

ON THE FOUNDATION AND HISTORY OF  
BOTELER'S FREE GRAMMAR SCHOOL AT WARRINGTON.

*By John Fitchett Marsh, Esq.*

(READ 7TH FEBRUARY, 1856.)

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After one of our meetings, at which mention had incidentally been made of the Grammar School established at Warrington in 1526, I was requested to make it the subject of a paper; and I promised to put into such a form as might be suitable for a page of our transactions some notes which I have from time to time collected, on the names of the various persons whom I have been able to trace as having filled the office of schoolmaster. It afterwards appeared to me that an account of the foundation deed and a sketch of the history of the school might not be without interest, not only with reference to the particular institution, as a subject of local history, peculiarly within the province of this society, but as illustrative of the state of manners and opinion at that remarkable era in our literary and religious history, of which the foundation of grammar schools was a striking characteristic.

A large proportion of these schools owed their foundation to charters from King Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth, granting to them the endowments of chauntries, suppressed under the statute 1 Edward VI. c. 14, which, after reciting that "a great part of superstitions and errors in Christian religion hath been brought into the minds ~~and~~ estimations of men, by reason of their ignorance of their very true and perfect salvation through the death of Jesus Christ, and by devizing and fantazying vain opinions of purgatory and masses satisfactory, to be done for them which be departed, the which doctrine and vain opinion by nothing more is maintained and upholden than by the abuse of trentals, chauntries, and other provisions made for the continuance of the said blindness and ignorance, and further considering that the alteration, change, and amendment of the same, and converting to good and godly uses, as in *erecting of grammar schools to the education of youth in virtue and godliness*, and the further augmenting the universities, and better provision for the poor and needy, cannot in this present parliament be provided and conveniently done," authorises the

seizure to the king's use of all lands and possessions for the maintenance of chauntry priests, and the payment into the exchequer of rent-charges appropriated to superstitious uses. But the endowment of schools for the cultivation of classical learning had a prior and independent origin. For some years before the altered relations of the Defender of the Faith with the Court of Rome led to the dissolution of the monasteries, the monastic system had been tottering to its fall: and the exposure of its corruption had prepared the public mind for a measure so violent, that even Henry would not have ventured on it, if he had not felt confident that his designs were seconded by the national will. In the meantime, the revival of classical learning on the continent, and the general enfranchisement of the human mind, which accompanied the agitation of the questions raised by the early reformers, awakened many, even among those who had seen no reason to abandon their allegiance to the Romish church, to the necessity for providing those means for the advancement of learning which the monasteries had ceased to afford. Thus about the year 1515, we find Richard Fox, Bishop of Lincoln, whose foundation of Corpus Christi College at Oxford was originally intended for a monastic establishment, diverted from his purpose by the remonstrance of Hugh Oldham, Bishop of Exeter (himself the founder of the Manchester Grammar School in 1510) urging him to provide for the increase of learning rather than "build houses and provide livelihoods for a company of bussing monks, whose end and fall they themselves might live to see." (*Holinshead's Chronicle*, iii. 617, ed. 1808.) In the same spirit colleges and schools were about this time founded in considerable numbers by royal and individual liberality. Of those which are referred to the former source it is perhaps unnecessary to enquire how many are really indebted to royal munificence, and how many owe nothing to the monarchs whose names they bear, beyond the trouble of affixing the sign manual to the warrant for issuing a charter.

Our Warrington Grammar School owes neither lands nor charter to royal favor; but is indebted for its foundation to the pious bounty of Sir Thomas Boteler of Bewsey, one of the heroes of Flodden, whose knightly family, as lords of Warrington from a period very shortly after the conquest, have been more than once mentioned in the transactions of this society. By his will, dated 16th August, 12 Henry VIII. (1520), after reciting that he had "deleyvit by indenture tripartede into the custody and kepyng of the righte revende Father in God John Abbotte of Whalley fyve hundrethe markes



in golde savelly to be kepte to his use and to be disposede at his pleasure," declares that "it is his full will and mynde that his executors should have the disposicon and orderyng of the said sume of fyve hundrethe markes to purchase and obteyne lands tents or rentes to the yerely value of ten pounds above all charges or as myche thereof as should be unprovidett and purchased by him and therewith to found a fre gram scole in Weryngton to endure for ev̄ and to susteyne and beire the charges of the same and the residue of the saide fyve hundreth markes whiche should remayne aft̄ the said land p̄chasede and all costes and charges consnyng the said fundacon of the saide gram scole made & hade he willed that his executors should have the disposicon thereof to dispose for his soule and his wyffe's soule and for the mayntennce of that his p̄sente testamente And it was his will that his executors duryng their sevall lyves and aft̄ their decease that his heires from tyme to tyme should denoiate name and appoynte an honeste preste groundely lernede in gram to be maist of the said scole whiche should say masse pray and do dyvine s̄vice at the poche church of Weryngton for the soule of him the saide Sir Thomas Dame Margarete his wyffe his auncetors and his heires after their deceases and that all statuts and ordynnces concernyng the fundacon of the saide scole should be made and stablysshede by him and his said executors."

Sir Thomas set about the good work in his life time; for by a codicil, dated 27th February, 13 Henry VIII. (1522), after reciting that "his trusty srv̄nts S<sup>r</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Plutre and Rauf Alyn at his costs and charges to his use & to the p̄fomace of his last will had p̄chased certen mesis lands and tents in Tyldesley and Weryngton," he willed "that the said feoffees should stand seasyd of all the said mesis lands & tents w<sup>t</sup> all their appt̄nce to thuse of the fundacon of the free gram scole as is compset in his said will and the same mesis lands and tents to be made sure to the same use by thadvise of his executors and their counsell lerned."

He died on the 27th April, 1522; and his pious intentions were carried into effect by an indenture dated the 16th April, 1526, to which date I have accordingly referred the foundation of the school. The deed is made between Thomas Boteler, Esquire, son and heir of Sir Thomas Boteler, of the first part, Dame Margret Boteler, late wife of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Sir Thom, Ranulph Pole Clerke, Rich<sup>d</sup> Sneyde Esq., & Will<sup>m</sup> Plumtre Chapleyn, Executors\* of

\* A few words on the names of the executors may not be out of place. Dame Margaret, the testator's widow, was the daughter of John Delves, of Doddington, and is

the testament and last will of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Tho. Boteler of the second part, Sir Richard Bolde K<sup>t</sup> and 15 other knights, esquires, & gentlemen, four of whom had married daughters of the testator, the intended trustees (or feoffees as they were then styled) of the third part, and S<sup>r</sup>\* Richard Taylor, clerk, named deputed & ordained schoolm<sup>r</sup> of A new Free School made & ordained

said to have subsequently married Richard Butler, of Rawcliffe. Ranulph Pole is described in the attestation to the will as Parson of Hawardyn. Richard Sneyd, was recorder of Chester, and four times chosen member of Parliament for that city. In 19 Henry VIII. he purchased from John Cheney the manor of Wistaston, which has descended to the Sneyds of Bradwell and Keele, in the county of Stafford. (See *Orm. Chesh.* iii. 256.) Sir Thomas Boteler, who by his will confirms a fee or annual rent of twenty shillings by the year to his trusty frende Richard Sneyde for his counsel to him given, appears to have selected him with a view to his professional knowledge, as one of the executors, which office he also filled to Thomas, second Earl of Derby, who died 24th May, 18 Henry VIII. (See *Seacombe's House of Stanley*, p. 43.) The name of William Plumtre occurs in various documents of the period. Sir Thomas, by his will, directs certain feoffees, in whom he had already vested the advowson of the parish church of Warrington for that purpose, to "psente to be pson of the said churche when it shall happe to be next void my well-beloved chapleyne Sir William Plumtre preste for the gode love zeile and favor that I beire to the said Sir William and to thentente that he shall daily pray for me;" and makes a pecuniary provision for him until he should be promoted to some benefice of the yearly value of £20 or above. Notwithstanding the testator charges his son and heir, Thomas Boteler, upon his blessing, to suffer the said Sir William peaceably to be presented and inducted into the said church, it does not seem that the arrangement was ever carried into effect; for it appears from Randle Holme's notes on Warrington Church, printed in *Baines*, from the Harl. MSS., that Richard Delves, parson of the Church, died 22nd November, 1527, and on the 27th September, 35 Henry VIII. (1544), we find Sir William Plumtre in possession of the church of the dissolved Augustine Priory of Warrington, under a lease from the great monastic grantee, Thomas Holcroft, (see *Beaumont's Warrington* in 1465, p. xlvii.) while in the 34 Henry VIII., as I shall have to notice presently, the rectory of Warrington was held by Edward Keble, and an arrangement made which rendered it, for 200 years, of very little value to his successor.

