

A SKETCH OF THE ORIGIN AND EARLY HISTORY OF THE LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT HOSPITAL.

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There may, perhaps, be required some apology for my introducing at the present time such a subject to the consideration of the Historic Society; but when I mention the fact that one hundred and fifty years are passed away since this most excellent and truly valuable institution was established—the anniversary of that event having recently been celebrated—I venture to hope that the simple sketch I have attempted, while evidencing its own incompleteness, may prove, to some extent, suggestive, and evoke some more worthy and complete history than any I can offer. I may also urge that to Liverpool, a comparatively modern town, the history of one hundred and fifty years ago, observed from whatever point of view, approves itself as one pregnant with wonder. Compared with the neighbouring city of Chester, but eighteen miles distant, boasting so remote an origin, this epoch of time counts but small, and slight are the changes which Chester has undergone during this period. How strongly and strangely does Liverpool contrast with it! If we bridge over the time when the Blue Coat Hospital was established—the year 1709—to the present 1859, a span of one hundred and fifty years, and compare the population of Liverpool, then and now, we at once understand the mighty change which has taken place. In the former period Liverpool had a population of 8,500 inhabitants; in the present year, according to a recent writer, there are gathered within a radius of four miles from the Liverpool Exchange a population of 600,000 souls!

Fully to comprehend the motives urging to the establishment of the Blue Coat Hospital, it may be useful to trace briefly a few incidents of Liverpool history for some forty or fifty years antecedent to the

date of the founding of the Hospital. It cannot fail to strike every one that the great step onward in this town's prosperity dates from the period of the Restoration. The year itself which marked that event, 1660, bears witness of the dull state of Liverpool, inasmuch as it is on record, or to speak more truly, there is no record at all of either a single marriage or death occurring during the whole of that year; but immediately following upon this state of things, to use the words of the historian of Liverpool, "during the (next) period of fifty years the town increased in population, commerce, and wealth, with a rapidity which had never been previously known, so that by the close of the half century it had become the third port in the kingdom."* Corroboratory in some degree of this rapidity of rise, it may be worth mentioning that in an edition of "Old Speed," printed in 1676, which may be found in the Historic Society's library, entitled "Epitome of Mr. John Speed's Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain, and of his prospect of the most famous parts of the world," no mention is made of Liverpool in the two general maps of the country which accompany his work. Can it be a stretch of the imagination to suppose that Liverpool grew in importance while "Old Speed" prepared and elaborated his work for the press?

It was not till four years later than the issuing of the work referred to, namely, 1680, that Liverpool had so far extended itself as to get to the east side of the pool; the site of which is now occupied by Paradise Street and its continuations. The first house built is still standing (in very excellent condition) in School Lane, a little below the Hospital, at the corner of Manesty's Lane, and is the property of the Blue Coat Hospital, forming part of the munificent gift granted to it by the late John Huddleston, Esq. It was built by Mr. Dansie, a Liverpool merchant of the seventeenth century, who had his country seat on the site of the present Dansie Street, out of Russell Street.

We have in the above statement an interesting evidence of the extension of Liverpool within twenty years of the restoration. Twenty years more lead us to 1700, when a more rapid and much greater extension had taken place. At this time, and dating from the 24th June, 1699, the town, by an Act 11 William III, was erected into a separate and

* Baines's "History of Liverpool," p. 323.

distinct parish from Walton, to which hitherto it had been subordinate, and the same act provided for building, by assessment, a new church beyond the pool, to be called St. Peter's. The memorial of the inhabitants, applying for this act, set forth that the town was much increased, both in trade and population, that it had but one chapel, insufficient to the growing wants of its thriving community, and confirmed these assertions by a statement that it paid £50,000 per annum to the king. We have thus, in 1700, the town presented to our view as thriving, greatly on the increase, with one church, in possession of an act for building another, and having a population of 5,714 inhabitants.

The foundation stone of the new church, said to be the first built in Lancashire since the Reformation, was laid in the year following; and the rectory being a mediety, the chapel of St. Nicholas and this new church of St. Peter were made one parish church, the rectors officiating on either side the pool. The first rectors were the Rev. Robert Styth and the Rev. Wm. Atherton, the former of whom became the first treasurer, as he had been among the most active originators of the Blue Coat Hospital, which took its rise in the period immediately ensuing.

It was consequent upon the prosperity of which I have given but an imperfect sketch that the Blue Coat Hospital was founded, in the year 1708, and its first trustees chosen 13th January, 1709.

Between the years 1700 and 1709 the population of the town had increased fifty per cent., standing relatively, as before stated, 5,714 in the former, to 8,500 in the latter. Of tonnage in 1709, the entry inwards records 374 ships, 14,574 tons, and outwards 334 ships, 12,636 tons. The whole tonnage of England this year was 243,693 tons. This year, also, the first vessel sailed for Africa, initiating a trade destined to have so large an influence on the wealth and prosperity of the town. And following these altered and hopeful circumstances of the port, which was possessed as yet of but an unformed haven, we witness the commencement of a first dock, first of that series for which Liverpool is now so far famed.

These evidences of prosperity well prepare us for the testimony of the records of the Hospital, as to the causes of its foundation.

We there read:—"That the inhabitants of the borough and port

"town of Liverpool, considering the many blessings God has been pleased
 "to bestow upon the said port town, and that he hath in so signal a
 "manner preserved and protected their ships, trade and endeavours, to and
 "beyond the seas, that the same, for many years, hath been enlarged and
 "carried on very successfully, and the adventurers and inhabitants of and
 "in the said port town very much increased, and that such and so many
 "great blessings do in the most especial manner require the most humble
 "and sincere acknowledgments, and that the same cannot be more fully
 "made appear than by promoting so good a work;" determined to found
 a "charity school," for educating poor children in the principles of the
 Established Church.

It would seem that the land upon which the School was built was
 granted by the Corporation for that purpose, for we find by the first
 Corporation deed, made the 24th August, 1722, recital made of the
 circumstances attending it in the following terms:—"That the
 "worshipful the Mayor, Baylives, and Burgesses of the Burrough,
 "Corporation, and Port Town of Liverpool, in the County Pallatin of
 "Lancaster, on the one part, and the Reverend the Rectors of the new
 "Church and Parochial Chappel of Liverpool aforesaid, for the time being,
 "Sir Thomas Johnson, Knt., Richard Norris, and Thomas Willis, Esqrs.,
 "all of Liverpool aforesaid, upon the other, that whereas, upon the repre-
 "sentation of the late Rev. Robert Styth, one of the Rectors of the said
 "new Church and Parochial Chappel, of Liverpool aforesaid, in the month
 "of December, one thousand seven hundred and eight, to the worshipful
 "the Mayor, Aldermen, and Common Council of Liverpool aforesaid,
 "intreating them to set out and give a convenient piece of ground for
 "building a School, for teaching poor children to read, write, &c., in which
 "he recommended as the most useful kind of charity, and much wanted
 "in the said town, and therefore hoped would meet with due encourage-
 "ment and hearty approbation, and would, in a short time, be erected, and
 "a competent salary provided for a master; on a certain piece of waste
 "ground, part of the waste of and belonging to the said Mayor, Baylives,
 "and Burgesses, lying and being at or near the south-east corner of St.
 "Peter's Church yard, in Liverpool aforesaid, on the south side of a new
 "street, passage, or lane, which runs along the south side of the said
 "church yard, now called School Lane, which said certain parcel of

"ground, as it is now, walled and built, was by order of council of the
 "sixth day of January, in the said year, one thousand seven hundred and
 "eight, viewed and afterwards set out for the purpose aforesaid, and that
 "thereupon several charitable and well-disposed persons did contribute
 "generously towards the beginning and carrying on the said under-
 "taking."

The School that "would in a short time be erected," mentioned in the body of this grant, was built in 1708, and was that in which, on the 13th January, 1709, the first meeting of contributors was held, for the election of treasurer, trustees, and a master, and which subsequently was used as a "Free Grammar School." Excepting what we gather from the very general terms in the latter clause of the deed, that "several charitable and well-disposed persons did contribute generously towards the beginning and carrying on the said undertaking," it is by no means clear from what source the funds arose by which this School was erected. There is no record of it among any of the books at present in the Hospital, while the names of all the contributors from the first meeting in 1709, with all disbursements, are strictly recorded down to the present time. We have, however, in a simple and modest narrative, written soon after by Mr. Bryan Blundell, who may justly be regarded as its founder, some solution of the difficulty as to the little School house first erected; he writes—"A narrative of the rise and progress of the "Charity School, or Blue Coat Hospital, in Liverpool, made by Mr. "Bryan Blundell, treasurer, from the year 1709 to near the time of his "death, 1755." He relates "how wonderfully the good providence of God "has done for this School since its institution in the year 1709." He here plainly refers to it *after its erection*.

"Mr. Robert Styth, one of the rectors at that time, and myself, were "very intimate. I was then master of a ship in the foreign trade. We "agreed to use our best endeavours to found a charity School, and applied "to the Mayor, and some of the most respectable inhabitants, who joined "in the business, and subscribed, some twenty, some thirty, some forty "shillings a year, to the amount of £60 or £70 per annum. We then "built a little school house, which cost £35, and appointed a master, at "£20 per annum, which was paid out of the money collected at the "sacraments, and took fifty poor children into the said school, clothed, and

"gave them learning. Mr. Robert Styth was then made treasurer, and I "went to sea on my employment, telling Mr. Styth that I hoped to be "giving him something every voyage for the school."

It is evident from the foregoing narrative that £35 was the cost of the erection of the School house of 1708, the land, according to the deed, being granted free; but we have still only the same general assertion with respect to the contributors which was contained in the deed. In the absence of any positive payment recorded from the School funds, I have thought it necessary not to accept too readily any general statements, the more so as I could have wished to find an exact date for both payment and erection. I have made a careful search into the matter, and it appears to my mind pretty evident that Bryan Blundell himself paid the £35 for the School, forming a part of the £250 which he states he gave to it. The School records, as I shall have occasion to shew at a later stage, state that he gave between the years 1709 and 1713 £250 to the School, and yet there is only brought a total, and that at various times, of £215 into the Hospital Cash Book; the difference of £35 in these two items would be paid for the little School house. In this way may we account for the omission of £35 paid by Bryan Blundell towards the School, and the like sum disbursed for a first School house, both items being absent from the accounts.

This circumstance helps us additionally to regard Bryan Blundell in the light of "founder" of the Blue Coat Hospital; hence, also, we have no more exact date than the general one of 1708 as the period of the founding and erection of this little School house on the common.

It was from this School, first used for our Blue Coat Hospital, that the "new street, passage, or lane, which runs along the south side of the "church yard," took its name of School Lane. I am induced to mention this because some Liverpool topographers have stated that the name was derived from an "ancient Grammar School" previously erected here. This may reasonably be disproved by the terms of the deed, as well as by their own shewing, that it was only some twenty-nine years prior to 1709 that even the first house was built beyond the pool; and it is also disproved by the knowledge we have that "the little School" afterwards became the "Free Grammar School," the testimony of which, and the causes which led to its being so used, may be gathered

from the following extract from the Hospital charter, granted by the Duchy Court of Lancaster, in 1739:—"Whereas at a meeting, held in the said School, the 15th day of September, anno Domini one thousand seven hundred and fourteen, Bryan Blundell, of Liverpool aforesaid, merchant, was chosen and appointed treasurer, the said Robert Styth being then deceased, and also elected one of the trustees of and for the said School, and that by the generous contributions of the said Bryan Blundell, and others, they were enabled to enlarge the said School and buildings, and to take in a greater number of poor boys and girls, which was done accordingly, and for that purpose several purchases were made of houses, buildings, and lands adjoining thereto, and the said School and buildings are now completed and finished in a very beautiful, substantial, and commodious manner, and are called the Blue Coat Hospital, in Liverpool, and there are generally kept and maintained therein about 46 boys and 14 girls, that the buildings of the said Hospital or Charity School being of a larger extent than necessary for the habitation of boys, girls, masters, mistresses, and servants, some parts thereof are, and have been for some years, set off at annual rents, to increase the income of the said charity, particularly part thereof to the overseers and churchwardens of Liverpool aforesaid, to be used as a workhouse for the poor, of the yearly rent of £80, and another part to the mayor, bailiffs, and burgesses of Liverpool aforesaid, to be used as a '*Free Grammar School*,' at the yearly rent of *Seven Pounds*."

It may not be out of place here to notice briefly the connection of the Corporation with the "Free School," and the cause of their paying to the Blue Coat Hospital a yearly rent for the same. We learn from the records of the town, that in the early part of the reign of Henry VIII, in 1515, one John Crosse endowed the Chantry of the Altar of St. Catherine, being the fourth Liverpool chantry, with certain lands and rents, "to celebrate there for his soule, and to doe one yearly obit, and to distribute at the same time three shillings and four pence to poore people, and also to keep a School of Grammar free for all children bearing the name of Crosse, and poor children." The grant is for ever. At the time of the dissolution of religious houses, in 1533, Sir Thomas Hesketh and Mr. Ashurst were appointed commissioners, and gave for return of this chantry: "Humphrey Crosse is the incumbent, being fifty years of age, and hath

"for his salary £6 2s. 10d., the profits thereof, besides his salary, is £2. "The ornaments belonging to it worth £3, and twelve ounces of plate." As two of the Liverpool chauntries were of the foundation of the House of Lancaster they fell to the crown; but there was conveyed, about this time, from the Duchy Court of Chancery, in respect of this Chauntry of St. Catherine, a much similar sum to what had been named, to keep and maintain in Liverpool a "Free Grammar School;"* and it was this grant made by the Duchy Court, through the Corporation, which the trustees of the Blue Coat Hospital received for rental, first paid into the School funds in 1720, and continued to the time when it was pulled down in 1806-7, the site of it being then required for further erections to the Hospital.

It is doubtless from a mixing of the circumstances which I have narrated that the mistake was made, of supposing that School Lane did not take its name from the School first used for our Blue Coat Hospital.

I have dwelt, perhaps, at tedious length in endeavouring to establish a few facts relative to the first school of 1708, and I can only, in apology, say that finding so little known of it, in every direction I have sought, I have been the more careful to note down everything bearing upon it.

Proceeding with the records of the Hospital, which are sufficiently clear from the period of the first meeting in 1709, although no minutes of the earlier meetings are found in any of the books at present in the Hospital, I find that of the contributors who first met in the newly erected School there were present, "The Mayor of Liverpool for the time being, William Clayton, Esq., Thomas Willis, Jasper Maudit, Esq., Alderman John Seacome, Ald. James Benn, Ald. John Peaceland, Ald. William Hurst, Ald. William Webster, Ald. Sylvester Moorcroft, the Rev. Robert Styth, and several others;" that "a master was elected, and the said Robert Styth was appointed treasurer, and also the Worshipful the Mayor of Liverpool (John Earle, Esq.), the Rectors for the time being (Robert Styth and John Richmond), the said Sir Thomas Johnson, Knt.,

* The "Free Grammar School" of the foundation of John Crosse occupied, in 1673, a site by St. Nicholas' Church. "Here is also a great piece of antiquity, formerly a chapel, now a Free-School, at the West end whereof, next the river, stood the statue of St. Nicholas (long since defaced and gone), to whom the mariners offered when they went to sea." Vide Blome's "Britannia," ed. 1673, p. 134.

"Richard Norris, William Clayton, Jasper Maudit, Thomas Willis, and John Cleveland, were chosen and appointed trustees of and for the said School, and that the same was continued and managed by them, with "and out of the charitable contributions of sundry inhabitants of the said "borough and port town."

It is a little remarkable that the name of Bryan Blundell does not appear as being present at this meeting, and more remarkable still that he is not one of the trustees, nine in number, first chosen for the School; but it may, perhaps, be accounted for from the words of his narrative, already quoted—"I went to sea on my employment:" possibly he may have been away at this time. Notwithstanding, his name appears in the list of first subscribers, dated 3rd March, 1709, of which the following is a copy, which I have extracted from a MS. volume, kindly lent me by Anthony Swainson, Esq., who filled the office of treasurer to the Hospital from 1838 to 1848, and which, through the courtesy of Mr. Wood, the head master of the School, I have been enabled to compare with the original lists in the Hospital. I would also mention, that by laying under contribution such works as the "Norris Papers," the "Moore Rental," and "Gregson's Fragments," together with the records of the Hospital; to which I may add, in anticipation, the forthcoming volume of the Rev. Dr. Hume, promising, among other matters, a new "directory" of 1708, &c., we can glean a few particulars of their families and pursuits.

