

put out her rosy face and asked if anything was the matter, and if she could help any one.

Horace insisted that she should alight, and he would have the chariot opened and driven into the grounds of the Old House, "for Nina and her father shall go home to the Rectory in state," said the boy. To which, when she had heard everything that had happened, Mrs. Green readily agreed. The fine old carriage was driven up before the ancient stone terrace.

Nina and her father, Mrs. Green and my father, stepped in. They drove away slowly, Horace and I following, and lo!—how it happened I cannot tell—but all the village was out at its doors, and children were crying out, and women were weeping and laughing by turns, and flags were waving in the sunshine, and flowers in handfuls were being rained down upon the earth and thrown into the carriage. Susan Pill was at her door in a bright-ribboned cap, looking almost young again, and beside her was the timid Mrs. Pike, holding her delicate boy high in her arms, and telling him to look at the dear, good young lady. Never, I am sure, had such a rejoicing been seen. News had been taken to the Rectory, and the servants, on their own responsibility, had laid out the neglected breakfast, enriched by several extra dainties, on a table under the elms on the lawn. But better than all to

me was James's face—for he was at home before us—as he stood at the door waiting for our arrival. "You were right, Mary," he said to me; "I was wrong. But who would have thought it?" And when, with ceremonious politeness, he had helped Nina out of the carriage, he asked her pardon before us all for his mistrust.

* * * * *

There are, or ought to be, a few more words to say, but I am afraid I am not the person to say them. Were I an impersonal narrator, I should know by instinct about the interesting scene of the evening; and had I the good luck of most autobiographical writers, I should have been, by accident purely, behind a curtain, or on the other side of a tree. I have not, and therefore all I have to say is that late that evening, while I was in the drawing-room, talking over all the strange events of the day with my dear old friend M. Dubois, when Henry and James were in the morning-room, and my father and uncle were shut up together in the study, the lovers who had trusted one another from the beginning met under the stars.

What they said one to the other they never told me; perhaps some of us may imagine. But they came in—I am speaking now from personal observation—with rosy faces and shining eyes.

THE END.

GIRLS' FOUNDATION SCHOOLS.



HE education of our girls is a subject that is perpetually being brought forward and discussed in the present day, although it attracted little or no attention during earlier times. Kings, queens, priests, and nobles in olden days made tolerable provision for the teaching and training of boys, but seem to have entirely overlooked the weaker vessels, probably supposing that they needed but little lore save such as could be learned of their mothers and grandmothers within the sphere of their own homes. But though even such virtuous women as the wise men of old were wont to picture may be trained without the aid of schools or primers, we must remember that

