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The development of education in Sunderland during the nineteenth century.

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OUTLINE OF THESIS.

Foreword:-

Sunderland and district has always been, to a certain extent, the seat of Educational Activities.

1. Wearmouth:

The Virgin Bega and St. Hild.
Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede.

2. Houghton-le-Spring:

Bernard Galpin and the Kepier School.

Introduction:-

1. Description of the Parishes of Sunderland, Bishopwearmouth and Monkwearmouth; their early history, modes life etc.
2. Contrast in early days between opportunities afforded to rich and poor.

Discussion:-

- 1718 - Friends' Donation School, endowed by Walton's Charity.
- 1764 - Donnison School for Girls.
- 1765 - Busty's School for Maysters of Collier Brigs.
- 1786 - Dr. Thomas Collingwood came to Sunderland and formed the Debating Society, which emanated in the Subscription Library.
- 1791 - Death of Rowland Wetherald, Mathematician of Sunderland.
- 1792 - See Captains' Lodge Endowment.
- 1795 - Mr. Michael Longridge, beginning of the Sunderland Sunday School Movement.
- 1795 - Opening of Sunderland Subscription Library.
- (1801 - Population of Sunderland and district etc.)
- 1802 - Drew's School.
- Beginning of 19th Century:
 - Hayton's Private School.
 - Robinson's " "
 - Pear Tree House "
 - School of Industry on South Side of Coronation Street.
 - School of Industry, for Girls, belonging to the Poor House.
- 1803 - Establishment of Sunderland Reading Society.
- 1808 - National School in Low Row.
- " - Sunderland Subscription School.

Discussion: (continued)

- 1843 - St. Thomas School in Numbers Garth, destroyed by fire in 1858.
- 1844 - 1. Public Schools in existence at that date.
2. Sunday School Union Schools, Wesleyan Methodist Schools, Primitive Methodist Schools and Associated Methodist Schools.
- 1845 - General deficiencies in the Schools of the Northern Counties.
- 1846 - Minutes of Privy Council Commission:
Establishment of Annual Maintenance Grants.
- 1847 - St. Peter's School, Monkwearmouth.
- " - Girls Reformatory and Industrial School, founded by Candlish and Backhouse.
- 1848 - Her Majesty's Inspector's Report:
System of Apprentice Teachers.
Desire of Poor Parents to educate their children.
- 1849 - John Candlish Ragged School in Waterworks Road.
- " - Workhouse School.
- 1850? - Dame School, on the Green.
- " - The Academy, sometimes known as St. George's Presbyterian School.
- 1850/1 St. Mary's Roman Catholic School established.
- " North Hylton National School.
- " Judge Creswell's Speech at Durham Assizes on "Crime and Ignorance in Sunderland".
- 1851 - The Baldwin Charity.
- " - The Friends British School.
- 1852 - Her Majesty's Inspector's Report:
Need of Census Returns of Children.
" " Careful preparation of lessons.
- 1853 - Sunderland Orphan Asylum.
- 1892 - The Thompson Endowment
Miss Reed's "
- " - 1. Report of the Rector of Sunderland, as to why Sunderland Children are so ignorant.
2. Desire for a Government Hulk, to be placed in the Docks.
- " - Her Majesty's Inspector's Complaints:
1. Too many scholars in one room.
2. Lack of Playing Fields.
3. Need for Trade Schools.
4. Deplorable state of degradation among the poorer scholars.
5. Shocking attendances.
- 1854/5 Formation of Society for the advancement of Education in the Northern District.
" Boys' Industrial School (Prison Schools etc.)
- 1856 - Creation of the Department of Education with a Vice-President.
- " - Establishment of St. Paul's School, Hendon.

Discussion: (continued)

- 1857/8 Her Majesty's Inspector's Report.
 - 1. Efforts made to raise the quality of instruction.
 - 2. Failure to raise the leaving age.
- 1858 - The Royal Commission: payment by results.
- 1859 - School in Norman Street established.
- " - Her Majesty's Inspector's Report:
 - 1. Lateness.
 - 2. Poor Needlework, "Croncheting Moses".
- " - Reckitts Library.
- 1860 - Wearmouth Colliery School established.
- " - St. Patrick's Roman Catholic School.
- 1864 - First Roman Catholic Night School, opened in Sunderland.
- " - St. Andrew's National School.
- " - List of Endowed "Nonclassical" Schools.
- 1865 - Dr. Joseph Brown's Pamphlet "The Food of the People".
- 1866 - List of Private Schools in existence.
 - Peter Wood, Tom McLaren, etc.
- 1867 - Her Majesty's Inspector's Report.
 - Type of Arithmetic Examination.
 - Mr. Oakley's Report and general criticisms.
- 1869 - An Additional Grant for Education.
 - Subjects selected -
 - Apathy of Parents
 - Disadvantages of British Schools.
 - Aims in Education.
- 1870 - Formation of School Boards:
 - (St. Benet's Roman Catholic School established).
- " - First School Board elected (Members Bye-laws etc.)
- 1874 - Second " " "
- 1880 - Third " " "
- 1900 - Last " " "
- 1870 to 1903
 - Detailed Account of Schools under the Board:
 - 1. Schools receiving Science Grants.
 - 2. " taking "Manual Labour"
 - 3. Day Industrial School on the Green.
 - 4. Evening School Arrangements, etc.
- 1870 - The Hudson Charity.
- 1871 - Foundation of Sunderland Y.M.C.A.
- 1873 - Establishment of the Workmens' Hall.
- " " " Argyll House School.
- 1876/7 List of Public and Private Schools in existence.
 - Reasons for bad attendances.
 - Inspector's criticism of the New School Board.
 - System of Penny Dinners.
- 1878 - Southgate High School (Reverend R.H. Yeld).
- " - Mr. Walton's School in Murton Street.
- " - John Cameron's School at Milton House, etc.

Discussion: (continued)

- 1880 - Compulsory Education:
Its effect on Sunderland.
- " - Boys High School in Bede Tower.
- 1884 - Girls High School in Toward Road.
- 1885 - Mr. Fisher in Sunderland.
 - 1. Difficulty of bringing absentees' Parents before the Magistrates.
 - 2. Musical Drill in Schools.
- " ? - The Grange Girls School.
- " - Sharp's School.
- 1890 - Sunderland Higher Grade School - later the Bede Collegiate Boys and Girls Schools.
- 1896 - Sunderland Technical College.
- 1888 to 1900
 - Further Reports of Her Majesty's Inspector with regard to Educational Efforts in Sunderland.
 - The taking up of "Specific Subjects".
 - Progress in Infants Schools.
- 1893/4 First Code in Sunderland for Evening Continuation Schools.

Summing Up.

That we are advancing in many ways from an already forward state, is neither an obvious nor interesting fact to numbers of our citizens. The further fact, that the process - a process of endeavour and progression - is in most cases the work of individuals, before it is the work of communities, is less obvious and probably less interesting. Education is one of the "things" which seems to have "just happened". The long history of personal effort, sacrifice and devotion which lies behind our present position, is not a matter of interest to the majority of those who have benefited, or are benefiting, by it. But here and there one finds isolated souls, anxious to carry forward the work, and to them it may be of interest to know whose company they are in, that they follow in the steps of Hild and Bega, of Benedict Biscop and the Venerable Bede.

From this source and from that, we glean a fragment. St. Hild, we read, became a Nun in the time of Bishop Aidan, and obtained a hide of land, (*locum unius familiae*) for a monastic establishment on the north bank of the Wear. Again, the Virgin Bega, a native of Ireland, who received the veil at the hands of the saintly Aidan, first Bishop of Lindisfarne, founded (among others) a small monastery on the northern side of the Wear. What was its ultimate fate, we can only guess, for from this point the chronicle goes on to relate that one Biscopius - a Saxon Officer, at the court of King Oswy, left the world at the age of twenty-five. By A.D. 665 he had paid two visits to Rome and in 672, he obtained from Ecgfried, seventy hides of land, on which he founded the Monastery of St. Peter at Monkwearmouth, on the north bank of the Wear, in 674.

The Monastery then stood on a slight rising, looking down upon a melancholy, marshy swamp, near the sea, which in spite of its dismal appearance, doubtless proved of infinite service to the monks, supplying them with fish for Fridays, plump birds for feast days, and a goodly harvest of rushes for the floors.

Benedict's last journey to Rome was of very great importance to us on Wearside, at any rate. He brought back home a rich assortment of treasures, among them being two cloaks, woven entirely of silk, and "most admirably wrought". Wearsiders should for all time regard those cloaks with respect and awe, because in exchange for them the Monk obtained from King Alfrid and his Council - ("for in the meanwhile King Eigrith had been slain on the field of battle"), three hides of land near the mouth and on the south bank of the River Wear. The remains of these three hides represent the ancient Parish of Sunderland, and being separated by the River from the Monastic Estate, came to be spoken of, as the "Sondra" or "separated land" - hence the name of "Sonderlande".

The Venerable Bede himself, gives us a delightful glimpse of the Monastery of Wearmouth in his Ecclesiastical History, "Paintings on Holy Subjects were ranged round the walls. Thus -" added Bede - "the humble disciple, whose ignorance of letters excluded learning at one outlet, might feel his faith confirmed by surveying, whithersoever he turned, the gracious countenance of the Saviour, of the Incarnation and of the Last Judgement".

From Bede, too, we hear of the lessons taught at the Monastic School. For, from the early age of eleven, when he entered the School, he learnt reading and writing, and later Latin, Greek, Scripture, Hebrew and Singing. The Monk Trumbert, taught him Scripture and Latin and it is said that the Abbot Ceolfrid and Bishop John of Beverley, taught him the rudiments of Greek. His Singing Master was John the Chanter, who had been brought over to Northumbria by the gracious permission of the Pope, from the great Church of St. Peter's at Rome, at the instigation of "Bennet, the Soldier-Priest".

The Monastery at this time may be said to have been at the height of its glory. Over six hundred students were assembled at Wearmouth and at the sister institution at Jarrow, from all parts of the Country. Indeed, the two seats of learning occupied a very similar position to Oxford and Cambridge, at a later date.

Time passed - and as its wealth increased, so its fame spread abroad, even unto distant lands. In the Seventh Century we find Regnor Lodbook making a descent upon our coast, in the hope of plundering the Monastery. Unfortunately for him, his plans went awry; he was wrecked on the coast of Hendon, and encountered the army of Aella, as he wandered inland, trying to find his bearings. Standing on the summit of Tunstall Hill and looking over towards Humbledon, we can in fancy visualize ^{the} we dreadful carnage that took place in Elleshope - (which is now known as Elstob). The battle ended disastrously for the invader,

Ludbook was taken prisoner, and after the fashion of his day, was treated so cruelly, that he died.

For the moment, Wearmouth was saved, but in 886, Roger of Wendover, reported another Danish Invasion, when the Sons of Ludbook - Halfdane, Hengvar and Hubba, - came over to avenge the death of their Sire and demanded "the atoning battle". The Monastery was burnt and to this day, the north wall of the Church Tower bears the scars of the dreadful conflagration. Once again, it arose, only to perish two centuries later, in the invasion of King Malcolm of Scotland.

After the Norman Conquest, the Monastery was again re-built and separated from Jarrow. The new Bishop, Walcher, presented to St. Peter's, the vill of Monkwearmouth and in the following year, the vill of Southwick, "in order that the Monks might persevere in the service of God, for some came thither from remote parts of England to live with them the Monastic Life".

But evil days were to follow - two of Walchers officials were accused of murdering Liulph, an ancestor of the Lumleys, of Lumley Castle, a man much esteemed in the neighbourhood. The case was tried by the Bishop himself, in the Shire Mote at Gateshead, in 1080, but the evidence was heard to such a length that the people began to think that he wished to screen the culprits. There was a cry "short rede, good rede - slay ye the Bishop", and they set to and most brutally killed him. King William's vengeance was brief but forceful. In Domesday Book, the County of Durham was not mentioned, the land was a desolate waste.

In 1082, the murdered Bishop was succeeded by William de Carileph, who built the great Abbey Church at Durham, to which the Monks of Wearmouth and Jarrow were transferred. From that time, the Monastery at Wearmouth was entrusted to the care of a Master and two or three Monks and it was used as a recuperating centre for those who had fasted too long.

In the late thirteenth century, the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, (associated with the Monastery), still appears to have been in existence, for in volume 1, page 548, of the Calendar of the Papal Register, is found the following extract, "a relaxation of one year, forty days, ~~as~~ enjoined penance is allowed to penitents who visit the Church of St. Mary, Wearmouth, in the Diocese of Durham, on the Feasts of the Blessed Virgin in their octaves and on the anniversary of the dedication". In 1536, the Wearmouth Cell was closed as a Monastic Institution, and then it became known as the Parish Church of Monkwearmouth.

With the cessation of the Monastic Schools, there was a great dearth of Scholastic Institutions in the North; when in the days of Queen Elizabeth, we come to our next great Schoolmaster, who earned for himself the title of "Apostle of the North", by his work among the lads in the north country.

Although Bernard Gilpin was not born in Sunderland, (he was reared in the rugged Kentmere Valley, where the remains of his home - the Manor House - may still be seen) neither was his School within the Township of Sunderland, yet no account of Educational Development can be attempted, without reference to his work at

the Kepier School, Houghton. The School was named after John Heath, of Kepier, a liberal endower, and foundation charter was granted in 1574.

As has been said before, the Monastic Schools were gone, and in the words of Surtees (page 161), "Mr. Bernard Gilpin began to conceive thoughts of a Seminarie of good literature or a Grammare School". The Scholars who came from all parts of the North of England, were boarded, either in the town of Houghton, or in his own house. The sone of Knights and Esquires were boarded at a small rate, "yea, and he had many a poore man's sonne, on whom he bestowed both meat and drink and cloth and education, whereby Master Gilpin's Schoole was everywhere spoken of to his credit, but himselfe much more".

The Scholars were only allowed one day a week for recreation, either Tuesdays or Thursdays, but in the Spring a special privelege was granted - a day's holiday being given occasionally, in which on the "Ox Pasture" or on Houghton Moor, they might exercise their bows. On the last day of term (if it can be so designated) "the Scholars shall give the Master - everyone - a penny, and none shall be enforced to give more, except upon their own free will. There is further, of the rents, so much as will yearly find five poor Scholars, allowing them seven pence a week".

"And all this while", writes Surtees, in addition to his scholastic labours, his providence for poor Scholars, many of whom turned out a credit to him, and his paying of a Schoolmaster and

Usher, out of his own stipend of £500 a year, "Master Gilpin seemed even to supply the place of a Bishop, by preaching, by taking care of the poor, by making provision for the necessity of other Churches, by erecting Schools, and by accomodating men, learned and fitting for the Holy Function".

A hundred years ago the School and house still stood intact at the north east corner of Houghton Churchyard, (thanks to Mr. John Tempest of Winyard, who had had it overhauled), and carried on its good work. The School, we are told, was a "plain building" and its walls were at least three feet thick. But of late, time has laid its harsh finger upon it, and all that remains is a heap of stones.

In the century following Gilpin's efforts we know little or nothing of what was happening in Sunderland. During the interregnum Mr. F.E. Coates, the Sunderland Antiquarian, maintains that a School was established at the Meeting House of William Maud, at the eastern end of the Town. In those days, the renowned John Lilburn, in the capacity of Mayor, most strictly supervised the morals of the Town, and the same authority goes on to relate, how poor Hester Hobson, in her zeal for acquiring knowledge, was riding down to School on the Sabbath Day, contrary to byelaws. For this terrible crime, the Mayor confiscated the horse (for his own use) and fined the culprit thirty shillings. But her Schoolmaster was equally unlucky, some rascal, whose politics were not in agreement with those of Maud, forced an entrance into the School room and did a great deal of damage. When he, (the Schoolmaster) claimed redress, everyone

was against him; he obtained less than one-third of his loss, and he was left to pay the costs of his case, in addition. Such was the manner in which justice was rendered in the good old days.

But the Town was gradually growing in size, and towards the end of the Eighteenth Century we find that her boundaries were, the River Wear, which separated her from Monkwearmouth and the North; the sea, her boundary on the east, and the Parish of Bishopwearmouth on the south and west. The High Street, nearly a mile in length, was broad and handsome, and it communicated with Low Street, the chief thoroughfare in Bishopwearmouth but it was much narrower, the houses being more ancient. Silver Street, Church Street (built in 1719) and Queen Street all branched out from the High Street, at right angles. Monkwearmouth, on the north bank of the Wear "a bustling, busy spot", contained a population of six thousand souls, all engaged in occupations connected with the trade of the port. It consisted of two long streets, running from east to west, along the bank of the River, and of a crowded and irregular set of buildings on the shore. To all intents and purposes, it was a separate Township, which had originated from very lowly beginnings in a few fishermens huts, close to the River side. At the time of which we are writing the banks contained the most numerous part of the population of Monkwearmouth. "It resounded with the busy burr of maritime trade and industry, the noise of the Dockyard and the clattering anvil of the Anchorsmiths".

For in those days, when trains were unknown monsters and the stagecoach clattered along in style over the uneven cobblestones, up the broad High Street, the Town had to rely on its own resources, and so we find that everything she required she needs must make herself, or else do without it. She had her own Glassmakers, Potters, Ropemakers, Strawplaiters, Sailmakers, Shipchandlers, Trimmers, Braziers, Coopers, and, of course, several Public Houses were to be found along the Quay and in the Low Street. All along the Quay there were strong posts, to which ships' ropes might be fastened, and for each rope so fastened one shilling Toll was charged. This was collected by Jonathan Dunn, and near by lived Joseph Addey, who dealt in oysters, which he kept alive by allowing the River water to flow into a well beneath the floor of one of the rooms in the house which he occupied.

The Townsfolk made their own Wooden Ships - wherein were transported the coals to London and other cities.

"Fower colliers lay in Hendon bay,
At anchor for the tide,
The Saucy Jane and the Eden Main,
The Fox and the Rover's Bride".

"The Casters" threw coals on board the keel, with ordinary shovels; three men worked at the fore-end and two at the after-end, for which they got two shillings and a pint of beer, a day. The keels usually held 21 tons 4 cwts. of Coal each. Many were the lads, who began life, as humble cabin-boys, aboard the colliers, and ended it as her richest citizens.

When the day's toil was over, in Winter, the citizens would regale themselves with song, in the jolly inns that appear to have abounded in all parts; while their more poetic brethren might delight the audience with ditties like the following :-

"And Lowther's child is fair to view,
As dawn of Summer's day;
And her hearts gone out to the fisher lad
That sails o'er Hendon Bay"

or if the night was cold and dark and the wind was whistling round the eaves -

"Mark Fortin at Steeith had just moor'd his keel,
And the nœt was that dark it wad freetan the deil,
Ye could not see yer thumb, if ye held up yer hand,
When Mark started off for ti come ower land.

He called at the Reed Dog, but he didn't stay lang,
Smok'd his pipe, had some talk, an' sung a bit sang,
He'd had nowt ti drink for ti mak him feel queer,
On'y two pints i' rum and three quarts o' beer.

As he cam on past Painsshaw, it cam on ter blaw,
An' his shoe sole cam lowse, but poor Mark didn't knaw,
An' as he kept walkin, it flopp'd div ye see,
Saying "clickem and catchem", as plain as could be.

And the faster he ran tiv his horror an' pain
The quicker the shoe gav the dridful refrain,
For "clickem and clackem" was dinn'd in his ear,
Till he felt he was likely to fall down wi fear.

Tiv Offerton he ran, his heart pittty pat,
Reet intiv the Inn, like a weel-scadded cat,
His breath was maist gyen, but he just meg'd a mint
Crying "Shut tie the door, theres the auld man behint".

In the summer, they would disport themselves on the old Town Moor - (now a piece of spare ground, bounded by the Railway - a miserable relic of the past) - or as it was called in olden days the Coney Warren. It included rather more than seventy acres of

land, which was bordered on the east by the Sea, whereon, before it was declared illegal, the sturdy inhabitants assembled to watch the bull baiting or the cock fights. There was not a single building of any description on the Town Moor, which was covered with fine fresh grass, on which numbers of cows browsed in the Summer. It was also the washerwomens' domain, for clothes-drying purposes. There was nothing outside of the sea-banks but a strip of sandy-beach at low tide, and a long shelf of rocks, which ran out into the sea, and amongst which there were many large pools of deep water in which the youths bathed.

There were several wooded valleys, sloping gently down to the sea, one of the prettiest of which was Hendon. The beach was reached by a pleasant country walk from Church Street. In the Bay might be seen the cobbles of the fishermen and the collier brigs, awaiting the tide. In the Eighteen twenties visitors came from all parts to Hendon for bathing, and to benefit by the chally beate waters of the Spa. They usually stayed at the Baths Hotel. On a Saturday morning, in Summer, the sands were thronged with bands of happy children. Then appeared two strange looking old women, with large washing tubs on their heads; one filled with a canvas tent and the other piled high with blue flannel bathing-gowns. They were Jenny the Bathing Wife and her partner. The tent would be set-up in a little cove, for the convenience of "female bathers", who were each charged sixpence for "the use of the tent and bathing-clothes and a tub of water to wash their feet in". The taller of the two women, was a mild gentle creature, but Jenny had a

most fiery temper, and her chief happiness in life seemed to be to hear the screams of the children, whom she was deputed to dip in the Sea.

But perhaps the earliest institution in Bishopwearmouth itself, was the Bowling Green Club. Unfortunately, there are no actual records to be found, except a medal, which is in the possession of a noted Sunderland family. From the "picture" on its back, we can see the players in their three cornered hats, brown coats with wide sleeves, drab knee breeches and blue stockings. It is thought that the Bowling Green lay between Sans Street and Villiers Street. (What delightful names some of the Streets possessed:- Crowtree Road, with its avenue of trees and their bands of noisy birds, where now are rows of houses, all built to the same pattern. But from Coronation Street to Borough Road, there was a lane which because of its dangers, after dark, was known as "Cutty Throat Lonnin").

As our ancestors became more lofty in their ideas of entertainment, they Assembly Rooms in Ludgate were erected for the amusement of the beaux, while the Old Drury was the Theatre of renown. To it, the ladies of quality came in their sedan-chairs, dressed in all the finery of brocade and silks and turbans. Fond Mammies and Papas came to show forth their elegances at the whist tables, whilst their daughters disported their charms before the bucks, who danced attendance upon them - in minuets and reels and country-dances. At the end of the ball, under the smokey

flare of the torches, (which enabled them to avoid the open sewer running ^{down} the centre of the street), they were handed with much show of politeness into their respective chairs and braved the dangers of "Cutty Throat Lonnin".

Unfortunately, Sunderland like many other Towns, possessed only one Assembly Room and a limited number of the rich and prosperous. It contained many narrow back lanes, and streets of dreary, dark houses, as well as stately mansions; and many sights might be seen in the Sunderland of those days, which would make our hearts ache. Whole streets of houses existed with absolutely no drainage, sewerage, scavenging or sanitation. The ashes and filth had to be deposited in the lower rooms or passages. The majority of the houses were entirely without water supply and the rooms were overcrowded with a squalid and destitute population. Can it be wondered that such places suffered from every epidemic that came along?