Jno. Earle, Esq., Mayor, 40/.
 Sir Tho. Johnson, 40/.
 Rd. Norris, Esq., 40/.
 Wm. Clayton, Esq., 50/.
 Jasper Maudit, Esq., 20/.
 Jn. Seacombe, Esq., 20/.
 Tho. Willis, Esq., 40/.
 Ald. Jas. Benn, 20/.
 Ald. Jn. Cockshot, 20/.
 Jn. Cleveland, Esq., 40/.
 Ald. Wm. Webster, 20/.
 Ald. Silvester Moorcroft, 10/.
 Ald. Rd. Houghton, 20/.
 Ald. Wm. Hurst, 20/.
 Mr. Francis Goodrich, 10/.
 Mr. Hy. Taylor, 10/.
 Mr. Ralph Peters, 20/.

Mr. Wm. Swarbreck, 10/.
 Mr. Tho. Seacombe, 10/.
 The Rev. Mr. Rt. Styth, 30/.
 The Rev. Mr. H. Richmond, 20/.
 The Rev. Mr. Tho. Welsh, 10/.
 Mr. Wm. Squire, 20/.
 Mr. John Plumbe, 20/.
 Doctr. Jn. Tarleton, 20/.
 Mr. Wm. Rollins, Sen., 10/.
 Mr. Jn. Wainwright, 10/.
 Mr. Josh. Eaton, 10/.
 Mr. Geo. Tyrer, 30/.
 Mr. Abram. Langley, 20/.
 Mr. Jas. Tildsley, 10/.
 Mr. Peter Hall, 10/.
 Mr. Foster Cunliffe, 10/.
 Mr. Edwd. Tarleton, Sen., 5/.

Mr. Tho. Coore, 10/.	Mr. Hy. Chorley, 10/.
Mr. Bryan Blundell, 50/.	Mr. Jn. Fells, 10/.
Mr. Jas. Gibbons, 10/.	Mr. Jn. Murray, 10/.
Mr. Jn. Blackburne, 30/.	Mr. Geo. Ryley, 10/.
Mr. Hy. Brown, 10/.	Mr. Tho. Robinson, 10/.
Mr. Rt. Lowe, 10/.	Mr. Rd. Kelsall, 10/.
Madm. Margt. Clayton, 10/.	Mr. Adam Bury, 10/.
Madm. Jane Lyddale, 20/.	Mr. Jas. Townsend, 5/.
Madm. Elinor Clayton, of Liverpool, 10/.	Mr. Rd. Gildart, 10/.
Madm. Elinor Clayton, of West Indies, 10/.	Mr. Jn. Parr, Merchant, 10/.
Mr. Danl. Danbers, 30/.	Mr. Danl. Willis, 10/.
Mr. Gilbert Levesley, 10/.	Mr. Rt. Shields, 10/.

They make a sum total of £50 10s., which was augmented by £1 benefaction from Mr. Josh. Tuen, the interest of £20 left by Joshua Marrow, 24s., and a collection of £10 9s. 2½d. in the new church (St. Peter's), upon new year's day, 1710. The expenditure for clothing and other necessities, exclusive of diet, which was not then provided, for forty boys and ten girls, the number at first placed upon the foundation, amounted to £35 9s. 9½d., being at the rate of 14s. 2½d. per child. There thus appears a sum of £27 13s. 5½d. in Mr. Styth, the treasurer's, hands, after the disbursements of the first year.

It would be a laborious and useless task to enter further into figures, year by year, and I will only cite a few particulars which I conceive worthy of notice during the remaining part of the trusteeship of Mr. Styth, which closed only with his death, in December, 1713. Before so doing I would remark, that while Bryan Blundell may be considered the founder and chief benefactor to the Blue Coat Hospital, as his own modest and simple narrative, the terms in which he is spoken of in the extract from the charter, both already cited, and the testimony of the School records, to which I shall immediately refer, sufficiently prove, it cannot be denied that a *very* large part in the founding of the Blue Coat Hospital was filled and acted by the first rector of Liverpool, the Rev. Robert Styth. Without invidiousness it may fairly be stated, that to his auspices, to Mr. Blundell's self-denying zeal and generosity, and to their mutual fostering care it was owing that this admirable institution arose. It remains among us at once a monument of their piety, and a lasting benefit to our town.

The particulars I have to notice are, a first mention made of "a master," Wm. Trenow, on the 2nd November, 1711. The absence

of any earlier mention is accounted for by the want of minutes, to which I have before adverted; none being kept of the earlier meetings. A little later on, in 1713, we have an entry, "Paid master for teaching a poor boy "to write, 2/;" in the same year, also, under date August 31st, "To cash "received of the master £20 5/," and again "November 6th, £6 15/." This would doubtless be earnings of the children employed in manual labour during a part of their school hours. There is no direct evidence of their being so employed at this time, but from the nature of the entry, and the fact that in after years they were employed, first in cotton spinning, stocking weaving, &c., and then in pin making, it is probable that this money was so derived.

The above is the only mention made of a master during the treasurer-ship of Mr. Styth; there is no record of any payment of salary until the succeeding treasurer-ship, the absence of which may confirm Bryan Blundell's statement, that it was paid out of the sacrament money.

The chief, and indeed almost the sole donor to the school, apart from the annual subscribers, during Mr. Styth's treasurer-ship, 1709-1713, appears to have been Bryan Blundell. He is named as having given, 11th May, 1711, £100; 2nd February, 1712, £50; 4th April, 1713, paid bill on Mr. Thomas Robinson, being his part of the Pemberton's prize, £25; November 16, "a bill," £40; in all £215, which with £35, of which there is no record, made up a total sum given of £250. I have already endeavoured to shew that this sum of £35 was paid by him direct for a school house, and thus no entry was made of it in the school funds. That he gave £250 is proved by the following entry: "1713. Bryan Blundell having given £250 to be paid out to interest "this two years past, being put out £100 to Parr, and £90 to Mr. Worrall, "brings in £11 8s. per annum, as above account. So bath for that reason "with drawn y^e 40/ per annum he paid before, and designed to give to "y^e School as it pleases God to bless him in his voyages." For some years from this date his name, which had appeared on the subscription lists from the very first meeting in 1709, is accordingly omitted.

After Mr. Styth's death, in 1713, Mr. Blundell was chosen, on the 15th September, 1714, at a meeting held in the School, to be treasurer in his place, and was at the same time elected a trustee. We have also, in the cash book, an account of bonds and notes

delivered to Bryan Blundell, by the executors of the late Rev. Mr. Robert Styth, for the "rise" of the Charity School. James Hartley's bond, £100; John Worrall's bond, £90; James Hartley and Robert Webster's bond, £20; Mr. Parr's bond, £100; total, £310: together with "a note from Henry Brown and Thomas Robinson, the "executors of the Rev. Mr. Styth," upon the collectors of the parson's tax for 1713, in favour of Mr. Blundell, for £28 14s. 9½d., being the balance in hand of treasurer's accounts, to which was added, to be paid from the same source, a legacy of £50 from the rector.

Mr. Blundell's narrative gives us a little additional information at this point, and accounts for the length of time which elapsed between Mr. Styth's death, in December, 1713, and his appointment to succeed him, 15th September, 1714. "In 1713 Mr. Styth died; from "1709 to the time of his death I had given him £250 on my several "voyages, £200 of which he had put out to interest. When I came home "and found he was dead it gave me much concern for the School, as Mr. "Richmond, the other rector, was much indisposed at times, and not able "to undertake such a charge. I therefore determined to leave off the sea, "and undertake the care of the School, and was chosen treasurer in "1714, at which time there were £200 at interest, which was all the stock "the School had."

There is an observable difference between the amount of "stock" recorded in the Hospital books, and that named by Mr. Bryan Blundell; but this disparity can be satisfactorily reconciled by assuming that Mr. Blundell esteemed £200 alone to be what we must call permanent stock.

In the early part of Mr. Blundell's treasurership, 1715, entry is for the first time made of sacrament money received, "per Mr. Thomas Hurst and "Mr. Seel, as churchwardens, £32 7s. 4d." In the same year, "to cash "from Mr. Branker and Mr. Hamer, sacrament money collected in several "years, £76 14s. 9½d." Another entry we have at this time, "Cash "collected in the *gallery* in the Exchange, £17 13s." Among the disbursements this same year, "To Mrs. Lloyd teaching the girls to sew and "knit, £6;" this appears to have been her yearly stipend.

In the course of this year preparations were made for the erection of a suitable building for lodging, &c., of the children, by burning Bricks, preparing Timber, &c.

The cause for this may be best gathered from Bryan Blundell's own words :—"In a little time, I saw some of the children begging about the streets, their parents being so poor as not to have bread for them, which gave me great concern, insomuch that I thought to use my best endeavours to make provision for them, so as to take them wholly from their parents, which I hoped might be promoted by a subscription. I therefore got an instrument drawn out for that purpose on parchment, went about with it to most persons of ability and many subscribed handsomely. On the strength of which I went to work, and got the present charity school built, which has cost between two and three thousand pounds, and was finished in 1718, at which time I gave for the encouragement of the charity, £750, being a tenth part of what it pleased God to bless me with, and did then purpose to continue to give the same proportion of whatever he should indulge me with in the time to come, for the benefit and encouragement of the said charity." He adds, "So great has been the mercy and providence of God in prospering me in business, that I have made up the £750 to £2000, which I have paid to the use of the school; and my children, (six in number, the youngest of them now near thirty years of age,) are so far from wanting, or being the worse for what I have given to the school, that they are all benefactors to it, some of them more than £100 at a time. I may truly say, whilst I have been doing for the children at the school, the good providence of God hath been doing for mine, so that I hope they will be benefactors to this charity when I am in my grave."

The "instrument, drawn out on parchment," to which Bryan Blundell refers, is now preserved in the Hospital, and is marked No. O, and I notice from a remark made upon it that it was exhibited 16th December, 1761, before the Commissioners on the execution of a Commission of Bankruptcy against Owen Pritchard, who had filled the office of Mayor of Liverpool in 1744, and whose name was entered as a donor of £35; of which the Hospital received £28 14/ from the estate.

As the preamble of this roll is a little curious, while it instructs as to the Hospital history, I do not hesitate to reproduce it in this paper :—"Whereas profaneness and debauchery are greatly owing to a gross ignorance of the Christian religion, and especially among the poorer sort, and that nothing is more likely to promote the practice of Christianity

"and virtue, than an early and pious education in youth : and whereas the
 "charity schools erected in the several parts of this kingdom have
 "abundantly improved the morals of poor children educated in them to the
 "Honour of God and the benefit of the nation. And whereas many poor
 "people are desirous of having their children taught but are not able to
 "afford them a Christian and useful education ; and there being children
 "whose parents are dead, and no friends left to take care of them, must
 "unavoidably come to beggary and ruin both of body and soul, if not
 "prevented by the care of some charitable and well-disposed people, and
 "there being now a charity school, accommodated with salary and other
 "subscriptions to the finding fifty boys and girls with clothes and learning,
 "yet find that whilst the children are forced to go to their Parents for
 "meat, some of which having not meat to give them, but send them out a
 "begging for it, by which the children get such habits of idleness, and
 "meet with so many diversions that they either neglect the school, or
 "profit but little by coming ; so that the means that is used whilst on this
 "footing is not sufficient to effect what is proposed, nor can anything be
 "proposed so effectually as by raising a fund which might be sufficient to
 "find them with meat, drink, and lodging, in one entire house, by which they
 "would be kept under such discipline as by the blessing of God, might
 "have the desired effect. And in consideration of so great a good, they
 "whose names are then under-written, do hereby agree to pay the several
 "respective sums of money against their names respectively subscribed
 "towards the said fund, for finding them with meat, drink, apparel,
 "and lodging, and teaching poor children in the said school to read and write,
 "and arithmetick, and instructing them in the knowledge and practice of
 "the Christian religion, as professed and taught in the Church of England ;
 "and for learning them such other things as are suitable to their condition
 "and capacity.—1717."

The foundation stone of the new Buildings, to which the inhabitants were
 thus invited to subscribe, had been laid 3rd May, 1716. These buildings
 now form the ancient part of the Hospital, including the Chapel, over
 which is seen the inscription : — "*Christianæ charitati promovendæ
 inopique pueritiæ ecclesiæ Anglicanæ principiis imbuendæ sacrum.
 Anno Salutis MDCCXVI.*"

When completed in 1725, though partly they might be said to be

finished and opened in 1718, they had cost the sum of £2,288 14s., which with the exception of £500, a balance in the Treasurer's hands, was all raised by donations, the names of the donors, as well as other subscriptions extending to 1747, being contained in the parchment roll to which I have referred.

From a detailed statement of the cost of the erection, had in the Hospital, I transcribe a few items which appear to me worthy of notice.

There is entered the cost of making a Kiln in 1715, as follows:—

Jno. Moore for Soil, getting Sodds 5/4, and Cartage . . .	£0 13 8
Jno. Yates for 25 loads of Coal	3 19 0
Jno. Burch for 2 work of Slack	1 5 0
Wm. Webster for 11 loads of Coal	1 9 0
Jno. Narland for Coals	0 19 6
5 Loads of Turf at 2/6 $\frac{1}{2}$ load	0 12 6
Jno. Brooks for 2 loads of Slack	0 5 4
Tho. Glover for 8,200, and Carting for Caseing	4 0 0
Drink * for the men at making and burning Brick	0 4 6
Rt. Bannister, kiln making, and casing 93,000 Bricks . .	19 0 9
	<hr/>
	£32 9 3

Also, "Making Brick in the year 1716."

To Sodds, Cartage, and Soil	£0 12 0
Coals and Slack for a Kiln, open fires, per note	9 9 4
Drink at sundry times, and when burning	0 5 6
Rt. Bannister for making and burning 74,285	16 18 0
	<hr/>
	£27 4 10

One thing is clearly deducible from the above, namely, that the bricks used in the erection of the edifice must have been burnt on the spot, the clay being found there also. This appears the more probable when we reflect that the Hospital even ten years later, in 1725, according to the view of the town in "Herdman's Ancient Liverpool," occupied the extreme east portion of the town, all beyond it being green fields and pasturage. Clay pits could also thus, without inconvenience, be dug in the extreme outskirts of the town. The conversion of the "Ladies' Walk," which was part of the common,[†] and the site

* This item of "*drink*" seems no unimportant one in the account, as it frequently occurs.

† The common comprised the area bounded by what was the pool, (now Paradise Street,) by Church Street, Bold street and Duke Street.

of the present Parr Street, some half century after this period, into brick-fields, and the reputation which the clay had of being the best in this part of the country for the purposes of brick making, may also bear out the statement.

Among other items in the cost of erection, we have under date, August 18th, 1716, "The town carts for carting Mr. Hurst's joice 4/6;" "The master in consideration of spoiling garden 10/;" "23 loads water to temper clay 7/8." May 21st, 1717, "Labourer 1 day, and drink, rearing one part 10/;" "Ditto, and drink, rearing the other part 6 weeks past £1 5/;" "A parcel of joice from Chester as per bill £26 16/9." December 7th, "Peter Orm for drying dales at Salthouse 12/6." April 9th, 1718, "40½ cases of glass from Bristol £40 7/;" "Half freight, cartage, portorage, and postage £2 8/;" "Parcel of dales per the ship 'Bootle' £68." Dec. 8th, 1718, "Wm. Jones for cutting coat of arms £7 10/;" 22nd, "Jane Orm and Glasshouse men for dry dales 3/6;" "Jackson bringing the plate from London and oil 4/6;" May 2nd, "Wm. Jones carving 4 stone figures £7." August, 1719, "Horse hire and expense going to Manchester 14/9." 1720, "Jno. Wortley for seeds and gardening 13/;" "Drink to the workmen, and smiths at gates 10/;" "64c. 2q. 8lbs. iron for palisades and gates, at 28/;" "Enlarging Free School £105 0/5½;" "½ of the ship 'Bootle' fitted out, £80, given by Tho. Bootle, Esq.;" "½ of cargo for said ship, at Liverpool, dry goods, £17 0/2½;" "½ of a loading rock salt for said ship £14 9/10;" "½ cargo in Ireland for Jamaica £86;" "Wages advanced and other charges after account made up £1 5/." Aug. 11th, 1721, "Sundries to Jno. Crompton, per bill, £6 17/7, but he was pleased to give £5 to the School, £1 17/7." 1722, "Jn. Brooks raising foundation of new houses £6 6/." 1726, "Digging a cellar, laying floor, a pump and sundries at Mr. Erlam's House, per bill, £10 19/7."

Entry is also made of "Wm. Trenow, a year's salary, ending 1st May, 1717, £10/;" and the like sum he continues to receive during the whole period of the erection until his death, which took place in 1723. Wm. Trenow, from an entry in another place, seems to have been the school-master, and this is the first account of any payment being made him through the school funds.

