.

Major Mosley examined by Mr. Leech, said—In Macaulay's time there were four boys boarders in Mrs. Muggleston's house. I never saw the sitting or bed-room. They dined with Mrs. Muggleston, I believe, who was a widow.

By Dr. Pears—I think the school and general discipline at the time of Macaulay was in a good state. When Macaulay died there was about seventy scholars.

By the Inspector: He was succeeded by Dr. Peile. The school fell off in his time I believe, but I do not know anything of it of my own knowledge.

Dr. Pears said that Dr. Peile started with sixty or seventy boys, which was raised to 100, and afterwards fell to forty. Of these, ten were independent boarders, the remaining thirty being foundation boys and town scholars.

Dr. Pears, examined by Mr. Barber. To the best of my belief there were ninety-five scholars in Mr. Macaulay's time when the school was most flourishing. When he died there were rather over sixty-three. I was appointed head master in June, 1864. I was not aware that I was to be one of the committee of managers until I came into residence. All the purchases had been completed before I became head master, except one, which amounted to £408. That purchase was made before, but the money was paid in my time. There was a proposition made which was not carried out. The lease to Sir H. Des Vœux was made in the year I came, but I was then a young member of the audit and took no part in it. The lease was made on the valuation of the surveyor. We have been applied to by a person, (but not Sir H. Des Vœux) to renew a lease before it had expired on the same terms as the old one, but with one voice we refused to make such arrangement. The question was brought before the corporation by Mr. Gresley, to whom the proposition had been made, and it was unanimously rejected. The chapel at Repton was built exclusively for the use of the school. The charity contributed nothing towards the chapel. The corporation has not contributed anything towards the erection of the assistant masters' houses, they are private property. No corporation money has been laid out on my house except for trifling repairs to the roof since I came. Before I came to take possession the governors directed something to be done to the drainage. In the advertisement inserted in the newspapers for a head master it was stated there would be a head master's house, and I accepted the appointment upon those terms. The income of the corporation may be stated at £2,400 a year, and the fixed payments at £2,330 (£2,100 would be the fixed payments exclusive of Rodsley), which leaves a surplus of about £70. The order of the

Governors of 1832, to the best of my belief has never been acted upon. I have never received one shilling beyond my stipend out of the corporation estates. I never made any charge to the foundation scholars, except for washing, beyond the sum allowed. I consider the annual loss of these scholars would be to me for a senior £30 and a junior £35. I am in favour of an entire reconstruction of the committee of managers. I do not wish to retain the duty of managing the estates of the corporation. That is also the wish of the other schoolmasters. I do not say so because I feel implicated in anything wrong in past management. I speak simply for the interests of the school.

In reply to Mr. Barber, Mr. Messiter, and Mr. Clarke said, they had not received any sums beyond their usual stipend from the corporation funds.

The Inspector: Dr. Pears, would you continue at the school if you only had your stipend?

Dr. Pears: Certainly not. I was attracted to the school as being a public school.

Mr. Jerram examined by Mr. Leech, said: I have four children, and I think it would be most desirable to have a middle-class school at Etwall. I think it would be desirable to have a new batch of trustees to manage the charity. I think they should reside within a radius of ten or fifteen miles. I never considered it was in accordance with the opinions of the parishioners that the foundation scholars should come from a distance. Their opinion is, that they should be the sons of the inhabitants of Etwall and Repton.

Daniel Myring examined by Mr. Leech, said: I am the owner of considerable property in Etwall. I think it is very necessary that there should be a good school in Etwall. The great distance to Repton is a disadvantage. I agree with the last witness that the trustees should live within a radius of ten or fifteen miles. About thirty years ago I tried to get my son on the foundation but could not succeed, so I sent him as a boarder to a school a Mackworth.

Mr. George Griffith sworn and examined by Mr. Leech, said: I reside at Wolverhampton. I am not an accountant by profession.

The Inspector said if that was the case he did not see what Mr. Griffith could say more than he had been able to gain from his own investigation.

Mr. Leech said that Mr. Griffith had been engaged by the committee to investigate the accounts, and had paid considerable attention to the matter.

The Inspector: I have also paid great attention, and have carefully gone over all the accounts, and I would rather trust my own investigation. I am desirous of hearing everything I can, but I do not see the use of

having two advocates. I do not wish to flatter you, Mr. Leech, but I think you have conducted this Inquiry with exceedingly good taste and ability.

Mr. Leech: Then I will, with your permission, read the Report prepared by Mr. Griffith, on behalf of the committee.

The following was my REPORT. It was assented to by the Committee of Parishioners, and appears in pages 84-5-6 of the Charity Commissioners' Inspector's Report. It was ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, on May the 13th, 1867. The price of this Report is 11d., and can be had at Messrs. Hansard's office, Abingdon Street, Westminster :—

A Committee of the Inhabitant Ratepayers of Etwall appointed me, on the 25th January, to get up this case :—

My chief duty has been to examine the accounts of income and expenditure ; and I have, on the sheet marked (A),* given such expenditure, from the year 1853 to the year 1862, both inclusive.

I have also given on the sheet marked B,† the income from the year 1858 to the year 1864, both inclusive.

By the latter it will be found that the average annual income for the past seven years amounted to £2,394 15s. 11d.

In the year 1817 the income amounted to £2,800, and, from the increased value of land in general, it is to be presumed that bad sales or bad exchanges of some farms, forming part of this corporation's estates, have been the cause of the present low rental ; the Committee, therefore, rely upon a searching investigation by the Charity Commissioners into this branch of the Inquiry.

The Committee find that some benefactions of the founder (Sir John Port) have not found their way into the hands of the corporation, viz. :—

	£	s.	d.
Rent of game (say)	40	0	0
Rent of paddock (say).....	5	0	0
Rent-charge on Sparrow Flatts Farm towards repairs of the road between Etwall and Radbourn (this property is in the Hamlet of Burnstone).....	1	0	0

* The paper marked A was a table of the expenditure of the funds of the endowment for twelve years—viz., 1853 to 1864, the total of which was £29,015 8s. 10d.

† B was a table of the Income of the endowment for seven years—viz., 1858 to 1864. Total £16,763 11s. 6d.

The Committee also find that in some cases the fines on renewals of the leases are not equal to one year's rent.

The Committee also find that some of the farms leased by the corporation are underlet at large profits, such as the property let to the Rev. F. Ward Spilsbury for £103 10s., is re-let by his heirs at a rent of £200; and the property let to Sir Henry William Des Vœux for £282 per annum is re-let at some £380.

The Committee also find a serious difference in the rentals of the properties purchased with the proceeds of the sales of lands. The following is a statement, in round numbers, on this point:—

Lands bought on the Cotton Estate by the Corporation in 1827

(See Catalogue).

	£	s.	d.
32 acres at £89 per acre	2,848	0	0
69 acres at £90 ditto	6,221	0	0
73 acres at £89 ditto (Mr. Chas. Wall, Etwall) ...	6,500	0	0

Land bought from Mr. John Heacock in 1835, and from Mr. Moss, a Solicitor at Derby; viz.—

	£	s.	d.
Burnstone Meadow, 5A. 3R. 18P.	465	0	0
Megs Pits 7 1 30	670	0	0
Blakelays .....14 0 0	1,680	0	0
Intake .....20 0 0	2,000	0	0

Both Totals..... £20,384 0 0

The Corporation must show, by their solicitor, the amount of the sales against these.

The Committee deprecate the system of letting with fines, and hand in a list of lettings in the years 1859, 1860, and 1862 (marked C).*

The Committee regret to find that the benefaction of Mr. Ward bequeathed for the purpose of buying books for the "poor boys," is not devoted to the benefit and use of boys born in Repton and Etwall; they also are surprised to find no publicity given as to who the present foundationers are, and from whence they come, as thereby it would be seen whether they are "poor boys," and natives of Repton and Etwall or not. A paper hereon (marked D) † is handed in herewith.

* C was a list of the fines on leasing the farms for the years 1859-60-62 amounting to £785 10s.

† D was a list of the cost of the books given to non-parishioners' sons for twelve years—viz., from 1853 to 1864, amounting to £195.

The Committee also find that, in the accounts furnished by the Hon. the Board of Charity Commissioners, there are the following charges, which they consider should not be charged to and paid out of the Corporation funds :—

Rent of head master's residence £30 0 0

because the third master ought to reside in some house at his own expense, then the head and second masters could reside in their appointed houses belonging to the Corporation.

The Committee also find that four schoolmasters are paid out of the Corporation funds, instead of three, as ordered by the Act ; and that the rent of the school play-ground, which is exclusively kept for the use of the boarders, should not be charged to the Corporation funds.

The Committee are also of opinion that the fee paid for the examination of the foundationers on their election (£10) should not be paid out of the foundation property, rents, or funds.

The Committee are further of opinion that the heavy expenditure in extending the accommodation in the second master's house for the increase and accommodation of the boarders is contrary to the Will and Charter of the foundation. They refer in this point to the accounts, by which it will be seen the following sums have been so expended :—

	£	s.	d.
1859 and 1863. Rev. G. P. Clark's house, alterations...	54	10	0
1859 : November 18. The Rev. G. M. Messiter, for alterations and additions in his house.....	100	0	0
1861 : No date. Ditto ditto ditto ditto ...	50	0	0
„ November 13. Ditto ditto ditto ditto ...	50	0	0

The Committee have been advised that such payments should be authorised by the Board of Charity Commissioners, and that such sums should not be paid into the second master's hands. (See Act 16 & 17 Vict. cap. 137.)

The Committee also complain of the survey charge of the master of the hospital for £21 1s. 6d. for his looking over the estates during the first year of his office.

The Committee also complain of the payment to the Rev. Mr. Bigsby of the sum of £10 10s., which the master of the hospital should have paid out of his own pocket, as he charged for his own services during the same period.

The Committee also complain of the leases only being signed by the master of the hospital, instead of by seven members of the corporation.

The Committee have no desire to disturb the present system of taking boarders, but they object to the application of *any portion* of the founda-

tion funds to the benefit of the masters of the school, in connection with the boarders. They wish to bear testimony to the fairness of the manner in which the education of home boarders is carried on in the school, and to the kindness of the head master to them in all cases.

The Committee desire to say that they hope they will be met with a ready concurrence in their requests or demands, as follows :—

1st. That a new school be built at Etwall, and two masters appointed thereto to teach the sons of residents of the parish of Etwall.

2nd. That a body of trustees be appointed in the usual way, one-half of which body to be residents of Etwall, and the other half to be residents of Repton.

3rd. That the benefaction of Mr. Ward be divided between the two schools in the purchase of books, but only to be given to the sons of residents.

4th. That the "poor boys" named in the Will, the Charter, and the Act of Parliament, be the sons of residents, and not the sons of strangers for the future.

5th. That the porter and nurse be selected from the residents in the almshouses.

6th. That each of the almsmen have a key for the outer gate, and that the paddock adjoining the hospital be restored to their uses.

That if the residents' sons be charged a capitation fee, such fee be paid out of the corporation funds, as at the Birmingham free Grammar School and branch schools founded by King Edward the Sixth.

That the foundation monies of £45 to each of four boys, and of £40 to each of other four boys, be paid only to sons of residents in future.

That the almsmen should be natives of Etwall and of Repton.

That the modern languages and a sound commercial education be taught in both of the schools, in addition to the classics.

That a clerk be appointed to keep the accounts and do all the legal business of the corporation.

That the corporation accounts be published every year in the Derby papers.

That all the corporation deeds and documents be sent to the Charity Commissioners' office in London.

That the systems of letting under fines and sub-letting to be discontinued.

That as the eight foundationers are taught and fed and housed free, and also have their books free, the sons of residents should be free of education fees, such being ordered by the governors in one of their bye-laws.

In reply to the Inspector, Dr. Pears, said: I send a form to the governor whose turn it is to nominate a foundation scholar, and he returns it to

me with the name of his nominee filled in. Each governor nominates in his turn.

Major Mosley said: I suggest that the corporation should contract with the trustees of the Willington Bridge, for all the Etwall boys going to Repton, it would amount to about £1 per head. I think they should be put in the same position as Repton boys. I would suggest also, that a new Board of Management be appointed to consist of seven members, three to be appointed by the governors, two by Etwall, and two by Repton, and that they should have the entire management and control of the estates, and that all payments be made by cheques, signed by three of the trustees at least. No trustee should have any interest, direct or indirect, in the corporation property. I would also suggest that they should meet twice a year and investigate, on oath, any complaints made to them.

The Inspector: That would require an Act of Parliament.

Major Mosley: With regard to the trustees themselves, I would suggest that the parishioners of Etwall and Repton make their own selection, and that they should be elected in the same way as guardians, or churchwardens, now are.

Mr. Barber, and Dr. Pears, both expressed strong objections to Major Mosley's suggestions for the election of trustees, and thought on giving the matter more mature consideration, he would see how undesirable it was.

Major Mosley said he had already given the matter his most serious consideration, and certainly thought the plan would work well.

Mr. Leech, on rising to reply, said he had that moment been requested by those for whom he acted, to address a few observations to the Court upon the whole case, although he scarcely thought it necessary, as the Inspector would form his opinion more from the evidence which had been laid before him, than any remarks which could be offered. He considered however that it was only fair to the master of the school to say, that the allegations made at the commencement of the Inquiry as to the misappropriation of Ward's gift, and other matters in connection with the school, had been entirely swept away. The parties who instructed him were perfectly satisfied, that there was not a single tittle of complaint against the masters of the school or those who had the control over it. The management of the school was beyond all praise, and although every topic arising upon this branch of the charity had been fully ventilated, good would doubtless arise from the investigation, as groundless suspicions and rumours would no longer exist, but there was one alloy or drawback in the case of the annual charge of £6 for a play ground, used principally by the boarders, which he hoped would not appear in any future accounts. The points they had established were that a board of resident trustees

should be appointed, and whatever difference of opinion there might be as to their appointment they thought the suggestions made by Major Mosley were the best, and they wished to see them carried out. He (Mr. Leech) did not think they could improve upon the plan that gentleman had suggested, and all the parishioners were unanimous in their opinion, that the trustees should be elective and resident in the neighbourhood of Etwall and Repton. The parishioners still submitted, and he (Mr. Leech) did so, without any feeling of disrespect, that the £70 a year for the master's house should go into the funds of the charity. The shooting was also part of the corporation property as much as the freehold itself, and they contended that the amount for which it was let, should also go to the funds. A very important point had arisen during the Inquiry, and he thought they were all agreed upon it, that a middle class school should be established at Etwall. Owing to the distance of the Repton school, many of the Etwall boys had been unable to have the benefit of the charity, to which they were justly entitled, and they trusted that subject would have the serious attention of the Inspector. The present system of leases they contended was a disadvantage to the charity, and they were of opinion the property should be let year by year, at a rack rental. He contended that the imposing of fines was bad in principle in two respects; in the first place it precluded a man of small capital, (although he might be an excellent farmer) from applying for, or endeavouring to obtain a farm; secondly, in the majority of cases, the fine itself was a portion of the capital which ought to be invested on the land to the benefit of the landlord as well as the tenant. He, therefore, thought there should be no distinction between the letting of the corporation lands, and that of other property in the county. He also contended that so long as the almsmen obeyed the rules for the management of the hospital, that they should be at liberty to go to Derby or Burton, or elsewhere, without being fined. That subject had, however, been well ventilated, and he trusted good would come of it. There were also sums invested in exchange bills, which should have been devoted to the purchase of land, which would have produced a larger income, and so have increased the funds and objects of the Charity. Mr. Leech next adverted to the estates in Lancashire, which were devised by Sir John Port, and which he contended should only be appropriated to the purposes of the school, and that the remainder of the funds should be devoted to the other parts of the Charity. With respect to the foundation boys it was perfectly true that the records were silent as to who they should be, still it did appear to him strange that Sir John Port, who was born, died, and buried in Etwall, should have left a fund to be dispensed amongst the sons of strangers, particularly if they were of the wealthy class. It seemed

perfectly inconsistent that such should have been his wish, and it appeared to him (Mr. Leech), that there was no doubt he intended it for the sons of parishioners of Repton and Etwall. Mr. Leech concluded by saying, I am deputed to thank you, Sir, not only for the manner in which you have conducted this Inquiry, and for the courtesy you have shown to every one but for the successful attempts you have made to make peace between the Master of the hospital and the almsmen, and we think, if the master of the hospital should agree to your suggestion, to let the gate of the Croft be unlocked, that the old men will not fail in rendering him that homage to which he is fairly entitled. After some appropriate remarks upon the better state of feeling at that moment existing between the master of the hospital and the almsmen, Mr. Leech, concluded by saying: This is the first charity Inquiry I have been engaged upon, and in conducting it I have not considered it as a cause on which there are two sides, but my sole desire has been that every one should join heart and hand in endeavouring to ascertain what grievances there are, in order that they may be removed. If I have said anything that has been painful to any person I deeply regret it, and I hope that now my duties are closed, I have not found an enemy or lost a friend. Mr. Leech then resumed his seat amidst considerable applause.

The Inspector, addressing Mr. Leech, said: I am very grateful to you for the able assistance you have rendered to me during this Inquiry.

Dr. Pears said: I wish to offer my thanks also to you, Mr. Martin, for the patient and judicious manner in which you have conducted this Inquiry; and I must express my satisfaction that the promoters of this investigation have been represented by Mr. Leech; not only because he has conducted the case with courtesy and good feeling, but because those who instructed him must be satisfied that nothing has escaped his scrutiny. The ignorant suspicions which no doubt have been entertained as to the administration of the income of this corporation are now, I trust, dismissed for ever; and I hope that if any persons that are now present who have expressed such imputations, or listened to them on the part of others, they will do us the justice to bear testimony to their complete refutation. Let me next say a word of the late master of the hospital, Mr. Mousley. He came to the management of the property at a time when it was seriously embarrassed by past mismanagement, and he set himself to the task of retrieving and restoring with singular integrity and unselfishness. I believe him also to have been a just and strict disciplinarian, and to have managed the hospital successfully. Mr. Gresley, my colleague, will allow me to say of him, that I believe him to have been sincerely desirous to discharge the same duties with the same care and fidelity. He has had great difficulties

to contend with in the present excited state of the parish, but it is due to him to say that during the whole of these proceedings I have not heard him utter a harsh or unkind expression of any man connected with the hospital or parish. I may be allowed to notice also that I quite concurred with him in the propriety of paying out of the corporation funds his expenses in visiting the estates. I concur in the suggestion that more good might be done to the poor, if the sum now actually paid to the almsmen in weekly stipends (£500 a year) were distributed in sums of £10 each to fifty poor men of Etwall and the neighbouring parishes at their own homes. In the formation of a new scheme it may be well to consider whether a preparatory school at Repton, may not be a benefit to the inhabitants, if the principles which regulate the charity admit of such an enlargement. But in case of increased educational advantages for Repton, I must ask, on behalf of the master of the school, as well as the interest of the place, that some limit, or check, should be placed on the right of strangers to come and settle in the place, for the sake of gratuitous instruction. The class of persons who do this is not that for which the school was intended. They are often persons of good fortune; and the increase of that kind of house-boarders, has a sure tendency to push out those boys who have certainly a prior claim on the school. I must ask, also, for some definition of the term resident. It is most injurious to the discipline of the school, that persons, professing to be inhabitants, should really live elsewhere, and leave their sons to the care of a servant, or no care at all. I have only further, Sir, to express the hope that the almsmen of the hospital will have the good sense to see the necessity of obedience and submission to the regulations. It will be, indeed, a mistaken kindness, if the part taken by the inhabitants in this Inquiry shall lead them to indulge in a spirit of insubordination. I hope you, Sir, may take an opportunity of pointing out to them that one of the principal objects of this investigation is to secure the maintenance of discipline and good order for the future.

The Inspector said: He should be glad if Dr. Pears would submit to him his deliberate thoughts on the question he had referred to, so that he might lay them before the Commissioners.

The public Inquiry then terminated. The Inspector will in due course make his report to the Charity Commissioners.*

In consequence of the uncalled for and improper remarks made by Dr. Pears at the conclusion of the Inquiry, Mr. Wright

* The Evidence is taken from the columns of the *Derby Reporter*, newspaper, (from February 14th to March 3rd).

felt it incumbent upon him to contradict them in a public manner, as follows:—

THE ETWALL AND REPTON CHARITIES.

To the Editor of the Derbyshire Advertiser.

Sir,—In the Supplement to the *Advertiser* of last week, you quoted some remarks made by Dr. Pears at the close of the Inspector's Inquiry on the above charities. I am, Sir, very unwilling at this stage of the proceedings to make any observations at all, and should not have done so but for the remark made by the Inspector to Dr. Pears at the close of the Inquiry, wishing him to submit his deliberate thoughts on the question, that he may lay them before the Commissioners. As this has been a public Inquiry, rendered necessary by continual abuses, which had almost arrived at a climax, whereby one part of the Charity was threatened with almost annihilation, I should have remained silent, but having taken an interest in this Inquiry, and having collected all the facts which were brought forward, I am in a great measure responsible to the parishioners of Etwall and Repton, and to the public generally for this investigation. We have been complimented by all classes of persons for the manner in which this Inquiry has been conducted. We sought no vindictive feeling against any one, but we had strong impressions on our minds that these charities had been diverted from the intent of the Founder's Will, the Charter of Incorporation, and the Acts of Parliament which have been passed to regulate them, and I am sorry that the remarks stated by Dr. Pears should not have been made in the same spirit as that which emanated from the parishioners. He states, after complimenting Mr. Leech, that "The ignorant suspicions which, no doubt, have been entertained of the income of this Corporation are now, I trust, dismissed for ever." Does Dr. Pears rest satisfied in his own mind that the income and expenditure have been such that every one ought to be satisfied with them? I have only to refer him to the accounts which have been laid before the Inspector, and ask him whether those accounts do not contain some very great errors? And what has been Dr. Pears's opinion, as stated in this Inquiry,—"That there ought to be a different Board of Management, as parties interested are not proper persons to act on a Board of Management." Does Dr. Pears consider all the parishioners ignorant of these accounts? If so, he is very much mistaken. I have myself given up hours of study to them, and have not been able to apply them to the proper use for which the income was originally intended. This is what the parishioners require, and I think they will not rest satisfied till it is accomplished. There must be a new Board of Management, and in which the parishes must have confidence,

by having the power to elect proper persons, who ought to be pledged to carry out the founder's bequest in every way possible, not in the way that Dr. Pears suggests—by giving fifty poor men £10 a year each, of Etwall and the neighbouring parishes. Surely this must be a very great violation of the founder's will and the Act of Geo. 4, cap. 38, where it states distinctly that the poor persons entitled to be members of the corporation, shall be persons belonging to the parish of Etwall alone. I must confess that I was much surprised to hear such a statement come from a person of such high attainments as the Rev. Dr. Pears. In reference to the almsmen, he hopes that they will have the good sense, to see the necessity of obedience and submission. Was there even anything to the contrary proved in the Inquiry? Could these poor old men, who have all of them arrived at the full age allotted to man, be content to have their stipend stopped, at the whim of the master of the hospital, for the non-adoration required by him, and rendered destitute by the consequences: and are the parishioners to stand by and take no step towards their relief? Hard, indeed, must be that heart which would remain unmoved on such a question. In conclusion, the parishioners think they ought to have a copy, of the private correspondence submitted to the Commissioners by Dr. Pears as requested by the Inspector, in order that they might be allowed the same privileges.

Yours, &c.,

JOSH. WRIGHT.

Etwall, March 10th, 1865.



CHAPTER XI.

“Not he who scatters round pure learning’s gifts,
But he who still withholds them is the man ;
Not he who the uneducated lifts,
But he who spurns them follows the best plan ;
How can the sluggish horse that never ran,
Share in the joys the rapid courser knows ?
How can the blind th’ ethereal regions scan ?
As well plant grapes amidst eternal snows,
As hope to warm the hearts of learning’s bitter foes.”

RIBBESFORD, CANTO II, v. 25.

A Bazaar was held in the Old Corn Exchange of Wolverhampton, on April 20th, 21st, and 22nd, in aid of the expenses incurred by the restoration of the chancel of St. Peter’s Church. I was solicited by two ladies to write something upon it, which they said should be printed and sold at their stall. This I felt great pleasure in doing, especially as they were daughters of my esteemed friend and close neighbour, Mr. Henry Gibbons, of the North Road :—

Oh ! have you seen our grand Bazaar ?
It has of novelties very far
More than the Exhibition had,
’Bout which all country folks went mad.
The stalls contain gems of all kinds,
Dazzling the senses, bewitching all minds ;
There are works in silk, and works in wool,
Enough to fill a warehouse full ;
Slippers and shoes, and fans and lockets,
To drain all the cash you have in your pockets :

There are ladies behind the stalls whose ways
 Show that they know how the wind to raise,
 They have come in their very best arrayed,
 With silks and satins in fashion made.

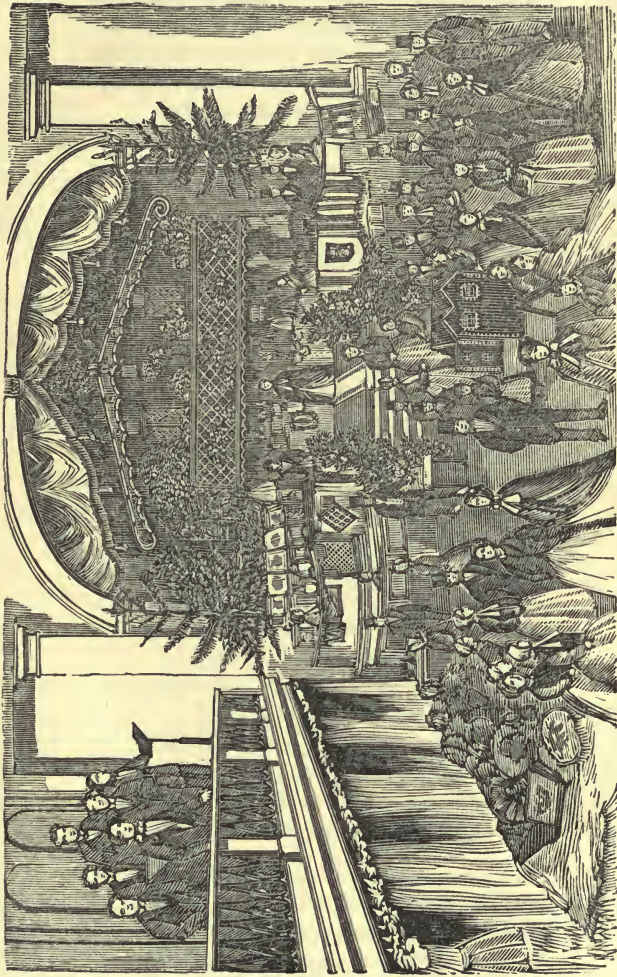
So, if you wish to be a star,
 You must repair to our Bazaar !

There are purses made from old sows' ears,
 And bottles filled with mermaids' tears ;
 There are scales from out the salt, salt, sea,
 And pots of old maids scandal tea ;
 There are Jewish gifts of the ancient horn
 Shed in old days by the Unicorn ;
 There are *belles* for ringing, and bells to ring,—
 And good bank notes, and notes to sing,—
 And locks of all sorts, even canal,—
 And ladies' locks, and ringlets as well,—
 And toilet soaps for soapy fops,—
 And precious gems for ear-ring drops,—
 And pawns and pledges, but pray take care
 You do not pledge yourselves to the fair.

So, if you wish to be a star,
 You must not shun our grand Bazaar !

There is cream brought from the milky way,—
 And the famous tail of " poor dog Tray,"—
 And bullets from the shooting stars,
 To suit the Rifles, sons of Mars !—
 And trains for ladies, and trains for rails,—
 And scales for wages, and sliding scales,—
 And boots and shoes to fit all feet,—
 And crinolines to sweep the street,
 And opera glasses, and glasses of ale,—
 And purses which never for gold shall fail,—
 And bonnets for girls, and caps for chaps,—
 And traps for birds, and some goose traps,—
 And letters, and telegrams galore,
 For which you pay a shilling or more.

So, if you wish to be a star,
 You must repair to our Bazaar !



THE BAZAAR.

There are skulls dug from Oblivion's grave,
 And the head of a blue Atlantic wave;
 There's the chair on which old "*Verbum sat*"
 And the fur and purr of Whittington's cat;
 There's one of the pippins of Eden's fruit,
 And a sample, preserved, of the first Latin root,
 There are sailor's smacks, and smacks for girls,
 And fatted swine, bedecked with pearls;
 There's an orator's lips, on which were hung
 Three thousand people—and also his tongue,
 Which led them to their dreadful fate,
 Not many miles from Tyburn gate;
 There's a crop of hopes that once were raised
 In a shallow soil, by a lover crazed.

So, if you wish to see each star,
 You must not miss our grand Bazaar!

There's a vein of gold from Threadneedle Street,
 Which the "Old Lady" sent us, our show to complete;
 There's Neptune's car quite waterproof
 With gutta-percha sides and roof,
 A patent, of course, for it stretches so wide
 You can take any number you like inside;
 There is corn with ears, and potatoes with eyes,
 And a hair-lipped bean, his mamma's prize;
 There are cavalry whiskers for swellish coves,
 And a patent oven for air-tight loaves;
 There's German yeast, from Prussia's king,
 And uncoloured tea, from T. T. SING;
 And a long necked bottle of pure cape wine,
 Sent by the old equinoctial line.

So, if you wish like Colenso to star,
 Come and support our grand Bazaar!

There are hairs, too, shaved off a tidal bore,
 And shells that belong'd to poor Jane Shore;
 There's Falstaff's flagon, and Pepper's ghost,
 Superior to Hamlet's—at least so say most;
 There's Shylock's knife, unstained with blood,
 And a drop of the tide as old as the flood,
 Taken one time at Wapping Old Stairs,
 Miscalled by Shakspeare the "tide of affairs."

There's a tide for you, and a tide for me,
 For man is like the old fig tree,
 If fruitless, he will be cut down,
 If fruitful, he will wear a crown,
 A crown not made by mortal hands,
 Begirt with gems and golden bands,
 Superior, brighter, than any star
 That decorates the sky's Bazaar!

I sent a very ancient bonnet to this Bazaar, upon which a printed card was fastened, with the following lines, to draw the attention of the visitors :—

MY GREAT GRANDMOTHER'S BONNET.

This is the bonnet of my great grandmother,
 I would not exchange it for any other,
 When t'was made, George the Third was King,
 And whilst he lived it was just the thing,—
 And now its the GREATEST of bonnets here,
 For all the new bonnets are small and queer,
 You may say as you look at it, what a fright!
 But your great Grandmothers thought such quite right,—
 And if you have merrier, brighter faces,
 Or better manners, or finer graces
 Than the women had when this bonnet was made,
 We will give up at once the bachelor trade.—

Signed,

THE BACHELORS OF WOLVERHAMPTON.

Ye First of April, 1865.

Seeing it announced that Mr. T. H. Green, was appointed as assistant commissioner for Staffordshire and Warwickshire, I wrote to him as to the income of the Birmingham Free Schools, with a list of the leases of the properties belonging to them, to which he replied as follows :

Queen's Hotel, Birmingham, May 17th, 1865.

DEAR SIR,—I ought before this to have thanked you for your letter and its inclosure. An Inquiry into the state of the property of the schools, as such, does not fall within my province, but I am glad to learn anything about a probable increase in the value of such property, as bearing on the educational possibilities of the schools.

I expect to be in Wolverhampton before long, and will call upon you.

It may be as well to add that the Assistant Commissioners are not instructed to hold any public Court of Inquiry.

Believe me, yours faithfully,

To George Griffith, Esq.,

T. H. GREEN.

15, St. John's Square, Wolverhampton.

When he called upon me I presented him with copies of my Histories of the Staffordshire Endowed Schools, and those of Birmingham also, as I felt they would be of great use to him during his tour of examination. This I found was the case, as at pages 502, 3, 4, and 5, of the first volume of the Schools' Inquiry Reports, many of my statements and opinions, and my name, are given on various points.

A General Election being at hand, I resolved to pick out a small Borough and try what the feelings of the Electors would be. I went carefully through the list and finding that Calne, in Wiltshire, had but 161 voters, and knowing that Mr. Robert Lowe, their representative was very unpopular just then, I resolved to go up and see some of the burgesses.

This is a pocket Borough belonging to the Marquis of Lansdowne, nevertheless I thought there was a chance, as the Member had displeased many of the voters by his speech on the new Reform Bill. I consulted two gentlemen of the name of Harris, and Messrs. Vizard, Henly, Fowler, Baily, Heath, and several others. From all I could learn, I found that the Marquis of Lansdowne could insure the election of any person seeking his patronage, and this, not so much on account of his political views, as from his being an excellent landlord and neighbour.

I resolved however, to call a Meeting to state who and what I was, which I did by the following announcement:—

White Hart Hotel, Calne, June 12th, 1865.

TO THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF CALNE.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to offer myself to your favourable consideration as a Candidate at the forth-coming Election.

I am bold enough to do so, first, because I believe that you are not properly represented now.

In the second place, I apprehend that you are desirous of exercising your undoubted right of voting according to your own views, and not to appear to coincide with the views of a mere nominee.

Your Burgess list and the expense and trouble of completing it is a mere farce, if you have no opportunity given to you of declaring your own opinions, by recording your votes at the Hustings.

I, therefore, presume to give you this opportunity, prior to which I will do myself the pleasure of calling upon you individually, and shall also address you publicly at the White Hart Hotel.

I will then expound my views, which I may now announce as moderate. I believe England is sound at heart, and that a great majority are opposed to the ultra opinions of Democrats on the one hand, and of Bigots on the other.

The greatest and most desirable Reform wanted is that of our Free Schools. To this object I have devoted many years of study, urging the proper use of those large educational funds, which still in many instances are so wastefully expended.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Mr. Griffith will deliver his first address at seven o'clock to-morrow evening, June 13th.