Thomas Sanderson, the old Town Crier, who was born in Sunderland in January, 1808, painted a very mournful picture of the Town, as he saw it in boyhood. He first saw light in an old house, down some steps in Hind's Bridge. He got a smattering of learning at the "Barrington" or Charity School in Walworth Street, and later proceeded to the New School in Low Row. (Sunderland was at that time in a wretched condition). Shipwrights, who could get work, seldom earned more than fifteen shillings a week. There was only one Draper's Shop in Bishopwearmouth, between Queen Street and Dunning Street, and it did little trade. There was no

Gas, flagging, policemen or market-place, and just a few sentry boxes for the old men who patrolled the streets, proclaiming the hour and the state of the weather. Thomas saw a man in the pillory at the foot of Church Street. Cock-fighting and bull-baiting were in vogue on the Town Moor and a great deal of rowdism prevailed.

But looking back from the brighter prospects of the Twentieth Century, we must not wax too mournful. Perhaps the High class Girls' Schools (what there were of them) were more or less of the Pinkerton variety, and the boys - up to the time of Dr. Cowan's advent - were not much better. Those of her citizens who succeeded in making a name for themselves, (and there were many such in our Town), did so more by their own efforts than as the result of any put forth by their scholastic instructors. With regard to the poor, the majority remained untouched, but even then there existed philanthropists, who gave liberally, both time and money, to aid their less fortunate townfolk.

In 1718 the Society of Friends, ever in the van in educational matters, built a "Donation School", on the north side of the Old Friends' Burying Ground; and under the Will of Edward Walton (1768) it was directed that the interest of one-quarter of the money bequeathed by him for Charitable Uses, should be paid to a Schoolmaster or Mistress who was to instruct the children in the Garden Street School. The legacy, itself,

was left to accumulate for the building of a second school in Bishopwearmouth.

After a time, it was thought expedient to send a certain number of the children to a Master keeping a school on his own account; the person selected being the Reverend - Mason, minister of the Burghers' Chapel, who, possessing a family of twenty-two children himself, educated them together with any others who cared to attend. He lived in Queen Street, Bishopwearmouth, and his wife sold "Teas and Coffees fresh from the West Indies". He was a capital Newbrew Scholar, and received Twenty Pounds a year and Four Pounds for books, for teaching sixteen children. In selecting the children who were to benefit by Walton's Educational Bequest, preference was given to the children of Quakers, in the next place to orphans and to those "who from bodily infirmity were not likely to get a livelihood by manual labour". Where necessary, boys were apprenticed to good masters and money was paid (as much as Forty Pounds is mentioned) so that they might be adequately clothed from the outset.

Later the "Donation School" in Garden Street was sold, and the net proceeds One Hundred and Seventy-Seven Pounds, paid for the cost of the site of the new School Building in Norfolk Street, known as the Friends' or British School.

(As late as 1904 the interest supplied by £2,900 of Walton's Charity was expended partly in providing books and school materials for sixteen children attending the Higher Grade Board Schools, and the rest was used in part payment of the expenses of two Sunderland

boys attending the Friends' School at Great Ayton.)

In 1765 the Town was startled by an advertisement, published by the enterprizing Schoolmaster Busty, who stated "He had added an Evening School to his other Daily School, and the Students were taught Grammar in a practical, concise way and that in this part of the Country, any youth of tolerable parts, could in one-half year, by his system, be taught to write English as properly as if for the Press".

Ten years later an attempt was made to establish a kind of Night School for the "maysters" of the Collier Brigs, by one Wilson. In those days, the arithmetic of the sailors was very simple. The money in the right hand pocket belonged to the owner of the ship and payments relative to the ship were paid out of it, but the left hand pocket and its contents were religiously taken home at the end of a voyage, being the property of the goodwife. Wilson's zeal for fishing led to his downfall, for he fell off the North Pier while angling, and was drowned, but his School was carried-on for sometime by George Wharton. An advertisement sheet, said to have been printed by Mr. Thomas Reed, the bookseller, in 1893, gave notice that a School conducted by the Reverend J. Thomas, A.M., "in a healthful and pleasant situation at the head of Nesham Street, fronting the Town Moor" was open for the instruction of young gentlemen.

One of the earliest benefactresses of education was Mrs. Elizabeth Donnison, who, in a Will dated 1764, (as the Sunderland and Bishopwearmouth Report of Endowed Charities, 1904, has it, or if we follow the antiquarian Surtees, 1778,) left £1,500 to be

placed by her trustees in Government Securities. The income so derived, was to be used in hiring a house or room in the Parish of Sunderland, to be employed as a Charity School, and also to get a person to teach the children, at a yearly salary which was not to exceed Ten Pounds. Whatever remained after these expenses were paid, was to be used in clothing a number of girls, born in the Parish of Sunderland, who were to be taught Grammar, Spinning, and Knitting. These were to be appointed by the Trustees and taught free of charge, between the ages of 7 and 16 years.

Until 1828 the Trustees hired a School and house for the mistress at a rent of Ten Pounds per Annum. Then an old school, which has stood upon a corner of the Churchyard, for upwards of thirty years, was enlarged and a School House was built next door to it for the residence of a teacher. The latter was paid Twenty-four Pounds per Annum, for instructing thirty-six poor girls, nominated by the Rector. The children were taught Reading, Writing, the first four rules of Arithmetic, Needlework and the principles of Christian Religion were most carefully instilled. They were required to attend Church every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday. On admission, each child received a complete outfit of clothing and every Christmas they had their wardrobe replenished. Spelling Books and other School materials were provided and on entering Service each girl received a Bible.

In 1904 the same building was still occupied, the mistress

being Mrs. Thomas, who had taught there for over twenty years, and in recognition of her long service was receiving a yearly salary of Fifty-five Pounds. There were only twenty-four pupils in the School and the number of applicants was said to be decreasing, many of the recipients being the children of former pupils. They obtained the regular public elementary school education, and great care was taken with the Needlework. The attendances at the school were accepted by the Board Attendance Officer, but it was not under Government Protection, and received no grant. In addition to the ordinary lessons, the children received instruction in domestic work by taking turns in cleaning the Mistress' House. Every September, each pupil received a new dress, petticoat, chemise, a pair of stockings and shoes. In January, too, they got another dress, petticoat and pinafore, and every other year a hat and jacket, all made by the girls themselves in the Sewing Class to a uniform pattern.

For sometime past, the school has been closed and the interest accumulating in the Bank. To quote the letter by the new Rector of Sunderland Parish Church, - The Reverend W.R. Dawson, "at the present time the whole trust is in process of reorganization by the Government and only the draft scheme is published. When it comes into force, the money is for educational purposes for this Parish and that of St. Johns'. There will be no distribution to any other Charities".

Organized debates, on current events, were held in Sunderland as early as 1786. In that year the famous Dr. Thomas Collingwood took up his residence in Sunderland, and formed a "Speculative Debating Society", from which source in later years, arose the Sunderland Subscription Library. But while the debaters were waxing heated over the causes of the decline of our Empire etc., there was, one day, buried, (19th June, 1791) a short distance from Bishopwearmouth Church Vestry Door, a certain Rowland Wetherald, who was born about 1725 at Great Salkeld in Cumberland, and settled in Sunderland, as a teacher of Mathematics. As to the number of people who benefited by his lore, we are uncertain, but Mr. Wetherald observing the "inconveniences under which people sent bills to be printed in Newcastle, commenced the typographic art in the house, afterwards occupied by George Longstaff, Butcher, in High Street". His trade was so good that he afterwards removed to bigger premises in Maud's Lane. All that remains to tell the tale today is the remnant of a freestone headstone, on which, sixty years ago, could be deciphered the following epitaph :-

Rowland Wetherald (Mathematician)
departed this life 19th June, 1791,
Aged 64 Years.
(He was the first who set-up printing in this Town).

Towards the end of the Century, the wealthy Sea-Captains, who inhabited the town, banded themselves together and formed a Masonic Lodge. Their activities were manifold and they even found time and money to help poor children. It happened in this

wise. In 1792, Mr. Scarth was appointed Master by the Brethren, (during his term of Office Mr. Burdon laid the foundation Stone of the new Sunderland Bridge), and in the course of the year, he worked out a charitable scheme, "whereby twelve povertystricken children were to be educated" and to that end a fund was set apart for the purpose of carrying-out the idea, i.e., the Sea-Captains Lodge Endowment. In 1819 the scholars selected were sent to be educated under the superintendence of Mr. William Robinson - of whom more will be said in due course - "who has a very numerous and respectable school and who was himself one of the first boys to be educated out of the fund? (to quote the words of Mr. Garbutt the antiquarian).

May be several of the members of the Lodge were among those chosen to be the first Committee of the Sunderland Subscription Library in 1795. Six years later the actual foundation stone was laid - the expense of the building being defrayed by shares of ten pounds. A valuable collection of books was rapidly accumulating, and by 1819 there were four thousand, three hundred and fifty-five volumes in the Library.

Mrs. Donnison, Mr. Walton and the Sea-Captains Lodge had done much work for the poor children, who for a shorter or longer period were able to spend their days wholly at school. But in those days many, even of the youngest children, were working from morning to night, six days in the week, to help to support the family. Great honour is due to the Wesleyans and

and Methodists of our town, who first began the work of educating the poor of Sunderland on their only free day, Sunday, in the Sunday School. They did not originate the idea however. This was first conceived by Mr. Robert Raikes, a printer, publisher and citizen of Gloucester. Observing the wretched condition of the young people who spent the Day of Rest in swearing and gambling, he determined to do something to take these poor folk "off the street". He engaged four kindly women of the neighbourhood to receive a number of children on Sunday for instruction in reading, and learning the Church Catechism. They attended from ten to twelve o'clock, and from one to two. Next they were led off to Church, and afterwards, at the end of the Service, they were required to repeat the Catechism to their Mistress till five-thirty. The success of the venture was so marked that within a very few years more than Three Hundred Thousand poor children were receiving instruction in the Sunday Schools through-out the land.

Naturally the institutions were denominational, Bishopwearmouth and Sunderland Parishes both possessed their Sunday Schools, but the vast majority of the teachers in the town belonged to the Methodist Movement.

As early as January, 1808, we find a printed report of the Committee. "For information of those unacquainted with the origin, nature and design of the institution, it may be necessary to observe that the Sunday Schools in Sunderland were first formed

in the year 1786, but were greatly reduced by 1803, when an attempt was made to revive them. For two years after this they only remained on a small scale, principally owing to the lack of adequate funds. Since that time, this was materially improved by the benevolence of the congregations attending the Methodist Chapel, on two different occasions, with several liberal, private subscriptions, together with an increase of teachers, unanimous in their exertions to promote the welfare of their charges, and with comfortable and commodious places to teach in; they have at length arrived at their present flourishing state. The nature and design of the institution is to convey instruction to the rising generation, more especially to the less flourishing ones. The great end it has in view, is that of effecting the reformation of the children under its care, by a diligent inculcation of the obligations they owe to God and man; at the same time that the strictest attention is paid to bring them forward in reading. It gives admittance, without respect to age or party, and requires nothing further on their part, than the attention to the admonitions of their teachers".

The first promoter of these Schools in Sunderland was Michael Longridge, who not only aided them with substantial sums of money, but also took an active part in imparting religious instruction to the children, so that he was loved by teachers and scholars alike. In December, 1805 there were five hundred children in the Schools, while in 1817 the numbers had risen to One thousand, three hundred and forty-three, which included one

hundred adult female scholars, "several of whom can read the Bible, who two or three years ago could not read a letter". In December of the following year there were One thousand, five hundred children under instruction, having a hundred and forty teachers in charge of them, who tended their services free of charge. In the Committee's Report for the same year we read that "a large building, most convenient in all respects, is now nearly finished; calculated to hold one thousand children, the whole expense to be borne by a number of philanthropic gentlemen". Later, an Evening School was opened, with John White for Secretary, in which reading, writing and arithmetic were taught five nights in the week. "No person is to be admitted as a scholar, under twelve years of age, who is able to pay for a regular night school". It is said that the teachers at this school had under instruction some of the poorest and most ignorant inhabitants of the Town.

By 1820, (witness the Report published in January of that year) "the spacious and convenient building" had been erected near Nicholson Square, where boys and girls were to be taught, in separate departments, the rooms in Burley Street, Sans Street and the Moor Schools were then given up.

Each dissenting Chapel would appear to have its own Sunday School. The 1808 Report gives us the following figures:-

Scotch Church	...	90	Scholars
Methodist Chapel (Monkwearmouth)	600	"	
Zion Chapel	...	90	"
Maling's Rigg Chapel	...	35	"
Bethel Chapel	...	250	"
Catholic Chapel	...	50	"

in 1822 a new school was opened in William Street, in a house which was still in existence in the nineties, although of more recent years it has been demolished.

Peel's "Morals and Health of Apprentices' Act" of 1802 attempted to provide a certain minimum of education allied with the System of Apprenticeship. A family named Drews, owned a large Weaving business in Sunderland, at which a great number of the poorer children of the Town were employed. A school was established in the upper part of one of the Old Weaving Sheds where those who were able, had to pay, while the workhouse or "Apprenticed" children were taught free.

About 1800 in Malings Rigg, Mr. Jacob Joseph of Amsterdam started a Hebrew class, which lasted for upwards of forty years. Sometime later too, the mathematician Rutter, conducted a School for Sailors somewhere near the site of the present Chapel in South Durham Street.

About this time also there were several "private venture schools" conducted by gentlemen, for the benefit of those who wished their sons to be educated in a more superior fashion, and where fees were paid, chiefly by the week. Both Hayton's and Robinson's Schools belonged to this class.

At the top end of Coronation Street, at the corner of Nile Street, lived the Reverend George Hayton, who kept a school at the opposite side of the street. His fame spread far and wide through the district, for was he not the translator of Bishop Morton's Charter? (dated March 26th 1634), so that when the Chapel

was built at Ryhope he was appointed to the living.

But even more famous was the school of William Robinson, himself one of the first to benefit by the Sea-Captains Lodge Eddowment, and afterwards the instructor of many poor scholars who were sent to be educated by the kindly Seamen. His celebrated school stood at the north-west corner of Moor Street and Zion Street. He was left-handed, his right one being short and withered, and Sam Strong, the possessor of a wooden-leg, was his Usher. Holidays were few, although it is on record, that the children were given a whole holiday when the "Triumph" was launched, (built by the Brothers' Liddle), because their Master had a substantial share in her. He also became superintendent of the Bethel Sunday School and was so popular that he decided to have a larger house and school built in Nicholson Square - which was not such a successful venture as he had hoped it would be.

"Cuddy" Robinson was extremely popular, and although many of his pupils were very rough, yet, good humour invariably prevailed. One young rip, by name Bill Dryden, possessed a sister who was the heroine of the day, so that the catch phrase for any deed of daring became "Its another case of Dryden's sister".

The Pressmen caught the mate of a vessel ashore and confined him in his ship's tender. Dryden's sister attempted to bribe the sentry, but all to no purpose.

At length, while the Officers were dining, she managed, under the very noses of the Pressmen, to smuggle some tools into the captive, so that the man, who was trussed-up, was able to cut his way through the ship's side to freedom.

The Robinson School Boys were a merry crowd. Seventy years afterwards, one of their number, writing in Wood's Almanach (1888) recalls how Matthew and William Thompson and himself robbed the orchard at Hendon Lodge, and braved the anger of Squire Hopper, who, with stick and bull-dog, was the terror of all offenders, both youthful and elderly.

Again, the tale is told :-

"Seventy years ago a party of boys from Robinson's School, on a half-holiday, were wending their way round Hendon, and were bound for Mill Bank to catch bumblebees. I was then the smallest boy of the lot, being only five years old, three others being eight years old, and others again ten years. On passing the entrance to Matthew Miller's house, two large dogs, ran out barking. All took fright, except us, we being too small to run, so we stood still, the dogs chasing the others up the opposite slope. Matthew Miller, hearing the noise, ran out, patted us on the head and called the dogs back.

The names of the others were, George Mitchell, still alive; Lonie Douglas, died fifty years ago; William Mitchell, died sixty-five years ago; John Goodall, alive up to five years ago; William Edmonds, died fifty years ago; John Stevenson, alive last year; James Warner, and Frank Anderson."

But all Masters were not so interested in the advancement of their pupils as the Reverend Hayton and Mr. Robinson. At the foot of Look-Out Hill, at Monkwearmouth, stood the Pear Tree House, one among a Square of working-class houses, converted into a School. Its Master has long since been forgotten, but

Mr. David Holsgrove, a Sunderland worthy of the early twenties, attended. The School was dismissed by the Master every day at 3 o'clock, so that he might attend "another engagement".

At the opening of the Century, too, there was in existence a School of Industry for Girls belonging to the Poor house, and supported by the Overseers of the Poor. Here the girls were taught "to plait straw for bonnets", while on the south side of Coronation Street, facing Sans Street, there was a similar school for the use of the very poor working classes. During the week, the children were taught several crafts (unmentioned whereby they might earn their daily bread, but on a Sunday, the building was used as a place of worship, by the congregation of Bethal Chapel, (whose members were noted for their activities among the poorer brethren), while their permanent "tabernacle" was being constructed. On its completion the building in Sans Street, was used as a Sunday School, William Robinson, the School Master, being one of its first Superintendents.

There were other people who gave their money to help the poor girls in the Town. In 1809 (just a year after the erection of Dr. Gray's Subscription School), there was founded, again in Sans Street, a School of Industry, in commemoration of His Majesty King George III having entered upon the fiftieth year of his reign; where seventy-five poor girls were educated by the Mistress, Mrs. Anne Martin. The girls were taught reading and plain sewing.

Perhaps some of those poor girls may have laid aside their

straw plaiting and peeped through their windows, on a bleak January morning in 1803, for on that day Sunderland was in gala mood, and Sans Street was the centre of its activities. The Sunderland Reading Club was then formally opened, and all who aspired to rank among the gentility of the Town were duty bound to become members by paying the quarterly subscription of one shilling.

Education in Sunderland began a new and much more vigorous era from the year 1808. Within the next ten years three schools, at least, were opened, under the wing of the Priest in Charge^g of the Parish in which they existed. These activities found their source and inspiration, in the work of Mr. Lancaster and Dr. Bell, who thought out what was for those early days, the nearest approach to popular education, then known. Joseph Lancaster about 1798 conceived the idea of setting pupils who had obtained a little learning to teach those more ignorant than themselves. This plan met with almost universal support, until members of the Church of England lodged a complaint because the religion taught in the schools was "nonsectarian". The result was that the movement broke into two, the one represented by the British and Foreign School Society under the direction of Lancaster, (providing for the children of Dissenters in the main) and the other known as the Madras System, The National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church, directed by Dr. Bell.

As almost all the early Schools in Sunderland were controlled

by the Church, it can easily be seen, which Society met with favour. Indeed Dr. Bell, himself, paid more than one visit to the town and did his best to smooth out some of the tangled meshes.

To Dr. Thomas Gray belongs the honour of being the first to establish (with the aid of Dr. Bell) the School which adopted a general system of education. In 1808 a Subscription School was first opened in the Parish of Bishopwearmouth. The date of the foundation is rather vague, but in 1812 the School was found to be too small for the large numbers who assembled for instruction. Thereupon a Subscription list was opened, and when the sum of Two Hundred and thirty Pounds was obtained, it was applied to the building of a new School House. (The total outlay was Five Hundred Pounds - Fifty Pounds was given by the Executors of Dr. Paley, Fifty Pounds by Lord Crewe's Trustees, The Bishop of Durham gave Ten Pounds and Dr. Bell Eighty Pounds). The School accomodated four hundred children, and was divided into two parts, the girls being upstairs, and the boys beneath them. The site chosen for the School was opposite the Parish Church, in the Low Row, and present Church Hall hides the foundations. The late Mr. George Hinde, who was for many years Parish Clerk of Bishopwearmouth Church and deeply interested in the past history of the Parish, relates that when the old masonary was being removed, some years ago, on the erection of the present building, a square stone was found, bearing the date 1808, which goes to prove that the first School was opened in that year.

In 1825 Dr. Gray gave the sum of Thirty Pounds, the interest

of which was to be paid, yearly, to the Master, who also received One Pound annually, a bequest from Mrs. Dorothy Scurfield, made in 1821. In the same year there were One Hundred and Fifty boys and One Hundred girls taught by Mr. Anthony Smith and Mrs. Margaret Dawsey.

(During the Rectorship of the Reverend J.P. Eden, land was bought upon which to build a School in connection with the National Society and the boys and girls Departments were moved to what are now known as the Rectory Park Schools at the top of Paley Street; the Infants remaining in their original abode. A group of three School rooms, with the requisite class room and accomodation for the teacher, was built in Bishopwearmouth. The buildings were well placed, and Offices carefully constructed, also there was a proper Playground. There were to be two Boys' Rooms in the new building, intended for the Upper and Lower School. The general course of instruction was to include reading, writing, English Grammar, History, Geography, elements of Geology, Arithmetic, ^{and} (purely commercial) principles of Book-keeping, Geometry, Mechanics, the elements of Chemistry and vocal Music.

A Higher Course might also be taken, which included High Mathematics, Latin, French, German and Drawing.

For the general Course the fees were as follows :-

(Paid by the Term - in advance)

Tradesmens' Children	..	First Class payment	10. 0.
Mechanics ' "	..	Second " "	7. 6.
Labourers' "	..	Third " "	5. 0.
Higher Course: Higher Mathematics	..	5. 0. extra	
Languages	..	10. 0. "	

But in 1866 Canon Cockin acquired more land, and the new Infants' School was erected upon this site. The Rector obtained permission to dispose of the old property of 1808, and he used the proceeds for improving the Schools.)

It is difficult to determine the scope and the work done in these early Schools. Six years after the foundation of the School, the learned Dr. Thomas Gray preached a sermon, which was published in 1806, on National Education, and by glancing at it, we can make out, in some measure, what he considered a "sound education" for the poorer classes. (The National Society for promoting the General Education of the Poor, had been set on foot at a meeting held on 16th October, 1811, the Archbishop of Canterbury being the first President). There was no idea of educating the masses with the ideal of raising them up. Dr. Gray was explicit from the very first sentence, "There is nothing in the scheme of National Education to excite vain or aspiring ideas, nothing to generate among the lower orders a spirit of insubordination". There were to be no superfluous pieces of knowledge doled out, everything must be taught with an eye to making it bear on the common everyday life. Of course, Christian Doctrines must come first and foremost. Even the primary books of instruction must deal with the doctrines and duties of Christian beliefs. Even though the child did not know its letters, everyday a Religious Exercise must be committed to memory. The amount of Religious instruction was enormous, the Sermon on the Mount, Parables, Discourses, Miracles and the Life of our Lord were to be taught.

These were followed up by an abridgement of the Bible, and "Mrs. Trimmer's abridgement of the New Testament", the Church Catechism, Watt's Hymns and the Psalter. "For," Dr. Gray went on to say, "the regular recurrence of Morning and Evening Prayers cannot fail to impress the infant mind with a proper sense of God's glorious and providential care, their entire dependence upon the Giver of every good and perfect gift, the dangers of guilt and sin and the mercies and redemption through the merits and mediation of our Saviour".

And what were the aims of this plan of Education? The first and most important was to subdue in the child all "envy and discontent", to teach him to be a quiet law-abiding citizen, to do his work faithfully and to be subject to those whom God had set in authority over him. But there was a secondary aim as well, "Knowledge of a more general nature, arts of a most humble and universal kind, such as are useful in the very lowest station life", viz., reading, writing, plain-hand and "ciphering as far as the first four rules of Arithmetic". The boys might safely be taught such useful arts as printing, shoemaking, tailoring, book-binding, plaiting of straw and mat making from rope yarn. The girls too, might profit by learning to do plain-needlework, knitting, spinning, and "the marking of linen".

