

ledge and the dispersion of prejudice. Inquiry and investigation are advances towards improvement....are steps which lead to the temple of truth.

“ Let me add, however, that should you make an effort to establish a school on friend Lancaster or Bell’s plan, you must address Mr. Lancaster by letter, and directly, and he will give you a pretty accurate idea of the necessary expence of every thing except the building, which must be estimated by yourselves. A spelling-book and book of arithmetic will serve three or four years, and one thousand scholars each year, so that the expence of books is extremely small. Spelling-books six shillings, dictating do. two or four shillings, arithmetic ten shillings, &c. Should you, however, wish for these books, in order to form your own opinion of them, you can let me know by return of post, and your letter will reach me in time to send them with the first vessel which sails hence to Belfast. Or if you think I can communicate to you any more particulars by which you could profit, I shall attend Lancaster’s school from three till four every day, the time allotted to visitors, until that I am perfectly acquainted with the mechanism of his system, and then write you a more detailed account of it. Convinced as I am of the great blessing of instruction to the poor, I shall most willingly contribute as far as in my power to facilitate your benevolent views, in communicating such information to the neglected or indigent youth, and procure you every information on the subject which can be communicated by letter.

I AM YOUR’S, &c.  
J.A.B.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

SIXTH REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN IRELAND  
*To his Grace Charles Duke of Richmond and Lenox, &c. Lord Lieutenant General, and General Governor of Ireland.*

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR GRACE.

WE, the undersigned, commissioners, appointed for inquiring into the several funds and revenues grant-

ed for the purposes of education, and into the state and condition of all schools in Ireland upon public or charitable foundations, proceed to lay before your grace our report upon the hospital and free school of King Charles the II<sup>d</sup>, commonly called the Blue-Coat Hospital.

The hospital and free school of Charles the second in Dublin was founded by a charter of the 23<sup>d</sup> year of his reign.

The mayor, sheriffs, commons, and citizens of Dublin, represented by petition, that many charitable persons were desirous to contribute towards the erecting of an hospital for maintaining aged and poor people, and a free school for the education of youth; whereupon his majesty was pleased to grant to the mayor, sheriffs, commons, and citizens of Dublin, his royal charter of incorporation, constituting them and their successors for ever governors of such hospital and free school, and giving them a piece of ground on Oxmantown Green, upon which they had already begun to erect a building for the purpose.

It has not appeared to us that at any time an establishment was made for the reception and maintenance of aged reduced people; but we have reason to think, that from the beginning a plan of useful education was formed which has continued to the present time. No further royal grant appears to have been made to the funds of this institution.

The establishment in its present state is for 130 boys; they are maintained, clothed, well instructed in the holy scripture, and in the principles of the protestant religion, in English, Euclid, Navigation, and the various branches of practical mathematics, in which some boys now in the school have made a proficiency uncommon for their years; this is much to the honour of their present master, who was educated in this institution. The boys are admitted at the age of 8, and apprenticed at the age of 14 years, some to trades, some to the sea service, with a fee of five pounds for each.

For 12 years ended 25 December 1808, the returns made to us give an average income of about

£ 3,041 10 and an average expenditure of about £.3035 2.

In this expenditure are included the annual payments made in liquidation of a debt long since contracted. For, about the year 1779, the original hospital being decayed, and insufficient to receive the number of boys which the funds were then equal to maintain, new buildings were erected upon an enlarged plan at the expence of £.21,294, they are spacious; and though unfinished, an ornament to the city: but it is to be regretted, that a plan so expensive was chosen, since the funds were inadequate to the carrying it into effect. It was intended to provide for the reception of 300 children, but when the above large sum was expended, whereby a debt of £.4,000 and upwards was incurred, the governors were obliged to desist.— They had provided ample, and in appearance too expensive accommodations for officers to superintend an establishment for 300 boys; a beautiful chapel, a spacious school room, a dining hall, but they had dormitories for only about 120 boys. It has been stated to us, that the debt will be paid off in the course of a year, this circumstance, with an increase of income lately obtained, will enable the governors to maintain more boys, and it may be observed, that were dormitories provided for 300, and were the funds adequate to their maintenance, the number might be received without any additional expence on account of officers: besides the expenditure for clothing and diet, and apprentice fees, only additional assistants in the school, and maid-servants would be required.

This is much to be desired, for it is a place of excellent education, which promises fair to send into the world good citizens and good subjects.