The large room at the White Hart, was well filled at the appointed hour, and two or three Reporters attended. I gave my views freely in a speech of an hour, and was cross-examined sharply afterwards; but altogether I thought that I had made a favourable impression.

On the two following days I canvassed many of the voters, and stopped over the Sunday to dine at Mr. Parry's, whose brother Mr. Thomas Parry, a farmer, resided in the parish of Chaddesley Corbett, near Kidderminster, and with whom I had often done business.

On the Tuesday after I returned home on urgent business, and went to Calne again on the 1st of July, when finding that I could not get more than one-third of the constituency to promise me their votes, I issued the following address:—

TO THE INDEPENDENT ELECTORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF CALNE.

GENTLEMEN,

Finding it improbable that I should succeed in gaining a majority of your votes at the forthcoming Election, I hasten to thank you for the great courtesy I have received at your hands.

With regard to the leading questions of the day it is to be hoped that ere long the spirit of compromise will induce the opposing parties composing the Legislature to bring them to a satisfactory settlement.

The ballot might be settled by making it optional, many Electors would not like to vote secretly, and it would be as unpalatable to enforce secret voting on that section, as the present enforced open voting is to those who wish for the ballot.

As Church rates have been abolished in so many parishes, without injury to the Church, it may be fairly concluded that their total cessation would not only be no injury, but rather a cause of strength to the Establishment.

The Franchise will doubtless be the greatest question of the time when Parliament re-assembles. A rate of six pounds instead of a rental of that amount would be a fair compromise, but it should be made imperative that the voters should pay their own rates.

The manner in which your borough has been represented for the past six years is rather remarkable.

When the Derby Administration was displaced, your Representative became a member of the Whig government, and the amendment which caused this change was as follows: "That no re-adjustment of the franchise will satisfy this House or the Country, which does not provide for a greater extension of the suffrage in cities and boroughs than is contemplated in the present measure"—and now in May last, he declared that the six pound franchise Bill if passed would ruin the country!—this, with voting against the ballot, and speaking and voting contrarily on the Canadian Defence question, is a remarkable style of representation.

In 1852 he was of opinion that the government was "unable to read the signs of the times, and unfit to be entrusted with the government of the country, if they could not perceive that there was by the permission of Providence, an obvious tendency in this country towards democracy," and now he says that a six pound franchise would ruin the liberal government.

In 1857 he denounced Quaker doctrines of peace, and declared that there ought to be no taxation without representation—now he praises our abstaining from foreign wars, and says the present franchise is perfection.

It was these variations that caused Mr. Cobden to say in March, 1857,

that "Lowe's parliamentary career was the most signal failure within the compass of his experience."

Taking his "tranquil" representation it is impossible to deny that he pleases all parties, Whig, Tory, and Radical, yet displeases all, both in and out of the House; of him it may be said:—

Three politicians in three counties born,
Whig, Tory, Radical, their names adorn;
Each with their views oft made a fiery show,
But now they're all commix'd in Robert Lowe.

Thanking you once more for your courtesies,

I beg to remain, yours faithfully,

GEO. GRIFFITH.

White Hart Hotel, Calne, July 3rd, 1865.

On my second journey to Calne, I took a set of my Works to present to the Marquis of Lansdowne, but on going to his residence, Bowood Park, I found he was on the Continent. Nevertheless, I left them with a letter requesting his acceptance and after his return received the following reply:—

Lansdowne House, July 1, 1865.

Lord Lansdowne presents his compliments to Mr. Griffith, and begs to thank him for the copies of his works on the subject of the Endowed Schools which he has kindly sent.

The General Election being now a-foot, Mr. Hardy, one of the sitting members for Leominster, was invited by a majority of the Oxford University Electors, to stand in opposition to Mr. Gladstone, as he was, in their eyes, a political backslider. On this account Mr. Gladstone went to South-West Lancashire, rather than return to Oxford. It was these circumstances which induced me to write the following lines:—

LEOMINSTER, OXFORD, AND LANCASHIRE.

Says Lem'ster to Oxford pray don't think us tardy,
We send you a member, by name Gathorne Hardy,
Cut and dried to your hands and bone of our bone,
We hope he will suit you instead of Glads-tone.

Says Oxford to Lem'ster, he's just come in time,
 We trust with our views he'll endeavour to chime,
 To breed Hardy oxen we know you are cocks,
 But Ox-ford won't keep him, if not orthod-ox.

Says Oxford to Lancashire, oh, what a ninny!
 To marry our Gladstone to your spinning jenny,
 No doubt he'll spin yarns when dressed in your cotton,
 But after our silks, he will find it quite rotten.

Says the Lancashire lads, to the Oxford *larned* coves,
 If we do not wear silks yet we're no such great oaves,
 Your silks are but *charity gifts*, we all know,
 Whilst our cottons to our honest labours we owe.

Wolverhampton, July 26th, 1865.

During the first week in October great preparations were made at Aldenham Hall, near Bridgenorth, the seat of Sir John D. E. Acton, on his return from his wedding tour.

Seven hundred persons, consisting of his tenants and country neighbours, with their wives, and sons and daughters, as well as many inhabitants of Bridgenorth and other places, were invited to a splendid Dinner, a Ball, and a Supper on the occasion.

The dinner was held in an enormous tent, which was crammed, and one of the most pleasing facts in connexion therewith, was the presence of Sir John's grandmother. In the evening a grand display of fire-works took place, after which, the Ball came on in a very large room, which had been just completed, for a library, of which Sir John has one of the finest in England.

There were two bands of music, and one thousand wax lights in this room, as also abundance of refreshments, whilst in some of the other apartments, card parties were formed for those who did not join in the Ball.

A few days after, I wrote the following lines (as coming from one of the servants of the Hall,) and circulated a quantity amongst Sir John's tenantry and friends:—

FROM JEMIMA ROOD TO A COUSIN IN TOWN.

Oh! Sairey, I can scarcely write,
 It puts me all in a shaky fright,

You never saw so fine a sight,
It gave us all such great delight,
As *when* our lady and her true knight,
Received the folks on left and right,
(Whigs and Tories aint perlite)
The crush was like a play-going night.
Then after this the dinner came,
Seven hundred folks, but I cannot name,
The tables were loaded with flesh and game,
And wines of the very greatest fame,
And if they didn't enjoy the same,
They've only got themselves to blame.

After the dinner there was the speaking,
The men huzzaing, the women shrieking.
You'd think their voices were a-breaking,—
And then there was the Rifle Band,
Playing "God save the Queen," quite grand,
And then the fireworks on the lawn,
Which made the night as bright as dawn.—
There were farmers in crowds both stout and lean,
With their wives and daughters of gentle mein,
And sons as raw as "Verdant Green,"
With ebins as hairless as England's Queen,—
There were lawyers galore and auctioneers,
And dealers in Burton bitter beers,—
In fact there was all the world and its wife,
I never saw such a crowd in my life.

The Ball Room though—that was the best,
To see the ladies so richly dress'd,
And the men likewise—why, I'll be blest,
If every one and all the rest
That came from north, south, east, or west,
Warn't tip-tóp dressed from shoes to vest!

There were thousands of candles to give a light,
As thick as the stars on a frosty night,
And two bands of music, oh! what a sight!
They played by turns with all their might,
And sat in the galleries over the dancers,
The one was Schottische, the other the Lancers!



ALDENHAM HALL, NEAR BRIDGENORTH.

'Twas pleasant to see folks mix together,
 Like fish in a pool in sunny weather,
 There wasn't one bit of pride or conceit,
 But all like cousins seemed to meet.

And they waltzed and polkéd in and out
 And turned teetotum-like about,
 It cured our Bob of a fit of the gout,
 And put my giddiness all to the rout.
 But I must now conclude my letter,
 I wish that I could write one better.—J. R.

P.S.—But I forgot! there was Jasper More,
 A County M.P., who brought a score
 Of gemmen and ladies of high degree,
 Who joined in the dances jolly and free.

N.B.—I thought J. M. *more* noticed me
 Than any in the company,—
 He's rather thin, and of middle size,
 He has *hare-ish* lips and *game-ish* eyes.*
 And dresses in the most stylish habits;
 And a many folks I've heard them say
 That he won on the late election day
 All through the votes of hares and rabbits;
 I think he must be partly a Jew,
 As the Jaspers are mentioned the Scriptures through,
 On his father's side, I've heard from a score,
 That he's descended from Rory O'More

 So now once more I must conclude,
 Yours till death,—Jemima Rood.

The Etwall people were getting out of patience at the "laws delay" and sent the following memorial to the Charity Commissioners:—

* R. Jasper More, Esq., one of the members for South Shropshire. His opponent Sir Baldwin Leighton, lost his seat from being the proposer of the obnoxious Game Amendment Bill, which made rabbits game in the eyes of the law; he was nearly smothered with dead rabbits, on the nomination day at Church-Stretton.

Etwall, near Derby, Dec. 13th, 1865.

To the Hon. the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales.

At 8, York Street, London.

We the undersigned Inhabitants and Parishioners of Etwall in Derbyshire, respectfully request your Honourable Board to issue a draft scheme for the better and more legal management of the revenues arising from the properties bequeathed by Sir John Port in the year 1557 for the use of "poor men and poor scholars" in the Parishes of Etwall and Repton.

Nearly a year having now passed since your Inspector, Mr. Martin, held an Inquiry here as to these important Charities, and no curative steps having been taken by your Honourable Board founded upon the facts proved at that Inquiry, we deem it necessary, for the sakes both of the "poor men and poor scholars," to request your Honourable Board, with as little delay as possible, to issue a Draft Scheme thereunto appertaining,—And your memorialists will ever pray, &c., &c.

The above memorial was sent to the Charity Commissioners, Dec. 16th, 1865, with sixty-six signatures from the parish of Etwall.

The year 1866 was to me a comparatively easy one. The Grammar School questions had become quiet whilst the examinations by the travelling Schools' Inquiry Assistant Commissioners were being carried on.

During this calm I was solicited to give my views on "The tillage of British lands" at the annual meeting of the members of the Severn Valley Farmers' Club.

I was acquainted with them all, and as I had mixed with farmers at markets all my life, I felt great pleasure in acceding to the request.

A condensed Report of the paper I prepared for the occasion, was published in the *Bridgenorth Journal*, of April the 21st, 1866, as follows :—

The second of a series of readings or lectures, for the present year, was delivered by Mr. George Griffith, Corn Merchant, of Wolverhampton, before the members of this Club, at the Squirrel Inn, Alveley, on Tuesday, the 17th instant, when by the unavoidable absence of the Rev. F. H. Wolryche Whitmore, the chair was occupied, in conformity with the unanimous wish of the meeting, by St. John Charlton, Esq., of Hill Fields, and in the room were Captain Charlton, R. Woodward, Esq., of Arley Castle, Thomas Bache,

Esq., Messrs. Cooper, Fisher, Wilson, Spence, Hardwick (land agent to Charles Sturge, Esq., of Wribbenhall), Roache, Cross, Wallings, Reid, Nixon, Duthie, Newbury, of London, Cadle, Edmonds, Murrell, of London, Webb, J. Ireland, and Lane.

The subject chosen by Mr. Griffith to dilate upon was "The tillage of British lands," and he commenced his discourse by stating that his arrangement of subjects had been collected from the remarks and standard works of practical writers, for which he tendered his apology, but justified the act by reference to similar conduct on the part of others in the pulpit, at the bar, and by historians. In the first place, Mr. Griffith proceeded to consider "The general depth of our cultivation," which he described to be about 4 to 4½ inches on the land side of the plough, and after referring to the necessity of substituting steam for horse-power, for the production of deep cultivation, and to the fondness of ploughmen of seeing fat and sleek horses, which impedes such necessary style of cultivation, he explained "What our depth of cultivation should be, and probably will be," more particularly on clay and hard bottomed soils of every description, previously to which general operation he stated that, according to the estimate of Bailey Denton, it would be necessary for twenty millions of undrained acres to be tapped at a probable cost of £100,000,000, or £5 per acre. "How deep the roots of plants go in search of food" formed a prominent theme for Mr. Griffith to discourse upon, taking Baron Liebeg as the authority on which he made his statement. Steam power must be looked to as the agent for deeper tillage—"The competing systems of steam tillage," and "why steam power is much cheaper than horses" were practically and satisfactorily dwelt upon by the lecturer. Under the sub-division of "How much plants are improved in appearance after hand or horse hoeing." Mr. Griffith quoted from that great authority Baron Liebeg, whose powerful mind deduces a new theory from each experiment. The Baron writes, "The outermost crust of the earth is destined for the development of organic life, and its broken particles are endowed by the wisest arrangement, with power of collecting and retaining all the elements of food which are essential for the purpose." "Tillage implements" were next considered, under which portion of the discourse Mr. Griffith took occasion to condemn the use of such harrows as may be found on some farms at the present time, by reason of the teeth having been worn down not being able to pulverize and intermix the soil in an effective manner to form a seed-bed. The anomaly of ploughing with four horses at length, when two horses abreast would be capable of ploughing the same depth was remarked upon, and the opinion of "Baron Liebeg on tillage" was very fully and effectively delivered; and, in conclusion of the first part of the lecture, Mr.

Griffith remarked that, as English agriculturists had to compete with the whole world in the production of food, she must at once introduce the general use of that cheap and mighty power, steam. He referred to the days of Jethro Tull, when the utility of chemistry, as applied to agriculture, was undiscovered, but which, by the wisdom of Davy, Liebig, and other able chemists, has been brought to light. Mr. Griffith called attention to the moral of the story of an old man, who, on his dying bed, told his sons to seek in his field for treasures he had somewhere buried. The soil and subsoil were deeply and carefully examined: the actual money was not found, but ample money's worth by increased crops resulted from deeper and better tillage. The second part of the lecture consisted in some sound and very practical advice on "The time to sow and the time to reap"—which for peas, beans, barley, and oats, Mr. Griffith advocated to be the early spring, immediately when winter has passed away, and the soil is in a good state to receive the seed. The cultivation of barley formed matter for discourse in the third part of Mr. Griffith's lecture. This cereal he said may be sown at any time from January to May, the produce of which, he pointedly remarked, would be more influenced by the way in which the works of preparing the soil, and putting in the seed is performed, than the particular time at which it may be accomplished. On poor lands he advocated the sowing to take place from the middle to the end of April, providing there be sufficient moisture on the land to cause the seed to vegetate. In preparing the soil for barley the great desideratum is a fine seed bed, where a crop of roots has been eaten off by sheep; and in such case shallow ploughing is desirable, and the furrow slice should not exceed a depth of four inches, and one ploughing will suffice; but an improved scarifier will accomplish the same object with a great saving of labour. Mr. Griffith gives a preference to the drill, over the dibbling or broadcast plans, for the deposit of the seed, both for regularity of depth and distance. From two to three bushels of seed per acre is recommended, but, which must be regulated according to the soil, climate, and period of sowing. A caution was given against thin sowing, which tends to produce a coarse quality of grain, whereas thick sowing gives a fine straw, and early ripening of the crops; but each extreme was recommended to be avoided. The "Old English" barley was selected as suitable for early ripening, and also for cold soils and late districts, whilst "the Chevalier" was chosen as desirable for the best barley lands, since it will bear forcing better than the "Old English," at the same time frequent and judicious changes of seed were advocated as likely to exert a beneficial influence, both on the quantity and quality of the produce. Mr. Griffith concluded a most edifying and entertaining lecture, by referring to the present

system of awarding prizes, and recommended the condition of the labouring classes to the earnest consideration of the members of every Farmers' Club, with a view to create Schools and Reading-rooms for their improvement and amusement, and for the abolition of beer houses, and strenuously urged the necessity of landlords granting leases to their tenants.

Mr. St. John Charlton, in very sincerely proposing his thanks, as well as the thanks of all present, to Mr. Griffith, for his very comprehensive lecture, regretted that time would not admit of his dwelling upon the many and various topics so ably dealt with by him; the benefit of such a discourse must be apparent to all. The chairman, however, in a very practical speech, referred to several matters that had been discoursed upon, and concluded by again thanking Mr. Griffith for his attendance before "The Severn Valley Farmer's Club."

Mr. R. Woodward seconded the vote of thanks, and requested the opinion of any practical farmer present upon any of the suggestions so kindly and ably given by Mr. Griffith. He did not think the working men were yet quite ripe for Reading Rooms, but by all means he was an advocate for Night Schools, to be carried on by those in the district who were desirous to carry on so good a work. Mr. Woodward would prefer to pay the labourers more wages as an equivalent for beer, by which system they would thereby be enabled to provide for themselves and families; for the English workman, he said, cannot do without wholesome and pure beer. He also deprecated the game laws, in their present state, and entirely coincided with Mr. Griffith, that some farms were thereby reduced to rabbit warrens. Landlords, said he, should rid themselves of the great expense of keepers, and place the game in the custody of their tenants, who, as English farmers, were well known to be sportsmen, and would always be proud to produce a sufficiency of game to the proprietor of the land.

Mr. Griffith having very appropriately returned thanks, and, in reply to the expressions of fear by the chairman, "that in case of the repeal of the malt duty, the English markets would be glutted by foreign produce," said that very nearly all the foreign barley, that could be produced, and spared, now found its way into the English market.

A vote of thanks to the chairman having been proposed by Mr. J. Ireland, and seconded by Mr. Cross, it was unanimously carried. The Chairman returned thanks and said, he ever had, and still should have the interests of the club prominent in his thoughts.

The meeting then separated.—*Bridgenorth Journal*, April 21st, 1866.

A long and favourable review of my arguments also appeared

in a London paper, "The Farmer," No. 267, vol. vii, on the 2nd of May.

The Kidderminster Endowed School still remained in a deplorably low state, and attracted some public notice, as will be seen by the following editorial remarks of the *Birmingham Daily Gazette*, of the 5th of May, and Mr. Hasell's letter in the *Birmingham Daily Post* :—

The Editor of the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* said, "It appears that though the Birmingham Grammar School may not be altogether perfect as regards its management, it is not the only scholastic institution which calls for reform, or which calls for it most loudly. Kidderminster seems to be in far worse case. According to a statement made on Wednesday, at the meeting of the Town Council of that town, and not contradicted, the head master of the grammar school there has a salary of £240, with a house and grounds equivalent to £120 more; and the second master has a salary of £150; and the number of boys taught at this cost is six—just £85 each! In such a state of things, we think that Mr. Hasell's proposition—that a deputation from the Council should wait on the feoffees, to ascertain whether the school could not be made more useful to the town, and why so few are being educated in it—was a reasonable and justifiable one, and though nothing came of the motion last Wednesday, we hope in the interest of Kidderminster, that the subject will yet be taken up in earnest, and ventilated to good purpose.

To the Editor of the Birmingham Daily Post.

SIR,—Will you oblige me by correcting an error which appears in your paper of this day. I was asked the question why I did not send my son to the Grammar School. My answer to that was, "Upon principle. In the first place, if what I have heard is correct, it is not conducted so well as it might be. Also, I do not approve of paying from 50s. to £3 the half-year for tuition only. Can it be called a Free Grammar School?"

Yours obediently,

W. HASELL.

May 5th, 1866.

[In the report of Mr. Hasell's remarks, yesterday, it was mis-stated that he said from £2 10s. to £3 was paid half yearly for stationery at the Grammar School. It should have been that this sum was paid exclusive of stationery.]

At this period a movement was made at Shrewsbury, to establish a Chamber of Agriculture for Shropshire. I had often

given it as my opinion, at various Market-dinner tables, that if the farmers wished to secure a reform of their grievances, they should form clubs, and hold periodical meetings for the discussion of the questions affecting their true interests.

This was at first looked upon as a very daring opinion, as farmers were too often considered unable, from their scattered positions, to form any combination, and unwilling to do so, even if they were able, from a fear of speaking upon or proposing any alterations in the law, at which their landlords might take offence.

I had often to do battle against such remarks, but by degrees the farmers became more confident in their own views, and at last expressed great pleasure at the prospect of County Chambers of Agriculture being established, whereat they could declare their opinions.

There was a further reason for many of them feeling pleased, and that was the recent election of Mr. R. J. More, a liberal, as one of the county members, which was opposed by the conservative party in the most strenuous manner. His election, of course, brought him much before the public, and his success caused the liberals of all ranks in Shropshire, to take a determined position on all public occasions.

He was very active in helping forward the formation of the Chamber of Agriculture, and of course was desirous of getting as many of his friends as possible to join it as members.

On the 25th of October, I received the following letter from him on the subject:—

Bridgenorth, Tuesday, October 24th, 1866.

DEAR SIR,—We shall be glad to have you on the Committee of the Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture. It meets at the George, Shrewsbury, at ten o'clock on Tuesday next. Never mind if you cannot attend, still let us have your aid and name.

Yours very truly,

R. JASPER MORE.

A reply to 43, High Street, Shrewsbury, will oblige.

To this I at once assented, and on the first meeting of the Members, when the Malt-tax was the chief question, I joined

with my old friend, Mr. John Meire, of Brockton, in urging the unfairness of the tax towards the farmers and consumers, now that the corn laws had been so long abolished.

Here I met with many of my old agricultural friends, known to me when I attended Shrewsbury and Ludlow markets in by-gone days. I found many of them had altered their views on national questions, and that there was much more independence in their arguments than formerly.

On the second week in November, the following notice as to Repton School, was inserted in the Derby newspapers:—

CHARITY COMMISSIONION.

In the matter of the Charities called Sir John Port's Hospital, in Etwall, and School in Repton, in the County of Derby;

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Charity Commissioners for England and Wales, upon the Report of F. O. MARTIN, Esquire, their Inspector, and upon the application of the hereditary Governors of the above-mentioned Charities, propose to approve of, and certify a scheme to be submitted to Parliament, having the following objects, namely:—

1. Dissolving the existing Corporation and Court of Management.
2. Substituting for them a body of twelve Trustees, consisting of the Hereditary Governors, the heir of Sir John Harpur, the Master of the Hospital, and Seven other Persons of repute; three to be named by the Governors, and the others by the general body, with the assent of the Charity Commissioners.
3. Conferring on the Governors the right to present to the Vicarage of Willington.
4. Continuing to the Hereditary Governors and the heir of Sir John Harpur, their existing rights of patronage as respects the Schoolmaster, Ushers, Almsmen, and Scholars.
5. Providing for the future union of the Vicarage of Willington and the Mastership of the Hospital, with a reduction in the stipend of the Master.
6. Defining the duties of the Master and of the Trustees.
7. Enabling the Trustees, with the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, to make laws, constitutions, and ordinances for the well governing of the Institutions, with specific power to place under due regulation and restriction the free education of scholars, other than the eight foundationers, to extend the area for the selection of almsmen, and to relax their obligations and the obligations of the master with reference

to residence in the Hospital, and to the compulsory performance of public worship.

8. Enabling the Trustees, with the sanction of the Charity Commissioners, to remove for sufficient cause, the officers and beneficiaries of both institutions.

9. The rights of existing members of the Corporation are not to be prejudiced by the laws, constitutions, and ordinances so to be authorised, but with this exception, the Acts of Parliament now in force with respect to these Charities to be repealed.

Any Objections to such scheme are required to be stated in writing, and transmitted to the said Board, at their Office, 8, York Street, St. James's Square, London, S.W., within one calendar month from the publication of this Notice.

Dated this twelfth day of November, 1866.

(Signed)

HENRY M. VANE,
Secretary.

From this it will be seen that it was proposed that the two schoolmasters, the almsmen, and the "poor boys" should not be members of the corporation any longer. That in their places three new trustees were to be nominated by the governors, and four others by the general body. That the free education of boys was to be extended beyond the eight in the school. These propositions were very illiberal towards the inhabitants of Etwall and Repton, because, without doubt, their sons should receive the full benefit of the total revenues of the school, and the rent free school and residences, bequeathed to them by Sir John Port. However, the question was not settled yet, and it will be seen hereafter how heroically the parishioners fought for their rights.

Having some time on my hands after returning from markets in the evenings this season, I resolved to write a dramatic piece, or tragedy, on some historical incidents of great interest, which took place in by-gone ages in this county.

This production was embellished with eight engravings, as follows:—Hawksyard Hall, Mavesyn-Ridware Church, Handsacre Hall, Mavesyn Old Hall, Wichnor Hall, Hamstall Church, Ruins of Tutbury Castle, Sir Robert Malvoisin's tomb in Mavesyn Church. The following description of the aisle devoted to the

tombs of these two families, in Mavesyn Church, is taken from the Natural History of the County of Stafford, by Robert Garner, Esq., F.L.S., of Hanley :—

Description of Trinity Aisle, in Mavesyn-Ridware Church, by Robert Garner, Esq., F.L.S., of Hanley, in his Natural History of the County of Stafford.

“The most ancient tomb in this venerable mausoleum, is that of its founder, Hugo Malvoisin, (reign of Henry I.) his figure lies beneath an arch in the north wall, and represents the warrior in chain armour, with a surcoat, truncated helmet, and Norman shield. The coffin was opened in 1785, and the skeleton within was found entire. The tomb of Sir Henry Malvoisin, the crusader, which is a similar one, was also exhumed; his remains were found inclosed in a rude case of sheet lead. There is an altar-tomb of Sir Robert Malvoisin, with his figure in black line on the lid. There are also altar and other tombs of the Cawardens, Davenports, and Chadwicks, and slabs of alabaster, with graven figures of warriors, and dames of the house, from the Conquest, in their different costumes; at the foot of each is a verse commemorative of their characters, deeds, and alliances. Above are suspended escutcheons, hatchments, armour, &c. In a corner is a niche for the service of the altar, which formerly existed in the chapel. The west wall displays three alabaster tablets of relief, of which one commemorates the death of John Malvoisin, of Berewick, slain whilst hunting on the Wrekin, (reign of Henry IV.) another, the death of Sir William Handsacre; and the third that of Sir Robert Malvoisin himself, the conqueror of Handsacre, and slain at the battle of Shrewsbury. The pavement of the Aisle or Chapel, where unoccupied by monumental slabs and tombs, is emblazoned with arms, and there are some very ancient floor tiles, with heraldic devices relating to the family, originally from Normandy.”

The following verses are under the second alabaster basso-relievo mentioned above :—

“He rush’d from yonder moat-girt wall,
With lance, and bill, and bow;
Down, down, he cried, with Bolingbroke,
Dares Malvoisin say no?
Sir Robert, spurring, said, rash knight,
King Henry bids thee die!
Like light’ning, on Sir William came,
And Percy was the cry.”

“Soon Malvoisin his prowess proved,
 Pierced with his spear the foe,
 Both steed and baffled knight o’erthrew,
 And laid his honours low ;
 Yet, not till valour’s brightest meed,
 Bold Handsacre had won ;
 This earth which bore that rival dead,
 Bore not alive a braver son !”

The dedication to the Tragedy was as follows :—

TO
 JOSIAH SPODE, ESQ., J. P.
 HAWKSYARD HALL.

SIR,

As you are not only the chief resident in Armitage, but also, the chief contributor to the Restoration of the Parish Church, in which, (according to tradition) Sir William Handsacre was buried, in the year 1403, I beg to dedicate this Work to you.

’Tis but a trifle, the production of a man much engaged in business, therefore I hope its errors will meet with your indulgence, and its aim with your approval.

I beg to remain, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, 1866.

As the Introductory Preface contains the historical particulars of the tragedy, as carried out in the play, I cannot do better than append them here :—

A Staffordshire Tragedy?—yes, gentle reader, a very sad Tragedy indeed, but yet not so sad as that of Romeo and Juliet; and why? because, the juniors in this Tragedy survived, and with undeviating attachment lived many happy years together, having the additional happiness of cementing, by their union, two powerful Houses, and obliterating all revengeful feelings, which otherwise would doubtless have existed for many generations.

And this is a true Tragedy too, the local circumstances of which, as

delineated in the following pages, have been handed down to us in the various Histories of Staffordshire.

There is a Railway Station on the Trent Valley Line, between Lichfield and Rugeley, called Armitage Station; upon alighting there you enter the hamlet of Handsacre, in the Parish of Armitage. In this hamlet a large farm house, known as the ancient Manor House of the Handsacres (now occupied by Mrs. Harvey) stands, some of the walls and chimneys being of the original erection. A moat, with running water, is still there, and the Coat of Arms of the Handsacres, in glass, has been religiously preserved, and inserted in one of the front windows.

Near to this Manor House, a handsome modern bridge, containing 500 tons of iron, spans the Trent; you cross it, and descend a flight of stone steps into the "Bridge Meadow." In a field adjoining this meadow stand two much decayed oak trees, known by the names of Gog and Magog, which must be more than 400 years old, because underneath these trees Sir Robert Malvoisin killed Sir William Handsacre, in the year 1403.

Sir Robert was of Norman, and Sir William of Scottish descent—the former a knight subject to Fitz-Alan, Earl of Arundel, his lord, who was an adherent of Henry the Fourth; and the latter a supporter of Richard the Second, and his adherents.

Proceeding onwards through fields you reach Mavesyn-Ridware Church and Manor House in a few minutes—the one opposite the other. The Manor House is now occupied by Mr. Hawes, the steward of the estate. Very little of the ancient house remains—a gate-house of stone, 87 feet long, with a large room over it, said to have been an Oratory, being all that testifies now that at one time it was of considerable dimensions.

It appears that Sir Robert Malvoisin and Sir William Handsacre had had frequent disputes as to the privileges of their respective royalties; at last, the men of Sir Robert quarrelled with Robert Mulner, the occupier of the mill (which then stood in the middle of the southern stream) and burnt and destroyed it. In this affray Laurence de Frodeley, one of Handsacre's men, was slain.

These feelings were at their height when the order came to Burton-on-Trent, (July 16th, 1403) for all adherents of the King (Henry IV.) to accompany him to quell the rebellion of the Duke of Northumberland and the Percies. Accordingly, Sir Robert Malvoisin called his vassals together, to join the King at Shrewsbury; and just at the same time Sir William Handsacre was sallying forth with his vassals to aid the Duke. They met midway between their manor houses, and fell to fighting, and in the *melée*

Sir William Handsacre was killed. Sir Robert proceeded with his vassals to Shrewsbury, and fell in the battle fought there on the 22nd of July.

There was one part of this Church (called Trinity Aisle) devoted to the tombs of the Malvoisins, and their descendants; and when the body of the church, being decayed, was pulled down, in 1782, this aisle and the steeple were not meddled with. The aisle alone is worth a pilgrimage from any part of the kingdom. It contains effigies of full size, alabaster relieves, and elevated tombs of huge proportions, with coats of arms and inscriptions sculptured and engraven thereon,—amongst these are two alabaster tablets, on one of which is beautifully sculptured the battle between the two Knights and their Vassals, and on the other, the death of John Malvoisin of Berewick, slain by accident in a hunt on the Wrekin. The two oaks "Gog and Magog," stand out conspicuously on the former and the Wrekin on the latter.

The floor of the Aisle also is covered with various verses, commemorative of the virtues and prowess of the Malvoisins, cut on tomb slabs; and on the walls are the shields and quarterings of the titled families they married into at succeeding periods. The church was originally dedicated to Saint Nicholas, that Saint's day being the 4th of September.

The Malvoisins originated from the Norman House of Rosny; they got the name of Malvoisin from their practice of raising a tower opposite any place they besieged, meaning that a "dangerous neighbour" had arrived. This family were munificent in pious gifts, and of romantic valour—one was Archbishop of Rheims, another (Guy) fought under Louis, against the Saracens in Egypt—another, Raoul, surnamed Barbu, living at the Seignory of Rosny, near Mantes, was styled "a chief amongst chiefs." His sons Robert and Hugo, and his grandson William, were great warriors, and amongst the 260 Knights at the battle of Hastings, a Malvoisin is named as follows:—

" Danvey et Devesyn,
Malure et Malvoisin :"

this was the Knight that first lived at Mavesyn-Ridware.

The Handsacre family were not so prominent in public life as the Malvoisins, yet they were people of high standing at that period, and we find they were on friendly terms with the Malvoisins, as Sir Robert Malvoisin in the 40th year of the reign of Henry the 3rd, granted to Thomas de Handsacre, two virgates of land and houses, in the Ville de Ridware, for two years, and commonage for his pigs in the common Wood, at a rent of 23s. 2d. We also find that William, Lord of Handsacre, was one of the attestors of a settlement on the children of Sir Robert Malvoisin, in the reign of Edward III.

At the death of Sir Robert Malvoisin, in 1403, his daughter Margaret was eleven years of age. She was afterwards married to Sir William Handsacre, and so the two houses were allied—her mother was Johanna Chetwynd, of the Ingestre Family—Sir William and the Lady Margaret had two daughters—Joan and Margaret.

The chief incidents in the Tragedy are those attaching themselves to the two Knights and their families, but to make a due variety in the scenes, I introduced the claim for a flitch of bacon, left as a charge upon the estate of Wichnor Hall; the ceremony of putting on the Scold's Bridle, in Hampstall Churchyard (which bridle may still be seen in the entrance hall of Hampstall-Ridware Mansion House, now occupied by a farmer) and also a much greater and more satisfactory ceremony, viz., the election of the Minstrel King at Tutbury Castle. As all these belong strictly to the county as matters of history, I introduced them.



CHAPTER XII.

“ Messagères des dieux, déesses immortelles !

Oh joignez nos concerts et nos vœux en ce jour ;
Couvrez Victoria de vos brillantes ailes,

Dites-lui chères sœurs, notre ardeur, notre amour.

Entendez notre chant, c'est notre vœu suprême,

Fait pour la consoler, soulageons ses douleurs.....

Levons nous, noble peuple, et sous son diadème,

Aux pieds de son Albert, consacrons lui nos cœurs.”

JOHN SULLIVAN, Poète Anglo-Normand,

De l'Île de Jersey.



On the 30th November the Queen paid a visit to Wolverhampton, to be present at the uncovering of the Statue of Prince Albert.

This was a great day for Wolverhampton. Immense prepara-

tions were made to do honour to the occasion ; the Authorities and the Special Committee worked day and night to give the Queen a worthy reception.