\* The use of "Sir," as a clerical title, even down to the time of Shakespeare, is as familiar to the reader of early poetry as to the legal antiquary, who meets with the title so often in formal documents like the present, that he cannot share the evident surprise of Tyrwhitt, in his Glossary to Chaucer, "that it has crept *even* into Acts of Parliament." The precise import of the title has not, however, been much considered. Sir Walter Scott, speaking of the usage in Scotland at the end of the fourteenth century, observes that "all the priests of the period, who were called from that circumstance the Pope's knights, received the honorable title of *Dominus*, contracted into *Dom* or *Dan*, or translated into *Sir*, the title of reverence due to the secular chivalry." (*Fair Maid of Perth*, ch. xx.) Archdeacon Nares, in his Glossary, also speaks of it as a title "applied to priests and curates in general," explaining that *Dominus*, the academical title of a bachelor of arts, was usually rendered by *Sir* in English at the Universities, so that a bachelor, who in the books stood '*Dominus Brown*,' was in conversation called '*Sir Brown*.' He adds, that this was in use in some colleges even in his memory, but not, as in the instances found in Chaucer and Shakespeare, prefixed to the Christian name. Fuller observes that "such priests as have the addition of *Sir* before their Christian name were men not graduated in the university, being in *orders* but not in *degrees*, whilst others, entitled *masters*, had commenced in the *arts*: and generally founders of chauntries preferred priests not beneficed to those places, as best at leisure constantly to attend the same." (*Church History*, b. vi. p. 352.) [Since the foregoing was written, the subject has been discussed in *Notes and Queries*.]



by those presents at Warrington in y<sup>e</sup> county of Lanc. of y<sup>e</sup> fourth part. It commences with a recital that "y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Boteler k<sup>t</sup> Right virtuously calling to his good remembrance y<sup>t</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> county & shire of Lanc. be very few schools of Gram<sup>r</sup> Whereby mens sons might learn gram<sup>r</sup> to y<sup>e</sup> Intent y<sup>t</sup> they thereby might y<sup>e</sup> better learn to know Allmighty G<sup>d</sup> & to serve him according to y<sup>r</sup> Duties by Virtue wherof they might y<sup>e</sup> better avoid and eschew all vices & use good man<sup>r</sup> thinking also inwardly in his heart that throw y<sup>e</sup> Grace & Goodnes of All<sup>ty</sup> G<sup>d</sup> many poor child<sup>n</sup> & yong men applying themselves to learn gram<sup>r</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> is y<sup>e</sup> originall ground and fountayn out of y<sup>e</sup> w<sup>ch</sup> doth proceed & spring y<sup>e</sup> very mean & plain way to come to y<sup>e</sup> clear und<sup>r</sup>standing of Good liveing might approach to such knōlege of y<sup>e</sup> light of grace y<sup>t</sup> p<sup>ch</sup>ance they might happen to be y<sup>e</sup> very clear lanthorn of Good Example in Vertuous living to all y<sup>e</sup> country thereabouts to y<sup>e</sup> good encrease and use of vertue and expulsion of all vices fully intended & purposed to have established founded and made A free Gram<sup>r</sup> school in Warrington<sup>n</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> if it had pleased All<sup>ty</sup> G<sup>d</sup> to have sufferd him to have livd in y<sup>e</sup> transitory life few years longer than he did Wherefore & for as much as it pleased All<sup>ty</sup> G<sup>d</sup> to take him to his infinite mercy before y<sup>e</sup> establishm<sup>t</sup> & Foundat<sup>n</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> same Gram<sup>r</sup> school yet y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thomas Boteler by his last will and testam<sup>t</sup> declared and willed y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Gram<sup>r</sup> School sh<sup>d</sup> be after his Death founded and made for ever to endure Wherefore as well y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Thomas Boteler son and Heir of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thomas & y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> executors of y<sup>e</sup> Testam<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thomas as y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Rich<sup>d</sup> Bold and other his co-feoffies afores<sup>d</sup> consid<sup>ng</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Blessed mind and Good Purpose of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thom. in y<sup>e</sup> Premises as is before declared and intending y<sup>e</sup> perfect execution of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> laste will of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thom<sup>s</sup> and the Accomplishm<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> same have ordeynd establisht and made & by these Presents done ordeyn establish and make A free Gram<sup>r</sup> school to be kept and holden for ever in Warrington afores<sup>d</sup> and also divers convenient ordenances and estatutes concerning y<sup>e</sup> same as hereafter done ensue."

I will not trouble you with that portion of the deed which relates to the appointment of trustees, the vesting in them of the trust estates, and the provisions for future management, as it is not only comparatively uninteresting, but is accessible in the reports of the Charity Commissioners. It may therefore suffice to say that by the deed under notice, and a deed therein referred to of even date, a house in Warrington, set in a lane there called Baglane, and a croft adjoining, are set apart for the use of the school-

master, to be called the School House of Warrington; and lands in Lancashire and Cheshire, including those specifically mentioned in the codicil, are vested in the feoffees to the use of the schoolmaster. Provisions are also made for the appointment of new trustees, and for granting leases of the lands to the schoolmaster for terms of 60 years determinable with his life; and it is provided that "whensoever y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Sir Rich<sup>d</sup> Taylor now made schoolm<sup>r</sup> by these presents or any other schoolm<sup>r</sup> there shall happen to decease or to be amoved from y<sup>e</sup> mastership or rowme of schoolm<sup>r</sup> of the s<sup>d</sup> Free School for any cause hereafter declared that then y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Dame Margret Ranulph Rich<sup>d</sup> & W<sup>m</sup> Plumtre and y<sup>e</sup> overliv<sup>rs</sup> of y<sup>m</sup> shall name and appoint anoth<sup>r</sup> honest and discreet Priest sufficiently and groundedly learned in gram<sup>r</sup> & able to teach gram<sup>r</sup> to be schoolm<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school for Term of his life & after y<sup>e</sup> Decease of y<sup>e</sup> same Dame Margret Ranulph Pole Rich<sup>d</sup> Sneyde and W<sup>m</sup> Plumtre that then Thom<sup>s</sup> Boteler son & heir of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thom<sup>s</sup> Boteler & his Heirs of his body begotten And for default of Heirs of his Body then his right Heirs from time to time whensoever y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school shall happen to fall void of a schoolm<sup>r</sup> by Death or oth<sup>r</sup>wise shall name appoint & put in another honest & Discreet Priest groundedly seen & learnd in gram<sup>r</sup> & able to teach gram<sup>r</sup> to be schoolm<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Free school And if it happen y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Thom<sup>s</sup> Boteler or his Heirs of his Body & for lack of Heirs of his Body his right Heirs within A month next after y<sup>e</sup> Advoudance of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> to be neglig<sup>t</sup> & remiss & do not name appoint & put in another schoolm<sup>r</sup> when & as often as y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Free school shall fall void as is before declar'd that then y<sup>e</sup> Parson of Warrington afores<sup>d</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being and his Success<sup>rs</sup> Parsons of Warrington afores<sup>d</sup> shall have for that time only y<sup>e</sup> nomination & putting in of A new schoolm<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Gram<sup>r</sup> School as often as y<sup>e</sup> same Free School shall fall void as is afores<sup>d</sup> & in case y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parson or any his success<sup>rs</sup> Parsons of Warrington afores<sup>d</sup> shall happen to be negligent & remiss & do not name nor put in an able Honest and Discreet Priest as is afores<sup>d</sup> to be schoolm<sup>r</sup> of the s<sup>d</sup> Free School by y<sup>e</sup> space of anoth<sup>r</sup> month then next following that then the Warden of y<sup>e</sup> Colledg of Manchest<sup>r</sup> & his success<sup>rs</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being shall name & appoint A schoolm<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Free School in like form as y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parson should have done & in likewise in y<sup>e</sup> time of y<sup>e</sup> Vacation of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parsonage y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Warden and his success<sup>rs</sup> shall have y<sup>e</sup> nomination & appointm<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> for that time only as often as y<sup>e</sup> same school shall fall void y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parsonage then being void of a Parson." It is further provided "y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> shall have A seal made & known for y<sup>e</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup>"



Seal of Warrington w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> wch Seal he shall do and seal all writings y<sup>t</sup> to him shall appertain in any thing concerning y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school or any thing thereto belonging & y<sup>e</sup> same Seal to be surely kept and deliv'd from one schoolm<sup>r</sup> to another as they shall succeed in y<sup>e</sup> Rowmes and y<sup>t</sup> all deeds scripts indentures evidences & muniments concerning y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> lands &c. shall be layd put & deliv'd by y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> by indenture Bipartited into y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> College of Manchester & there to be surely kept and copies thereof to be made & deliv'd to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> & to remain w<sup>th</sup> him & w<sup>th</sup> any other schoolm<sup>r</sup> there & if any of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> lands or tenem<sup>ts</sup> hereafter happen to be in variance or suit in y<sup>e</sup> Law then y<sup>e</sup> Warden of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Colledge or his success<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> defence thereof shall deliver to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> all such deeds as concerneth y<sup>e</sup> same lands then being in variance only if need so shall require & after the Determination or appeasing of y<sup>e</sup> same variance then y<sup>e</sup> same schoolm<sup>r</sup> within one month next after shall redeliver all y<sup>e</sup> same evidence into y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> College again." Unfortunately all these precautions have been insufficient for their object. Either from the multiplicity of variances and suits in the law, or from other causes, the deeds are no longer to be found in the College of Manchester; and my extracts are taken from ancient copies, which have been admitted as evidence in the Courts. The schoolmaster no longer boasts his official seal; and it is to be feared no impression of it will ever gladden the eyes of Warrington antiquaries.

