

THE ROXBURY LATIN SCHOOL—AN OUTLINE OF ITS HISTORY.

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I HESITATE to offer to this Society, so many of whose members have contributed to its proceedings and do contribute at each meeting the fruits of original research, or of keen scrutiny, illuminating suggestion or weighty judgment to the results of others' researches, anything so simple, so devoid of originality or other claim upon your attention than the interest of its subject, as the contents of this paper. It contains but little which has not before been published. I have no reason to believe that the utmost diligence and pertinacity of research would have disclosed much more of historical material. At any rate such time as I have been able to give to the search has not enabled me to add anything of importance to the material collected by the venerable Mr. C. K. Dillaway, from whose history, published at Roxbury in 1860, I have derived almost all the facts recited in this paper. I have, however, taken pains to verify them by reference to the original authorities, and especially to the early records of the school and documents preserved with them, kindly placed at my disposal by Mr. Gorham Rogers, treasurer of the trustees, to whom and to Henry W. Putnam, Esq., a member of the board of trustees, I am indebted for valuable assistance. My subject is the Roxbury Latin School, as it is now commonly called, or The Grammar School in the Easterly Part of the Town of Roxbury, its corporate name.

This school is doubtless the third in age of the institutions of learning in the United States. Its only seniors

are the Boston Latin School and Harvard College. It was founded in 1645, only fifteen years after the settlement at Boston and thirteen years after the establishment of the church in Roxbury. I have examined the leather-covered parchment book in which the original agreement, by which it was founded, was written and subscribed by fifty-two "Inhabitantes of Roxburie," and in which the scanty records of the school from its origin until 1787 were kept. It is folded across the middle as a pamphlet is sometimes folded for mailing and tied together with a leathern thong. Among the signatures to the earliest agreement are those of Dudley, Gookins, Eliot, Weld, Gore and many others familiar to the student of Massachusetts history.

But this school, besides taking the third rank in age among the existing schools of this country, is still more remarkable in another respect, namely, that it is, I believe, the only school which, having never received from the State or town any endowment, grant or subsidy, or anything from the proceeds of taxation, except a small annual payment for a few years from the town in consideration of an enlargement of its course of study, is yet and has been, almost from its origin, as free to all the inhabitants of the town or in later days of the territory within the original town limits, as the public town or city schools. There may be other schools of comparatively recent foundation of which the same is true, but I do not know of any.

About two hundred and fifty-two years ago (the exact date cannot now be ascertained, but probably in the year 1645 and certainly before April 6th in that year), "the first inhabitants of Roxbury to the number of more than sixty families, well nigh the whole town in those days, agreed together to lay the foundation of a Grammar School, for the glory of God, the future good and service of the country and of the church of Christ, and for the particular good education of the youth of our church and town," as John Eliot says in a petition to the General

Court some years later. For this purpose they entered into an agreement and recorded it in a book, subscribing it with their names. The original agreement was lost in the burning of John Johnson's house, which, as Governor Winthrop says, happened on the 6th of April. Mr. Johnson was the surveyor-general of the ammunition, and in his house at the time were "seventeen barrels of the country's powder and many arms." The agreement contained in "the second book," as it is termed in papers relating to the school, which is still preserved, is dated "the last day of August 1645" and is doubtless as nearly as possible an exact copy of the first. It reads as follows:

"Whereas the Inhabitantes of Roxburie, out of their relligious care of posteritie, have taken into consideration how necessaric the education of their children in literature will be to fitt them for publick service both in Church and Commonwealthe, in succeeding ages. They therefore unanimously have consented and agreed to erect a free schoole in the said towne of Roxburie, and to allow twenty pounds per annum to the schoolemaster to bee raised out of the messuages and part of the lands of the several donors, (Inhabitantes of the said Towne) in several proportions as hereafter followeth expressed under their hands. And for the well ordering thereof they have chosen and elected seven Feoffees, who shall have power to putt in or remove the Schoolemaster, to see to the well ordering of the schoole and scholars, to receive & pay the said twenty pounds pr annum to the Schoolemaster, & to dispose of any other gift or giftes which hereafter may or shalbe given for the advancement of learning & education of children. And if it happen that any one or more of the said ffeoffees to dye or by removal out of the Towne or excommunication to be displaced, the Said donors hereafter expressed doe hereby covenant for themselves & for their heirs within the space of one month after such death