In some rare souls, even this education, might set alight the spark of genius, but, lest this might cause unnecessary consternation among his congregation, the Reverend gentleman

quickly assured them that such cases were most exceptional. As the sermon concludes, "This plan of education, for the illiterate masses ... is made solely to communicate adequate Religious and Moral Knowledge to the lower classes, by a progressive and connected course of instruction, and then, in a subordinate degree, to impart such a knowledge of humble arts of life, as may be necessary to folk in an inferior station".

In 1810, two other schools in the Sunderland district were erected, by public subscription, at Ryhope and Silksworth. That in the former village was built upon a corner of the ancient burial ground, and an annual payment of Twenty Pounds was made towards its upkeep by the Rector of Bishopwearmouth, and Mrs. Dorothy Scurfield bequeathed Two Pounds per Annum, also. Sixty-two years later, the school obtained better premises, for when the new Church was built the older foundation was converted into the school and the former School-House was transformed into the residence of the Mistress. As late as 1896 the School Managers agreed with the Parish Council of Ryhope to pay the said Council One Shilling a year to keep the house in repair and guaranteed to deliver it up when called upon to do so, at six month's notice. This compact, however, was repudiated by the clergy three years later, and until well on in the present century, the house was used as a teacher's residence, and the school Chapel was used as the Infants Department of the Ryhope National Schools.

Before long Dr. Bell was paying a return visit to Sunderland,

in order to render aid to another School which had been opened in Monkwearmouth, about 1812. It was the Monkwearmouth Subscription School for Boys, and it was conducted by Henry Gladders, who was assisted by a boy from the Lambeth Charity School. Later, a Mr. Carstairs, was appointed permanent Master. Shortly after his appointment, Dr. Bell, himself, visited Sunderland and remodelled the School on the Madras System. Unfortunately, at the end of a twelve month's trial it was found that a considerable number of the scholars were leaving and the Master resigned. Dr. Bell was asked to assist in the selection of a successor and Francis Warren, who possessed ample experience as Superintendent of the very first school that the Dr. had established in the Country, was selected. Expert assistance was again obtained for the new Master, but with equally unfavourable results, so that the Committee, at length, resolved to introduce several improvements from the "System" of Lancaster. Thus an attempt was made to run the School by selecting the best points from both Dr. Bell's and Mr. Joseph Lancaster's Systems of Education. But once again, matters went from bad to worse, the two Systems were found to be incompatible. Yet in spite of this, up to the death of Warren in January 1816, the arithmetical part of Dr. Bell's System was kept up and owing to this, "many boys left the school very perfect in the first four rules and some were advanced as far as practice and the rule of three".

On the death of Warren, a change of policy was again decided upon by the Committee, viz., to run the school on the lines of the

British and Foreign Society, (also called "Lancastrian"). The Society sent John Daniel up from London to re-organize the school, where he remained until a properly qualified master - C.F. Springman was appointed.

The School was supported by voluntary subscriptions, and more than Forty Pounds a year was raised by payments of One Penny weekly. The scholars were expected to contribute the same amount, but owing to poverty many of them were excused. The number of boys on the register was about One Hundred and Ninety, but the room in which instruction was given, was so small, that if all had attended at once there would not have been sufficient accomodation.

The girls Subscription School was opened ⁱⁿ 1816 by Miss Hayson, who was trained at the Improved School for Girls' at Newcastle. The School was under the superintendence of a Committee of Ladies, two of whom had to visit it each week and report progress. The average number of girls on the roll was Two Hundred and Seventy.

A delightful glimpse is obtained of the working of the School, at the Annual General Meeting of Subscribers to the Subscription Schools, held on May 7th 1817, with the Reverend John Hampson in the chair. The Report began with the removal of Daniel, "who having accomplished his mission in re-organizing the Boys School, has left it to proceed to St. Domingo, where he is engaged to introduce the British System of Education". Since the appointment of Springman, "the progress of the boys has been singularly rapid; the female children have also advanced in

several branches of Education, but have manifestly improved in Moral Conduct and in Personal Cleanliness". The Report went on to deplore the confined limits of the school-rooms, whereby "we have been prevented from extending the benefits of instruction to many poor children, which is more to be lamented, since the labouring poor are unable to maintain their children at other schools from the severe pressure of the times." Upwards of One hundred and fifty boys were on the admission list, but at the same time the Committee went on to impress upon the minds of their supporters the necessity "of erecting a new school-room, large enough to hold between Four Hundred and Five Hundred boys. ... The annual expenditure," we are assured, "would not be increased by the additional scholars".

But what of the work of the scholars?

There were Two Hundred and Ninety Boys present in all.

10	boys	were	learning	the	Alphabet
9	"	write	and	spell	syllables and words of two letters.
16	"	"	"	"	" " " " three "
12	"	"	"	"	" " " " four "
18	"	"	"	"	monosyllables and words of five letters and more and read easy extracts from the New Testament.
60	"	"	"	"	words of two syllables, and read extracts from the New Testament.
80	"	"	"	"	words of three syllables and read extracts from the New Testament, and Freane's Scripture Instruction and Scripture Extracts.
85	"	"	"	"	polysyllables and "as many of them are designed for the sea, copy geographical lessons in small-hand, and read Frean's Scripture Instruction and New Testament".

In the last two classes, One Hundred and Twenty boys are writing in Copy Books.

The Arithmetic Lesson:

220 Boys are learning to cipher; of whom :-

95	"	"	writing preparatory tables and extended multiplication tables.
45	"	"	in simple addition.
25	"	"	xxx in compound addition
12	"	"	in simple subtraction.
11	"	"	in compound "
7	"	"	in simple multiplication.
3	"	"	in compound "
6	"	"	in simple division.
2	"	"	in compound "
4	"	"	in long " and
7	"	"	in rule of three.

Mental Arithmetic:

A certain number of boys can "work extempore", the multiplication table, up to 20 x 20, or the square of any number up to 50.

The Ten Commandments and Lord's Prayer were read aloud to the children every morning, previous to the commencement of the regular school business, and "on Friday afternoons, after reading, the boys are exercised in repeating them extempore, which nearly 200 of them can perform".

The Schools were open to children of all denominations. The only Reading Book in use was the Authorized Version of the Bible, viz., the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, The History of Christ, of Joseph and the examples of good men. Lessons were also given on Temperance, Love, Charity, Hospitality Love of God, of our Neighbour etc.

In the Report of the School, published in 1823, there were One Hundred and Twenty-two children on the list, and Sixty children left to become Wage Earners. "Several instances of

gratitude were shown by the parents", and a well-known Master Mechanic, the Report goes on proudly to relate, applied to the teacher to recommend two boys to him as Apprentices, for he had one before, "who proved most honest and industrious". The school-room, once regarded as being so small, would accomodate twice as many as were in attendance, owing to the number of other flourishing institutions in existence.

Extracts from 1823 Report:

In 1st Class	9	can both read and write
" 2nd "	16	" " " " "
" 3rd "	16	" " " " "
" 4th "	26	" " " " "
" 5th "	10	" " " " "
" 6th "	6	" " " " "
" 7th "	9	" " " " "
" 8th "	30	" " " " "

Arithmetic:

6	in 1st Class	can do addition.
2	" 2nd "	" " subtraction
4	" 3rd "	" " multiplication.
3	" 4th "	" " division.
2	" 5th "	" " compound addition.
5	" 7th "	" " multiplication.
7	" 8th "	" " Division.
29	Children	can do Reduction, Rule of Three, Interest and Mensuration.
46	"	are sufficiently advanced to write on paper.

The School-Master is allowed Five Pounds, four shillings and fourpence, for Stationary.

The Head-Mistresses Report (Miss C. Hayson) is also of interest.

"There are 295 girls in the School. Of whom :-

13	are learning the Alphabet
30	write and spell syllables and words of two letters.
24	" " " " " " " three "
55	" " " " " " " four "
82	" " " monosyllables of five or more letters and read easy extracts from the New Testament.

- 31 write and spell dissyllables and read extracts
from the New Testament.
35 " " " polysyllables and read the
New Testament. These also write
in Copy books.

Sewing is also taught to the girls:-

23	girls	do	hemming
53	"	"	seaming
63	"	2	stitching
62	"	"	gathering
69	"	"	button-holes
50	"	"	useful work
5	"	"	marking".

Yet all the while, as help was being given to those poor children, who wished to benefit by it, there were also in existence several select Academies for the sons and daughters of the more genteel citizens of this Town. The School in Vine Street, afterwards named after its great benefactor, the Reverend Robert Gray, (who was no relation to the Reverend Thomas Gray previously mentioned), The Gray School, was as yet a dream, when, "two sisters named Wright, who kept a School for young ladies in a house with a garden in front, three doors below York Street", were being constantly visited by the miserly and notorious Lady Peat, who refused to provide herself with food if she could possibly cadge a meal elsewhere.

Who in Sunderland, has not heard of Miss Eliza Gilbert or "Lola Montez, the dancer" and later in life the pious doer of good and saintly deeds? Born in India, her Mother quickly desired to be rid of her, and she was exiled to Sunderland. For her Mother's sister happened to be married to a Scotsman, named Rae, who kept a genteel school, dignified as an "Academy", in

Monkwearmouth, at the mansion in Broad Street, for long known as the "Babbies". The School, which was a mixed one, as was then the fashion, was attended by the children of the principal families, the Robsons, Kennicotts, etc. Poor Eliza Gilbert was sent home alone from the East, and boarded with the Rae's, from whom she received the elements of a good substantial English education. Later, when having quickly acquired all the knowledge obtainable at Monkwearmouth, she was removed to Houghton-le-Spring, where the Misses Ridesdale kept a fashionable Ladies Boarding School, and finally was despatched to London to be "finished-off".

A resident, in 1820, on passing down the west side of ~~Burdigh~~ Street, crossing Vine Street and descending a flight of stone steps, might have discovered in front of him "two separate entrances with a bow-window on each side". To obtain admittance to Mr. Mordey's School, it was necessary to knock at the door on the right. The Master, himself, was a tall gentleman, always garbed in black and wearing a velvet skull-cap. Many scions of leading Sunderland families attended :- "two Tyndales, three Tyzacks, a Metcalfe, two Misses Mordey," and many others.

In the same year as the foundation of the School in Low Row, there came into existence, a school which was known in its earliest days as the "Sunderland Parochial School", and which was later re-christened, after its greatest benefactor, the Reverend Robert Gray, as the "Gray Schools". Modelled on the Madras System, it began in 1808, in a building adjoining the Old Workhouse, where

it remained till 1822, when those in authority purchased a house in Vine Street, and had it suitably enlarged for the better accomodation of the pupils. The Reverend Robert Gray, the Rector of Sunderland Parish Church, also acquired the Methodist Chapel, which stood at the back of the first building, at a total cost of One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixteen Pounds.

(The Reverend gentleman, during his busy life in our Town established a National School, two Sunday Schools and an Infants School, for the upkeep of which, during the last year of his life, he gave no less than Two Hundred Pounds from his own private resources). After his death, about the year 1839, a subscription was raised for erecting a memorial to him, Eight Hundred Pounds being obtained. One third of the fund was allotted to a Statue in Carrara Marble, erected in the Church Porch in March 1840 and the remainder was invested as an endowment for the Sunderland Parochial Schools in Vine Street, thenceforth called the Gray School, (after the Reverend Robert Gray).

To proceed, the money needed for the school purchased in Vine Street in 1822, was raised by voluntary subscriptions, the Bishop, Rector, Mrs. Woodcock, the Diocesan Society and the Trustees of Lord Crewe's Charity, all gave most liberally. The premises, after being altered, to suit their new purpose, were used as a School, "for the education and instruction of children of poor inhabitants of the Parishes of Sunderland,

Bishopwearmouth and Monkwearmouth in connection with the National Society". In 1827 the teachers of the Seminary were Mr. Jacob Clayton and Miss Sarah Scott, who had in their charge 426 boys and 130 girls. Each child was expected to contribute One Shilling per week towards the upkeep of the School.

In the following year, more ground was bought and a house was built for the accomodation of the School Master and Mistress. Again, in a Report dated 1830, we find that the Parochial School was enlarged a second time, by the addition of a second storey, the Girls Department taking its quarters upstairs.

Eight years later the Freemen and Stallengers of Sunderland, promised to pay Thirty-one Pounds, ten shillings, every year to the Rector of Sunderland, on condition that they might possess the right of nominating forty-two children to be educated in the School, without payment of the customary fee. These were to be the children of parents, "resident in the Parish of Sunderland, or the issue of sailors or fishermen belonging to the Port of Sunderland". (The Freemen of the Town were those who owned substantial properties, and the Stallengers were those who owned the smaller booths and shops). In 1853, however, by the Sunderland Orphan Asylum Act, the right to nominate these children was taken from the Freemen and Stallengers and given to the "Principals and Governors of the Sunderland Orphan Asylum", (about which more will be spoken later). By way of return for this privelege, the Governors of the Sunderland Orphan Asylum were under an obligation - on the request of the Rector of Holy

Trinity Church, to set out a portion of the Town Moor - not exceeding half an acre of land - as a site for the New Schools, which was to be held in trust, by the Rector, for the Gray School. Four Hundred Pounds was to be paid by the Sunderland Corporation towards the expenses of erection. In 1856 a new site, comprising altogether 2,420 square yards, was formally conveyed to Rector Peters and his successors, in trust for a School to be worked on the lines of the National Society. The old School premises in Vine Street were sold for Nine Hundred Pounds and the money was expended on the erection of the new Gray Schools.

Even today, there are still alive old gentlemen who attended the School in Vine Street. One, Mr. Robinson, now over ninety years of age, distinctly remembers taking his penny fee every Monday morning, while many stories are told of the Worthies, long since dead, many of them noted for their piety. Here is one:-

' ... On one occasion, "Tommy", (an old Sunderland Worthy) was riding his horse up Durham Lane, one fine evening in the month of June, and on the day preceeding that on which the Cup was to be run for on Newcastle Moor.

Tommy, who was taking his horse out for the express purpose of indulging this representative of the Rozinante Family in a gratis feed by the road side, was met by a wag, to whom he was apparently well known.

"Helloa", he exclaimed, looking critically at the bag

of bones bestrode by Tommy, "are you going to the Races?"

"I'se allus at the Races", Tommy replied with severe dignity, "I'se allus at the Races".

"I've been runnin a race everyday for't last twenty years, but it's nut for a Gowlden Cup, no, no, nor yet for a silver wagon, praise the Lord. It's for a crown o' glory, an it's hingin o' top o't winnen post for me; a seun as I git in, an' if I indure to the end I'll win't an weer't. Halleguh. Gee up meer." And Tommy went on his way rejoicing.'

Another School on the Lancastrian Basis was started in 1816, but three years later it was abandoned.

Two years before the Parochial School was opened in Vine Street, a certain Scotsman, by name James Cowan, of the University of Glasgow, was invited to teach at the School of the Society of Friends in Darlington. Two years later, he launched out for himself in Sunderland, in William Street, and he prospered so well that in 1824 he removed to premises at the north end of Green Street, which contained an excellent garden, one-half being kept under cultivation, and the rest gravelled, for a play-ground. Across the road, at the west side of Green Street, his sister opened a School for girls.

To advertise his School the following notice was billed :-

"Mr. J. Cowan acquaints his friends and the public that his establishment for a limited number of young gentlemen

will open January 13th 1824."

Thus was opened, what was then the foremost Public School in the North. Day scholars as well as boarders were admitted, and in classical studies both girls (from Miss Cowan's over the way) and boys were taught by Mr. Sutherland. Luckily for Dr. Cowan, just after the establishment of the School, the Reverend Robert Aitken, who had kept an Academy at Whitburn, retired, and several of the boys, including the Smiles' Brothers, Charles Bowlby, J. Thornhill Harrison and Alfred Harrison went to Green Street. Altogether there were about 35/45 boarders and 30/40 day scholars.

There was only a very small play-ground, so few games could be indulged in - the favourite being "run across", but sometimes the learned Dr. gave an extra quarter of an hours recreation and himself joined in the fun. But the School hours were long, lasting from 7 in the morning till 8 at night. The boys rose at 7 a.m., and worked for one hour, then from 8 to 9 came breakfast, followed from 9 to 1 by lessons. Dinner was served from 1 to 2, work continuing from 2 till 5. Later tea was eaten, but study was carried on till bed-time at 8 o'clock. Wednesday and Saturday were happy days, for then came the half-holiday.

At first, Cowan himself did much teaching. Mr. Chalmers, who later kept a School of his own at Vine Lodge, taught English; Mr. Parsons gave lessons in writing and arithmetic, Monsieur Gombert took French, Mr. J.F. Grant Drawing, and Mr. Peter Sutherland coached in Latin and Greek. In addition to his artistic ability, Mr. Grant

possessed great literary talent, and when the Committee of the Northern Union of Literary and Mechanics Institute decided to elect a paid lecturer, to assist them, he was selected from more than forty applicants. Then, in addition to his other work, he began to deliver a Course of Lectures in a circuit which included Gateshead, Newcastle, Sunderland, North and South Shields, Blyth, Morpeth, Alnwick, Rothbury, Bellingham, Hexham, Corbridge, Durham, Consett, Lanchester, Auckland, Stockton, Hartlepool, Seaham, etc. Mr. Peter Sutherland was extremely popular, but at times he was very absent minded, and the boys knowing his failing, traded upon it. If only a boy would give him his watch, he would play with it, by twisting it backwards and forwards. He would be entirely lost in thought, forgetting altogether for a time the class was before him. At the Christmas celebrations he would sing "Johnny Cope", or "The Leg ran away with the Man", to the delight of his youthful audience. By 1830 the School had grown to such an extent that larger premises were needed, and the Grange, a much nobler mansion, (still standing today) surrounded with large gardens, was selected. The old premises were later acquired by Mrs. Dewar, who specialised in the teaching of dancing, as a Girls School.

The total number of scholars reached One hundred and fifty, for before railways were made and when travelling was a difficult tedious operation, then it was that the "Grange School" met a real need, especially for boys living in the North and beyond the Border.

The School was made much more popular by the splendid success of four of the boys at Glasgow. Tom Taylor - the Editor of Punch, who loved to caricature the Masters during the hated mathematics lesson - Frank Maxwell, Henry Beckwith and John Alston. Every year, for a time, Professor Sandford came from Glasgow University and examined the boys in Greek and Latin.

The School was separated from the mansion, on the north side of the paddock, where there was a building containing two large boxes for race-horses. These were altered into classrooms and later two more rooms were added. The Head, who now ceased from actual teaching, thoroughly inspected the School twice a day. He did not often inflict corporal punishment, but once a boy who had been sent to him because of his misdeeds, was sternly told to walk round the grass plot in front of the house, until such time as the offence had been enquired into and the punishment awarded.

Every term end, a play, either in French or English, was produced by the boys. In September an exhibition was held for the benefit of the parents, the proceedings opened by a party of boys going through military manoeuvres, under Sergeant Webster. Races were also held in the gym and later the concourse adjourned to a large room in the School House, where under Mr. Roland, there was a display of fencing. "Doomsday" took place at the end of each half-term, at which both boys and masters assembled in a certain room. The Dr. sat facing them, and heard the reports of the masters on the progress and conduct

of the boys, and pronounced sentence or commendation as the occasion demanded. Whenever a General Election was being held, a similar event took place in the School; there were real hustings, speeches made, canvassing was done and polling took place. Invariably the Conservatives were returned.

The art of Swimming was emphasised, but on October 15th 1845, a dreadful fatality occurred on Hendon Beach, when a sudden squall arose, several of the boys being swept out to sea and four lives were lost. This sad event was a great blow to the Dr. and it is said to have hastened his decision to retire. At any rate, he invited, in the following year, Mr. Temple, afterwards Archbishop of Canterbury, to take over the School, but ultimately Mr. Iliff, of the Royal Institution School at Liverpool, and possessing wide experience, purchased the School. The Headmaster retired at the Mid-summer, whereupon a subscription was raised, Five Hundred Pounds being contributed by the pupils and former boys, and a valuable service of plate was presented to him.

By far the greater number of Dr. Cowans Scholars came back, and the new Master brought a good many boys with him. The prospect seemed promising enough, but from 1845 the School seemed to have been dogged by ill-luck; an outbreak of Scarlet Fever occurred, one boy dying on November 13th 1846, caused the dismissal of the scholars before the end of term. The alarm spread and when the School reassembled there were found to be many gaps. In spite of all Dr. Iliff's skill, the numbers continued to decrease, so that in despair, in 1861, he sold the School to

T.R. Wilson, who tried, in vain, to revive its waning popularity. Unfortunately ~~at~~ this time Durham Grammar School was being opened, and this gave the Grange School its final death-blow.

In later years Mr. Tom McLaren, who served his apprenticeship with Peter Wood, again opened the School and made a very popular appeal too, (of which more will be stated later). But its old glory had departed, it had served its day, and more up-to-date methods and better situated Schools superseded it. Yet - with the Schools in existence in the thirties and forties - the Grange proved an easy first, both with regard to its system, ~~curriculum~~ and discipline.

Mr. Chalmers, one time English Master at the School, started an Academy of his own in 1828 and made ^a special study of teaching "Private Gentlemen". Later he took a few boarders.

Another School, was that instructed by Dr. Wood, in Hendon Lodge. This was so very successful that the Dr. rented Hylton Castle, and converted it into a Boarding School, with over eighty bedrooms. Here he taught recitation, French, geography, history and the Classics. Two years later he quitted the Castle and took over Sunnyside House as a Day School only.

Mr. Westoll, the School Master, commonly known as "Chuckie", of the fiery temper, possessed a cane at least half-an-inch thick, with an end tipped with cobbler's wax, and woe betide the boy who misbehaved in his Master presence.

But we must retrace our steps, and leaving the "Public

School" behind us, seek to discover what the working-classes were endeavouring to do for themselves. For, just as the century reached its first quarter, the working-men of the Town decided to band themselves together and form a Mechanics' Institute. As to how long this idea had been simmering through the mind of its organizer, we are at a loss to discover. Suffice it to say, that a year previous to this in the Parish of Monkwearmouth, a Savings Bank, or to use its more imposing title the Sunderland Provident Institution was established, wherein any small cash might be deposited, as against the old stocking tradition of heretofore. The Bank was located in Whitburn Street, at the School House of Alexander Miller, (School Masters were always men to be trusted) and according to the advertisement displayed in 1824, "Is open for receipt and payment of Money, every Saturday between the hours of 12 and 1".

To proceed, in 1826 came the publication of the first Annual Report of the Committee of the Sunderland Mechanics' Institution. In it were first of all set down the objects of the Institute, which were as follows :- To educate the illiterate, to direct the studious, and to afford every necessary aid to the intelligent and ingenious, while at the same time to assist every mind aspiring to knowledge. During the first Year, at least three classes were formed, viz., Chemistry, Mechanics, and Mathematics, and it was promised that more would follow as soon as the need was felt. A feeling of melancholy ran through the whole Report, the lack of literary resonance of

the adults, their minds being paralyzed and their judgements contracted. Still much good work was done. The Committee had invited Mr. Jackson, the Lecturer to the "late Surrey Institution", to deliver a course on Natural Philosophy, while at the first meeting, held in the previous year, Mr. John Grimshaw, had discoursed on the "Theory of Motion", and Dr. Brown on "Vital as distinguished from Mechanical Motion".

More learned discourses had followed, the President of the Institution, had talked about "Introspection on Chemistry", after which Mr. Grimshaw had explained "Mechanical Powers", aided by apparatus made by members of the Institute and later Mr. J. Brough-Taylor had read a paper on "Facts in Evidence of a General Deluge".