But the portion of the foundation deed, to which I wish particularly to direct your attention, is that containing "the Statutes and Ordinances of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Free School," and which, so far as they are desirable for our purpose, are as follows :—

"First it is ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> said schoolm<sup>r</sup> shall teach any scholar coming to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school after Wittington's Gram<sup>r</sup>\* & making or after such Form & such

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\* Fuller notices that "King Henry endeavoured an uniformity of grammar all over his dominions, that so youths, though changing their schoolmasters, might keep their learning. This was performed, and William Lillie's grammar enjoyed universally to be used. A stipend of four pounds a year was allowed the king's printer for printing of it, and it was penall for any publicly to teach any other. Bishop Buckeridge examining a free school in his diocese of Rochester, the scholars were utterly ignorant of Lillie's rules, as used to others, whereat the Bishop exclaimed, 'What! are there puritans also in grammar?' " (*Church History*, b. v. p. 168.) I find no Act of Parliament bearing on the subject, and know not in what form the royal injunction appeared. It was probably after the date of our foundation deed; for though Lillie's "*Brevissima Institutio seu ratio grammaticæ cognoscendæ*," appeared as early as 1513, his "*Short Introduction of Grammar* GENERALLY TO BE USED" was first printed by Reynold Wolfe, the king's printer, in 1549. This edition is in the Bodleian, but is extremely rare, not being noticed by either Ames, Dibdin, or Lowndes. The 79th canon of 1603 (confirm-

Grammar wch shall be most used to be taught hereafter in Free Gram<sup>r</sup> schools & y<sup>e</sup> same to be taught freely & quietly without taking any Reward Stipend or Schole-hire or any other thing by Promise grant or covenant before made any\* Feriall day except three Feriall days next before y<sup>e</sup> Feasts of y<sup>e</sup> Nativity of our L<sup>d</sup> G<sup>d</sup> Easter and Pentecost and other three Feriall days next after y<sup>e</sup> said Feasts except y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolmaster shall happen to have any reasonable let or impediment Provided alwais y<sup>t</sup> it shall be lawfull to y<sup>e</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> & any other schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being to take of any Scholar of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school learning gram<sup>r</sup> four penys by year y<sup>t</sup> is to say in y<sup>e</sup> Quarter next after X<sup>m</sup>as A Cock peney & in any of y<sup>e</sup> three other Quart<sup>rs</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> year one Potation† Peny & for y<sup>e</sup> same Potation Penys y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time

ing the injunctions of Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth, and the canons of 1571) directs that all schoolmasters "shall teach the grammar set forth by king Henry VIII, and continued in the times of Edward VI. and Queen Elizabeth, of noble memory, and none other." (*Gibs. Cod.* 1145.) It is not very clear which of the numerous grammatical works of Robert Whittinton, printed by Wynkin de Worde and Pynson, from 1513 to 1522, is referred to in our foundation deed as Wittington's grammar; but at this period he must have been at the height of his reputation. He is mentioned by Warton (*History of English Poetry*, ii. 130) as being the last person, (though some later instances are mentioned in Churton's lives of Smith and Sutton,) on whom was conferred the Oxford degree in rhetoric, which included versification and grammar, and which eventually led to the title of Poet Laureate. Anthony Wood says he was "the most famous grammarian of his time, and had his head crowned, or his temples adorned, with laurel; at which time, and the time also when that degree was completed, it was allowed to him by the venerable regents that he might wear a hood lined with silk, but not to be used for the future by any body else." (*Fasti Oxon.* vi. 19.) The judgment of his contemporaries was not ratified by posterity. Roger Ascham speaks with contempt of "such beggarly gatherings as Horman, Whittington, and other like vulgars for making of Latin" (*Schoolmaster*, p. 277, edition 1815); and says that "a child will learn of the better of them that which another day, if he be wise and come to judgment, he must be fain to unlearn again." (*Id.* p. 196.) Fuller compares Whittinton and Lilly to "a verb defective and one perfect in all the requisites thereof;" though in another place he quaintly admits that "some since have discovered *blasted leaves* in our Lilly."

\* Unless the word *any* is here used in the sense of *every*, as it appears to be elsewhere, the sentence is incomplete, and possibly requires the word *notwithstanding* to be supplied. If the former be the correct reading, the word *ferial* is used in the sense of weekday. It was occasionally so used, as in a charter of 1448 quoted in Cowel's *Interpreter* (s. v. *Feria*), stipulating for the celebration of mass, "per tres dies feriales in capella elemosinarie nostre, et per alios tres dies feriales in capella S. Marie, diebus vero dominicis ubicunque voluerit." The ferial litany is subsequently spoken of in this sense. The word, however, generally implied a festival day of some sort, whence our *fairs*, which in early times were usually held on the wake or festival of the saint to whom the church was dedicated. Perhaps the word had a meaning answering to our modern holiday, rather than to the ancient holy-day, being used, in analogy to the Roman *Feriae*, to denote those days on which either law, custom, or religion sanctioned a cessation from labour; and a subsequent clause in the deed may have been intended to restrain the too frequent practice of making ferial days an excuse for the interruption of school duties, and to confine the indulgence to the more important festivals or holy days of the church.

† Both of these payments were sanctioned by almost universal custom, but are expressly prohibited in the statutes of the Manchester Grammar School, together with



being shall make A Drinking for all y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Scholars in any of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> three Quart<sup>r</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> year."

"Also y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> shall give no licence to any scholar of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school to play in any ferial day if in y<sup>e</sup> week of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> feriall days shall happen to fall one Holy day & if it be A whole week without any Holy day that then y<sup>e</sup> afores<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being shall give Licence to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Scholars to play on y<sup>e</sup> thursday at afternoon only except it be at y<sup>e</sup> Request or Desire of A great Worship<sup>fl</sup> man."

"Item it is ordeynd by y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parties y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being & any other Priest Schoolm<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> School being within Warrington Parish afores<sup>d</sup> any Sunday and Holy day shall be personally in y<sup>e</sup> Quire of y<sup>e</sup> Parish Church of Warrington afores<sup>d</sup> in his Surplice to help to sing read & say y<sup>e</sup> Divine Service according to his Learning & coning Except he have a Reasonable Excuse or Impediment."

"Also it is ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> all y<sup>e</sup> schollars of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Free School being present thrice in y<sup>e</sup> week y<sup>t</sup> is to say Sunday Wednesday & Friday shall go two & two togeth<sup>r</sup> in Processions about or within y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Church of Warrington Singing y<sup>e</sup> Feriall Litany in y<sup>e</sup> Feriall day & on y<sup>e</sup> Sunday or other Holy days then singing y<sup>e</sup> Responses \* or such Service as to that Day then shall appertain & according to y<sup>e</sup> Coning of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Scholars in Song."

"Also if y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being or any other schoolm<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Free-School be proved afore y<sup>e</sup> Official of Chester by four Honest Persons of Warrington y<sup>t</sup> he is not Dilig<sup>t</sup> in attending or teaching y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Scholars or else be not honest in his living by Incontinency or Viciousnes or else if he be not Discreet in Correction of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> scholars that then if y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> do not amend after three monitions to him thereof to be given by him y<sup>t</sup>

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the Victor Penny—these, with a number of similar perquisites, having become in many instances an excuse for extortion. To modern ideas the barbarous custom of cock-throwing at Shrovetide is scarcely less reconcileable with scholastic discipline than the Drinking prescribed by our foundation deed; but may not the latter have had its origin in a quasi religious observance connected with the founder's anniversary, and traceable to the Jewish funeral feasts? Fuller speaks of a general expense out of lands wherewith every chantry was endowed "for an anniversary potation, founded, as it seems, on Job's words, Job iv., as Bellarmine citeth the chapter without verse:—*Panem tuum et vinum tuum super sepulcrum iusti constitue*—put thy bread and thy wine upon the sepulture of the just man—but no such words appear in the place alleged, though some such like are found in the fourth of Tobit, ver. 17." (*Church Hist.* b. vi. p. 352.) In the Book of Ecclesiasticus, ch. xxx. v. 18, we read "Delicates poured upon a mouth shut up are as messes of meat set upon a grave."

\* "Responds" were short anthems sung after reading three or four verses of a chapter, after which the chapter proceeded. (*Gibs. Cod.* 298.)

namd & appointed y<sup>e</sup> same schoolm<sup>r</sup> if he then be on live & if he be dead then by him y<sup>t</sup> shall have y<sup>e</sup> nomination & putting in of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Schoolm<sup>r</sup> that then y<sup>e</sup> same person to whom y<sup>e</sup> next nomination shall belong shall amove the same Schoolm<sup>r</sup> & provide name & put in another sufficient & able Priest to be Schoolm<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Free-school for Term of his Life as is Afores<sup>d</sup>."