or removall of any one or more¹ * * * ffeoffees to elect & choose others in their room¹ * * * the number may be compleate. And if the said donors or the greater part of them doe neglect to make election within the time prelimited, then shall the surviving ffeoffees or the greater part of them elect new ffeoffees in the roome or roomes of such as are dead or removed (as before) to fulfill the number of seven, and this their election shalbe of equal validity and power as if it had been made by all or the greater number of the said donors. In consideration of the premises & that due provision may not be wanting for the maintenance of the schoolemaster forever, the donors hereafter expressed for the severall proportions or annuities by them voluntarily undertaken & underwritten have given & granted and by these presentes doe for themselves, their heires and assigns respectively hereby give & grant unto the present ffeoffees viz, Joseph Weld, John Johnson, John Roberts, Joshua Hewes, Isaac Morrell, Thomas Lambe, & their successors chosen as aforesaid the severall rents or Summes hereafter expressed under their hands, issueinge & goinge forthe of their severall * * * lands & tenements in Roxburie hereafter expressed. To Have & to houlde perceive & enioy the said Annual rents or Summes to the onely use of the said free schoole in Roxbury, yearly payable at or upon the last of the first month & the last of September by even portions; the first payment to begin the last of September in this present yeare. And the said donors for themselves their heires & Assignes doe covenant to & with the ffeoffees & their successors that if the said annuall rent or any part thereof be arriere & unpaid the space of twenty dayes next after the dayes appointed for payment, that then & from thence forth it shalbe lawfull for and to the said ffeoffees & their successors into the said messuages Lands & premisses of the partie or parties making default to enter & distreine &

¹The book has been gnawed by mice and a word or more is missing here.

the said distresses then and there found to leade, drive & carry away & the same to prize and sell for the paymente of the said rents, returning the overplus unto the Owners or proprietors of the said houses & Lands. And further the said donors doe for themselves, their heires & assignes covenant & grant to & with the ffeoffees aforesaid that if no sufficient distresse or distresses can be had or taken in * * * the premisses according to the true intent & meaninge of this present deed, or if it shall happen any rescous or pound breach to be made or replevie or replivines to be sued or obtained of or for or by reason of any distresse or distresses to be taken by virtue of these presents as is aforesaid that then and from thence forth it shall be & may be lawfull for the said ffeoffees & their successors into the said messuages lands & premisses to enter & the same & every part thereof to have use & enjoy to the use of the schoole & the rents issues & profitts thereof to receive & take & the same to deteine & keepe to the use & behoofe of the schoole as is aforesaid without any account making thereof unto the said donors, their heires or assignes & to use & occupie the said houses lands & premisses to the use aforesaid untill such time as the said annuall rents or summes & every part or parcell thereof, with all arrierages & damages for non payment be fully satisfied & payd unto the said ffeoffees their successors or assignes by the said donors their heires or assignes or any of them. Of which said rents or summes the said donors every and singular of them have putt the said ffeoffees in full possession and seisin at the delivery hereof. And for the further satisfaction hereof the said donors become suitors to the Honored Generall Court for the establishment hereof by their Authority and power. Always provided that none of the Inhabitants of the said Towne of Roxbury that shall not joyne by subscribing their names and Names in this act with the rest of the donors shall have any further benefit thereby than other strangers shall have who are no inhab-

itants. And lastly it is granted by the said donors that the feoffees & their successors shall from time to time be accountable unto the court of Assistants and the donors for the trust committed to them when at any time they shall be thereunto called and required. In witness whereof the donors aforesaid have hereunto subscribed their names and some given yearly the last day of August in the yeare of our Lord 1645."

It should be said here, however, that the idea of a free school in Roxbury to be supported by rents granted out of the lands of the inhabitants did not originate with Thomas Dudley, Captain Gookins, Thomas Weld, John Eliot and others whose names are signed to the agreement above mentioned, but, so far as now appears, to Samuel Hugburne, of whom I know only what Mr. Dillaway says in his history, that his will dated 1642, three years before the date of the agreement and the founding of the school, contains this provision :

"When Roxbury shall set up a free schoole in the towne, then shall ten shilling per annum, out of the house and house lot, be paid unto it forever."

It is not known, however, that the school received anything under this will.

By the burning of the first book the evidence of title to the rents granted out of the lands of some of the original donors was lost, and though most of them personally subscribed to the agreement in the second book, the signatures of others were only copies and to them were added the names of witnesses who could attest the fact of their having signed the first agreement.

None of the records remaining show when the school was first opened. The first schoolmaster whose name is preserved was Joseph Hanford or Hansford, who was engaged in 1649 to teach the school the next year with a salary of twenty-two pounds, but an earlier record of the date of 1648 seems to me to indicate that "Bro Bridges"

was the teacher in that year. Perhaps he was the Edward Bridges who signed the agreement granting a rent of two shillings out of his lands. The record of 1648, a short entry, refers to the rent of a house "made the school of Bro. Bridges."

The school at any rate was "set up" immediately and has been maintained without interruption ever since. It was not at the first free to all the inhabitants of the town as appears by the proviso in the agreement, restricting its benefits to those of the inhabitants who "shall joyne in this act."