The Queen travelled by the Great Western line, and arrived at the Low Level Station at ten minutes past one. Her Majesty was received by the Mayor and Recorder, the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Borough Members, the Mayor's Chaplain, the Town Clerk, the Clerk of the Peace, the Mover and Seconder of the Address, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Memorial Committee, and the Commandant General of the District.

On the arrival of the train, a Royal Salute was fired, and a Band played the National Anthem.

The Queen was accompanied by the Prince and Princess Christian, the Princess Louise, the Earl of Derby, Sir George Grey, Lord Alfred Paget, Sir Thomas Biddulph, K.C.B., and her usual attendants.

The Procession of carriages was ready ; it consisted of the Royal Carriages, also those of the Mayor, Recorder, Lord Lieutenant, the Borough Members, and ten, Carriages and Pairs, conveying the Members of the Town Council.

The Mayor was presented to Her Majesty at the Railway Station, after which the Procession moved away, the carriages containing the Authorities and Nobility preceding the Royal carriages as they entered the town.

On the arrival of the Queen at the Pavilion, she was received by the Mayor and Corporation. Prayer was offered by the Bishop of the Diocese, and the Recorder read an address, which was then presented by the Mayor, whereupon Her Majesty called for a sword, and touching the Mayor on the shoulder therewith, said, " Rise, Sir John Morris," at which the sky was deafened by the plaudits of the vast assembly.

The Queen then commanded Mr. Thornycroft, (the sculptor) to unveil the Statue, at which moment a Royal Salute was fired, and the Royal Standard unfurled ; the Guards presented arms, and the chief band struck up the Cobourg March.

After the ceremony was concluded, the Royal Procession pro-

ceeded by a different route to the Railway Station, in order as the Queen said, that all classes in Wolverhampton should see her on this occasion.

With regard to the decorations of the town, I dare not attempt a description. All that I can say is that they were superb. The particulars of the days proceedings occupied no less than sixteen columns of the *Midland Counties Express*, on the following day. In the evening the town was illuminated in a truly magnificent manner, and it was remarked, far and wide, that not a single act of insubordination, nor an instance of quarrelling, or drunkenness, took place the whole day.

At the top of High Green, between the rear of the Statue and the houses looking west, a huge Pavilion was erected, which was filled with seats for the accommodation of the County Visitors, and the most respectable Parishioners, to the number of two thousands. Pavilion special admission tickets were issued, of which the following is a copy:—

No. 10 (D) Row.

QUEEN'S VISIT TO WOLVERHAMPTON,

30th NOVEMBER, 1866.

Admit the Bearer to a Seat in the Pavilion in Block D on the above named Row. Entrance to Block D, opposite Messrs. Neves' Shop.

DIRECTIONS.—The Holder of this ticket must take his or her seat between the hours of 10 a.m. and 12-30 p.m. After 12-30 p.m. no one will be allowed to enter the Pavilion on any pretence whatever.

The entrance to the Market Place will be by Darlington Street, and Cock Street only.

The holder must retain possession of this ticket during the ceremony, and must produce it when required by the Stewards.

N.B.—This ticket will not be available unless it bears the seal of the Chief Constable.

It is particularly requested that the above directions be strictly attended to, that disappointment and confusion may be avoided.

By order,

JOHN MORRIS, MAYOR.

In the evening the Mayor (Sir John Morris) gave a sumptuous banquet, modestly called a luncheon, to a number of the Nobility, Clergy, (of all denominations) and Gentry of the County, and also to the chief inhabitants of the Borough. The GRACE CHORALE, was one composed by the Prince Consort himself, and the singing comprised: 1st "God Bless the Prince of Wales," 2nd, "The Village Blacksmith," and "Nil desperandum," given by Mr. Power, 3rd, "Who shall be fairest?" given by Mr. George Cleobury, and 4th, "The beating of my own heart," given by Miss Houlgate; there were also selections of music performed by the Band at intervals.

The idea of erecting a Statue to the memory of the Prince Consort belongs to Mr. George Underhill. At the time of the Prince Consort's death he was Mayor of Wolverhampton, and it was owing to his unflagging perseverance, and his ever-open purse, that the object was mainly accomplished. Of course there was a subscription, to which Mr. Underhill was much the heaviest contributor, indeed the granite pedestal was erected at his sole cost.

Alderman Underhill, however, had a very warm and industrious coadjutor in a brother Alderman, Mr. Hawksford, the vice-chairman of the Committee, and at one of the last meetings of the Committee, Alderman Underhill declared, that the success of the work was in a great measure owing to Mr. Hawksford's unceasing exertions.

Prior to the day fixed by the Queen for the ceremony of unveiling the Statue, I wrote an Ode for the occasion, and being desirous to dedicate it to the Mayor, I applied to him by letter for his permission to do so. To this I received the following reply:—

Town Hall, Wolverhampton, Nov. 26th, 1866.

MR. GEORGE GRIFFITH.

DEAR SIR,—Replying to your favour respecting an Ode, I have no objection to your proposal, excuse haste,

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN MORRIS, Mayor.

ODE.

All hail to the Queen of our own British Isles !
Whose crown is enshrined in a whole people's smiles ;
Whose throne is supported by hearts ever true,
Whose realms never see the sun set on their view.

Hence, hence, dejection of the mind !
This, this the day for mirth ;
Let feelings deep and actions kind
To-day have happy birth.
Away, away, dull melancholy,
Away, all grief and care !
Let ev'ry heart with joy be jolly,
And love reign everywhere.

Let dark-winged jealousy depart,
Let gratitude possess each heart ;
Let labour throw aside its load,
And deck with flowers its meek abode.
Let commerce leave its various skill,
And join the throng with hearty will.
Let affluence ope its well-filled hand,
For poverty's dejected band ;
Let laughter, mirth, and jokes resound,
And nought but joy and love abound.

See, see, how age and youth combine !
See how the lovers' arms entwine !
See how the learned and th' uncouth
Mix jests and laughter with sage truth ;
All mingling in the jocund throng,
With music's powers conjoined with song.

Away, misanthropy, away !
This is a joyous non-such day ;
The cottager has left his plough,
The milkmaid's left her fav'rite cow ;
The farmer's left his ricks and fields,
And to the general impulse yields.
And e'en the turnpike keeper's floun,
Nor cares if gate be open thrown ;
And ta'en his wife in bran new gown
To see the Queen ride through the town.



STATUE OF THE PRINCE CONSORT.

Hurrah! hurrah! let's follow pleasure,
Without stint and without measure;
Let us feel true joy to-day.
Haste! haste! for time is on the wing.
Let us merrily, merrily sing,
And cast all cares away.

See the flags shut out the sky!
Hark! the cannons roar on high!
Listen to each martial sound
Which from rocks to rocks resound;
Whilst the church bells madd'ning peal
Makes the old church tower to reel.

Joyous voices fill the air,
Shouting "Fly away, dull care;"
Fly to deserts or to caves,
Beaten by bemoaning waves;
Here to-day but mirth shall live,
Here shall pleasure, pleasure give;
Here all sympathies combining,
Shall with loyalty entwining,
Dance with hand in hand around,
Like fairies in Queen Mab's own ground.

See, see, the file, the lathe, the loom,
To-day shall have a day of rest;
The collier's left his murky gloom,
And joins the throng with hearty zest.
The driver and the railway guard
Have left the steam and ta'en the road;
The preacher, painter, actor, bard,
Assent for once to pleasure's code.

See here the Queen's most loyal sons—
The Volunteers with ready guns—
Proclaim their love for England's laws,
For England's homes, for England's cause!
That they with loving hearts and hands,
Will gather round her in true bands,
And live and die for England's soil,
Should foreign foes attempt to spoil.

Fill up, fill up, the gen'rous cup,
 Raise high each joyous voice!
 To-day of pleasure let us sup,
 Let high and low rejoice!
 For this the day—the happiest day—
 As loyal men we've seen,
 So let us all drive care away,
 And toast our gracious Queen.

When I wrote the Ode I had no intention of making any further publication of it, than by sending it to the *Wolverhampton Chronicle*; but afterwards I thought it would be well to send a copy to the Queen, and one each to the two Royal Princesses, who had accompanied Her Majesty to Wolverhampton.

I therefore had three copies printed on white satin, with gold borders and fringe, which I forwarded to Osborne, Isle of Wight.

I sent a letter with them and in due time, had a very pleasant acknowledgment. The letter and reply were as follows:—

“ 10, Gladstone Terrace, North Road, Wolverhampton,
 “ December 31st, 1866.

“ To Her Most Gracious Majesty, VICTORIA, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britian and Ireland,

“ Is humbly presented one copy of an Ode written in commemoration of Her Majesty's Visit to Wolverhampton, on Friday the 30th day of November, 1866, to Inaugurate the Statue erected to the memory of the late lamented Prince Consort.

“ Also one copy for Her Royal Highness Princess Christian Schleswig-Holstein.

“ Also one copy for Her Royal Highness Princess Louise.

“ By Her Majesty's

“ Very Obedient and Devoted

“ Subject and Servant,

“ GEORGE GRIFFITH.

The following was received in acknowledgment:—

“ Sir Thomas Biddulph has received the Commands of Her Majesty the Queen to thank Mr. George Griffith for sending the Ode which accompanied his letter of the 31st ult. The three copies have been graciously accepted by Her Majesty and the Princesses.

Osborne, 3rd January, 1867.”

Of course for several evenings after the Queen's visit, many social parties were held. At one of these at which I was present, my Ode was discussed, and being urgently solicited to write a comic piece on the same matter, I produced the following lines on the succeeding evening :—

PAT O'BRIEN'S DESCRIPTION OF THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO
WOLVERHAMPTON.

If there's anybody living that didn't see the Queen,
When she came to unrobe the Statue in High Green—
I mane the fine Statue of Albert the great prince—
I'm ashamed of their disloyalty and want of common sinse ;
For that was the day of all days to this old town,
If you doubt it, you can ask the famous Mrs. Brown.

Every street, top and toe, was smother'd o'er with flags and flowers,
And the evergreens and royal arms, made them look like raal bowers ;
And the arches built with candlesticks, and coffee pots, and coal,*
Were so endless in their numbers, that they reached from pole to pole ;
In the north, in the south, in the east, and in the west,
High and low, rich and poor, came in their very best,
To welcome our good Queen, and make her their own guest.

Oh ! to see the fine p'lice, on their feet, and on their steeds,
Led on by Captain Saygrave,† a haro of great deeds,
Also the Yeomanry, covered over with gold lace,
Who came galloping like sodgers at a famously fast pace,
And looking with contimpt, at the Wolverhampton Rifles,
As much as to say, " You poor townsmen are mere trifles."
And then to see the Councillors, in carriages and gigs,
Dressed up like lords and ladies, in robes, and flowers, and wigs,
And the Aldermen also, the Boro' Pathron Saints,
And Villiers and Weguelin, the healers of complaints,
With tickets on their backs, " Household Suffrage boys for ever ;"

* There was an immense arch of Coal near the Great Western passenger station, under which the procession passed, and there was a very fine arch at the corner of Art Street, built of Japanned Wares.

† Captain Segrave, is the Chief Constable of the Borough, and was formerly a Captain in the Army.

"The Suffrage free of rates," they winked and looked quite clever.
Then came in best of trim, the larn-ed sharp Recorder,
The Mayor, the Town Clerk, and Mayor's Chaplain in grand order,
Dressed in their robes and furs, you could'nt tell their graces,
If they hadn't turned round, and showed their purty faces.

Then, Oh! to see the crowds inside the grand pavilion,
There couldn't be much fewer than a jolly full half-million;
The ladies were so grand they nearly turned me blind,
With their crinolines in front, and their lumps of hair behind,
Mixed up with County Lieutenants, with feathers and cocked hats,
And pious-looking tradesmen in pink gloves and white cravats.

There was Trotman the town-crier, with his nose and cheeks on fire,
And Chillington's proud Squire,* close to him cheek by jowl,
And Parsons, Priests, and Preachers, and anxious Sunday Teachers,
Enough to turn your head right round, upon my sowl;
There were Aldermen by dozens, with wives and country cousins,
And thousands of Musicians, and Surgeons and Physicians,
And proud Volunteers of Staffordshire by scores,
With their guns and their lances, which a warning to bould France is,
If they ever dare set foot upon our English shores;
There were ladies of all ages, with their fans, and well dressed pages,
Faith they shiver'd and they shook for the day was very cowl,
But that didn't signify, for they cast a pleasant eye
On Lord Derby, and the Prince, styled Christian, very bould.

There were writers from ould *Punch*, who bekase they hadn't lunch,
Vilified us in their columns the next week,
But they'd better not repate, their twaddle and desate,
Or we'll take them before Spooner the great beak.

Then came the good old Bishop,† in lawn, and silk, and satin,
With his head within his hat, full of Hebrew, Greek, and Latin;
With Moore a thin Archdeacon, and fat Chan-cellar Law,
And Lichfield, the Lord Lieutenant, a peer of awful jaw.
Then, last of all (bad manners to them), came the qual-e-tee,
Who should have marched in front according to degree:
There were *waiting* lords and ladies, but that word must be wrong,
For they didn't wait a minute, but followed the proud throng,

* "Chillington's proud Squire," Walter Giffard, Esq., of Chillington Hall. † "The good old Bishop," was Dr. Lonsdale.

All laughing in their sleeves, and winking at each other,
 As much as to say, "Don't these folks kick up a pother!"
 And then there came Lord Derby, a prime spaker and great writer,
 A big man on the turf too, and a tip-top bould cock-fighter.

Then came the sight of sights—the Queen! the Queen approaches,
 With the two Princesses and Prince Christian in the Royal coaches,
 Dressed in an humble manner, and Paget close beside her,
 And on the other side, General Grey (a horrid rider),
 With a lot of fine young fellows—the gallant Eighth Hussars,
 A finer set of men never followed General Mars.

At last appeared the Sculptor, and he pulled the sheet away
 Which had kept the Prince's Statue from seeing the bright day,
 And then there rose up to the skies a thundering huzza,
 Which echoed from High Green to the green waves of the *Say*.
 And then the music caroll'd and the cannons loudly bray'd,
 And forward stepp'd the Mayor, in furs and gould arrayed,
 And bowing to the Queen, with petition in his hand,
 Upon his knees he fell,—and firmly took his stand.

Then the Queen she drew back frighten'd, for he was too near quite,
 And drew her sword and struck him, and called him a bould knight,
 At which Sir John rose up in terror and affright,
 But the Queen said, "Never mind, Sir John, I can make it right."

Then said Sir John unto the Queen, with manner most polite,
 "Will Your Majesty throt down to Elmsdale* for one night?
 I shall have such lots of guests, it will be a jolly sight!
 There'll be old Ben D'Israeli, Bobby Lowe, and Johnny Bright,
 For when away from duty they never swear and fight;
 But if they should attempt to snarl or to bite,
 They shall feel my doughty arm, now that I am a knight,
 And though they are great spokesmen they'll find I am no mite."
 The Queen replied unto Sir John, "It would give me great delight
 To stop and have a dance with you, up, down, cross, left, and right,
 But I must get to Windsor, sweet Mayor, before midnight.

With that she left us all and thravell'd round the town,
 And bowed to high and low, above all to Mrs. Brown:
 And not a drunken man nor a fight that day was seen,
 When Prince Albert's noble Statue was uncover'd by the Queen.

* Elmsdale, the residence of the Mayor, at Wightwick.

On the fifth day after Her Majesty's visit, Sir John Morris received the following letter from the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for the Home Department :—

Whitehall, 4th December, 1866.

SIR,—I have it in command from Her Majesty to express to you Her entire satisfaction with all the arrangements made for her reception at Wolverhampton, on Friday last, and for the Inauguration of the Statue of the Prince Consort.

Her Majesty could not but be deeply touched by the devoted Loyalty manifested to Herself by all classes of Her subjects on that interesting occasion, but she felt yet more deeply the appreciation shewn in your Address of the character of those services which were rendered to his adopted Country by Him, whose loss she can never cease to deplore, and of the motives of Christian duty under which the services were rendered, and by which He stimulated others to follow in the path which He had traced out.

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, as the representative of that large and industrious population, who were gathered to do honour to His memory, the feelings with which Her Majesty has received your Loyal and Dutiful Address.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

S. H. WALPOLE.

The Mayor of Wolverhampton.

The only unpleasant matter connected with the unveiling the statue was the attack that *Punch* made on the vicinity of Wolverhampton. In some verses which appeared in that publication on December the 8th, the following occurred :—

“To many here that know no more of a Queen than of a God.”

* * * * *

“Where the only seed is gold, the only harvest coal and ore.”

* * * * *

“The wealth and wretchedness of this *unhallowed* place.”—

Great indignation was felt thereat, and amongst the list of the vindicators of what is called the “Black Country” I was one. I wrote the following, which appeared in the *Midland Counties Express*, of the 15th of December :—

WOLVERHAMPTON VERSUS “PUNCH.”

Punch, the great master of satire and spleen,
Has dared t' insult through us our august Queen;

Has, in his bold, unscrupulous pretence,
 Perverted truth in its most honest sense ;
 Called us and our's " unlovely " in his page,
 And heaped abuse upon us in his rage.

What ! is it thus that labouring age and youth
 Must be traduced by scribes ; paid scribes forsooth,
 Who squat in London on their three-legged stools,
 And think that all but London folks are fools ;
 Who scout our labour as a thing of nought,
 And live, themselves, on black envenomed thought.

He says we know no more of Queen than God,
 That our souls are as barren as a clod ;
 But works more useful than the Strand we show,
 And fruits of healthier stamina we grow ;
 Say, which is best in these commercial times,
 To live by labour or by caustic rhymes ?

The fame of working men lives through their lives,
 Busy as bees our workmen fill their hives ;
 Whilst fame by satire lives but for a day,
 The one claims Heaven's, th' other Satan's sway ;
 Labour, though black, leads oft to brightest ends,
 Whilst satire all its powers in spite expends.

" The wretchedness " of this " unhallowed place,"
 Claims hearts more noble than the pigmy race
 That grovel in huge London's filthy lanes,
 Who blight what e'er they touch with loathsome stains,
 Whose lives are past in vice from year to year,
 And end in hopelessness and gloomiest fear.
 Farewell, sweet *Punch*, and when you dare again
 To wield unsparingly your poisoned pen,
 And vilify our honest working men,
 Just read the ninth commandment of the ten,
 And should you feel its force at all, why then
 Write an apology from your dark den.

As I had been entered as a Member of the Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture, I attended one of its Discussion Meetings. In a conversation with Mr. Jasper More there, he asked me to take part in the forthcoming Inaugural Meeting and

Dinner, which was fixed for the 15th of December. I submitted, that not being an inhabitant of the County, it would not perhaps be agreeable to the gentlemen who were, but as he stated that there would be many at the Meeting who lived at a much greater distance from Shrewsbury than I did, I consented to do so.

It was arranged that I should propose a toast upon the subject of the repeal of the malt tax, and as I had always felt that this tax was an injustice both to growers and consumers, especially since the repeal of the corn duties, I read up the question so as to be prepared to do it justice. This was not a very hard task, except as to statistics, and as I knew my audience would for the most part agree with me that the tax ought to be abolished, I felt easy in my mind.

The Meeting was a very large one, and the dinner superb, Geo. Tomline, Esq., M.P., was Chairman, and there were no less than five of his fellow-members also present.

The principal speakers on the occasion were the Chairman, (Mr. Geo. Tomline, M.P.,) the Hon. Percy Herbert, M.P., Mr. R. J. More, M.P., Mr. Ormsby Gore, M.P., Mr. Clement, M.P., Captain Severne, M.P., Captain Cust, The Rev. Garnett Botfield, Mr. Southan (the Ex-Mayor,) and Mr. W. B. Lloyd.

After their speeches the Chairman called on me to propose "Success to the repeal of the Malt Tax," which I did as follows:—

Mr. Griffith, who was received with considerable applause, Said, Unlike many of the previous speakers he was not a Member of Parliament; but for all that he doubted not that he should have the support and the votes of every one in the room in favour of the question upon which he had been requested to speak. (Cheers). He had what he considered a very reasonable apology for presuming to address them; for although himself a tradesman he had mixed with farmers for upwards of thirty years. He had also had the pleasure of reading papers upon agriculture, and subjects relating thereto, at the annual meetings of the Wenlock and the Severn Valley Farmers' Clubs. The Farmers of the United Kingdom were beyond all doubt the most important body of Her Majesty's subjects, both as regarded their wealth, and the importance of their productions, for whilst the produce of British manufactures amounted to only two hundred millions, the pro-

duce of British agriculture amounted to four hundred millions per annum, he said per annum, because agricultural productions were in every case annual. In order to remove any doubt as to the importance and wealth of the agricultural interest, he should be glad to give them some statistics published in Mr. Edward Walford's work, the eminent author of that well-known book—"The Families of the United Kingdom." Taking the last statistics of live farm stock, he valued them as follows:—Of cattle, 8,316,960, at £10 each, equal to £83,169,600; of sheep, 25,795,708, at 40s. each, equal to £51,591,416; of pigs, 3,802,399, at 40s. each, equal to £7,604,798, making a total of £142,365,814. Add for horses, estimated according to the latest returns at 2,030,015, at £15 each, equal to £30,450,750; of poultry, of all kinds, estimated at 15,000,000, at 3s. each, equal to £2,250,000, making a grand total of £175,066,564 for live stock alone. Again, if they took the arable lands held by farmers, and estimated the value of the produce at a fair price, in accordance with the latest statistics with which they had been favoured, they would find it amount to £214,020,987, which, with the value of live stock, as stated, above, would give a total of £389,087,551. Add to this enormous sum an estimate for sundries, such as agricultural implements, artificial foods on hand, manures, tenant right, and the like, connected with agriculture, to the amount of say £10,912,449, and they would have the good round sum of £400,000,000 as the personal property of the farmers of the United Kingdom, to say nothing of the fee simple of the land held by many of them. The farmers were also a very important body as regarded the payment of wages. Independent of the amount paid to their domestic servants, they expended annually in agricultural labour no less a sum than £75,000,000. This, it would be seen, was about one-sixth of the whole sum paid as wages in the United Kingdom—the total sum being £418,000,000—and amounted to somewhere near 5s. 6d. in the pound. From these facts it was palpable that if the farmers of the country knew their own strength and went to work in the proper manner, they could command the redress of those grievances which had so often been commented upon at public meetings and in the newspapers. (Cheers). Considering, then, that the agricultural interest was so powerful in this country, they might naturally feel surprised that they had not succeeded in their endeavours to abolish the Malt Tax, especially as that tax is placed upon the raw material, namely, barley, instead of upon the manufactured article. This allusion to the Malt Tax would no doubt recall to their minds the various burthens laid upon the poor man's ale before it reached him. First, the duty of 21s. 8d. for every eight bushels of barley converted into malt; then the maltster's license and his bond; then the immense amount paid for salaries to excisemen and the

collectors of the Malt Tax; and, lastly, there were the brewers' and publicans' licenses. In addition to these there were other grievances. In 1855 an Act was passed allowing English made malt to be exported free of duty; and the same privilege was granted to distillers, who since that time paid no duty upon malt for distillation. This partial repeal of the tax, however, showed very plainly how a remission of duty operated in increasing the demand. They would find that in 1855 there were 98,000 bushels exported and distilled free of duty, while in 1865 there was as much as 1,916,000 bushels. In ten years this partial free trade in malt had thus more than doubled in consumption, while the consumption of the duty paid malt, although there had been an enormous increase in population, had not increased ten per cent. (Hear, hear). The question now being agitated by them was no new question; and the tax itself had undergone many alterations. In 1750 the duty was only 4s. per quarter. In 1819 it was abolished, but it was soon afterwards reimposed. In 1834 a majority of the House of Commons voted one night for its abolition; but on Sir Robert Peel announcing a few nights afterwards that he should lay a tax upon property instead, the House revoked their previous vote, and, to save their own pockets, let the tax alone. From these remarks it would be seen that in the course of one century the malt duty had been increased $5\frac{1}{2}$ fold, and having looked to the past he would now refer to the future. So far they had found, that what was called the "country party" in the House of Commons, had left their supporters in the lurch. (A voice: "Not all of them.") Remembering this, it became the duty of agriculturists to elect men of their own class, men such as Mr. Reed, who was returned recently in the teeth of a powerful nobleman, at the small cost of £600: and even this sum was paid by Mr. Reed's political supporters. (Cheers and counter cheers). They must elect men of their own class if they wanted an alteration of the game laws, an abolition of the malt tax, a fairer arrangement of the costs of turnpike roads, and of the expenditure of county rates, or, in fact, if they wanted anything altered that was unduly or unfairly draining their pockets. There was one thing he should recommend farmers to do. It was to furnish statistics, and they would be benefited by giving them regularly and at once. Very few English farmers knew that they themselves grew five and a half loaves out of every seven loaves that are consumed in this country. Farmers saw the imports of foreign grain published weekly, and they became frightened at their enormous amount; but were the quantity of home-grown wheat properly ascertained and published, farmers would have no occasion to fear, and they would not therefore so frequently sell their grain at unremunerative prices as they did at present. The French Government, although despotic, had a Minister of

Agriculture. In that country everything was published that related to production and consumption; and the Emperor and his Government had recently resolved to give all countries an opportunity next year of showing their skill in agriculture, not only by placing fifty-four acres of land at their service, but also by offering to provide agriculturists with all the horses they required for ploughing and drilling, and all the fuel necessary for the agricultural engines. He (the speaker) rather regretted that the Chairman had thought proper to say that Mr. John Bright was no friend to farmers, as he did not support the remission of the Malt Tax. He would ask them, what did Mr. Bright say the other day when a deputation from the Cork Farmers' Club met him at Dublin? He said this—"In England and Scotland the tenants are so powerful that if they once put their heads together in one direction there is no possibility of withstanding them. If in England the tenantry, and in Scotland the tenant-farmers—the most capable, the most intelligent, the best agriculturists in the world—if they were to join in favour of measures, such as measures hostile to the Game Laws, hostile to any injustice which is supposed to exist with regard to the improvement of tenants, it would be quite impossible for the Parliament to resist their demands." He (the speaker) did not consider Mr. Bright their enemy. It was a happy thing that Agricultural Chambers and Farmers' Clubs had been established; and that it had been so arranged that local chambers could co-operate with the central chamber in London. If, however, they were determined to make these institutions successful in procuring a redress of their grievances, they must not be penurious in their subscriptions. They would have to give, and to give liberally or the work would never be done. They would do well too, as he had already said—to elect their members of Parliament from men of their own class, and free of any expense to the representative himself. Such members would at all times command more attention in the House of Commons than those elected by their "family compacts," or by the weight of their purse. If farmers would succeed in the cause which they were at present agitating, they must combine firmly and unanimously together. They should remember that their power and their wealth are predominant in the country, and they should also remember that "who would be free, himself must strike the blow." Several portions of Mr. Griffith's speech were very heartily applauded, while other portions, especially those in reference to Mr. Bright, were received with strong marks of disapprobation, the speaker being requested by several of the guests to "sit down." The speaker's concluding remarks were well-received; and the toast was drunk with enthusiasm.

Mr. Heighton, of *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, seconded the toast. He

congratulated the Shropshire Chamber of Agriculture upon the success of this, their inaugural dinner, and urged them to continue with energy the plausible work they had just began. He pointed out that the agricultural interests of the country were at present suffering under difficulties that no other branch of trade had to suffer under; and he explained that the only way to remove those obstructions was by combination. With this object chambers of agriculture had been instituted; and if properly supported by farmers and others interested in agriculture they would in time abolish many of those drawbacks to which farmers were at present subjected.—*Taken from the Shrewsbury Chronicle, December 21, 1866.*

After I sat down the principal speakers were Mr. John Meire, Mr. P. W. Bowen, Mr. Wicksted, Mr. Atcherley, the Rev. J. Watson, Mr. Gough, (a tenant farmer,) Mr. Hilditch, Mr. B. Owen, and Mr. Henry Smith.

The regular attendants at Bridgenorth Corn Market had for a length of time felt desirous that a convenient Corn Exchange, or Agricultural Hall, should be erected in the centre of the town. A committee was therefore formed of Farmers Millers, Dealers, and Maltsters, viz:—Mr. Broughall, the Lea, Claverley, Chairman;—Mr. Bowen, Dunvall House, Bridgenorth; Mr. Bradley, Ewdness, Stockton; Mr. Bridges, Wallsbatch, Bridgenorth; Mr. T. M. Deighton, Bridgenorth; Mr. C. Edkins, Bridgenorth; Mr. George Griffith, Corn Factor, Wolverhampton; Mr. Marston, Monkhall, Bridgenorth; Mr. Minor, Mose, near Bridgenorth; Mr. Nock, Bridgenorth; Mr. Onians, Bridgenorth; Mr. Powell, Rindleford Mill, Bridgenorth; Mr. Price, Catstree Worfield; Mr. Charles Pugh, Madeley, Salop; Mr. Reese, Harpsford, Bridgenorth; Mr. James Richards, Ackleton, Worfield; Mr. Ridley, Bridgenorth; Mr. Sing, Newton, Worfield; Mr. Stobbs, Faintree, Bridgenorth; Mr. Whitefoot, Bridgenorth; and Mr. H. J. Wyley, Bridgenorth.

The chief business they had to accomplish, was to purchase a property adjoining the Crown Hotel, (in the front of which the Corn Market had been held in the open air, from time immemorial). The estimated cost was £3,000, and shares were announced at £1 each to cover this amount, dated the 1st of

January, 1867. Mr. Harry Burton, was appointed Secretary to the Company.

Of course there was a dinner when the Agricultural Hall was finished, at which a very strong gathering took place. It was held on January the 12th, and all the leading Millers, Farmers, Maltsters, and Dealers were present.

The Hall had been erected in six months, by Messrs. Nevett Brothers, of Ironbridge, the foundation stone having been laid on the 1st of July, 1866, by Capt. T. C. Douglas Whitmore. Mr. Robert Griffith was the architect.

The chair, on the occasion of the public dinner, was filled by Mr. Wm. Layton Lowndes. The two members for South Shropshire were present (Colonel Percy Herbert and Mr. More), but the borough member, Mr. Henry Whitmore, was prevented from attending by the heavy fall of snow.

The speakers were Mr. More and Colonel Herbert, the Rev. G. Bellett, Mr. T. M. Southwell, Mr. Smith, Mr. Broughall, Mr. John Meire, Mr. Macmichael (the Mayor of Bridgenorth), Sir John Morris (Mayor of Wolverhampton), Mr. R. O. Backhouse, Mr. J. A. Bridges, Mr. Minor, and the Rev. G. Whitmore.

It fell to my lot to propose "Success to the Town and Trade of Bridgenorth," which, as it was getting late, I did not dwell upon, but merely said that I had been present at the birth of this bantling (The Hall), and was glad to find that at its christening to-day it had 120 godfathers. I congratulated them on the increase in the price of grain, and spoke of the great advantage the Hall would be as a means of increasing business. With other speakers I regretted the absence of Mr. Nock, but was glad to see two other mayors there. I added that trade and agriculture should never be disunited, as they were never truly opposed to each other.

The fact of no free boys being yet admitted into Stourbridge Endowed School, caused me to write to the *Birmingham Daily Post* about it. This drew the following letter from the Head Master:—

KING EDWARD'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL, STOURBRIDGE.

To the Editor of the Daily Post.

SIR,—I have had my attention directed to a statement made by a Mr. Griffith in your impression of to-day, to the effect that his "noise" caused the "reconstruction" of the Stourbridge Grammar School. I beg to say that such a statement is utterly without foundation, and that Mr. Griffith did not contribute in the remotest degree to the changes which have been made in connection with the school.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

W. J. J. WELCH,

Head Master of the Stourbridge Grammar School.

April 22, 1867.

To this I replied as follows:—

STOURBRIDGE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AND MR. GRIFFITH.

To the Editor of the Brierley Hill Advertiser.

SIR,—“I have had my attention directed to a letter written by a Mr. Welch, in the *Daily Post* of the 25th” (forgive the plagiarism), asserting that I was not in *the remotest degree* a helper in the improvement or restoration of the Stourbridge Grammar School.

So far back as 1850 I wrote a long letter about the state of this school, which appeared in the *Worcestershire Chronicle*; then, in my *History of the Free Grammar Schools of Worcestershire*, published in 1852, I wrote a full history of it, with a list of its properties and a statement of their acreage and separate values, and the school income and expenditure.

In the month of March, 1852, a public meeting was held in the Corn Exchange, at Stourbridge, under the presidency of Mr. John Wall, as to the decayed state of the school, at which meeting I had the pleasure of speaking for two hours; and petitions were drawn up and signed at the meeting to both Houses of Parliament. At that time there were only twenty-four boys in the school (two of whom were under the care of the head master), who were taught Latin and a general English course of education. In the preceding year the head master received £300, and resided rent-free, and the second master received £180 and the rent of his foundation house, as he let it.

At the present time there are about seventy boys in the school, and there can be very little doubt that the "noise" I made in 1852, was the primary cause of the trustees setting about the reformation of the school.

Although this increase is very satisfactory, it is quite clear, that the boys are not of the class intended by the founder, as his words are that "no money should be demanded of *any child*, either foreigner or inhabitant,"

and that the education should not be confined to writing and casting accounts alone.

These two orders show that the school was founded for the sons of poor parents, and yet at the present moment there is not one boy in the school whose parents could not well afford to pay for his education at a private establishment; and in direct opposition to Edward the Sixth's orders, each parent has to pay 10s. per quarter for his education, unless he should learn Greek and Latin only.

The effect of this is that poor boys are shut out, inasmuch as their parents cannot afford to pay £2 per annum and for books.

The salaries now are £150 to the head and £90 to the under master, certain, and the whole of the surplus of the rents, after necessary demands, repairs, and out-goings. In 1850 the two masters received £420, and as the values of the properties have no doubt kept up, it may be presumed that they get as much now (besides occupying rent-free residences), and the £2 per annum paid by each boy.