"Also it is further ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> he y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> Time being shall appoint every day one of his scholars learning Gram<sup>r</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> two highest Forms in y<sup>e</sup> school one after another as y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> scholars shall sitte in order to teach all infants y<sup>t</sup> shall come to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school to learn y<sup>r</sup> A. B. C. & Primars & so forth till they be entred into y<sup>e</sup> Learning of Gram<sup>r</sup>."

"It is also ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> as well y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> as y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> scholars of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school inhabited w<sup>thin</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Franchises of Warrington afores<sup>d</sup> between Michaelmas & Easter shall be at y<sup>e</sup> Parish Church of Warrington betwixt six & seven of y<sup>e</sup> clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning & there shall say such Prayers as shall be lymyed & written on A table to be hanged in Boteler's Chappell within y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Church then immediately after y<sup>t</sup> they shall go to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> School-house & shall depart thence at five of y<sup>e</sup> clock in y<sup>e</sup> Afternoon or by four at y<sup>e</sup> Discretion of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> & between Easter and Michaelmas y<sup>e</sup> same m<sup>r</sup> and scholars shall be at y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Church between five & six of y<sup>e</sup> clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning & there shall say y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> prayers & then immediately from thence shall depart & go to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school & every night after they shall depart from y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> M<sup>r</sup> & Scholars shall resort to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Church and there shall sing an Antiphone of our Lady and say such Prayers as shall be expressed in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Table & then depart home."

"Also it is ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> if any of the s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being shall happen to be sick or diseased so y<sup>t</sup> he shall not be able to teach y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> scholars that then he shall cause another sufficient & able Priest to supply his Room during his s<sup>d</sup> sickness & Disease & shall pay to him such wages as they shall agree upon."

"It is also ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> no scholar shall wear any Dagger Hangar or other Weapon invasive other than his knife to cut his meat with & y<sup>t</sup> any scholar shall be obedient to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being in all his com<sup>d</sup>ments & Demands lawfull & shall be ready to give his help & Assistance to y<sup>e</sup> Correction of ev<sup>r</sup>y scholar of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Free School when & as often as y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Schoolmaster for y<sup>e</sup> time being shall com<sup>d</sup> them."

"Also it is ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> ev<sup>r</sup>y scholar after he be twelve months in Gram<sup>r</sup>



shall use to speak to another at all times & in every Place latin & no English & y<sup>t</sup> no scholar shall use Diceing or Carding nor any other unlawfull games upon pain of Correction at y<sup>e</sup> Discretion of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup>."

"Also it is ordeyned y<sup>t</sup> if any scholar do disobey y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> in his Reasonable Comādm<sup>t</sup> or Correction or make any Fray upon him that then y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> scholar to be amoved from y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> school for ever Except y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> be contented to keep him still."

"Also it is ordeynd & agreed betwixt y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parties y<sup>t</sup> one Aniversary shall be kept within y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Church of Warrington at y<sup>e</sup> Costs of every of y<sup>e</sup> said Schoolm<sup>r</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being y<sup>e</sup> seven & twenty day of Aprill evry year for y<sup>e</sup> souls of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Sr Thom<sup>s</sup> & his Ancestors & his Heirs & for y<sup>e</sup> soul of Dame Margret Boteler after her Decease in maner & form hereafter ensuing y<sup>t</sup> is to wit y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Parson or y<sup>e</sup> Curat of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parish Church w<sup>th</sup> seven other priests w<sup>th</sup> shall be eight in number & ten singing Clerks or schol<sup>rs</sup> in y<sup>e</sup> evening before y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> day shall together sing Placebo & Dirige & in y<sup>e</sup> morning of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> day y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> eight Priests & ten clerks shall say y<sup>e</sup> Comendations & after y<sup>t</sup> at y<sup>r</sup> Pleasure three of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Priests to say masse of The Trentall of St Gregory\* w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Collect Deus simul spes nostra & iiij of y<sup>e</sup> other Priests to say mass of y<sup>e</sup> Aniversary & y<sup>e</sup> Parson Curate or another Priest to keep mass of Requiem solemnly w<sup>th</sup> note & y<sup>e</sup> other Seven Priests & ten Clerks to help to sing in y<sup>e</sup> same masse & y<sup>e</sup> Priest y<sup>t</sup> keepeth y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> masse of Requiem to have vij pence & every of y<sup>e</sup> other 7 Priests to have viij<sup>d</sup> for y<sup>r</sup> Business & every of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> ten clerks to have ij<sup>d</sup>."

"And furthermore it is ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Bellman of Warrington w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Bell in y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> xxvj day of Aprill at afternoon shall go throu y<sup>e</sup> town of Warrington & according to y<sup>e</sup> custom therof desire evry man woman & child to pray for y<sup>e</sup> Souls of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Sr Thomas & Dame Margret after her Decease & his Heirs & y<sup>t</sup> done then y<sup>e</sup> clerk of y<sup>e</sup> Church of Warrington to cause three long peals to be rungen w<sup>th</sup> all y<sup>e</sup> Bells in y<sup>e</sup> steeple except y<sup>e</sup> Sanctus Bell & so on y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> 27 day as according for an Aniversary & y<sup>e</sup> same Clerk to have for y<sup>e</sup> Ringing xx<sup>d</sup> & y<sup>e</sup> Bellman to have ij<sup>d</sup>."

\* "Placebo" and "Dirige" are parts of the office for the dead in the Sarum Manual. An office for the dead, under the title of "The Dirige," is retained in Henry VIII's Primer. Under the title of "The Commendations," the Primer prints the 119th Psalm, describing it as "the A B C of Godly love, the paradise of lernyng, the shoppe of the holy Gost, the schole of truth." "Mass of the Trentall of St. Gregory" is supposed by a high authority on ritual subjects to refer to a special mass in honour of St. Gregory, in the Sarum Missal, on the 30th day after his festival. Sir Thomas Botmer's will directs "four Trentalls of St. Gregory to be said for his soule at London, at Scala Caeli, by four severall priests."

"Also it is furthermore ordeynd y<sup>t</sup> ev<sup>ry</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>n</sup> w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Advice of y<sup>e</sup> Chantre Priest there shall give & Deal an Alms y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> day to fourety poor Folkes xiiij<sup>s</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> that is to wit ev<sup>ry</sup> of them iiij<sup>d</sup>."

"Also it is ordeynd that there shall be \* \* \* upon y<sup>e</sup> Herse\* to be made upon & over y<sup>e</sup> grave of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thomas viij Syrges† during y<sup>e</sup> singing of y<sup>e</sup> Dirige and mass afores<sup>d</sup> \* \* \*"

"And furthermore every of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> schoolm<sup>n</sup> & y<sup>e</sup> other Chantre Priest before y<sup>e</sup> feast of Pasche yearly next ensuing shall say or cause to be s<sup>d</sup> yearly as many other masses to fulfill y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Trentall y<sup>t</sup> is to witt 27 Masses w<sup>th</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Placebo & Dirige to make and fulfill A whole Trentall \* \* \* And after y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Aniversary \* \* \* Quarter of y<sup>e</sup> year to say five masses of y<sup>e</sup> five wounds of our L<sup>d</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> soul of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> S<sup>r</sup> Thomas and Dame Margret after her Decease w<sup>th</sup> such collects as they shall think convenient."

"Also it is ordeynd & agreed betwixt y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Parties y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Schoolm<sup>n</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> time being once in ev<sup>ry</sup> year at y<sup>e</sup> day of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Anniversary shall make A true Account of all such Issues & Profits coming & growing of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Lands Tenem<sup>ts</sup> & Rents as he shall then have rec<sup>d</sup> that year before \* \* \* y<sup>e</sup>