At the commencement, the Society received liberal loans of books from several members, until such time as the Institute could afford to purchase a suitable library. The subscription was twelve shillings per annum and the members were to be above the age of twenty years. The last rule reads ~~like~~ an extract from the prospectus of a modern Subscription Library, "Any member may recommend books or make suggestions which he may think of utility".

By 1827 the Institute was getting into its stride and from the Report for that year we find "Classes are conducted by a number of gratuitous teachers, who endeavour on all occasions to illustrate the principles of the different arts and sciences, so as to elucidate completely the subject on which they discourse to the humblest capacity. The Library and Class-rooms situated

in Sunderland Street, are opened every evening from 7 to 9 and General Meetings of the Society are held on the second Thursday in every month. The Marquis of Londonderry and John George Lambton, M.P., are patrons of the Institution, and its affairs are managed by a President, eight Vice-Presidents, a Committee, two Secretaries and a Treasurer. The membership now amounts to Two Hundred and Fifty. Mr. William Coxon is the Librarian".

Winter was always a trying season for the poor and needy, and for the poverty-stricken little children, whose only playground was the gutter, frost and snow had even greater terrors in store. The winter of 1830/31, was so severe that the more well-to-do citizens determined on a plan to rescue some of the bare-footed little ones from the Streets. Thus five years after the organization of the Mechanics Institute, the first "Ragged School" was opened in the most cheery place possible - the kitchen of Prudence Binks, who lived in a cosy little dwelling in Sunderland Street almost next door to the Bridge Hotel. This kind hearted, motherly soul, kept a little grocers-shop in her front room and also a Depot of the Religious Tract Society. The pupils entered by the back door in Gordon Street, and we can imagine their little pinched faces peering through the half-opened door into that cosy kitchen with its roaring fire and trusting there would be room for them all and warmth might be felt for a little space, before it was necessary to turn-out into the dreary darkness once more.

With the same idea in mind a Night School, for girls only, was conducted by the ladies connected with Bethel Chapel, Villiers Street, under the direction of the Reverend J. Stratten, their minister. By way of inducement each child was given a basin of hot milk or porridge, at the end of the School, which "they nipped-up like ripe cherries". There were few difficulties in establishing the School, teachers were plentiful, scholars were even more so, so that there was difficulty in finding sufficient accommodation for the children, attracted by the porridge supper. It is recorded by one who helped that especially on a wet night, the atmosphere in the rooms became almost unbearable, what with the concourse of children, the closeness of the place, and the steam arising from their damp clothes, it was decidedly unpleasant for the unfortunate individuals whose turn it was to conduct it. Afterwards the School was removed to the vestry of Bethel Chapel, in back Villiers Street.

To further the work among the poor children, Mr.^s Dorothy Scurfield, directed that One Guinea should be paid, out of her Estate, annually, so that one or two poor children might be educated free at the National School in Bishopwearmouth; the same being given to a small School at Hilton Ferry, at Ryhope, and at St. Andrew's School, Newcastle. This became known as the "Dorothy Scurfield Charity". But, as late as 1904, one of the Executors stated that no money had as yet been set apart for Charity, but that a yearly sum of Four Guineas was paid by Thomas Hewison, so that the poor children might not be neglected thereby.

There are many old yarns, still in existence about the captains and sailors who hailed from Sunderland, and often while reading them, onesomes across some name or other which awakens the curiosity and leads to further investigation. Here is one, from which was discovered an old established school which might have otherwise been overlooked. It is the commencement of "Bob the Rigger's Christmas Turkey". "Weel Robbit", says the Captin, "Ye've had some extra wark aboard", says he, "and ye've had to move the ship once or twice mair then ye participated when ye meyed the contrack, an aw've meyd me mind up ti make ye a prisent of a fine live turkey for yer Xmas dinner".

"Aws varry much obliged tiv ye, Captin Hooper", says aw. "Varry weel then Robbit", say he, "Gan up tiv my lodgings iv Olive Street at once, an' my lan' lady, 'll gie ye the turkey". Off aw starts, along the Ropery, up Cousin Street, past Coxon ~~xxx~~ Fields Schule, and up the Back Lonnin. When aw knock'd, the lan' lady cam tiv the door. She knaw'd me weel eneugh, aw used ti gan up iv a neet ti see Captin Hooper about things.

"Oh Robbit", says she, "ye'll hae come for the turkey?"

"Yis ma'am", says aw.

So much for the first mention obtained of the "Coxon Fields Schule", but on reading more carefully another referehce comes to light. Turkeys were the first theme, but the second is concerned with the dreaded cholera. This ghastly dâsease made its first appearance in this Country in Sunderland in 1831.

It broke out on October 26th and the epidemic continued till the Spring of the following year; five hundred and thirty-eight people were attacked, of whom two hundred and five died, in spite of the most stringent precautions that were taken.

All ships sailing from Sunderland were subjected to a protracted period of quarantine, which was productive of much delay and caused stagnation of business; the poor, especilly, suffering considerably. What was then known as Coxon School, which at that date occupied a site where-now-a-days stands the "Old Baths and Wash-houses", was converted into a hospital and the Barrack gates were closed and carefully guarded so as to prevent all intercourse between the garrison and the civil part of the population. The streets and lanes were cleaned with water distributed by fire-engines and the Town was divided into districts for visitation and for the distribution of medical aid.

The Coxon Fields School mentioned above, which upon occasion proved so useful as a hospital, stood at the corner of Hendon Road and Nicholson Street and was called by many people the Nicholson Street School. It was a British School, the main one of its time after the closing down of the "Old Friends' School" mentioned before. In more recent years Robert Cameron, (later M.P. for the Houghton district), was its Master, before it was transferred to the corner of Norfolk Street, through the generosity of Edward Backhouse and his Quaker friends.

Brookie in his History of "Sunderland Worthies", mentioned the fact that Thomas Dixon, Woodcutter of this Town, was sent to a school in William Street, kept by a man named Parkinson, for which his parents paid fees to the extent of One Guinea a quarter. He left School and entered business at the age of eleven. But in his years of infancy he had attended Miss Willis' Dame School in Covent Garden. About this time there were many such Dame Schools in existence, a few, as the one on the Green, which is still pointed out because of the great antiquity of the cottage, did good work, but many were very inferior, both with regard to the character of those who conducted them, the accomodation provided, and the instruction imparted. The greater number were kept by women but several were conducted by old men. One rather pathetic story is told of a school held by a blind old man, who heard the scholars say their lessons and explained to them with "great simplicity", but who was constantly interrupted in his academic labours, as his wife kept a mangle and he was required to turn it for her.

Another picture is drawn, in which the amusing and the pathetic are mingled. "In a garret, up three pairs of broken dark stairs, was a common Dame School with forty children. On a perch, forming a triangle with a corner of the room, sat a cock and two hens, with a stump bed immediately beneath, and under the bed was a dog-kennel with three black terriers, whose barking added to the noise of the children and the cackling of the fowls .

On the approach of a stranger, the noise was almost deafening. There was only one small window, at which sat the Master, who obstructed three-quarters of the light it was capable of admitting".

To conclude, Dame Schools were often refuges for children who attended when the spirit moved them. Registers were seldom kept. They abounded in all parts of the town. A gentleman friend relates how he has seen between fifteen and twenty children of ages from three to fourteen years, in one room of a cottage. They sat on the floor or on chairs, or stools, and seemed to be doing anything they liked. No work of educational value could possibly be carried on and as the persons conducting these Schools were mostly illiterate, possibly no attempt was made to give any.

Who has not heard the following story :- (said to be true) One day a scholar came home and told his Mother that the School Fees had risen to fourpence. "Thats all right my lad", said she, "You'll go to the School next door, where the Fees are only twopence".

Curiously enough, in 1840 when the first series of Inspections were made by Her Majesty's Inspectors much the same report resulted. "The Dame Schools (in the North of England generally), appeared to me to be divisible generally into two classes, those kept by persons fond of children and of clean and orderly habits, and these, however scanty may be their means of imparting information, cannot altogether fail of attaining some of the highest ends of education. But as far as formation of

character is concerned, those kept by widows and others who are compelled, by necessity, to seek some employment by which they may eke out their scanty means of subsistence, without any real feelings of interest in their work are useless. Many of this class present a most melancholy aspect, the "School Room" was commonly used as a living room also, and filled with a very unwholesome atmosphere. The Mistress was apparently one whose kindly feelings had been entirely frozen up and who was regarded with terror by several rows of children, more than half of whom were without anything to do."

At the same time, much the same criticism was made with regard to the lower grade of Private School, for every good school whose memory is still cherished by those who derived advantages therefrom, there were said to be at least seven or eight of the most inferior type. To quote once more, again from Her Majesty's Inspectors Report of the Northern District :- "In nine-tenths of the Schools there is no profession of any religious instruction, that being left to the Sunday Schools, for the common Day Schools were 'Secular Schools' in the very worst sense. Their Masters were usually very ill educated, their Academies were purely matters of private speculation. There was no superintendence of the children during their hours of relaxation. There was a constant use of harsh words of reproof, the strap was frequently used and it was often needed to preserve tolerable quiet and a slight appearance of order. The too frequent use of punishment bears witness to little

real respect being paid to the School Master".

One is apt to wonder where these scholarly gentlemen obtained their education, and what they did to keep themselves in touch with the movements of the day. From what we have read of Her Majesty's Inspector's Report, it can scarcely be believed that any of them, (the nine-tenths proportion, we mean) would be enlightened and keen enough to take part in that meeting of gentlemen who assembled in 1834 with a view to establishing a Society for the Promotion of Literature and Science in this Town. Dr. Clanny, who did much good work, both socially and educationally in Sunderland, was voted into the Chair, and in a small back room on the east side of Villiers Street, near the High Street, the Sunderland Literary and Philosophical Society was instituted. The first Librarian was King, whose fame spread abroad to such an extent that later he received the honour of being elected to the Professorship of Geology at Galway, and the sheer love of research, led the Society to pay many a visit to Humbledon Hill, in search of fossils etc. Later, when its first glory became a little dimmed, its Library was purchased by John Candlish M.P., who presented his gift to the Town. It was removed to the Old Athenaeum, and the books formed the nucleus of the present Free Library in Borough Road.

Two years later, there came yet another opportunity for those who so desired to improve themselves, for the year 1836 witnessed the birth of the Sunderland Natural History and Antiquarian

Society. Its aims and the purpose it hoped to serve can be seen from its first report, which was published at the conclusion of its first year of existence :- "The immediate district around us, although wanting many of the sublimer features of Nature's loftier and more romantic aspects, is yet amply rich in extent and variety of its own peculiar gifts. Thus the sea is daily offering-up to us the curious creatures living in its waters, and its shores are strewn with countless specimens of crustaceous animals of interest to the Naturalist. The mines of the district offer endless opportunities to the geologist ...".

"It is therefore, for the purpose of availing ourselves more fully and perfectly of the natural advantages of our position and of collecting and arranging in more scientific and useful manner, the several objects of Natural History collected by individuals, that this Society has been instituted, and in this way, it is trusted that it may subserve somewhat the cause of science".

That the Society was in a flourishing condition can be proved by the fact that at the end of the first year, the Museum contained nine hundred and fifty specimens, in the departments of Mineralogy, Geology, Zoology, Conchology, and Antiquities.

The Subscription of Ten shillings per Annum entitled the member to be present at the general meeting held on the second Friday of each month, at which "scientific communications

shall be received and subjects of science discussed."

But while the citizens of a certain class were busying themselves with the establishment of Societies on scientific and kindred lines, three other Schools were opened in the district, (as if given a fillip by the institution of the first grant of public money to education in 1833). On the 4th April, 1836, a lady named Elizabeth Ogle Collin, "appointed ~~that~~ a piece of land", owned by herself, "in Stankey's Close, Southwick would be given, provided that the Trustees would permit a School House to be erected thereon, for an Academy or School for the education of the children of the poor, in the principles of the Church of England, in accordance with the rules of the National Society". The School was built and prospered to such a degree, that ten years later the same lady gave more land adjoining the first, to be used for the building of further Academic premises and also houses for the two head teachers.

Just one month previous^{to} the foundation of the National School at Southwick, an old "faculty" confirmed by the Bishop of Durham, allowed the Rev. Robert Gray, (of the Sunderland Parish Church) to take possession of a "certain building recently erected within the Chapel Yard", for an Infants' School Room. Later other buildings were erected for use, "in connection with the Schools for the education of the poor" but it was not until 1834 that the National Society made its first grant towards the upkeep of the Schools, which within living memory became known

as the St. John's Church of England Schools.

Unfortunately for us there is no known record of the origin of the National School Room established in the Township of Ford. Only a document, belonging to the National Society, tells us that in April, 1836, "on the petition of the Curate of South Hylton, the system adapted by that Society was to be followed in the conduction of the School", but a later authority viz., the Report of Endowed Charities (1904), hastens to add that since the erection of the School under the direction of the "Board" in 1875, the old class room has been used solely for Sunday School purposes.

An Infants' School was also built in Spring Garden Lane about this time, the foundation stone being laid by Mayor A. White; the total cost of the buildings amounting to One Hundred Pounds. The great draw back seemed to be that there were no "Playing Fields" in which the Infants might be amused, and it was closed in 1843, but was shortly afterwards re-opened. There was also a School in Pann Lane.

F.E. Coates, Esq., in an article on "Old Sunderland", relates that the workmen employed by Messrs. Paxton, White, Kirk & Company, subscribed, in One Pound Shares, a sufficient sum to erect a School for the education of the children whose fathers toiled in the Iron Works. The instruction imparted was non-sectarian, and Scripture, Orthography, Arithmetic, Singing and Physical Exercises were studied. Mr. Durrant, the Music Master, taught Singing in a special way, known as the "Mainzerian System",

for the coaching of which he charged sixpence per month, or three halfpence a lesson.

It is hard, sometimes, to bear in mind, as we glance over the efforts made by certain people to educate the masses, what a tremendously hard task many of them were taking in hand at a time when popular prejudice was almost always against the work. Money had to be collected, teachers hired, apparatus obtained, (such as it was, a table, a form, a cane, a book or two, appear to have been all that were required), and then when all these were to hand perhaps the hardest job of all, was to persuade the children to come to School to be taught. We would do well to bear in mind, always, the text of a Report published in July, 1838, "however inadequate the present system of instruction for humbler classes may be in many districts, it is owing, almost entirely, to the laudable and persevering efforts throughout the Country of benevolent people. In many districts individuals led by religious or charitable motives, have formed themselves into School Societies, have subscribed and have given their time and attention to the establishment of Schools for the poor". Where the children were keen, much good resulted. The story is told of one School, in the North, where there were literally furrows of dust on the floor, "in which the naked feet of the children delighted to burrow". The Master pointed out to his visitor that the School was carefully swept twice a week and that only two evenings before it had been thoroughly cleansed. Yet in spite of the dirt, the visitor could not fail to be delighted, for "in this School the

intelligence and delight of the children in their work was most striking.

Thirteen years after the Catholic Emancipation (1829), another National School was established in Deptford, when Mr. & Mrs. Aylmer granted a piece of land to the Rector of Bishopwearmouth, so that premises might be built thereon for a School for the poorer classes in Deptford, while twenty-one years later, the same charitable couple, for the sum of Four Hundred and Twenty-Five Pounds, granted a further strip of Freehold land, bounded by Australia Street on the North, and Neville Street on the South, for further extensions. The Vicar of Deptford was allowed to use the Schools on Sundays and was also invited to superintend the religious instruction. About the same time also a School, connected with St. Thomas Church was opened in Numbers Garth, but little remains today of its history, for "it was destroyed by fire in 1858".

The Reverend Philip Kearney came over from County Meath immediately after the granting of Catholic Emancipation, and by dint of much hard labour, before six years had elapsed, the first Roman Catholic Chapel was consecrated in Dunning Street.

In 1836, six Sisters of Charity left their Convent in Cork, the abode of the Foundress of their Order, the Reverend Mother Mary Catherine McAuley, and took charge of the Girls School in Dunning Street, while the Boys School was conducted by the Presentation Brothers. In Green Street, hard by the old School premises of Dr. Cowan, they set up a private School under

the name of St. Bede, in 1843, with nearly one hundred pupils, and as the years passed, the fame of its teachers spread, so that it grew larger and larger, members of many other denominations, in addition to the Roman Catholic part of the Community sending their girls to be educated. Very much later (in 1902), a larger School was contemplated, which it was hoped would be recognized by the Board of Education. More spacious premises were bought and the School adopted the name of St. Anthony. (At the present time the numbers in St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Secondary School are over three hundred, which includes a large number of boarders, who reside in the beautiful residence off Thornhill Terrace, known as 'Somerleyton', but the Montessori Department, one of the most charming places of education that one could ever hope to visit, still has its quarters in 'Oak Lea', the abode of the Nuns).

But the School in Dunning Street was not their only venture in the field of "Elementary" education. In the early fifties St. Mary's School was opened at the bottom of Old Chester Road, very close to the site of one of the oldest National Schools in the Town; in premises which tradition proclaimed to be the Old Infirmary, and what was later a Training College for Methodist Ministers. Ten years afterwards the first Night School, for Roman Catholics, in this town was opened and about the same time, St. Patrick's School was established for children of the same Persuasion, at the east side of the district. This was

followed by St. Benets', off Roker Avenue, close by the Church and Monastery of the same name. (Today this School does a most wonderful work among the poor children of the district. Some of the Sisters, ever the most kindly, gentle and loveable of teachers, are conducting a Montessori School. The contrast between the little ones, before entering School as they play in the gutter, or in the alley ways and narrow streets that abound in that district, and after they have come under the softening influence of Madam Montessori's System is touching in the extreme).

It would look as if more and more interest was being taken in matters educational, for in 1844 a list of Schools (public and Sunday) was published in the Sunderland Year Book, with a rough estimate of those in attendance. The Sunday Schools in those days taught reading and several other items, which today are included in the public school curriculum.

Public Schools in 1844:

The Gray School.

National Schools - Low Row.

School of Industry - Sans Street.

" " - Waterloo Place, Monkwearmouth.

Donnison School for Girls.

Miles School - Garden Street (established by the Reverend C.P. Miles, 300 children taught).

St. John's Infants School.

Phoenix Lodge Infants School.

Spring Garden Lane Infants School.

Borough Road " "

Pann Lane " "

Garden Street " "

Roman Catholic Boys School - 200 boys taught, 2 teachers (belonging to Brothers of Presentation).

British School for Boys - Hendon Road. 100 pupils.

In the upper part of the same building in Hendon Road, the Wesleyans have a School of Industry. 80 Girls.

In Monkwearmouth, Wesleyans have a Day School of 80 boys and girls.

Total - 2,160 Pupils in all.

Sunday Schools:

1. Sunday School Union.

Bethal Chapel - Sans Street	170	Children
" " - Pann Lane	120	"
" " - Warren Street	120	"
Dundas Street, Monkwearmouth	110	"
Baptist Chapel - Sans Street	100	"
Hamilton Street, Monkwearmouth	190	"
Union Chapel	200	"
" " - Ayre's Quay	150	"
" " - William Street	45	"
" " - Union Lane	60	"
Smarna Chapel	165	"
Deptford Chapel	150	"
	<hr/>	
Total	...	<u>1,480</u> "

(Of this number there are 467 Children who do not attend Day Schools).

2. Wesleyan Schools:
Methodist:

Nicholson Street	399	"
Walworth Street	145	"
Burleigh Street	190	"
Mill Street	60	"
Robinsons Lane	60	"
Iron Works	185	"
Ayre's Quay	120	"
Deptford	95	"
	<hr/>	
Total	...	<u>1,254</u> "

3. Primitive Methodist:

Flag Lane Chapel	165	"
Hopper Street "	131	"
Monkwearmouth	131	"
Southwick	60	"
	<hr/>	
Total	487	"

4. Associated Methodists:

Brougham Street Tabernacle	210	Children
South Durham Street "	150	"
Silver Street	80	"
Millfield	123	"
Ayre's Quay	110	"
Deptford	80	"
Southwick	60	"
		<hr/>
Total	...	813 "
		<hr/>

The large number of 4,500 Children were receiving instruction, but the numbers still gave grave cause for dissatisfaction; for "it is unquestionable that much more might be done. There are still many who are suffered to roam at large and are neglected both morally and intellectually".

In many ways the "forties" proved to be years in which much attention was paid to education and some pecuniary aid was granted for the Schools, while help was given to those who needed it by the Inspectors, whose duty it was to visit the various schools, report progress, praise all industrious efforts and bestow disapproval where it was only too often required.

It would appear that the State was doing its utmost in those early days to stimulate the ambition of the teachers. Grants were made direct to the Masters and Mistresses, graduated according to their position on the Examination List, (but alas how few could boast of sitting any examination). Some direct payments were made to the School Managers, under the head of "Capitation Grants" calculated on the number of scholars who attended School a certain number of times. In 1846 Her Majesty's

Inspector, on visiting Sunderland, reported that the "Sunderland School" was receiving a grant of Ninety Pounds per Annum, and that at Southwick One Hundred and Fifty Pounds per Annum.

From 1858 to 1868 the following Capitation Grants were paid :-

School.	Grant for Enlargements.	Date of Establishment.	Grant for Apparatus.	Capitation Grants
St. Andrews.	£160 . 0 . 0d.	1843.	£5 . 18 . 5 ³ / ₄ d.	£39 . 19 . 10d.
The Gray School.	£90 . 0 . 0d.	1836.	£26 . 18 . 4d.	£50 . 4 . 8.
do.	£1150 . 0 . 0d.	(1854)	-	-
Sunderland } British School. }	£30 . 0 . 0d.	1840.	-	-
St. Marys.	-	-	£12 . 12 . 8 ¹ / ₂ .	£44 . 11 . 10.
Whitburn St.	-	-	£8 . 13 . 2d.	£29 . 2 . 0
Nicholson St.	-	-	£4 . 12 . 9 ¹ / ₄ d.	£5 . 10 . 0d.
Trimdon St.	-	-	£5 . 3 . 0 ³ / ₄ .	£6 . 4 . 0.
Bishopwearmouth } Church Sch. }	£444 . 6 . 8	1854	-	£38 . 13 . 9.
" Infants.	£150 . 0 . 0d.	1844.	£10	£10 . 1 . 3d.
Wearmouth } Colliery School. }	-	-	£4 . 16 . 10 ¹ / ₂ .	£4 . 15 . 0d.
Monkwearmouth } National School. }	£180 . 0 . 0d.	1848.	£10 . 13 . 5d.	£42 . 0 . 0d.
do.	£20 . 13 . 4.	-	-	-
do	£49 . 10 . 0	-	-	-

[From some facts which have just been forwarded (January 30th 1930.) from Miss Shuckburgh, The Board of Education Library, Whitehall; - the first actual payment of the 'Capitation Grant', (other than the 'Grant' paid to the Sunderland and Southwick Schools in 1846) was under the Minute of April 2nd 1853.

"Minute as to grants for the support of Schools in the agricultural and ^{un}incorporated towns, (not containing more than 5,000 inhabitants) of England and Wales". The following Scale of grants would be paid per Scholar:-

No. of Scholars.	Boys' Schools.	Girls' Schools.
Under 50.	6 - Od.	5 - Od.
50 - 100.	5 - Od.	4 - Od.
Above 100.	4 - Od.	3 - Od.

(ie. Report on Elementary Schools 1852-1882- Matthew Arnold.)

Another Minute of 1856 extended the provision of Capitation Grants to Rural Areas.