While these efforts were made in erecting a house where the children might effectually be taught "the knowledge of the Christian religion,"

provision was at the same time being made to have a suitable seating place for them in the parish church. In order that this might be judicially effected, the trustees obtained a Faculty from the Consistory Court of Chester, bearing date 3rd October, 1717, by which they were empowered to erect a new gallery at the west end of the church, so that the children might, as the document expresses it, "stand, sitt, kneel and "hear divine service and sermons in the same." This gallery continues at the present day to be used for the purpose by a portion of the inmates of the Hospital.

I would here notice the year 1717 to be the last in which the Mayor's name, as such, appears as heading the yearly subscription lists, which up to this time from the first meeting in 1709, had been customary.

We next have, in 1718, an opening of the school, necessarily partial, as the edifice was only thoroughly completed in 1725; and an amount is entered, "cash collected at opening the school," £13 12/. In the year succeeding, we have "cash received from the present churchwardens, "£18 10/; do., the ensuing ones, £1 10/; £20;"—this would be "sacrament money," towards the master's salary, and the same "fixed" sum continues to be paid during many succeeding years. A first payment is at this time recorded to "Theophilus Price, schoolmaster, salary, £40," Wm. Trenow being also still kept at £10. Entry is made of this new master, "his expenses from London, £1 1/." He seems also to have been allowed £7 "for dyet one year." In 1720 is received the first rent of the "Free Grammar School," being entered, "by a year's rent from the old school, £11." This would include a house; for later on, in 1730, there is named, "by a year's rent for the school, y^e house empty, £7." Ellen Bibby, at this time also, succeeds Mrs. Lloyd as schoolmistress; and I find, a few years after, when this new mistress bears witness to a will made by Wm. Trenow, that she was not able to write, but marks the cross in witnessing. She doubtless would teach principally sewing and knitting, and perhaps reading. In our own day one might, perhaps, though I trust it would be difficult, find an Ellen Bibby in some rural hamlet of England! The trustees endeavoured this year to obtain a charter for the school. For this purpose £20 was forwarded to Sir Thomas Johnson, the then representative in Parliament,

and trustee for the school; but in 1726—this would be after Sir Thomas sailed from England for Virginia, whither he went in the capacity of an excise-officer, at a salary of £80 per annum—we have it recorded, “to Sir Thomas Johnson, cash sent in 1720 to procure a charter, had never any account or cash back, £20;” also directly under, “to Mrs. Wisdom, 1729, charges about a charter, as per account, £20 2/3.” It appears, notwithstanding, that application was made to Government for a charter, but, the school not being on a royal foundation, it was refused.

Wm. Trenow died in 1723, leaving by will, dated 27th February, ¹⁷²³/₃, all that he possessed to the school. Of that will the following is an abridged copy:—

“In the name of God, Amen. I, William Trenow, &c., do make and ordain this my present last will and testament in manner, &c.

“First, I will that my debts and funeral charges shall be paid and discharged. Item. It is the full purport and desire of my soul that my most esteemed and most affectionate friend, Mr Alderman Blundell, Treasurer of the charity school, in the corporation of Liverpool aforesaid, immediately after my decease, shall have full power and possession of what notes, bonds, or moneys shall be left or found in my desk or chest, all to be appropriated to the use and benefit of the said charity school and children thereto belonging. And I will likewise that Mr Blundell aforesaid shall have power to sell all my wearing apparel, unless that suit which I wear every day, which I give and bequeath to Robert, younger son to Ellen Bibby, mistress of the charity school before mentioned, as also a broadcloth coat and vest, to William, son of my cousin Witherinton, if accepted; otherwise, to be applied and sold for the use of the charity school and children aforesaid. Item. All the goods in my room or lodging, of what nature and kind soever, I give to the use and for the benefit of the said charity school, and to be applied to the most useful purposes that my very good friend, Mr. Alderman Blundell, shall think fit—whom I have appointed whole and sole executor of this my last will and testament. * * * *

“WILLIAM TRENOW.

“Signed, &c., in the presence, &c.

“JOSHUA ERLAM.

HER
“ELLEN **E** BIBBY.
MARK

“THEOPHILUS PRICE.”

Agreeably to this will possession was taken of his effects, and the school paid for his burial.

The account of his effects, burial, &c., is somewhat interesting, and is as follows:—

Cr.		Dr.
By Mr Bryan Blundell's note for £30	0 0	To Jos. Banks, paid parson's
„ Thos. Massie's and Thos.		dues for y ^e grave, for y ^e
Jump's bond and interest..	10 5 0	bell, for y ^e stone and
„ Salary due to Mr. Trenow		cutting £1 2 8
when he died	5 0 0	„ Jos. Banks, for Mr. Tre-
„ A debt due from Jas. Banks	1 3 0	nnow's diet to y ^e time he
„ do. Ellen Bibby	1 0 0	died
„ Cash found in his chest and		„ Mrs. Ellen Bailey, for grave
desk	23 6 9	clothes
„ Plate, household goods, and		„ Lawrence Rigby, for coffin..
wearing apparel, as per in-		„ Ellen Bibby, for sundries ..
ventory	16 18 0	„ Mrs. Mary Gibson, for gloves
„ Fleming's note, 15/, but is		and pall
not to be got		„ Mrs. Anne Fletcher, for sack,
„ £3 5/ owing from Mr. With-		as per bill
erington, not to be got....		„ Doctor Anger, 10/; to Mrs.
		Latham, per bill
		„ Mrs. Eliza Sherwin, do....
		„ The parson, for preaching the
		funeral sermon
		„ Proving the will, and ex-
		penses
		£10 0 9
		Balance carried to the credit of
		the charity school, being so
		left by his will, 1st August,
		1723
		£77 12 0
		£87 12 9
	£87 12 9	

During this period, 1723, Mr Bryan Blundell built on the Hospital land 36 alms houses, the rents from which brought an annual income to the hospital. Transcribing the records, we have—"amount of charges of building and fixing 36 alms houses, £550.

" Given by Bryan Blundell towards the above—part of

" which was profits from his ship ' Providence '..... £500 0 0

" Given by Mr. John Blackburne towards the above ... 50 0 0

£550 0 0

In a note at the foot of same we find, "the above houses are built upon the land belonging to the school, and are rented to the parish at £45 per annum: which rent is for the use and benefit of the school for ever, only the west houses; the gardens are Mr. Mawdsley's ground, for which we pay 20/ per annum."

Confirmatory evidence of these transactions will be found in the minutes of a vestry meeting held 10th December, 1723, in the parochial chapel of St. Nicholas.

The hospital funds were again used, in 1732, to build a workhouse, and we find a note in the school books, "to building the workhouse, with all conveniences, and to Mr. Brooks, for his interest on the ground, as per account, £800, and for which the parish is to allow £40 per annum."

The parish also still continued to rent the thirty-six alms houses previously built; but the amount paid to the Hospital for rental was at this period reduced from forty-five to thirty-six pounds per annum.

"At a vestry held 11th April, 1732," this is confirmed in the following terms:—"The proceedings and arguments made and concluded upon by the parishioners and inhabitants of this parish, at several general meetings lately had in the common hall of the town, for having a workhouse, which the trustees of the charity school have undertaken to build for that purpose, and to let the same for a yearly rent of £5 for every £100 they shall lay out therein, and the two wings already built on the south side of the charity school, containing 36 houses, for £36 per annum: they being first paid out of the ensuing year's poor tax. The arrears of rent now due for these houses being now read, the same are approved of and agreed to by the vestry."

The workhouse so built continued during many years to answer very well; but the population increasing, and the house being continually enlarged to meet additional requirements, it became objectionable to the neighbourhood of Hanover Street—at that time the most fashionable part of the town—and accordingly a site was sought for a new one. In 1770, the workhouse, where we this day have it, was commenced in Brownlow Hill, and thus removed from the Blue Coat Hospital lands.

Mention has been made of "gardens" belonging to Mr. Mawdsley's children, for which the school paid 20/ per annum. This continued only

to 1733; as I find at that date, "a sum of £20" paid "to Mr Mawdsley's children, for the piece of ground" whereon were "the west houses and the gardens."

Two years subsequently, in 1735, Mrs. Ann Cleveland having "left premises in Dry-bridge," now Fenwick Street, "part sold in 1787, remainder in 1802, for £1,706 13/9;" the children, whose number, in 1726, had been increased to 60, were now wholly taken into the hospital to reside, which, until this year, appears not to have been the case. We find, accordingly, an entry then made for the first time, "to provisions of all sorts, as per account, £166 4/1," as well also, "to sundry charges on the building, and fixing the children with bedding and all necessaries, as per account, £105 10/10½."

A Steward also at this time appears to have been appointed, for an entry is made "to paid the Steward's salary and diet for 10 months, £12 10/."

It was found necessary, a few years later, in order to give legal discharge for legacies, &c., to have a decree in Chancery made; and, accordingly, application was made to the Court of Chancery for the County Palatine, and a decree obtained, 27th August, 1739, "at the relation of Foster Cunliffe, Esq., John Goodwin, Esq., John Atherton, Esq., and John Hardman, Esq.," by which the property of the hospital was invested in 50 trustees;* and it was by it enacted that the treasurer or secretary shall always be an inhabitant of Liverpool: it also generally defines the object of the institution.

In the succeeding August, Mr. Clayton's legacy of £500, left by will some 17 years before, was paid, with interest, augmenting the amount to £1,000, and the same was invested with the Corporation. The school records narrate, "Mrs. Clayton was so good to pay growing interest, to make £1,000."

A first auditing of the accounts was made in 1741, according to the requirements of the charter, when "Jno. Entwistle and Wm. Williamson the younger, were appointed to inspect, audit, and adjust all the preceding accounts of Mr Blundell and all other officers, touching their

* The number was increased to 100 by a decree made in 1803.

"receipts, payments, and actings:" the same were recorded "to be just and true."

In the following year ten more children, making in all seventy, were received into the School; in 1744, Foster Cunliffe, dying, left the School £1000, which was also put out to interest with the Corporation, and the trustees, pursuant to the decree in chancery, granted to his heirs the nomination of five children into the Hospital. Similar grants had in like manner been made to others, on their "giving and assuring to the use of the Hospital, lands, tenements, or money, to the value of £100 for each child." Upon the receipt of these legacies, Bryan Blundell writes, "our stock, by good providence, increasing, and being very desirous of seeing 100 children in the place before I died, I got a second instrument drawn on parchment in 1744, and solicited subscriptions to enable us to take in 30 more. Accordingly £2000 were subscribed, upon which we were determined to trust the good providence of God, which had always made up our deficiencies, and in 1748 we took in 30 more, so that there now are 70 boys and 30 girls, in all 100, a sight I much and earnestly desired to see before I died." He adds "The charge is now £700 per annum, towards which we have, by the blessing of God, attained to a stock or income of £400 a year; the other £300 comes in by gifts and legacies, so that we have never yet wanted at the year's end, but always continued increasing a little. I have now been treasurer 37 years, in which time more than 400 children have been put out apprentices, mostly to sea, in which business many of them are masters, and some mates of ships, and several of them have become benefactors to the School, and useful members of society."

"We take the children into the School at 8 years of age, and put them apprentice at 14; I give 40/ apprentice fee with each.

"It is so useful a Charity that I have frequently wished to see as many Charity Schools as we have Churches in the town, which are four; and I yet hope the good providence of God may bring it to pass in the next generation."

It is not inappropriate to notice that about this time, especially in the years 1749-1755, commanders of ships returned from sea gave large sums to the School. In the former of these years as many as 24 masters of vessels are entered as having subscribed £50 8s.

In connection with these circumstances, we cannot help reverting to the fact that Bryan Blundell had been himself, in early life, one of Liverpool's good mariners, nor do we lose sight of the statement that he makes,—“many of them (the boys) are masters, &c.,” and “have become “benefactors to the School.”

One more item remains for me to record; it is under date 1752, to the effect that “Bryan Blundell and his Sons having subscribed and paid a “pretty large sum of money this year to the School, do not continue on “their subscriptions on the year, but give handsome at the collections for “it in the Churches.” They had given handsomely. The good Bryan Blundell during his life, from first to last, had given to the School the munificent sum of £3500, “being,” as he states, “a tenth part “of what God had blessed him with.”

It is interesting to notice in regard to Church collections, the general custom,—as I gather from the School records,—of persons who might be prevented from attending service, sending their pious contributions afterwards to the School. This is among the practices which in our day seem to be changed but not improved.*

In 1756 Bryan Blundell, the kind friend and generous patron of the Hospital, dies. After his death we have it recorded that “a picture of “Bryan Blundell, Esq., late Treasurer, Trustee, and Benefactor to the “School, presented by Mr. Hamlet Winstanley, with a frame given by “Madam Clayton, was ordered by the Trustees to be placed on the east “side of the Trustees' room in the said School.” And there it is still to be seen, ranged along with other portraits which adorn the walls of the board-room.

Mr. Blundell's mortal remains were interred, in 1756, in St. Nicholas' Church, and he was succeeded in the treasurership by his son Richard, who continued in that office during the brief remaining period of the half-century, 1759, when there were received into the School 20 more children, making in all 120. After his death he was succeeded, in 1760, by his brother Jonathan, who continued through life a steady friend of the School as his father and brother had been before him: both sons realizing their father's hope that his children might be benefactors to the institution when he was in his grave.

* Improvement comes too slow, and change too fast.—*Childe Harold*.

Of the little which is known of Bryan Blundell, one significant fact must not remain unrecorded here: he was himself an only child early left fatherless. This may in some measure explain that life-long zeal, that undying, inextinguishable charity, for which he was so remarkable. Whichever of the many causes by which he was surrounded may have moved him in his acts of charity and of goodness, one thing assuredly commends him to us as among the most distinguished of Liverpool's early worthies, and that is, that during a long life, well spent, with the blessing of Heaven on his labours, he showed, in an eminent degree, the power as well as the utility of individual effort, when rightly directed and properly applied. "Truly it is heaven upon earth to have a man moved with "charity, and who rests in providence." *

* Lord Bacon.

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT HOSPITAL.

By Mr. John R. Hughes.

(READ 2ND MAY, 1861.)

PART II.

HAVING in a former paper, read before this society,* given a sketch of the origin and early history of the Liverpool Blue Coat Hospital, embracing a period of fifty years, viz., from the eighth year of the reign of Queen Anne, 1709,—when the Hospital, the oldest of our local charitable institutions, was founded,—to the death of its distinguished founder, Bryan Blundell, and the closing years of the reign of Geo. II., 1759-60, I now venture, agreeably to an expressed wish of several members of this society, to prosecute my task further, and so far as my knowledge, or means of acquiring that knowledge, permits, to lay before you a few facts which I hope may prove interesting. At the same time I am compelled to request the society's indulgence for laying before it so crude and hasty, and by consequence, so imperfect a paper.

Animated by the best and holiest of motives, our ancestors erected the Hospital, as they declared, in gratitude to God for the many blessings he had bestowed upon their "Port town;" and the Institution has, for many years, participated in the increasing wealth of the town, and stood forth, not only as a monument of charity, but also a memorial of the continuance among us of that spirit of religious dependence on Providence which actuated and directed the original founders.

In my former sketch I have endeavoured to shew the course and effect of the management under its early founders.

* Transactions, vol. xi. p. 163.

At the period of Bryan Blundell's death in 1756, when he had been forty-two years treasurer, there were 100 children wholly maintained, fed, clothed and taught on the foundation. The funds he left amounted to £7,150. His son Richard Blundell, who succeeded him, died 1760, leaving a capital of £7,650 and 120 children on the foundation.

I may here mention that, since writing the former paper, I have been shewn, by a gentleman of my acquaintance, an old deed, being the conveyance of a seat, No. 45, in the gallery of St. Thomas's Church, which had formerly belonged to the Blundell family. In this deed it is named that Richard Blundell died intestate. Finding in the Hospital records for 1760 a legacy of £100 made in his name, I was curious to understand how it had been paid. It appeared that among his memoranda, found in the Hospital after his death, was a written request that one hundred pounds should be paid to the School: this accordingly was the legacy so entered.

It is at this point of time, 1760,—the period of Richard Blundell's death,—that my present record begins.