In 1862, new statutes and orders were adopted by the trustees, amongst which are the following:—"That non-parishioners' sons should pay when under the head master, six guineas, and when under the second master, four guineas per annum, in addition to fees for French and German, drawing, or drilling. That parishioners' sons should pay ten shillings per quarter for education, except Greek and Latin. That the head master be allowed to take ten, and the under master four boarders."

There are two exhibitions belonging to this school. The one founded in 1692 by Nicholas Baker, of Prestwood, arising from three houses in the Shambles, Worcester. This exhibition has never been claimed since 1836. Thus there are upwards of £200 rusting from the non-ability or indifference of the classical masters of the school, as to educating a boy or boys belonging to the parish.

The second exhibition or scholarship was founded by Miss Jane Walker, of Stourbridge, available for four years at either Oxford or Cambridge, the preference to be given to boys born in the parish. This scholarship, I am told, will afford the youth fifty pounds per annum during the four years he may be at college.

The re-building of the school was finished in the early part of 1862. The cost was about £3,050. On its opening day Lord Lyttelton presided, and the Rev. G. D. Boyle, of Handsworth, delivered a lecture on the occasion in the school room, called "Work and Play in and out of School."

The Bishop of Worcester, who is visitor of the school, signed a new set of rules on the 19th of September, 1862, by which unfortunately the head master is allowed to take ten boarders, and the under master four. Up to

the present date the second master has none, but the head master has five all strangers to the parish of Oldswinford, viz: two from Dudley, one from Cleobury, one from Dublin, and one from Clent.

Miss Jane Walker's scholarship has been founded for nearly five years, and yet no boy has been chosen to enjoy it. It is unfortunate that this lady's gift should be a dead letter ever since; and it is also very unfortunate for the youths attending this school, that for thirty years, no boy should have been trained to take Baker's Exhibition. The trustees are aware of these facts, and yet nothing has been done to make these two gifts to the school, of any use to the Oldswinford boys.

It is to be hoped that none of the boarders, being strangers, will be allowed to take them. With the income and fees attached to this school boarders should have never been allowed. The amount must be something considerable per annum, and so long as there are the two college gifts in addition, the inhabitants of Oldswinford, would doubtless fill the school with their children.

There is also an important matter connected with another school bequest, viz., the transfer of boys from Glover's foundation, which the trustees of the Grammar School should see fulfilled. Henry Glover, by Will 3rd September, 1689, left to the four trustees of his property £400 to buy land, and to settle the same *upon the Governors of the Free Grammar School*, in order to pay, first, the expenses of the trust, and second, for teaching six *poor boys*, sons of *poor* inhabitants, of any part of the parish of Oldswinford, the boys to be nominated by the governors of the Free Grammar School—three from Stourbridge, and three from other parts of the parish—and taught *until fit to be received* into the Grammar School; and that whilst there these boys' books, paper, pens, ink, &c., should be paid for out of his fund for the term of three years, and then for each boy to have a new Bible.

This bequest met with a reverse, but one of Glover's trustees, Philip Foley, left property to the same amount (1711), out of respect to the memory of his friend Glover, in 1813 the land so left, let at £70 per annum, and there is also a rent-charge on a property, called Good-Rest Farm, in the parish of Halesowen, of £8 per annum. There is also £600 in the Funds, making the total income of this fund upwards of £100 per annum.

These boys are educated in Wheeler's School, but strange to say, are never transferred to the Grammar School, although the governors of the Grammar School, are the trustees of both endowments.

What should be done? First, the boarders should be abolished; second, the fees should be abolished; third, the boys in Glovers's foundation should

be sent to the Grammar School, and their books, &c., paid for out of Glover's trust. Then, no doubt, we should see the school filled with Oldswinford and Stourbridge boys, and then we should also see the cleverest of them sent to college on Baker's and Miss Walker's foundations.

The trustees have the power to make new rules, but, not so as to *reduce the good intentions of the founder*, he ordered that no fees should be paid. He said nothing about the classics being taught free alone, in fact, he said that the boys should be taught everything free. The rents have increased greatly since then. Commercial education is more wanted now than then. The masters are ordered not to take foreigners if the school is well supplied with Oldswinford boys. Therefore it is to be hoped that the trustees will re-construct the school again.

I remain, Mr. Editor, yours faithfully,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, May 8th, 1867.

In the first week of February, 1867, I received a strong invitation to give my views at a Public Meeting at Tamworth, on the Endowed School Question. This was prompted from the fact of a strong contest having existed for some time between the inhabitants, and the Trustees of the Grammar School, and of other charities in that town.

The meeting was held in the Town Hall, on the 11th of February, and the Mayor, Mr. F. Ruffe, presided. A great number of people who came after seven o'clock could not get in, the Hall being filled before the proceedings commenced.

My address occupied rather more than two hours in delivery, and my introductory remarks were as follows:—

The Mayor in opening the proceedings, briefly explained the objects of the meeting, and said he had the honor of introducing to them that evening, a gentleman who would deliver a lecture—which to them would prove a subject of great interest—on the Charities of the country, with an insight into the present uses and abuses of the Tamworth Free Grammar School, and Rawlett's Charity. Before proceeding further, he would read a letter to them, which he had received from the Right Hon. Sir R. Peel, who was unfortunately unable to be present on that occasion.

Drayton Manor, Feb. 10th, 1867.

DEAR SIR,—As you are to preside at the meeting to be held in the Town Hall to-morrow (Monday) evening, I write to say that I should certainly have been present to support you in the chair, but am obliged to be in town for the important debate expected in the House on the subject of Reform. I however look forward with much interest to the information which the lecturer is likely to throw upon the subject to be treated, and make no doubt all parties, trustees as well as the public, will rejoice to have any light infused into the complications in which our forty-eight Tamworth Charities are at present so unhappily involved.

I am, &c.,

ROBERT PEEL.

F. Ruffe, Esq., Mayor, Tamworth.

The Mayor said he regretted the absence of the right hon. baronet, but though he was prevented from being present, in consequence of important duties in town, where he had the interests of them all to represent, he could well conceive his anxiety to be present where his services were most required. Sir R. Peel, who took great interest in the welfare of the town had given another proof of his desire to benefit them by introducing into the House of Commons a notice of motion for an investigation into the forty-eight charities of Tamworth. (Applause). They were all no doubt aware that with proper administration few towns were comparatively better off for charities than Tamworth, which from all its charities at the present time enjoyed a yearly income of £413 7s. 1d. With such a large sum, he thought it nothing but right and proper that the public should know how that money was distributed, and he saw no better or fairer way of conveying to them that information than by the trustees of such charities issuing half-yearly or yearly balance sheets, giving an account of every farthing expended. (Hear, hear, and cheers). As he was not there to lecture, but rather to introduce a lecturer on those subjects, he would conclude his remarks. He had great pleasure in introducing to the audience, Mr. Griffith, a gentleman thoroughly well up on such subjects, he having bestowed an immense amount of labour and time to the benefit of the great charities of the country, without any recompense or fee whatever. He was also the popular author of several books on charities, some of which related to those in the county of Stafford. (Applause).

In the course of my exposition I explained that the majority of the fellowships and scholarships attached to the Colleges and Halls of the Universities, were bequeathed for the benefit of really *poor* boys. At Oxford, anciently, the Halls were houses, in which the poor students lived with their tutors, three hundred

of these houses being in operation in Oxford alone in the reign of Edward I., and, in fact, up to the date of Laud's statutes, any M.A. or D.D. was permitted to open such houses.

In the present day, the intentions of the founders, in many cases, were nearly, and in some altogether disobeyed, the original rule of study having become obsolete, and the degrees in theology, law, and those of Masters of Arts having become mere forms, and fellowships had become sinecures.

With regard to the schools attached to Cathedrals, (where they did exist) I showed that the scholars stipends were in nearly all the cases kept down to the same amount as ordered in the statutes of Henry VIII., instead of being ten-fold that amount, the nine-tenths kept back from the boys, being appropriated by the Chapter, and added to the Canon's incomes; and that the boys educated in most of the Cathedral schools, were not sent as ordered to the Universities, to be finished in their studies; and that the money which should have been devoted to those purposes, was also appropriated by the Chapters for their own use.

Taking the larger schools, such as Eton, Harrow, Rugby, Westminster, the Charter House, Shrewsbury, and Repton, I proved that poor boys were excluded, and heavy fees charged to day scholars, so as to keep up a select class of boys; and that boarders were attached whose superior training enabled them to gain all the Exhibitions and scholarships. That one of the most odious parts of this system was that charges were put upon commercial studies, whilst Greek and Latin were taught free, and that to make assurance doubly sure, the trustees in many cases were men of such high position as to make it impossible to get any reform of these grievances. This evil arose from no general law being in existence to prevent persons from being elected trustees, unless they resided in the parish in which such endowments were situated.

I exposed the exclusive system of electing men who had M.A. or B.A. attached to their names, as schoolmasters, when there were numbers of laymen, as well, or better qualified, to such

offices, and the unfairness of taxing the people in support of National Schools, whilst there are such large funds, which should be applied to educate the poor.

I concluded the address by asking a question as to how long it had been since a boy was educated at Tamworth Grammar School. The Rev. T. Burgess said, "I do not think anyone present can tell you;" and Mr. R. Nevill said, "When Mr. Commissioner Ayr came down, there were two boys and eight girls in the school." With regard to the proposed fee of £8 per annum, I advised them to get it reduced, and also to insist that children should be admitted without regard to their parents religious views, and should the Charity Commissioners not accede thereto, then to memorialize the House of Commons, through Sir Robert Peel.

I denounced both the extravagance of the promoters of the new school, in asking for £3,200, and the proposition of building the school in the township of Wigginton. I advised them to oppose this extravagance, and this removal of the school, and urged them to protest against these and all other matters which they might consider would be injurious to the interests of poor scholars.

In the discussion that followed, Mr. Shaw, a trustee of the school, argued, that as the subscribers had promised their money on the faith of the school being built at Wigginton, the trustees could not do otherwise. He said that as the number of boys increased, he had no doubt the fees would be reduced.

The Mayor proposed and Mr. Wood, seconded, a vote of thanks to me for the address, which was carried with acclamation; then three cheers were called for and given heartily in honor of Sir Robert Peel, and with that the meeting terminated.

It appeared that seventy-two of the principal inhabitants, including Sir R. Peel, the Mayor of the Borough, (who was one of the trustees of the School), two justices of the peace, and six town councillors, had sent up a formal statement and a list of objections to the Charity Commissioners, to the building the

school out of the town, and the omission of the Mayor as an *ex officio* trustee from the new scheme.

In this memorial they gave a short history of the school, a statement of its benefactions, and the manner in which four successive school-masters had managed the school. In Mr. Collins's time it flourished; in Mr. Downes's time, (1823), there were only four scholars, and these only attended from ten to twelve o'clock to learn Latin!

It revived again under Mr. Lammin, but under Mr. Henry Handley the school became empty, yet he was allowed to draw the income regularly to the end of his life.

The memorialists also stated that it was owing to the disregard of the old rules of management that the school had declined, and had been shut up for more than twenty years, and they complained that the old school and house had been sold at an inadequate price, and that the money was proposed to be devoted to the purchase of land at Wigginton, whereon to erect a new school, and that the boys were to pay £8 per annum in fees; and they declared that it was illegal to erect the school out of the town of Tamworth.

They therefore asked that the Mayor and Town Council, or a certain number of them, should be included in the new board of trustees, and that the school should not be built in another township.

The results were that the new site was purchased for £420, and new buildings erected at a cost of £3,200; obtained as follows:—£2,000 from Port's charity, £200 from Rawlet's, and the rest from the sale of old buildings, and from subscriptions.

The trustees to have power to remit the school fees in special cases; all other residents sons to pay £2 per quarter, besides ten shillings for extra education, except as follows:—Six foundation boys to be elected by trustees, and six Port's scholars by Port's trustees, by competitive examination; the education to be gratuitous, Port's scholars to be paid £10 each towards clothing

and maintenance, and each boy to be educated with regard "to his intended future occupation or position in life."*

So that the opposition to the draft scheme did effect a very good purpose in ensuring the free education of twelve boys, and giving the liberty to the trustees to confer it on other deserving boys whose parents should be unable to pay.

The election of trustees too was a victory for the opposition, viz., the Mayor and Vicar to be *ex-officio* trustees; twelve other trustees to be elected from persons residing within the borough or seven miles therefrom; but two of them to be elected by the Town Council, and the rest by the Charity Commissioners on the *first* election, but afterwards by the votes of the whole Board of Trustees.

The foundation stone of the school buildings was laid by the Marquis of Townshend, on the 7th of August, 1867. In the course of his speech at the dinner which was held afterwards in the Town Hall, he said a few words which must have had an effect on some of those present, viz:—"He regretted particularly to notice that day amongst the assembly at the laying of the stone, several children, whose clothes gave intimation of great destitution. One of them, of ten or eleven years of age, said that she did not go to school, because her parents could not afford to pay for her education."

On the 12th of November, 1866, as may be seen on pages 744-745 *ante*, the Charity Commissioners sent a notice to Repton and Etwall containing a list of propositions, and on the 13th a memorial was sent by post to the Charity Commissioners signed by Joseph Wright, J. Wilder, James Stone, and thirteen of the Almsmen, in opposition to the proposed new Scheme. On the 20th a public meeting of the inhabitants was also held at the Spread Eagle to oppose the proposed new Scheme on the following points:—That it would violate the vested rights of Etwall Parish under the Will of Sir John Port, in taking away the power of such parish as to participating in the management of the charity.

* *Vide* Vol. xv. Schools' Inquiry Commission, pp. 462-3 (1869).

The parishioners therefore resolved to petition the Charity Commissioners against it.

Memorials to this effect were drawn up and signed by sixty-five freeholders, occupiers, and almsmen.

On the 21st of December the draft of the new Scheme was published by the Charity Commissioners, and on the 22nd they addressed a long letter to Mr. James Stone, of Etwall, as representative of the parishioners, in reply to their memorial. At the same time a memorial had been sent by Mr. Ashton Mosley and Mr. A. R. G. Mosley, to the Commissioners, in which they stated their determination to oppose the new scheme when it came before the House of Commons.

Nevertheless, on the 9th of May, 1867, a Bill founded on this scheme was ordered to be printed by the House of Commons. This was brought in by Lord Robert Montagu and Mr. Adderley, and in the next week's *Derby Mercury*, the editor commented on it thus:—"It is very difficult to fathom the depth of the policy which guides the action of the mysterious and all but irresponsible body of Charity Commissioners. They send an Inspector to ascertain, on the spot, the mode of administration of a charity, and the desires of the inhabitants who are mostly interested in it, but when the time for giving effect to those desires arrives they are just as quietly ignored as their expression was ostentatiously invited. Mr. Inspector Martin carefully inquired into the administration of Sir John Port's charities for Repton and Etwall, and with a courtesy which distinguishes him amongst a crowd of officials, he listened with great patience to the various suggestions offered by the friends of those intimately concerned in the future. His report has, however, been almost entirely disregarded, and we cannot feel surprised that the inhabitants of Etwall have resolved to oppose the bill introduced by Lord Robert Montagu, for the future government of these great and generous gifts. The opening signal of opposition was sounded on Friday night, in the House of Commons, when Sir R. Peel moved for a return of income and expenditure for the last seven years of Sir John Port's charities, and of all sales of Consols standing in the name

of trustees of the charities during the period aforesaid, and of the application of all moneys accruing from such sales. It is true that Lord R. Montagu objected to the return on the ground that the information was to be found in documents which were easily accessible, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that if the right hon. baronet really thought it important to obtain the return he would offer no objection to its production; and the motion was agreed to. We shall watch with interest the progress of this battle between an irresponsible set of advisers and the inhabitants of a large district, whose descendants will be materially affected by the scheme about to be adopted. The Bill must be resisted, and we hope the people of Repton and Etwall will work harmoniously in resisting it. We promise all the assistance which the power of publicity can award."

A petition of the ratepayers and others residing in Repton and Etwall was presented to the House, and Mr. Colvile and Sir Robert Peel moved for returns of the revenues, and number of scholars, to be produced before the second reading.

A Select Committee of the House was appointed to consider the Bill and the scheme, and met on Friday, June the 28th. The members were Lord Robert Montagu (chairman), Mr. C. R. Colvile, Mr. T. W. Evans, Right Hon. R. Lowe, Mr. Denman, Mr. Henley, and Mr. Paget.

The Hon. Chandos Leigh appeared for the Hereditary Governors, Mr. Archibald for the schoolmasters, and Mr. T. W. Cave for the ratepayers.

Petitions were presented for and against the Bill.

The Committee adjourned until July the 1st. They decided not to hear witnesses, but to accept the statements of Counsel. Another adjournment took place for the following day, and the Bill then passed through Committee.

The results were, that the vested rights of Etwall to supply the future almsmen were secured, instead of the area of selection being extended as proposed. The area of selection of the trustees was put and carried, at twenty miles, by the voice of the chairman only. The office of the master of the almsmen to be abolished

after the demise of the present holder, which would save £300 per annum, Repton and Etwall each to have a free school for the poor, under the rule of the Privy Council, and power was given to elect almswomen as well as men to the almshouses.

The sale of the advowson of Willington was also included in the Bill; this living belonged to the school, but had never been of any use to it, and the produce of the sale was ordered to be devoted to the erection of two school houses with masters' residences, one at Repton, the other at Etwall. The act received the Royal assent on the 12th of August.

This was a great victory, and a public congratulatory dinner was held at the Spread Eagle Inn, at Etwall, to celebrate the passing of the act, of which the following is a Report copied from the *Derby and Chesterfield Reporter*, of August 23, 1867:—

SIR JOHN PORT'S CHARITIES.

PUBLIC CONGRATULATORY DINNER AT ETWALL.

This dinner was held at the Spread Eagle Inn, Etwall, to celebrate the passing of an Act of Parliament, for an amended scheme of the Charity Commissioners, called Sir John Port's Hospital, in Etwall, and school in Repton, in the county of Derby, which received the royal assent on the 12th inst. Upwards of seventy sat down to a well-provided dinner. Captain Rowland Cotton, (Lord of the Manor) in the chair, supported by Major Mosley, Burnaston House; the Hon. and Rev. F. Curzon, Mickleover; Captain Cox, J. S. Clarke, Esq., Derby; W. Edwards-Wood, Esq., of Tamworth Castle, as the solicitor of the Etwall Committee of defence, and petitioners of Etwall and Repton; H. C. Pemberton, Esq., including amongst many other influential freeholders of Etwall and vicinity, Messrs. James Stone, Prime; James Wilder, S. Wilder, J. Doxey, John Stone, J. Wilder, E. Jerram, Bond, Derby; R. Evans, Derby; J. W. Newbold, W. Adams, J. Nichols, H. Holmes, John Archer, G. Clayton, Derby; F. Harpur, T. Jerram, C. Finney, A. Cooper, C. Gatensbury, T. Jerram, jun., C. Wall, C. Wall, jun., T. Rose, J. Bailey, W. Platts, R. Platts, R. Platts, jun., E. West, H. Robinson, G. Wall, — Gilman, Willington; F. Platts, T. Newham, W. Archer, G. Smedley Repton; W. Ward, — Ratcliff, Blackley; G. A. Cope, Esq., and the indefatigable promoter of the measure, Mr. J. Wright, of the Hepnalls, and others.

The vice-chair was occupied by Mr. George Griffith, of Wolverhampton, an

author of no mean standing, and who has throughout the entire proceedings assisted in the investigations.

After the dinner the Chairman proposed "The Queen," "The Prince and Princess of Wales, and the rest of the Royal Family."

Captain Cox, Derby, then rose amidst hearty cheers, and said it was his privilege to give the next toast; but he only need say it was "The Lord Lieutenant and the Magistrates of the county," to ensure its being cordially and properly honoured. He would couple with the toast the name of Major Mosley, a gentleman whose name nearly always appeared in the public papers in connection with the report of the proceedings of the bench of magistrates in the districts he attended; and who had carried into his private life the punctuality, good discipline, and business habits in which he had been trained, which had been imparted to him at school, and confirmed by his military experience. (Applause.)

Major Mosley was received with hearty cheers as he rose to acknowledge the toast. He said in reference to the Lord Lieutenant it was true that every one knew and appreciated the high qualities of the Duke of Devonshire. (Hear, hear.) With regard to the Magistrates, he believed they desired to do that which was right, and to be useful in their generation in promoting the well-being and happiness of their fellow subjects, and on their behalf he begged to thank them. (Cheers.) A toast had been committed to his hands which was more immediately connected with the business that had brought them together that day. It was only just that they should give their thanks to whom they were due. In-all they had done they had been greatly assisted by the gentlemen who represented that part of the county in the House of Parliament. It was only on the preceding Friday, he was asked by a gentleman what they were about to meet for that day—if it was not to celebrate their defeat? and he (Major Mosley) was afraid that a great many people did not at all understand or appreciate the extent of their efforts. If, however, they analysed the result of their labours, and examined the bill, and compared it with what it was before it went into committee, they would find that a great deal had been attained. In the first place the extension of the area had been stopped. The men of the present generation cannot defraud the men of the next. In the second place, females have been admitted to the charity, and although that might at first thought appear a very slight result, yet there was a far greater and more useful result connected with the matter. The Act cut away the argument of the Charity Commissioners for the extension of the charity to districts which its founder never intended should participate in it, and extended the working of it within its own area. It also rendered all salaried officers ineligible to sit as members of the Board of Management. They

would all agree with him that it was very absurd for a man to be at once master and servant, to hold an appointment, and at the same time to sit as a member of the Board of Management. Beyond that they had obtained power to sell the living of Willington, and should thereby call into animation that which had been lying dead, and yielding no result to the charity for—he might say—centuries, and their share of the proceeds would enable them to have good schools in the parishes of Etwall and Repton. In all that related to those matters they had been very greatly assisted by the members of the county. There was one thing he could not disguise to them; it was respecting the constitution of the Board of Management. A very great deal depended upon the character of that Board. If the management was to be committed to persons who lived at a distance, as under the Act, the area decided upon was within twenty miles of Repton, many persons might be appointed who might not take any active interest in the scheme, who might often not be at home, or who, from living at too great a distance, might not feel the same interest in it as the parishioners who lived near did, but if they obtained the appointment of parties who lived near them, and who well understood and felt what were the requirements of the parishioners, and sympathized with them, then he thought, under the new Act, the institution would be found to work well, and he therefore said it behoved them to be careful, or they might again have to apply to their members, and fight the battle over again. At all events they owed a deep debt of gratitude to their county members, and that in the sense of for favours already received, as well as for favours to be received. Trusting therefore, that in all they had or might hereafter find it necessary to do, they might have their assistance, he would give them with very great pleasure "The Health of the Two Members for the Southern Division."

The toast was received with great enthusiasm.

Mr. Wright, the Hepnalls, said it was not necessary that he should just then repeat to them the whole of the particulars connected with the case, as they were all aware, and had read of the struggle in reference to the case when before the House of Commons, and could perceive what important services had been rendered to it there by both of their county members, whose conduct had been most remarkable throughout. As to Mr. Colville his conduct had been astonishing. They were not yet out of the wood, and might even yet require their services, and if they did he had not a doubt that their attention would be as cheerfully given to the subject as it had been. As to that noble-minded gentleman, his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, he had, as a member of the House of Lords, greatly aided in furthering their interests as each of them who had taken an interest in the subject knew, and was deserving their warmest gratitude. To repeat what

Mr. Colville had done would occupy too much of their time, but he had known him so long, and was so fully aware of the services he had rendered that he could not help saying if he had to come before his constituents in that division again his return would be a matter of the utmost certainty, and his public conduct would be found to have ensured the approval of everybody. Having witnessed, as he had done, the great services rendered to them, by himself and his colleague, he could not help saying that but for them, instead of being situated as they then were, they might have been sitting bewailing their condition, weeping in dust and ashes. He hoped they would drink the toast most heartily.

The toast was then most enthusiastically honoured.

The Vice-Chairman (Mr. George Griffith, of Wolverhampton,) then proposed "The health of Mr. Joseph Wright and other members of the Etwall and Repton Defence Association." In doing so he congratulated them heartily upon the success, partial though it was, which they had obtained. The gentleman whose name appeared at the head of this toast fully deserved their warmest feelings of gratitude. For more than three years he had diligently by night and by day, both at home and from home, pursued the acquisition of those objects which they were met that evening to celebrate. He would ask any man in his senses whether it was reasonable right or honest that for forty-nine years no Repton boys should have been admitted into Repton school. (Hear, hear). Those who did not know that it was so would say it could not be true. It was true, however, and the evidence taken in that room proved it had been one of the most foul and unmanly deprivations that could be conceived. Some thirteen years ago he attended a meeting in Derby, and there spoke upon the subject, but he little thought then, that in 1867 he should experience the pleasure of being present at such a meeting as that on account of a victory having been gained. He would not take up much of their time, the labours of Mr. Wright were so well known to them that he could scarcely expect to make them better acquainted with them, or more sensible to his merit even by occupying hours in a speech, were he to attempt it. (Cheers). He would therefore say but little. He hoped the time was come when they would make him some substantial present as a proof that his efforts had been appreciated. (Cheers). They were indeed greatly indebted to his noble exertions in their behalf. He would merely remind them that Mr. Wright was all right. He had deprived himself of his rest, and more than all, he had done all without fee or reward, without the expense to them of even a single penny. What was still more he knew that he had even spent his own money, and had paid his own expenses in many things. He (Mr. Griffith) felt both surprise and indignation when he first discovered the

misapplication of the good Sir John Port's endowments, and resolved that if possible such a state of things should not be perpetuated. Mr. Wright had travelled often to London, Birmingham, and elsewhere, during the last three years to gain the proper administration of the revenues of Sir John Port's endowments, and he (in conjunction with the committee who joined with him heartily in his patriotic endeavours) had at last succeeded. They would most of them remember the week's examination in that room, at which the Inspector sent down by the Charity Commissioners, presided, and at which the old almsmen, with great pluck and true John Bull determination stood the test of giving evidence in a manner most satisfactory to the committee; and thus aided in gaining the victory. In fact there was no parishioner on the other side. The points gained are that a school should be built at Etwall, as also a residence for the master, that another school should be built at Repton, and a residence. That all Etwall and Repton boys should be taught free. To help in the accomplishment of these objects the living of Willington, which was part of Sir John Port's gifts was to be sold. The area from which the almsmen are to be taken is to be confined to Etwall, and the two school masters at Repton are no longer to be trustees, and in addition to that, the masters of the hospital, or almshouses, are not to be trustees after the present masters' retirement or decease. The points not gained are that the eight free boys are still to be elected by the hereditary governors, so that the charity in that respect will continue to benefit the sons of strangers instead of the sons of poor and deserving men in Repton and Etwall. The boarders at the master's residence are still to be tolerated in spite of the school, the revenue being sufficient without their aid. This in 1864 was no less than £1226 and is now estimated at £1500 nett, and in spite of the further fact, that in seven or eight years' time it will be increased fully £1000. The new scheme or act also allows the four hereditary governors to nominate three of the trustees, and the charity commissioners to nominate four. There was another point which though only partly gained, was better than in the old system. They would recollect that the trustees had been (in addition to the four hereditary governors) the schoolmasters, the master of the hospital and the three senior almsmen, but the new trustees are not to be connected in any other way with the charity except as trustees, and they are to be selected from an area of twenty miles around. That, though a gain, was not quite satisfactory, as the trustees ought to be selected from gentlemen in the two parishes. There are plenty from whom to select trustees residing therein. He knew of many evils resulting from trustees living at a distance from their trusts,—such as a gentleman living near Tenbury, in Worcestershire, being a trustee for a school situated at Audley, in North Stafford-

shire. Such persons could not attend to their duties as trustees, and they at the same time kept out those on the spot who could and would do so. But that act would, however, be superseded by a better, and no doubt in a few very years. He believed that Lord Byron was right when he said—

“I think I hear a little bird which sings,
That bye and bye the people will be stronger.”

But the people of Etwall and Repton will after all have a check to the election of the trustees; the Charity Commissioners will have to send a notice down to be exhibited in public places—such as the church doors—for a certain number of days, containing the names and residences of the trustees nominated by them, and the hereditary governors, and any two parishioners, if dissatisfied, can then appeal against these nominations and propose other governors instead, and if not dealt fairly with they can go to the Court of Chancery and ask for redress. That was a great point seeing that the Charity would be fully £1000 richer in a few years. He complained that the Report sent in by the Inspector (after his visit to Etwall) was not consistent with the evidence taken by him, and that his (Mr. Griffith's) tables showing the income and expenditure of the charity funds for many years past, had not been printed therein, although referred to in the Report alphabetically. He should take an opportunity of handing the Evidence and Report to some members of Parliament for their consideration, and trusted some one would bring the matter before the House next session. Inspector Martin's Report reminded him of the answer that the Almshouse nurse gave Mr. Leech when he asked her how old she was—“I cannot recollect, because I was born so far off.” Perhaps Mr. Martin thought as his Report was printed “so far off” from Etwall, the evidence would be beyond the memory of the parishioners. In conclusion, he asked the company to give a hearty vote of thanks to the committee, and show by their acceptance of the toast how they appreciated their efforts.

The toast having been duly honoured,

Mr. Wright rose amidst a perfect volley of cheers to acknowledge the compliment. In doing so he expressed the great pleasure it afforded him to meet his friends and neighbours upon the occasion, and his thanks for the very kind manner in which they had been pleased to receive the toast. He thought it quite right they should be made acquainted by some person with what had been done in carrying out the investigations which had led to that successful issue, in consideration of which they had then met together to congratulate each other. And as it was necessary that some one who knew all the circumstances should do so, he would try and give them the principal facts in as few words as he could. He then continued

by saying, in the year 1863, having purchased the Hepnall's estate, I came to reside in the parish of Etwall. Being pleased with the appearance of the village, and the ancient appearance of the Alms Houses, I made inquiries as to their origin, when I was informed as to their endowment. Every person resident in the place complained of the abuses which had crept into the charity. The Will of the noble donor was put into my hands. In that will I found the revenues were not disposed of according to his wish; the management was vested in the hands of interested persons who were more favourable to their own comforts than the comforts of the recipients of the charity. Being a Guardian of the Poor I considered it my duty to cause an investigation of the management of the Corporation. After some delay the Charity Commissioners sent down an Inspector to make an Inquiry, and very great excitement was created in the village during the Inquiry, which lasted six days. The parishioners spared no expense in producing witnesses who could give any evidence as to the management of the Charity. Everything was carried on in the most amicable manner possible, and as all the witnesses were sworn, it rendered it rather a solemn proceeding. It was quite expected that the Charity Commissioners had full powers, under the Charity Trusts' Act, to rectify all the abuses which their Inspector had discovered, but in that matter the parishioners have found themselves much disappointed. After a delay of two years a notice was sent down, saying a scheme would be presented to Parliament, and after that another scheme, or bill. As to the powers which they should apply for, those powers were more arbitrary than those of the former management. The parishioners remonstrated with the Commissioners, but all in vain. They referred to the Inspector's Report, and asked for a copy of it, and were refused. An application was made to the House of Commons, and the House ordered it to be printed; but when it reached the parishioners they found it a very different document to what they expected, as they thought it would contain (*verbatim*) the evidence, given on oath at the Inquiry, but no such thing; the report was a garbled account of the proceedings, insinuating that the evidence was *ex parte* in many instances, and could not be relied on, so that that functionary put his veto on every statement he thought proper. The parishioners had taken the precaution to invite reporters of the press, and there were three there during the whole time, whose reports recorded what actually did take place, and not what did not. The Report was half filled about Repton School, the accommodation for gentlemen's sons as boarders, but not a word of evidence was given about this at the Inquiry, and it was no doubt put in by desire of the head master, or some one else; but what had that to do with the charity? This was a business of a private nature; suffice it to say, there ought not

to be a boarder on that establishment, as the funds were quite ample to educate all the boys that can need the school without the assistance of boarders, and which has so clearly been laid down by Lord Romilly, in the Bristol case. Then there was a very sad cause of complaint that the foundation boys, for which the master receives £340 a-year, and an Exhibition to the Universities, should be strangers, and gentlemen's sons, when the Will of the founder stated they should be sons of poor persons who could not afford to pay for their learning. Admitting the Will is silent as to where the foundation boys shall come from, so is it silent as to where any of the school boys are to come from, and the inference may be fairly drawn that it was to be a free school for all the world, and no doubt the noble founder intended it should be so, and it appears that that spirit was carried out till about the year 1832, when the governors, at the request of Dr. Macanley, the then master, made an order that only Etwall and Repton boys should be taught free. That order was questioned by the late Lord Justice Turner in 1853. Although a little relief was obtained for these two parishes it must be expected that the public mind will slumber, and they thought of having two schools built, and recently the Privy Council were well aware of that mind, and it will be asked what had become of the powers given by the Will of Sir John Port and his endowment to a school at Etwall or Repton, which is stated by Mr. Martin in his report to be worth £3000, less £500 for the almsmen, leaving a balance of £2500, a pretty round sum, which has been expended in educating some twenty or thirty day boarders. There will no doubt some Hampden yet arise whose voice will resound in the Reformed Parliament, and there will be a great vibration in that assembly, which will cause these revenues to be expended for the purposes for which the donor intended them. Thus did Mr. Wright, as the chief promoter of the Inquiry, during the course of an excellent and elaborate address, detail the history of the Repton and Etwall Charities, down to the period of Mr. Inspector Martin's Inquiry. He dwelt feelingly and eloquently upon the objects of Sir John Port's Charity, and of the abuses and shortcomings they had experienced during the present and past generations, particularly in the virtual exclusion of the poor from the school, so munificently endowed for their benefit, by the good and much revered Sir John Port, whose name, he said, would ever be an honour to the place of his birth, and the resting place of his remains. The difficulties they had had in overcoming the machinations of those into whose hands his magnificent donation had fallen, were very great, and he should leave that part of its history to be detailed to them by their solicitor, Mr. Edwards-Wood. It had required his well-known acumen and indomitable perseverance to silence the battery of their enemies "over the water" at Repton,

which he was thankful to say his professional skill and the well-known and indomitable courage of the Etwall and Repton patriots, had gained the victory which they were that day met to celebrate. The pecuniary advantage which that conquest had secured would not be fully understood until future generations had reaped the benefits resulting from the energies and expenditure of those then present, for the cry of the present and future age would be "Educate," "Educate," "Educate," seeing the important political influence the present legislation has just conferred, or rather was conferring upon the labouring classes, and artisans of this great country. He concluded by saying that after all there was reason to be very thankful. A great battle had been fought, and a greater victory had been won. They had fought upon proper and honest grounds, and so far they had succeeded. He urged them to use every possible endeavour to get a good bench of trustees appointed. He paid another high compliment to Mr. Colvile on account of his exertions in consequence of which mainly, two bills in reference to charities had been brought forward which had not passed into law, and were not now likely to be. He said they stood well through that which had passed, as they were to have a good school built in Etwall within three months. He said he had no greater or other desire than to be useful during his remaining life. He had suffered great persecution in consequence of his efforts to be useful in the cause which was likely to prove so great a public benefit, but the thought of it was as nothing compared with the victory they had won, and the pleasure he experienced in meeting them upon the occasion.