A Minute of 1846, introduced a system of payments of grants for Pupil Teachers:-

At end of 1 st year	£10
" " 2 nd "	£12 .. 10 .. Od.
" " 3 rd "	£15 .. 0 .. Od.
" " 4 th "	£14 .. 10 .. Od.
" " 5 th "	£20 .. 0 .. Od.

In 1844, the Committee of Council on Education, prefaced a list of books, maps etc. specially adapted for the use of Elementary Schools, and offered grants towards the provision of lesson-books and maps for Scholars, and text-books for teachers, up to 2/- per Scholar, in average attendance.]

The first Reports made by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools for the Northern Counties appeared in 1840 and from their early reminiscences we gain many humorous insights into their work among the schools in our own district. A few incidents which tended to relieve the monotony of their visitations may be quoted:-

"How much is eleven twelves?" asked the Inspector, and there was no answer. He put it in a more searching way, "Who knows how much is eleven twelves?"

Then the village idiot got up and answered "God", that being the generally accepted answer to difficult questions, couched in that form.

The School was managed by the worthy Vicar, whose devoted ministrations were so little acceptable that his congregation dwindled almost to nothing.

The Inspector was examining Standard II, aged eight or nine in the rudiments of Geography and came to the word "desert", defined as a "sandy place where nothing grew". Anxious to get at the meaning of the word "deserted", and remembering a long untenanted house at the end of their Street and just below the Church he said "as I was coming here, I saw an empty building, all shut up, where nobody lives and nobody goes; what should you say that house was?"

And a fatal boy replied, "the House of God".

"What is that island which from its name you would suppose

contained neither women or children?" enquired the Inspector.

"Please Sir the Scilly Isles".

And lastly :-

The Inspector was visiting an Infants School. The teacher was giving a lesson on the elephant. In the days when etiquette forbade that the subject of the lesson should be directly announced to the class, it had to be approached by artful devices. She began with a question.

"What is the largest animal in the World?"

Chorus - "An elephant, teacher".

Teacher - "quite right".

This heresy shocked the Inspector, but etiquette again forbade that he should contradict her. Yet he might and did interpose a question.

"Which is bigger an elephant or a whale?"

Chorus - "A whale".

The teacher looked scornfully at the Inspector and returned an oblique shot.

"Is a whale an animal children?"

Chorus - "No teacher".

"What is a whale, children?"

"A fish".

He was aroused to more defence of truth, though tacitly accepting the fish-hood of whales.

"Is'nt a fish an animal?"

Chorus - (sarcastically) "No"

"Is a girl a vegetable? Do you grow them in the garden like cabbages?"

"No"

Now Mr. Inspector seemed to have the landing-net ready. "If a girl is not an animal, vegetable or mineral - what is a girl?"

A girl, aged four, rose from her seat in the third class, and in strident tones supplied the crushing reply :-

"Her's a wench".

The Inspector fled into the next room.

In many ways those early Schools Inspectors must have undertaken a most disheartening task. In the first place the general complaint was that little attention was paid to the cleanliness of the children, the class-room windows were rarely opened, the room was invariably small, and the number of children almost always large, so that the offensive atmosphere slowly undermined the health of the scholars.

In the Parochial Schools, it was reported, that the scholars were a little more clean, but little attempt was made to exercise their mental faculties. They were fairly orderly, their writing was good and their arithmetic quite above the average. The ordinary curriculum included reading, writing, arithmetic and Psalmody. "If these objects were attained and the child could say its catechism and collect for the day, with one or two texts, the Master seemed to think that his work was perfectly well done, for he seldom felt it to be his duty to try to form the character of his pupils".

On the other hand, it was claimed that the Masters of the Lancastrian Schools aimed more at the instruction of their pupils, and that their teaching was "alive and stirring". Yet the Inspector was not wholly satisfied, for he wrote "I doubt however, whether the education given in such Schools has not the tendency to press some children forward to rise out of their own sphere of life, than to elevate the condition of the mass". (1840/41, Report for the Northern District).

It is most interesting to read the first written Report of Her Majesty's Inspector, who visited Sunderland in 1845, and to glance through the impressions which he received of our Scholastic Establishments. Sunderland children were not bad attenders, since nine-tenths of those on the books attended fairly regularly.

Those Schools only which received a grant were visited, and the following reports were made :-

Sunderland School:

"Grant-Ninety Pounds. There are two rooms and the Master's House. The sole means of warming the rooms is the stove; the ventilation is bad, but the drainage sufficient. The School is in a good state of repair and in a thriving condition, but too many children are under one teacher.
200 boys under one teacher.
150 girls under one teacher".

Southwick School:

"Grant-One Hundred and Fifty Pounds. There are two rooms with one fire-place; ventilation is bad, there is no enclosure, but repairs are good. The Girls School is competently run by an excellent Mistress. Good order and much progress are recorded. The School has not been regularly examined, for want of sufficient leisure".

Deptford Boys School:

"There is much deficiency of discipline; only the first class was examined, which was very ignorant in Holy Scripture, generally inattentive while the reading was slovenly".

With the exception of the last named School, our first Report can be judged to be quite favourable, but as an off-set to this there comes a black list, under twelve heads, labelled "the general deficiencies in the Northern Counties", viz :-

1. There is a great deficiency of funds for supporting Elementary Schools in the Northern District.
2. If no remedy is devised the Day Schools will be closed.
3. The number of teachers in the Schools is totally inadequate.
4. The Schools are often left in the hands of inefficient teachers.
5. The monitors were in many cases a positive hindrance, both to the discipline and progress of the School.
6. The School time of many poor children is inadequate for the purpose of education.
7. There is a great lack of books in our Schools, especially of secular reading.
8. Proper ventilation is neglected.
9. The Stipends are totally inadequate for the teachers.
10. There is a deficiency of exercise grounds.
11. The support of the School falls almost always on the shoulders of the Parson.
12. The owners of soil and labour contribute little of their money to aid the conducting of Elementary Schools.

Three years later, on visiting our Town, the Inspector was struck with the fact that so many poor parents wanted their children to be better instructed than themselves. It was related,

in his record, that a poor cabman, no scholar himself, wanted his two little girls, the elder of whom was four years, to be decently educated. To attain this end he had been paying Half a Guinea a quarter and he intended paying Fourteen Shillings and Sixpence a quarter, so that her younger sister might accompany her to a Private School. Many were the prejudices against the public schools, the children were so rough, the Master did not himself teach, but left it to his monitors, or "they don't learn nothing, because there is little ornamental writing in the boys room and less fancy work in the girls".

(Leave cannot be taken of the Inspector, for the time, without referring to his Report, (1848) on the Gray Schools.

Boys: (140 in average attendance) Taught by an untrained Master, the Scholars were in a poor state of discipline and were making very moderate progress. The boys were very young.

Girls: (160 in average attendance) They were under an untrained Mistress, who was without an Assistant. The teacher had but recently recovered from a serious illness, due to affluvia arising from defective School sanitation. The School was in fair order and making good progress. In both Schools there was a great dearth of secular reading books and maps. The rooms were dirty and untidy.

<u>Result of Examination 1849.</u>	185 boys examined.
	140 girls "

No children were learning drawing, music, history or grammar.

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Passes</u>	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
Geography		23	27
Decimals		-	-
Practice		1	1
Compound Rules		7	10
Division		7	14
Addition		41	35
Notation		49	58
Abstract Composition (on paper)		-	-
" " " " from copies		64	50
" " (on Slates)		23	-
Dictation (on Slates)		44	46
Writing from copies		95	94
Reading Books		44	46
Reading (Holy Scripture)		64	46
" (Easy Narrative)		38	32
Letters and Monosyllables		88	82

AGES: (in years)

	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Boys	108	40	41	43	25	3	2	1
Girls	19	48	31	39	30	11	14	8

While Sunderland's educational activities were being criticised from without, there visited this Town, for the purpose of himself becoming a School Master and working out his ideals, a certain gentleman, Robert Cameron, Esquire, later M.P., who became Head Master of the Nicholson Street School, (earlier known as the Coxon Fields School). We marvel that he stayed there so long, for the building had previously been used as a Cholera Hospital. Under him the School speedily became too small and in 1851, the Friends' British School was erected through the generosity of Edward Backhouse, Esquire, and other Quakers. The School continued to grow in popularity, over one thousand boys passing under Cameron's care. (The Sunderland School Board took over the

Friends School in 1893 and in March, 1896, it was abandoned on the completion of the Hudson Road Board Schools. On the passing of the Elementary Education Act in 1871, Cameron was elected a member of the New Authority, for eight years acting as its Chairman. He was also a pioneer of Higher Education, organizing Science and Literary Classes and himself lectured on Astronomy and Geology).

His brother, John Cameron, was also a noted Scholar in this Town, confining his efforts to the coaching of pupils at his Private School. He began teaching in South Durham Street, later removed to Blandford Street and from there proceeded to premises on the Green. The School building was at the top of Crowtree Terrace, a fine commodious house with a beautiful garden-playground. His pupils, on their way to School, might purchase the fine pasties sold by Miss Featherstonehaugh in her shop in Vine Place.

From an advertisement published in 1846, we are able to assess the qualifications required for the successful running of a Scholastic Establishment. "A young man, of twenty-five years, applies for a situation as Schoolmaster. He has been engaged in a profession, and has some knowledge of French, Latin and Arithmetic, and desires a salary of Fifteen shillings a week".

We wonder if the applicant obtained the post he required. If he desired a post in a National School, he may have been fortunate, for about 1847 a School was opened in Monkwearmouth. In that year, Sir Hedworth Williamson granted to the incumbent of that Parish, a piece of land on the Monkwearmouth shore, in the

Street leading to the Wearmouth Dock, close to the gate of St. Peter's Church. It was established for the education of the poorer class children and was to be under Government Inspection, but no teacher was to be appointed who did not belong the Church of England. Afterwards, this was used, solely, as a Boys' School, for twenty years later the same donor granted another piece of land in Charles Street, Monkwearmouth shore, "together with the Girls' Schools and all the other buildings thereon", subject to a perpetual rent charge of One Pound.

In North Hylton, too, just three years later, under the auspices of the National Society, a School was erected and a house built; the first for the poor children, and the second for the Mistress. It was to be open for Government Inspection.

That there was an ever increasing need for Schools and yet more Schools, is evident from the Speech of Judge Cresswell, at the Durham Assizes in the Spring of 1851. His Lordship, on glancing through the "calendar", said that he was struck by two circumstances, viz., that the amount of education among criminals was very small and the amount of drunkenness was very great. "For", said he "in this Country, there are two prolific sources of crime, ignorance and intemperance seem greatly to prevail. Of 5,430 prisoners committed during the past three years, 481 knew not the Lord's Prayer, 2,186 could not repeat the Creed and 3,866 could not say the Ten Commandments".

Looking at the following statistics it cannot but be remarked

that ignorance and crime stalked hand in hand.

In Durham Gaol:-

	1848.	1849	1850	1851.
Could not read and write.	853.	628.	403.	403.
Knew alphabet only.	319.	339.	328.	339.
Able to read only.	115.	144.	158.	100.
" " " & write imperfectly.	624.	630.	593.	666.
" " " " " well.	116.	26.	4.	20.
Superior education.	5.	1.	1.	1.
Unknown.	51.	4.	35.	14.

But the inhabitants of Sunderland did not wait for the learned Judge to point out to them the need for preventative measures. Among many other philanthropic gentlemen one must mention the names of Messrs. John Halcro, John Candlish, M.P. and Edward Backhouse, who did so much to aid those young people whose upbringing and surroundings might, through neglect, have led them to be included within the lists quoted above.

John Halcro was a strong supporter of the movement to help the girls and women whose lives were so full of dangers and difficulties. He was indeed the mainstay of the first Penitentiary in this Town, and also gave much pecuniary assistance to the Female Reformatory School in Tatham Street, and the Ragged School founded by Candlish in 1849, in Silver Street, was under his constant care. In addition to this, he was elected the Chairman of the Education Committee of the Board of Guardians; he cast a fatherly eye upon the children in the Workhouse Schools and the education of the poor youngsters was never better looked after, than when he was a constant visitor.

John Candlish, Member of Parliament and philanthropist, is said

to have kept two Missionaries constantly at work among the poorer classes in the Town. For the West End, he built and maintained a School in Waterworks Road, in order that as cheap and good an education as possible should be granted to the inhabitants of that district. "This", wrote Brockie in his 'Sunderland Worthies', "was an example of thoughtful liberality that was highly valued, for there were no Board Schools in those days and but little was done by anyone to promote popular education".

He, it was, who gave Three Hundred Pounds to the Girls' Reformatory School in Tatham Street, which, with the assistance of Edward Backhouse, he was the means of establishing.

Even in the fifties there was a saying that "Satan finds mischief for idle hands to do", or so it would appear, for Charles Baldwin, about this time too bequeathed One Hundred Pounds, the interest of which was to be used for the apprenticing of a poor orphan boy, every year, but "not to the sea". Unfortunately, soon after it was left, the System of the Premium Apprentice began to die out, except in Electric Works, so that there was little upon which to expend the money, except clothes. Of late years, the chief boys to benefit belonged to the Sunderland Orphan Asylum.

When the Docks were about to be built, the Bishop of Durham and the Freeman and Stallengers had a dispute over the ownership of the Town Moor. The dispute was taken to law, and the matter was compromised by both sides assigning their rights in the Moor

to a body which was established by an Act of Parliament and called "The Principals and Governors of the Orphan Asylum". This happened in 1853, and one of the conditions in the Act, was that Two Hundred Pounds per Annum was to be given to the Bishop, to be applied to the Churches of Holy Trinity and St. John's. The money paid by the Dock Authorities, less this Two Hundred Pounds formed the only Endowment which the Asylum possessed. It was opened in 1861 and cost Four Thousand Pounds.

These were the bye-laws :- "The object of the Institution shall be to cloth, board and educate, in accordance with the Principles of the Church of England, poor boys, the sons of sailors, fishermen, sea-going engineers, firemen and other watermen, from any part of the Kingdom, whose Fathers may be dead, or suffering from confirmed paralysis or lunacy; to instruct into their minds the principles of Christianity and virtue and give them a good education".

Queen Victoria sent One Hundred Pounds towards the foundation of the Asylum, it started with nine boys, under Mr. Gillespie, the first Master, but he was shortly afterwards succeeded by King, who came from Toynbee Hall. The boys received, (and of course, still do) a sound education and were taught to knit and darn their own socks. They take (for the present tense is perhaps more apt), a share in the domestic work of the Institution, and can "scrub a floor and clean a stove, as well as most girls". Sixteen of them belong to the Band, and eighteen form

the main portion of the Sunderland Parish Church Choir. From time to time Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools visited the Establishment and reported that the results of the Examination in reading, recitation, writing, spelling, dictation, composition, grammar, geography and singing were highly satisfactory, for the "general level of attainments was equal to that of a good public Elementary School. Discipline and tone were good".

No boy was to be admitted under the age of eight or above twelve years, and all had to leave when they attained the age of fourteen. The food was good, plain and nourishing, four meals a day being served. The boys retired to bed about 8 p.m., and rose at 6 in Summer and 7 a.m. in Winter. They worked till breakfast at 8 o'clock, and then had school lessons from 9.30 to 12, and 2 to 4. Tea was eaten at 5 o'clock and the rest of the evening was devoted to play. In their spare time, many of the lads, who were keen, turned their attention to painting, glazing and joinery.

In 1861, the Boys became the proud possessors of a 10 ton Brig, the gift of the Admiralty, valued at between £700/800, together with ten - six pounder brass guns with their carriages, so that they might be trained as Seamen. The prize was built in the Asylum Playground, where it remained for upwards of twenty years, the envy of all the small boys and youths of the neighbourhood; when, one Winter's night, it was almost totally wrecked in a gale. In 1884, the late Sir James Laing and Captain Pinkney, resolved to rebuild it, and two men accomplished the task in eighteen months, for the sum of Two Hundred Pounds and the

materials required. Again twenty years elapsed, but in the present Century it has been completely dismantled.

All the lads loved Mr. King, no matter how far afield they drifted in after years, he always had a propriety right in them. He instituted a Roll of Honour, to record the names of all the Boys who credibly acquitted themselves in their various occupations. Thereon are to be found the names of Certificated Teachers, Captains, Mates of Ships, Engineers, one held the Bronze Medal and First Class Honours in Naval Architecture, Superintendents of the Board of Trade, Custom House Officials, etc.

In the Dining Hall of the School, are groups of the various generations of Old Orphan Asylum Boys, the earliest dating back to 1872. Year by year the old lads forwarded to the Master contributions towards the support of their old School. The Old Boys' Fund started in 1904, and in three years, £313. 1. 5d, was collected.

Thus, by the time the first half of the Century had passed there were in existence in this Town, National Schools for the poor; Night Schools for those whose poverty was so great that dire necessity compelled them, from the tenderest years, to work during the day; Gentlemens' Academies for the rich, who could afford to pay fees by the week or the term, and an Orphan Asylum for the sons of Seamen deceased or totally incapacitated for further labours. A most hopeful picture, in truth, when we consider what were in existence at the beginning of the Century,

but rather more gloomy, when we consider, how much wider the arms of enlightened Education must open before all the children came within her embrace. A Census was taken in 1851 of the Parishes of Sunderland, Monkwearmouth, Bishopwearmouth, Gateshead and Newcastle, when it was found that there were 39,162 children between the ages of 5 and 15 years, and 40,000 between the ages of 3 and 13 years, who would require, were they all attending School, at least Two hundred School rooms and Masters, (at the rate of one hundred children to one Master). At the same time it was discovered that there were in attendance at both Private and Public Schools not more than half of this number (viz., 20,000), distributed in Sunderland in the following manner :-

Schools	On School	In Attendance	Public School	Private Sch:
144	Books	March, 1851	Children	Children
	8,516	7,343	4,204	3,983

There were also 62 Sunday Schools, at which 7,469 children attended, and 7 Adult Schools with 178 pupils. But perhaps the most deplorable feature of all, was the fluctuation in the numbers of the various Schools. To quote the Gray School as a representative of this :- In 1851, there was an attendance of 392 and 450 fresh admissions. One half of these children, the Rector maintained, on account of their age and attainments, would be far better off in an Infants School. The Parish of Sunderland was only one of many in this sorry plight, and the Rector went on to complain that "the reason why the children are so ignorant in the Parish of Sunderland arises from the following causes :-

the Schools are inadequate in number, the children seek employment at the very earliest age, the parents are ignorant and so do not appreciate the advantages of education. Five years ago I instituted Adult Night Schools, open from October to May, which were well attended and have done much good, if only we could obtain more efficient teachers to carry-on the good work". He was anxious that a Government Hulk might be procured and placed in the Sunderland Docks, so that the boys might get away sometimes from the confined atmosphere of the School room, and might be taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and rudiments of navigation, before going to sea. Unfortunately this never came to pass.

Inspectors' Reports in the early days were usually gloomy affairs, but that for Sunderland, in 1853/4, excels in this respect. In-justice to teacher and pupil, alike, was evident when one hundred children were taught by one person in one room. At least one half of the children were being neglected and the unavoidable noise and confusion which was bound to ensue, would interfere with everything done by the Master. The progress of Education would be materially aided, if distinct rooms could be built, in which classes might be assembled under assistant Masters. Again the total lack of playing fields was in itself a crime; but how could the boys find time for work in School let alone time for recreation, when the greatest hindrance was the high value of labour, when employment was so plentiful and wages so high that the education of the working-class child was set aside

for the sake of money. On one occasion, the Inspector related that he saw in the School at Deptford, some little boys who were paid weekly wages, not for work done, but that the Shipbuilder might claim their services when required. The root of the trouble lay in the fact that education possessed no mercantile value, a boy of thirteen, who had never seen a book could earn a good wage in Pit or Factory; and that being the case, it was too much to expect that the ignorant working class parents would pay much heed to rival school systems. The conclusion of the Report, touched an even gloomier level, "the wretched state of the homes, makes the matter worse. Half educated and without hope, degraded in defiance of natural inclinations, the parents are jealous and suspicious of all advice and too impatient of control to forego any material pleasures and excesses for the welfare of their children".

We can only hope that our melancholy Inspector's heart was warmed by the absolutely new departure which was made in our Town in 1855, when a certain mansion was purchased by the Committee of the Sunderland Ragged and Industrial School Society, for a special purpose.

Industrial Schools, as opposed to Reformatories, were for the use of children up to the age of fourteen, who might not have committed a crime, but whose circumstances were such, that if left in their own surroundings they were likely to join the delinquent population; (i.e., Reformatories were for actual, and Industrial Schools for potential, delinquents). In the early

days the Ragged Schools served much the same purpose, they provided charity and they were chiefly used by the children of out-door paupers, and were the outcome of two purposes :-

1. The anxiety to prevent the boys from falling into bad company.
2. The desire to give an Industrial Training.

In 1846 the Department of Education offered grants to Day Schools of Industry for the rent of fields and gardens, to help to hire or build workshops etc.

In 1860 these Schools came under regime of the Home Office, children under fourteen years, if destitute or vagrant, might be committed to School and parents whose children were beyond their control, might obtain an order for committing them to the School. In the latter case, the expense had to be borne by the parents.

The history of old houses is invariably interesting.

In 1727 Edward Browne, a Quaker gentleman, ordered a house to be built, and insisted that the houses adjoining should be also purchased for the use of his Captains and Keelmen. Unfortunately, Browne was shortly afterwards declared bankrupt, and most reluctantly he had to relinquish his house, with "its extensive sea view", which was taken over by the Customs House Officials of the Port of Sunderland. Afterwards, it must be stated, for a time it was let off into tenements, and its gardens were converted into Timber Yards. Then its good fairy returned, for after its repurchase in 1855, it was devoted to the saving of poor waifs and strays, to the training of them to independence and self-reliance.

Six years previously, a number of gentlemen feeling compassion for the destitute children in the Town, who were driven by circumstances to obtain a living by begging and pilfering, determined to start a Ragged School, to feed, train and educate them. They obtained premises in Silver Street, at the corner of Hat Case Area, and they "commenced operations" with twelve children, but the numbers increased so rapidly that at the end of the first year it had risen to One Hundred and Twenty-four boys and Twenty-four girls, with an average attendance of Sixty children, not sleeping on the premises.

When the rooms became too small, Mr. Browne's old house was bought and the girls were removed to their Home in Tatham Street. In 1856 the School was approved and licensed by the Government for the reception of Juvenile Offenders, "according to the Act of Parliament recently passed". Mr. Davison was the Superintendent of the School, the boys were sent to it by the Magistrate, and all were put to various trades, apart from schooling. There were tailors, shoe-makers, wood-turners, engine-minders, saw-sharpeners, sawyers and fire-wood choppers; quite a hive of industry. In the saw-mill the boys made passing-sticks, brushheads, and wood-work for chairs. They got the motive power for their machinery from an 8 h.p. Gas engine. Some of the boys chopped wood, several of them being able to make 150 bundles in one hour. The tailors and shoe-makers manufactured the clothes and boots required by the school. There was also a blacksmiths shop on the premises.

The house possessed a bathroom, and had a large playing-field and quoit-ground, also a small library and a museum, the contributions being received chiefly from old lads who had travelled overseas.

The boys received three meals a day; they breakfasted at 8.0, had dinner at 1.0, and tea at 6.0.

The dormitories were provided with an ingenious method of escape in case of fire. In the middle of the side-wall there was a door, with a bolt driven into the wall, and over the bolt a small piece of glass was let into a wooden frame. From the top of the door swung a rope fixed to the end of an iron bar, the end of the rope being bound with brass to the length of six inches. On an alarm of fire being raised, a boy would break the pane of glass with the rope's end, the door swung open and was kept open by the iron bar, and the boys would slip down the rope into the safety of Silver Street.