Jonathan Blundell, the youngest son—as I gathered from the above-named deed—of Bryan Blundell, succeeded, 31st March, 1760, as Treasurer, on his brother Richard's death: his two elder brothers, Bryan and William, becoming his sureties, according to the requirements of the charter obtained in 1739, in a bond of £2,000, for the due performance of his office. This office he held for the long period of thirty-six years, devoting himself with singular energy to the development of those pious ends which he had seen his father pursue with so much fixedness of purpose and high resolve. Old age and its consequent infirmities could alone induce his relinquishment of it. In a letter addressed to the Trustees of the Hospital, dated 28th March, 1796, a copy of which is entered on the minutes—he states “now being in years, and my health requiring me to live in the

"country, of consequence I find myself not so able to be of that service to this charity I could wish." He then proceeds to direct that proper notice be given at the Exchange and in the Churches for choosing another Treasurer. This notice was agreeable to the charter, which directed that fourteen days' notice be given immediately after divine service on the Sabbath at both Churches (St. Nicholas' and St. Peter's) and at the Exchange. This practice is, of course, complied with even to this day. Before any Governor or Trustee of the Hospital, as well as Treasurer, can be elected, placards are affixed to the Church doors and put up at the Exchange. It is also incumbent that every Trustee shall be an inhabitant of Liverpool, or seized of property to the amount of £100 per annum in the County of Lancaster. The Treasurer must always be an inhabitant. The latter clause, altogether apart from private motives, while it deterred Mr. Blundell from holding the Treasurership, did not necessarily require his relinquishment of the Trusteeship, which he continued to hold to the period of his death, which occurred in 1801. At the close of his Treasurership, the School funds amounted to £11,220 principal, at interest. A pleasing as well as notable instance of "continuance in well doing," is presented to us in the history of those three worthies, Bryan Blundell and his two sons, who for the long period of eighty-two years, continued with noble self-devotedness and untiring zeal, to manage the affairs of this Hospital; and their descendants of our own day shew themselves equally zealous in behalf of its best interests whenever occasion offers.

Soon after Jonathan Blundell's assumption of the Treasurership, the number of inmates in the Hospital materially increased. In 1763, an addition of eighty children was made, making the number on the foundation at this period 200, viz., 150 boys and 50 girls. In order to accommodate the additional number, a purchase was made of Cheshire's

premises, adjoining the School, which were leasehold under the Corporation, and for which the sum of £780 was paid Mr. Aspinall, July 2nd of this year. A committee was appointed to survey the ground, which formerly was covered with tan-pits, and occupied by John Syers at a rental of £35. The Trustees proposed to erect a new building to run eastward from the end of the then School, to the end of the ground purchased from Cheshire, and therein to have proper accommodation for the whole number of boys, with the conveniences for work-room, lodging-room, dining-room, store-room, sick-room, &c. A plan was proposed which the Trustees approved.

The above mention of a work-room, &c., at once suggests to us that the children at that period were engaged in manual labour part of their time. The old records of the School in 1765 state also that £220 were paid to the proprietors of the stocking manufactory towards a building for boys to weave in. Jonathan Blundell, the Treasurer, was a partner in the stocking manufactory which was carried on in School Lane, and he with his partners proposed to the Trustees of the Hospital to employ the children in that manufacture; the proposals they made were so fair, and the pecuniary advantages so much greater than any which had before been realized from the labour of the children, that the Trustees gratefully and readily consented. This arrangement was continued up to 1771, when it was given up, the following reason, extracted from the Board-room Minutes, being assigned :—"Whereas several base reflections have been cast upon Messrs. Blundell and Co., proprietors of the stocking manufactory, as only consulting their own private lucre and advantage in employing the children, and some persons make a handle to withdraw their subscriptions; it is now proposed by the said Mr. Blundell to discontinue the manufactory and employ the number of children some other

"way, which proposal was agreed to." An opportunity offered in 1778, when the house and buildings lately used as a stocking manufactory, were let to Messrs. Craven, Rosson and Co., for spinning and preparing cotton for weaving: they offered to employ 120 children in carding, roving, &c., for the spinning machines, &c., paying to the Trustees in consideration of the childrens' labour a sum of £312 per annum, payment to be made *half-yearly in bills on London*. The children were to be subjected to no correction in the manufactory but that of the masters. Very soon after, finding from the deadness of the cotton trade that they could not employ 120 children, they humbly requested the Trustees to withdraw thirty, and the Trustees consented. In 1781, they prayed to be wholly relieved of their engagement, and a committee, appointed to enquire into the grievances complained of by Messrs. Craven and Co., reported that their complaint was just, and agreed that the children should be withdrawn, at the same time urging, that the children, in future, should be employed in "carding, spinning, roving, warping, and, if possible, in weaving of cotton." For some short time they were enabled so to employ them, but in 1789 the cotton manufactory was given up, when it was resolved that, "in order to promote habits of industry, the children should be employed in manufacturing their own apparel till something more profitable was adopted."*

The succeeding year "something more profitable" presented itself. Articles of agreement were made 20th December, 1790, between twelve of the Trustees and Mr. James Meredith, of Manchester, for the labour of 200 children in "pin-making," together with the house and warehouse situate

* A respectable inhabitant of this town, now verging on four-score years of age, informed the writer that he well recollected, when in the school, weaving a piece of *velveteen*, and that he himself afterwards *wore it*.

in School Lane, during a term of eleven years. It may be necessary here to note that 280 children, viz., 230 boys and 50 girls were at this time on the foundation. To the number of inmates, which, in 1763 was 200, there were added twenty more in 1770, twenty in 1779, ten in 1781, ten in 1783, and twenty in 1787, making up the number as above stated.

The making of pins was decidedly the most profitable of any in which the children had been engaged, realizing as it did during the later years of the agreement, a sum of £450 per annum, but it was deemed detrimental to the children's health, and seems, besides, from the Treasurer's statement in 1802, which was the period of the expiry of the agreement with Mr. Meredith, to have been productive of "several "inconveniences to the house," as well as otherwise disadvantageous to the children, and it was consequently wholly discontinued at the end of the last named year. The Trustees at the same time stated that it was inconsistent with the object and intention of the institution—which was formed for the purpose of instructing children, not only in reading, writing, and arithmetic, but in the principles of religion—"to connect any manufactory whatever "with it." From this period the whole of the children's time has been devoted to learning, and a more liberal mode of education was soon after adopted.

In the list of donors to the School in 1802, the year in which pin-making was discontinued, are found the names of Messrs. James, George and Robert Meredith, of Manchester, for the sum of £21.

Having referred to the articles of agreement made between those gentlemen and the Trustees of the Blue Coat Hospital, there is one point to which I will venture a particular allusion. We frequently hear that in the eighteenth century old customs, festivals and holidays were much more—much

better, as some would say—observed than at present. In the agreement referred to, we are afforded direct evidence of this fact, as the following list of holidays to be allowed the boys will at once and clearly demonstrate :—

Christmas, fourteen days, (for amusement).

Good Friday, one day.

Easter, two afternoons, and from three o'clock the third day.

Whitsuntide, ditto. ditto. ditto.

Shrove Tuesday.

Ash Wednesday.

Conversion of St. Paul, 25th January.

King Charles's Martyrdom.

Purification, 2nd February.

St. Mathias's, 24th February.

Annunciation, 25th March.

St. Mark's, 25th April.

St. Philip and St. James, 1st May.

Ascension.

King Charles restored, 29th May.

St. Barnabas', 11th June.

St. John the Baptist, 24th June.

St. Peter's, 29th June.

St. James's, summer fair.

St. Bartholomew's, 24th August.

St. Matthew's, 21st September.

St. Michael's, 29th September.

Liberty Day.

St. Luke's, 18th October.

King's Inauguration.

St. Simon and St. Jude, 28th October.

All Saints', 1st November.

Gunpowder Plot.

Martinmas winter fair.

St. Andrew's, 30th November.

St. Thomas's, 21st December.

In connection with the subject of the children's employment in manual labour, I would note that a donation of £93 5s. 7d. is set down in 1766, from Aldn. John Tarleton, Esq., who had been Mayor of Liverpool in 1764, which appears to have been the value of five bags of cotton,

presented by him to the School, weighing 1,314lbs. at 17d. p lb. As this was still the age of the "ancient spindle and loom," while yet the great inventions of Arkwright, Hargreaves, Crompton and Watt were being matured, the fact is, perhaps, noteworthy, and viewed in respect to an occurrence which took place some eighteen years subsequently, and told on the authority of Mr. Bryan Blundell, who was a descendent of the founder of the Blue Coat Hospital, it is equally, if not more, interesting.

A consignment of eight bags of cotton, made *per* an American vessel from the United States, was, it is said, seized by an Officer of the Customs, who believed that cotton was not grown in America! The after history of these eight bags sounds to us in Liverpool, who are now used to such extraordinary importations of this article, as equally singular, viz., that, when thrown on the market, they had the effect of glutting it. Ultimately they were sold to Messrs. Strutt and Co., of Derby.

Having traced the various occupations of the children during the Treasurership of Mr. Jonathan Blundell, and up to the period of the entire discontinuance of all manual labour, I must now advert to other matters which seem to me to claim attention.

The diet used in the Hospital, when Mr. Blundell undertook the management, would seem to be little different from that which had been adopted some eighteen years previously. The caterer or House Stewards' Book of that period, has no entry whatever of diet. Now, however, (and for many years past,) a "Diet Book" is systematically kept up in the Hospital.

The following is the bill of fare which was read, approved and adopted at the first meeting of the Trustees after the exemplification of the Charter, in 1742 :—

	BREAKFAST.	DINNER.	SUPPER.
SUNDAY	Bread, Beer.	fleshmeat, Plucks, Oatmeal, Bread, Beer.	Bread, Broth.
MONDAY	Drinkmeat, Bread.	Bread, Cheese, Beer.	Bread, Milk.
TUESDAY.....	Water Porridge, Butter-milk.	Pease Porridge.	Bread, Cheese, Beer.
WEDNESDAY	Water Porridge, Butter-milk.	Pudding Pyes.	Bread, Butter-milk.
THURSDAY	The same as Sunday.		
FRIDAY	Drinkmeat, Bread.	Bread, Cheese, Beer.	Bread, Sweet-milk.
SATURDAY	Pudding, Butter-milk.	Dumplings, Beer, Butter.	Bread, Sweet-milk.

Bread and beer seem to have been in vogue, not alone for breakfast, but also for supper as well as dinner. Quaint old William Cobbett would, very possibly, have highly approved of such fare.*

On the assumption that the bill of fare of all classes, a hundred years ago, assimilated in some degree, however remote, to that here adopted, so far as beer, perhaps, was concerned, one need scarcely wonder that ale and beer brewers were so plentifully found in Liverpool; the home consumption must have been something terrible, whatever might be said of the exportation. Ample proof is afforded us from many circumstances of such being really the case.

The bread used in the Hospital was, of course, at this time, made with leaven and so continued until 1800, at

* "Ordinary beer for ordinary fare," and "good fat ale for holidays," were themes upon which William Cobbett expatiated with delight.

which time "barm" being used in the Workhouse, where there were a great number of "kneaders of bread" employed, a committee was appointed to enquire into the matter, the two Rectors being of that committee, and the result, as was naturally to be anticipated, was a suggestion that the Blue Coat Hospital should adopt the same plan. The School report of 1800 makes mention, "That the bread is now made "with barm instead of leaven, the expense of which is "more, but the quality of the bread with the saving that "arises from being baked in the Hospital, very greatly over- "balances that consideration." Some seven years later there is a copy of directions for baking the bread :—

112lbs. of good seconds flour will gain 44lbs. in baking.—

Remarks on Baking.

103lbs. of coals and cinders mixed were consumed in making three bakings.

Reference having been made to the Workhouse, it may here be stated that the Old Liverpool Workhouse was built on the land as well as from the funds of the Blue Coat Hospital, the parish paying to the Trust a yearly rental for the same,* but in 1771, much about the time of giving up the stocking manufactory in School Lane, the Workhouse in Brownlow Hill was finished, the poor were removed thither, and what had been the Old Poorhouse became in consequence untenanted. The Trustees of the Blue Coat Hospital resolved that it should be converted into warehouses, and a sum of £281 was expended in making the necessary alterations. To this day these warehouses stand at the corner of College Lane and Hanover Street, where there is a great gateway which opens into the court-yard, in which the old Poor-house, now known as the "wool warehouses," is seen. The buildings are of brick and evidence the fact that very little alteration indeed could have been required to

* *Vide* my former Paper.

adapt them to their present purpose. The rents of these warehouses form part of the income of the Hospital. While occupied by the parish the rental was £40 per annum—£80 with the wings;—but with slight alteration, involving the little outlay we have seen, the Trustees were enabled to let them to Messrs. Earle and Co., at a later period, viz., from 1803 to 1810, for 250 guineas; and from 1810 to 1817 at an advanced rental of 400 guineas per annum, so great has been the rise in value of buildings and land in this locality.

I must necessarily be brief in many of the notices; in some, perhaps, the character of the incident will scarce deserve a more than passing notice, if even that,—in others again, where I might esteem them of greater moment, I must needs be careful that I overstep not the limits usually assigned to readers of papers. On this account I will, briefly, record other and remaining circumstances during Jonathan Blundell's treasurership.

Exactly 100 years ago, in 1761,—when the great Duke of Bridgewater had given, by his example, an impetus to canal undertakings which proved of so signal and immediate advantage to Liverpool,—I find on the records of the Hospital evidence of judicious outlay in placing £500 at interest on the "Weaver Navigation." This sum was repaid in 1771.

The Annals of Liverpool furnish the next record that, in 1765, the "Old Church" organ was presented to the Blue Coat Hospital. From a notice being this year first made of the sum of £6 6s. paid from the School funds to one Ralph Parker for tuning organ, it properly suggests itself that the Trustees had no such instrument in their chapel prior to this date. The organ which they now have cost £230, and was presented them April 3rd, 1821, by the late

John Harrocks, a munificent friend of the Schools, to whom I shall again allude in the course of these pages.

In 1772, the proceeds of the sale of one-sixth of a tract of land were received, amounting, with interest from 29th September, 1767, to £218 0s. 5d. This tract lay at the end of the Salthouse Dock, and the one-sixth part was bequeathed to the use of the School by William Marsh, of Knowsley, under will dated 15th November, 1722. One of the heirs of Mr. Marsh, a Mr. Barnston, sold part of the land in 1768, to his Grace the Duke of Bridgewater,—this was much about the period of his canal enterprizes,—and received £200 for it. In consequence, the Rev. Mr. Mears, an interested party under the will, wished to purchase for a like sum the Charity's share. After some considerable time spent in negotiation, the Trustees ultimately agreed “on behalf of themselves and the other governors of the Hospital, and of the poor scholars thereof, to revise, release, and ensure to the said Mr. Mears, and to his good liking,” the one-sixth part belonging to them, interest being paid from an agreed date.

Several other pious and well-disposed persons have, at various times, given and bequeathed premises and land to the use of the Hospital, and here I may mention that it has been the custom, from the period of obtaining the charter, to have a table of the names of all benefactors of twenty pounds and upwards hung up in the hall of the Hospital. More recently they have been affixed to the walls of the chapel, where they may now be seen.

An interesting, and to many a profitable study, is to be found in the contemplation of the long list of worthy names which these walls silently point to our view.

It has been to me a pleasing task, while looking over the School records, to note, not only the great interest shewn by the early friends of the Institution, but the

great tenacity of purpose with which—convinced they were pursuing a righteous work—they held on and persevered ; conjoined to these advantages there was given to many of them “length of days” to consolidate their good work. I have adduced the case of the founder, who, with his two sons, managed, during the long term of eighty-two years, the affairs of the Hospital. I have now to make mention of the death, in 1773, of a more humble, yet valuable agent in the work of instruction, Mr. Houghton, the master of the School.

He had been the schoolmaster for forty-eight years. On his election, in 1725, he had a salary appointed him of thirty-six pounds per annum, with “diet and candles ;” but towards the close of his life he seems to have been in receipt of fifty-six pounds per annum. His successor was Mr. John Smith, the usher, who had been brought up in the School, Ellen Smith being at the same time appointed mistress of the girls, who at the period was commonly called the “dame.” Mr. Smith continued to be master till 1798, when he died, having been the head master for a term of twenty-five years.

Placing in juxtaposition the long servitude of the two masters, a period of seventy-three years, with the servitude (and I use the term advisedly) of the three Treasurers, Bryan Blundell and his two sons, for a period of eighty-two years, the reflection pleasingly forces itself upon us, that these circumstances were of high and lasting importance to the Institution, and must have tended in no small degree to the permanent advantage of the School.

There being no letter of Mr. Jonathan Blundell's extant in the Hospital, save copies which exist on the minutes, I received lately with great pleasure, from a friend of mine, a letter, which he told me he had exhumed, along with other

papers, from an "old curiosity shop" in this town, where it had been buried. As it bears upon my subject, and was written during the period of his treasurership, though of a simple and very unpretending character, I venture to copy it.

"Liverpool, Mar. 21, 1778.