The following letter and another similar one, from Mr. Colvile were read by Mr. Wright as evidence that the hon. gentleman had felt deeply interested in the subject:—

"MY DEAR SIR,—I am truly sorry to say I cannot have the pleasure of dining with you and my other friends on Thursday. Sir John Port's Charity Bill only passed the House of Lords last Friday. I have a great deal of anxiety about it. Since it went to the Lords the clause I had put in confirming the election of almsmen to Etwall came back to the Commons with an error—it passed the 6th instead of the 5th of William. From what we hear, however, all is now right, as you wished it. Neither of the other two Charity Bills passed into a law. I will send you the act when printed. I am leaving town for my holiday—I assure you I much need rest.

"Sincerely,

"C. R. COLVILE.

"August 13th, 1867."

"P.S. Mr. Evans has been most useful to me in helping me with the

Bill, and most anxious about it. I hope you will thank him, and also the Duke of Devonshire, for his care of it in the Lords."

"The Health of the Chairman, Captain Cotton," was proposed by Mr. Edwards-Wood, who did so with feelings of the utmost respect and satisfaction—first, because he came forward as the leading member, as every parish should do to uphold and advocate the rights of the poor parishioners, and no one could do it so seemly, and with such bounden duty as Captain Cotton did in that instance, for he stood as it were in the shoes of the generous and benevolent founder of the Etwall Hospital, the beauty of which animated the eye of every inhabitant of Derbyshire, and the benefit of which might in that and future ages instigate others to go and do likewise. In the second place, the satisfaction at the present moment was great, for the example of Captain Cotton, supported by the party determination of the Etwall people, and those of Repton, had been crowned with deserved success; however, in those feelings of exultation, they must not forget the meed of praise due to the earlier agitators on the question. They owed a debt of gratitude to Dr. Bigsby for his valuable history of Repton, which his education there had enabled him to write. They should not overlook, as an inducement to Etwall boys and parents, the high literary position attained by Dr. Bosworth, who was first the son of a poor cow-keeper at Etwall, and then a poor scholar, and the last of the poor scholars distinguished as a Reptonian school-boy. Those two great luminaries proved what could be done by the poor scholars of Repton, when the men in high places gave them the opportunity to improve and cultivate the mental gifts which our Creator has bestowed, irrespective of parentage or worldly position; doubtless the eloquent outbursts of Dr. Bigsby's indignation when recording the singular perversion of the intentions of the different founders, Sir John Port and Ward, the latter of whom supplemented the noble charity of the originator by thinking of and providing books for those boys whose parents could not provide them, but which had been given to the sons of barristers, clergymen, and medical practitioners, to the exclusion of the boys of the truly poor, who are intended to be freely taught at Repton. These were the recitals which doubtless inflamed and brought into action the minds of Messrs. Briggs and Wheatcroft, who nobly tried to stem the current of such abuse. However, the best efforts, and in the best of causes sometimes fail, and so it was fated to be in their case; still every effort of reform drives a nail into the coffin which contains oppression and injustice. The efforts they made, and the history of their suit in Chancery, put into action that public dissatisfaction which led to the Charity Commissioners feeling constrained to send down their inspector, Mr. Martin. He found the men of Etwall at their post, and they supplied

their general (Mr. Leech) with the means of bringing up a host of witnesses which compelled him to write the report which found its way at last to the table of the House of Commons. It had certainly undergone a protracted period of incubation, and he should be wanting in independence and justice towards his clients, present, if he shrank from telling them that the Report was such an offspring as the Commissioners wished to conceal from public gaze and examination as long as possible, for when he asked for the copy at the expense of his clients, he was told at the Charity Commission offices, that Mr. Martin's Report was solely for the use of the Charity Commissioners, and not for the benefit or information of the inhabitants of Etwall and Repton. On this point, those great potentates, as they had become, were inexorable, although he told them the inhabitants of Etwall and Repton had been invited to assist Mr. Martin with every possible piece of evidence in their power, and which they had patriotically supplied at a cost to themselves exceeding £150. The powers of the House of Commons brought this *rara avis*, 'yclept Mr. Martin's Report of Sir John Port's charities before the eyes of the Members of the House, therefore he was ready to acknowledge the assistance he gained as their solicitor. That report was most valuable to us, inasmuch as it enabled us to call in the aid of the *Derby Reporter*, and other contemporary journals, that through them we might let it be known to all around us what we were doing. From the aforesaid resources, they enabled me, continued the speaker, in the first place, to draw up a memorial from the inhabitants of Etwall, containing their objections to the scheme of the Charity Commissioners, to each of which documents was appended a phalanx of those names who had met Mr. Martin face to face at his so-called public Inquiry. I should waste too much of your time if I were to canvass all the views those documents propounded; suffice it to say that the general good of Etwall and Repton comprised the sole object sought by those documents, which led, in the course of events, to the grand assault in the shape of a petition to the House of Commons, for a Select Committee to inquire into the alleged abuses. Both sides have been heard, and you have every reason to be proud of the result—the old court of mismanagement has been abolished, and in the new court of management no person shall become eligible to act as a Trustee who derives any emolument from the funds of the Charity. Even the Select Committee could not help bowing a little to ribbon, for after denuding the Master of the Hospital of all his duties, they allowed him to continue a Trustee during his tenure of office, but displaced the master and ushers of Repton School from being any longer Trustees; and they appointed seven other persons, resident within twenty miles of Repton, to assist the hereditary Governors as trustees of Sir John Port's charity, and coupled the salutary provision that if they omitted to attend

to their duties for two years, they became defunct, and their duties were to be performed by newly-appointed trustees. As regards the benefits, the Act continues to Etwall the right of supplying the sixteen almsmen, to occupy the ancient dwellings in that Hospital, which was only removed a few yards from the grave of the founder; and in case of a dearth of old men, old women are to be the recipients of the charity. As regards the children of the poor, we have obtained for them the erection of suitable school rooms, schoolmaster's house, and a duly certificated schoolmaster and schoolmistress, to give them a useful and efficient education, according to their station, and in the struggle our allies at Repton have not been overlooked. With the help of the Repton petitioners, Repton will receive the benefit of newly-erected schools, together with the schoolmaster's house, and a schoolmaster and schoolmistress, holding first-class certificates for their efficiency, secured by the best of all precautions, viz., the supervision of the Privy Council of Education; and as these efforts could not be procured without a large pecuniary outlay, the means were proved to be available out of the sale of the advowson of Willington, which had been invested since the death of Sir John Port and others, by the trustees of his Will. Speaking as he did in the county of Derby, and before electors of that county, he begged to congratulate them upon having such an indefatigable and pains-taking member as Mr. Colvile, who had been found ready at all times to take upon himself any amount of trouble to promote the wishes and interests of his constituents at Etwall and Repton. The select committee differed in many respects from the old Judge and Jury system, and if I had not had such a master mind in that little conclave as Mr. Colvile possessed, it would have gone ill with the interests and hopes of the petitioners. I found him at his post late and early, and he did not desert the undertaking when half accomplished. He watched its progress through the Upper House with the eye of a keen observer, and prevented its mis-carriage there by his judicious selection of his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, your worthy Lord Lieutenant, who generously accepted the office of sponsor to our "little Bill." I am only sorry the above Bill is not the only Bill, for as Mr. Wright has told you I have a Bill to which the parties for whom I have acted have to fulfil the onerous duties of sponsors and pay masters. I have made it as little as possible, and shall be ready to suit the convenience of those who have the debt to pay, by taking the amount by instalments. I have the satisfaction of knowing that I have procured for Etwall upwards of ten thousand pounds by the preservation of its hospital and the founding of its school; and for Repton, I have supplied the want, long felt, of a school for its poor. When I came into this room I felt full of anxiety, but since I have been here, and heard the deep interest taken

in the subject by all present, that anxiety has been superseded by confidence and pleasure, and with that support from above which I see is now bestowed, there will, I am sure, be no longer any cause to look down. I therefore propose "The health of Captain Rowland Cotton," our chairman.

The toast having been enthusiastically honoured,

The Chairman said when he entered the room he thought he could speak, but with their musical honours, and their general kindness, he was knocked out of time. They had met to celebrate a victory, and one which he hoped would remain permanent throughout all time, as a great advantage gained for the Etwallites, Burnastonians, and Reptonians. He did not know to whom he was to attribute the success, but he thought to all the committee. He thought the names of Major Mosley, Mr. Wright, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Edwards-Wood, and others he saw around him were all concerned in gaining for the several parishes the great advantages of which they had heard. Their endeavours would have cost money, and, gravely speaking, as a just debt had been incurred, and they had no kind uncle to pay it, he could not help thinking how it was to be met. He could not help thinking that all the parishes were morally liable, and as he would like to get out of debt, he would be thankful to any gentlemen who would tell him how they were to get out of the scrape.

Mr. Wright did not like bringing dry figures before a convivial meeting of that description. He was afraid they were putting too much upon him, but he did think he had a plan in his head for getting out of debt, which would meet with the approbation of the ratepayers. As the legal gentlemen lived by their profession, they were entitled to be paid, and Mr. Edwards-Wood should be paid, though he should dock him a little, as no doubt he would have put on a little for what he intended to take off, and that would bring things right!

The Chairman then concluded by thanking the company sincerely for placing him in a position in which he had spent so very happy an evening, and for the manner in which his name had been mentioned in connexion with the toast.

Mr. Wright again rose to propose "The Health of the Vice-Chairman," and in doing so, he said, if he ever required an eloquent tongue or a strong voice it was then. Mr. Griffith had told them he had not been to school, but he had given them good evidence that he was the right man in the right place. He had sprung up from the ranks of the people, and by schooling himself had raised himself to a position of real usefulness amongst his fellows. He had become known as an author of great ability. He had been training himself for that particular course in life which had led to his success in what he had undertaken, though he had fought at first single-

handed. There was a great power *over* the Trent, but with his assistance they had done nobly. He had gone forth without any fee or reward, and they had seen what his perseverance had accomplished. The cry for education might now be heard everywhere; in Town Councils, Boards of Guardians, and it had stirred even the inhabitants of Etwall. His exertions had saved them from a rate which would have been necessary in case they had had to provide for the education of their children by other means. He had a plan in his head which he should submit to the ratepayers, but for the present he would content himself by proposing the health of Mr. Griffith, as their Vice-Chairman, and thanks for his zealous endeavours, which had been crowned with success.

The toast was very cordially received and honoured, after which,

Mr. Griffith, in responding, thanked the company for the hearty manner in which his name had been received, and, in allusion to the meeting he had some years since addressed at Derby, on the subject, said some handbills were then posted at Repton stating that he would do so, but they were scarcely posted when some kind friend covered them with tar in the night-time, which tarring he could not help thinking had been ordered by those whose deeds were evil. About three years ago, his friend Mr. Wright, whom he had known for many years before he came to live at Etwall, engaged him to investigate the state of the charities of Sir John Port. A public meeting was held on that occasion and resolutions passed in order to endeavour to obtain a just administration of the charity funds. Then a committee was formed, and in due time an investigation which lasted for seven or eight days, was made by Inspector Martin, at which voluminous evidence was taken. Since then a battle had been fought both in the House of Commons and Lords, and had it not been contested warmly by two of the county members (Mr. Colville and Mr. Evans), and by the Duke of Devonshire in the House of Lords, the results would not have been nearly so satisfactory. He regretted that the trustees were not to be elected by the parishioners, that the boarders were not abolished, that the eight free boys were not to be taken from Repton and Etwall,—education was badly wanted at Repton, as he was told that in a club there, two persons only out of twenty-five could write their names; this ought not to be where there were £1500 a-year available for educational purposes. In conclusion he thanked them once more for their vote of thanks, and hoped an Act of Parliament would be passed ere long, that should reach all the misappropriations of Educational Trusts. He sincerely thanked the company for that expression of their appreciation of his efforts.

Mr. Pemberton (Tamworth) eloquently proposed "The Press," and paid a high compliment to the *Derby Reporter*, and other local papers, and

coupled with the toast the name of Mr. Miles, of the *Reporter*, who responded.

Mr. Smedley, in responding to the toast of "The Inhabitants of Repton," gave a very strange account of the treatment of the day boys when he was a schoolboy at Repton school. He said the school had been of no benefit to the parishioners, because what between the coercion practised on the snobs, as the boarders called the native boys, and the expense of books, the children could be better taught, at as little expense at other schools, as at the so-called Free School at Repton.

Several other personal and complimentary toasts concluded a very pleasant evening, at a reasonable hour.*

A notice from the Board of Charity Commissioners, dated the 16th of April, 1867, was advertised in the *Worcestershire Chronicle* on the 1st of May, as to Queen Elizabeth's school, as follows:— That a scheme would be issued to provide for building a new school, and regulating the admission of scholars by fees, and of boarders for the head master, as also for the appointing of Assistant Masters.

The notice called upon the inhabitants to send in any objection to, or suggestions for, improving the said scheme.

So soon as this appeared I thought some information on the question would be useful to the Worcester people, so I wrote the following letter to the Editor of the *Worcestershire Chronicle*:—

Wolverhampton, May 4th, 1867.

SIR,—Thos. Wild, by will dated 19th Aug., 1558, gave to the Worcester Corporation a piece of ground (Little Pitchcroft), and a meadow in Great Pitchcroft ($4\frac{1}{2}$ acres) for erecting and establishing a *free school* in the city, for bringing up youth in their A, B, matins, and evensong, and other learning, which should make them ready for the King's Grammar School, commonly called "The College School."

* At the present moment (September, 1870) the Etwall School is in full play. There are fifty boys and twenty-seven girls in it. The school-room is seventy feet long, and is divided by a partition, so as to separate the boys classes from those of the girls. The books, slates, pens, ink, &c., &c., are paid for out of the trust funds. The master and mistress have a rent free residence, and are in the receipt of fifty-five pounds per annum for their services. The Repton school is not erected yet.

Queen Elizabeth, by letters patent, in 1561, ordered such school to be established for the teaching of children in A, B, C, grammar, erudition, and instruction,—*i.e.*, in reading, in good learning, and good manners, and that such school was to be called the “*free school* in the city of Worcester, for the education, erudition, and instruction of children.” She also ordered that one master and one usher should be appointed, and that six (at most) of the discreetest citizens of Worcester should be the school governors.

There were many bequests conferred on this school by citizens at various periods. One was that of Henry Goulsborough (£10) to be invested, and the proceeds given to the *three poorest* children of the free school, hopeful scholars.

The total rents of all the school properties amounted to £293 9s. 9d. in 1828, and in 1852 the head master's salary was £150, and the usher's £80, per annum. There were seventeen boys then being taught Latin, English grammar, geography, arithmetic, writing, and reading.

In 1851 new rules were issued by which Greek and drawing were added to the boys' education, and the head master was allowed to have ten private scholars, and forty foundation boys were to be taught free—their parents paying for their books and stationery. At one period £3 10s. per annum was allowed for books and implements, and boys were transferred when fit to the Cathedral School.

By the will of the Rev. John Meeke, in 1665, £100 per annum was devised out of premises in East Smithfield, St. Catherine's, and Aldgate (Middlesex), for the purpose of giving £10 to each of ten *poor scholars* in the free grammar school at Worcester, in order to place them at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, and in case the rents increased, the number of boys were to be increased one for every £10.

It seems now, Mr. Editor, that the school so long carried on in Church Street, close to St. Swithin's Church, in your city, is to be converted into a non-free school, *i.e.*, now that the rents have increased, a toll-gate is to be erected against *poor boys* being admitted, unless some charitable individuals will pay capitation fees on their behalf, the masters are to have boarders in the school, and assistant masters are to be provided.

Of course the Six Masters have the power of making new rules, but not to deprive the school boys of a *free* education. This was never intended by the founder nor by the benefactors of the school, and will hinder parents from getting a free education for their sons. The very same plan has been adopted at Stourbridge, and the results are that not one son of a poor man is in the school there, and it has now some seventy boys within its walls, all of them being the sons of parents well able to pay for their education at private schools.

If the inhabitants of your city permit this, they will not only see the poor boys of the present day deprived of their inheritance, but the boys of succeeding generations. Trusting they will be up and stirring in this important matter, I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

The Trustees resolved to erect a new school at the "White Ladies," in the Tything; this was done at an extravagant cost, and at least one half of the outlay should have been avoided to admit boys free to the school. Many editorial articles and letters from inhabitants, appeared in the Worcester papers, protesting against the fee system. Amongst others was the following from Mr. John Noake, the much esteemed and laborious author of "The Rambler in Worcestershire," and the "Monastery and Cathedral of Worcester":—

To the Editor of the Worcester News.

SIR,—Will you allow me to say one word with reference to the proposed changes in the above school? If I am right in my reading of recent proceedings it is understood—1, that a new school is absolutely necessary; 2, that the Six Masters have in hand a sufficient fund for rebuilding the school; 3, that a suitable site has been obtained, and plans drawn and approved; but 4, the Charity Commissioners refuse their sanction to the expenditure of this fund, unless in future all boys admitted to the school shall pay a certain fee not exceeding £4 per head per annum.

Now, Sir, what can be the meaning of this? The Six Masters have a sufficient fund in hand for all the proposed purposes, why is it not to be applied thereto, unconditionally? What is such a fund in existence for if not to meet such emergencies. That being so, where is the necessity of seeking to replace the fund by destroying the character of the school as a free one? It may be centuries before another new school will be required, and surely by that time the same agency by which the present fund has been raised will have prepared another fund, as equal to the occasion as is the present one. I think, Sir, the citizens should petition strongly against this inroad upon an old institution, for with capitation fees once established, not only will the school never again be free, but there is no saying to what extent the invasion of freedom may be carried. There are many poor shopkeepers and tradesmen in Worcester who cannot afford to pay £4 per annum besides the cost of books (which is also unnecessarily heavy), for their sons'

education, and to all such, therefore, this institution, designed for their benefit, will be a dead letter.

I would also suggest that the citizens petition should strongly point out the necessity for establishing a more practical education at the school than has been hitherto given, with a far less frequent recurrence of holidays.

I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

J. NOAKE.

Worcester, May, 1867.

The Charity Commissioners have from the first adopted a crotchet of making all boys pay fees, even where the school funds are ample to educate all comers without such aid. They, and their travelling Inspectors say that a charge of some sort is desirable, ignoring the fact (and this must be wilful), that *the classics are invariably taught free of cost* in endowed schools. This shews that the education of boys, commercially, is distasteful to them, as no other reason can be given for this unreasonable assumption.

The Worcester Town Council having appointed a Committee on this question, they presented their Report to the Council; as to which, and the debate thereupon, the following appeared in the *Worcester Journal* of the 8th of June, 1867:—

The Mayor read the following report from the committee appointed to consider this matter:—

“Your committee report that at the last meeting of the Council the following resolution was passed:—‘That the projected scheme for the alteration of the constitution of the endowed school called the “Free School of the city of Worcester, for the education, erudition, and teaching of children” should receive the attention of the Council in order to ascertain whether it would not interfere with the character of the school as a free school, and defeat the objects of its founders and benefactors, and that the Mayor, the Sheriff, Mr. Longmore, Mr. Adcock, Mr. Bozward, Mr. Minchall, and Mr. Holland, be a special committee to consider the subject and report thereon to this Council, and that they invite the Six Masters to a conference thereon, and that the Charity Commissioners be informed by the Town Clerk of this resolution, and requested to defer sanctioning the proposed scheme.’ In accordance with these instructions, the Town Clerk has written to the Charity Commissioners, and has received a reply to the effect that the Commissioners will suspend their decision until after they have heard the result

of the proposed conference and the views of the Town Council with respect to the proposed scheme. Your committee met on the 21st ultimo, when there were present the Mayor, Mr. Sheriff Webb, Mr. Minchall, Mr. Bozward, and Mr. Holland. The Six Masters who met the committee were Mr. Lea, Mr. Clifton, Mr. Parker, Mr. Stallard, and Mr. Isaac; the Rev. F. J. Eld and Mr. Hyde were also present. The proposed scheme was laid before the meeting, and Mr. Lea detailed many particulars relating to the school and its history. It appears that the scheme proposes an annual capitation payment of four guineas, to include £1 11s. 6d. at present paid for instruction in French and drawing; and that the Six Masters reserve the right of appointing boys without payment. Your committee adjourned until the 31st ultimo, when there were present the Mayor, Mr. Sheriff Webb, Mr. Adcock, Mr. Bozward, Mr. Holland, and Mr. Minchall. The committee considered the subject deputed to them by the resolution of the Council, and have to report the following conclusions:—That the city is indebted to the Six Masters for having raised the character of the school to its present efficient state. That the removal of the school from its present site is highly desirable. That in the opinion of this committee the reduction of any capitation fee to the lowest possible amount consistent with the advantage of the school, as a free school, will best consult the charitable intentions of the founder. That as an annual payment of two guineas each by forty scholars will replace the estimated sum of £1000, without interest, in a period not exceeding fifteen years, the proposed annual fee may be fairly reduced to that amount exclusive of the extras. And that the committee recommend that the Six Masters be requested to give their consideration to the foregoing suggestion, and also to the following: Whether it is not desirable that the charge for extras should be severed from the capitation fee, and thus be made optional with the friends of the scholars; and, whether, on the refunding of the amount to be expended, the capitation payment should cease altogether.

Ald. Southall asked whether he understood rightly that the Committee were of opinion that the payment should cease when the building was paid for.

The Mayor replied in the affirmative, and then moved that the report be received, and a copy forwarded to the Charity Commissioners, and a copy also to the Six Masters, but that, he believed, had been already done.

Mr. Holland seconded the motion.

Ald. Lea said the thanks of the Trustees were due to the Committee for the courtesy with which they had been treated, and for the manner in which the Committee had spoken of the way in which they (the Trustees) had performed their duties. The report recognised the desirability of removing

the site of the school, and also the obligation which was imposed on the Trustees to refund whatever amount of money that might be found fully necessary to accomplish that object. Those were the main points, and it was then recommended that the money should be raised in a manner most conducive to the interests of the school. The Trustees had well considered the matter before, and notwithstanding the recommendation of the committee to reconsider the details, he thought that upon further consideration that Committee would agree with the Six Masters, that the interests of the school would be best served by a capitation fee of four guineas, to include the amount paid to the extra masters for the instruction of the children in extra accomplishments. He now spoke only for himself, having had no opportunity of consulting the other Trustees, but it was his belief that they would be of that opinion notwithstanding the recommendation of the Committee that the interests of the school would be best served with a capitation fee of four guineas, and that the citizens would be perfectly satisfied. They would have the advantage of uniformity, and would be able to obtain masters to teach those extra accomplishments for a more reasonable sum, the whole school having to pay for those advantages. The character of the school had certainly vastly improved and the best possible teaching was now given, and therefore it was that the citizens would be quite willing to pay the four guineas. He might state, however, that whichever scheme the Charity Commissioners authorised, the Trustees would do their very best to carry it out. He rather gathered from the report that the Committee expected a further reply from the Trustees, but that was hardly necessary as the trustees would be quite satisfied if the Committee communicated with the Commissioners. Their correspondence had been going on for two years, and although the original estimate for the new building was £1000, he was afraid that it would cost considerably more, but the capitation fee would enable the Trustees, in the course of a reasonable time, to refund the money. He might, perhaps, be permitted to say that the trust did not simply concern this school. There was the school and the almshouses; and they had in their constant pay thirty women, whose allowances had been advanced from time to time until they now received 4s. per week.

Ald. Southall : I do not understand whether Ald. Lea will consent to the capitation fee ceasing at the end of fifteen years.

Ald. Lea : Whenever the amount is refunded the capitation will cease.

Ald. Southall continuing, observed that that was very satisfactory to him, because, although the fee would be charged for a time, it would have the effect of preserving the school as a free school. It might be advisable for temporary purposes, and he believed that there would be such an influx of

new scholars that the capitation fee would in a few years repay the money. He did not know how it would go to the Commissioners that this was assented to, except by some resolution, setting forth this stipulation.

Mr. Bozward regretted to be compelled to differ from a gentleman of Ald. Lea's standing, but he could not agree that the capitation fee was for the interests of the school. If they were considering the matter without reference to the object of the founders, he would perhaps agree that it might be well to raise the character of the school, but looking at that object he could not agree that the capitation fee was at all desirable. They might ask him why he assented to the report of the committee: he did so because he found that the money for the erection of the new school was to be taken from a fund which was not merely for the school, but for the relief of certain destitute persons, and that it was impossible to separate this fund. He could not deny the desirability of replacing the money taken from the fund, and therefore he was a party to the fixing of a capitation fee. The committee were unanimous in their report. Most of the free schools in this country were in the most deplorable state, and it was creditable to the Six Masters that theirs had been so much improved. The speaker then proceeded to give some statistics relative to the condition of free schools generally, which he said were being gradually monopolised by a *class for whom they were not intended*. The motion was agreed to unanimously.

The resolution of the Town Council was forwarded to the Charity Commissioners on the 11th of June, on receipt of which their secretary, Mr. H. M. Vane, replied as follows to the Town Clerk. This was laid before the Town Council at their meeting of the 2nd of July, 1867, by the Mayor:—

“SIR,—1. The resolution of the Corporation of Worcester, received at this office on the 12th instant, has been laid before the Board.

“2. The Commissioners think it inexpedient to fetter the trustees in the mode proposed by the resolution. They would prefer leaving to them the power to continue or discontinue the fee. It seems to be the general opinion that, taking the arrangement as a whole, it is calculated to benefit the city; though, as regards the fee considered by itself, the Corporation rather look upon it as a drawback. The experience, however, of the Commissioners, coinciding as they believe with that of the great majority of persons who have to do with schools, leads them to believe that the capitation fee is likely of itself to prove beneficial to the school. The scheme, however, does not bind the trustees to impose a guinea a quarter, or indeed any fee at all. It fixes the maximum, but within that limit trustees can make any rules they please with respect to the fees. The Commissioners have confidence

in the trustees that they will be guided in this matter by their desire to benefit the school and the city, by their intimate knowledge of local circumstances, and by their experience of the working of this particular scheme. When the debt is paid off there will have been a fair trial of the proposers' new system, and it will then be better seen whether or no the plan of fees shall be continued. Either the trustees by ordinance, or this Board by a new scheme, can then modify the arrangements according to the light of the experience then obtained. But the Commissioners think it would be unwise to attempt now to fix a term for the expiry of an arrangement which all think necessary, as a transient one, and which to the trustees and to this Board commends itself as a more permanent one.

"3. I am to thank the Corporation for the trouble they have taken to consider the matter and to express their views on it. It is of great public advantage to have all such arrangements maturely discussed before they are settled. And even though the views of those who object to the first proposals may not prevail, the discussion is beneficial, for it conduces to the better and wider understanding of the scheme proposed, and precludes any subsequent feeling that it has been too hastily decided on."

Alderman Southall was sorry that the Charity Commissioners had not concurred in the Council's proposal. He thought that the charge of a capitation fee tended to alter the character of a school, and that those schools which were intended for the poorer classes suffered from a capitation fee being imposed. He hoped the school would soon be again made a free one, and that the wisdom of the trustees would exceed that of the Commissioners.

On the 6th of July I wrote another long letter to the *Worcestershire Chronicle*, on the question of charging fees, and was rejoiced to see the following advertisement in the *Worcester Journal* of the 13th of the same month, as to the school:—

An Examination for filling up the Vacancies on the Foundation of this School will take place on Monday, August 5th, 1867, at Ten o'clock in the morning, at the School Room. Candidates must not be less than nine, nor more than twelve years of age. Their names, with particulars of birth, &c., must be previously entered at the office of Mr. T. G. Hyde, Clerk to the Six Masters. There are Seven Vacancies.

School will re-commence on Tuesday, August 6th, 1867, at Nine o'clock in the morning, when all the boys on the Foundation must be present, unless prevented by illness.

CHAPTER XIII.

“Ye gods of quiet, and of *ease* profound,
Whose soft dominion o'er this *free-school* sways,
And all the widely-silent places round,
Forgive me if my *memory* displays
What never yet was sung in mortal lays,—
But how shall I attempt such arduous string,
I that have spent the *best of all my days*
In this soul-deadening place—loose—loitering,
Ah, how shall I in future soar on scholars wing.”

Thomson's Castle of Indolence (slightly altered).

THE Kidderminster Grammar School attracted a good deal of attention in that borough during the year 1867. At a meeting of the Town Council held in April, Mr. Hasell brought the state of the school before that body. He stated that the salaries of the two masters and the estimated rental of the head-masters residence amounted to £510 per annum (in this he did not include the rental of the new school building); and that there were but six boys in the school. He wished for a deputation of the Council to be appointed to confer with the feoffees.

At a subsequent meeting of the Council he gave notice of a motion to that effect, and at another meeting, held on August 7th, the proposition was unanimously assented to, and a deputation of that body met the feoffees of the school, so that its position might be discussed with a view to ameliorations. This meeting took place on the 6th of September. The Bishop of Worcester (visitor of the school) was present, and of the feoffees the Rev. G. D. Boyle, Messrs. Boycot, Bradley, Crane, Harvey, Dixon, and Homfray. The Mayor (Mr.

C. E. Jefferies) introduced the deputation from the Council, which consisted of Councillors Hasell, Roberts, Holloway, W. Woodward, Corbet, F. Jefferies, Welch, and H. Taylor. The Mayor stated that the object they had in view in waiting upon the feoffees was to render the school more useful to the town, and that an inquiry might be made into the cause of the falling off of the scholars. Some members of the deputation then entered into statements in regard to the school, and it was suggested whether the present scheme might not be altered to meet the requirements of the town. The result, so far, of the meeting was, that the feoffees directed a copy of the scheme to be sent to the Mayor, in order to the committee taking it into their consideration. All previous attempts to obtain a copy of the scheme of the school had been useless, and at this meeting no reporters were allowed to be present.

On the following day an address was issued by some of the inhabitants as follows :—

To Mr. Councillor Hasell.

We, the undersigned inhabitants of Kidderminster, having seen with satisfaction that at the last Council meeting you expressed your intention to bring forward at the next quarterly meeting a motion regarding the present management of the Grammar School, with a view to steps being taken to increase its usefulness, hope that you will persevere in your philanthropic object, which is of great importance to the inhabitants of this commercial town.

To which the following was appended :—

All persons approving of Mr. Councillor Hasell's motion for inquiring into the management of the School are requested to sign the above address, supporting him in his object, and now lying at the Town Hall.—Mr. Hasell will be obliged for any information on the past working of the school.

This memorial received a large number of signatures.

These proceedings, and a paragraph relating to them, which appeared in the *Birmingham Daily Post*, brought forth the following letters :—

To the Editor of the Daily Post.

"SIR,—The kind friend who furnished you with a short paragraph concerning us is what diplomatists call "inexact." It is, perhaps, of no importance, but as I know your anxiety to give publicity to nothing but the exact truth, allow me to supply you with it. The number of pupils in attendance during the last half-year was not three, but seven, or, counting the son of one of the masters, eight. Of these, two were not foundationers, but resident within the parish—*i.e.*, in my house—and between such and others our scheme permits no distinction of any sort to be made. A little boy has lately been withdrawn by his parent, on the ground of ill-treatment, which reduces the number by one. On this matter, as it will probably form the subject of official inquiry, I abstain from remarking. Only permit me to repeat what I have always declared—so far as I am concerned, I am most anxious to do all I can for the legitimate wants of the foundationers. The fee of one guinea per quarter I have no power to abolish; but under existing circumstances, it is my intention to return it, until the number of pupils becomes more than the existing staff in my judgment would be competent to manage—a contingency which would cause me the expense of providing for more efficient teaching.

"I trust this may prove satisfactory, or at any rate serve as an indication that I am now, as always, anxious to do what is fair and liberal for the interest of the school.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN G. SHEPPARD.

Kidderminster, December 12, 1867.

To the Editor of the Birmingham Daily Post.

"SIR,—The Head Master does not deny the fact, as stated in your paper, that there are but three foundation boys in our Grammar School. What is the use of beating about the bush, talking about "diplomatists" and "inexactness." Let him deny the fact if he can, and give us the names of the foundation boys now in the school.

I remain, yours truly,

W. HASELL.

Kidderminster, December 20th, 1867.

Mr. Hasell's statement was fully borne out by the Report of Mr. Bryce, the Schools' Inquiry Assistant Commissioner, in which he states "On the day of my visit, there were two boarders present, and three day boys (one other whose name was on the books being absent).