The Master, like any Grand Inquisitor, possessed a "Conduct Sheet", and when any boy misbehaved, a certain number of black marks were recorded against him, according to the nature of the offence. Every month pocket money was granted according to good conduct, and when, at the end of the month, the distribution was to take place, the Master carried a number of boxes into the room and in the presence of the boys he read out the names and dropped the amounts due into the boxes bearing the individual boy's name. In such a way certain of the lads collected quite a large sum before leaving the Institution, to start afresh.

The only Report obtainable with regard to the work of the

School is dated as late as 1898, but as this is said to be a fair representative of the work of the Institution, it is quoted :-

No. of boys in the School - 101

<u>Standard</u>	<u>Number of Pupils.</u>	<u>Results obtained</u>
6	10	Good
5	13	"
4	21	Fair
3	19	Good
2	12	Fair
1	13	Very Fair.
Prelim:	12	" "

60% of the boys can swim.

In 1897 the School was awarded the mark "Excellent" for Drawing by the Science and Art Department.

The boys were distributed as follows :-

Kitchen and Laundry	...	12 Boys
Horse	...	2 "
Tailor's Shop	...	10 "
Darners	...	4 "
Shoe-makers	...	4 "
Sawmill hands	...	9 "
Turners	...	6 "
Joiners	...	2 "
Engine	...	2 "
Wood-chopping	...	49 "
Brass band	...	20 "

Mr. Davison reported that discipline was comparatively easily maintained, and there was very little recourse to corporal punishment and that was mostly for absconding on the part of new boys. (Two boys once absconded, but were recovered after one night's liberty, when on their way back to the School). Discipline was assisted by the Monitorial and Mark System, with pocket-money for the boys. Home-leave was liberally granted, local lads

being allowed to go home once a month, but not to sleep there, while those from a distance were permitted to go home once a year for ten days.

But the Girls' Schools must not be altogether neglected, for there were, and had been, many in existence where all the arts and accomplishments necessary for the upbringing of a delightful female were dispensed. As early as 1838 the Misses Pile conducted a School in Villiers Street, Miss Peacock in Union Street, and at the Boarding School of Miss James and Miss Scott, £35 per Annum was charged for board and education, while French cost One Guinea extra, Drawing 10/6d, and "Working in Rice-Paper Flowers" 5/-. Miss Webster's School in Tatham Street was noted for the thoroughness of its work, where geography, ancient history and astronomy were specially taught. A Miss Higgins came from London and instructed her pupils at the Holmside Cottage. As trade improved the number of Girls' Schools increased by leaps and bounds. Among them were :- Harveys in Lambton Street, Butterworth in Broad Street, Panton in Fawcett Street, Swan in Derwent Street, Peacock at Green Hill, etc.

An "Academy" was opened in Villiers Street in the middle of the last century, under the auspices of the St. George's Presbyterian Church, and under the Headship of the Reverend Dr. Pattison. The juniors were taught by Simpson, the intermediates by McIntyre, (who afterwards started a School of his own in Frederick Street), and the senior class by Andrew Blair, (the first

certificated teacher, in this Town). John Cameron visited the School once a week, in order to teach Music. Miss Duff who afterwards married Blair, instructed the girls, (for it was a mixed School) in wool-work, the knitting of stockings and waxwork. Other Masters who assisted were, James and Peter Wood, Mackenzie, Jolly and Walton, and when the School was closed down, they all branched out on their own behalf.

The boys at the Academy were always rather antipathetic to the boys at the Quaker School and their bad manners often got the better of them at snowball time. Mr. Coates, the Antiquarian, relates the yarn of how on one occasion some of the young rascals placed soot and lamp black into the Holy Water in one of the Roman Catholic Schools, but their misdeed being discovered, they received a double punishment, at the hands of both Canon Bamber and Mr. Blair. The latter gentleman possessed a cork leg, and the new boy was always challenged to stick a pin into it.

A Mr. Wilson, afterwards succeeded Blair, and Dr. Shelley taught Mathematics for a time. Later, Sinclair took over the School, and under his tuition the boys became experts at the quoting of Scripture. The fees ranged from 7/6d to 15/-.

Peter and James Wood, who were teachers at the Academy, were brothers. James was educated in Edinburgh and after serving under Dr. Pattison for some time, he took a place at Duns. After twenty years he came back again to this Town and opened the Hall School in Toward Road. Peter, born near Durban, was at first apprenticed to a blacksmith, but later he came to Sunderland to serve under his

brother. Next we hear of him as the head of the School off Crowtree Road, and he ended his scholastic labours at the excellent school in Derwent Street. The juniors paid £1.11.6., and the seniors £2. 2. 0., per term. Drawing and French were regarded as extras.

James Wood's daughter, Miss Annie, had a School for girls in Tunstall Road in the end house in Belle Vue Park, where previously a Mrs. Barker had conducted a similar establishment.

Mr. Joseph Special conducted a "Friends' Private School" of 'higher-class' in Villiers Street, opposite the St. George's Academy. It was afterwards removed to Nelson Street.

County Durham has always been noted for its Coalfields, and the sturdy Miners, who braved unknown dangers when they descended into the darkness of the underworld. Just four years before the "Public" Schools received grants according to the results they obtained, (i.e., Circa 1854), the Durham Miners presented a petition to Parliament, "your petitioners would implore your honourable House that it should be compulsory on the Owners of Mines to build Schools on their several Collieries, and beg to state that your petitioners will contribute from their earnings twopence each weekly, in support of such Schools, provided they have the appointment of the Masters, control over the funds subscribed, and to see them properly applied, so as to procure for our children a good and moral education". The result of this was that the Monkwearmouth Colliery School for boys and girls was established by the Colliery Owners and the

workmen. T.W. Byers was Headmaster at this School, and he was succeeded by G.A. Cockburn. Other early teachers were, John and Elizabeth Welch, William Mason and Ann Foster. Under Byers the School achieved a remarkable reputation, it was indeed one of the best Schools in the North. The Miners had the privilege of sending their own children or of nominating others, so much money being deducted from their wages, weekly. The School received the highest grants for boys, girls and infants. Mr. John Marsh, fifth Queen's Scholar of his year, who later became a Schools' Inspector, was one of the teachers.

In 1856, yet another School was added to the list of those inspected by Her Majesty's Inspectors, when Messrs. Bramwell and R.L. Pemberton, conveyed to Canon Mathie of St. Pauls, Hendon, a piece of ground measuring 143 feet 11 inches by 71 feet 10 inches, to be used for the erection of a School for the poorer classes, in union with the National Society. ^B by dint of much hard work £2,000 was raised towards the building, the sum being half the proceeds of the first Bazaar held in Sunderland. Under its Master and Mistress (both of whom belonged to the Church of England), the School rapidly increased in popularity; One shilling and also sixpenny fees being charged weekly. Three years afterwards a Room was opened in Norman Street, which was used as a Sunday School and also a Day School under Government Inspection, with as many as 175 children on the registers at one time.

But in spite of Canon Mathie's efforts and the labours of many others, it was a disappointing job. As the old saying reads "it is an easy task to lead a horse to the water, but the difficulty lies in trying to persuade him to drink". The poorer classes were suspicious of the philanthropic efforts, but perhaps as an old School Master in the fifties once related personally, the greatest drawback lay in the constant fluctuations of the labouring population. One week the family might be living in one quarter of the town and the next they might be miles away. Again and again the Inspector raised the melancholy cry to this effect, "if only the Law, which now barely protects a child from starvation, were to insist upon its education, there would be something hopeful in the prospects of our working classes. Without this legal interference, there is very little to encourage any one to build a School. There are few who do not feel the heavy outlay required in this Country to restrain, defect and punish criminals, and there are numbers who feel that no system of prevention is so merciful as that which would elevate these classes to the capacity to fulfil their duties as Christian citizens".

Yet, the Inspector in fairness to the working classes of Sunderland, had to own that perhaps a great deal of the general slackness and distaste of the parents lay in the poorness of the teachers and the wretched curriculum. Infant Schools, Night Schools and Sunday Schools, all seemed to be out of joint, because of the unsoundness of the ordinary Day Schools. It was

bye-word that the Sunday School instead of aiming at imparting home truths or Bible facts, had to deliver the elementary knowledge which should have been given at the Public School. Again, the work of the Night School was to help youths already well grounded in the elementary subjects, to educate themselves in higher fields, whereas only too often its actual field was below the level of the Upper Classes in the Elementary Schools. Infant Schools were not designed to be Nurseries or Creches for babies, which was a use to which they were put by many working class Mothers, to the total distraction of the teacher and her more advanced pupils.

For those Schools' Inspectors were often shrewd men, who could not fail to notice, sometimes, that the capitation grant was very often injurious to discipline. The School Managers in this town were sometimes afraid to insist on punctuality, cleanliness and submission to rules, for fear of reducing their numbers. Many were the ruses whereby a child's attendance was gained, for many children did not deign to attend School before 10 o'clock in the morning, and on various pretexts managed to leave before noon.

(Under the Minute of April 2nd, 1853, this grant had first been paid, at the following rate, per scholar :-

<u>No. of Scholars.</u>	<u>Boys' School</u>	<u>Girls' School</u>
Under 50	6/-	5/-
50 - 100	5/-	4/-
Above 100	4/-	3/-

In 1847, the Committee of Council on Education, prepared a list of books, maps etc., specially adapted for the use of Elementary Schools, and offered grants towards the provision of lesson-books and maps for scholars, and text-books for teachers, up to two shillings per scholar in average attendance.

Teachers of today, with the rule of two hours compulsory presence in School, both in morning and afternoon, before the attendance mark is given, cannot conceive of the disorder and restlessness which must have prevailed in earlier times, when the System was far from being as workable as it is in the present decade.)

Some of the lady teachers in this district were so incompetent that they were even incapable of teaching needlework. Several Girls Departments even dropped Sewing and took up croquet work, in order to shine in Inspectors' Reports. An amusing story is told of a local lady, who hired a girl as housemaid from one of these very superior schools. She was found to be useful neither for making beds, scouring dishes, nor was she servicable in any branch of plain sewing, but capable only, when pressed to disclose what her attainments were, "to crochet Moses".

It could scarcely be expected that scholars so educated would show any signs of intelligent interest in anything which might be termed intellectual or elevating. Messrs. Recketts, at Hull, tried an experiment, but it ended in disaster. They opened a library for their workpeople, who paid a penny weekly, and there was a wide choice of reading (400 volumes in all). At first these were eagerly read, but only too soon the interest evaporated, distaste was manifested and the library was closed.

Yet we can scarcely wonder at this lack of interest and enthusiasm, when we glance at the "dry as dust methods", by which the children were taught. There was no pleasure, no brightness, lessons were drudgery, mechanical, soul-deadening; reading, writing and arithmetic were all equally dull. To illustrate this point, let us look at the arithmetic examination, set by the teacher in a certain local school; the sums being dictated not written on the blackboard.

Could we imagine anything more dull, than the monotonous

chanting :-

Standard I.

Boys and Girls:

4 add 3,
8 add 5,

6 add 4,
9 - 6,

5 add 3 add 2,
10 - 3.

Write down 9, 11, 7, 13, 17.

Standard II.

Girls:

1. 908 add 1,475 add 914 add 865 add 5,760.
2. 21,346 - 8,907.

Boys:

1. 798 add 2,086 add 987 add 5,784 add 3,708.
2. 23,024 - 9,019.

Standard III.

Girls:

1. 321,413 + 7
2. 86,987 x 98
3. 53,498 add 960,709 add 5,143,648 add 5,004 add 748,052.

Boys:

1. 2,321,045 divide by 9.
2. 198,476 x 907.
3. 669,057 add 6,180,098 add 903,058 add 4,084,536
add 10,011 add 7,983,075.

Standard IV.

Girls:

1. £62,949. 18. 9d. divide by 68.
2. £846. 11. 3³/₄d x 87.

Addition and subtraction to test notation in £. s. d.
Numbers similar to Standard III.

Boys:

1. £192,495. 19. 8¹/₂d divide by 207.
2. £1,879. 18. 10¹/₂d x 134.

(Similar to above).

Standard V.

Girls:

1. 6,951 weeks 4 days 20 hrs 39 mins. divide by 79.

Standard V.

Girls: (continued)

2. 379 Cwt. 3 qrs. 23 lbs. 12 ozs. x 87.
Addition and Subtraction in weights and measures.

Boys:

1. 2,292,754 wks. 4 days 17 hrs. 21 mins divide
by 249.
2. 8,415 mls. 6 fls. 163 yds. 1 ft. x 118.

Standard VI.

Girls:

Find the value of:
38,472 Tons @ 19/7½d a ton,
and of:
18,436 articles @ £3. 10. 10½d each.

Boys:

Find the value of:
138,021 articles @ £2. 7. 7d each,
and of :
87 acres 3 rds. 15 pls. @ £15. 10. 6d per acre.

Outside the teaching profession, there were several individuals who held no high opinion of the methods of instruction, and Dr. Joseph Brown, in 1865, actually published a little book of sixty pages, in which he outlined a really attractive system of education for the young people of his native Town. In the "Food of the People" he held forth the idea that education should comprehend all of a boy that can be educated. "A healthy mind in a healthy body", was his first cry; the child must be taught to use his limbs freely and vigorously, running, leapfrog and football were to be indulged in. The physical and metaphysical was a distinction only in degree, the mind acted on the limbs in

the sports of boyhood, and the cleverest boy at his books was usually the best in the playground. Dr. Brown's earnest desire was to see the fifth, sixth and seventh chapters of St. Matthew, stamped indelibly on the memory of the youthful generation.

In such a manner Dr. Brown carried on the tradition handed down from the Greek idealists of the true form of education, as the production of a "healthy mind in a healthy body", but perhaps Mr. Oakley in his General Report, 1867, became much more practical^{al}, having in his mind the true state of affairs and what might humanly be accomplished with the materials to hand, in an industrial area like our own in the future. "Most beneficial changes", he is writing about the introduction of machinery, "have caused dislocations, greater or less in Society; but I venture to predict that twenty years afterwards, the compelling of every parent to take care that his child shall learn to read and write will be considered (as it is now in Germany) of the same order of importance and necessity, as that parents should feed and cloth their children. The real obstacle to a more universal use of education would seem to be the apathy of the parents, who appear not to realize, in many cases, the advantages which their children would derive from the enjoyment of it, and the large amount of good remuneration for the labour of children of ten years and upwards. Compulsory education would give it an impulse and encouragement by making a certain amount of fair elementary education a necessary condition for the employment of children under a certain age, by the

requirement from some responsible person of a certificate that the standard of efficiency which has been fixed upon has been actually maintained".

As it was, with such rather haphazard teaching, the average cost of education in our district was in 1869, £1. 5. 1d each scholar, while the Government grant was £10,024.8.9., or one-third of the aggregate expenditure. But in the same year an additional grant was allowed for such Schools as employed a somewhat wider curriculum, the subjects which were most widely adopted in our district, being :-

1. Geography.
which embraced "general definitions", with the divisions and of land ~~and~~ water; Europe being dealt with in outline, or the British Isles in detail.

2. Grammar:
The definitions and inflections of the parts of speech; the parsing of words in sentences from reading books and analysis of simple sentences.

3. History:
Early English History up to the Norman Conquest, or Tudor and Stuart periods.

4. Drawing:

But at this time, just before the election of the first School Board in 1870, the Inspectors would lead us to believe that the British Schools in our Town, (and perhaps throughout the North) were lacking in many ways. Many a time the Master had to labour on with either no assistants at all, or else that of a very inferior quality. Often the books and "school apparatus"

were in a shocking condition. The Master in one School was asked to show his Log Book, and produced a small Account Book; upon being told that this did not satisfy the requirements, he answered in an aggrieved tone that he would have to pay for another out of his own pocket. The System of Payment by Results led to two temptations, which can easily be imagined, e.g., that of placing new comers in classes too low for them in order to make sure of their passing the Exams, and that of marking the children present when they had not stayed in School for the two hours required.

In the midst of such a state of affairs, came the Elementary Education Act of 1870, which made education compulsory in Sunderland between the ages of 5 and 13. To manage this new System the first School Board was elected, which met in 1871 and immediately set to work to obtain a census of the children in the borough, between the ages of 3 and 13; when it was finally decided that there were 18,169 children for whom School accommodation must be provided.

But first it must be discovered who were the first members of the Board and what were the Bye-Laws which it drew-up.

The members of the Board were :-

Samuel Alcock, Reverend W. Ancliff, Reverend Canon Bamber, Canon Cockin, Robert Cameron, James Hartley, John Kayll, James Laing, John Nicholson, R.L. Pemberton, T.C. Squance, Samuel Tyzack, and T.R. Wilson.

The Bye-Laws :-

1. Subject to the provision of the Elementary Education Act, the parents of every child not less than 5 years of age and not more than 13, shall cause such child, unless in case of reasonable excuse, to attend such School. Fine 5/-.

2. The time during which every child shall attend School shall be during the whole time for which the School shall be open for the instruction of children of similar age.

3. In case one of Her Majesty's Inspectors shall certify that a child between the ages of 10-13 years shall have reached the fifth Standard, the child shall be totally exempt from the obligation to attend School.

4. No child shall be required to attend School unless it is resident within 2 miles.

5. Remission of School Fees in the case of poverty.

Scale of Fees:

Under 6 - Twopence per week.

Males 6 to 10 years - Fourpence per week

Females 6 to 10 years - Threepence per week

Males 10 to 13 years - Sixpence per week

Females 10 to 13 years - Fourpence per week.

It has been said above that there were, according to the requirements of the School Board, 18,169 children, or later when the children between the ages of 3 to 5 years were cut-out, 16,127 children. It was discovered that there was already School accommodation for 11,853, which left a deficiency of 6,316 children to be provided for; divided into the following districts :

East and West Sunderland	...	2,400	Children
South Bishopwearmouth	...	1,416	"
North	"	800	"
Monkwearmouth	...	1,700	"

The first School to be built by the Board was that at James William Street, ~~with~~ accommodation for 1,050 children, while other sites were also obtained in Thomas Street to accommodate 1,000 children, a small piece of land was bought in Numbers Garth to supply accommodation for girls and infants, and as a temporary expedient, rooms were rented in Villiers Street, Silver Street and North Bridge Street.

Once again Her Majesty's Inspectors painted a melancholy picture of the trials that would beset the Board ere it set to work and the obstacles it would encounter. The mental state of the people, whose children would attend the Board Schools, was exceptionally low. "The regular attendance of this class of child," one of them reported in 1871, "involves a change of habits, not so much of the children, as of the parents, who hitherto have been allowed to neglect the educational claims of their families. Improvements in the dwellings of the working-classes, the acquirement of provident habits, leading as these must to a more competent feeling of independence and responsibility on the part of the parents, ought to go hand in hand with the cause of education, and it is well nigh impossible to over estimate them in dealing with the whole question of compulsory School attendance ..."

"... of what avail can it possibly be to remonstrate or reason with a man on the advantages of education, who with his wife

and family live huddled together, in a single room, whose whole home-life is one scene of confusion and filth, and in whose household there is not, and cannot be, the slightest attempt at regularity and order. Yet, such are the parents whose children are now required, by law, to attend School, a large number of them being in the Board Schools at James William Street and Silver Street, we must not be disappointed at finding the average attendance at these and other Schools something below what it might be. ... It will no doubt, take some years before any great results are obtained".

Yet the work went on in spite of such forebodings, the Members of the Board were extremely practical, the Town was divided into four districts with an Attendance Officer over each, whose duty it was to visit parents, ascertain the ^{as} cause of non-attendance, and to bring before the Committee those who were neglecting to send their children to School. A list of those who were actually brought before the Magistrates, in 1872, is appended :-

Districts	<u>Summoned before Board.</u>	<u>Brought before Magistrates</u>			Total.
	Fined	Withdrawn	Sent to Industrial School.		
N.Bishop- wearmouth	108	4	3	1	8
S. "	91	8	1	-	9
E.&W.S'land	85	-	1	1	2
Monkwear- mouth	87	13	5	-	18
Total:-	371	25	10	2	37

early as 1840, select Girls' Private Schools, where all the arts and accomplishments were provided. The Misses Pile conducted a school in Villiers Street, Miss Peacock in Union Street and at the Boarding School of Misses James and Scott, £35 per annum was charged for Board and Education, while French cost £1. 1. 0 extra, drawing 10/6d, and working in rice-paper flowers 5/-. Miss Webster's school in Tatham Street was noted for the thoroughness of its work, where geography, ancient history and astronomy were specially taught. A Miss Higgins also came from London and instructed her pupils at the Holmside Cottage. As trade improved the number of Girls' Schools increased, among them were, Harveys in Lambton Street, Butterworth in Broad Street, Panton in Fawcett Street, Swan in Derwent Street, etc.

An Academy was opened in Villiers Street in the middle of the last Century, under the auspices of the St. George's Presbyterian Church, and under the headship of the Rev. Dr. Pattison. The juniors were taught by Simpson, the intermediates by McIntyre (who afterwards started a school of his own in Frederick Street) and the senior class by Andrew Blair, (the first certificated teacher in this Town). John Cameron visited the school once a week in order to teach music. Miss Duff, who afterwards married Blair, instructed the girls in woolwork, knitting of stockings and waxwork, for it was a mixed school. Other masters who assisted were, James and Peter Wood, Mackenzie, Jolly and Walton, and when the school was closed down, they all branched out on their own behalf.

Perhaps a summary of the foregoing would be more helpful.

	Church	Wesleyan	R.C.	Undenom- inational	Total	Depts:
Monkwear- mouth	2	1	1	1	5	12
S'land	2	-	-	1	3	4
N.Bishop- wearmouth	3	1	2	1	7	14
S. "	1	3	1	1	6	14
Totals:-	8	5	4	4	21	44

The Private Schools in existence about this time were legion.

There must have been a wealthy x strata in Sunderland, when the numbers of superior Schools who charged more than ninepence per week, are taken into consideration.

South Bishopwearmouth:

Private Schools: Fees above ninepence per week.

Teachers	School House	Total No. of Scholars.	
		1871	1873
Mrs. Shackleton	Derwent Street	-	12
Miss Smith	Stockton Road	39	41
Miss Jacques	Grange Terrace	17	14
Miss Rhind	St. George's Square	-	30
Rev. G. Iliff	Hall School	14	24
Mr. Yeld	North Grange	10	12
Mr. Walton	Murton Street	6	25
Miss Stone	Salem House	22	34
Mr. Cockburn	Bk. Frederick Street	-	6
Mr. Cameron	The Grange	79	50
Mr. Wood	Derwent Street	41	74
Mr. McKenzie	Crowtree House	34	52
Miss Panton	St. George's Square	34	10
Miss Bowey	" "	9	14
Miss Smith	Esplanade West	31	23
Miss Stephenson	Worcester Terrace	-	19
Mr. Rutter	Murton Street	47	49
Miss Stewart	Tatham Street	10	41
Miss Vaux	" "	26	34
Mrs. Todd	" "	35	13
Miss Chambers	Azalea Street	11	13
Mrs Gray	Ann Street	17	9
Mr. Patterson	Tavistock Place	8	26

and thirty other Schools with registers, averaging from 77 pupils (e.g., Misses Roth and Sellois, St. George's School, Villiers Street), to 6 (e.g., Miss Spoors, Frederick Street), in all twenty-six Mistresses and four Masters, with an average daily attendance of 1,326 scholars in 1871, and 1,307 scholars in 1873.

