

THE HISTORY
OF
HUDDERSFIELD
AND ITS VICINITY.

BY
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victory of Mr. Stansfield was considered so decisive that at the General Election of 1841 he was returned unopposed.

In 1847 we find perhaps the earliest traces of the modern Liberal party, its ranks recruited from the younger and more enlightened of the old Whig families. Mr. Stansfield was again the candidate of the less advanced section of the electorate, but he had given grave umbrage to the dissenters by his votes on the Education question, and by his support of the Maynooth grant. We find, accordingly, that Mr. Stansfield, though professedly a Whig, was supported by Messrs. John Sutcliffe, Joseph Starkey, Joseph Kaye, T. P. Crosland, Joseph Shaw, **John Mallinson**, William Crosland, John Crosland, and W. Tatham, whilst his opponent, Mr. Cheetham, numbered among his foremost supporters the leading pillars of Nonconformity, William Willans, father of Mr. J. E. Willans, J.P., whose exertions in the cause of Liberalism and Non-Sectarian education, are too well known to my readers to require comment, **Mr. Geo. Mallinson**, father of **Mr. William Mallinson**, J.P., **Mr. Thomas Mallinson**, Mr. Foster Shaw, Mr. C. H. Jones, subsequently first Mayor of the Borough, Mr. T. A. Heaps, and Mr. T. W. Clough. The election was very hotly contested: out of 1,085 voters on the register all but fifty-six appear to have recorded their votes, the result being :

Stansfield, W. R. C. (W.) ...	542
Cheetham, John (L.)... ..	487

The supporters of Mr. Cheetham complained bitterly that the Ramsden influence was cast into the scales against the popular candidate and a similar complaint was made in the next election—that of 1852—when Mr. Stansfield, with a dwindling majority, though supported by the solid vote of the Tory party—I do not observe that against this coalition the *Leeds Mercury* launched its diatribes—carried the seat against Mr. William Willans. The figures were :—

Stansfield	625
Willans, Wm.	590

during the time the Act was in operation. The first Commissioners were designated in the Act and it is interesting to learn who were deemed the most fitting guardians of the public interests, exactly half-a-century ago: Joseph Armitage, George Armitage, James Booth, Joseph Beaumont, junior, John Brook, Thomas Pearson Crosland, Edmond Eastwood, Thomas Firth (Tea Dealer), Thomas Atkinson Heaps, Abraham Hirst, William Kaye, Jere Kaye, **Thomas Mallinson**, William Moore, Samuel Routledge, John Sutcliffe, and Joseph Shaw. Only those rated at not less than £30 a year to the Poor, or drawing not less than £50 yearly in rents from property in the town, or possessing not less than £1000 after payment of their debts were eligible for seats on the Commissioners' Board. Their election rested nominally with the ratepayers at large, but in effect, by virtue of sec. 181 of the incorporated general act, all householders under £10 were excluded from the franchise, and to this injustice was added the cumulative vote which gave to the larger ratepayers a corresponding preponderance in the election of the Commissioners.

Many public undertakings of great and abiding utility were inaugurated and completed by the Improvement Commissioners. To them we owe the Cemetery at Birkby. In the year 1847 it was proposed to lay a general rate by the Vestry for the maintenance of the Church Yard. But among Dissenters the feeling was very strong that there ought to be public provision for interments under conditions which would permit of the last sad rites being performed by ministers of their own denominations. Strong opposition was therefore made to the proposal to expend public moneys upon the Church Yard. An impression prevailed that the motion for a rate could not be met by a direct negative and accordingly at the Vestry held December 9th, 1847, under the presidency of the Vicar, the Rev. J. Bateman, an amendment

constantly increasing from the growth of the surrounding population. In recent days the Infirmary, with the addition of the north and south wings, has become inadequate to the calls upon its resources. In the year 1897 the celebration of the Royal Jubilee was made the occasion of an emphatic appeal by the Prince of Wales for increased support to the London Hospitals. None knew better than the Governors of the Huddersfield Infirmary how pressing was the need, in their own case, of such increased support, and one may imagine the feelings of gratitude with which **Mr. William Mallinson**, the president of their board, read this letter, so brief, so unpretentious, so pregnant :—

Helme Hall,
Huddersfield,
31st March, 1897.