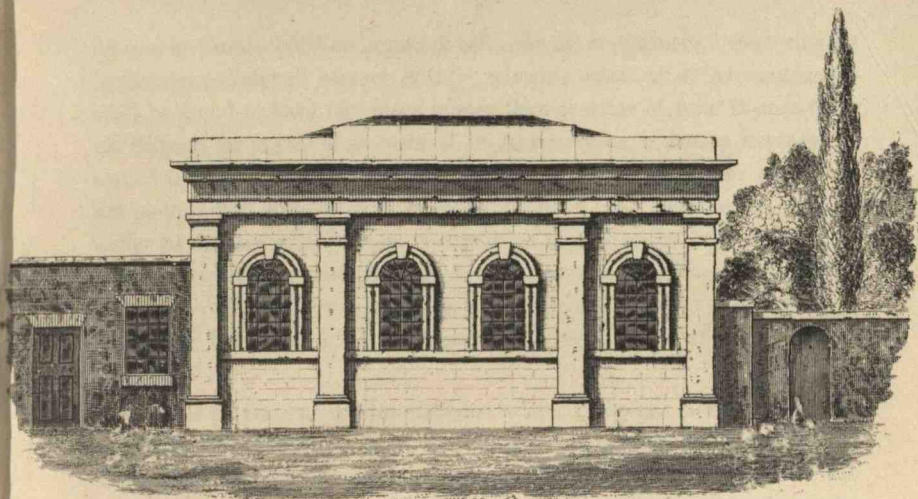
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\* The will of Sir Thomas Boteler directs his body "to be buried, if it please God, in the poche church of Weryngton before the ymage of oure Lady in Boteler's Chapell, in the buriele of his ancestors, nere his father;" and he willed "that a stone or conveyente tomb, with scripture graven thereupon, should be laid upon him, by the discretion of his executors." The "herse," or tomb, erected accordingly, is described among the other monuments noticed by Randle Holme, who says:—"In the sayd chapell, on a faire marble stone, at the west end of the tombe, in brass, is tow figures, a man standing in armore, with Butler's cote on; and on his wines cote is Delves cote; the 4 Evangelests in brass in the 4 corners, and written about—"Pray for the soules of Tho. Butler, kt., and Dame Margaret, his wife, which had one sonne and 8 daughters, vilzt. Thomas married Cicely, dan. to Peirs Leigh, Margaret to Rich. Bould kt., Ellen to Jo. Bagott, Eliz. to Geo. Booth, Isabell to Randle Brereton, Anne to Geo. Atherton, Cicely to Henry Kighley, Margery to Tho. Southworth, and Dorothy." Sir Thomas dyed 27 Aprell, 1522." The only traces of the tomb, which have survived the various alterations in the chapel, are some fragments of brasses, preserved in the Warrington Museum and Library, and shown in our page of illustrations, one of the coats being that of Boteler, and the other Boteler impaling Delves. The third figure is probably the symbol of St. Matthew, being one of "the 4 evangelists in brass in the 4 corners" noticed by Randle Holme. The popular notion that the beautiful alabaster tomb, which adorns the Boteler chapel, is that of the founder of the Grammar School, though confirmed by the statements of Pennant and Baines, is disproved not only by the armour and costumes, but by historical evidence; the researches of Mr. Beamont, printed in the transactions of the Chester Architectural, Archæological, and Historic Society, having shown, from a manuscript of Sampson Erdswick in the Harleian collection, describing the arms formerly sculptured on the monument, that it was erected to the memory of Sir John Boteler, the father of Sir Thomas. The blanks in this and several subsequent clauses of the foundation deed are found in the earliest copies, and represent dark colored interlineations, which were undecypherable when the copies were made.

+ Syrges were the great wax candles burnt before the altar.

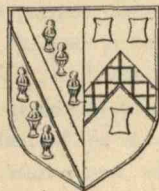
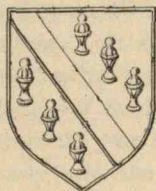


# Boteler's Free Grammar School at Warrington.

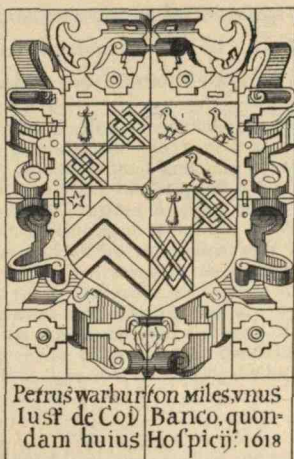


Falkner Lith. Manch<sup>r</sup>

New School Erected in 1829



Brasses from the Founder's Tomb.



Petrus warburton miles vnus  
Iusf de Cod Banco, quon-  
dam huius Hospicij: 1618

Wells

Arms of Sir Peter Warburton, from a Window in Staple Inn Hall.





Parson or Curate of Warrington & before y<sup>e</sup> other Chantre Priest singing in Boteler's Chappell afores<sup>d</sup> & if y<sup>e</sup> schoolm<sup>r</sup> upon y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Account made shall be found to have rec<sup>d</sup> more money than y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>u</sup>me of tēne Pounds \* for his Stipend for y<sup>t</sup> year & y<sup>e</sup> costs of y<sup>e</sup> An̄iv<sup>s</sup>ary as is before expressd & named that then all y<sup>e</sup> overplus therof & y<sup>e</sup> same more money over y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> ten pounds & y<sup>e</sup> costs of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> An̄iv<sup>s</sup>ary \* \* \* shall be put into A Coffe<sup>r</sup> having three locks upon it & y<sup>e</sup> same money to be kept to beire y<sup>e</sup> costs & charges of y<sup>e</sup> Renuing of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Feoffment & writing of y<sup>e</sup> Deeds Schedules & Indentures concerning y<sup>e</sup> same school & for y<sup>e</sup> Defence of y<sup>e</sup> Title of y<sup>e</sup> Premisses & for y<sup>e</sup> Ornam<sup>ts</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Chappel if need shall so require."

There is no trace of any interference with Sir Thomas Boteler's Foundation under the statute 14 Edw. VI., for the suppression of Chauntries and Trentalls. Probably the appropriation, which (looking at the words of the preamble as to the purposes to which the endowments were intended to be applied) would have been the result of any proceedings thereunder, was effected by the simpler process of neglecting the superstitious observances enjoined by the Foundation Deed. Perhaps the patrons claimed a share of the booty. At all events, we find that by the end of the sixteenth century they had contrived, to a considerable extent, to defeat the benevolent designs of Sir Thomas Boteler. His great-grandson, Edward Butler, died about the year 1586, the last male descendant of his family, having previously sold the Bewsey estates and the manor and advowson of Warrington, which by means of various assurances became vested in Thomas Ireland of Bewsey, whose family, in the 17th century, becoming extinct in the male line, was united by marriage with that of the Irelands of the Hutt and Hale, the ancestors of Mr. Ireland Blackburne. On the death of Edward Butler, the representation of his family devolved upon

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\* A stipend of £10, after making every allowance for the change in the value of money, seems a slender provision for "an honest and discreet priest groundly seen and learned in grammar, and able to teach grammar;" but it is not to be attributed to any want of liberality in the views of the founder, for it is worthy of observation that precisely the same stipend was provided in some of the most celebrated foundations in the kingdom, namely that of William of Wykeham, at Winchester, Henry VI., at Eton, William of Wainflete, at Oxford (in connection with Magdalen College), and Hugh Oldham, at Manchester. It must therefore be regarded as an evidence of the low pecuniary value at which the age estimated the services of the learned, of which there is additional proof in the present deed, which provides a fee of 8d. for each of the priests "for their business" at the anniversary, and for each of the singing clerks 2d., being precisely the same remuneration to be given to the bellman for proclaiming the anniversary, while the clerk is to have 20d. for ringing the bells.

his two sisters and co-heiresses, Elizabeth, the wife of Sir Peter Warburton, one of the Justices of the Common Pleas, and Margaret, the wife of John Mainwaring. The latter had, under various pretexts, possessed himself of nearly all the School lands, partly under a grant from Queen Elizabeth, as concealed lands, partly under a lease from Sir Thomas Gerard, the last surviving feoffee, and partly, it would seem, by collusion with the Master. In the year 1602, Sir Peter Warburton, then Sergeant at Law, took upon himself to vindicate the Charity, and filed a Bill in the Duchy Court to compel the appointment of new trustees. The suit abated by the deaths of Lady Warburton and Sir Thomas Gerard; but fresh proceedings were instituted, and eventually the Court ordered "that Thomas Tildisley, Esquire, of counsell with the said complainant, and Thomas Ireland, Esquire, of counsell with the said defendant, and Sir John Brograve, Knight, Attorney General of this Court, umpier, should mediate some end betwixt the said parties, for the good of the said school;" and an award having been made accordingly, it was confirmed by decree on the 20th June, 1607, which provides that "the said John Manwaring, and Margaret, his wife, during the life of the said Margaret, and after the decease of the said Margaret, the said Thomas Ireland, being the owner of the Manor\* of Warrington, where the said school is founded, his heirs and assigns shall have the nomination and appointment of the said schoolmaster, being an able man fit for that place, in consideration whereof, the said Thomas Ireland shall pay and bestow to and for the repairs of the said school the sum of £10, and to the said John Manwaring £20," and directions are given for the execution by all necessary parties of conveyances to new trustees, and for the future leasing and management of the trust estates, without the intervention of the master, "who shall attend his charge and have noe dealing with the setting and letting of the said lands, or employing of the said stock or otherwise, save only with his rent and pension, and the use of the said stock, and the schoolmaster's house or chamber, with the crofts, &c., in Warrington, which order or forme of leasing is thought fit, notwithstanding the same be not expressed in the first foundation, because the late deceased schoolmaster there, having a lease from the feoffees, did assigne

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\* The patronage of the school did not accompany the manor of Warrington, in its transmission from the Irelands to the Booths, and from them to the Blackburnes; but seems to have been invariably exercised by the patrons of the parish church, the advowson of which has always belonged to the owners of the Bewsey estates, and is at present vested in Lord Lilford.



the same to the heir of the founder, contrary to the true intent of the foundation." The new feoffments were accordingly executed in the year 1608; and in 1610 a commission of charitable uses was issued, under which certain orders and decrees were made on the 11th September in that year, confirming the feoffments, and making provision, in accordance with the decree of the Duchy Court, for the management of the estates and the appointment of schoolmasters: and it is provided that the schoolmaster "shall by all the tyme that he shall be scholemaster of the said schole, well and truely keep the said schole, and teach and instruct the scholars thereof freely, without takeing or agreeing to have any reward, stipend, or scholehyre, or any other thing, for teaching any scholar of the said schole, other than the stipend to be paid by the said feoffees or governors, and upon every schole day shall be and continue in the said schole three hours att the least in the forenoon, and three hours att the least in the afternoon, teachinge, hearinge, and examininge his schollers, if his health will permit, and shall every morning, together with his scholers, use some forme of prayer meet for the purpose, giveing thanks to God that stirred upp the hart of the founder, Sir Thomas Butler, Knight, to soe good a work, and likewise at night before they depart." The decree of the commissioners was duly confirmed; and thus the estates were restored to the foundation by the perseverance and public spirit of Sir Peter Warburton, who further testified his good will to the school by granting to it a rent-charge of £5 per annum, issuing out of a messuage in Chester. It is still received by the trustees; and though the altered value of money makes his gift of smaller pecuniary importance than he intended, it has entitled him to the gratitude of the inhabitants of Warrington, in testimony of which one of our public spirited antiquaries has deposited in our Museum a copy of Sir Peter's arms, from a window in the hall of Staple Inn, of which he was a Benchler. A drawing of the arms forms one of our illustrations.