"REV. MR. THO. BROUGHTON,
"No. 5, Bartlett's Buildings,
"Holborn, London.

"Sir,

"Please to send me the books as under, a part are for the
"use of the patients of our infirmary, and part for the children of our
"Blue Coat Hospital, and oblige, Sir,

"Yr. very humble St.,

"JONA. BLUNDELL.

- "50 Bibles.
- "50 Com. prayers, new version.
- "50 Dixon Spelling Books.
- "50 Psalters.
- "50 Christian Monitors.
- "50 Present for Servants.
- "50 Lord's Day.
- "50 Drunkenness.
- "50 Chastity.
- "50 Stealing.
- "50 Lying.
- "50 Gaming.
- "500 Christian Monitors.
- "500 Dr. Sonehouse's advice to Patients."

From the foregoing, it is clear that it was not in one good work alone that he engaged himself. Additional evidence, if such were needed, may be had by a reference to Baines's "History of Liverpool," where at page 413 we have his name entered, along with his worthy father and brother, in the list of the first subscribers, 1745, to the Liverpool Infirmary, the institution he names in his above quoted letter.

Before leaving the subject of Jonathan Blundell's treasurership, I may point out that it was during his time the first

"Account Current Book" was kept in the Hospital, and from which it has since been customary to frame the annual reports of the School. The period of its adoption in 1782-3 was consequently the time in which the first printed report of the School appears, and a report has been annually issued since.

Nicholas Ashton, Esq., who resided at one time in Hanover Street, afterwards in Clayton Square, and still more recently at Woolton Hall, whose name is associated with everything good and great in the annals of our town, succeeded Mr. Blundell as Treasurer, June 27th, 1796. He continued to hold the office for one year, it being at the time understood that the office should thereafter be annual. The number of children in the School was at this time 300, the augmentation having taken place the preceding year; but towards the close of 1796 it was resolved again to increase the number from 300 to 320. Mr. Ashton, at the period of his death, was the oldest Governor and Trustee of the Hospital, having been elected in 1763. The report of 1833, in recording his demise, makes mention of the fact, that for more than seventy years he had been a subscriber of £5 5s. per annum to the funds, and was ever a warm and attached friend to its interests.

Clayton Tarleton, Esq., who succeeded him in 1797, died during his term of office, when Colonel Bolton, a name well known in Liverpool, undertook it for 1798. The number of inmates was at this time 327. As noted in another place Mr. John Smith, the master, died this year, when the Trustees resolved, "That a clergyman be appointed master of the School, but that he shall not be allowed to officiate for any of the clergy in the town or neighbourhood." The salary, including house and other advantages, was fixed at one hundred guineas per annum. They then elected the Rev. John Shakleton, of Thornton, in the parish of Bradford, to be master: Mrs. Shakleton to be matron. A head assistant

was advertised for, salary fifty pounds per annum, but no perquisites. Among the minutes of the following board-day it was entered, "That Lewis Richards, late assistant to the "Rev. Mr. Leach, late of Mold, Flintshire, in Wales, be and "is hereby elected assistant teacher," &c. Owing, however, to a complaint being made against the new master, charging him with, to say the least of it, acts of imprudence, it was deemed necessary to convene a meeting for the 10th May, 1799, to examine into such charges. Among the witnesses to his character the Rev. Mr. Shakleton brought, with others, Mr. Baines, the well known master of the Free School, which at that time was in School Lane, and on the Blue Coat Hospital land. After a patient investigation of the complaints urged against him, the minutes record "That having "taken the premises into our consideration, are of opinion "that he is unfit any longer to be master." Robert Parkes, of Liverpool, an excise officer, was elected to succeed him, the whole of the Trustees voting for him, with the single exception of Thomas Earle, Esq., who voted for Mr. Thomas Davies, another candidate.* The salary was fixed at eighty guineas per annum, besides the use of the house, fire and candles, and also perquisites on apprentices' indentures enjoyed by former masters, which were estimated at sixteen pounds more, making altogether one hundred pounds per annum.

To Colonel Bolton's office Edward Houghton, Esq., succeeded in 1799, and after him James Gerrard, Esq., M.D., became Treasurer for 1800.

The years 1799 and 1800 were remarkable as years of great scarcity, and as such could not fail to operate inju-

* The family of the Earles have always taken a most conspicuous part in the management of the institution. One of the family, John Earle, Esq., was Mayor of Liverpool in Queen Anne's reign, 1709, when the institution was first projected, and one of the Trustees, nine in number, first appointed. The present estimable Treasurer of the Hospital, William Langton, Esq., is likewise one of that family.

riously, and press heavily on the School. A minute to that effect appears on the books in 1800, when it is "ordered that "owing to the great arrears in the accounts, and high price "of provisions, the rule made in 1796 for receiving 270 boys "and 50 girls be for the present rescinded, and that till "further orders the number of both at any time shall not "exceed 300, viz., 250 boys and 50 girls."

When we consider the alarmingly high price of provisions at this time, we find every reason for the adoption of such a course. Recently, in the "*Liverpool Mercury*," I saw a "*Lancashire Man's*" reminiscences of two wet seasons. Of one of these (the period in question) he says, "I remember, "in 1799, the harvest only commenced on the 30th September; "all the wheat was unsound; meal was six pounds per load; "and potatoes a guinea per load." The four-pound loaf in 1800, consequent upon this state of things, was sold at the awful price—I can use no milder term—of two shillings.

Towards the close of this year, the Trustees advised "that "the tradesmen's bills be paid, and the Report published as "speedily as possible, and that the benefactions, &c., be "advertized in two newspapers." A strong effort appears to have been made to obtain benefactions, for it is remarked in the report, "Dr. Gerrard collected this year, total benefactions, £1,289 4s. 6d." Yet for all these efforts, the School was compelled to withdraw from the Corporation, "No. 1 Corporation bond for £1,000," and was in debt £1,474 16s. 3½d. I must assume that the good success of Dr. Gerrard must have spurred the Board of Governors, and justified, to some extent, the course pursued by them in 1801; for we find them at this time ordering, "That as "the distress calls for uncommon exertion," forty-six children be admitted, "notwithstanding the reduced state of the funds," they say, "trusting that, though they will, in consequence "thereof, be still further reduced, they may be reinstated in

"a future day." They cautiously put off, however, to a more opportune moment, sundry alterations in the premises which had been previously projected.

Turning from a consideration of these matters, to others of a dissimilar character, revealing to us something of the inner life of the boys, I observe it mentioned in 1800, that "Friday, the 25th July, being the fair day, the boys were so determined upon a holyday, that they drew the staple off one of the gates and went out, to the number of 107." It may here be convenient to place a reminder that the Liverpool fair was then held in front of the Town Hall, and continued during ten days preceding, as well as succeeding, the 25th July. That it was not then the mere form of a "fair day" as now, is well evidenced by the fact of the boys' obstreperous wish to see the fun of the fair. Several of the boys did not return immediately from the fair; for a catalogue of names, dated some days after, is found among the papers in the Hospital. In character with the circumstances above narrated, it is noted that seven boys ran away from the School, and one of them threw a brick into a mug shop, and "broke mugs," it is solemnly affirmed, "to the value of half-a-crown." This crashing event took place in the same indecorous year 1800. In strict justice we are compelled to say, that it certainly was very bad; but yet, after all, the true philosophy of the matter resolves itself in the every-day saying—"Boys will be boys." Dr. Gerrard and the Trustees of his day seem to have been kindly imbued with the latter sentiment, as we may judge from the tone of the following regulation:—"that the money arising from the sale of sundries, and also part, or perhaps the whole, of the money received in the boxes in the chapel, or given by any individual to any of the children, shall form one fund for supplying them with balls, tops, marbles and other indulgences, at the discretion of the master, save and ex-

"cept that the said fund shall first be liable to defray any "expense incurred by the children breaking the windows." The master had also his instructions to favour the boys whose "diligence, civility, cleanliness and decorum most "deserve it."

From an entry of this period I gather that the children were instructed in psalmody, and that their services were granted, as singers, to the different churches of the town; but in 1801 it was found that the attendance of the children at the different churches was very inconvenient—it was detrimental to their clothes—it gave them opportunity of rambling out, and committing many irregularities—it made them, returning from distant churches, late for dinner—and it caused further annoyance by their going to practice during the week days at all hours, even after dark, whenever the different organists thought fit,—all these things were urged against the system, and it was added, "It seems, indeed, to "be doing them not only a present injury, but perhaps laying "the foundation for their future ruin, as the talent for singing "makes them more desirable company for those who frequent "public houses. The examples of some of the instructors, "that of keeping their hats on in church, must in young "minds have a tendency to remove all awe for the place." For the foregoing reasons, it was resolved that the practice should be discontinued from the following Whitsuntide.

The Corporation, at this time, had notice to quit the "Free "School," or pay double rent—the smallness of the rent being pointed out to them. To the payment of an additional rent the Corporation acceded, and from 1801 £18 per annum was paid, for the short time longer which they continued to occupy it.

The Trustees having, in the early part of 1801, taken in a larger number of boys, in consequence of the general distress, felt themselves constrained, in the course of the same

year, to rule that "until the premises be put in repair, and "the funds in a more flourishing condition," the future complement of boys shall be 200.

During near two years Dr. Gerrard had occupied, with great advantage to the School, the dignified yet onerous post of Treasurer, and by his active and zealous interest in its behalf, had introduced many measures regarding the internal economy of the Institution, which from his special knowledge and ability, he was peculiarly fitted to suggest and cause to be adopted. On his retirement from the office, Wm. Cubbin, Esq., succeeded him, from 1802 to 1805.

Early in 1802 the premises in School Lane, consisting of the Free School and a house, together with the factory, &c., being considered in an untenable condition, the Trustees thought of adapting them to some other purpose; but finding part of the property to be only leasehold, their plan could not be carried into effect without purchasing the reversion. The Treasurer was, in consequence, requested to enquire upon what terms the Corporation would sell the reversion, and to get Messrs. Foster and Eyes, at the same time, to estimate the reversionary interest of some property in Fenwick Street, belonging to the School, and in lease to the Corporation and Mr. Edmund Molyneux. This property, it seems, lay in the line of intended improvements in Fenwick Street, and it was, reasonably enough, surmised that the Corporation would be glad to have the inheritance of it. An exchange was made of these reversionary interests respectively—the Institution deriving a balance of £818 13s. 9d. The Corporation were estimated to pay £1,206 13s. 9d. for the property in Fenwick Street, and the Blue Coat Hospital £388 for the freehold in School Lane, making the balance as above stated. In addition to which, the Corporation appear to have made a liberal grant of some other part of their leasehold property to the use of the School.

The land and buildings which had thus been transferred by the School to the Corporation of Liverpool formed part of the bequest of Mrs. Anne Cleveland, under a will, dated 4th March, 1730, and which accrued to the Hospital on her death in 1735. It may, perhaps, interest the Society to have a few particulars of this property, which was situate in Drybridge (now Fenwick Street), the Old Ropery, &c.

Two dwelling houses and bakehouse, at the corner of Moore Street, let for £10.

A small bakehouse, adjoining the former, £2 15s.

One dwelling house, adjoining the last mentioned bakehouse, let for £3.

A dwelling house, at the East end of Drybridge, £3.

A small house, adjoining the last mentioned, £2 15s.

The ropewalk under the Drybridge, with a small warehouse upon the bridge, £2 15s.

A cellar in Drybridge, £1 15s.

Pertinent to the subject of the enumeration of dwellings, &c., in and about Drybridge, I may be permitted to quote an extract from a paper by J. A. Picton, Esq., Vice-President of this Society, entitled "Ancient Liverpool in its Buildings and Architecture," read before the Architectural and Archæological Society, 4th December, 1858. He observes,*

"When Moore laid out Fenwick Street, there was a ropery or spinning place, in lease to Wm. Bushell, extending westward a considerable distance from Castle Street. In order not to interfere with this, the street was carried over the ropery on a bridge, as was done, many years after, in Newington. This went by the name of the Drybridge, and is so named in the maps, long after the bridge was swept away. The bridge is gone, but the lower part of the ropery remains, converted into a street, under the old

* At page 31.

"name. In respect of this bridge, Master Edward Moore
 "waxeth poetical. There was a narrow alley running from
 "Castle Street to Fenwick Street, at one end of which was
 "the Drybridge; at the other end lived a drunken fellow,
 "named Thomas Bridge. Moore gave the name of Bridge's
 "Alley to this passage, and composes thereupon the following
 "verses :—

"Of old, bridges for water were,
 "But these are made for other fare :
 "The one for spinning—and, it's said,
 "The other's for the drunken trade.
 "Let this be set to England's wonder—
 "Two bridges, and no water under."

The foregoing notice precisely accords with the condition of Drybridge at the period when the Blue Coat Hospital became possessed of the property in and about it.

It may be proper to state that a part of the above named property, held "under lease to James Rutter, tallow chandler, "and his heirs," had been previously sold to the Corporation in 1787, for £500: the total sum realized was accordingly £1,706 13s. 9d.

A condition was attached to Mrs. Cleveland's will, which ordered a payment to be made annually of £5 to one Coppell, and to her poorest relation for ever. This annuity is paid at the present day, to a person named Thompson, and, from what I hear, there seems no immediate fear of the heirs dying out.

Having procured, as we have seen, the reversion of certain premises and land in School Lane, the Trustees in the following year were enabled, after making necessary repairs, to let what had been the pin manufactory to Messrs. Mathews and Phillips, on a ten years' lease, at £60 per annum; and in the same year the warehouses in Hanover Street, to which reference has been made, to Messrs. Earles and Co., for 250 Guineas per annum, and likewise upon a lease.

About this time an opinion seemed to be formed among the Governors and Trustees of the Hospital, that the welfare of the Institution required some addition to be made to the decree, and it was judged expedient to apply to the Court of Chancery for that purpose. Mr. Corrie had already mooted the matter as early as 1797, with a view, particularly, of increasing the number of Governors and Trustees, which at that time was fifty, as fixed by the original charter.* The opinion of Ralph Peters, Esq., was taken as to the practicability of making such increase, and following his advice, "it was requested that the Registrar of the Court of Chancery be enquired of as to the probable expense of obtaining a decree to increase the number."

A proposal being made some time subsequently by Richard Walker, Esq., to purchase part of the land belonging to the Hospital,—the Trustees doubting their power of disposing of such land,—afterwards resolved "that a proper case shall be stated to John Lloyd and Richard Hollist, barristers, for their opinion whether a decree may be obtained for enabling the Trustees to dispose of any land belonging to this Charity, and apply the money raised by such sale in the erection of another Hospital, and that Robert Richmond prepare such case." Counsel's opinion proved favourable to the proposal, and application was accordingly made to the Duchy court to grant such powers. Certain other alterations and amendments of the former decree were at the same time proposed. Amongst others, it was sought to alter the quarterly and weekly days of meeting of the Board of Governors from Monday to

* In Brooks's History of Liverpool during the latter quarter of the 18th century, page 65, there is seen a list of the fifty Governors and Trustees, first appointed under the charter in 1741, furnished by Anthony Swainson, Esq., who was formerly Treasurer of the School, and who has taken a great interest in its welfare.

Tuesday. It was stated to the Court, "that Monday being the
 "day appointed by the former decree for holding both the
 "quarterly and weekly meetings, is, by the largest part of the
 "said Governors and Trustees (who are merchants), found
 "to be an inconvenient day for, and prevents their attending
 "at, such meetings, by reason of a mail from London arriving
 "at Liverpool on that day (which it formerly did not), and
 "the mail also arriving on Sunday, the next preceding day :
 "and therefore Tuesday (on which day no such mail arrives)
 "would be more convenient for holding the said quarterly
 "meetings. And Friday (being the day on which no mail is
 "sent from Liverpool to London, and the day next preceding
 "that on which the great and general market for the said
 "town of Liverpool is held) would be the most convenient
 "day for holding the said weekly meetings."

These, and sundry other alterations and additions, were, with slight modifications, adopted by the Court of Chancery, and a decree granted in 1803.

Mr. Richmond observed to the Board that the decree was not closed, and recommended it to be left open, as he stated their present purpose was effectually answered ; and upon any future application to the Court for power to sell any part of the premises, or for any other purpose, considerable expense would be saved. The thanks of the Board were rendered to Mr. Richmond, for his great pains and trouble in obtaining the decree, and "more especially for his liberal and exemplary
 "conduct in declining to accept any remuneration for the
 "same."