Dear Mr Mallinson,—

I understand that £8000 is required to enable the Board of the Infirmary to carry out the necessary alterations and additions. I have much pleasure in enclosing cheque for this amount in commemoration of Her Majesty's long reign

With kind regards, believe me

Yours faithfully,

E HILDRED CARLILE.

To William Mallinson, Esquire,
President of the Huddersfield Infirmary.

The new building whose erection Mr. Carlile's munificence and humanity have made possible is to be called the Carlile Wing.

In 1871 the Meltham Convalescent Home, the princely gift of the late Charles Brook, beautifully situate and so furnished and conducted as to be indeed a home for those worn by disease and painfully struggling back to health and life, opened its doors; and to another gentleman, Mr. George Brook, of Springwood Hall, the patients of the Infirmary owe the blessings of Medicated and Turkish Baths, opened in 1876. In the year 1896-7 381 convalescent patients were

transferred to the Home at Meltham, forty-nine were enabled to make some stay at Southport and seven were sent to the waters at Buxton. In the same period 946 house patients were treated in the Infirmary, and 30,216 out-patients attended at the Infirmary during the year.

Much as the Infirmary owes to the beneficence of the wealthy, to congregational collections and to smaller subscribers whose numbers countervail the smallness of their contributions, it owes no less to the self-sacrificing services of a devoted body of honorary physicians and surgeons. Dr. Walker was honorary physician for thirty-two years, Dr. William Turnbull for sixty years, Dr. William Scott for forty years, and Dr. J. S. Cameron since 1884. For fifty-six years Mr. George Robinson was honorary surgeon, Mr. William Robinson for forty, Mr. G. W. Rhodes for thirty, and Mr. W. J. Clarke for twenty-five, and Mr. S. Knaggs is now in the thirty-fourth year of his connection in that capacity with this noblest of noble institutions. The following gentlemen constitute the present honorary medical and surgical staff:—Doctors S. Knaggs, T. K. Clarke, J. S. Cameron, N. Porritt, I. Irving, J. W. Robinson, E. A. Wright, W. L. W. Marshall, and no words can adequately express the debt of gratitude owed by suffering humanity to those who have given freely their time and skill and care to the suffering poor. Mr. Frederick Eastwood has for more than 20 years acted as honorary treasurer to the Infirmary, and to Mr. Joseph Bate, who since 1879 has been its secretary, I am indebted for courteous assistance in the preparation of this brief account. The position of president of the Infirmary has since 1814 been occupied by the following gentlemen:—

Sir Joseph Radcliffe, Bart.	...	...	1814.
Mr. Joseph Haigh, J.P.	...	...	1821.
Mr. Joseph Armitage, J.P.	...	...	1836.
Mr. James Campey Laycock	...	...	1861.
Mr. William Mallinson, J.P.	...	...	1885.

The latter gentleman, now full of years and rich in the affection and esteem of his fellow citizens, has been associated with the institution over which he now presides quite fifty years, a period during which he has displayed a keen and practical interest in every project which he has conceived to be helpful to the spiritual and intellectual life of the people, and in every institution designed to aid the poor and the afflicted.

