



Education



The first meeting of the Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education was held at the Palace, Salisbury, on Tuesday last, and was attended by above fifty members of the Board, including the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Dean of Salisbury, H. C. Sturt, esq., M. P., A. Hussey, esq., John Floyer, esq., R. Bronncker, esq., H. G. G. Ludlow, esq., Geo. Eyre, esq., John Ravenhill, esq., the Revds. Chancellor Marsh, Archdeacons Macdonald, Lear and Buckle; Canons Bouverie, Bowles, Clarke and Fisher; Revds. Drs Lyon and Hodges; Revds. Messrs Fox, Carter, Parr, Parsons, I. E. Phillips (late of Bromham), Smith, &c. from Dorsetshire; and Rev. Messrs Dalby, Dyson, Knight, Mayow, Parr, Phipps, Pugh, Smart, Ward (of Bedwyn) &c. &c. from Wilts.

The Lord Bishop took the chair at 12 o'clock; and observed that having at the last meeting fully detailed the causes which had led to the formation of this Board, and the principles upon which it was constituted, the business of the day would be to take into consideration the resolutions of the last meeting with a view to devise the best means of carrying them into operation. The first measure would be to appoint a Secretary; and he had great pleasure in stating that the Rev. W. E. Hony, rector of Baverstock, had kindly allowed himself to be put in nomination for the duties of that arduous and important office. Mr Hony was then unanimously appointed Secretary. The next appointments were those of Treasurer and Auditors; and it being thought desirable that they should be resident in Salisbury, Dr Greenup was elected Treasurer, and Messrs T. O. Stevens and Squarey, Auditors. The Lord Bishop then called attention to the resolutions: the first he should propose to consider was the 11th, which directed the formation of Sub-Committees, and as one of the most immediate subjects demanding the attention of the Board, was the founding a training or normal school at Salisbury, for the instruction of masters and mistresses, he proposed that a Sub-Committee be formed to take this subject into consideration, and that it consist of the following persons: - Earl Grosvenor, Archdeacon Macdonald, Canon Clarke, John Flower, esq., Dr Lyon (of Sherborne), Rev. E. I. Phipps, Rev. R. Moore, J. Knight, Rev. N. Smart, I. O. Parr and R. Grant. The resolution pledging the Board to provide for the establishment of middle schools, was next considered. Several gentleman bore testimony to the great necessity of affording further facilities for the religious education of the middle and upper classes, in the principles of the Church of England; and of the interest with which the designs of the Board were viewed. At present since there existed no means by which the clergy might systematically superintend the religious education of those classes, it was not unfrequent that the poor were, as to religion, better educated than the masters they worked for. Every thing concurred in warranting the warmest co-operation and support from those classes.

The Lord Bishop shortly stated the objects to which the Sub-Committee for middle schools would have to devote their attention. They would communicate as extensively as possible throughout the Diocese, with the various towns and districts, and ascertain where it might be desirable to found new schools. And where they might be enabled to induce schools already formed to unit with the Board. If it were desirable in any place to found a new school, the plane he apprehended would be to call a meeting in the district, to build or rent a house, to appoint a master,

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guaranteeing him a certain salary of £100 or £200 a year, and allow him a further sum in proportion to the number of scholars. If the house were convenient to enable him to take boarders, it would be equal to a considerable endowment.

DR Lyon, Head Master of Sherborne School, said, that being himself a schoolmaster, he might speak on the subject with some experience. He would not indeed say that school-masters were a *genus*, far less a *genus irritabile*, but still they were a distinct class; and it would be very desirable to consult their feelings and interests. He greatly approved the intentions of the Board; but hoped that the most careful consideration would be paid to the wishes and feelings of the Masters of Schools already existing, both in obtaining information, and carrying out the designs of the Board afterwards. If so conducted, he was of opinion that they would most cordially unite with, and support its views; and that it would hereafter be considered as a valuable recommendation to a school, that it was known to be in union with the Board.

The Committee was then appointed consisting of – Hon. And Rev. Canon Bouverie, A. Hussey, esq., Dr Greenup, T. H. Phipps, jun. esq., John Ravenhill, esq., Rev. Dr Hodges, Rev. F. Dyson, Rev. Messrs Pugh, Radcliffe, Moore, Smith, Deane, Fox, Popham, Walker.

The Bishop next adverted to the subject of providing for the annual examination of the schools. This was attended with great difficulty and expense; but was most essential. Some short time since, the Lords of the Treasury were desirous of having an inspection of the schools which had partaken of the Treasury grants: but not being prepared to advance more than £500 for the inspection of upwards of 400 schools, he had advised that it should be effected by means of the clergy resident in the neighbourhoods of the schools, and this measure was being carried into effect.

Dr Lyon anticipated great advantage from the system of annual examination. At Present every good school courted examination, and they were in the habit of obtaining examiners from Oxford, to supply the very defect which this system would remedy.

It was ultimately though advisable to procure information on the best means of effecting an annual examination of the schools in this union with the Board, and to consider the subject further at the next meeting.

It was next resolved, that the Rural Deans be requested by letter to call meetings in their several deaneries for the establishment of Local Boards.

On the question that all Church Schools within the Dioceses be invited to unite with the Board – several members requested to know what were the terms of the union? What books were to be used? The Bishop stated that a Committee of the National Society were to meet that day, purposely to discuss and determine these points. Had the Board met a few days later, he should have received the determination of the National Society, and have been enabled to lay it before them. The terms of union would, however, be expressed in the letter containing the invitation.

On the subject of giving publicity to the Society, and obtaining subscriptions, Mr Eyre (Of Warren), advised that letters be sent to the magistrates and clergy, informing them of its operations, and requesting their aid, which was directed to be done. The Secretary was requested likewise to cause the Society to be advertised, with a list of subscriptions and donations.

The Rev. Newton Smart suggested that the sub-committees be instructed to direct their attention to obtaining any improvements in education which had been or might be successfully measure for the purpose. He would suggest that the National Schools in the diocese should be first visited and reported on to the Board.

The Earl of Shaftesbury said such a measure would be impracticable. We had no right to visit the schools until they were in union with us.

Mr Smart's suggestion was then adopted.

A standing committee of members resident in or near Salisbury, was next appointed, consisting of The Hon. S. Herbert, W. B. Brodie, esq., the Rural Deans, Rev. G. Radcliffe, Rev. G. Pugh, W. Wyndham, esq., A. Hussey, esq., G. Matcham, esq., Dr Radcliffe, Rev. F. Parr, &c. &c., to meet from time to time at Saint Thomas's school-room, Salisbury.

The sub-committees afterwards met and arranged their plans for collecting and digesting the requisite information, that they might at the earliest period be enabled to present the result to the standing committee, who will then call together the general Board, in order to consider the arrangements, and determine what further steps shall be taken.

It was understood that the duties of the sub-committees extended only to the obtaining of information, and the preparation of plans, which they will report to the general Board, in which alone is vested authority to carry any measures into effect.

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