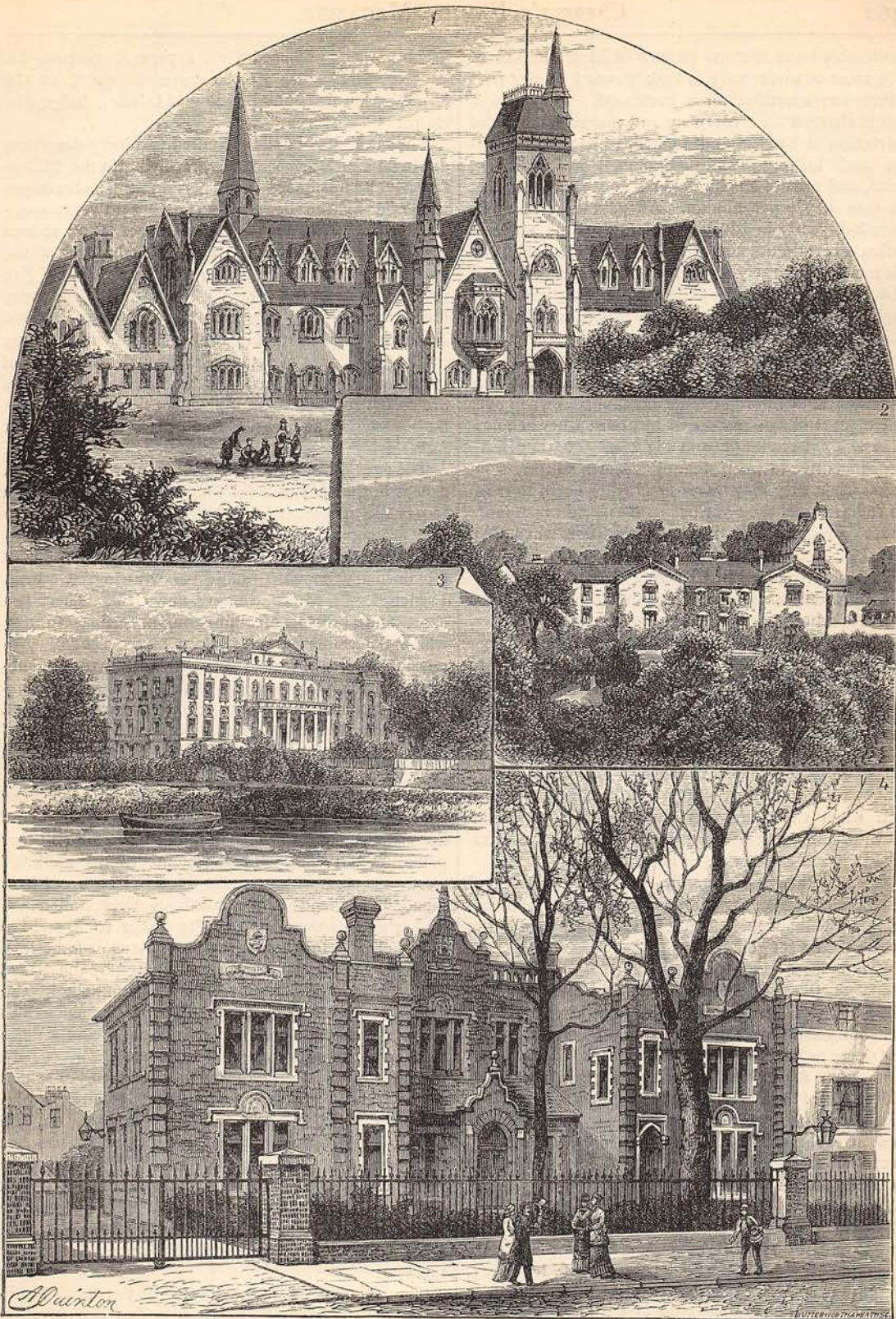
"The thoughts of men are widened by the process of the suns;"

and it has come to pass that there is and has been a growing desire that the minds of women should be developed, and the storehouses of learning thrown open to them, so that, as all cannot be wives, mothers, and housekeepers, the remainder may be capable of finding happiness, and in many cases independence, by the exercise of their mental faculties.

Female education has, until within the last few years, usually been a work of entirely private enterprise, and any teaching worth having, costly, and very far beyond the reach of those classes of the community to whom it

is of the most vital importance. The cheap yet good grammar schools to which so many parents could send their boys, in the comfortable assurance that if industrious they might win exhibitions that would help them on and up in the world, had no counterparts for the daughters, and consequently it was not uncommon for men who had worked their way to good professional positions to have homely mothers and sisters, with abundance of common sense and housewifely knowledge, but very little of what may be called book-learning. The first person who endeavoured to lessen the expense of female education for those whose "hoards are little" though "their hearts be large," was the Rev. Carus Wilson, a north-country clergyman, well known in his own day, who in 1823 instituted a school at Cowan Bridge, Yorkshire, for the daughters of the poorer clergy of the United Kingdom. This was the mother of all similar establishments, one of which was founded at Gloucester in 1831, and afterwards removed to Bristol; one at Brighton in 1836, and one at Warrington somewhat later. The house at Cowan Bridge was soon filled, and as in the course of a few years it proved inadequate for the continually increasing number of pupils, a larger building was erected in 1833 at Casterton, near Kirkby Lonsdale, in Westmoreland, which has since been added to in various ways, and is now a flourishing school, and fully up to the educational requirements of the age.

The terms are really low, and must have proved an



ROYAL SCHOOL FOR DAUGHTERS OF OFFICERS IN THE ARMY, LANSDOWN, BATH.
 AT CASTERTON, KIRKBY LONSDALE.