There were many large Schools, whose weekly fees were less than ninepence, the chief ones being :-

		<u>1871</u>	<u>1873</u>
Mr. Cameron	Norfolk Street	530	692
Miss Mason	Borough Road	250	262
Miss Mackie	Hedworth Terrace	192	402
and thirty-nine others, making a total of		2,621	2,617

The North Bishopwearmouth district was not so well off, there were only four superior Schools in existence, and eighteen of the less exalted variety, making a total of 1,287 in 1871, and 1,978 in 1873.

In East and West Sunderland there were eleven Schools which charged less than ninepence (ranging from Mr. Short's School in Silver Street, with 60 pupils, to Mrs. Matthews, Hartley Street, with 5). In addition there were in this district three Charity Schools :-

		<u>1871</u>	<u>1873</u>
Mr. Davison	Industrial School	48	88
Mr. John James	Orphan Asylum	28	38
Miss Cole	Donnison School	36	35
Totals:-		<u>112</u>	<u>161</u>

The Monkwearmouth district possessed sixteen second-rate Schools and five superior ones, with a total of 786 children in 1871, and 1,046 children in 1873

General Summary of Private Schools:

Fees under 9^d per week.

1871.

1873.

	3-5 years.	Over 5 years.	Total.	3-5 years.	Over 5 years.	Total.
Monkwearmouth.	92.	655.	747.	58.	918.	976.
E. & W. Sunderland.	148.	368.	516.	22.	448.	500.
N. Bishopwearmouth.	230.	998.	1,228.	106.	1,480.	1,886.
S	403.	2,218.	2,621.	109.	2,508.	2,617.
Totals:-	873.	4,234.	5,107.	295.	5,684.	5,979.

"Superior" Schools.

	1871.			1873.		
	3-5 years.	Over 5 yrs.	Total.	3-5 years.	Over 5 years.	Total.
Monkwearmouth.	-	33	33	-	-	-
E. & W. Sunderland.	-	-	-	-	-	-
N. Bishopwearmouth.	5.	59.	64.	8.	84.	92.
S "	22.	1,304.	1,326.	9.	1,298.	1,307.
Totals.	27.	1,396.	1,423.	17.	1,452.	1,469.

The Second Board was elected in 1874, and this time there was no contest, the parties being elected as follows :-

1. Church:
Canon Cockin, Alderman Hartley, Messrs.
James Laing, Pemberton and Kayll.
2. Independent Churchmen:
Mr. S. Alcock, jnr.,
3. Non-sectarians:
Messrs. Robert Cameron, J. Fawcett, N. Dixon,
W. Whittle, Rev. G. Wallace, and Canon Bamber
(R.C.).

Four casual vacancies, in 1877, were filled by Messrs. Samuel Storey, S. Alcock, S.S. Robson and T.S. Hines.

These gentlemen endeavoured to cope still more ardently with the ever increasing demands for School places. Sites suitable for School premises were obtained in Chapel Garth, Diamond Hall and Nobles Bank, in 1876, in the following year the Moor School was opened, and in 1879 the Diamond Hall School was actually thrown open for the children of that district. But even greater strides were made, in 1879 too an Evening Class was started at Thomas Street, Hendon, and Diamond Hall, and more advanced Science Classes were also held at the above Schools. In addition to this the Board decided to introduce the teaching of Cooking and Domestic Economy, for children; suitable premises were secured and apparatus purchased, and Miss Berry, from the Leeds Cookery College was appointed to conduct the classes.

In this last case, the Board must have felt deeply gratified at their originality, for as late as 1880 it was reported to Headquarters, concerning the Schools in the North of England, "in the case of girls, I wish that greater facilities existed for practical

lessons in Cooking. Praise-worthy attempts have been made by the Gateshead and Sunderland School Boards to give such lessons to the various Schools, at a common Centre, but without much success. During four years of official experience, I have never heard a child ask a question of its teacher on the subject of its lesson. We want more suitable language, more intelligent reasoning, and more interesting facts".

Perhaps the greatest work of all done by the Second School Board was the fixing of a definite scale with regard to salary, for teachers of various levels and attainments.

Headmaster	...	£120	per Annum
Headmistress	...	£ 80	" "
Infants' Mistress	...	£ 80	" "
Assistant Master	...	£ 60	" "
" Mistress	...	£ 40	" "

Pupil Teachers:

		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1st Year	...	£10	£10. 0.0.
2nd "	...	13	12.10.0.
3rd "	...	16	15. 0.0.
4th "	...	19	17.10.0.
5th "	...	22	20. 0.0.

Male Monitors	- under 13 years	- received	£8 per Annum
"	" - above 13	"	£10 " "
Female	"	"	£6 " "

The number of teachers required for a School, according to its size, was at the same time laid down :-

<u>Av. Attendance</u>	<u>Prin. Teacher</u>	<u>Asst. Teacher</u>	<u>Pupil Teacher</u>
59	1	-	1
99	1	-	2
139	1	-	3
179	1	-	4
219	1	1	3
259	1	1	4
299	1	1	5

The great majority of teachers who had passed through the

the Training Colleges, were quite capable of teaching the elementary and class subjects laid down by the Code. Not so, some of the ex-pupil teachers, the weakest part of the teaching staff of the large Schools, who in some cases had not themselves thoroughly mastered the arithmetic, grammar, and geography, which the elder children had to learn.

"I have found Schools in which the unfortunate child spends considerable time, every day," wrote the Inspector while dealing with this subject in his Report, "in multiplying hundreds of thousands by hundreds of thousands, and doing it correctly, but the same child when asked to find out on its slate 'how many apples could be picked off 9 trees, if 250 were picked off one', were quite unable to work out such a sum". At the same time he added, "the work of the pupil-teachers will never be satisfactory until they cease to be regarded as cheap substitutes for properly qualified teachers. They are students in the art of teaching".

At the end of their first year of Office, the Board issued the following very comprehensive statement, dealing with the progress which it had attained since its birth in 1870 :-

	1871	'72.	'73.	'74.	'75.
Public Elementary School (Board)	-	2.	3.	4.	4.
do (Other than Board)	16	18.	18.	19.	19.
Accommodation.	4,458.	9,233.	9,403.	10,544.	10,629.
Number on the Rolls.	4,068.	9,564.	10,455.	10,914.	11,448.
Average No. present at all.	-	-	-	-	8,513.
Average Attendance.	4,985.	9,436.	6,443.	6,502.	6,934.
Government Grant.	£2540.4.1.	£2,986.4.4d.	£2,655.10.11d.	£3,761.17.10d.	£4,174.7.9d.
Passed 5 th Standard.	-	-	33.	62.	124.
Cases inquired into by Board.	-	341.	405.	698.	1,021.
Summoned before Magistrate.	-	34.	242.	498.	481.
Committed to Prison:	-	1.	1	4.	9
Industrial	-	3.	4.	4.	8.
School or Training Ship.	-	-	-	-	-
Amount of Fines.	-	£6.5.0d.	£29.11.6.	£104.6.6.	£158.16.0d.

But what did Her Majesty's Inspectors think of our New Board Schools? Parts of the System were good, it could not be denied, the buildings were substantially erected and well equipped, the apparatus was good and the salaries of the teachers stabilized. All this was for the best, but the Inspector deplored the lack of personal relation between Masters and Staff, that priceless tie of human sympathy was almost always entirely lacking. The contrast was even more apparent when the teacher reflected upon the kindly visits of the former manager and his wife, who knew something about almost every child in the School. He went on to relate, how recently "I inspected a School which the Vicar and his Wife not only regularly visited but also for many years have taught the rough factory people in the Night School, during the Winter months. What machinery can replace this kindly influence?" Again the circumstances of the Schools were not cheering in prospect. "A second-standard boy summed it up well for me the other day. I asked him what the earth was made of and referred him to his own district of Sunderland. I expected the usual answer of land and water, but the lad became inspired and said 'muck'".

In 1880, with the third election, there came a change in the constitution of the Board. Mr. Robert Cameron was elected Chairman and Mr. Peter Wood, Vice-Chairman. Others Members were:- Messrs. T.W. Backhouse, R.A. Bartram, Chambers, Rev.R.V. Dunlop, who later in the year gave place to Dr. C.B. Morgan, J.W. Kirk, R.H. Laing, Rev. H. Martin, W. Parrington, J. Stokoe,

S. Storey, Father Turnerelli, Rev. W.A. Walton and Mr. John Wright Wayman. In 1881, T.W. Bryers became Clerk to the Authority.

The good work was still continued, the Deptford Yard School, which had been opened by Mr. Laing, for children whose fathers worked in his Shipyard, was transferred to the Board, a site was obtained in Monkwearmouth, and the School in Whickham Street which had been previously a Private Academy was opened for upwards of a year, by the Board, until Stansfield Street was completed in 1882, when the former was permanently closed. About this time too an Infants Department was opened at the Moor, and the School in Simpson Street was in process of erection.

Once again, the Inspector Critics discussed in their Reports, the efforts that were being made. Some of the older School buildings combined every possible fault, but even those provided since 1870 were by no means perfect, although much more light and airy. The rooms were often absurdly large in size, the windows were so arranged that the light fell upon the childrens' backs and into the teacher's eyes, while the principal room in the Department had often only one exit. Only too often the Schools were constructed without anything in the nature of a lobby, so that the classrooms were used as cloak-rooms, and on wet days the walls might be seen hung round with dripping coats and hats.

The interiors of the school rooms were singularly inattractive, the walls being often bare and cheerless to the last degree, and

in other cases decorated with tawdry and worthless pictures - hogs and polar bears herding together, whilst it was no uncommon sight to see the robin, barnyard fowl and zebra in common residence. In a third the kangaroo was quietly reposing with his friend the brown bear.

Most of the Schoole were provided with as much apparatus as was necessary to avoid a deduction from the grant. Often there was no good map of the neighbourhood, or any map which showed clearly the physical features of our own, or any other Country, while some Schools did not even possess a globe; nor any musical instrument whatsoever.

There was no contest in 1883, Messrs. Stokoe and Storey disappeared and their places were taken by Mr. Fred Lamb and the Rev. Guttery. The Board was aglow with philanthropic efforts, a class was established for the Instruction of the Blind, which was so well attended that in the following year they removed to a larger and more convenient room in the Institute for the Blind. Here it continued to progress, instruction being given in reading, writing (by the Braille System), arithmetic (by Taylors System), Grammar and geography, with the aid of relief maps. In January 1883, Simpson Street School was opened, the children were drafted there from Deptford Yard, which was closed, and in the following year Valley Road was opened and Nicholson Street Wesleyan School was closed.

In the month of June, premises were obtained on the Green for the Day Industrial School, with accommodation for 200 children.

Before this date the children were sent either to the Boys Industrial School, previously mentioned, where they were boarded and educated for a certain period, or in more extreme cases of actual misdemeanor to Durham. The Boys' House of Correction, attached to Durham County Prison, was separated from the Mens Department, so that a boy sent to Prison never saw a Male Adult Prisoner, not did he know anything of the Mens' Prison. His instinctive dread of gaol was not broken down. In the Boys' House two hours were allowed on week-days and one on Sundays for School, while the greater part of the day was spent in a field adjoining the Prison under the Superintendence of a Warder, who was also a gaoler - gardener.

But the School established on the Green was in many ways different from this. It was opened for the sake of the child whose parents habitually and without excuse neglected to provide efficient elementary education. Unfortunately there were too many children in a sadly neglected and destitute condition, to whom it was impossible to apply the ordinary benefits of education. Strict control was exercised, although it was the aim of the School to make the child's life as happy as possible, without destroying the bond of family life. The usual School subjects were taught, and the children if they failed to attend, were immediately sent for.

In addition to this, owing to a prolonged depression in trade, an attempt was made to provide meals for some of the most necessitous children, who attended school half-starved. The Board resolved that Cooking Apparatus be fitted-up in the following Schools:

James William Street, Moor, Hendon, Diamond Hall and Thomas Street; and a month later, at the request of the District Relief Committee, it also undertook to provide dinners for other children; 89,028 dinners being provided and paid for by the Relief Committees. During the following Winter, in addition to the dinners, 26,030 Sunday morning breakfasts were provided by the Freemasons, while the Board aided by several noble benefactors, distributed 60 dozen pairs of clogs to the most destitute children.

The System of Penny Dinners was no new novelty, for it owed its origin, in the North, to Canon Moore Ede, Rector of Gateshead, and the Deaconesses whose labours led them onto Bottle Bank, into the tenements round the Swing Bridge and the slums of that Town. Many were the set backs which they experienced, and the contrivings when they endeavoured to procure soups and other nourishing foods for the starving children. But the splendid idea spread, for in time it came to be almost universally recognized that teachers only too often were expected to "generate steam without fuel. In future, we may hope to stoke the little engines properly for the work they have to do".

Valient efforts were made in such a way to feed the children, but still the attendances in the Schools were shocking. Mr. Fisher visited Sunderland in 1885, in the capacity of Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, and he was alarmed at the laxity of the parents and the way in which they avoided all attempts to shepherd their children into School. The great difficulty which the Board

had to contend with was the County Magistrates, who had to hear and decide upon the different cases brought before them; the most trivial excuses being deemed sufficient. The parents defied the Board, stating that if they were taken before the Magistrates, they were sure to get off.

In 1886, The Board welcomed several new Members, the Revs. Guthery and Martin, Mr. Parrington and Dr. Morgan having resigned, their places were taken by Messrs. E.S. Smith, J. Davis, A. Harkness and W.M. Roche. Forthwith they purchased a site on which to build Hylton Road Schools, and were unanimous in their approval that a Higher Grade School should be established in a central part of the Borough. It was deeply gratifying too to reflect upon the growth of Evening Classes, 135 members attended those at Hendon, 130 those in Stansfield Street, and 186 those at Thomas Street. Even the most abstruse subjects were most enthusiastically attended.

Magnetism and Electricity	...	18
Mathematics	...	36
Physiology	...	16
Agriculture	...	8
Hygiene	...	6
Art Subjects	...	106

Six years later even more subjects were included.

<u>Subjects</u>	<u>Av. Attendance</u>
Practical, Plane & Solid Geometry	...
Machine Construction & Drawing	...
Building Construction	...
Mathematics	...
Theoretical Mechanics	...
	323
	75
	26
	298
	22

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Av. Attendance</u>
Heat, Light & Sound	... 47
Magnetism & Electricity	... 132
Theoretical Organic Chemistry	... 7
Practical " "	... 7
Theoretical Inorganic " "	... 181
Practical " "	... 180
Human Physiology	... 256
Hygiene	... 218
Naval Architecture	... 4
Applied Mechanics	... 48

1891 was a red-letter year in the annals of the School Board, for on April 28th the new Sunderland Higher Grade Boys' School with Mr. G.T. Ferguson, B.A., B.Sc., (London) as Headmaster, and the new Sunderland Higher Grade Girls' School with Miss J.M. Todd, Newnham College Cambridge, as Headmistress, were opened.

Salaries paid at the Higher Grade School, were :-

	<u>Fixed Salary</u>	<u>Interest in Grant.</u>
Headmaster: Trained and Certificated	£130	$\frac{1}{2}$ gross grant plus $\frac{1}{2}$ drawing grant (maximum £420)
1st Assistant: "	£120	Rise £10 p.a. to £150.
2nd " "	£100	" £10 " to £130.
5 Assistants: "	£ 80	" £ 5 " to £100.
Headmistress: "	£100	$\frac{1}{2}$ gross grant plus $\frac{1}{2}$ drawing grant.
1st Assistant: "	£ 90	Rise £10 p.a. to £120.
2nd " "	£ 70	" £10 " to £100.
5 Assistants: "	£ 60	" £2.10.0. p.a. to £70.
Ex pupil Teacher	£ 35	" £2.10.0. " to £45.

Each School consisted of a Lower Section and an Upper Section, these having partly separate Staffs and entirely separate curricula, Regulations, Governments Grants and Inspections. The Lower Section was an Elementary School, taking a rather wide range

of subjects. The Upper Section had different designations at different times; for some yaers it was called "An Organized Science School".

The term "Secondary", as now applied ^{to} Schools was almost unknown in the 19th Century. The Board of Educations first Regulations for Secondary Schools, described as such, were issued in 1902, and the Upper Sections of the Sunderland Bede Higher Grade School, which satisfied those Regulations, were included in the first list of Recognized Secondary Schools published soon after.

The Chemical Laboratories, Physics Laboratories, Workshop, Cookery Room and Art Rooms were added to the Premises as the School developed.

In 1898, the School Board, at Mr. Ferguson's suggestion, introduced the word "Bede", as part of the Schools' name, and in that year the School Magazine, "the Bedan" appeared for the first time.

Pursuant to the Education Act, 1902, a Scheme had in 1904 and early in 1905 been approved by the Board of Education, and the Sunderland Education Authority (a) for the reorganization of the Bede Boys' School and Bede Girls' School (theretofore separate institutions) as a Secondary School to be called the Sunderland Bede Collegiate School, (the word Collegiate being suggested by Mr. G.C. Wight); (b) for the Sunderland Pupil Teachers Centre (also previously a separate institution) to become part of that School and (c) for the whole School to be placed under one Head. Very shortly afterwards Miss Todd was

appointed principal Mistress of the Girls Section of the School, Mr. R.B. Brierley, B.A. (London) was appointed principal Master of the Pupil Teachers' Section and Mr. Ferguson became Headmaster of the whole School.

In August, 1908, Miss Todd died. Her successor, Miss M.E. Boon, M.A. (Manchester), appointed in January, 1909, was principal Mistress till July 31st, 1911.

In July, 1909, Mr. Brierley left the School to take up a post elsewhere. The Board of Education having in 1907 introduced a System of Bursarship and Studentship, alternative to Pupil Teachership, the number of Pupil Teachers under full time instruction thereafter rapidly decreased, and in 1909 averaged only 53. As the number of Pupil Teachers were certain to become still smaller in 1910 and altogether disappear in July, 1911, the Pupil Teachers' Section, (as a more or less distinct part of the School) was abolished in July, 1909. From thence the few remaining Pupil Teachers were taught in the Boys' Section or the Girls' Section, just as all boy Bursars and Student Teachers have always been taught in the Boys' School and the girls in the Girls' School.

In June, 1910, the Board of Education intimated that it would, in any case, require the division of the Bede Collegiate School into a Boys' School and a Girls' School, when the new buildings were provided, and it advised that steps be taken to bring about the division sooner, if possible. Although the Governors were of the opinion that the School had been carried-on most efficiently, successfully and economically, under its present

constitution, the Sunderland Education Committee recommended, especially in view of the new conditions caused by the abolition of the Pupil Teachers' Centre, that the Board of Education's policy, which had lately resulted in the division of many large dual or mixed Secondary Schools, be agreed to. The Committee recommended, "that the Bede School be divided into a Bede Collegiate Boys' School and a Bede Collegiate Girls' School, as from August 1st, 1911; that on that date Mr. Ferguson become Headmaster of the Boys' School and Miss Boon Head mistress of the Girls' School, and that the terms of their present appointment be altered or varied accordingly."

In July, 1926, Mr. Ferguson resigned his position as Headmaster of the Boys' School, and Mr. G.A. Bradshaw, M.Sc., (Manchester) was appointed as his successor.

Today, spacious new premises have been built for each School on adjacent sites in Durham Road, and only last year (October, 1929), Sir Charles Trevelyan, formally opened, what is believed to be, one of the noblest scholastic establishments in the North of England.

But to proceed with the doings of the School Board. On February 29th, 1892, the Free Education Act, came into operation. Previous to this however, the Board had not scrupled to remit the fees of necessitous children, indeed during five months alone in 1877, the following remittances were made :→

Garden Street	...	£1. 2. 1.
Moor	...	21.18. 2.
Thomas Street	...	8.16.11.
James William Street	...	9.18. 0.

In 1892, however, the Board declared twenty-two Departments free, and in twelve other Schools the fees were reduced to one penny per week. The fees at the Higher Grade School were reduced by threepence, the amount of the Free Grant. Similar concessions were made by the Managers of the Voluntary School, many of whom declared their Schools free, while others made a very considerable reduction in the fees.

At the same time the number of Scholars in the Board Schools was augmented by the Board taking over the Colliery School, on the 1st September, and in addition to this they hired the Old Friends' School in Norfolk Street, for the space of two years, until such time as the Hudson Road premises were completed. Next a Junior Department was opened in Valley Road, and in 1894 Chester Road was opened.

Friend Lamb was elected Chairman of the Board in 1895, when the Hudson Road School was opened. About this time too the first Code for Evening Continuation Schools appeared. The abolition of direct examinations had encouraged outsiders to come to the classes, who, although they had previously felt themselves to be in need of instruction, feared the public exposure of their short comings. Unfortunately, so many of the older Schools, taken over by the Board, were hampered on every side through want of space, both with regard to playgrounds cloakrooms, etc. The earlier buildings were so often situated in noisy thoroughfares, and when the windows were open and vehicles

rattled over the cobbles, it was difficult to hear one's own voice and the teacher often had to suspend her lesson.

But the Inspectors complained, most seriously, of what not seldom appeared to be defective discipline in Sunderland. The cane was often needlessly used, even by young Pupil Teachers, who ought to have had no power to inflict punishment. Only too often children who made mistakes in dictation or arithmetic were punished. Surely constant infliction of trivial corporal punishment weakened the moral effect of its use, when a serious correction was necessary.

In 1899, the following Schools received extra grants for Science and Art lessons.

(See next page).

School.	Science Grants.			Art Grants.		
	Day Attendances	Evening Attendances	Grants.	Day Attendances	Evening Attendances	Grants.
Higher Grade } Board School.	-	204.	£115 . 11 . 10d.	-	-	{ £5 . 13 . 9. 5 . 2 . 0 +
School of Science	241	-	£1232 . 16 . 8d	-	-	-
Hudson Road } Board School.	154.	188.	£311 . 9 . 5d	156	-	{ £91 . 12 . 6. 51 . 18 . 0 +
Valley Rd. B.S.	49.	-	£93 . 9 . 3d	30.	-	{ 11 . 3 . 4
School of Science } & Art. Town Hall.	1	105.	£54 . 11 . 7d	60.	123.	{ 328 . 17 . 4. 34 . 4 . 0 +
Boys' Industrial } Sch., Thomas St.	-	35	-	-	-	-
Y.M.C.A.	-	116.	£64 . 9 . 5d.	-	4.	{ £1 . 0 . 4. 14 . 14 . 0 +
Hendon Church } Institute, Smyrna Chapel	-	94.	£34 . 17 . 4.	-	-	£35 . 2 . 0
St. Thomas } Lecture Hall.	-	36.	£11 . 8 . 5	-	-	£2 . 2 . 0d.
Co-operative } -	-	54.	£32 . 18 . 3d.	-	-	-
P.M. Institute } Chester Rd.	-	42.	£41 . 6 . 7d	-	-	-

The last election of the Board was held in 1900, but eye-witnesses tell us that unlike the earliest contests, it was entirely devoid of excitement. The old School Board bequeathed to the new Education Authority, eighteen large Schools and 590 teachers.

(For detailed account, see pages 129 and 130).

Industrial and Charity Schools in existence in 1901:

<u>Schools.</u>		<u>On the Rolls.</u>
Industrial School for Boys, Thomas Street	...	100
" School for Girls, Tatham Street	...	40
Day Industrial School, The Green	...	102
The Orphan Asylum, The Moor	...	40
Donnison School, Church Walk	...	24
Blind Institute, Villier Street	...	19
Total :-		<u>325</u>

1899 -

1900.