Space does not avail to enumerate and describe all the charitable institutions of Huddersfield and its vicinity. Among these none, however, does more useful and more unostentatious service than the Huddersfield Industrial Home, still known to many as the Ragged School. In 1861 Mr. Joseph Sykes, of Marsh House, built in Fitzwilliam Street a building in which young and destitute children were taught the rudiments of education free of charge, and care was taken that they should be decently clad and spared the sharp pinch of hunger. After the adoption of the Elementary Education Act there was less need to provide secular instruction even for the very poor, and the character of the work was changed. The school became a Home and is conducted on the lines of the celebrated Homes founded by Dr. Barnardo, and, like them, is dependent entirely on the support of the charitable. The object of the Home is stated to be the reclamation of the neglected and destitute children of Huddersfield and the surrounding district by affording them the benefit of a Christian education, and by training them to habits of industry, so as to enable them to earn an honest livelihood and fit them for the duties of life. There are now twenty-one children of both sexes and of varying ages in the Home under the care—one needs only to know the matron, to say the loving care—of Miss Bickerstaff. The following gentlemen were the first committee :—Messrs. Joseph Sykes, William

Mallinson, J. C. Laycock, William Hastings, Wright Mellor, William Wrigley, J. W. Carlile, and with them were associated a number of ladies, of whom Miss M. M. Hirst acted as secretary and Miss Keighley as treasurer. An excellent institution, formed in March, 1884, called the Charity Organization Society, has for its object the assistance of the deserving poor and the repression of mendicity. Mr. William Brooke, J.P., is the president, Messrs. **William Mallinson**, J.P., and J. E. Willans, J.P., the vice-presidents, whilst Mrs. Adèle A. Clarke and Mr. Edward Watkinson are the honorary secretaries. There are offices in Ramsden Street, and since the formation of the society upwards of eleven thousand applications for relief have been considered, the merits of each case carefully investigated and considered. During the past year 382 applicants were assisted with money, food or clothing, and work was found for thirty-seven. Others were referred to the Guardians and others were found undeserving of assistance, for the committee are pledged not to "encourage the drinkers and discourage the steady and industrious by spending money on families when the wage-earners waste their wages in drink, or squander them on other vices."

In previous pages I have described at length the provision made at the Almondbury Grammar School for the sons of those parents whose poverty did not compel them to supplement their own earnings by sending their children to work when still of tender years. That school was founded in 1609. In 1721 the Slaithwaite Free School had its origin in an endowment by the Rev. Robert Meeke, which provided for the free instruction in reading, writing and arithmetic of ten scholars, two to be chosen from Golcar, two from Linthwaite, two from Lingards and four from Slaithwaite. The original value of this endowment was but £4 the year. In 1731 the revenues of the school were

but in that it attracted students from all those outlying parts that seem so naturally to focus in the town they surround. Huddersfield College was founded in 1838, sixty years ago, and its design was stated to be the provision of a "course of instruction comprising the Greek, Latin, French, German and English Languages, Writing, Arithmetic, and Mathematics, and such other branches of General Literature and Science, as it might be deemed expedient from time to time to introduce, combined with moral and religious instruction based on the Holy Scriptures." The College was a proprietary school, formed by a body of shareholders, the capital being of the nominal amount of £6,000 divided into ten pound shares. The rules of the company were adopted at a meeting of the proprietors held in the Court House, on July 12th, 1838, and the first council of the College, which held its earlier meetings in the Counting House of Mr. David Shaw, appears to have consisted of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. John Sutcliffe, David Shaw, Joseph Milner, William Shaw, John Whiteley, William Greenwood, Thomas Pitt, R. G. Jackson, William Willans, Edward Lake Hesp, John Harpin, John Robinson, Frederick Schwann, **Thomas Mallinson**, the Rev. George Highfield, and the Rev. W. A. Hurndall. Mr. George Sargent was appointed first president of the council but does not seem to have accepted the post, which was in consequence conferred on Mr. John Sutcliffe, and was held in subsequent years by Mr. William Willans, Mr. C. H. Jones, Mr. Wright Mellor, and **Mr. William Mallinson**. The first principal of the College was Mr. William Wright, B.A., and among his successors were Dr. Milne, Mr. S. Sharpe, LL.B., Mr. H. Jefferson, M.A., Professor R. R. Hartley, Mr. J. F. Richards, and Mr. Symons. For many years the College in New North Road, a handsome stone edifice

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