The new system of management does not seem to have been much more successful than the old; for within about half a century we find the income of the school in danger of being almost wholly lost, in consequence of claims set up by the tenants to have their leases renewed at the almost nominal rents they were then paying. Active measures were taken, and the principal part of the tenants were brought to submit to take leases at rack rent in 1677. It will, however, be convenient to defer any notice of

the subsequent events affecting the history of the school, until I come to speak of the respective masters, of whom I am fortunately able, from various sources, to make out a tolerably complete list.

SIR RICHARD TAYLOR, the master appointed by the foundation deed, as little disturbed by the storms in the political and religious atmosphere as his contemporary, Symon Symonds, the veritable vicar of Bray (for I suppose it is settled that the vicar of "good king Charles's golden days" is a myth), appears to have retained his mastership during the reigns of Henry VIII., Edward VI., Mary, and Elizabeth; for he is last heard of on the 20th December, 1569, when he renewed a lease for ten years of part of the school estates in Wigan. I am not aware of any other mention of him, unless (as suggested by my friend, Mr. Beamont, to whom I am indebted for information and references on various points not specifically acknowledged) he be the person referred to in the *Inquisitio post mortem* of Sir Thomas Boteler, 4 July, 14 Hen. VIII., which finds that he was seized (*inter alia*) "*De homagio et servitio Rici le Tailor.*"

JOHN WAKEFIELD probably succeeded him; for we find him as early as the 29th September, 1576, joining with the trustees in an assurance of the same lands. He took, under the will of Edward Butler, the great grandson of the founder, dated November 2, 1586, a legacy of £40, and was nominated one of his executors, but did not prove the will. He died in the year 1605, and was buried at Warrington on the 30th May in that year.

The entry in the parish register, on the 9th March in the same year (*viz.*, 1605-6), of the baptism of a daughter of "ROBERT MARTIN, ludi magister," is perhaps too slight evidence of the person referred to having been master of Boteler's Free Grammar School; and in the year 1608 we find the name of OTTIWELL RYNSE, described as schoolmaster, attached to the feoffment above referred to, as a witness to the livery of seizin.

I know of no other mention of him; nor have I met with the name of any other master between him and NATHAN ASHWORTH, whose name frequently occurs in the register of the baptism of his children. The earliest of these entries which describes him as "*ludi magister*" is that of a son, baptized on the 21st April, 1627; but there is an entry, in which his name occurs without that addition, on the 30th April, 1623, which may have been previous to his appointment, especially as the fact of his



having been a native of Warrington is rendered not improbable from a John Ashworth having been rector there from 1589 to 1607. The submission of the tenants to take leases at rack rent is attributed, in some memoranda on the school affairs, in the handwriting of Mr. Owen, one of the later masters, to the exertions of his predecessor, Samuel Shaw; but the date of the submissions, which are still in existence, shews that this was a mistake, and that the proceedings must have been commenced during the mastership of Ashworth; and as the trustees do not seem at this period to have interfered much with the charity, it was probably owing to his exertions, in a great measure, that the endowment was preserved. He was buried at Warrington, on the 13th February, 1672-3. He must have been the schoolmaster referred to, but not mentioned by name, in the *Life of Adam Martindale*, p. 176.

The name of JOHN WRIGHT occurs on the 14th August, 1677, occupying (as that of the master of the Grammar School usually did) the next place to the rector, in the minutes of the proceedings at a parish meeting. He was buried at the parish church on the 3rd September, 1679. It was during his mastership that the proceedings against the tenants were brought to a successful issue.

The name of "J. CLAYTON, sch. m<sup>r</sup> de Warrington," occurs at parish meetings on the 22nd June, 1680, and 5th June, 1681; and the parish register records the burial, on the 10th November, 1686, of "Mr. JOSEPH WILLOTT, scholmaster of the Free Scoole," but I have met with no other mention of either of them.

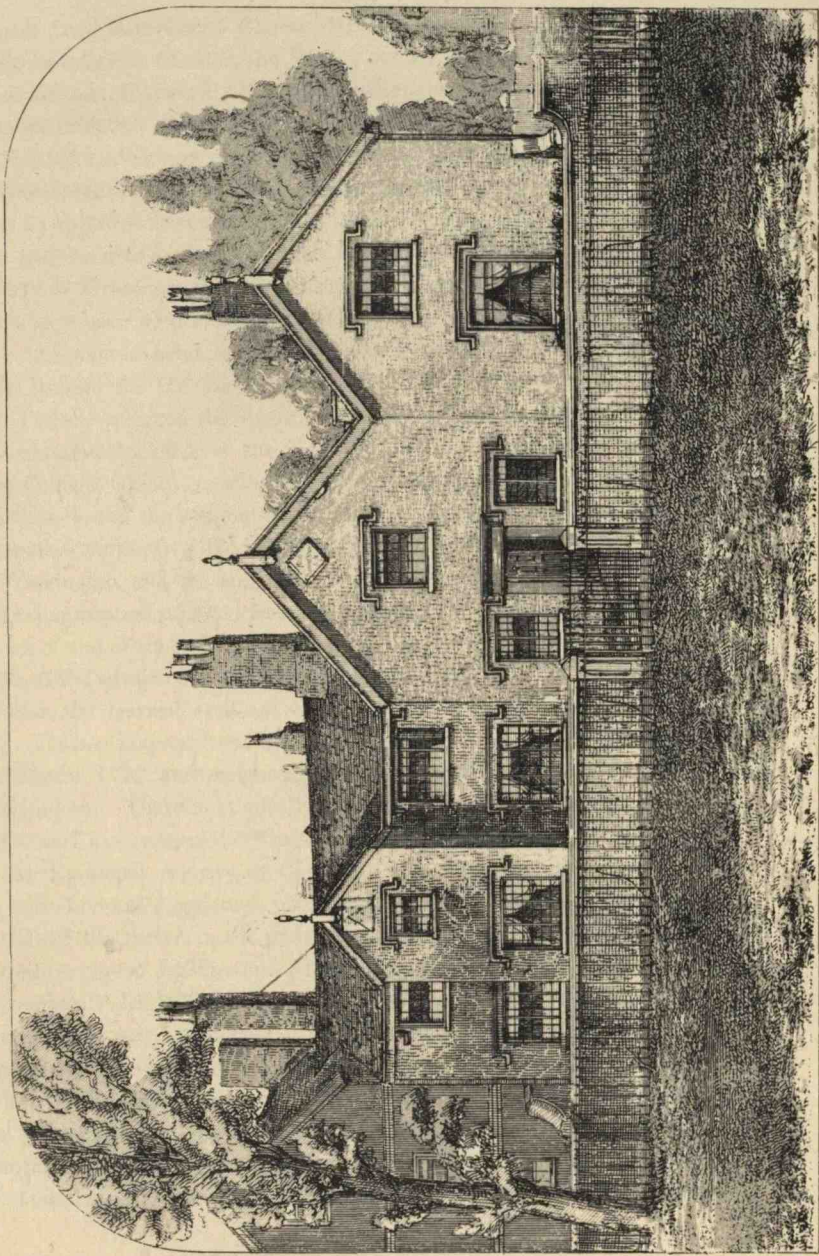
SAMUEL SHAW succeeded to the mastership in 1687, having previously held a similar office at Wigan. The Diary of bishop Cartwright, published by the Camden Society, mentions that on his way to take possession of his bishopric, and of the rectory of Wigan, which about this period was frequently held in commendam with it, he was met at the latter place by the mayor and aldermen and a number of gentlemen, and saluted with an elegant speech in Latin, and as well delivered, by Mr. Shaw, the schoolmaster. Under the subsequent date of 28th January, 1687, he states that he gave Mr. Samuel Shaw, of Wigan, a licence to teach the Free School of Warrington. The favorable impression made on the bishop by the latin speech seems to have been a permanent one, as the diary contains frequent memoranda of the interchange of hospitalities between the prelate and the