3. ROYAL NAVAL FEMALE SCHOOL, OPPOSITE RICHMOND.

2. SCHOOL FOR DAUGHTERS OF THE POORER CLERGY,
 4. LADY HOLLES' SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, HACKNEY.

inestimable boon to many parents of large families of girls, most of whom have to look forward to the fruit of their own exertions for a livelihood. Only £18 a year is charged for a complete and thorough course of instruction in English and French, with board, washing, and lodging; while German, drawing, piano, organ, and private singing lessons may each be had at the rate of £4 per annum. All payments must be made half-yearly in advance, which gives the administration a certain amount of ready money in hand; but this has to be largely supplemented by donations and subscriptions towards the maintenance of the pupils and teaching staff, and for the ordinary expenses of keeping a large building in repair, servants' wages, &c. &c., all of which items reach a considerable total for a household of 120, and frequently 133 girls, and the necessary governesses. Children cannot be admitted when over twelve years of age, and as there are seventy scholarships of £7 per annum, and eight of £30, they have every incentive to work steadily onward, starting from a time when they may be reasonably expected to grasp the rudiments of their various studies, and make more assured progress than is usually the case when they are taken up later.

The gifted authoress, Charlotte Brontë, who struggled up to fame alone and unaided from the depths of a Yorkshire parsonage among the dreary moors, was in her childhood a pupil of this earliest Clergy Daughters' School, and was extremely antagonistic to its rules and regulations. Many will remember the storm that followed her picture of it in the opening pages of "Jane Eyre;" but she was doubtless the square girl who could not be fitted into a round hole, and the kind of embryo genius with whom the common course of life would not run smoothly. In fact it never did, even when she found her own vocation, wore the crown of fame, and rejoiced in the comparative affluence that was the reward of her labours.

The secretary and committee of the Royal Naval Female School at St. Margaret's give the following information about their founder and the advance of the good work he set going:—

"This institution originated in the benevolent design of the late Admiral Sir Thomas Williams, G.C.B., who, with a view to its formation and permanent establishment, munificently bestowed the sum of £1,000, to be invested in trust as the basis of an endowment fund; and, in order to meet the usual difficulties of a newly-formed institution, he further most liberally arranged that the rent of the establishment at Richmond should be defrayed from his estate, by the additional contribution of £100 per annum, for a period of seven years."

This was in 1840; but in 1856 the committee had a stroke of good fortune in buying premises that were eminently suitable at a remarkably cheap rate. It so happened that the late Earl of Kilmorey, desiring a mansion on the banks of the Thames opposite Richmond, contracted with a firm of builders to erect one for him at the price of some £20,000. When finished, however, his lordship did not care for it, and the house, with its six acres of freehold

ground, was purchased for its present purpose for £9,500, after which £6,000 more was spent in the formation of roads and building of laundry, lodge, and chapel.

The number of pupils is limited to ninety daughters of Naval and Marine officers, receiving to the full, as far as circumstances will permit, the advantages proposed by the benevolent founder; twenty-seven are received at the annual payment of £50; sixteen at £25; forty-two are boarded and educated at the entire charge to the parents or guardians of only £12 per annum; and five others, whose fathers died during the Crimean War, are nominees of the Patriotic Fund, at £10 per annum; the establishment defraying the larger amount of actual cost through the means of voluntary contributions. At the present time there are on the reduced scale of payment five who have lost both parents; and twenty-five others have lost their fathers.

The ages for admission are from eleven to fifteen, except in the case of those whose means enable them to pay the maximum fees; but none can remain after they are eighteen, except under special circumstances. The education given is comprehensive, and includes all ordinary English subjects—Drawing, German, French, Latin, Music, Singing, and Drill. There is a short and sensible examination, according to age, which determines a girl's place in the school. Admission at £12 a year is obtained by the votes of subscribers. The elections take place annually in July, and all applications must be at the office before April 20th. Every donation of ten guineas gives five votes, and of two guineas one vote; while annual subscribers of £1 have four votes, and of 5s. have one.

The scholarships, though neither very numerous nor very valuable, yet serve as incentives to exertion, and are prized by persons of limited means, to whom every pound is a pound, and represents twenty shillings' worth of comfort and advantage. There are two founded by friends of the late Lady Grey, and called by her name; they bring in £12 a year each, and the pupils eligible for them must be orphans or fatherless, elected by the subscribers, or nominated by the Royal Patriotic Fund. They are awarded annually by the committee with reference to general conduct and progress, and the same pupils may hold them for more than one year if they deserve to do so.

The Bruce Scholarship was presented to the school to perpetuate the memory of the late Admiral Sir H. W. Bruce, K.C.B., and is of £8, awarded on the following conditions:—The three Upper Classes are allowed to elect, by a majority of votes, one of the three young ladies who have obtained the highest places at an annual examination, open to all the pupils in the school whose conduct has been thoroughly satisfactory, and the one thus elected is called "Bruce Scholar" for the year.