A special meeting, for the sole purpose of electing fifty additional Trustees, according to the provisions of the decree, was held at the Hospital, 1st November, 1803, when the following gentlemen were appointed :—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Henry Blundell, Esq., Ince. | 26. W. Naylor. |
| 2. Daniel Allen. | 27. W. Barton, Esq. |
| 3. Mr. John Bridge Aspinall. | 28. Thomas Potts. |
| 4. George Brown. | 29. Thomas Rawson. |
| 5. W. Beckwith. | 30. J. Swan, Esq. |
| 6. John Brancker. | 31. John Shaw, Esq. |
| 7. Thomas Bushell. | 32. John Parker, Esq. |
| 8. Thomas Beckwith. | 33. Samuel Staniforth. |
| 9. Nicholas Crooke. | 34. Henry Clay, Esq. |
| 10. Roger Carus. | 35. W. Gibson. |
| 11. James Drinkwater. | 36. W. Earle, Esq. |
| 12. W. Dixon. | 37. T. Case. |
| 13. T. Hinde, Esq. | 38. J. Leay. |
| 14. J. Houghton. | 38. W. Stanistreet. |
| 15. J. Jackson, Esq. | 39. S. Statham, Esq. |
| 16. John Keay. | 41. J. Booth. |
| 17. J. Lightbody, Jun. | 42. W. Roe, Esq. |
| 18. Thomas Leigh. | 43. J. Mather. |
| 19. W. Leigh, Jun. | 44. W. Aspinall. |
| 20. P. Leicester. | 45. Cornelius Bourne, Esq. |
| 21. R. Makin. | 46. Henry Dixon. |
| 22. T. Molyneux, Esq. | 47. J. R. Freme. |
| 23. John Myers, Wavertree. | 48. Samuel Martin. |
| 24. John Myers. | 49. W. C. Lake. |
| 25. W. Neilson, Esq. | 50. Philip Orton. |

The whole of these Trustees are now dead, the last survivor of them being Robert Makin, Esq., who died in 1859. It may be remarked that of the above number of newly appointed Trustees, three of them, viz., George Brown, Thomas Bushell and Thomas Potts, merchants of the town, well known in their day, had been brought up in the School, and through life manifested a great degree of zeal for the prosperity of the Institution.

Besides contributing liberally to its funds during their life time, all of them, I find, left to it also bequests at their death. Mr. Bushell, who died in 1838, left a legacy of 100 guineas; Mr. George Brown, who died in 1836, left to it £500; and Mr. Thomas Potts, who died in the same year, left £1000, to be paid at the death of his sister, who, dying in 1840, increased her brother's legacy, by adding to it £500 more.

The tablets on the walls of the Institution, to which reference has been made, record numerous instances of similar benefactions and legacies from those brought up in the School, who, in many instances, have chosen pointedly to identify themselves with the venerable Institution to which in early life they had been so much indebted, and towards which in after life many a noble and true heart has turned in grateful remembrance.

In illustration of the foregoing remark, I may instance a case from the very last report of the School, which came to my hands some three or four weeks ago. Among the list of donations during the year 1860 is found the name of "Joseph Blackley, Esq., educated in the School, (5th donation,) "£105." This gentleman has now attained the patriarchal age of eighty-one years. He left the School on the 1st of January, 1794, to follow the sea, and having in process of time become a shipowner, and been successful, he has now for many years lived retired, enjoying a well earned competency. In 1854, sixty years from the time he left the Blue Coat Hospital, he went to the School, and remarked to Mr. Wood, the worthy head master of the Institution, "sixty years ago I left the walls of this venerable Institution, and "I propose to give you sixty guineas, being a guinea for "every year since I left the School." This sum he accordingly paid, and it appears in the year's report, with a brief note of the foregoing circumstances. The last year, while paying the donation to which I have referred, he expressed a wish that a portrait of his, taken some half century ago, might pass into the possession of the School after his death. He left it to the Trustees to elect where it might be placed, his only wish being, as he expressed, that it might have a place in any part of that building he had loved so long and so well.

It is almost needless to remark that Mr. Blackley's pro-

posal was courteously and gratefully received by the Trustees, who have agreed to place it in the Board-room of their Institution. This Board-room contains portraits of the founder, Bryan Blundell, as well as many others. Application was made to the Trustees in 1804, by Hen. Blundell Hollinshead, Esq., for permission to put up, at his own expense, a full-length portrait of his father, Jonathan Blundell, adjoining that of his grandfather. Permission was readily accorded him by the Governors and Trustees, who requested him to attach to the same "an account of the great services rendered to the "charity by those worthy characters."

Pursuing the School records, I find that the children in the Blue Coat Hospital were attended during any sickness by the physician or surgeon to the Dispensary. This is seen on reference to certain rules printed in 1803, on the authority of the Board, respecting the admission, &c., of children, rule eleven enacting, "That the children who are "sick shall be visited by the then attending physician "or surgeon of the Dispensary, and by no other medical "person." The Liverpool Dispensary, from 1782 up to 1829, occupied a position on the South side of Church Street, between Post Office Place and the present Athenæum. It was thus, at this time, within stone's throw of the Blue Coat Hospital. When removed from the site in Church Street the Hospital sought, and obtained, the services of a physician and surgeon specially attached to it.

Following William Cubbin, Esq., who for three years had now held the treasurership, it is recorded that John Keay, Esq., undertook it during another three years—1805 to 1808. The new Treasurer was requested to lay before the Board an estimate of the repairs wanted to the Hospital, and a Committee was appointed to enquire into the real state of the buildings, and the best plan to be adopted for their repair. They were further requested to meet Mr. Foster, and with him to examine particularly into the matter. Mr. Foster

reported that the roof was good, but that the wood work of the windows was incapable of being repaired. We find, accordingly, new door and windows ordered, as well also "that the brickwork be pointed in an effective manner, but "no alteration to be made in the front of the building so "as to injure or affect its present appearance and general "character." The Earl of Sefton gave stone from his quarries in Toxteth Park to repair the front of the building. The value of the freestone given by him we find recorded, 29th December, 1807, to be £16 13s. 4d., at which time a vote of thanks was made to his lordship for the same.

The records of 1806 bear the name of Samuel Austin, entered as admitted into the School at this date, "since celebrated as a perspective delineator." In a valuable and highly interesting paper, read before this Society by Joseph Mayer, Esq., F.S.A., upon "Roscoe, and the influence of his writings "upon the Fine Arts," * reference is made to this gentleman. "Among the friends of William Roscoe"—enumerating those of an early date—Mr. Mayer adds, "at a later period Mr. "Austin, the well known water colour draughtsman, whose "original sketch of the house in which Mr. Roscoe was born "is now before you, together with a letter of Mr. Roscoe's, "confirming it as the place of his birth." †

During the treasurership of Mr. Keay, the observance of an anniversary by the children belonging to the various Church schools, seems to have first suggested itself to the Trustees of the Blue Coat Hospital. A committee of them was appointed in 1807 to manage a plan to carry this into effect. They appear to have been successful, for in 1809 "a special Board" was convened "to consider of the most

* Vol. 5, p. 151.

† Anticipating a little the order of events, it may here be stated, in connection with Art, that Richard Andsell, A.R.A., whose name deservedly stands high, not alone in Liverpool, but throughout the country at large, received his education in the institution, at a subsequent period. A recent number of the *Illustrated London News* gave, with his portrait, a brief biographical sketch of this distinguished artist.

"eligible mode of appropriating the money collected at the "first anniversary in July last." At the present time, on or about the 18th June is the period usually assigned to the anniversary. Upon the last occasion the number of scholars in Church schools who walked in procession, headed by the Blue Coat children, was 23,563.*

The Treasurer of the Hospital after Mr. Keay was W. Leigh, Esq., who undertook it for 1808, and George Brown, Esq., undertook the office in 1809. This was the period of the School's centenary, and no more appropriate election could have been made than the placing of Mr. Brown, a former pupil, at the head of the establishment in which he had been nurtured.

On October 3rd of the year in which Mr. George Brown was Treasurer, John Harrocks, Esq., was elected a Trustee. In the course of a few years he gave to the Hospital various sums, amounting in the aggregate to £3,022. He died in 1823, and a handsome monument to his memory has been erected in the chapel of the Hospital. It was executed by Mr. W. Spence, of Liverpool. The centre is a pedestal, supporting an urn, and on each side the figure of a boy and girl, in white marble, are represented in an attitude of grief, mourning the loss of their benefactor. Upon the tablet is the following inscription:—

Erected
to record the virtues of
JOHN HARROCKS,
a man whose benevolence
knew no other limits
than the wants of
his fellow creatures;
and whose munificent donations
to the Public Charities
of his native town,
And particularly to this
Hospital,
are the noblest
monument of his own worth,
and the most
persuasive incitement
to the liberality
of others.
1823.

* From a general roll of the schools, kept at the Blue Coat Hospital.

A very good likeness of Mr. Harrocks was presented by Mr. Brown to the Hospital; it now adorns, with others—some already named—the walls of the Board room.

In the course of his treasurership Mr. Brown wrote a letter, of which I annex a copy, to the Rev. Mr. Blacow, which he obligingly submitted to the consideration of the Board. The thanks of the Committee were presented to him, “for a communication so very honourable to his character, and a convincing testimony in favour of the excellency of the Institution.”

“28th September, 1809.

“REV. RICHARD BLACOW.

“I again take the liberty of addressing you on a subject which has given me some degree of concern. When I last saw you at St. James' School, I asked the favour of your giving us a sermon for the benefit of the Blue Coat Hospital, and was much disappointed to find something had occurred that had given cause for your withdrawing your kind aid in behalf of this Charity. I think I then informed you I had been brought up in the School myself, and how gratifying it must be to me being placed at the head of that seminary under the roof of which I had been nurtured, and to which I, in a great measure, owe all my success through life. There are now many applicants for the few vacancies we have for both sex, amongst which are cases most distressing. It recalls to my memory the time I was an applicant myself, under circumstances no less distressing than any which have this day come before me. I may here truly say, I applied as an orphan and they took me in, naked and they clothed me, hungry and they fed me; under these circumstances it is natural I should feel a more than common solicitude for its welfare. This emboldens me to renew my application to you in its behalf, and I feel a flattering hope that in again pleading to you (who so often holds forth so many good examples) I shall not plead in vain. On looking over our accounts I find our resources are very inadequate to our expenditure. The collection at your church last year was £70, and has averaged nearly double any of the other churches; to be deprived of such aid, and at a time, too, when our resources are so low, would indeed be severely felt. Do, then, my dear Sir, let me intreat in behalf of these poor children, who so often pray for and list their blessings for those kind friends and benefactors (amongst whom you have heretofore been so conspicuous), for all the benefits they enjoy, that you will revoke any determination you may have made, and that you will not only allow us a sermon, but in order to make it the more profitable you will yourself be our advocate on the occasion, in complying with which you will not only essentially serve the Charity, but confer an everlasting obligation on

“Your most obedient,

“GEORGE BROWN.”

This earnest and tender appeal does not appear to have induced a collection to be made at St. Mark's, as is evidenced by the report of 1813, which makes mention of "St. Mark's church, no collection since 1808." Yet it is but right to state, that among the donors in the year 1809, is the name of the "Rev. R. B., £2 2s.," which of course could be no other than the Rev. Mr. Blacow. The very report of 1813, just cited, has also entry of "Rev. Richard Blacow, "St. Mark's, £2," and other £5 subsequently. Whatever cause may have existed to prevent a collection being made for the School, and many causes may suggest themselves, I know, from other evidence than that I have adduced, that the School had no more firm friend than the worthy pastor of St. Mark's.

There is one part of Mr. Brown's letter which suggests a little history of his orphanage. He dwells on the fact of his own position, when an applicant for admission into the Blue Coat Hospital, "under circumstances," he writes, "no less "distressing" than any which had that day come before him.

He appears to have been received into the School in 1765,—the same year in which Daniel M'Lean, a late merchant of this town, and a great friend to the School, was likewise admitted—and so friendless was George Brown that he had no one in the world even to present him before the Board of Governors to state his case. At the tender age of eight years, an orphan, friendless and alone, he brought his papers and, with his own tiny hands, adduced proofs of his parents' marriage, his own baptism, his orphan condition, together with proofs of his possessing a settlement in Liverpool, required under the charter; and, without recommendation,* was admitted. On leaving the School, his condition and prospects were such as

* Anthony Swainson, Esq., who has been long connected with the institution, was my informant of the latter fact; and it is quite reconcileable with the other circumstances. He had heard it from good authority.

might aptly be described by a line in Milton :—

“The world was all before him, where to choose.”

He chose his father's profession—the profession of the founder of the Hospital—the sea. Before, however, he had taken one voyage, his legs got entangled in a rope, breaking them both. For twelve long months he was compelled to lie on his back, and in a sick chamber! A very child of misfortune he truly seemed to be: but a brighter day awaited him. Having recovered from his accident, he determinedly continued to follow the sea, and ere he was twenty years old, became the captain of his ship; while he was yet but thirty years of age, was an owner of a small fleet; in process of time became one of the wealthiest merchants of a wealthy port; and, better still, one of the most exemplary of Christian men. Of his high character, the introduction to the Chapel Hymn Books, used by the children, bears this honourable testimony—“He was one who was no less distinguished for his commercial integrity, than he was in private life for his unaffected piety and Christian benevolence.” And who may tell but that his early misfortunes may have tended to make him great? The experience of men in every age of the world gives force to this assumption. It was said of one of the ancients,* that he invited his pupils to calamity, promising them, from a participation of it, increased knowledge, enlarged views and multiplied ideas. It is a beautiful, and no less certain truth, that changes of outward circumstances, while they have their inconveniences, bear likewise in their train greater and more abiding advantages.

† Seneca.

SKETCH OF THE HISTORY OF THE LIVERPOOL BLUE COAT HOSPITAL.

PART III.

By John R. Hughes Esq.

[READ 10TH APRIL, 1862.]

IN the former papers were noted, with more or less detail, the records of the Institution during one hundred years of its establishment, ending 1809. The latter year witnessed, not alone the School's centenary, but also the gratifying spectacle of a former pupil, nurtured within its walls, George Brown Esq., occupying the high position of Treasurer, which gave him the chief rule of the establishment. This office he retained during the succeeding year, with so great advantage to the School as to elicit the special approbation of his colleagues. At a meeting held on the 1st January, 1811, the grateful thanks of the Trustees were respectfully presented to him "for his very meritorious, judicious and most advantageous "services" in behalf of the Institution. His successor was Edward Sephton Esq., who filled the office one year. At this period the Earl of Derby, who, besides being one of the Governors and Trustees, was a warm friend of the Institution, wished to place in the School a child who appeared not to belong to the parish of Liverpool. This the Trustees, however much inclined, could not permit, as it was in direct opposition to the Hospital charter, granted in 1739-41. Mr. Sephton was requested to write to his Lordship, apprising him of the fact. This letter was dated 8th October, 1811, and stated that

At a quarterly meeting of the Committee of the Blue Coat Hospital in Liverpool, on Tuesday, the 1st October, in the year

1811, the Trustees having taken into consideration the recommendation of the Right Honourable the Earl of Derby, for the admission of a child (who does not belong to the parish of Liverpool), are unanimously of opinion, however much disposed to oblige so kind a friend of the charitable Institution, that in this instance, however much they lament the circumstances, they cannot accede to his Lordship's wish consistently with the spirit and often repeated expressions of the charter.

The letter added that

from the first meeting of the Committee after the decree from the Chancery court of Preston was received, it has been the invariable practice strictly to restrain the admission to the children whose legal settlement has been proved to be in Liverpool.

This case suggests the remark that some expressions of the charter have come, at this distance of time, to be misunderstood. By it every child seeking admission into the Blue Coat Hospital is required to belong to the town *and* parish of Liverpool. Elsewhere, however, the disjunctive form, town *or* parish, is used. Again, at the period of the founding of the Blue Coat Hospital, Liverpool had been only some ten years erected into a parish, distinct from Walton, to which it had before been attached. We also know that for many years the old borough and parish of Liverpool were co-extensive; but under the Municipal Act the town was greatly enlarged, taking in portions of adjoining townships. From these circumstances the question naturally arises,—and, indeed, has arisen,—as to the meaning of the terms town and parish, as laid down in the charter. The expression *town* throughout precedes that of *parish*. Eminent counsel seem agreed upon the reading that the two forms of expression in the first instance clearly convey the meaning that children of parishioners, even though not townsmen, are equally eligible for admission; while in regard to the second point, they say that children belonging to the adjoining townships, even when

those townships became incorporated with the town, are not eligible within the meaning of the charter, inasmuch as the town may be enlarged to almost any extent; nor could some extension have been otherwise than contemplated at the period of obtaining the charter (1739-41), by the introduction of such clause. So recently as the 24th April, 1857, the opinion of the present Solicitor-General, Sir Roundell Palmer, was had, confirmatory of others previously obtained.