He also gave his opinion, thus, on the state of the school (see his report in vol. xv. Schools' Inquiry Commission, pp. 585 to 590). That all the records which exist of the condition of this school in past times represent it as suffering from corruption or mismanagement. That the obligation of electing a clerical head-master (as per scheme) is a serious mistake; that there is no sound reason for fixing the number of foundationers at forty; that if the fee for a sound commercial education is fixed at £4 (as it is here), the market price of a good classical and mathematical course, with the modern languages, is more than twice £4 per annum; that the feoffees ought to have the power to dismiss the masters; that the confining the office of head-master to an Oxford or Cambridge graduate in orders, unduly narrows the field of choice as to candidates, as it might often happen that the best candidate was a layman, or not a graduate.

He recommended that a commercial education should be given, and Latin be made optional; and to give prominence to mathematics, for boys preparing for the civil service, or legal and medical examinations.

Having some leisure hours occasionally during the evenings, I filled them up by writing an Historical Drama, which I published on the 20th of October, embracing the period during which Charles the Second secreted himself in Staffordshire, after his defeat at the "Battle of Worcester."

As the Whitgreave family still owned one of the Halls in which he was secreted, and as the Hall was standing just as it was in the reign of the runaway king, I dedicated the Drama to Henry Whitgreave, Esq., of Moseley, in the following words:—

TO
HENRY WHITGREAVE, ESQ.,
OF MOSELEY.

To you, Sir, I beg to Dedicate this volume, inasmuch as you possess the estate upon which Moseley Hall still stands. The Hall in which King Charles the Second met with such faithful sympathy and care, at the hands of your direct ancestor and his neighbours.

To look back to such faithfulness and love to the unfortunate King must be a great gratification to you; and I beg to assure you, that to record them in this little Production, has been a great pleasure to me.

Hoping that long life and health will be yours,

I beg, Sir, to remain, yours very faithfully,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

The Drama embraced the period beginning with the crowning of Charles at Scone Abbey, in Perthshire, and ending with his embarking at Brighton, for France. The play itself contained seventy-six pages, and the notes and pedigree of the family nineteen more; to which I added seven engravings of places connected with the facts of the relation, viz., Lane's Chapel in St. Peter's Church at Wolverhampton; Worcester Cathedral in the seventeenth century; Plan of the Battle of Worcester; The White Ladies, in 1651; Moseley Hall, Byshbury; Boscobel House; and Bentley Hall, in 1651.

I introduced a wedding pageant and two songs into the drama, to give it a little variety; one of the latter, sung by a sailor on board the vessel whereby Charles reached the French shore, was as follows:—

THE WEDDING RING.

Ho! join with me, messmates, the whilst I do sing
The blessings and curse of an old wedding ring:
The ring that affects us in this mortal life,
A treasure of pleasure or harbour of strife—

The old wedding ring.

There's some of the women think men are their tools,
Some treat them as servants, some treat them as fools:
They forget that this life cannot come back again,
So each pecks at her spouse, like a fretful old hen,

When they get on the ring.

Now we on the sea are not thus often cursed;
Whenever we land we are well fed and nursed;
And we pity the lubber who spends all his days
Fast tied to a vixen with tongue all a-blaze,

Because of a ring.

They say that the devil e'en has a wife too,
 And that she's the queen of each vixen and shrew :
 And when they depart to the shades of the dead
 A devilish life by their queen they are led,
 With each tongue in hot ring.

As will be seen at page 433, I visited Westminster School when I was in London watching the progress of the Kidderminster School suit. On January 14th, 1868, a leading article appeared in the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* upon the Question of Church Property.

This article concluded with these remarkable words, "Who is to have Westminster Abbey?"

Upon reading this, I wrote the following letter to the Editor:—

"SIR,—At the conclusion of your leading article, in your issue of yesterday's date, treating upon the separation of Church and State, you ask 'Who is to have Westminster Abbey?'

"Perhaps you will allow me to ask what Westminster Abbey is doing for the immense revenue received by the dignitaries attached thereto?

"The amount of the debit to the Abbey in 1863 (*vide* the Return made to the House of Commons, 26th July, 1864, and printed by order of the House, 25th April, 1865) was no less than £50,565 3s. 3½d. How was this immense amount expended? Thus:—

	£	s.	d.
Taxes	582	15	1
The School and College	2,379	8	2
The Deanery and suspended Canonries' stipends	712	7	4
The Minor Canons, Officers, Choir, Servants, and Almsmen	3,723	3	10
Expenses of Copyhold Courts	714	10	8
Ash Wednesday Money	3	0	0
Annual Subscriptions	48	2	0
Donations	560	10	0
Bailiffs	91	16	6
Payments to Vicars and Curates	1,197	0	2
Property-tax	773	4	3
Miscellaneous	1,161	2	3½
To the Dean and Canons, and suspended and charged			
Deanery, Canonries, and Fabric	32,291	13	5
Balance	6,326	9	7
	£50,565	3	3½

"The question therefore arises, what is done for this revenue—a revenue intended for the spread of religion and education in the parish of Westminster—and how many persons are there attached to the Abbey, spreading religion and education around Westminster, of which the Abbey is the nucleus? There are one Dean, six Canons, two Stewards, a High-Bailiff, an Auditor, a Receiver, a Chapter Clerk, two Schoolmasters, six Minor Canons, twelve Lay Clerks, an Organist, twelve Choristers, two Sacrists, two Vergers, four Bell-Ringers, a High Constable, College Butler, Brewer, Cook, Scullion, Laundress, Porter, Beadle, Common Constable, Gardener, Watchman, and twelve Bedesmen.

"The Minor Officers are paid little enough—in fact, much less than is legally due to them—whilst the seven Dignitaries, with the pensions attached to their offices, absorb no less than thirty-two forty-fourths of the whole revenues.

"Now, is not this carrying out what Dickens called, "How not to do it?" could things be worse, let who may have Westminster Abbey? Are the duties of the Deanery and six Canonries worth £32,000 per annum to the parish of Westminster?

"I leave you, Mr. Editor, or some of your correspondents to answer these questions.

I beg to subscribe myself, your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, January 15th, 1868.

This was a bad case, at the time of my visit there were no poor scholars therein. What! admit poor boys into Westminster Abbey? what a ridiculous notion! What a monstrous supposition, where none but sons of the upper ten thousand are admitted!

Certainly they do things better at Harrow than at Westminster, as they do admit boys there of a lower grade than the sons of the aristocracy. I visited Harrow School in the month of January, 1868; there were hosts of grandees' sons in the fine piles of buildings, but I could see no poor boys about; no fustian, no corduroys, nor even the yellow stockings.

I inquired and found, nevertheless, that there was a school for poor boys; where? let the following letter tell:—

To the Editor of the Harrow Gazette.

Sir,—When I visited Harrow, a few days since, I found that the boys called the 'English Form' upon John Lyon's foundation, were taught in a room

far away from the large school wherein the boarders and others assemble. This is bad enough, because the inhabitants' sons have the first claim to the foundation; but what was my astonishment when I found that the building in which they were taught was of the following description:—On the one end it is divided from a shed by a single unpainted match-board partition, the size of the building, forty three feet in length and twenty feet in breadth with a tiled roof; two windows (similar to those placed over cucumber frames) on one side only of the room with many broken panes; the brick work of the inside of the north wall, not even covered with cement, and a stove in one corner! The front is wood and lath and plaster, and traces are left which shew the building was formerly a coach-house. It appears that there are only twenty three boys on the books, of whom there were seventeen in attendance when I called. It is a fact also that these boys are called upon to pay £5 per annum each, so that they contribute £115 towards the master's salary of £150. And this is all that is done out of John Lyon's noble fund! and this is the building in which the "lower ten thousand" are taught! Such a state of things is disgraceful to all concerned—to trustees—to masters—and to the inhabitants also for submitting to it. It may be possible some day for the "upper ten thousand" school to fail, and then John Lyon's fund will become available for its true purposes, namely, the free education of those boys whose parents cannot afford to pay for their learning. I fear that some of the towns-people are satisfied in selling their heritage in the school, for a mess of pottage called the 'School Custom.' But if all the goods wanted for the scholars were bought in Harrow (which is far from being the case) would that be any compensation for the loss to the towns-people of a free education for their sons? It is to be hoped that the inhabitants will present petitions to both Houses of Parliament against this perversion of their property; and also that the Lyon foundation will be separated from the other schools in toto, and intrusted to a separate body of Trustees (residents) who will devote John Lyon's fund to its true purpose.

I remain, yours truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, January 25th, 1868.

The Bill, which is to be read a second time in the House of Commons on the 13th of February, will confirm the present monstrous state of things, if the inhabitants do not rise against it.

Well, the inhabitants did oppose it, tooth and nail, at a vast expense of money, and a great sacrifice of time; never was a bill to legalize a perversion so manfully opposed. Pamphlets and letters, public meetings, petitions, memorials, and protests

reigned for years. But it was all to no purpose, Earl Clarendon and his noble confederates were determined to have Harrow School for the Usurpers, and to despise the orders, but not the revenues, bequeathed by good John Lyon, for Harrow boys. What said one of them; What! turn Harrow into a parochial school? ridiculous!

On the 25th of February, I received the following letter from the son of one of my warmest school-reform supporters, Mr. Thomas Simcox Lea, of Astley Hall, near Stourport. This gentleman had in former years carried on a large trade in carpet weaving in Kidderminster, and his son, the incumbent of Stepney, knowing well the exertions I had made to get the Kidderminster School reformed, paid me the compliment to write to me with an invitation to attend a meeting on the question of Endowments, which was announced to be held on the 12th of March, in London. The letter and invitation were as follows:—

Trinity Parsonage, Bow Road, February 24th, 1868.

Mr. Simcox Lea presents his compliments to Mr. George Griffith, and encloses an invitation from the President and Court of Sion College.

Mr. Lea is requested by the President to invite Mr. Griffith to take a share in the discussion, if he is able to be present.

Speakers at the evening meetings, after the opening address, usually occupy about ten minutes; and the meetings close at eleven o'clock, or soon after.

Sion College, London, February 24th, 1868.

The President and Court of Sion College request the honour of Mr. George Griffith's company at the College Hall, in London Wall, on Thursday evening, March 12th, when the subject of "Charities" will be discussed. The question will be introduced by Mr. Hobhouse, Q.C., one of the Charity Commissioners.

Tea and Coffee at 7-30. Discussion at 8-30.

I went to the College an hour before the meeting was to commence, and learnt from a pamphlet of 52 pages, the history, not only of Sion College, but of the founder.

The founder was Thomas White, D.D., he was born in Temple Parish, in the city of Bristol. He entered Magdalene Hall,

Oxford, about the year 1566, took his degrees and became a noted preacher. He went to London and was vicar of St. Dunstan's, in Fleet Street; afterwards was canon of Christ Church, Oxon, and canon of Windsor, and died in March, 1624. He was buried in the Chancel of St. Dunstan's Church, London.

His character is given as generous-minded, as an encourager of learning, and bountiful to the poor. In 1613 he built an hospital in Temple Parish, in Bristol, (the place of his birth) and he also endowed it.

He built Sion College for the use of all vicars, lecturers, and curates in the city and suburbs of London, and ten almshouses for men and ten for women. For these purposes he bequeathed £3000, of which £400 per annum was for the maintenance of the College and almshouses. He ordained as follows:—That there should be elected, yearly, a president and two deans, who were to dine together every quarter day with the other members; that there should be a resident clerk in the college. He bequeathed £120 per annum to the almshouses alone (this should now be £600).

The site for the college cost £2,450; the purchase of which was made 25th April, 1627, the remainder of the £3000 was expended on the erection of the almshouses.

There was a report made by the Charity Inspection Commissioners on July 19th, 1834, as to the state of the College and an Information was entered in Chancery against the College Authorities for a misapplication of the funds, by Robert Rising and James Scott. This was heard on the 29th February, 1836, before the Master of the Rolls, and he made a Decree on June the 14th, 1837, ordering that the almspeople should be paid £300 per annum, instead of £176 as before. It appeared that the reverend members of the college imitated the Canons of the Cathedral bodies, in taking the lions share, and paying the poor almsmen £124 less than was their due, and putting it into their own pockets.

This college used to claim a copy of every book published, until an Act of Parliament was passed (20th August, 1836) which abolished the claim. In 1854 the college contained 36,000

volumes and yet as compensation for the loss of books not sent to it as usual, the government consented to pay £363 15s. 2d. annually out of the national taxes.

This sum is regularly paid, and may be found amongst the items called "Compensations under the Copyright Act," at page 45 of the "Finance Accounts of the United Kingdom," published every year by order of the House of Commons.*

This payment is scandalous, as the authors whose works were entered at Stationers' Hall had simply to contribute a copy of each work to the college, and why the taxpayer should be mulcted in this large annual sum for the discontinuance of this custom, is passing strange; but stranger still the demand made by the reverend gentlemen of the college, as it could not be from poverty, the gross annual income of the college being no less than £1399 12s. 0d. independent of the government grant of £363 15s. 2d.

How this large sum is divided nobody knows, except the receivers, and strange to say, the clergymen who do receive it, have never been grateful enough to place a memorial over the donors remains, in St. Dunstan's Church.

When I went to the college I could scarcely find it; the building being in a narrow street in the centre of the city of London, called London Wall. The Librarian lives in a good house adjoining the college, who, upon my shewing him the President's invitation, took me round the Hall. It was as gloomy as the street outside, and smelled strongly of books. I waited until the tea was served, but very few joined me.

When the time for the meeting arrived, there was a good muster, but no reporters were present. Before the proceedings commenced, Mr. Martin, the Inspector who was at the Repton Inquiry came in, but so soon as he saw me he walked out again.

On the evening of the meeting the paper on "Charities" was read, as stated in the invitation, by Arthur Hobhouse, Esq., Q.C., one of the Charity Commissioners; and discussion was invited at

* Spottiswoode & Co., New Street, Fleet Street, London, price 1s.

the close of the reading. The chair was taken by the president, the Rev. William Rogers, rector of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, and there was a large attendance, chiefly of the professions. The paper was devoted to the evil effects resulting from the orders of the founders of charitable bequests being acted upon too strictly, and held to be unalterable. The Commissioner assumed that the founders' orders, as to the application of their legacies, were literally obeyed; but yet he proposed no remedy for what he considered so great an evil. After the reading of the paper four speakers replied as to its various points.

The first was Vaughan Hawkins, Esq., barrister (an *attaché*) of the Attorney General's office. He dwelt principally, in the few remarks he made, upon the desirability of a clearer state of the law being brought to bear upon the true aspects of charitable bequests; and he instanced, as a proof of the soundness of benefactors orders being obeyed, the building in which they were then assembled.

Mr. Jeune, a son of the Bishop of Peterborough, remarked that in general the bequests were more national in their uses than relatively local, and that their operations never were, and never could be, made use of in the fullest sense, as the founders, or even the law of equity intended.

The Rev. Simcox Lea, of Trinity Parsonage, Stepney, in the course of his speech referred particularly to the case of St. Katharine's Hospital, founded for almsmen and women, and poor boys and girls to be educated and clothed, in Regent's Park.*

In this case there were only fifty-one boys and girls educated and clothed, out of an immense fund. The extravagance in the purchases of the land, and in the cost of the erections of the hospital and schools, is incredible; the fee simple cost £125,000; the site £2000; and the buildings £44,709.

But the salary paid to the master of the almsmen exceeds anything ever recorded connected with charities. His name is the Hon. William Ashley (brother of the Earl of Shaftesbury), and

* *Vide Fraser's Magazine*, January, 1867, pp. 65 to 82.

out of the total income of the foundation, £7,097 he modestly received £1,999! The three *poor* almsmen (two of whom are clergymen) receive separately £1067, £967 and £367 beside residences worth £100 per annum each. The three *poor* almswomen received, including rent of residence, £300 per annum each. Methinks that the Earl of Shaftesbury, who is a great advocate for the conversion of the heathen, would do a good work by converting his brother from the sinfulness of his drawing so much out of this charity.

I was the only speaker that replied pointedly to the paper read by the Commissioner. I stated that the whole paper, in its arguments, was based on false premises, that so far from the intentions of the benevolent founders of charities—particularly of educational charities—being too strictly obeyed, the great grievance was that they were nearly all disobeyed. If the founder's orders were obeyed, much more good would result, whereas taking the large city foundation schools—the Harrow, Rugby, Eton, Shrewsbury, Bromsgrove, and other large schools—the founders' intentions and orders were totally disregarded, and the sons of the rich taught with the benefactions intended for the poor. I referred to Christ's Hospital, where the only order of the founder at present obeyed was the hideous clothing of the boys, also to the Charter House and Westminster Abbey, where poor boys were never seen. I therefore, expressed my surprise at the learned Commissioner arguing that there was a great evil in a founder's order remaining as a law, fixing the disposal of his charity funds in perpetuity, the reverse being notoriously the case. But I felt satisfied that the time was coming when a reformation of these enormities must take place. The recent Schools' Inquiry Commission had let a great deal of light into this subject. The public were awakening from their deep sleep, and the Bill now before the House of Commons, which I hoped would not be passed (regarding the larger public schools), showed that the spirit of school reform was growing daily, and that under that apprehension the heads of the large schools sought to confirm by Act of Parliament their hitherto unjust appropria-

tion of the free school funds. The contemptuous manner, too, in which the real inheritors of these Schools had been treated, spoke little for those reverend gentlemen of the Established Church, or their regard for equity. At Harrow the foundation town boys were taught in a coach-house, away from the school, and the boarders monopolised the school funds. At Rugby the poor boys were to be shunted to a separate school, their mixing any longer with the boarders being considered injurious; and at Bromsgrove the trustees have passed resolutions to abolish the twelve blue boys altogether. Such was the state of things all over the United Kingdom, and therefore it was strange—very strange—to argue that the founders' wills were too strictly interpreted and obeyed. As the learned Commissioner who read the paper had been lately appointed on the Charity Board, I recommended a consideration of these points to him, and hoped that a new Act would ere long be passed, whereby the inhabitants of each parish would have the power of electing the trustees of their charities, who should reside in such parishes, and that laymen should be equally eligible with clergymen, as candidates for the masterships of endowed schools.

The meeting did not break up until nearly eleven o'clock, p.m.

During the time that I was making my remarks, several of the audience got up and left the room all at once; this was when I was exposing the perversions of the Blue Coat School, Westminster Abbey School, and others. Doubtless some of them were, or had been connected with one of these, or something equally bad, and were touched to the quick.*

* The then Court of Governors of Sion College had but six weeks longer to remain in office. They were Mr. Rogers, of Bishopsgate (President); Mr. J. F. Coward and Mr. F. G. Blomfield, (Deans); Mr. M. Gibbs, Mr. W. C. F. Webber, Mr. H. J. Cummins, and Mr. T. S. Lea, (Assistants); all beneficed clergymen within the City, except the latter, Mr. Lea, of Stepney. The Fellows of the college are only the parochial clergy. The clergy who are masters in schools do not belong to the college, as such, though some of them are lecturers in City Churches, and thus become members of the college.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Hobhouse asked me to call upon him at the Charity Commissioners' Offices the next morning, as he wished to see me upon the general question.

On the 25th of March I gave a lecture in the Corn Exchange, at Kidderminster, on the abuses of educational endowments in England and Wales.—The Mayor (Mr. C. E. Jefferies) took the chair, who said he was sure no apology was required from him in introducing Mr. Griffith to lecture on such a subject that evening. Education was the great question of the day, and a meeting of that sort for affording the means of information from one, who as they all knew, had devoted a large portion of his life, twenty-five years or so, to that question, would enable them to become acquainted with statements that rested on good authority. A great reformation was needed in the existing schools of the country. A great amount of money was annually received for educating the people, and he thought they got very bad value for their money. He should not trespass further upon them, but at once call upon Mr. Griffith.

The lecture treated more particularly upon the cases to which my attention had recently been called, and I entered very fully into a review of the Report of the new Charity Commission. At its conclusion Councillor Hasell moved, and Councillor Green seconded, a vote of thanks; and on the motion of the latter, seconded by Mr. J. P. Harvey, a similar compliment was paid to the Mayor, after which the meeting separated.

In addition to giving lectures, I wrote a "Satire" * in verse, upon the state of endowed schools in general, and added thereto a Preface of eight pages, as also tables and notes from authentic sources, in proof of my censures. These altogether made ninety-six pages, the most prominent portions being devoted to the Cathedral Schools, the larger grammar schools, and opinions on their state, and the evils of teaching the classics to the exclusion of

* Our Classical Schoolmasters and our Free Grammar Schools. A Satire. By George Griffith, with numerous Statistical and Historical Notes, published on April 18th, 1868.

the modern languages therein, by the Right Hon. R. Lowe, De Quincey, Lord Byron, Mr. Mundella, "A Man of the World" in Chambers' Journal and others. This pamphlet had a large sale, and opened people's eyes a good deal to the evils of the system.

The general election being fixed to take place in the autumn of this year, I resolved to try the Kidderminster voters' feelings as a parliamentary candidate.

Both my long residence there, and my having filled so many public offices in the parish, gave me some confidence; and the exertions I had made use of to emancipate the once free-school, for the benefit of the sons of the parishioners, led me to hope that the voters would elect me. The alteration too of the franchise was another matter in my favour. I accordingly issued an address, as follows:—

TO THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORS OF KIDDERMINSTER.

GENTLEMEN,—

The time will shortly arrive when you will be called upon to elect a member of Parliament under the Provisions of the New Reform Bill.

I beg to inform you that I shall offer myself to your notice as a Candidate at the proper time, and anticipate that my views will gain general sympathy and support at your hands.

The following Reforms I should vote for:—Vote by Ballot, Reduction of Public Expenditure, Payment of their own expenses by the Colonies, Abolition of all Sinecure Offices both at home and Abroad, Abolition of the Rate-paying Clauses in the New Reform Bill, and the Abolition of Capital Punishments and of Flogging in the Army and Navy, both in times of War as well as times of Peace.

I should also support any measure providing for the free admission of all Denominations to the Universities, and for a free competition to gain the Honors and Emoluments belonging thereto.

Also for a Reform of the Ecclesiastical Corporations called "Deans and Chapters." For laws relieving all Clergymen from filling any other offices but those of the Church; and for confining the benefits of Free Schools to the children of persons unable to pay for their education, unless ordered otherwise by the Founders; and an unconditional abolition of Church Rates.

I heartily endorse Mr. Gladstone's Resolutions as to the Dis-establishment

of the Protestant Church in Ireland, and the abolition of the Maynooth Grant, and the Regium Donum.

My exertions for upwards of twenty years in favour of a Reform of the Endowed Schools, will, I trust, insure for me your sympathy and support, but more especially the support of the Working Classes, whose right to these Schools I have always advocated.

I hope to have an early opportunity of addressing you on these and other Questions.

And beg to remain, your obedient Servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, June 1st, 1868.

After publishing this address I issued a quantity of handbills, announcing that I should address the voters at Mr. Rea's pleasure grounds, Railway Hill, on the 9th. The meeting was attended by several members of the Town Council and a large number of working men. I spoke in favour of the Ballot; the reduction of the public expenditure; against the rate-paying clauses of the new Reform Act; capital punishments; and flogging in the army and navy; for the admission of all denominations, if qualified, to the paid as well as the unpaid offices, in the Universities; the separation of the Irish Church from the State; and a prompt restitution of endowed schools to the use of the children of the working classes.

The borough became all alive, and finding it necessary to strengthen my position, I issued a second address, as follows:—

TO THE PRESENT AND FUTURE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

GENTLEMEN,—I feel deeply indebted to you for your attendance last Tuesday, June the 9th, at Mr. Rea's grounds. I then expounded to you the views I entertain on the leading Questions of the day.

On the 10th the friends of Mr. Bristow and Mr. Lea assembled to hear those gentlemen in the Lion Hotel yard. The declarations made by them were so harmonious, that upon reflection, most of you will no doubt feel surprised that any opposition should exist between them. To my mind it appeared to be not a contest between Candidates, but of Carpet Manufacturers—say of Brussels *versus* Tapestry.

That being the case, you will have to ask yourselves which of the Candidates would be most likely to represent you best—Mr. Lea, the youthful

resident Manufacturer,—the Greenwich Solicitor,—or myself, who has fought so long and ardently for the FREE EDUCATION of the children of the Working Classes, and who now thus aspires to complete the task.

To day the Agents of Mr. Bristow and of Mr. Lea have issued Circulars calling upon you to rally round their Employers' standards, and to form two Committees to wage war against each other, although they are of the same political opinions; this is a very unfraternal course, and I leave you to judge of the probable result—as for myself I cannot comprehend it.

Intermixed with their own wranglings some of them have accused me of splitting the Liberal Interest by offering myself. To this I beg to reply that I was FIRST IN THE FIELD, therefore it is Mr. Bristow's friends or Mr. Lea's friends who are the real splitters—this you know to be perfectly true.

My view of the case is this:—Let me alone contest the Election with the present Member. In that case there could be no doubt of my success; this I ask on the ground of my being the first Candidate; if this is not done the blame must rest with the other candidates should the present Member be re-elected.

I beg earnestly, therefore, to call upon all classes of voters, and especially upon the New Voters to support me. If elected, they will find me an active and faithful representative, and a thorough supporter of the patriotic and enlightened policy of Mr. Gladstone.

In conclusion, I may say that I shall use none but legitimate means in the contest, let the result be what it may; I feel no doubt that the New Voters will heartily support such a course, and I am resolved to go to the Poll in order to test it.

I beg to remain, your obedient Servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, June 13th, 1868.

After this I canvassed various parts of the town, and finding that a great lack of political knowledge amongst the new voters, I sent out the following in the form of a pamphlet:—

TO THE FUTURE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTORS OF THE
BOROUGH OF KIDDERMINSTER.

GENTLEMEN,—You intend, no doubt, to take into your serious consideration, the best way to discharge the duty of voting for a Parliamentary candidate, under the provisions of the new Reform Bill. Whoever you elect, will make one of an assembly chosen by the electors of the United Kingdom, to preside over the destinies of Great Britain and our immense colonies, for good or for evil, until a future dissolution takes place.

A great responsibility, therefore, rests upon you. No consideration what-

ever ought to weigh with you in your choice of a member, except that of the good of the whole community, and as the new Parliament may sit for seven years, the opportunity of doing a great service to your country, will be lost for that period, unless you act with discrimination and firmness.

In order to shew you who and what the members of the present House of Commons are, I have drawn out the following tables. In addition to these I have selected some of the principal items in the "Finance Accounts of the National Expenditure for the year ending March 31, 1867," published by order of the House of Commons, on the 28th of June last year.

By the latter you will see the extravagance of our system, and by the former you will discover how unfit the greatest number of the members of the present House of Commons are to be intrusted with such important duties.

These two sets of table figures will, I hope, operate upon your minds as to a judicious choice of a member for the future.

The present House of Commons is composed of 194 of the nobility and their relatives, 102 military and naval officers, 27 sons of M.P.s, 54 sons of baronets, 17 sons of church dignitaries and clergymen, 91 members of the professions, 74 landowners and magistrates, 65 merchants, 32 manufacturers, 1 agriculturist, and 1 Credit Foncier manager (the latter your representative).

In a London list of the House of Commons I find that several of the titled M.P.'s are in the army, that some of the baronets are barristers also, and that many of the army officers (M.P.'s) are the sons of clergymen.

You must confess that these classes are not the most fit to vote away the taxes. Many of themselves and hosts of their relatives have their fingers in John Bull's enormous national pie, and it is a convincing fact as to their recklessness, that every year for the past thirty years, the expenditure has increased at the rate of one million a year!

It is almost incredible that the population of the United Kingdom should stand such a system of bleeding (*i.e.*, fifty shillings each per annum for every man, woman, and child). No wonder that trade languishes, and that Artisans, Mechanics, and Labourers should find it so difficult to keep soul and body together! No wonder that our workhouses and jails are so full, when we see the Kingdom beggared by such an overwhelming load of taxation!

So far for the analysis and the duties of members. Now let us consider the national income and the chief items of expenditure:—

The total taxes, duties, &c., collected for the year ending
 March 31, 1867, amounted to no less than £72,712,000

To this must be added—

Balance in hand March, 1866	...	...	...	...	5,851,000
Sundry repayments, &c.	...	...	...	...	5,115,000
Money raised from creation of Additional Debt	...	...	...	...	500,000
Temporary Advances received back	...	...	...	...	10,622,000
					<u>£94,800,000</u>

Out of this immense sum the Customs and Excise alone contributed £45,377,273. Thus it will be seen that our Exchequer received Taxes and Duties, and held balances and returns in that one year, amounting to nearly Two Millions per week!

The chief items of Expenditure were

Interest, &c. of the National Debt	...	...	...	...	£23,507,000
The Army	...	...	...	...	14,675,000
The Navy	...	...	...	...	10,676,000

Say total of these three items 48 Millions.

Civil List and Royal Marriage Portion	...	...	...	...	437,000
Royal Family Annuities	...	...	...	...	111,000
Salaries, Courts of Justice	...	...	...	...	162,000
Compensation ditto	...	...	...	...	506,000
Judges' Pensions	...	...	...	...	79,600
County Court Judges' Salaries	...	...	...	...	92,000
Irish Courts of Justice Salaries	...	...	...	...	161,000
Compensations ditto	...	...	...	...	111,000
Salaries of Officials and Expenses of Parliament Houses					71,000
Chapter House, Westminster	...	...	...	...	7,000
Speaker and Serjeant-at-Arms, House of Commons	...	...	...	...	6,200
Foreign Diplomatic Officials	...	...	...	...	156,000
Ditto Pensions	...	...	...	...	22,000
Consuls	...	...	...	...	45,000
Fortifications	...	...	...	...	450,000
Customs Salaries, &c.	...	...	...	...	784,452
Inland Revenue Salaries, &c.	...	...	...	...	1,313,500
Superannuations, Compensations, and Pensions to the Revenue Departments	...	...	...	...	395,522
Chinese Government for Anglo-Chinese Flotilla	...	...	...	...	101,300
Civil Government of the Isle of Man	...	...	...	...	14,000
Naval and Military Pensions	...	...	...	...	35,000
Civil Pensions	...	...	...	...	24,300
Hereditary Pensions	...	...	...	...	7,360
Royal Servants' Pensions	...	...	...	...	32,200

Irish Pension List	7,300
Secret Service Vote:	32,000
Poor Law Commissioners	235,000
Charity Commissioners, England	15,673
Ditto ditto Ireland	1,304
Lord Lieutenant of Ireland	20,000
Ditto Household	6,413
Irish Grants	52,235
Maynooth College, Ireland	26,360
Queen's ditto ditto	21,000
Nonconformist Ministers, ditto	41,156
Church of Scotland	19,139
West Indies (Clergy)	20,300
North America (Clergy)	1,000
West Indian Justices	2,000

The above list contains some extraordinary items, but what shall be said of the following pensions and compensations:—

	£	s.	d.
Receiver-General, Duchy of Cornwall, for loss on Abolition of Duties on the Coinage of Tin	16,216	15	0
Rev. Thomas Thurlow, Clerk of the Hanaper, Patentee of Bankrupts, &c.	11,716	0	0
This is shameful! a <i>clerical</i> civil servant, who has no duties to perform!!			
Compensations to Irish Weigh-masters of Butter ...	1,187	9	0
John Holdship (this is the person that finds the sealing wax for the Court of Chancery)	1,145	11	0
The Two Sealers in ditto	556	0	0
The Duke of Grafton, as comptroller of the Seals in Queen's Bench and Common Pleas	843	0	0
The Heritable Usber of Scotland's Six Trumpeters ...	100	18	0
The Bishops of London, Salisbury, Winchester, and Rochester for loss of Post Fines!	31	12	7
Duke of Norfolk for ditto	56	0	0
Earl of Powis for ditto	3	18	8
The Right Hon. W. Beresford, Keeper of the Tennis Court (Scotland)!	83	0	0
Mary Ann Forster, Housemaid of the House of Lords, Ireland, for loss of Emoluments caused by the Union!	18	0	10

These figures will explain many delicate points in the National Expenditure, and you may be sure that the greatest number of the present House

of Commons would never vote for the reduction or extinction of any of them, because so many not only of themselves, but of their relatives, profit so largely thereby.

The number of Working Men on the Kidderminster Borough Electoral Lists from 1832 to the present time have been but few in comparison with the other classes, now they will be in the majority. The present number of Voters, including repetitions, is 646; the number of New Voters will be about 2,000, nearly the whole of these will be Working Men; the total increase will be as three to one, therefore, the election of a fit person will depend upon the Artisans and other Working Men.

The Carpet-Masters and other Tradesmen in Kidderminster take care to employ the best men as foremen; they know that by so doing their interests will be cared for, and that the results will be satisfactory. You should do the same in electing a Member. Your Masters are at no extra expense in appointing their foremen: they are chosen for superior knowledge of their trade, and honesty of purpose. So you should elect your Member, without putting him to a penny expense, and according to his fitness for the office. Your Member then would be true to you, and true men would vote for a reduction of taxes, for protection to the Working Man's trade funds, for an abolition of all class favoritism in passing new laws, and for the free education of your children—in fact, for the greatest good of the greatest number.

As for myself, you know how long I have fought for the restoration of your once Free School to the use of your children. You know how assiduous I was whilst a Member of your Town Council for nine years. I have thus a claim on your support. I have no need of Place, as I can support myself well with my Pen, and you may be sure that I should not be an idle Member.

In conclusion, I may say that a preponderance of Master Manufacturers, or their connexions, in the House, might not be to the advantage of the Working classes, nor could a person who has the superintendence of 2,000 Engineers attend well to his Parliamentary duties.* I therefore leave it with you to reward me for the past, and to give me an opportunity of proving my zeal in support of all measures tending to your welfare in the future.

The legal Election Expenses will no doubt be paid by the Borough as assented to by the House of Commons, on Saturday last, on the proposition of Mr. Fawcett. Therefore, except as to Printing and Personal Expenses, the Member should not be put to a penny expense.