The scholarship in memory of the late Rear-Admiral F. Warden, C.B., is worth £10, and is given for scriptural and religious knowledge, under conditions similar to those of the "Bruce." A promoter and trustee of this scholarship was Vice-Admiral

E. P. Halsted, some of whose friends have established a small fund for the purpose of presenting the "Warden Scholar" of each year with a reference Bible, and if there should be any money over and above what is necessary for this purpose, it is added to the scholarship.

Queen Adelaide, the widow of William IV., England's sailor-king, showed her affection to her husband by doing as much as she possibly could for the members of his profession. About the time of her decease the Naval Fund bearing her name was founded, the committee of which have the power of granting £12 a year each to three or four girls in the Royal Naval School (Lady Grey's scholars excepted) who have been admitted on the £12 or reduced list, and tenable as long as they remain in the school, provided the half-yearly report of their general conduct be satisfactory to that committee.

The Onslow Prize of £10 is given annually to the pupil who has attained the highest number of marks at the yearly Cambridge examination of the school, provided that such marks be not less than 75 per cent. of the full numbers. Good conduct is also essential, and the holders of more than one scholarship, with the exception of Lady Grey's, are ineligible.

It need hardly be said that so many privileges and so liberal an education can only be provided by a large number of subscriptions in addition to the fees paid, and as long as the British Navy guards the "Empire of the Seas," it is sincerely to be hoped that generous contributions may be forthcoming, in aid of those who are left widowed and fatherless by the death of the brave men who "go down to the sea in ships" and give their lives in doing the duty that England expects of them.

The Royal School for Daughters of Officers of the Army, at Lansdown, Bath, is a younger establishment, dating only from 1864. The building is very handsome and admirably adapted for its purpose, but it has proved to be desirable to take Clarence House, Roehampton, which was at first used simply as a junior department, although it is gradually losing that characteristic, and will probably be ultimately on exactly the same footing as its elder sister at Bath. The object of the institution is to bestow on orphan or other daughters of officers of the Army a good practical, religious education, at the least possible cost. The families of Royal Marines, and of officers who have sold out or otherwise retired from the service, provided the children were born prior to such retirement, are eligible, and the education is in all cases in accordance with the doctrines of the Church of England. The governing body consists of a President, 24 Vice-Presidents, 3 Trustees, and 40 members chosen from the subscribers, 5 of whom form a quorum; 13 of the latter go out in rotation every year, and the vacancies are filled up by the governing body, and thus a circulation of fresh men and ideas is constantly kept up. Every donor of five guineas is a Life Member, with one vote for every five guineas contributed; and every annual subscriber of half-a-guinea is a Member, with one vote for each half-guinea con-

tributed. There are other qualifications, but space forbids us to detail them.

Candidates for election into the school are admitted by the votes of members, and their claims must be founded partly on the father's services and partly on the limited means and other circumstances of the family. These claims are subjected to the judgment of the governing body, who draw up lists of the candidates they approve and forward them to all who are entitled to vote. Each pupil duly elected pays £12 per annum, but if the funds ever become sufficiently large to enable the authorities to lower the payment where they think it needful, or even to take some girls without any at all, they will have the power of doing so. The number of elected pupils is never to be less than seven-twelfths of the whole school. If, however, any so elected, or their parent or guardian, is known to have or to become possessed of private means sufficient to justify the payment of higher terms, these are charged at the rate of £30 per annum; and a limited number of daughters of officers who are well-to-do in the world are admitted at £80 a year, though these figures may be varied according to circumstances. No distinction, however, is made amongst the pupils, or in the education given to them, on account of differences in the payments.

Candidates must be between the ages of ten and fifteen, and no pupil may remain in the school after she is eighteen, except under very special circumstances.

The committee reserve to themselves the power of placing the pupils either at Bath or Roehampton, according as they see fit, and all are considered for the first twelve months after admission as probationers. The votes of unsuccessful candidates are carried forward from one election to another; but those who at the end of four elections have neither been elected nor obtained 1,200 votes may be, at the option of the committee, excluded from the list of candidates.

The only scholarships attached to it arise from the interest on a sum of £2,400 presented by a lady to perpetuate the memory of the late Lieut.-Col. Squire of the Royal Engineers, a distinguished officer, who succumbed from fatigue after the siege of Badajoz during the Peninsular War. The value of them is never less than £12 each, and they are awarded twice a year; pupils of the first and second classes of both schools being eligible as competitors.