The construction put upon the words may fairly be esteemed in harmony not alone with the direct letter, but with the spirit of the charter. Assuming, however, that even a more liberal and extended construction could have been given, it would have increased the number of applicants, already too many; while the vacancies remained precisely the same. The very year following that in which the Earl of Derby sought admission for a child not belonging to the town, there were on one quarter day no fewer than 138 applicants, while there were only 8 vacancies!

Mr. Sephton having occupied the Treasurership for one year, was followed, in 1812, by Wm. Beckwith Esq.; and Matthew Gregson Esq., (the well-known author of "Gregson's "Fragments") filled the post in 1813. During Mr. Beckwith's time the "Madras system" of education—so named from originating in the Military Orphan Asylum at Madras—was introduced into the School with great success; and the method pursued received the high approbation of the Rev. Dr. Bell, the excellent and philanthropic founder of the scheme. Although the "Madras system" was introduced to this country in 1797, on Dr. Bell's return from India, it had made comparatively little way at the time it was adopted in the Blue Coat Hospital.

Its distinguishing characteristic, the principle of tuition by the scholars themselves, was esteemed worthy of a trial at the Blue Coat School, as it gave to the master "the

“hundred hands of Briareus, and the hundred eyes of Argus,” most useful auxiliaries if only on the ground of economy. The system was tried with excellent effect. On the 23rd September, 1813, the School was visited by the rev. founder himself, in company with his friends Lord Kenyon and Counsellor Marriott. In a letter to Mr. Gregson, dated 25th September, 1813, he conveys his thanks for the gratification which the visit afforded him. “Allow me, my dear sir, to thank you for the very great gratification which I experienced at your Blue Coat Hospital School, in which I did not see, as I often see, the lifeless corpse, but the living soul of the Madras system of education. I beg that you will remember me thankfully to our friend Mr. Brown whom I met with you on my former visit at Liverpool, who, like you, takes a lively interest in the admirable institution. Your master is a treasure. Ever and for ever, God Almighty prosper you.” In a postscript he adds—“Your School might be made of great use in training masters, and in propagating the system.” That the suggestion made in the postscript was acted upon, together with the effects produced, is shewn by the report of 1825, which states—“In very few, if any, schools in the United Kingdom has the Madras system of education been brought to greater perfection. This fact has been fully admitted by those whose experience renders them the most competent judges, and indeed its superiority in this respect is so generally acknowledged, that it is being a nursery of teachers for all the surrounding neighbourhood. No less than twenty-seven masters and mistresses have received instruction in the past year, and are now gone to superintend institutions of a similar nature in other places.” In 1827 thirty-one masters and mistresses were being taught; and for many years schoolmasters and mistresses were sent to the Blue Coat Hospital to perfect themselves in the system.

In acknowledgment of the kind visit paid by Dr. Bell and his friends to the School, the Trustees at their next meeting

passed a resolution—"That the thanks of the Board be given
 "to Lord Kenyon, Dr. Bell and Mr. Marriott for their very
 "kind attention to the children of this Hospital." To
 this Lord Kenyon replied—

I am very much honoured by the notice which the Trustees of
 your Blue Coat Hospital have been pleased to take of my visit to
 it in attendance on my invaluable friend Dr. Bell. I beg you to
 return my best thanks for the honour done me. I have been
 nowhere since to see anything at all equal to it, and in the spirit
 of the system I am convinced that Mr. Fallows and his children
 cannot be excelled; and I can venture to take your word in testi-
 mony of its mistress's merits. I have very good accounts of Dr.
 Bell and of my excellent friend Mr. Marriott; both will, I am
 sure, be much gratified by your compliments to them. I am much
 obliged by your Liverpool papers, and see you are sincerely
 zealous in so good a cause.

Mr. Marriott, to whom allusion has been made, was an
 indefatigable supporter of Dr. Bell's educational views, and
 second only to him in sustained enthusiasm for the develop-
 ment of popular and religious education. Mr. Fallows, of
 whom both Dr. Bell and Lord Kenyon speak in such high
 terms, had been appointed master on the 10th October, 1811.
 His predecessor Mr. Chambers, who was brought up in the
 School, had been the master from 1801 to this time, when
 he appears to have resigned. Mr. Fallows was master up to
 December, 1817, when he resigned and was followed by Mr.
 R. W. Bamford, of the National Society of London, who
 subsequently left the School and took holy orders.*

* Mr. Bamford afterwards became Vicar of Bishopton and Minor Canon of
 Durham Cathedral. He died in 1838, at the comparatively early age of 42.
 He was a descendant of the eldest daughter, being the great grandson of
 "Wonderful Walker," the primitive Cumberland Pastor, who has been immor-
 talized by our Poet Wordsworth in the *Excursion*. Mr. Bamford was one of the
 earliest biographers of his great grandfather; and to his papers, published in the
Christian Remembrancer, October, 1819, Mr. Wordsworth was indebted for
 materials of his prose history of the life of "Wonderful Walker." The
Old Church Clock, by Canon Parkinson of Manchester, a work dedicated to
 Mr. Wordsworth, refers eulogistically to Mr. Bamford's literary efforts.

Contemporaneously with Mr. Fallows Miss Donnelson was appointed matron, and she was followed in that office, in 1817, by Miss Mary Halliwell, also brought up in the School, who was the school-mistress alluded to in Lord Kenyon's letter.

Intimately associated as were the efforts of Dr. Bell with the mode of tuition pursued in the Blue Coat Hospital, it was but natural that the demise of this truly great man,—great in the best sense of the term,—should have received special notice in the School report of 1831, which accordingly mentions with deep regret the “death of the venerable founder of the Madras system, the late Rev. Dr. Bell, who, after a life spent in the labour of religious education, died as he lived, devoted to its cause; ‘and being dead, yet speaketh,’ by his splendid legacies to the schools and universities of his native land.” These annual reports were variously written, some by the Treasurer of the School, others by the Master, and many by the late Ven. Archdeacon Brooks and our present Rector. That of 1831, from initials privately marked on it, appears to have been written by the rev. Rector.

A more excellent coadjutor in the work of instruction could not, perhaps, have been found than the Treasurer of the Blue Coat Hospital for 1813, Mr. Matthew Gregson. We have direct evidence of the part he took in the establishment of the Madras system in what has immediately preceded; nor were his efforts directed to the accomplishment of this plan only. From going among the boys during their hours of leisure, he noticed many of them to be engaged in drawing. Being passionately fond of that art, and having long experienced how highly useful a knowledge of design might prove to the boys in after life, he determined to obtain, if possible, the appointment of a drawing master. Accordingly, he addressed a letter to the Trustees, detailing his views at great length and entreating their pecuniary support “to this,” as he expresses it, “my most hearty wish.” This letter was

subsequently issued as a circular to the subscribers and to the Committee and Directors of various other schools in Liverpool. Very few copies of it are extant.*

* The following passages are sufficiently interesting for preservation here:—
 "In these days every building displays a taste superior to that of our forefathers,
 "the interior as well as the exterior; our gardens, with the improvements of a
 "Brown, a Webb, and a Repton, acquire a perfect picturesque appearance
 "to what they did at the end of the seventeenth century:—

"Grove nodded then at grove, each alley had its brother."

"All is changed and very widely changed indeed, and all for the better we trust.
 "Every useful article and every luxury of life are marked with a new character;
 "even the stores of Greece and Rome are searched for forms by artists, statuary
 "&c.; even the Egyptian taste has been latterly introduced, the worst of all
 "tastes; but a change below our Saxon, and infinitely below the grandeur of
 "the Gothic of the reign of our Henry VII; but thanks to a better genius, it is
 "dying fast away, and will soon be exploded. * * * I beg to introduce
 "the history of the greatest manufacture that ever occupied the people of our
 "town, and it once stood very high in the manufacturing of the delph ware, in
 "which, so late as the year 1750, there were no less than eleven large potteries in
 "full work, and also every merchant belonging to the town was concerned in one
 "or other of them. These manufactures were shipped to all the ports we traded
 "to, and riders despatched all over the country to supply its dealers, and London
 "took a good deal. The late Duke of York had a service of it, highly admired for
 "its beauty and glaze. There were besides some pothouses of red or black ware
 "such as those now established at Prescott. The china ware was also then manu-
 "factured equal to any in the kingdom in Liverpool; and the number of hands in
 "this trade, I am well informed, was superior in number to that of any other trade
 "in Liverpool then or since. There were twenty-two freemen in one house only,
 "besides other workmen employed. Several natives of this town are foremen at
 "various potteries and china works in the kingdom even at this day. Owing,
 "then, to a want of taste and knowledge of design, the whole trade sunk at once
 "into nothing—our potters were distressed beyond measure; but the energy of
 "a Bentley (our own townsman), a man of high classical knowledge of the
 "antique and design, produced patterns which with Wedgewood, who had know-
 "ledge in chemistry, led to a new era in the pottery trade; and the scene was fixed
 "in Staffordshire. To this scene our Liverpool potters flew, and where the trade
 "has since then (about 1765), flourished round modern Etruria; and where, by
 "a perseverance and continued improvement, they had fairly and deservedly
 "fixed a valuable trade, and their articles, for chasteness and beauty in form and
 "workmanship, find a ready sale over the world. * * * Reverting to
 "Bentley and Wedgewood, "whose energies called into trade," he remarks, "has
 "annihilated the East India china trade, and removed and annihilated the delph
 "ware trade from Liverpool (now, nowhere that I know of, practised), which yet
 "was so lately as 1790 in our town manufactured; and there is now one of the
 "late directors, a respectable owner of one of these last potteries yet alive and
 "well. Liverpool has produced a number of ingenious artists who are de-
 "parted; Bentley, above named; Stubbs, horse painter; Wilson, the best marine
 "painter of his day; Dean, a sculptor of great celebrity, who died prematurely;
 "and some others of great mechanic memory. We boast a Finney, a Litho-
 "grapher, and one Saddler, a printer, formerly partner with Guy Green, was the
 "inventor of the art of printing the ware, instead of painting it by hand as was
 "the custom upon the delph ware.—Dr. Turner and Baker, formerly potters, the
 "inventors of painting upon glass, specimens of which may be seen in St
 "Anne's Church, Liverpool." He then follows up with strictures upon the style
 "and building of St. Peter's Church, "which," he states, "though a very useful

In consequence of Mr. Gregson's efforts, a drawing master was appointed to the School; with, however, anything but happy results. Probably Mr. Gregson, in his well meaning zeal and great ardour for the realization of his hopes and plans, acted a little out of rule. The after proceedings indicate some such thing; for, at the very next meeting of the Governors and Trustees, held June 29th, of that year, we have it recorded,—
 “It having come to the knowledge of the Board, that a master
 “has been admitted to teach the boys the art of drawing,
 “without the knowledge and consent of the Trustees,—Re-
 “solved, that in future the drawing-master be discontinued
 “and any expense incurred be not defrayed out of the funds
 “of the Institution.” At the following quarterly Board, held October 5th, Mr. Gregson was in his place, and complained justly, “that he felt hurt at the motion that had been made
 “last Board-day, during his absence in London and without
 “any previous notice called on that particular business, and
 “even at the very time he was attending the great National
 “School in London, with Dr. Bell, on the Madras system of
 education.” He also stated, that, “while in former times, he
 “conceived the boys had too little time, he now thought they
 “had too much time on their hands and that this time could
 “not be more profitably employed than in learning the art of
 “drawing.” The result of the meeting we might almost

“building, exhibits no knowledge of the Grecian or Roman architecture; the
 “style of Inigo Jones, who flourished in King Charles's time, or of the great
 “Bedlington, might have been adopted; but it seems a building without taste,
 “has five doors into it of as many different shapes. * * * In the beginning
 “of his Majesty's reign, a new order of things succeeded. Taste before this
 “time was not much attended to—our beloved sovereign encouraged painting
 “and design—he established the Royal Academy. Thus the fine arts have
 “gradually met with encouragement in all his Majesty's United Kingdom.
 “Liverpool has not been behind; for the writer remembers when there was not
 “a purchaser to be found in Liverpool for a two-guinea print, when thousands
 “and tens of thousands are now expended in pictures, designs and prints, in the
 “houses of gentlemen, merchants and our tradesmen.” He apologetically closes
 his letter, after again urging the great desirability of teaching boys drawing, by
 remarking—“I am afraid my ardour on this point has led me to a longer
 “dissertation than I sat down intending to give.”

have anticipated. It was adverse to Mr. Gregson, and what was, in his mind, of greater moment, it was adverse to the pupils of the School.

In the face of these proceedings it is pleasing to note that two of, perhaps, as good names in art as Liverpool can boast,—Samuel Austin, the well known water-colourist, celebrated as a perspective delineator, and Richard Ansdell, A.R.A., the distinguished painter of animals,—received their education at the Blue Coat Hospital. It will also be gratifying to all true lovers of education to learn that the art of drawing has now for some years been taught in the School ; so that of Mr. Gregson it may be said that he was a little in advance of his day.

When resigning the Treasurership Mr. Gregson “boasts” that there cannot be found in any place so many good and “tractable children, and upon the whole so healthy, for so low, confined and isolated a situation ; but he hopes in his time to see a building erected that will do honour to the taste and feelings of the inhabitants.” It is now just fifty years since utterance was given to these sentiments ; yet the old School maintains its former site, and, judging from appearances, there is no immediate likelihood of a change. The medical officers of the Institution did, however, in 1840, urge in a report to the Trustees that the site was disadvantageous.

The successor of Mr. Gregson in the Treasurership for 1814, was Bryan Blundell, Esq., grandson to Bryan Blundell, the founder of the Institution. Bryan Blundell, the elder, was made Treasurer to the School in 1714, and one hundred years later his grandson, bearing the same name, filled the same position ; proof, among many others, of the interest taken by Bryan Blundell's descendants, in the Institution with which his name is so intimately associated. The latter Mr. Blundell, who afterwards resided in the Isle of Man, died in 1844 and was buried in the family vault of the Blundells—

where also lay his distinguished grandfather—on the south side of St. Nicholas's Church in this town.

During the two following years the office was held by another of the Blundells—Henry Blundell Hollinshead, Esq., son of Jonathan Blundell and likewise grandson of the first Bryan Blundell. In the Board Room of the Institution is a portrait of Mr. Hollinshead, by Lonsdale and presented by his son, the late Richard B. B. Hollinshead Blundell Esq. Prior to the time of his taking office a Committee had been appointed to prepare plans for erecting a new school room. The buildings in School lane—part of which had been occupied at one time as a stocking manufactory and afterwards as a pin manufactory, and lay contiguous to the old School—were surveyed and a new School was erected on their site. When completed, in 1816, the cost of the erection was £7,332 8s. 10d. To defray the expense the Trustees were compelled to withdraw Corporation bonds to the amount of £5,000. The remaining sum was raised by a special subscription, the Corporation generously contributing £500. A very few years later the Trustees were obliged to alter and repair the older buildings forming the front of the Hospital, with the dining hall and chapel, which had become dilapidated.

As the Institution, by the withdrawal of £5,000 of its bonds, had lost £250 per annum of interest, and the warehouses in Hanover Street, by an unlucky combination of circumstances, were at the time untenanted, crippling still further their resources by some £400 per annum, the Trustees became anxious to provide the requisite means without trenching further on the permanent income of the Hospital. They were relieved of any difficulty upon that head by the munificent donation of £2,000 by one of their own number, the late John Harrocks Esq.; this was about the estimated cost of the repairs. The alteration was effected in 1821, at a total expense of £2,204. Consequent upon this last altera-

tion we find that the drawing of the Hospital front, anterior to this date, differs in some slight particulars from that known to us at the present date.

When Mr. Hollinshead resigned in 1817, he was followed by James Bourne Esq. There were at this time only 220 children in the School. In 1798 the number of scholars was 327, having gradually increased during the previous 35 years from 200, which was the number in 1763. From the former period down to 1817 the number had been continually varying. When all the alterations, however, had been effected, the number again increased; at the close of 1823 there were 320 scholars, and 350 in 1827; from that time to the present 250 boys and 100 girls have been regularly maintained on the foundation. The whole cost is now about £6,000 per annum, towards which the Trustees have, however, a permanent income of not quite £2,000 a year. It is the sole endowment which we possess in Liverpool; yet it is only adequate to the maintenance of about one-third of the children—depending for the balance on the subscription list, which amounts at present to about £2,000; and on the precarious sum derivable from benefactions or legacies.

From the last report, issued during the past month, the Institution is represented to be in debt some £1,867. It speaks well, however, for the liberality of Liverpool, that in all former years, whenever this favourite Institution has really been pressed, the fact needed only to be known, to be met with a liberal and hearty response. The Trustees have thus been enabled, during many years, to maintain the same number on the foundation.