master of the grammar school of Warrington. He considerably improved the master's house, and left a memorial of the fact in the shape of a stone tablet, still existing over the doorway, with the inscription "1688, Samuel Shaw, A.M." He obtained the consent of the trustees to the commencement of proceedings, at his own risk, for the recovery of some lands which were apparently lost to the charity, and which, after many years of litigation, were restored to the school. In 1690-1, he was presented to the rectory of Warrington, which was in the gift of the Atherton family. It was at this period of very little pecuniary value, an improvident lease for 200 years having been granted of the tithes, in the 34th year of Henry VIII., reserving a rent of £20, and the lessees covenanting with Edward Keble, the then rector, to find him and his successors a sufficient priest, to officiate in all sacramentals and services belonging to the church. The lease became part of the possessions of the owners of the Bewsey estates, who allowed the rector (as he was still called, notwithstanding the impropriation) to receive the small tithes, in lieu of having a priest found him according to the terms of the lease. We are informed by Mr. Canon Raines, in a note to *Gastrell's Notitia Cestriensis*, (ii, 233,) that Mr. Shaw held the office of King's preacher, being one of the four preachers sharing a royal stipend of £200, first established by Queen Elizabeth, and afterwards regulated by James I., "out of zeal to God's glory, and care of the souls of many thousands of his majesty's subjects within the county of Lancaster, there being great want of maintenance for preachers in most places of that shire," and appointed to preach among the impropriations there, according to the appointment of the bishop. In a letter to Bishop Stratford, in 1693, Mr. Shaw states that he, and others for him, had preached above forty sermons during the previous half year. His principal charge, as king's preacher, was Hollinfare, a chapelry within the parish of Warrington, where he preached two sermons per month, until a regular curate was found, in the person of the Rev. John Collier, the father of our Lancashire worthy, Tim Bobbin. Mr. Shaw continued to hold the office of master of the grammar school until his death, in the year 1718. He was buried at Warrington on the 30th September.

The REV. JOHN TATLOCK was next nominated to the mastership, but the Bishop refused to license him. An extract from the correspondence of Bishop Gastrell, among the *Lanc. MSS.*, for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Canon Raines, furnishes the grounds for the refusal. In



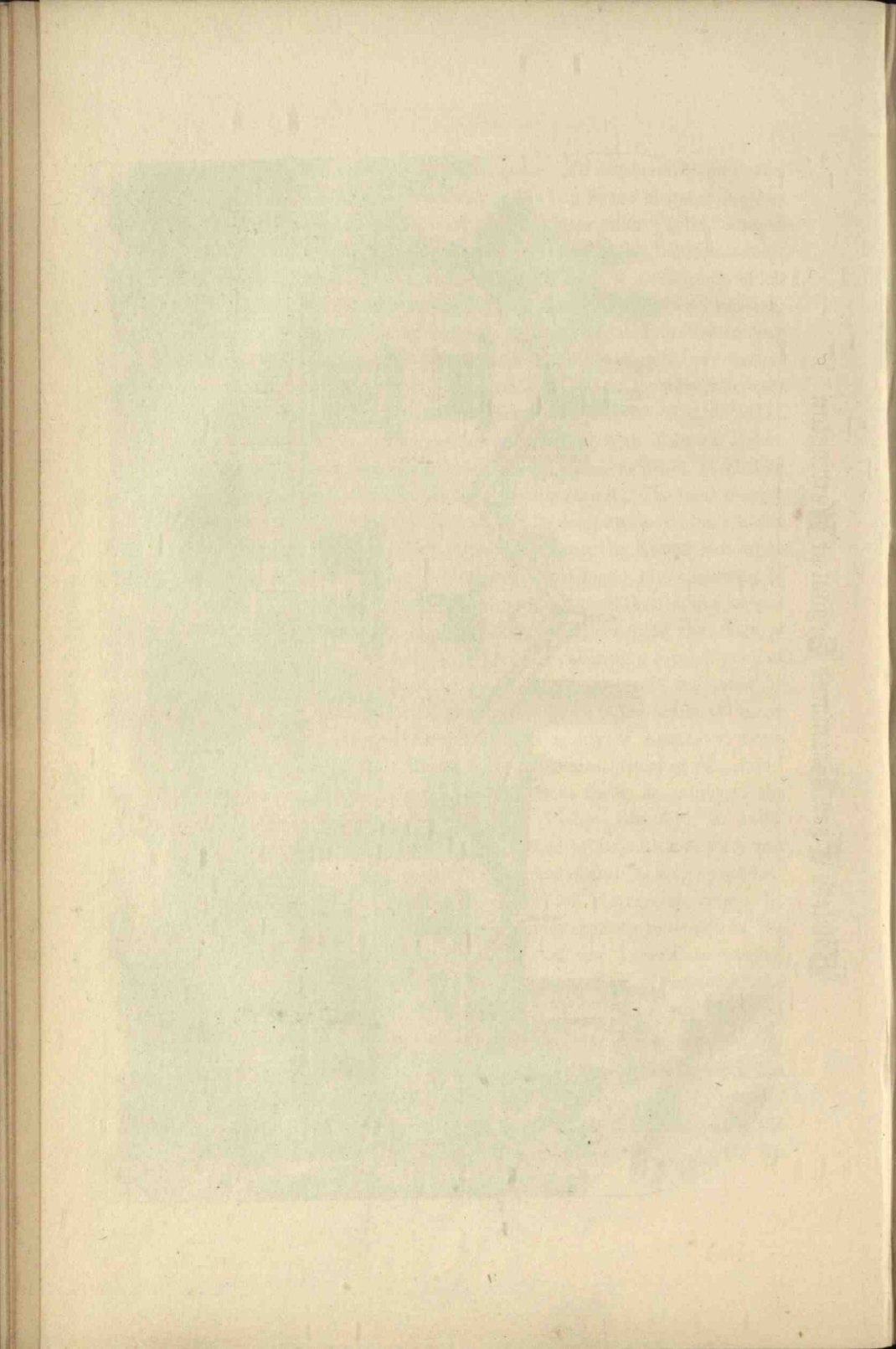
# Boteler's Free Grammar School at Warrington.



G. Walker Lith.

The Master's House

Engraved by H. W. P.





a letter dated from Christ Church, Oxford, 5th Nov., 1718, and addressed to his secretary at Chester, the Bishop writes:—"Mr. Tatlock holds the place for Mr. Hayward, till he is in orders, but I hope w<sup>th</sup>out Bond. If upon examination w<sup>th</sup> he applies for a Licence you find he has given Bond, let him have none, and plead my generall order to you for your refusall. I have enclosed the nomination." The refusal of a licence on such grounds must be regarded as somewhat of a stretch of episcopal authority, for even if it had been as settled law then as it is now, that the appointment of masters of Grammar Schools is matter of ecclesiastical cognizance, there could have been no pretence for treating such an appointment as a *benefice*, so as to render a bond of resignation simoniacal; and I can imagine no other ground for the Bishop's objection. It was however submitted to. Mr. Tatlock resigned the appointment, and on the 22nd March, 1719-20, a nomination was made of the Rev. THOMAS HAYWARD, M.A., of Brazen-nose College, Oxford, reciting the former nomination, the Bishop's refusal of a licence, and the resignation of Mr. Tatlock; and Mr. Hayward was duly licensed accordingly. He was born on the 5th February, 1695-6, a native of Warrington, and the son of Thomas Hayward, an attorney there. He was twice married, and had issue no less than 16 children. In an obituary notice of one of them (Francis Hayward, M.D., who died at Bath in the year 1831, at the advanced age of 92, and was the father-in-law of the Rev. Joseph Hunter, the learned assistant keeper of the records) it is stated that the Rev. Thomas Hayward was instituted to the vicarage of Garstang, on the 4th March, 1722, and resigned it in 1731, and about that time removed to Warrington. There is unquestionably an error in the date of the latter event, as I have procured my information direct from the original documents in the Episcopal registry at Chester. As early as the 31st March, 1719, we find Hayward's signature, with the addition of "*ludi m<sup>r</sup>*," occurring next to that of the rector, in the proceedings of a parish meeting; and there is a receipt, signed by him and Anne Shaw, for rents due to the master in November, 1718, lodged, apparently by accident, with the documents at Chester. It may be inferred from these facts that, even during Tatlock's nominal mastership, Mr. Hayward was performing the duties and in receipt of the emoluments of the office. There can be no doubt, however, that his presentation to the vicarage of Garstang was subsequent to his appointment to the Grammar School; and accordingly, in a note to *Dr. Parkinson's "Old Church Clock,"* containing extracts from the diary of

the Rev. Thomas Parkinson, curate of Garstang, in which it appears that Mr. Hayward officiated there at Easter, 1723 and 1724, it is stated that he was non-resident. In 1728, the Chapel of Sankey, near Warrington, which had up to that time been used as a Presbyterian place of worship, was rebuilt, and placed under Episcopal government, (*Notitia Cest.* ii, 215,) and Mr. Hayward became incumbent, which probably led him to resign his living at Garstang; but he continued to fill the office of master of the Grammar School. The obituary notice above mentioned, quotes the biographer of Dr. Percival, who was one of Mr. Hayward's pupils, for Mr. Hayward's character as "an able but severe master, an admirable scholar, and a very useful man." He is mentioned also in the *Remains of John Byrom*, (i, 315) who addresses a sportive invitation in verse to him and Mr. Haddon, the rector of Warrington. The error in the note to the passage referred to, naming 1731 as the date of his death, is attributable to Baines. Mr. Hayward died in 1757, and was buried at Warrington on the 2nd September.