I intend to pursue my canvass until the week of the Election. I shall

* Mr. Makin, the Conservative Candidate.

then be able to judge of my position, which I find improves week by week since I addressed you in the open air. In the meantime I think it would be well for you to hold weekly meetings between this and November, to discuss the whole question and to adopt Resolutions thereon. Above all things act for yourselves, and do not let this first and grand opportunity be lost.

Trusting that you will give these remarks your unbiassed and sincere consideration,

I remain, your obedient Servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

As time went on I called another public meeting, which was held in the Corn Exchange, on Friday, October the 2nd, and continued my canvass during the whole of the following week, when finding that Mr. Lea had a large majority of promises, I sent in my resignation to the Mayor and Town Clerk.

My old and fraternal friend, Lord Brougham, died this year, on the seventh of May. I may well say fraternal friend, as I was the only author that he ever allowed to dedicate a book to him.

I recollect hearing him speak at the annual meeting of the Mechanics' Institute, which was held in Southampton Buildings, London, when I was on a visit to my sister, as stated in the first page of this autobiography. I little thought then that I should in after days receive such a compliment at his hands, as stated above, or have read a paper at the meeting of the Social Science Congress, at York, in 1864, when he sat in the president's chair, and applauded my arguments.

I have often visited him since then in Grafton Street, Piccadilly, and found him very sociable and candid.

I may therefore be excused for inserting the following lines, written to his memory, and which appeared in Chambers's Journal, soon after his death:—

HENRY BROUGHAM.

Dead! Passed from our midst to his heaven on high!
 That great soul at length has returned to the sky.
 Hushed at last are the eloquent tones of that voice
 That defended a Queen, bade the freed slave rejoice;
 Mute the accents whose fervour the senate has swayed,
 Whose magic persuasion a nation obeyed;

The throbs of that resolute heart, that so thrilled
 To the promptings of freedom, for ever are stilled.
 Not for him is oblivion—his memory shall last
 In the heart of his country when ages are past :
 When the bays of the warrior are withered and dead,
 Consumed by the rust of the blood he has shed,
 His laurels still fresh and immortal shall live,
 His name still enshrined in our annals survive.
 Philosopher, statesman, philanthropist, sage,
 With the noblest of gifts he has dowered our age.
 If such labours be worthy, such honesty right ;
 If a life so devoted be glorious and bright ;
 If unwearied to toil for the weal of mankind ;
 To wear out in their service heart, body, and mind ;
 To strike down abuses, bad laws to amend ;
 To plead for the captive, the feeble defend,
 Be good—the reward of his life he has won
 In th' applause of his Master, “ Thou Faithful, well done.”

A quiet time now set in, which allowed me to publish the Evidence of the Earl of Harrowby on English *versus* Classical Education, as given by him before the Schools' Inquiry Commissioners, on the 6th of March, 1866. To this I added a short Preface of four pages, in which I inserted some Statistics, shew the condition of the French and Italian schools.

On the 11th of December, I published another pamphlet, containing a Preface ; and the Report of Matthew Arnold, Esq., Assistant Commissioner, on the state of education in Switzerland ; and the Report of the Rev. H. R. Sandford, on the state of the Church of England Schools in South Staffordshire and North Worcestershire. The contrast given in these two Reports, as to the education of the people in each case, is greatly against our system.

As a finale to this year, I shall insert a few verses here, which were written under the following circumstances.

As I was passing through Deanery Place, in Wolverhampton, on the afternoon of Christmas Eve, I espied a poor donkey in the public pound. I inquired whose it was, and as the pound-keeper

could not tell, I told her that she was bound to feed it and charge the owner with the cost.

ON SEEING A DONKEY IN THE POUND,

IN DEANERY PLACE, WOLVERHAMPTON, AT CHRISTMAS-TIME, 1866.

Poor donkey, friendless, foodless, say
 Who was it put you in the pound?
 Doubtless, you were but straying round
 To find a bite of grass or hay,
 Quite inoffensive in your way.

How heartless must that man have been,
 How dead to feeling thus to lock
 You in this barren, unroofed, dock:
 A callous, senseless, block, I ween,
 Or spiteful soul o'errun with spleen.

Had it but been some well-bred cob,
 Or hunter that had gone astray,
 To livery he'd been led away,
 But as 'twas you a low-born snob,
 The pound for you was just the job.

Yet festive Christmas might have led
 Your captor to have kindlier thoughts,
 He might have given you some oats,
 Or hay, and straw to make a bed
 Whereon to rest your heavy head.

May he this Christmas have no goose,
 Mince pies, plum pudding, nor brown ale,—
 May he like you be locked in jail,
 Nor till twelfth day again get loose;
 For he in this has no excuse.

The year 1869 was famous for two educational movements in the right direction, viz., The passing of the Endowed Schools' Reform Bill for England and Wales, and the formation of the National Education League. Upon these I have treated at length, in the Preface.

On the 16th of March, 1869, a meeting of the Severn Valley Farmers Club was held at the Squirrel Inn, Alveley. Mr.

Woodward, of Arley Castle was Chairman, and the Rev. W. B. Garnett Botfield, of Decker Hill, near Shiffnall, read a most able paper entitled "The School and the Cottage." At its conclusion Mr. Woodward, proposed that the best thanks of the meeting be accorded to Mr. Botfield, for his interesting lecture.

In seconding the proposition I remarked, that the Bridgenorth Grammar School, had a small endowment—a house which paid some small amount as a consideration for rent—an income of only £20, and yet there was shut up in the bank its share of £12,000, the proceeds of the Careswell exhibitions. Some time ago I suggested in the *Bridgenorth Journal*, that the Charity Commissioners should obtain a scheme by which they could provide a good school in the High Town, one in the Low Town, and another on one side of the rural part of the borough. The money, however, still remained in the bank. What I should like to see, I said, was a measure which would grapple with such cases as this, and demand that the money should be made use of in a proper manner. As regards the age at which children should be sent to school, I said that this was a much disputed point. Many medical men were of opinion, that a child should not be sent to school under six, and in some cases not under eight years of age; they thought the physical condition of a child should be taken into consideration, and it had been said by some, that any boy or girl sent to school between the ages of eight and twelve, (according to their constitution) would learn more than if sent at three or four, and remained till twelve.

Mr. Woodward, jun., supported the vote of thanks. He said, in a short time education would undoubtedly become the leading question of the day, and he considered the Government had acted wisely in having postponed the subject until they had received the reports of the Commissioners, and become acquainted with the opinions of farmers through their Chambers of Agriculture, for it evinced their desire to legislate upon a thorough practical basis. The difficulties the Government would have to contend against, were—firstly, as to how far the education of

children should go; secondly, at what age children should be sent to, and remain at school; and thirdly, how the necessary funds were to be raised to meet the expenses if education is to be compulsory. He considered a good elementary education to be indispensable, and the right of everybody. In regard to the age at which children should be kept at school, he thought no one would object to the minimum of ten years. He could not, however, quite agree with what had fallen from Mr. Griffith, in reference to the age at which children should be sent to school. He did not think, that where children were sent to school at an early age, they were either overworked or overtaught, but, on the contrary, they were learnt simple things, which subsequently upon going to a larger school, proved of great service to them. In respect of the raising of funds, he might say that the favourite plan of their Liberal friends, appeared to be that a rate should be levied for this purpose, which he disapproved of. He thought that, as voluntary subscriptions to schools and childrens' pence were increasing, it was not advisable to kill that system, but they ought rather to supplement it by Government grants to be paid out of the consolidated fund.

I said, that if they had a compulsory rate for educational purposes, the endowed school funds would be looked into more than they are now. I might also state that I had been informed by one of the Charity Commissioners that there were nearly three millions of money in the Bank of England at the present time belonging to endowments, and loans gone out of date. I said that I thought this money should be made use of instead of lying dormant.

Mr. Woodward, jun., had no objection to a rate provided it were on a fair footing and levied upon all species of property.

Mr. Botfield appropriately acknowledged the vote of thanks, and shortly afterwards the meeting broke up.

The separation of the Irish Church from the State, was the chief question in the two Houses of Parliament this year. It created an unusual excitement in the public mind, and although it met with a most determined opposition, was carried.

Ever since I first travelled in Ireland, I was averse to the Established Church being paramount there. I took the opportunity of publishing my views thereon, this year, in a novel way.

The Russian Gun which stood in High Green, was removed to Snow Hill, to make way for the Statue of the Prince Consort which was inaugurated by the Queen in 1866; and following Burns's notion of his dialogue of the "Twa Dogs," I wrote the following :—

The midnight moon was soaring high,
 Pure empress of a cloudless sky ;
 The winds crept round—felt but not heard—
 So calm, that e'en the leaves unstirred
 Hung on each branch in torpid mood,
 And seem'd o'er storms long past to brood.
 When 'midst the calm a din arose,
 Of angry words between two foes :
 The Royal Statue on High Green
 Had raised the Russian Cannon's spleen,
 Because it had, against its will,
 Been moved and planted on Snow Hill,
 And thus with thund'ring voice it spoke,
 And tried the Statue to provoke :—

THE CANNON.

Pray why should you usurp my place,
 And get me into this disgrace ?
 Why was I moved from that proud site,
 Where I became the town's delight,—
 Where Ironmaster's congregated,
 Their weekly doings to relate ;
 And swells parade, and maidens gay
 Sweep with their trains the dust away ?
 Was I not good enough to stand
 A satire on proud Angle-land :
 That she had lost her men, and won
 A life-destroying Russian Gun,
 Had brought me here to prove her might,
 Backed by the French and Turks in fight,
 And now to show still more ill-will
 Has shifted me to cold Snow Hill.

THE STATUE.

Ask me not why,—go ask the Mayor
 And Corporation in North Street,
 To them belongs the town's sole care,
 To them pertains to do what's mete ;
 But as you carp at my being here,
 The cause to you I'll soon make clear,
 I claim the highest post 'mongst men
 Who love not war and its dark strife,
 Preferring those pursuits in life
 Which make fierce foes true friends again ;
 Whilst you've rejoiced at others ruin,
 Feasted on war and man's undoing,
 Laughed when huge heaps of slain around,
 By your cursed means bestrewed the ground,
 And e'en when widows wail'd and cried,
 Bellowed forth shouts of fiendish pride.

THE CANNON.

What, what, alas ! is prowess nought,
 Is it for this I fearless fought,
 Is it for this I led the way
 And kept my enemies at bay ?
 And what are you ? You bear the name
 Of Marshal, yet you bear no fame !
 No field you've faced in England's cause,
 Nor gained by war, mankind's applause.
 For me, my valour was not vain,
 I strewed the ground with heaps of slain ;
 But you when Denmark asked your hand,
 When Prussia seized upon her land,
 Promised to give her your best aid,
 And, after all, her hopes betrayed,
 Forgetting that in days of old
 England was always true as bold.

THE STATUE.

Stay, stay your anger ! Russia, whence
 You in defeat were hurried hence,
 Has oft betrayed her plighted troth,
 Oft promised peace but given wrath ;

Was she not false to Hungary's sons ?
 Did she not covet Turkey's soil ?
 Did she not seek to plant her guns
 Thereon, and found it fruitless toil ?
 Who rules Siberia's hapless tribes ?
 Where are Circassia's noblest youth ?
 Who was it bought with monstrous bribes
 The Polish traitors and their truth ?
 Say, what have e'er your sovereigns sought
 That was not with intolerance fraught,
 With lust of conquest, lust of soil,—
 Whose deepest love was love of spoil ?

THE CANNON.

Hold, hold ! your angry talk displays
 Your now adopted land's false ways ;
 Say what of India and her gold,
 For which you shed blood-streams untold ?
 Say why America withstood
 Your domination with her blood ?
 And last but worst of all, say why
 You trample on the rights of those,
 Your Irish fellow-subjects ? Fie,
 Friends you shall make them, not your foes ;
 The noble sons of Erin's soil
 Whose lands and tithes you clutched for gain,
 Seek but to live by honest toil
 And strive their offspring to maintain ;
 But as for your too selfish laws,
 Truly they want to be reformed,
 For like the tiger's murderous paws,
 Whate'er they touch becomes deformed.
 Remember true religion lives
 Not in coercion but in love,
 That equity true power gives,
 And gains the smile of heaven above.

THE STATUE.

I grant you that herein you're right,
 Oft have I grieved o'er that fair land
 Where persecution, backed by might,
 With penal laws went hand in hand ;

But there is breaking forth a day,
On which this land will wipe away
The lust of ruling by bad laws,
And victory win by truth, not power,
By giving Erin no more cause
To curse our rule from hour to hour ;
Yes, when fair play shall grace our name,
And equity be our great aim.
Then persecution by the few,
Against the many, shall be driven
Far, far away ! and joy imbue,
The hearts with enmity now riven.
Haste ! haste ! the hour when love of gold
Shall not o'er-ride the love of right,
When men, though not of fellow-fold,*
Shall live as brethren in God's sight.

May Day, 1869.

* " Shall I ask the brave soldier who fights by my side
In the cause of mankind if our creeds agree ?
Shall I give up the friend I have valued and tried,
If he kneel not before the same altar with me ?
From the heretic girl of my soul shall I fly,
To seek somewhere else a more orthodox kiss ?
No ! perish the hearts and the laws that try
Truth, honour, and love, by a standard like this."

MOORE.



CHAPTER XIV.

“ Shall Royal Institutions miss the bays,
And small Academies win all the praise ?
Force not my drift beyond its just intent—
I praise a school as Pope a Government ;
So take my judgment in his language dressed,
Whate'er is best administered is best.”

COWPER.

On the 10th of Máy, Mr. Hobhouse, who read the Paper at Sion College, as recorded on pages 813-14, read another on the same subject at the Social Science Room, London, when a Meeting of the Jurisprudence Department was held. He still adhered to his view that charitable bequests were administered with too great an inviolability as to the founders' orders.

I thereupon wrote to him on the subject, calling his attention to the facts as connected with the administration of endowed schools, which altogether (or nearly so) disproved his reiterated arguments. To this I had the following reply :—

Charity Commission, June 2, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—I am much obliged for your letter received this morning. Accuracy is doubtless the first necessity of all controversies, and of all other business ; and for my own part there is nothing which I study so much. In my statements about Etwall I have grounded myself strictly on Mr. Martin's Report, which contains evidence taken openly from various quarters, and capable of being controverted at the time. The conclusions I stated the other day are the very same as those which were stated in the Report of this Commission to Her Majesty in 1867, which was printed by order of the House of Commons, and proved the basis of the Act that was passed. These conclusions were not then controverted.

Of course you may still be right, but you cannot expect that the unex-

amined statement of an overseer, which after all leaves a large part of the ground uncovered, I shall contradict that which has been so formally asserted.

I will, however, hand your letter to Mr. Martin, when he returns from an Inspection on which he is now engaged.

With respect to the great controversy as to the deference due to Founders, though I have not the happiness to agree with your opinion, the more you discuss it the better I shall be pleased; for from all honest discussion truth must result, and I am far from assuming that I am in exclusive possession of the truth. What I desire is to lay down separate and clear propositions which I believe to be true, and so to invite people's attention to the matter. I know that the existing opinion is against me, and the main object of my recent speech was to exhibit that very fact.

I am, faithfully yours,

ARTHUR HOBHOUSE.

George Griffith, Esq.

The Editor of the *Rock* (a London newspaper) having published a leading article upon the question of the "Trusteeships of our Endowed Schools," in which he argued that the Government ought to be the Trustees, I sent him the following letter thereupon, which appeared in the next issue of the *Rock* :—

To the Editor of the Rock.

SIR,—You deserve the thanks of the community at large for the excellent article in your paper of the 25th of May (on the question of the "(Trusteeships of our Endowed Schools.")

Your views, with one exception, are very good, and that is, that the Government ought to be the trustees. I have had some experience in this question, having written several large volumes thereon, many letters in the public papers, and for more than twenty years spoken at public meetings against the present system. My name and opinions, too, are to be found in the Blue Books issued by the late "Schools' Inquiry Commission" on the subject.

The evils of the mismanagement of Endowed Schools are so multiform, that one scarcely knows where to begin or where to end in their condemnation; all I ask is, that the trustees (for trustees there must be) shall be elected by the votes of parishioners, on the basis of the election of poor-law guardians, or of town councillors, and then all reforms of the schools, according to need, would follow.

You very truly say, "How often the educational aurture provided by

generous founders for the adopted children of Lazarus has been squandered by trustees on the children of Dives; how often exhibitions to the Universities, founded for poor or talented scholars, have been lavished on the wealthy or the worthless." These facts are known to everybody living in towns or rural districts, wherever an endowed school exists.

The system has been to teach according to the Oxford standard; therefore, the sons of persons able to send them to the University, have usurped the places of boys intended for commercial pursuits, or for trade in workshops. In one Midland County of which I have written the history of its endowed schools, no less than ninety out of one hundred of the schools were founded for poor boys. Where the school endowment is small, of course it is devoted to the benefit of poor boys; but where it is great, the sons of first-class tradesmen and professionals are educated.

It is, as you say, all attributable to the false system of trusteeship; the trustees neglect their duties, a head master is appointed, generally an M.A., he finds a good school endowment, and a good house and school-house, both rent-free; he advertises for boarders, making the exhibitions a bait, and with the profits arising from them and the school endowment he makes a very nice thing of it. Of course the corduroy boys (to whom by-the-by, the school belongs) are not fit to be admitted amongst boarders and respectable tradesmen's sons, and so the poor go to the wall; thus to them that have much, more is given, and from them that have not, their little is taken away.

Hoping that the new Bill will allow the trustees to be elected by the parishioners,

I beg to remain, yours truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, June 10th, 1869.

It will be seen on page 9, *ante*, how my cousins when at School complained to me as to the usage they experienced at the hands of the schoolmasters of the Free School in Birmingham. When I published my Work "The History of George Wilson a Foundation Scholar" in 1854, I was much censured by many of my old Birmingham acquaintances, for my details of the brutal severity practised at this school, in fact they considered that I had over-painted the features of the case.

Singular to say, that in the *Daily Post* of the 19th of June, 1869, an article signed H.H.H. appeared on that very subject. He was a pupil in the school when Cooke, Clay, and Kennedy were

the masters, and the following is his statement as to these three fiends :—

“The Rev. Rann Kennedy was the second master, but made of very different material altogether. He sat at one end of the “Big School,” and Mr. Cook at the other, the Rev. — Clay occupying the centre as third master. All these were passionate men, but each in a different way. Mr. Cook was always stern, severe, and unbending. He would often come rushing into Mr. K’s ground, and thrash his boys under his very nose. He would do the same with Mr. Clay’s boys—by virtue, I suppose, of his right as headmaster. Mr. Clay would sometimes play with the boys, or go to sleep while they were saying their *Propria que maribus*, and then would be the time for *cribbing*. But if Mr. Kennedy had to officiate at a wedding or at a funeral at St. Paul’s, and he was pressed for time, woe be to the boy who was not able to construe his Latin off hand; would’nt he get lifted over the tall words? I have seen him rise from his stool, clench his fist at the poor terrified boy—whom, perhaps, the day before he was laughing and rhyming with—and positively grin with rage. Nor was this all. He would call the boy such names as any clergyman of the present day would be ashamed to make use of. How was it possible that lads could make any real progress in learning under such irrational treatment; or that they could cherish any lasting respect for their teachers? and yet we were more attached to Mr. K. than to any of the other masters, and I believe he was a most tender-hearted man. I have seen him shed tears after beating a boy, and once, when in his better mood, he saw the third master inflicting punishment on one of his boys to excess, he put his hands to his face and exclaimed, “Oh, Mr. Clay!” as if he could not bear to see it; and yet so liable was he to be carried away by sudden paroxysms of temper, that we were never sure of him, and knew not when we went up with our lessons, whether we were going to be chucked under the chin in mirth or in anger. But he was an angel compared with the third master, who seemed to gloat over the sufferings of his boys with a cold-blooded and fiendish delight, that was surely inexplicable on any ground of reason or humanity; and he had no redeeming trait in his character to reconcile boys to his despotic rule. Any lad of spirit would be tempted to run away from the school on being removed from the second to the third master. Such was the reign of terror which obtained at the Free Grammar School forty-five years ago.”

Having ascertained that Inspecting Assistant Commissioners would be required, when the new Endowed Schools Act would come into operation, I took steps to obtain one of these appointments.

I made my first application to Mr. Forster, M.P. for Bradford, (the promoter of the Bill) in the following letter :—

10, Gladstone Terrace, North Road, Wolverhampton, June 25, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—I should be very glad to be included in the sub-appointments necessary for the carrying out the duties created by the Endowed Schools Act.

My exertions on the question of "Endowed School Reform" may be some recommendation.

I therefore beg to ask you for your favourable consideration, and waiting your reply.

I remain, dear sir, yours very truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

To the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P.,
80, Ecclestone Square, London.

To this I received the following prompt reply, from his secretary :—

Privy Council Office, 26th June, 1869.

SIR,—I am directed by the Vice-President to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated yesterday, and to state that it has been given to Lord De Grey. The appointments in question will rest with the Commissioners should the Bill pass.

I am your obedient servant,

P. CUMIN.

George Griffith, Esq.

I then wrote letters of application to various official noblemen and gentlemen, of which the following are copies :—

Wolverhampton, June 29th 1869.

MY LORD, OR SIR,—I am very anxious to obtain a sub-appointment at the hands of the Commissioners should the Endowed Schools' Bill be passed.

I beg, therefore, to ask the favour of your patronage.

I take the opportunity of enclosing a list of the Works I have written on the subject of Endowed Schools, which I trust will recommend me to your consideration, and should you wish it I will forward copies of each of these works to your town residence.

Should it be necessary I can procure high testimonials from gentlemen in this and the adjoining counties.

I remain, yours truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

The first reply came from Lord Lyttelton. It was very curt.

London, 2nd July, 1869.

SIR,—I regret I shall not be able to promote your object.

Yours obediently,

LYTTELTON.

Charity Commission, June 30th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—My impression is that the appointments under the Endowed Schools' Act will be made by the authorities at the Privy Council. But nothing is arranged, and of course it would be premature to arrange anything until it is seen what shape the Act assumes. The appointment of the Commissioners and Secretary would not have been provisionally settled if the House of Commons had not desired to know what persons it was intended to appoint.

I will keep your letter and use it if occasion offers.

I am, yours faithfully,

ARTHUR HOBHOUSE.

Mr. G. Griffith.

Privy Council Office, 3rd July, 1869.

SIR,—In reply to your letter of the 29th of June, I am directed by Lord De Grey to inform you that it is intended that the selection of the particular gentlemen for sub-appointments under the Commissioners, to be hereafter appointed under the Endowed Schools' Bill, should be left to those Commissioners themselves, and not to the President of the Council.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

BRUCE M. SETON.

George Griffith, Esq.,

(For Lord De Grey).

9, Garrick Street, Wolverhampton.

Bolton Abbey, Skipton, July 3.

DEAR SIR,—I am at present unable to say what assistance we shall require in our work, and how such staff as we may need will be selected.

It is very possible that in the course of our labours we may find it expedient to avail ourselves of the services of persons *having good local knowledge* of the endowments with which we shall have to deal. I will preserve your letter so that in the event of our wishing to take advantage of your experience we may be able to communicate with you.

I am, Dear Sir, yours truly,

H. G. ROBINSON.

To the Rev. Canon Robinson, Bolton Abbey, Skipton.

Wolverhampton, July 5th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 3rd, with many thanks.

Whilst writing my three histories of the Endowed School in the Midland Counties, I was obliged in fully three-fourths of the cases, to visit the schools in order to complete my chapters before going to press.

The cause of this was from not being able to get the information by post, although I had sent printed questions and stamped envelopes to every chairman of Trustees, and Head-master, of each school.

This experience was after all of great service to me, as my judgment was thereby much improved.

I should have no objection to remove to London, to fulfil the duties of a sub-appointment. I should be quite at home therein in every sense, and having devoted much time and money in my past labours on this question, I may be excused in saying that I think I deserve such an office.

I beg to send herewith copies of my Staffordshire and Birmingham Works. I regret that I cannot send you one of my Worcestershire volumes, as that work is out of print.

Hoping that my desires may meet with consideration,

I remain, Dear Sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Bolton Abbey, Skipton, July 9th.

DEAR SIR,—I beg to offer you my best thanks for the copies of your books which you have been so good as to send me. They seem to contain a great deal of valuable information on the subjects of which they treat.

It is impossible at present to say what sub-appointments the Commissioners may find it necessary to make. It must, however, be borne in mind that the information on which the Commissioners will have to act has already been collected. Hence I do not imagine that any very large staff of officials will be required.

Believe me, dear Sir, truly yours,

H. G. ROBINSON.

9, Garrick Street, Wolverhampton, July 13th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—I am much obliged by the kind remarks you made in your favour of the 9th, and beg to call your attention to the following statement.

When the "Schools' Inquiry" Commissioners were appointed I sent each of them copies of my works (all of which were then in print.)

In those works my propositions as to Endowed Schools' Reform were set

forth fully (as in the Staffordshire volume that I sent you, see page xviii. in the Preface.)

I have, therefore, much pleasure and satisfaction in asking you to compare these propositions with the "Recommendations" contained in the Report of the Schools' Inquiry Commission.

Upon comparing them myself I find that no less than ten have been adopted by the Commissioners either wholly or in part.

I may also remark that these very propositions were made by me in one of my first productions in the year 1850, and that I have never swerved from them.

You will doubtless think that I am troublesome and importunate, but as I feel it to be desirable (before your subordinates are appointed) to make known to you what exertions I have made, with the hope of getting a sub-appointment, I trust you will pardon me.

I beg to remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

On the 29th July I wrote to some of my friends for their interest on my behalf as to the appointment I sought.

The letter, a copy of which I sent to each was as follows:—

Gladstone Terrace, North Road, Wolverhampton,

July 29th, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—I find by the Endowed Schools' Act, dated 21st June, that the three Commissioners and Secretaries thereby appointed (viz., Lord Lyttelton, the Rev. Canon Robinson, and A. Hobhouse, Esq., Q.C.) have the power of electing Assistant Commissioners, Officers, and Clerks.

I am anxious to fill one of these appointments and believe that my experience on the Endowed School Question would fully qualify me for such an office.

May I therefore ask at your hands the favour of a written recommendation, to that effect.

Waiting your consideration,

I beg to remain, Dear Sir, your obedient Servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Westwood Park, Droitwich, Aug. 1, 1869.

SIR,—I have received your letter. The fact of your own publications on the subject of Endowed Schools seems to me to constitute a stronger recommendation for the office of Assistant Commissioner, under the New Act, than anything that I, with my limited personal knowledge, can say as to your qualifications.

Lord Lyttelton is to be the Chief Commissioner, and I am sure he will be ready to give fair consideration to your claims.

If you think this letter can assist you, you are at liberty to make use of it.

I remain, yours faithfully,

JOHN S. PAKINGTON.

Mr. George Griffith.

39, Sloane Street, 2nd August, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—I have conveyed your wishes with respect to the Endowed Schools' Commission, to what I believe to be the *right quarter*, and should be happy to support your claims as far as it is in my power to do so.

I am not, however, as you know, a member of the Government.

I remain, Dear Sir, yours very obediently,

C. P. VILLIERS.

George Griffith, Esq.

7, Austin Friars, 57½ Old Broad Street, London,
6th August, 1869.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 30th July, informs me that you are desirous of obtaining an appointment under the three Commissioners, and Secretary, appointed in the Endowed Schools' Act just passed.

The great interest which you have always shewn, and publicly taken in the Reform of Endowed Schools, and the merits of the numerous publications you have issued on this subject, would seem to point you out as one peculiarly fitted to carry the New Act into operation. It will give me much pleasure to hear of your appointment.

Believe me, Dear Sir, yours faithfully,

T. M. WEGEULIN.

Mr. G. Griffith.

DEAR SIR,—I have forwarded your application to Lord Lyttelton, who, however, gives me no hopes of appointing you to a place under the Endowed Schools' Commission.

I am not inclined to expect much good from the Act of Parliament his Lordship has undertaken to set to work.

Faithfully yours,

F. W. KNIGHT.

Wolverley, 17th August, 1869.

10, Downing Street, Whitehall, Sept. 6th, 1869.

SIR,—Mr. Gladstone desires me to inform you, with reference to your application for employment under the Endowed Schools' Commission, that

he feels that the Commissioners are so much more competent than himself to judge of the Works, of which you send a list in your letter, and which he has no doubt will receive their attention, that it would not be becoming in him to make any recommendation respecting the appointments to be made under the Endowed Schools' Act.

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

W. B. GURDON.

George Griffith, Esq.

Wolverhampton, Sept. 8th, 1869.

To W. B. Gurdon, Esq., 10, *Downing St., Whitehall, London.*

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favour of the 6th. The reason I troubled the Premier was that I thought he would give me his support in my application.

I do not seek for an Inspectorship, as a matter of emolument, but to be in a position to further pursue a course wherein my experience might be found practically useful.

I beg to remain, yours very truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

After this I heard no more from the Commissioners, but their secretary, Mr. Roby, was kind enough to send me the twenty-one volumes of Blue Book Reports, and three sheets of maps, published by the Commission, and presented to both Houses of Parliament, by command of Her Majesty. These contain a vast amount of information as to education both at home and abroad.

The Commissioners issued a circular to the governing bodies of all Endowed Schools for their guidance, as falling within the powers of the new Act. They therein, as will be seen, expressed a desire that those who took any interest in education, should communicate any useful information to them :—

ENDOWED SCHOOLS ACT, 1869.

To the Governing Bodies, Trustees and Managers of all Endowed Schools falling within the Act.

For the convenience of those interested in the Schools the Commissioners desire to give the following information in the most public manner possible.

The Commissioners have a temporary office at 2, Victoria Street, Westminster.

It will not be possible to organize their permanent office for the transac-

tion of detailed business, or for attention to individual cases, till at least the latter end of October.

In the mean-time notices from the Governing Bodies who, under section 32 of the Act, have the right to initiate schemes will be received at the temporary office, and acknowledged from thence, and such information and suggestions as in the present stage of matters the Commissioners are able to supply will be supplied.

The Commissioners wish to add that it will be impossible for them to perform their duties in a satisfactory manner without learning not only the needs and resources, but the wishes and feelings of the different localities in which Schools are situated, and without active co-operation on the part of those who take an interest in education, and to whose hands it must ultimately be committed. They, therefore, wish to invite all persons interested in Schools, whether having a statutory right or not, to send in the course of the next few months any communication which may occur to them as being useful for the guidance and information of the Commissioners.

H. J. ROBY,

2, Victoria Street, S.W.,

Secretary.

9th August, 1869.

Upon reading this I sent the following Memorial to the Commissioners :—

To the Right Hon. Lord Lyttelton, the Rev. Canon Robinson, and Arthur Hobhouse, Esq., Q.C.—The Commissioners appointed to carry out the provisions of the "Endowed Schools' Act" (32 and 33 Vict., chap. 56.—1869.)

Being a householder of the Parliamentary Borough of Wolverhampton, I respectfully call your attention to the last-published account of the revenues of the Grammar School of this borough, founded by Sir Stephen Jenyns, in the year 1512—13 for "the sustentation of one master, and also one usher in the Grammar School, for instructing boys in the school in good morals and literature, and of other necessary things to be done there."

The school is now conducted by five permanent masters, and three occasional masters; the head master being a layman, to which fact, and owing to his great abilities and untiring industry, must be attributed the increase in the number of the scholars from 40 odd, to 215, since his election.

The gross income derived from the school properties in the year 1868 was £1,326 10s. 5d.: from capitation fees, £791; and from other sources, £848 17s. 8d., making the whole gross income £2,966 8s. 1d. At the end of that year there was a surplus of £2,148 10s. in hand.

Under the new Endowed Schools Act beneficial alterations in the constitution of the school, and the appropriation of its revenues, will doubtless be effected, I therefore take this opportunity of offering to your honourable board a few suggestions :—

1st.—That it would be desirable to build a school for boys, and a school for girls, in each of the townships, now having the privilege of sending boys to the Grammar School, viz., Bilston, Wednesfield, and Willenhall.

2nd.—That the present school should be repaired and constituted the “Central School,” whereto in addition to Wolverhampton boys, those who may prove themselves worthy, shall be transferred from the other three schools.

3rd.—That but one of the dead languages (Latin) should be taught in the “Central School,” and this only to boys whose parents may desire it, and that an extra fee should be charged for such teaching, over and above any fee or fees paid for other studies, should fees be imposed in any case.

4th.—That a certain number of boys and girls should be taught free in each school, and that fees out of the school funds shall be paid to the masters and mistresses, instead of salaries in order to encourage them to fill the schools.

5th.—That masters elected in the future should be clerical or lay, without regard to sect or denomination, according to their abilities, and that the sons and daughters of parents of any denomination shall be admitted without scruple or partiality.

I believe that with the surplus fund now in hand, aided by subscriptions, the necessary schools in Bilston, Wednesfield, and Willenhall, would be promptly erected, and that the present revenues of the school, with fees from those parents who could afford to pay them, would be quite sufficient to pay all the masters and mistresses of the schools.

I therefore pray your honourable board to consider these suggestions in the alterations that may be made in the constitution of the Wolverhampton Grammar School, and the administration of its revenues.

I beg to remain, your very obedient servant,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, October 26th, 1869.

*Endowed Schools' Commission, Temporary Office, 2, Victoria Street,
Westminster, S.W., 30th October, 1869.*

WOLVERHAMPTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th inst., enclosing a memorial relating to the above-named school, which shall be

laid before the Commissioners, who will consider it when they take the case of this school.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

H. J. ROBY.

George Griffith, Esq.,
10, Gladstone Terrace, Wolverhampton.

In the month of August, the Freemasons of Worcestershire assembled in the Cathedral Chapter House at Worcester, and opened a Provincial Grand Lodge, to present the Dean and Chapter with a splendid window, which was placed between the baptistery and the north transept, in memory of a past Master, Joseph Bennett, who died in 1862. The two Worcester Lodges met the total expense of the window.