A school of a very different type, but which is probably destined to be only the first of several bearing the same name, and giving the highest education at remarkably low terms, is the Lady Holles' Middle-Class School for Girls, recently built on the site of an old mansion called the Manor House, Mare Street, Hackney, the garden of which, with its fine mulberry-trees and shady walks, is still retained. It sprang originally from a bequest in the will of Lady Eleanor Holles, a daughter of the second Earl of Clare, who died in 1708 and left the residue of her property to be disposed of by her executrix, Mrs. Anne Watson (a daughter of Lord Rockingham), to such pious purposes as she might think fit. This lady evidently wished to see the rising generation of girls educated in all useful

knowledge, and invested her friend's money in ground rents in Fort Street, which produced £62 3s. per annum, and was vested in trustees for the maintenance of a mistress and the instruction of 50 poor girls in the parish of St. Giles', Cripplegate. She herself added £500 by will, and in 1769 Mr. John Bristow, of the secluded village of Ellesborough, among the Chiltern Hills, left all his funded property to the schools of St. Mary-le-Bow, St. Ann, Aldersgate, and St. Giles' Without, Cripplegate. The portion of this legacy which fell to the share of the trustees of Lady Holles' school was £2,000 in Bank and South Sea Stock, and some smaller benefactions came in from time to time. The number of pupils was increased from 50 to 100, and afterwards to 150; but as the value of property went on increasing and interest accumulating, a scheme was submitted to the Council of Education in 1876 for enlarging the sphere of action and providing for a larger number of children in the original parish, and extending the privileges of education to others who can afford to pay a certain amount.

The present state of things is that at suitable premises in Red Cross Street there is an elementary school of 200 girls, 100 of whom are clothed as well as taught, and 104 infants who receive such instruction and attention as is needful at their tender age. About £10,000 worth of Bank Stock was sold out for the erection of the Mare Street school, reducing the income of the trust by £300 a year, though it still realises £1,100 per annum from house property.

The affairs of both establishments are managed by twelve governors, three of whom are ladies, whose judgment in dealing with the teaching staff and on domestic matters is exceedingly valuable. The Hackney school cost altogether something under £10,500 by the time it was open to the public in September, 1879, and the course of instruction it offers includes French, German, Latin, all English subjects, Theory of Music, and Drilling. Children are eligible at eight years old, but unless working as pupil-teachers cannot remain after the end of the term in which they attain the age of sixteen; and the fees are £4 a year for those who are under ten, £5 for such as are between ten and fifteen, and £6 for all above that age. The Piano, Harmony, and Dancing being extras, are charged for at the rate of three guineas a year each; there is an entrance-fee of 10s. per head, and the governors

require a deposit of 10s. as a guarantee for books, &c., which is returned when the pupil leaves. A good circulating library is open for the use of the students, the subscription to which is 1s. per term. The pupils are prepared for the University Local Examinations, and for those of the Art Department, and Trinity College, London.

The exhibitions are—two free scholarships, exempting the holders from payment of fees for the general course during one term, and are assigned to such girls as on entrance examination obtain not less than 75 per cent. of the maximum number of marks for English Reading, Writing from Dictation, Parsing and Analysis, English and Scripture History, Geography, Arithmetic, and plain Needle-work.

Two exhibitions, covering the whole fees for the general course, and tenable for one year, to pupils taking respectively the highest place in second and third divisions; and

Three exhibitions of the value of £20 each per annum, tenable for two years at a training college, or other place of higher education, which are open to girls who have been three consecutive years in the school. These will not, of course, be available till the summer of 1881, and all of them will be liable to forfeiture in the event of misconduct or failure to maintain a reasonable standard of proficiency.

This middle-class school occupies a unique position, and is in many ways untrammelled and free to work out its own theories of education and discipline. The Head Mistress, like Dr. Arnold, watches the moral influence of one pupil on another; and where there is an incorrigibly black sheep, takes steps for her immediate removal. Quite a new feature is the carrying forward of prepaid fees to another term where children are absent in consequence of infectious illness; and the arrangement of school hours from 9.30 a.m. till 3 p.m., with an interval for lunch, is a great benefit both to teachers and taught. Though no expense is spared, the school is already self-supporting and quite full, and in the course of time, as money goes on making money, a similar one will be built in another locality; and thus cheap yet high-class education will be brought within the reach of hundreds who, twenty years ago, were asked an almost prohibitory price for vastly inferior instruction.