Reference has been made to the retirement of Mr. Robert Walker Bamford. This took place in May, 1819, when we find him addressing a letter to the Treasurer, stating that he had received from the Rev. Dr. Bell the offer of the chaplaincy of Sherburne Hospital. The Treasurer at the time was Richard

Dobson Esq., who continued in that office till his death, in 1835. Between Mr. Dobson, who entered on his office in 1819, and Mr. Bourne, who held it in 1817, the Rev. William Blundell had occupied it one year.

Mr. Forster succeeded Mr. Bamford, his brother-in-law, as master—Mrs. Forster becoming matron in 1826, at which time Miss Halliwell was superannuated, having, during a period of thirty years, occupied various posts in the establishment to the satisfaction of those who had the superior rule of it.

During Mr. Dobson's period of office, a lending library was suggested for the School, and one was established in 1824. The District Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge made to it a first present, being a set of the Society's tracts. Among other donors was Mr. Grant, the Commissioner for enquiring into public charities, who presented a complete set of the Kildare Place Society's books. A letter accompanied it, dated 31st March, 1828, and addressed to the Worshipful the Mayor of Liverpool, in which he says—

The pleasure which we received last week, from going over the Blue Coat Hospital, by the obliging attention of Mr. Blundell and Mr. Brown, makes me wish to add something to shew my obligation which the children had not already possessed. I have therefore obtained from the Kildare Place Society, Dublin, a complete set of the books published by them as a lending library, which is very much used in Ireland, and which I beg the Committee will do me the honour to accept for the use of the children in the Hospital. I know a great deal of care has been bestowed in the compilation of these works. I believe that nothing objectionable can be found in any of them. As I hear from Mr. Forster that you are likely to attend the Quarterly Meeting of the Governors to-morrow, I have great pleasure in addressing this letter to you.

These formed a goodly nucleus, so that now, from pur-

chases as well as gifts, the Boy's Library contains upwards of 2,200 volumes. A sum of £50 was given in 1833 by the then mayor, the late Charles Horsfall, Esq., to purchase two globes for the School; any surplus money to be invested in books for the library. The idea afterwards suggested itself to have a library ticket engraved, to be given to such boys only whose superior merit gave them the privilege of using the library during school hours. The obverse represents a Blue Coat boy resting one hand upon a globe, and with the other pointing to the well-arranged books upon the library shelves. The reverse bears the following inscription—"As
 "this ticket will be the strongest certificate of good conduct
 "which any boy can possess, he must constantly bear in mind,
 "that one single instance of misconduct or neglect of duty
 "whilst in the School will be the means of its immediate
 "forfeiture. No excuses will avail anything." A library for the girls was also subsequently formed.

In 1827 the Trustees appointed a deputation to wait on George Brown Esq., a name that necessarily enters largely in this paper, requesting him to sit for his portrait to be hung up in the Institution. To this request he sends the following reply :—

In compliance with the repeated request of yourself and several of the Trustees of the Blue Coat Hospital, that I should sit for my portrait, I have, though I confess reluctantly, acceded. I say reluctantly, not considering that I have in any manner merited the kindness and marked attention I have at all times experienced from yourself and the Trustees generally; yet, if feeling a lively interest, and endeavouring to fulfil a duty which gratitude has always pointed out, I may in some manner claim the kind attention you have shewn me; for, I can with truth aver, that, since the day I left the happy mansion, under the roof of which I passed my boyhood, until the present moment, I never lost the remembrance of the advantages I then received, to which in a great measure I owe all my success through life. I assure you I never

enter or pass the School, but I feel a secret pleasure such as I cannot describe. It always leads to the reflection that I left the School, like many others, an orphan, penniless and friendless. Providence has indeed been kind to me. I certainly thought it the happiest day in my life, as I then expressed, when I was appointed to fill the situation you have so many years held, with such credit to yourself and advantage to the Institution. I hope you may live to see the boy you selected out for the picture in the same situation; he has many advantages under a kind master such as I never had, the probability is therefore in his favour; and I sincerely hope his conduct may deserve it. I leave the disposal of the picture to the Trustees, and beg to assure you and them I shall feel the highest pride in their doing me the honour to seek it.

Believe me to be, dear Sir,

With respect and esteem,

Yours affectionately,

GEORGE BROWN.

To R^D. DOBSON, Esq., Treasurer,

Everton Crescent.

21st March, 1827.

It needs observing that a portrait of Mr. Brown, by Lonsdale, had already a place in the Board Room of the Institute. The Trustees' intention was to have the latter one put up in the Boys' School Room, where it now is, in order to point to them a moral, during all time, recalling to their minds the story of his life, and the power of his example. One of the boys, as stated in the letter, is drawn by his side.

In the School report of the following year, 1828, the personal circumstances of the pupils at that date are brought under notice. "It may not be out of place," it states, "to remark, that a great proportion of the present inmates of the Hospital are the orphan children of parents who have been in respectable, frequently affluent, circumstances, who, in the full enjoyment of health, and to all human thought, with a prospect before them of many years of uninterrupted

"domestic hopes, little imagined the reverse of fortune which
 "was to overtake them, and deprive their infant progeny of
 "parental protection, and render them dependant on the
 "bounty of others."

While quoting from reports of the School, it may be useful to cite, along with the foregoing, a passage from an address written by the Ven. Archdeacon Brooks, which was issued with a report some eight years previous to the last, and relates to the pupils' religious persuasion. "An erroneous impression
 "has been made upon the minds of some from the belief that
 "the children of dissenters are excluded from the Hospital.
 "From whatever quarter this mistake has originated, its best
 "refutation is the fact, that above one-fourth of those at
 "present enjoying its benefits, are the children of parents
 "whose religious persuasion is different from that of the
 "established Church."

Although so liberal in this respect, it professedly owns the doctrines of the Church as the basis upon which her instructions are founded; but no rejection is ever made on account of the religious tenets of the parents.

On the 9th June, 1835, the Treasurer of the Institution, Mr. Dobson, died, after having filled the office for sixteen years. By his active and unremitting exertions the Institution attained to a degree of excellence not surpassed by any similar establishment in the kingdom. His death was felt to be a loss, not alone by the children, but by all who knew him. In testimony of the great services rendered by him through so long a course of years, the Trustees erected in the Chapel of the Hospital a small yet beautiful monument to his memory. It was executed, at a cost of 100 guineas, by Mr. Solomon Gibson of this town, a brother of John Gibson, R.A., the celebrated sculptor. It bears the following inscription:—

Sacred

To the memory of

RICHARD DOBSON,

Born 20th October, A.D. 1781,

Died 9th June, A.D. 1835,

Who, for the last sixteen years of a life devoted to the
cause of Charity, was the able

Treasurer and kind and faithful friend of the
Institution.

THIS MONUMENT

has been erected by the Trustees as a sincere but very
inadequate tribute of
gratitude for his inestimable services.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord; yea, saith the Spirit,
"that they may rest from their labours, and their works do follow them."
—Rev. 14, 13.

At the close of the year in which Mr. Dobson died, under date December 29th, the name of Mr. Brown—now in the sere and yellow leaf—is once again introduced in the following record:—"That thanks be given to George Brown Esq., who, "having been admitted 70 years ago an orphan to the Hospital, "has, from the time that by the blessing of Providence upon "his industry he was enabled to do so, been its kind and "constant friend."

Following Mr. Dobson, the late James Aspinall Esq. undertook the Treasurership, which he retained during three years. Mr. Aspinall was known far and wide among all classes. The remembrance of his strikingly handsome face, as well as the extreme kindliness of his nature, will be long cherished in this his native town. Although among the present scholars in the Hospital few, if any, have any personal knowledge or recollection of him, there yet remains among them a kind of traditionary interest, by which his memory is preserved, associated in their own tender minds with ideas of all that is manly and noble and kind.

He was succeeded in 1838 by Anthony Swainson Esq., who held the office ten years. Mr. Swainson is still living,

though at a good old age, and is among the oldest, if not the very oldest of the Liverpool merchants who now appear on 'Change. In his first year of office the Blue Coat Brotherly Society was established (March 1838). Its members are all "Blues." The objects of the Society are, in the first place to visit those who have been apprenticed from the School and, where necessary and deserving, to offer pecuniary help, and more especially to give friendly counsel—oftentimes needed—and a kind word of encouragement; in the next place to afford facilities to members desirous either of commencing or extending their business, by a grant of loans from the funds of the Society, at an almost nominal rate of interest.

The Rev. Erskine Neal, in an admirable little work, entitled "The Riches that bring no Sorrow," refers in eulogistic terms to this Society. "How needful," he remarks, "and how valuable a brotherhood in a town so full of temptation as Liverpool." The reports furnish us with an insight into the Society's character. The last report states that "boys who have left the Blue Coat Hospital and are apprenticed in or near the town—orphans commencing the world at a most critical period of life—are the Society's chief care." Another report of the preceding year, shews the necessity of some such organized plan for visiting the boys. "The world to them," it remarks, "after leaving the home of their boyhood, is indeed a new one: the attractive sights appear to them in a false light—their snares are not perceived, and thus the danger of falling into them is not apparent. How perilous is such a situation! To counteract these injurious influences by counsel and kind advice, by words of warning and encouragement, to act the part of father and friend," it describes to be the mission of the Society.

Upon the plan of the Blue Coat Brotherly Society, and with much the same objects in view, many kindred societies

have been formed all over the country. The honour of taking the initiative belongs, however, to the Liverpool Society.

The first president—who may, perhaps, more certainly than many others who put in a claim, be considered the founder—was the late Mr. Forster, the master of the School. The Treasurer, the late Mr. Edward Gray, continued in that office from the Society's commencement to the close of his life in 1855. To his memory a monument was erected in St. James's Cemetery, by the members and a few other friends. The office of president has hitherto always been held by the master of the Institution.

A distinguished member of the Blue Coat Brotherly Society, Richard Ansdell Esq., A.R.A., wrote to Mr. Forster a letter dated London, 20th Dec., 1841, offering to paint for the School a picture. I will give, however, his own words:—
 "I have written this," he says, "not being able to attend myself, being in London on business, to ask permission to commemorate the Board of the 28th inst. I have a great wish to give the School a picture, as a grateful remembrance of the benefits received in the Institution, and I think no picture would be so much in character as a Meeting of the Governors in Committee. I think most of them were in office when I was in the School. If this request meets with their approval, I shall feel myself honoured. Perhaps you will be kind enough to lay my request before the Board." To this proposal, but one answer could have been anticipated. The picture of "The Meeting of the Trustees in their Board Room" was accordingly proceeded with, and it now adorns the walls of that same Board Room.

I may here mention that in June, 1843, Mr. Lacey made a request to dedicate to the Trustees the engraving of "the March Out of the Blue Coat Children, with their Band, on St. George's day," which was granted; and a little subsequently, in 1849, Mr. Branch, of Hanover Street, made the School a present of the original painting, which is placed in the general office.

Before Mr. Swainson vacated the Treasurership, a gift, as munificent as it was unexpected, was made to the School by the late John Huddleston, Esq., of this town. On the 24th March, 1847, Mr. Huddleston went to the Hospital, carrying a parcel of papers, which he deposited on a desk in the office attached to the Institution, and desired Mr. Forster, the master, to look over them, informing him that it was his intention to present the whole of the property, represented in and by them, to the Blue Coat Hospital. Mr. Forster scarcely realized the magnitude of the gift thus so unostentatiously made, amounting, as it afterwards proved, to some £8,000 or £10,000; the property, singularly enough, was all situated immediately round and about the School. That Mr. Huddleston had for some time contemplated the act, was proved by the elaborate memoranda he had made with his own hand, as a guide to those who would have the after-management of the property. It resembles in its particularity of detail the "Moore rental." In presenting this property Mr. Huddleston stated that he gave it "for a permanent fund to the Institution;" and he was particular to say that the fire insurance was to be regularly paid when due. From his own memoranda, dated 27th March, when he first offered the property, I find that it consisted of dwelling houses and warehouses situated in Peter's Lane, School Lane and Manesty Lane; another warehouse lay in College Lane, right opposite to a back gateway of the Blue Coat Hospital, together with a house in Hanover Street, of which Mr. Huddleston was careful to say that the rent was £40 per annum, and paid *punctually*. Punctuality was with him one of the highest virtues, and, in this case, covered a multitude of sins. He not only gave the rent of each premises, but the exact date on which each tenant entered; and particularly notes one tenant to have broken faith with him, having made two promises, "in both of which," he says, "he failed." Among other matters the dates of any

repairs to the buildings were given by Mr. Huddleston, drawn to the minutest particulars ; he states the amount laid out on the property, together with the amount and dates of the original purchase ; and finally informs them of the rates of insurance, with his opinion of such as he thought were high, and notifies those which were reasonable and low. Having given these various memoranda, all in his careful handwriting, he had the estate legally conveyed to the Governors and Trustees, for the benefit of the Blue Coat Hospital.

Feeling that a mere vote of thanks, recorded in the minutes and tendered to him, was an insufficient acknowledgment of so munificent a gift, the Trustees agreed that a deputation of six of the members, viz., the Treasurer, the two Rectors, the Recorder, Mr. Gibbon and Mr. Langton, should personally wait on him, and convey their thanks. This, for obvious reasons, was intimated to him by Mr. Forster, and elicited the following characteristic reply : —

SIR,

With reference to what you mentioned to me on Wednesday last, I fully appreciate the good feelings and respect which induced the appointment of the deputation to wait upon and thank me for my gift to the Blue Coat Hospital, which I made with great pleasure. I am much flattered by the kind intention as evinced towards me ; but, with their kind permission, I beg leave most respectfully to dispense with troubling them to come up here, and I fully accept “ the will for the deed.” I consider the compliment to have been duly paid by the resolution passed, which is *sufficient* for me, and I am equally obliged to them for it as if they came personally with it. I am not partial to form or ceremony, but the reverse ; yet I value highly their intention as expressed by you. With *best* wishes for the prosperity of your excellent Charity,

I am, &c. &c.,

3rd April, 1847.

JOHN HUDDLESTONE.

To MR. W. FORSTER,
Master of the Blue Coat Hospital, Liverpool.

Mr. Forster, to whom this letter was addressed, resigned the head mastership in the following year, having held it twenty-eight years. He was a good and worthy man, highly esteemed by all who knew him. He retired, together with the amiable partner of his life, to their native county of Cumberland—a county noted for its good schoolmasters—where they resided to the period of Mr. Forster's death, which occurred last year. His successor in the mastership was Mr. Thomas Wood, B.A., who had been brought up in the School, and had afterwards graduated in the university. While in the university he had taken, in 1844, the first of the second prizes for Hebrew; and, in 1846, he received a prize for Catechetical Divinity. Mr. Wood has been always highly valued for the tact and skill he possessed in tuition; and it may be here mentioned that one of his pupils from the School, who was ordained a deacon at the Chester ordination of the past month, took last year the University Silver Medal at Dublin. It is matter of deep regret to all that Mr. Wood's health has failed him from the very onerous nature of his duties at the School, which misfortune compels him to resign the charge for which he has at all times shewn himself so very capable.

The same year in which Mr. Forster resigned the mastership, Mr. Swainson gave up also the Treasurership, when he was followed by the late Joseph Langton, Esq., a man of exceedingly good presence and of great kindness of heart, who occupied the post one year; and he by Richard Gibson Esq., who filled it till 1854. Edward Guy Deane Esq. succeeded him, 1855-1858; and, after him, Wm. Langton Esq., the present highly esteemed Treasurer, and a son of the late Mr. Langton who was Treasurer in 1848. Members of this family have been intimately associated with the management of the Institution during every period of its establishment down to the present time.

The anniversary of the 150th year of the Blue Coat Hos-

pital's founding was held 13th January, 1859, when the Bishop of Chester, with his accustomed willingness, preached the sermon at St. Peter's Church. The Mayor of the town, William Preston Esq. and several of the Governors and Trustees of the Institution attended.

Application was made to the Bishop by the Governors and Trustees, who met at the following quarterly Board, to be allowed to publish the sermon preached on that occasion; but, owing to the Bishop's absence from home and other circumstances, causing the letter to come to his hands at a rather late date, he suggested to the Trustees the advisability on that account to forego their views. In the Liverpool papers of the day following, Tuesday, the 14th January, an abstract of the Bishop's sermon may, however, be found.

I have now endeavoured,—indifferently enough, I fear,—to lay before the Society “a Sketch of the History of the “Liverpool Blue Coat Hospital,” in three semi-centurial periods. I only hope that what has been written (although they be but chapters of every-day incidents) may serve some useful purpose, were it only to draw attention to the records of an institution which, while it is the oldest, is also among the noblest of which our town can boast.