On the occasion of the presentation, the Dean made an address of thanks on behalf of himself and the Chapter, in which he said :—" You may go to your homes, assured that the present Dean and Chapter will guard your beautiful gift with the greatest care, *and when they are laid in the grave*, they will hand it over to their successors." Upon reading these words I wrote the following lines, which I hope will not be offensive to any of the persons concerned ; I certainly do not mean them to be so. The speech of the Dean with the above words appeared in the *Worcestershire Chronicle* :—

THE POST OBIT' SATISFIED.

The old Cathedral clock struck twelve,
In slow and measured tone,
An old grey owl sat on the tower,
In solitude alone,
The winds were raging far and near,
The lightnings rent the sky,
No voice was heard save that the owl,
Still whooped his mournful cry,
Too whoo, too whoo, in mournful note,
Was still the cry from his dismal throat.

The old Cathedral clock scarce ceased,
To tell the midnight hour,
When a band of five white surpliced priests,
Passed close beneath the tower,

And one by one they passed along,
With ghostly noiseless tread,
And not one word was spoken since
They rose from the churchyard bed,
They hastened on with solemn mien,
Till they came to the house of the living dean.

They knocked, and knocked, but no one came,
So they passed calmly on,
Except the defunct Dean, who knocked
When the others were all gone,
He called aloud "good Dean come forth,
Come forth good master Dean,
And join us in the holy nave,
You're wanted there I ween.
We've business there that must be done,
Long ere the rise of the morning sun."

They then hied to each canon's house,
And they knocked with might and main,
And shouted "come forth good Presbyters,
And join our solemn train ;
We to the holy nave are bent,
To transfer to your care,
The good Freemasons' window gift,
When we filled each Canons' chair,
Come forth, come forth, your love we crave
And follow us to the Cathedral nave."

The living five, and the ghostly five,
Met sadly in the nave,
The first five were more dead than alive,
Each wished he was in his grave,
The dead led the way, in stern array,
The living with terror shook,
The last good Dean the silence broke,
And he said with a solemn look,
"We are the last four Canons and Dean,
Past denizens all of old College Green."

"Our duty now is simple and plain,
 To you our true successors,
 We wish to prove to living men
 That we are not transgressors ;
 Behold yon noble window aloft,
 In the northern transept's shade,
 The generous craft of masonry,
 To us this proud gift made,
 And we a solemn promise gave,
 To hand it to you *when in the grave.*

"So now farewell, a long farewell,
 To you sweet reverend Dean
 Also to you sweet Presbyters
 Who live on College Green.
 We to our dark and silent beds,
 Return again in grief,
 We've now fulfilled our promised thrall,
 And feel a great relief,"
 Just at this point the cock crowed aloud,
 And away fled the reverend ghostly crowd.

The Dean and Presbyters who lived,
 Upon sweet College Green,
 Were left alone all in the cold,
 When up spoke the holy Dean,
 "My predecessor whilst alive,
 Was not so strict in his rule,
 For he forgot to send the boys,
 To Oxford from the School :
 "The poor boys were all kept in the cold,
 And the rich let in by their fathers' gold."

I wish he had been as faithful then,
 As he has been to-night,
 But wrong is o'erlooked in buried men,
 They're praised for all the right,
 I hope that he and his Canons too,
 Will stop in their earthy beds,
 And leave us alone to do the work,
 That never troubled their heads,
 "That's my opinion, what say you,"
 "We" said the Canons "take the same view."

Thus the four canons with one accord,
 Agreed with the dean's remarks,
 But one more bold than the other three,
 Said "he did not like such larks;
 But to avoid such ghostly calls,
 He hoped they all agreed,
 That 'poor boys' alone should fill the school,
 And be sent to Oxford, from need."
 And they made a vow, themselves to bind,
 To foster but boys of the poorest kind.

After perusing the Assistant Commissioner's Report on the Endowed Schools of Staffordshire, I wrote a series of six letters in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, the leading county weekly paper, upon the scholastic systems in operation in England, Scotland, and Switzerland.

The first of the series appeared on the 28th August, and was followed up on the 4th, 18th, and 25th of September, and the 2nd and 9th of October, 1869.

In the course of writing these letters I made some remarks upon Brewood School, which gave great offence to the Headmaster. He thereupon took an opportunity on the School Speech Day which was held on September the 30th, to make the following comments, touching upon what I had written:—*vide, Staffordshire Advertiser, October 2nd, 1869.*

Mr. Wall proceeded to reply to certain statements respecting the management of the school, which recently appeared in the *Staffordshire Advertiser*, from the pen of Mr. Griffith. He considered that the writer had so construed the facts as to produce an impression precisely the reverse of what was the truth. He denied what the writer asserted, that in taking boarders he must necessarily act with partiality towards them, to the neglect and injury of the day boys, and he appealed to the results of previous examinations of the scholars taught at that school, as a proof that the interests of the day boys were as well looked after as were those of the boarders.

In support of these remarks Lord Hatherton, one of the

trustees, said, in continuation, that Mr. Wall had so clearly explained the new Act of Parliament recently passed with reference to Endowed Schools, and had so well defended that school from the charges brought against it by Mr. Griffith, that there was no necessity for him to consider those subjects. Having expressed great satisfaction with Mr. Wall's management of the school, his lordship contended that the day scholars derived great advantages from the increase in the number of masters, rendered necessary by the presence of boarders, and the better class of masters that could in consequence be employed.

The Earls of Shrewsbury and Dartmouth followed their noble co-trustee in praising the Head-master.

The Earl of Shrewsbury, in proposing "Prosperity to Brewood Grammar School," complimented Mr. Wall on the manner in which he had discharged his duties as head-master.

The Earl of Dartmouth proposed the health of the Head-master, and said he had never, since he had been connected with the trust, felt greater satisfaction with a head-master than he had with Mr. Wall, and he begged leave to say to his brother trustees and the public who were interested in the progress of that school that they could not leave Mr. Wall too much to himself in the management of the school, without interference on their part. His lordship mentioned that when the Hatherton scholarship was proposed he was of opinion that it should be confined to Brewood school, but Mr. Wall was dead against the proposal, considering that it would be more advantageous to the scholars to have to compete with neighbouring schools. That the two recent scholarships had been secured by Brewood boys was a sufficient answer to the strictures that had recently appeared in the press upon the school.

The Head-master being so much flattered by the three trustees, stated further as follows:—

Mr. Wall, in acknowledging the compliment, said that Mr. Griffith began with a blunder when he stated that the income of the school was £536; to make up that amount he had added to the real income, which was £500, an amount which had been

borrowed to drain a field. He had complained that only twenty-six day boys were educated for that amount. The fact was that his (Mr. Wall's) salary was put down in the letter as £293, but the writer did not state that out of that salary a number of expenses had to be paid, such as insurance on the buildings, repairs to a great many tumble-down cottages, and other items. The first great deduction from his salary was something like £80 a year, which he paid by instalments, for rebuilding the house, and then he had to pay a large sum per year for the repairing of some tumble-down old cottages in the parish, which, with other expenses, brought the nett amount of his salary down to £130. That sum, with the house he lived in, was what he received, instead of £290 a year. Deductions of a similar nature, though not quite so large, had to be made from Mr. Rushton's salary. Quoting the words, "Brewood is essentially a Boarding School," he admitted that this was to a great extent true, but he contended that the extra masters who were engaged in consequence were of great advantage to the day boys. Mr. Wall compared Mr. Griffith to Dr. Pantagruel, who had three great remedies, but showed that Mr. Griffith's proposals were decidedly at variance with the view of the Commissioners, and the teaching of experience.

These remarks appeared at much greater length in the *Wolverhampton Chronicle* of October the 6th, to which I replied as follows:—

To the Editor of the Wolverhampton Chronicle.

SIR,—Having in my possession the Blue Books published by the "Schools' Inquiry Commission" this year, I at once turned to their Report on the Staffordshire Endowed Schools. I resolved after reading that Report, to write some remarks, not only upon the position of the endowed schools in this county in particular, but to combine therewith strictures upon the management or mismanagement of the funds of endowed schools in general.

In doing so I could not avoid quoting the remarks of Mr. Green, the Assistant-Commissioner, bearing upon Brewood School, especially as to its revenues, and how they are disposed of.

In volume XV of these Blue Books, and at page 385, he states that the present master brought fifty boarders with him from Birkenhead.

The question naturally arises by what authority did he bring those fifty boys to occupy the Brewood premises; and did the founder of these premises ever contemplate that fifty boys should come to Brewood from Birkenhead or any other distant place, to occupy the premises, and absorb the greater part of the attention of the masters of the school, to the loss and detriment of the sons of the inhabitants of Brewood and the vicinity, for whom the school was founded. Another question arises. Did the founder intend to benefit the sons of the poorest Brewood people, or the sons of opulent people residing at Birkenhead and elsewhere, who have no sympathy with the commercial welfare of Brewood; and who, in fact, so soon as their sons are educated, withdraw them to pursue business elsewhere?

It may therefore be fairly considered that if the £536 foundation receipts, and the annual value of the rent-free residences for two masters, and a rent-free school-room, were devoted solely to the education of the sons of the Brewood people, and of those of the neighbouring parishes, they would be of great value to them, and only equitable.

This is what I meant when I said in my article in the *Staffordshire Advertiser* of September 11th, "It may be presumed, were the trustees elected by the inhabitants, that the interests of the sons of the inhabitants of Brewood would become paramount."

And why? Because the school and the revenues thereof are the properties of the people of Brewood and the adjoining parishes—first of all of Brewood—with a permission for the sons of "foreigners," *i.e.*, of parishes touching on the parish of Brewood, to be admitted as scholars in addition.

The trustees are placed in power to see that the founder's intentions, as prescribed by him, should be faithfully carried out. The inheritors are the people of Brewood, and the adjoining parishes, and their sons—their sons alone—were the objects of his benevolence.

The foundation fund has increased in proportion, or even more so than the increase of the population. There is no need of boarders to increase the revenue of the school, they only increase the revenue of the masters. If their interests were to be paramount to the interests of the inhabitants, the founder would have said so in his foundation orders, but what did he say? This—that the sons of parishioners of Brewood and of Foreigners should be educated therein "without taking anything therefor;" and what did the Bill of Complaint* made against the Trustees in the reign of Charles I.,

* This Bill of Complaint was exhibited in the Court of Chancery in the 4th of Charles I., by Francis Moore, of Brewood, against Walter Giffard and others, stating that there was, and had been, a school of learning from time immemorial, reputed to be founded by Dr. Knightly, who had conveyed

say? This—that the school was founded for “the maintenance of a schoolmaster to instruct youth, as well foreigners as parishioners, free.”

The Head Master very indignantly says that the trustees are gentlemen both resident, and foreign, but he does not say how many reside in Brewood. It appears by the list there is only one.

The new “Endowed Schools’ Act” empowers the Commissioners to abolish and appoint new bodies of trustees, or to reconstruct them—and not to confine the election to Church of England men—to employ lay schoolmasters in place of clerical if necessary, to exempt boys from religious instruction in any particular creed if the parents request it, without loss to such boys as to the privileges attached to the schools; and to abolish the power of the Bishop as to visiting the schools and the licensing of the schoolmasters.

The Commissioners have issued two circulars lately, one explaining the provisions of the New Act, the other asking for information to be forwarded to them, without any formal application on their part, especially from those who take an interest in education, and from these to whose hands it must ultimately be committed, that is, the people. Thus the inhabitants are invited to forward their views to the Commissioners, at 2, Victoria-street, Westminster; and the best way to carry this out would be by the formation of a committee who should discuss their views, and draw up resolutions thereon, and send them off to Westminster before the expiration of this month.

For the information of the inhabitants, I give, in the course of this letter the account of the school receipts and expenditure for the year 1864, as recorded in Mr. Green’s Report in vol. xv. of the “Schools’ Inquiry Commission,” page 389.

They will see by this what the school funds may effect, that is, if laid out

to Sir Thomas Giffard land and houses for the sole use of the school, and a schoolmaster and usher, who should teach “foreigners as well as parishioners without taking anything therefor,” and also that Sir John Giffard father of Sir Thomas, had, seventy years before, devised by will to the school, several messuages and lands at Hartley Green.

A Commissioner was appointed, and Walter Giffard was ordered to convey, within twelve months, all the school properties, to Thomas Lane and others, in trust for the benefit of the school.

Also see Reports of Commissioners, pp. 132 and 133 of my History of the Free Schools of Staffordshire, where will be found a detailed list of the lands (belonging to the school), with their acreage 1809 and their rentals in 1820. At that time the total rental was £412 5s. 2d.

in the free education of their sons. The Commissioners have examined the Birmingham free schools, and the school at Newcastle-under-Lyme, known as "Orme's" school. These are the largest schools in this district, both as to funds and number of scholars, in both cases nothing is paid for education by the parents, and at the last named the boys have their books and stationery free also; at Birmingham a capitation fee for each boy is paid, but not by the parents, it is drawn from the foundation fund and thus acts as an incentive for the masters to fill the schools. From these two cases it is clear that free education does draw numbers, and why? because it benefits the parents and the masters alike. I take the liberty of recommending the Birmingham plan to the people of Brewood.

They should state in their memorial to the Endowed School Commissioners how many poor boys have been educated at Brewood for the last nine years, if any, and how many boys are now in the National School.

The boys at the National School have a capitation fee allowed for their education out of the taxes of the country,* and the Brewood people pay their share of these taxes, thus a double hardship falls upon them, first in these taxes, and secondly in the education fees laid on at the grammar school, if any of their boys go thereto.

At Brewood (before the dinner) the head master complained of "the perverseness of those who were privileged to share in the benefits of the endowment to the fullest extent; and who prevented the objects for which the school was established being carried out." This is puzzling. These perverses were not the trustees of course, nor the masters; these he classed by themselves—the former as sometimes obstructives, the latter as sometimes obstinates—Well, who can they be? not the richer inhabitants, as rules are laid down by the latter bodies for the fees to be paid for inhabitants' sons; this requires elucidation, but perhaps it is to be found in what he said immediately after, viz.: "If they were to construe the term 'boarders' in the same way as they did the word 'foreigners' then any equity lawyer would say that they could not reject any one," not even boarders from other places.

The perverseness to which he alluded may be further explained by what Mr. Green says (see vol. xv., p. 385): "The smaller farmers about and the smaller tradesmen of Brewood seem generally not to use the school, the obstacle to them being the genteel or semi-genteel character of most of the boys, and the general style of the instruction given, in which the attention given to English and arithmetic, though full, is not exclusive; some of them

* Public education taxes for year ending 31st March, 1869, for Great Britain, £721,812 5s. 3d.

I understood, sent their sons to National schools, and some to a private school in Brewwood."

And then he says as to the influence of the education given therein, (p. 179 vol. 8): "Though its success, as already mentioned, has been eminent in English subjects, only one-and-a-half hours a week are given by the first class to history and geography together, and no special lessons are given in English grammar or literature, till a month or two before the examination begins."

In the course of his remarks the head master acknowledges that the nett cost (from the endowment) of a day boy's education is about ten guineas per annum, taking the thirty-four day boys against the outlay; if that is so it is far too much for the school funds to contribute.

He also says that four out of five of all proprietary schools managed by local committees, perish. Have those at Cheltenham, or Tettenhall, or Edgbaston perished? Nay, rather, without any endowment, such as Brewwood has, and without any rent-free residences, school-houses and play grounds, such as Brewwood has, do they not stand out as perfect successes? For proofs of this the reader can refer to vols. viii and xv. of the "Schools' Inquiry" Report.

After the dinner, the rev. gentleman became facetious—this is the case with most persons on such occasions. He compared me to Dr. Sangrado, an eminent master in the arts of administering warm water and bleeding to all his patients. Well, warm water is more soothing than hot, especially to clerical patients, and as to bleeding I believe it is very generally practised, not on them, but by them, when called to the masterships of well-endowed schools. But, facetiousness apart, the head master must perceive "looming in the distance," the non-bleeding processes of free education, popularly-elected trustees, and the adoption of the "separate system" for boarders! I believe that these three remedies are nearer at hand than many think—free education is the key-stone to less crime, and less pauperism; it is even more to be desired than free libraries, free lectures, free churches, free church pews, or free residences and school-houses. There are more than three millions of money accumulated and lying idle to the credit of the Charity Commissioners in the Bank of England, belonging to the educational and other charities. How many children would this amount educate free of cost? Why is it not made use of instead of lying idle? How many thousands are lavished on the education of the rich, in schools founded for the education of the poor? Is there not a large quantity of warm water and bleeding wanted to cleanse these foul diseases? No! cry the FEE advocates bleeding is best; bleed the rich by high charges; bleed the

funds belonging to the poor scholars; bleed all round; in the words of Shakspeare, cry aloud—

Bleed! bleed! poor country,
Great tyranny, lay thou thy basis sure,
For goodness dares not check thee!

I beg to remain, Mr. Editor,

Yours very truly,

GEORGE GRIFFITH.

Wolverhampton, October 7th, 1869.

Abstract of Receipts and Expenditure for year ending 25th November, 1864.

RECEIPTS.				£	s.	d.
Balance in hand	...	...	...	15	0	9
Rents	...	...	...	351	4	6
Dividends	...	...	...	138	13	0
Hurds Fund	...	...	...	0	15	0
Sundries	...	...	...	0	8	6
Loan (one-fourth to be re-paid every year)	...	...	...	30	0	0
				<hr/>		
				£536	1	9

PAYMENTS.				£	s.	d.
Expenses of Management	...	...	...	27	18	5
Rates and Taxes	...	...	...	3	13	10
Property Tax	...	...	...	14	13	1
Repairs and Drainage	...	...	...	40	19	3
Insurance	...	...	...	6	17	9
Annuity to tenant for building	...	...	...	1	15	0
Repayment of Loan	...	...	...	7	10	0
Payment to Head Master	...	...	...	293	9	11
Do. to Second Master	...	...	...	139	4	6
				<hr/>		
				£536	1	9

P.S.—In this account there are two additional sources of profit omitted, which were mentioned by Mr. Green in his Report. Why they should have been left out it is difficult to understand—they are as follows:—"The classical Assistant Master has ten boarders, handed over to him by the Head Master, who pay the same terms as those in the Head Master's house; but of this, £10 per boy goes to the Head Master." This is strange, that the Head Master should take £10 from the other for each of his ten boarders. It reminds one of the old saying—"What is yours is mine, and

what is mine is my own." The Head Master said (see Report page 386) "he reckoned his profit on each boarder, after salaries of teachers, when all other expenses were paid, at £15 per year" (out of £50)—so that the Assistant Master had to be satisfied with £5 a year profit, as the Head Master claims £10 out of his £15.

The fees on the day scholars are also omitted in the account, they are as follows :—

						£	s.	d.
General school work per annum	...	...	...	...	...	1	0	0
French	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
German	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Chemistry	...	...	...	...	...	2	0	0
Drawing	...	...	...	...	...	4	4	0
Music	...	...	...	...	...	6	6	0

Whatever was paid by day boys for the above studies should have been included in the amount, as paid to the Head Master; it seems that he takes all, as the Second Master's fees are returned as "nil."

The Head Master says that he and the Second Master pay all rates and taxes at the school-house out of their pockets, but from what fund are the rates and taxes of the boarding houses paid? The foregoing account will show. He mentions the annual instalment for rebuilding the Master's house, but for whose profit was the Master's house rebuilt? Why was not an account rendered to Mr. Green in full, and also more explicitness given as to the items appearing above—viz., an account of his foundation income, the annual value of the house, school-house, gardens, play-ground, and the profits on boarders, and fees on day boys; all should have been given.

The Head Master makes a great show of what he has to pay, but he does not specify what the repairs of the "tumble-down cottages" are separately—he says he pays £20 a year to rebuild these cottages. Was there no *quid pro quo* for this? there must have been. Is it not the trustees' business to see to the school properties, without the help of the Master. His duty is to teach, not to enter into building contracts. It is a strange argument to say "I do get £293, but I pay back £80 a year out of it" for the rebuilding of a large house to receive boarders, by whom I acknowledge that I get, clear of everything, £27 each on forty-four, which amounts to £1,188.*

Let us see in conclusion, what the Head Master's gains may fairly be considered to amount to :—

* Terms £52 10s. for boys under twelve, and £58 16s. above that age.—School bills, highest £84, lowest £55—average £62.—(Schools' Inquiry Commission, v. 15, p. 389.)

	£	s.	d.
Foundation salary	293	9	11
Profit on forty-four boarders, at £27 each ...	1188	0	0
Fees from day boys, say	50	0	0
Rental value of house, gardens, &c., say ...	100	0	0
Half rental of school-house, play-grounds, &c., say	50	0	0
Half taxes, rates, and insurance paid out of school funds	12	12	0
	<hr/>		
	£1,694	1	11
Less £80 per ann. re-paid towards re-building house	80	0	0
	<hr/>		
	£1,614	1	11
	<hr/>		

The National Education League held its first Meetings in Birmingham this year, on the 12th and 13th of October. Copies of the following circular were sent out to those who were known to be friendly to the extension of education :—

NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE.

Offices—47, Ann Street, Birmingham, September 16th, 1869.

Sir,—We beg to inform you that a GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the NATIONAL EDUCATION LEAGUE will be held at the EXCHANGE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, Birmingham, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 12th and 13th of October, and to hand you a Programme of the proceedings.

The Provisional Committee desire to express their earnest hope that you will be able to attend during the whole, or at least a part of this very important Meeting, at which a large number of the leading Members of the League are expected to be present.

It will much facilitate the completion of the arrangements for the Meeting if you will inform us at your earliest convenience whether you will be able to attend.

We are Sir,

Yours respectfully,

GEORGE DIXON, Chairman.

JESSE COLLINGS, Hon. Sec.

FRANCIS ADAMS, Secretary.

To Mr. George Griffith, Wolverhampton.

These Meetings were held on the mornings and afternoons of each day, and were very largely and influentially attended.

On the evening of the 12th, the Mayor, (Mr. Prime,) gave a *Soirée* in the Town Hall, and on the 13th a Town's Meeting was held under his presidency.

It was thought necessary to form a Branch to the League at Wolverhampton, and a preliminary Meeting was called at the Star and Garter Hotel, in Victoria Street, for the 12th of November. Mr. S. S. Mander, was called to the chair, and it was resolved that a Provisional Committee should be formed, and I was invited to be Secretary *pro. tem.* It was agreed upon, that a meeting should be held at the ante-room of the Agricultural Hall, Snow Hill, on Wednesday, the 24th, at half-past seven in the evening, and that it should be advertised in the *Wolverhampton Chronicle and Express.*

Committee Meetings were held on the 24th of November, and on the 3rd of December. At the latter Meeting, Mr. William Hatton, was elected Chairman, and Mr. S. S. Mander Treasurer.

On the 8th of December, the Committee resolved to hold an Inaugural Meeting in the Exchange, on the 17th. This meeting was afterwards postponed to the 10th of January, 1870, to suit distant visitors who were to take part in the proceedings.

The Meeting was a great success. The Mayor, Mr. Bantock, presided, and Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, the Chairman of the Birmingham Executive Council, spoke at great length in explanation of the League's principles.

I have now reached the goal of my "GOING TO MARKETS AND GRAMMAR SCHOOLS" for Forty Years. It has been a very satisfactory task to my mind. The only regret I feel at its conclusion is, that those to whom the education of the children of this great country has been hitherto confided, have shewn a strong inclination to impede instead of encouraging its cultivation; and still worse than this, it is quite evident that there is one class of clergymen who hinder and keep back any scheme laid down for the extension of commercial education, and foster the teaching of the classics, under the impression, as Canon Sydney Smith says, that the young men of the country ought

to be trained "*as if they were all to teach Grammar Schools in little country towns.*"

But there is another class even worse than these; those of whom Archbishop Whateley said :

"There are some, who, I have no doubt, are sincere believers in the *utility* of our religion, as serving to keep the vulgar in order, but have little or no belief in its *truth*. These, of course, can be no friends to knowledge, thought, mental exercise—which they regard as highly dangerous to men's faith; and yet they cannot avow this feeling *openly*, which would be to reveal the very secret they are so anxious to conceal.

"Some, again, there are, of the higher classes (in birth and station,) who are jealous of the classes below them treading on their heels, by becoming their equals or superiors in literature and science, of which they themselves, perhaps, possess *no great share*. This, again, is a feeling which no one is very likely to *avow*. They persuade, as far as they can, both others and themselves, that what they dread is the unwise, ill-regulated, and indiscriminate diffusion of knowledge.

"All these objectors are afraid or ashamed, as I have said, of openly decrying the spread of knowledge; and therefore resort to the stale, but often successful artifice described by Bacon, in his "*Essay on Cunning*,"—of pretending to favour the measure they dislike, and, '*moving it in such sort as to hinder it.*'"

To accomplish a thorough Reformation in education is a great task, but it must be done sooner or later; there are but few to carry on the battle at present, as it is a fact that most men are afraid of the results pointed out by the Archbishop, thus: "whoever endeavours to encourage, and thus to influence for good, any such institutions, must prepare himself for being most fiercely assailed by persons of all those classes I have enumerated. He will be regarded with that dread which always adds new bitterness to hatred; and the circumstance of the assailants not daring to avow fully their real objections, will naturally make them resort to the foulest slander and mis-representation, to the grossest abuse, and the most scurrilous derision."

For myself I can say that I fear not the slanders, misrepresentations, and abuse of hypocrites, nor the hatred of the enemies of the education of the poor. I have had much from both. I may be called impetuous, but as for that fault it can be cured by my opponents bowing down to reform; but if they will still asperse me, I can only say, that I am quite content to be one of those of whom the same good Archbishop said: "As the man who attacks a flourishing establishment writes with a halter round his neck, few will be found to attempt alterations but men of more spirit than prudence, of more sincerity than caution, of warm eager impetuous tempers, so that if we are to wait for improvement, till the cool, the calm, the discreet part of mankind begin, till Church Governors solicit, or Ministers of State propose it, I will venture to pronounce that without His interposition with whom nothing is impossible, we may remain as we are till the renovation of all things."

P.S.—At page 390 I promised to give, in an appendix, a copy of the original foundation deed of Sir Thomas Seabright, the founder of the Free School at Wolverley, and at page 631 I also promised to give the arguments made use of by "M.A." on the meaning of the term "*Libera Schola*," and my rejoinders thereto. Instead of doing so, I have incorporated them in the Preface.

THE END.

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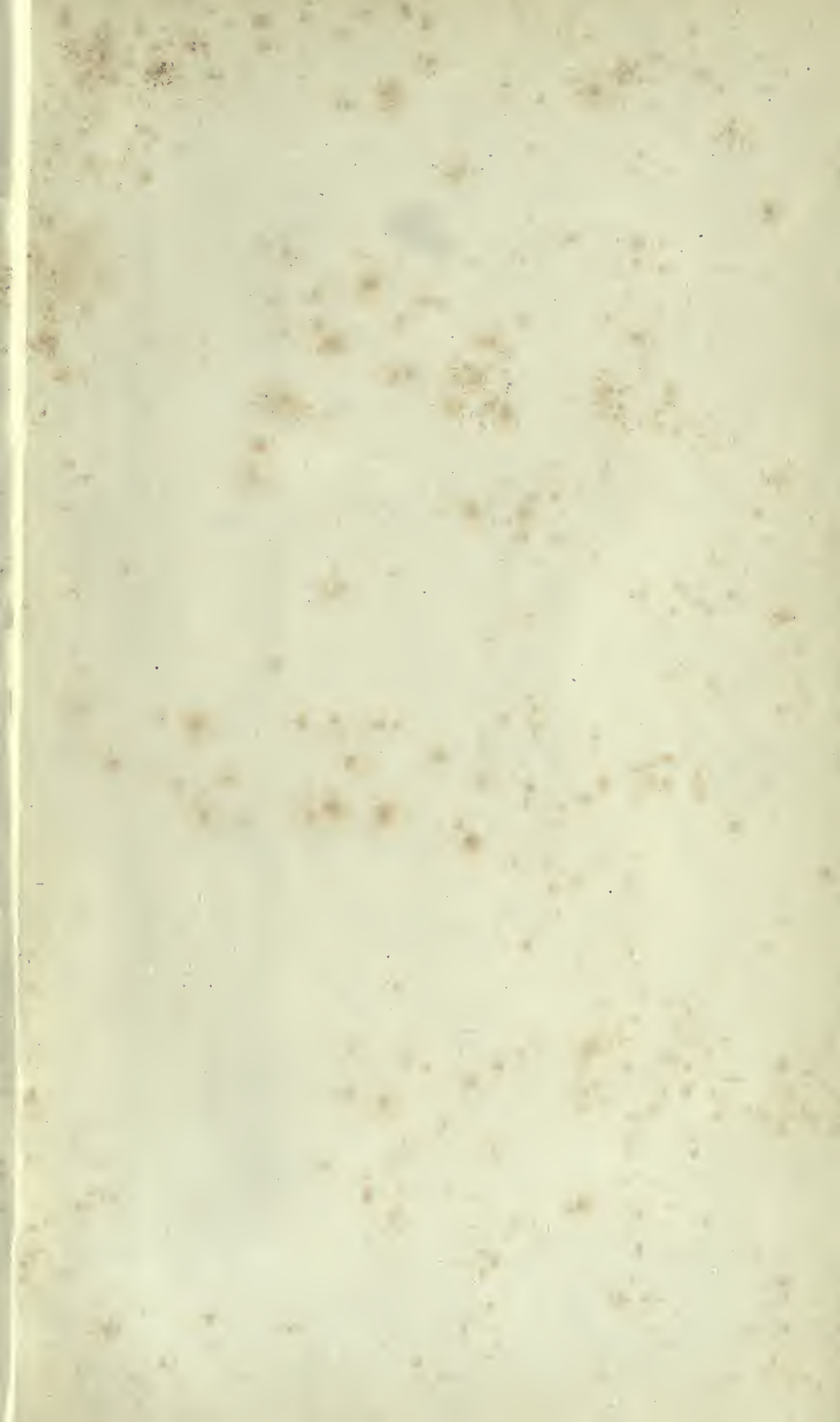
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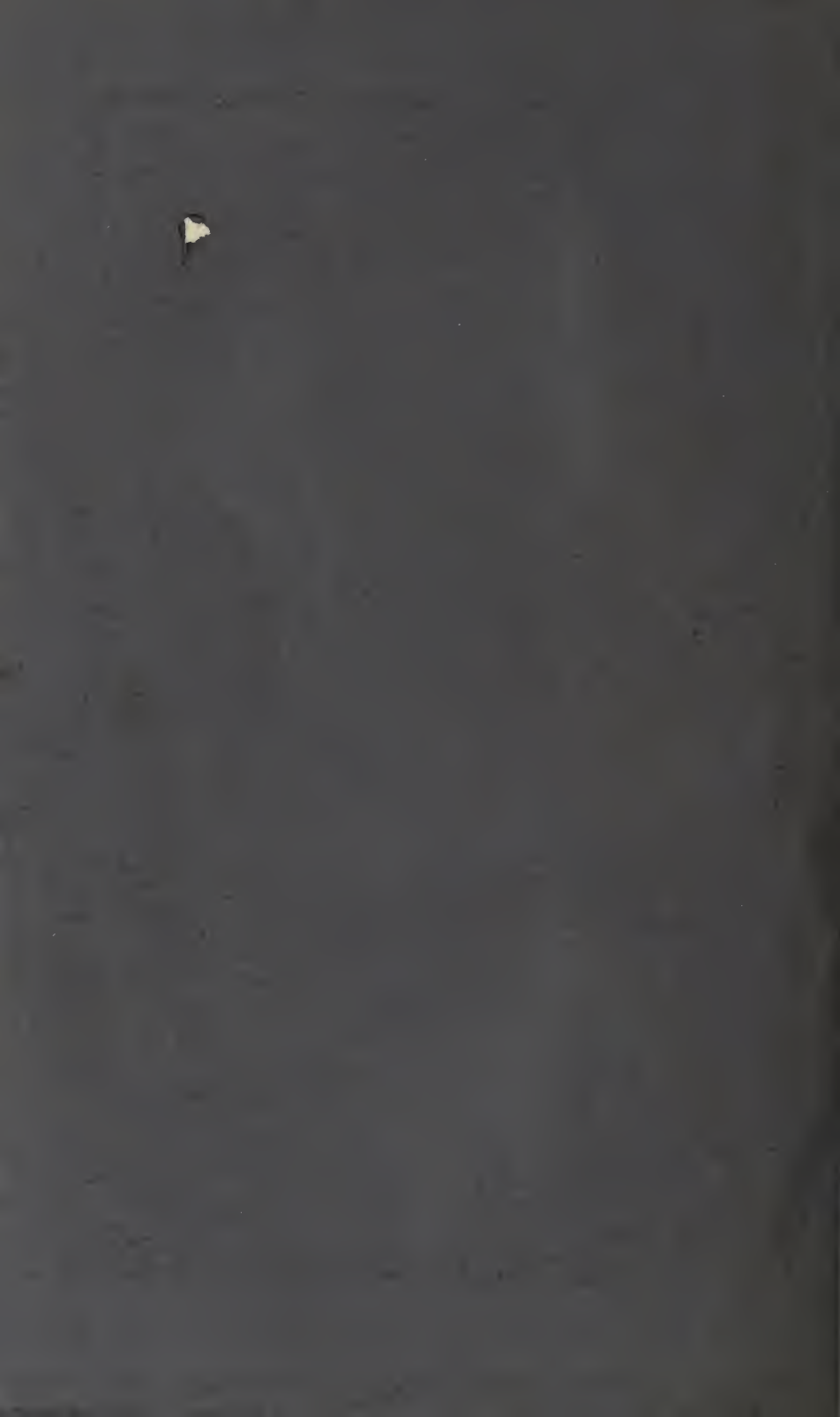
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