The Rev. JAMES ANSDELL, of Bunwell, Norfolk, was nominated to succeed him, and presented to the bishop, if not actually licensed; but he subsequently wrote to the bishop, that in consequence of the augmentation of his salary he had determined to continue his residence there; and he accordingly resigned the appointment, and on the 4th November, 1757, the Rev. EDWARD OWEN, M.A., then usher of Great Crosby School, as stated in a memorandum endorsed on his appointment, in the Episcopal registry, was nominated in his stead. He states, in some memoranda to which I have had access, that he found the school in a dilapidated condition, the building in ruins, the roof ready to fall in, and the floors and walls all clay. He at once put it into a state of thorough repair, converting some out-buildings into a dining room and bedrooms, and rendering the house fit for the reception of boarders, which, he states, it never was before. Mr. Owen was a scholar, whose attainments were eminently calculated to extend the reputation of the school; and it seems accordingly to have been in a flourishing condition during the early years of his mastership. Among his scholars, who in after life attained a position of eminence, the name of the Rt. Hon. George Tierney deserves to be particularized. Mr. Owen's translation of Juvenal and Persius, published in two vols. 12mo. in 1785, when he must have attained the ripe age of 57, or thereabouts, has given him a permanent place in classical literature, though it has not maintained



its ground against the spirited translation of Gifford. He also published in 1770 a Latin Grammar, under the title of "The Common Accidence improved." From the preface to a new edition, published in 1800, it appears to have been adopted in various schools, where "the masters felt themselves under no restraint from local statutes, or the ascendancy of custom or fashion." In the year 1767, the rectory of Warrington, now improved in value by the falling in of the lease granted in the reign of Henry VIII., became vacant by the death of the Rev. William Farington; and the patron, Mr. Gwyllim, presented Mr. Owen to the living, in testimony of respect for his attainments. He continued to reside at the school-house, the rectory being in a somewhat dilapidated condition, and retained his mastership until his death. His personal and literary merits are attested by Gilbert Wakefield, whose praises can scarcely be suspected of proceeding from a too partial source, and who, while doing justice to the "propriety, perspicuity, and elegance of his style," speaks of him as "a man of most elegant learning, unimpeachable veracity, and peculiar benevolence of heart." It must be confessed, that during the latter years of his mastership, his increasing years, infirmity, and deafness incapacitated him in a great measure for the duties of his office; and the school seems at this period to have lost much of its usefulness. He appears, from his will, which mentions several relatives in Montgomeryshire, to have been connected, both by family and property, with that county. He died in the year 1807, at the age of 79, and was interred, according to the directions of his will, "in the chancel of the church of Warrington, on the south side of the grave of Samuel Shaw, a very worthy predecessor of his, and the place of his interment marked with a small square marble, inscribed only with his name and title, age, and time of decease." A portrait, which persons still living, who remember him, pronounce an admirable likeness, is in the possession of Miss Lee, of Grappenhall.

The Rev. ROBERT ATHERTON RAWSTORNE was appointed to succeed him as master; and having within a few months afterwards been presented to the rectory, he appointed the Rev. William Bordman, as his usher, to whom he left the entire management of the school, and allowed him the use of the school-house, thus converting the mastership into a sinecure, and exciting the resistance of the inhabitants of Warrington, who had seen with regret the gradual decay of the school, and had only been deterred from taking active measures by the consideration that the course of nature must

shortly terminate the mastership of Mr. Owen. In 1810, an information was filed in the Court of Chancery, at the instance of several influential inhabitants, in order to test the right of Lord Lilford to the patronage of the school, and to procure a declaration of the court that the office of master was incompatible with that of rector of the parish. In the first of these objects the promoters of the suit failed; but the court, in 1814, pronounced a decree, declaring the incompatibility of the offices, and that Mr. Rawstorne, by accepting the living, had vacated the mastership.

The Rev. WILLIAM BORDMAN, M.A., who, as usher to Mr. Rawstorne, had practically been the master of the school since 1808, was thereupon formally appointed master in 1815. He had previously been second master to Dr. Valpy, at Reading, and was a person of no mean attainments; but the circumstances under which he commenced his mastership were not conducive to his popularity, and he acquired, whether justly or unjustly, the reputation of being one of those "Ajaces flagelliferi," whose race is fast disappearing under the humanizing influence of public opinion at the present day. Repeated complaints against him came under the notice of the trustees, and eventually an arrangement was proposed in 1827, and carried into effect in the following year, by which, in consideration of a round sum of £400, and a pension of £150 per annum, to be deducted from the income of his successor, he resigned his mastership. He was living, a few years ago, at Honfleur.

In the meantime, the Chancery suit had resulted in the establishment, in the year 1820, of a scheme for the future management of the school, providing for such an extension of the plan of education as was consistent with the primary object of the foundation, as "a school for teaching grammatically the learned languages;" and a brighter prospect opened. I have no means of tracing the circumstances which led to the appointment of any of the masters previous to Mr. Rawstorne; but it is satisfactory to find evidence that at all events his three immediate predecessors, whose masterships extended over 120 years, were all men of attainments well qualifying them for the office. On Mr. Rawstorne's appointment the mastership seems to have been treated as a mere appendage to the rectory; and when this arrangement was defeated, the appointment, as his successor, of the gentleman whom he had selected to perform the duties of the office as his deputy, followed almost by accident. On the resignation of Mr. Bordman, the patron proceeded to an appointment in the manner best



calculated to promote the interests of the school, and selected, as the most eligible candidate for the office, the Rev. THOMAS VERE BAYNE, of Jesus College, Oxford, and, I believe, a native of that city. He was born on the 25th of October, 1803. Under his mastership the school speedily recovered the popularity which it had lost under his predecessor, and its increased efficiency was manifested in the imperative necessity for accommodation for an increased number of scholars. In the year 1829, with the sanction of the Court of Chancery, a fund, which in the course of the litigation had been paid into court, was expended in the erection of a school, capable of accommodating 120 boys. It is a plain stone building, with little pretension to architectural effect, and forms one of our illustrations. While I avow the partiality of an attached pupil, owing to Mr. Bayne the most valuable portion of my education, I may be excused from discussing his merits; but few will deny him the character of an accomplished classical scholar. He resigned his mastership in the year 1842, to accept the incumbency of St. John's Church, Broughton, and died on the 22nd of December, 1848.

His successor was the Rev. HENRY BOSTOCK, M.A., of Wadham College, Oxford, formerly master of the Grammar School at Aylesbury, which he left to accept his present appointment. He was selected, like his predecessor, from a number of candidates, solely with reference to his scholastic attainments. The success which has attended his pupils is the best evidence of his abilities as a teacher. The small population of Warrington cannot be expected to furnish many scholars to proceed to the Universities, and it is therefore gratifying to notice that of those who have done so during Mr. Bostock's mastership, five have obtained scholarships and prizes at Oxford and Cambridge—a sixth has attained to distinguished honours, both in classics and mathematics, at the University of Durham—and a seventh, after obtaining a scholarship and mathematical prize at Cambridge, has within the last month taken a Wrangler's degree.

With such evidence, I need say nothing of the present condition of the school; and it only remains for me to mention, by way of bringing down its history to the present time, that in 1840, the sale, on what appeared very advantageous terms, of a portion of the school estates, afforded an opportunity of obtaining, at the purchaser's expense, an act for regulating the future management of the school; and the education which it at present affords is one alike consistent with the views of the founder and with the

requirements of modern times. Though it does not profess to give a commercial education, in the sense entertained by those who will not recognize the utility of any knowledge which is not available for the immediate purposes of the counting-house, the instruction afforded is by no means confined to Greek and Latin; but while opportunities are afforded for the study of modern languages, the ordinary course of study embraces even the higher branches of mathematics, and, in fact, such an education as qualifies its scholars to take their places in the world as educated men, or to compete at the Universities, as we have seen they can do, with pupils from the most celebrated of our educational foundations. I am well aware that popular feeling is by no means unanimous in regarding an education such as that afforded at Boteler's Free Grammar School as the most desirable to be adopted in a manufacturing town; but I entertain a strong opinion that, in keeping up a certain amount of classical knowledge, the Grammar Schools of this kingdom are rendering a service to the country, which would not be effected by institutions partaking of a more commercial character. Such schools as the opponents of classical learning would wish to see established in their place would at best only be rivals of private establishments, at which the instruction intended for those who seek no higher degree of mental cultivation than will fit them for the pursuits of retail trade is in every town procurable, at a cost, the saving of which was not the object of the founders of our Grammar Schools; while, on the other hand, an education fitted to qualify a youth for one of the learned professions, or for an honorable career at the Universities, would, but for institutions like Boteler's Free Grammar School at Warrington, be almost inaccessible to any but the sons of the wealthy.

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