1900 - 1901.

District.	Name of School.	Denomination	Accommodation.	Average Attendance.	Government Grant.	Numbers on Rolls.	Grant.
Sunderland.	Bd. James William St.	Un-den.	1389.	1350.	£1502. 7. 0.	1551	£1461. 3. 3
	Moort.	do.	620.	615.	670. 5. 9.	405.	664. 13. 9.
	Gray.	Church	466.	668.	688. 12. 0.	449.	402. 18. 9.
	S. Johns.	do.	450.	346.	351. 16. 6.	420.	324. 3. 0.
North -	Bd. Garden St.	Un-den.	580.	584.	599. 4. 9.	586.	590. 7. 6.
	Diamond Hall.	do.	1899.	1456.	1635. 2. 6.	1834.	1801. 0. 9.
	Simpson St.	do.	1274.	1285.	147. 19. 0.	1,400.	1377. 0. 0.
	Hylton Rd.	do.	1245.	1363.	1531. 6. 6.	1615.	1653. 10. 0.
Bishop -	Chester Rd.	do.	1410.	1566.	1813. 5. 6.	1797.	1854. 6. 0.
	Rectory Park.	Church	1312.	892.	1008. 3. 3.	1041.	982. 9. 6.
	S. Andrews	do.	406.	524.	479. 4. 3.	669.	520. 8. 0.
	S. Lukes.	do.	195.	154.	146. 19. 3.	202.	153. 6. 6.
Wearmouth.	S. Marys.	R.C.	462.	360.	405. 5. 6.	440.	385. 14. 0.
	S. Georges	do.	181.	182.	154. 14. 0.	224.	124. 7. 0.
	S. Josephs.	do.	544.	442.	444. 16. 9.	542.	444. 6. 6.
	Trimdon St.	Wes.	144.	144.	125. 19. 0.	192.	-
South -	Bd. Hendon	Un-den.	1672.	1649.	1896. 5. 0.	1861.	1862. 16. 3.
	do. Valley	do.	1713.	1541.	1701. 12. 3.	1667.	1676. 9. 3d
	Bede Highw.	do.	420.	471.	601. 11. 0.	551.	403. 14. 3.
	Hudson Rd.	do.	940.	1000.	1124. 5. 3.	1123.	1154. 7. 6.
Bishop -	S. Pauls.	Church	484.	492.	493. 12. 6.	541.	501. 0. 0.
	S. Patricks.	R.C.	495.	477.	476. 8. 6.	584.	456. 8. 4.
	Robinson St.	Wes.	301.	162.	161. 19. 9.	201.	196. 19. 0.
	King St.	Wes.	365.	323.	281. 18. 0.	413.	294. 2. 6.
Monk -	Bd. Thomas St.	Un-den.	1644.	1651.	1842. 17. 0.	1718.	1732. 15. 5.
	Stanfield St.	do.	1350.	1425.	1541. 10. 3.	1369.	1483. 18. 9.
	Collicry	do.	1010.	975.	1094. 1. 0.	1066.	1050. 8. 9.
	Redby.	do.	1504.	-	-	425.	200. 12. 4.
Wearmouth.	Church Schools	Church	654.	659.	423. 3. 6.	449.	425. 4. 6.
	S. Benets.	R.C.	653.	661.	649. 17. 6.	492.	639. 4. 9.

Summary:-

District.	Undernom.	Church.	R.C.	Wes.	Total.	Dep'ts.	Av. Attend.	1899 - 1900.		1900 - 1901.	
								Govt. Grant.	On Rolls.	Govt. Grant.	On Rolls.
Sunderland	2.	2	0	0	4	12.	3 009.	£3213. 1. 3d.	3425	£3152. 18. 9d.	
North	5.	3	3	1	12	30.	8,958	£9499 0. 3d.	10,542.	£10019. 9. 0.	
Bishopwearmouth											
South	4.	1.	1.	2.	8	21.	6115	£6434. 12. 3.	6944.	£6848. 17. 6.	
Bishopwearmouth.											
Monk-	4.	1.	1.	0.	6	29.	5341.	£5881. 9. 3d.	6119	£5832. 4. 4d.	
wearmouth											
Totals:-	15.	4.	5.	3.	30.	82.	23,453.	£25611. 3. 0d.	23549	£25853. 9. 7.	

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Private Schools:-

District	School House.	a. Under 9 ^d per week.			b. Above 9 ^d per week.			Total.	Accommodation.	On Rolls.	On Rolls.
		Dwelling House.	School House.	Total.	Dwelling House.	School House.	Total.				
E. & W.											
Sunderland	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
North	-	2	1	2	-	1	1.	65	20	20	
Bishopwearmouth											
West	-	-	1	-	2	1	3.	82.	53.		
Central.											
South	-	3	4.	3	6.	4.	10.	405.	539.		
Bishopwearmouth											
Monk-	1.	-	-	1.	2.	-	2.	95.	64.		
Wearmouth.											
Totals:-	1.	5.	6.	10.	10.	10.	16.	944.	646.		

General Scale of Payment in operation in 1900.

Schools with Accommodation of 300 or more

Headmaster .. £225 p.a. to rise £5 p.a. to £250

Headmistress .. £125 " " " £5 " " £150

350 or More:

Headmaster .. £250 " " " £5 " " £275

Headmistress .. £145 " " " £5 " " £170

400 or Over:

Headmaster .. £275 " " " £5 " " £300

Headmistress .. £165 " " " £5 " " £190

450 or Over:

Headmaster .. £300 " " " £5 " " £325

Headmistress .. £185 " " " £5 " " £210

475 or Over:

Headmaster .. £325 " " " £5 " " £350

Headmistress .. £200 " " " £5 " " £225

Assistant Master, trained & certificated .. £80 p.a. rising £5 p.a.
to £100 & £10 p.a. to £150

" " certificated only .. £75 p.a. rising £5 p.a.
to £100 & £10 p.a. to £140

" " ex P.T. .. £50 p.a. rising £5 p.a.
to £65.

Assistant Mistress, trained & Certificated £70 p.a. rising £2.10.0.p.a.
to £80 & £5 p.a. to £100.

" " certificated only .. £65 p.a. rising £2.10.0.p.a.
to £80.

" " ex P.T. .. £40 p.a. rising £2.10.0.p.a.
to £50.

" " Article 68 .. £30 p.a.

But we must not imagine that the Board Schools superseded all the Private Venture Academies. There always were, are and will be, parents who believe that Public Elementary Schools are too rough, or that their children are too delicate, or may become "uncouth" or illmannered through "rubbing shoulders", (as Sunderland people express it) with the common herd.

In the early seventies one of the principal Girls' Schools was that of Miss Rhind and her sister, in Grange Crescent, where a most efficient Girls' School was conducted. She was assisted by a Master and also a German lady, who resided with her, and she charged Thirty Guineas a year for boarders. These ladies first began School in Nelson Street, and afterwards removed to St. George's Square. They were most excellently qualified, the elder lady had studied abroad, and ^{the} younger possessed a diploma for proficiency in Teaching. In addition to French and German, both taught by natives, instruction in dancing was given by the renowned Monsieur d'Albert. Later the School was sold to Miss McCormack, who removed to Claremont Terrace.

Other first rate Girls' Schools were those of Miss Sheriff, in Nelson Street, Miss Stone in Salem House, and Miss Hunter of John Street. Music, singing, French and German were taught at Miss Vaux Seminary in Norfolk Street.

About 1870, a Mrs. Archdale conducted a School in Argyle Street, which was later transferred to Dauro Terrace, where it became known as Claremont House School. She sold it, in 1882, to a Miss Forster, and since then it has changed hands several

times, the names of its proprietresses being, Miss Arkell, Miss Bowman and Miss Lumsden. Just over a year ago (1928) its present owner removed the School to Roker, where it enjoys a most charming situation, fronting the sea.

In Borough Road the Misses Dunk had a Girls' School, while at the South End of Park Lane, in a large house near to North Grange, Mrs. Read carried on a similar establishment. In a large house in Stockton Road (now Jireh Chapel) for many years the Misses Smith conducted a School for Girls, and there was, about the same time, quite a large seminary in Athol Park, of which the Misses Parker, whose Father was Pastor at Smyrna Chapel, were the teachers. The Misses Fowles, two highly educated ladies, also ran a School in 17, Villier Street.

Nearly sixty years ago too there stood, on the site of the present Williamson Terrace Chapel playground in Charles Street, a Lady Williamson School, which possessed a yard for recreation, high above the footpath, railed round to make it safe, and with stone-steps leading up to the School. There was another School behind the Scottish Church, whose Schoolmaster, by name, James Cameron, was a very stern man, but a good teacher, "with his cane always on the table close beside him". His School was a very large one, but his School yard was but six feet square. Yet boys came from as far afield as Hylton Castle, leaving their "cuddies in Peter Lockey's stable", during their stay in School.

There were many "private" Schools in Monkwearmouth, about this time. Mr. Willisee, "a most lovable, painstaking master" held his

School, in the Union Yard. He was a very capable teacher of navigation and many well known seafaring men became Master mariners under his tuition. Mrs. and Miss Lee conducted a School for young ladies, in the Broad Street, in a house possessing a balcony, just a little to the west of the Dispensary. Mr. Morris kept a School at the back of Barrington Street, and Mr. Colvin at the back of Barclay Street, beneath the Shipwrights' Society Rooms. Mr. Torbitt's School, in the Dame Dorothy Street Chapel room, was very well known. This gentleman also kept a grocery and stationer's shop in Church Street, and the story runs that one afternoon, about 1.30, the boys were waiting for the School to open, when the Master's daughter, with a very doleful face, was seen coming up the back lane. She said "I am sorry to say Mr. Torbitt has dropped a 4 stone weight on his toes and is unable to come to School this afternoon"; whereupon the boys scampered in all directions, raising a whoop of triumph at the unexpected holiday, "hurrah, hurrah".

Many orphans and widows, in this Town, have just cause to bless the name of Mr. George Hudson; for by his Will, dated November, 1870, he desired that the interest of his Estate should be expended on the education, maintenance, support and clothing of Orphan boys and girls, between the ages of 8 and 14 years, at the ratio of $\frac{2}{3}$ boys and $\frac{1}{3}$ girls; twenty of the boys being the sons of sailors or pilots belonging to the Port of Sunderland and twenty more having been born and lived within the limits of the Parish of Monkwearmouth. The majority of the children live

at home and attend the Board Schools, the amounts paid towards their upkeep varying from £9 to £30 per annum. Mr. Fred Forrest, formerly Headmaster of the Gray School, was appointed Superintendent of the Charity, and it is his duty to visit the Schools and Institutions, to inspect the children, and to superintend their physical condition; he is also concerned with the future careers of the children.

Almost at the same time as Mr. Hudson was making his kindly provision for the Orphans, a School House, which had once been the foremost in the North, began to hum with life, afresh. The ghost of Dr. Cowan must have been well pleased when Mr. Tom McLaren, took over the Grange School and once more opened it as a Boys' Academy. Herewith is a copy of the syllabus, circulated at the opening, and most kindly lent by his honoured Widow :-

"The course of instruction is so arranged as to give pupils a thorough grounding in every branch of elementary knowledge, as well as to afford special facilities for their preparation for either a commercial or professional career.

In addition to the ordinary subjects, the following are taught :-

Higher Mathematics: including trigonometry, Euclid, algebra, natural philosophy, mensuration and book-keeping.

Science: including chemistry, acoustics, light and heat, physiology, electricity, etc.

Advanced English: including analysis, paraphrasing, re-writing in prose, ancient history and geography.

Classics: Latin and Greek Grammars, translations from different authors, selected for Oxford, Cambridge and Durham, College of Preceptors, Preliminary Law, Medical Registration and Preliminary Pharmaceutical Examinations.

Fees:

Preparatory Class	...	10/- per Term	
1st Class	...	£1. 0.0.	"
2nd "	...	£1.10.0.	2
3rd "	...	£2. 0.0.	"

Extra Fees are charged for instruction in French, German, Drawing, Painting, Music and Drill".

With such a curriculum and with a Head like Mr. McLaren, excellent work was done at the School. It was run on modern lines, each subject being taught by a specialist, who was either on the Staff or a Visiting Master. The physical well-being of the boys was ever an outstanding feature of the Training, (the house of the Little Sisters of the Poor now stands on the ground which was once the School playing field). Cricket and Rugby football were regularly indulged in and a Fencing Class and Swimming Club were organized. The School was also the proud possessor of a Minstrel Troupe, which was always ready to help any deserving cause.

The great rivals of Mr. McLaren's boys were those of Mr. Hanna. Fifty years ago the latter gentleman came to Sunderland as an assistant to Mr. Walton, who carried-on a School in Murton Street, but in 1884, he severed this connection, and established his own School at Argyle House, with one pupil, Mr. Percy Watson. In 1891, Mr. Thomas Gash became assistant master at the School, and twelve years later he was taken into partnership. Later Mr. James Hanna, son of the now deceased Head of the School, joined as a partner also.

Another of the "old brigade" was Mr. Moffat, whose School was in South Durham Street. He was a good sound teacher who did not spare the rod, and many of his boys came to hold prominent positions in the Town.

Again, there was the Reverend Reginald Yeld, whose School, at the North Grange, and later at the South Gate House, Vine Place, was a very superior establishment. Mr. Yeld also assisted at St. Paul's Church, but when the State-aided Schools drove him out of the field of action, he was appointed, first Vicar of Birtley, and later Rector of Houghton; let us hope he proved a worthy successor of Mr. Bernard Gilpin. Yeld's School possessed a Playing field, on what is now Cedars Crescent, Ryhope Road, and one day McLaren's boys issued a challenge to them to a game of Rugby. Their chief support was Mr. Norman Cox, later an international, and his reputation alone, struck a chill into the hearts of his opponents. But it was at snowball time that Tom McLaren's and Pat Hanna's lads obtained most fun. Then it was that they picked twenty aside and "Pat's" lads took up

their stand on what was then the Band Stand in the Play Park. Alas, soon their ammunition was cut short, and they were compelled to surrender.

A most fiery tempered gentleman and a strong upholder of the birch-rod was Mr. Jacky Martin, who opened a School in Walworth Street; while of a more peaceful disposition was the Reverend Henry Martin, who conducted a Boys' School in the Avenue. This gentleman was in the habit of examining the Scripture Examination papers, set by the Sunday School Union. When presenting the prizes, to the successful competitors, he used to entertain his audience with some of the "Howlers", until one of the more godly brethren complained of his wickedness in "makkin gam' o' the bairns", and so the fun ceased.

Messrs. Stiles and Saunders had a Nautical School in Lodge Terrace, about sixty years ago, which later removed to Cousin Street. The members who were studying for their "tickets" were granted permission to practice on the Orphan Asylum Ship, once a month.

On Saturday, November 16th, 1929, Mr. Irwin Sharp, celebrated his 88th birthday. After being connected with various Schools in the South of England, he came to Sunderland about fifty-six years ago, and opened a School in Belle Vue Park, afterwards he removed to the end of Ennerdale. After being engaged in scholastic work for upwards of fifty-five years, he retired and took up Secretarial work, until about nine years ago. Among those he taught were Mr. Vaughan Nash, private secretary to the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. H.S. Luke, R.A.

In 1883, some of the prominent citizens of Sunderland approached the Church Schools Company Limited, asking them to establish one of their Schools here. The Church High School was opened in one of the houses in Toward Road, pending the building of the present premises, the foundation stone of which was laid in February, 1887, by the then Dowager Maarchoness of Londonderry.

The Church Schools Company owes its origin to Archbishop Benson, who desired to establish Schools up and down the Country, where definite teaching of the Church of England was given, so as to ensure that girls of the middle classes had the same priveleges as those enjoyed in the Elementary Church Schools. The President of the Company was the Duke of Connaught, and the two Archbishops and many other eminent men, were Vice-Presidents of the Council. Archdeacon Long was the first Chairman of the Local Committee.

Under the most able leadership of Miss Ironside the School has prospered to a remarkable degree; a boarding school and preparatory department have been opened in the spacious house which was once th e Bishopwearmouth Pectory, and the Schools ideal is not so much to gain purely academic honours, as to train gentlewomen to take their rightful place in the world.

About the same time a High School for Boys was opened as a private venture, by the Reverend - Adamson, but alas it was speedily closed. Later the Reverend W.R. Blenkinsopp opened, at the corner of St. George's Square, a School which had

very similar aims and ideals, and which even today continues its excellent work of "preparing" those lucky lads whose parents' purses permit them to pass on to one of the great Public Schools.

A private School was established, about fifty years ago, by the Misses Lennox, in Albion Place. After a few years had elapsed, it became so well attended that they were able to remove to Westfield House, opposite to what is now the Sunderland Technical College. Here, it continued to grow and flourish, so that a second removal became necessary, when it was transferred to the Grange School (the ancient abode of Dr. Cowan and Mr. Tom McLaren). It then became known as the "Grange Boarding and Day School for Girls". Ill health caused Miss Lennox to retire in 1916, when it was bought by Miss Preston and Miss Vaux, who had been the assistant Mistresses for many years. Unfortunately, in 1925, the Sunderland Education Authority bought the School-buildings and the land attached, and turned it into a Centre for Domestic Science. The Grange School was then removed to Holmlea, a modern house in extensive grounds, where it continues to grow. Today it exists as a private School, with between 130 and 140 pupils, carrying-out a modern system of education and preparing for all Public Examinations.

We, in Sunderland, possessed towards the beginning of the last Century, (1827) a Mechanics Institute, but during the course of years it failed to continue its good work, and was to all intents and purposes, useless. Yet in 1873 a new venture, on

somewhat similar lines, was carried into effect, this time on the North side of the River Wear. Sir Hedworth Williamson conveyed a piece of land on the west side of Whitburn Street to Captain Edward Calver, subject to the yearly rental of Three Pounds. The latter gentleman, with the aid of voluntary subscriptions, had built on the site a Club Room which was to be known as the Workmens' Hall. This was intended to be used by the workmen of Monkwearmouth, as a means of instruction, and for the diffusion of useful knowledge, "for the foundation and maintenance of a Library and Reading Room for general use among the workers, for the purpose of promoting temperance and the religious and moral instruction and improvement of themselves, their families and their fellow workmen". An Executive Committee was elected, consisting of a President, and other Office Bearers. Any working-man of eighteen years or more could become a member, on payment of twopence per week, one shilling per quarter, or four shillings yearly.

In 1900 the premises were mainly used as a social Club for the workmen, but since there was a Free Library and also Continuation Evening Classes, then in existence, under the Sunderland School Board, further educational Efforts were discontinued, although as late as 1904, there were 144 ordinary, and 19 honourary members still on the books.

But early in the nineties the County Borough decided to build a College, with the money allocated to the Borough for Technical Instruction, in 1890, and in June 1896, a site was

purchased on the Bishopwearmouth Green. Five years afterwards on September 13th, 1901, the College was formally opened, the total cost of its erection being £27,800. In the year following, a further sum of £3,000 was subscribed, for the proper equipment of the Engineering and Mechanics Laboratories, by a number of local Engineering firms, of which Sir Robert Bartram was the principal benefactor.

The Sunderland Technical College has for many years past done yeoman service in the training of lads and men for the work in this Town, in which more skill was required, than could be obtained in the ordinary shipyard, engineering works or workshop. The College includes Departments in Mathematics and Mechanics, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Naval Architecture, Pharmacy, Botany, Materia Medica, providing fulltime courses of University standard leading to external degrees of the University of London, in Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Science.

In the evening grouped courses of study in the higher branches of Mathematics, Engineering, Physics, Chemistry, Naval Architecture and Mining are held for the benefit of the technical staffs of the Engineering and Shipbuilding Works in the district.

The Governors of the College, have in the past, provided only for the technical branches of the chief Industries of this Town, but their continued policy may be said to encourage the growth of the number of full-time students qualified to proceed to a course of study leading to a University Degree.

The College possesses a large number of endowed Scholarships, there are, among many others, "The Bartram Bequests for Naval Architecture", and the Council of the County Borough, provide annually, twenty-five Free Scholarships for three or four years full-time Courses. Many prizes are also given for proficiency.

To conclude, on a personal note, a few months ago, upon the invitation of the Reverend Mother Superior, I was privileged to attend the Montessori School, conducted by the Sisters of Mercy, at Oak Lea. There, seated in a quiet corner, I watched the little ones at work. I followed their efforts, from the tiniest, who were perfecting their sense of sound and touch, to those who, having advanced further, were yet always willing to help their younger sisters and brothers. As I sat, my mind drifted to another scene, I pictured the lot of those children, who had been born fifty years previously, all huddled together in one small, ill-ventilated room, and I contrasted the quiet feeling of order, with the noise and confusion, the kindly Sisters, standing by, ever watchful and ready to help, with the Dame, her tattered lesson-book, crabbed expression and fearsome cane.

For we are living, at length, in a Century when it is almost universally recognized that the child, as the actor on the stage of the future, has come into its own. The parents of the children, looking back upon the struggles which they themselves underwent

and the only too frequent gloomy days of childhood, have resolved, that in so far as it lies within their power, their little ones shall benefit to the full.

So the Twentieth Century child profits to an extent scarce dreamt of in the past. Shades of our Grandfathers, surely Utopia must be drawing nigh. Montessori and Infants Schools, for the little ones; free education, (although compulsory) for all, with cheerful surroundings; Central, Technical and Secondary Schools are open to those who can pass the Test, and a "Goal" for the sons and daughters of even the very poor, if only brain power and sufficient ambition, are combined - the University - with its endless store of wealth of the first order.

Yet, Scripture saith, "By their fruits ye shall know them". Those who sat at the feet of Dr. Cowan, Robert Cameron, Peter and James Wood, Tom McLaren and a host of others, have passed their traditions on to us. Their challenge awaits us: "To what good use will your children put their glorious advantages and opportunities" ?

What is the answer to be?

Just the other day, a copy of a memorandum dated 1925, on "Education in Tropical Africa", was put into my hand, which stressed, in a wonderful way, the most important part played by the teacher in the formation of the youthful character. It reads in this wise "Material prosperity, without a corresponding growth

in the moral capacity to turn it to a good use, constitutes a danger. The well being of a Country must depend, in the last resort, on the character of its people, on their increasing intellectual and technical ability and on their social progress. A policy which aims at the improvement of the condition of the people must therefore be a primary concern of the Government and one of the first charges of its Revenue. But success in realising the ideals of education must depend largely on the outlook of those who control policy and on their capacity and enthusiasm ... Education should strengthen the feeling of responsibility to the community, it should strengthen the will power, should make the conscience sensitive both to moral and intellectual truth, and should impart some power to discriminate between good and evil, between reality and superstition".

Under such circumstances does it not behove the Teacher, because of his lofty vocation to have an aim or end or ideal so that he may, in some degree, through his influence, raise the standard alike of character and efficiency of the bulk of the people? History shows time and again, that "devotion to some spiritual ideal is the deepest source of inspiration in the discharge of public duty. Such influences ^{should} permeate the whole life of the School. Of such influence is the discipline of work. Field-games and social recreation, and intercourse, are influences at least as important as class-room instruction. The formation of habits of industry, of truthfulness, of manliness, of readiness for social service, and of disciplined co-operation,

is the foundation of Character".

The hope of the future then would appear to lie in the personality and outlook of the Teacher. Again, Dr. Cowan, Robert Cameron, the Wood Brothers, Tom McLaren and the others, worked by power of their ideals and character. Can we pass on the torch they carried, and who will catch the "fire" from us?

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