From the returns made to us it appears, that the steward of this institution was discontinued for irregularity in keeping his accounts, about 4 years since: that he possesses the apartments provided for that officer, with the full salary and allowances; and that the duties of the office are performed partly by the agent, with-

out additional salary on that account, and partly by the butler, who receives five guineas annually in addition to his wages for so doing; so that it appears, the duties of an office which has annexed to it salary and allowances (besides apartments) amounting to £.131 14 are discharged, and very satisfactorily too, for five guineas per annum by another person. We cannot pass over this transaction without expressing regret that the governors should have thought it necessary to leave an inefficient officer in possession of his apartments and full income; these circumstances suggest the idea of abolishing the office altogether upon the decease of the person who now holds it; the funds would thereby receive considerable relief, and the apartments might be assigned to the schoolmaster, or other arrangements made for the benefit of the institution; in these a better infirmary might be provided, the present one being ill constructed.

Of the boys in this institution, the governors of Erasmus Smith's school maintain thirty, at a charge of about £.24 per annum for each; and the treasurer of that institution (chief justice Downes) applies the fees annexed to his office by act of parliament to the maintenance of seven boys.

No parliamentary grant has been at any time made to this institution.

*Council Chamber, Dublin Castle*

12th May, 1809.

Wm. ARMAGH,	(L. s.)
GEO. HALL, Provost,	(L. s.)
JAS VERSCHOYLE } Dean of St. Patrick's	(L. s.)
JAS. WHITELAW,	(L. s.)
WILLIAM DISNEY,	(L. s.)
RICHD. L. EDGEWORTH,	(L. s.)

#### APPENDIX.

The governors of Erasmus Smith's charities have hitherto supported 20 boys in the hospital, and on the 24th June 1807 they increased their number to 30; the treasurer of that board also supports seven boys out of his fees as treasurer; these seven were added in June 1807; the boys on Erasmus Smith's foundation are nominated by that board as vacancies occur; the average expence of each boy for diet and clothing, is about

sixteen pounds a year, to which add their proportion of the expenses of the establishment, the necessary repairs of building, their apprentice fees, &c. makes the total expense of each boy, as nearly as can be computed, about twenty four pounds per annum; the boys who are put in on this foundation are not the sons of freemen.

The guild of St. Ann support two boys in the hospital, for which they pay annually forty pounds; these boys are not the sons of freemen.

There are ten boys always in the hospital, who are nominated by the bishop of Meath (for the time being) for ever, as trustee under the will of the late Henry Osburn, of Dardistown in the county of Meath, who by deed of agreement with the governors, dated the 11th March 1697, paid over to them the sum of one thousand pounds on the foregoing conditions; these boys are not the sons of freemen.

There are two boys always in the hospital, who are nominated by the minister of St. Werburgh's parish (for the time being) for ever, under the will of Mr. James Southwell, who bequeathed a sum of four hundred pounds and upwards, on the foregoing condition; these boys are not the sons of freemen.

The remaining number are nominated and appointed by the governor of the hospital, and must be the sons or grand sons of reduced free citizens of Dublin; they are admitted only on board days, as vacancies occur, by apprenticing or otherwise; and the governor whose turn it is to nominate must be present; the certificate of the boy's father or grand father's freedom must be produced, and the parent, or some near friend, must swear that the boy so admitted is the reputed son or grandson of the person mentioned in the said certificate.

It was intended that the present building should contain 300 boys, but the funds were so exhausted in building, and no aid having been given by parliament, the governors were unable to complete more building than what accommodates the present number of 127 boys; another wing

was intended in the rear of the hospital, equal to the one at present built, which (if completed) would accommodate the remaining number, of 300; but the funds are inadequate to support that number: the governors, however, hope, in the course of another year (by which time they expect to be out of debt) to be able to add twenty boys more to the establishment from the present state of their funds.

£ 750 is the debt due by bond.

Number of boys in the school 19th April 1809—130 is the establishment;—127 were in the house.

(Signed) *Robt. Hart.*

*Note*—The boys get six ounces of bread at each meal, except 3 times a week, when they get meat, they then get but five ounces at dinner.

They get no bread when they get suabout, on Monday mornings; whenever they have meat for dinner, they get half a pint of beer after it.

The board ordered them to get meat for dinner *last year*, only from 1st February to 1st May, and half a pound of potatoes instead of bread; they never got potatoes before, except on one day in the year, and All Souls Eve. The boys rise at 6 in summer, and at 7 in winter, go to school at 7 in summer, and 8 in winter; leave school at 4 o'clock, and go to bed at 8 o'clock.

*For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.*

THE SERVANT.

WITH the manners of the great, the bulk of mankind have little concern. Upon the feelings and conduct of the fashionable world, many romantic and novel productions are already in circulation. The subject of this paper was chosen with a view to correct some of the evils of real life, in its humblest walks. In attempting to do so, a liberty of occasional digressions will be taken, in making reflections and observations upon whatever direct delineation of character may be produced.

To the principal subject of the following plan and practical narrative is given the rustic and familiar name of Jack. He was a servant in a farmhouse situated in a rough part of the

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