For many years this was the only school kept in Roxbury, the town itself not supporting any, though required by law since 1647 to provide a schoolmaster to teach reading and writing, and when the town should have one hundred families or householders to set up a grammar school. In 1668, when John Prudden was engaged as the schoolmaster for the year ensuing, the salary had been increased to twenty-five pounds, "ye one halfe to be payed on ye 29 of September next ensuing the date hereof, and the other halfe on the 25 of March next ensuing, i. e. in ye year (70) ye said £25 to be payed by William Park and Robert Williams, their heirs and administrators at ye upper-mills in Roxbury, three quarters in Indian Corne or Peas and ye other fourth-part in Barley, all good and merchantable, at price current in ye countrey rate, at ye dayes of payment."

About this time, owing to disputes in the town concerning the management of the school and some uncertainty of title to the annual rents granted for its maintenance and to certain lands which had come into occupation of the feoffees, it was thought best to petition the General Court for relief in these respects, and accordingly the feoffees by John Eliot and Thomas Weld presented their petition in 1669 to "ratify confirm and authorize the said School and the rents due thereunto by voluntary donations," to empower the Feoffees to receive and gather the rents, and to con-

firm the school's title to its lands. This petition was referred by the General Court to Major-General Leverett, Edward Tyng, William Stoughton and Thomas Shepard, as a committee to examine into the facts and report what should be done.

The next year this committee reported that the petitioners' desires should be granted, the school at Roxbury should be confirmed "to be a free school for all in that town," and that the titles should be settled as desired. The General Court in that year (1670) passed an act in conformity with the report, ratifying and establishing the agreement of 1645, authorizing the trustees to make distress upon the respective estates of the donors for any sums of money unpaid of the annual rents, confirming the title of the feoffees to the lands of Laurent Whittemore, about fourteen acres, and to twenty acres of arable land in the great lots, "which hath been in occupation of the school about twenty years," and also providing that if there should be need of the future levying of any further sums of money, for maintaining a schoolmaster, the donors to this school should be wholly free from any such levy or imposition. By this act the Feoffees of the school became a corporation with rights and powers and liabilities defined by law.

The next event of special interest in the history of the school was the devise by Thomas Bell of all his lands in Roxbury to "the minister and other two such head officers of the church in Roxbury as the whole church there shall from time to time best approve of, successively from time to time forever," in trust "for the maintenance of a schoolmaster and free schoole for the teaching and instructing of poore mens children at Roxbury aforesaid forever." Mr. Bell was a London merchant and a man of substance. He came to Massachusetts in 1635, and was one of the early settlers in Roxbury, where he had a homestead near where the corner of Boylston and School streets now is, and lands

to the extent of one hundred and fifty acres or more. He was one of the founders of the school, having charged his land with the annual payment of twenty shillings. After living in Roxbury nearly twenty years, he returned to London in 1654, apparently because the affairs of church and state were then settled more to his liking, and lived there until the restoration and for some years after, dying at last in 1671. In view of his prominence among the first donors and of the permanence given to the foundation by the large estate he devised to it, to Mr. Bell perhaps, more than to any other, belongs the honor of being the founder of this school.

The trustees under his will had no doubt of his intention to endow with his lands the free school then existing in Roxbury, and acted accordingly. But others in the town were not content with that disposition of the estate. This dispute also was referred to the General Court, which in 1674 adjudged that "the declared intent of Mr. Thomas Bell, both in his life and at his death in his will, was the settlement of his estate in Roxbury upon that free school then in being at his death in the said town."

Mr. Bell's estate thenceforward for more than a century was managed by the trustees, the minister and two officers of the church, who paid the income to the feoffees of the school. These latter managed the other property, appointed the schoolmaster and directed the affairs of the school. Yet a few years later a vote of the feoffees is recorded authorizing two of their number "to let and sell the whole estate of Mr. Thomas Bell belonging to the free school * * * for the space of five hundred years." Leases were made in accordance with the above vote in which the two feoffees joined with the trustees in leasing those lands for the term above named. These leases made in 1686 and 1688 continued in force until 1717. For some years before that time much discontent had been expressed by the people of the town with this disposition of the lands,

and in that year the trustees under Mr. Bell's will petitioned the General Court for relief, representing that the long lease was made in prejudice of the school and "against the will and mind of the donors of that laudable charity." The council was willing to give the relief desired, but the representatives would not concur. Relief was then sought by suits at law, and the matter was finally compromised by the surrender of the long leases and the execution of others for shorter terms.

In 1731 the income of the school appears from an account on file to have been from Mr. Bell's farm £45, from other land £16, income from Governor Dudley's donation £3. From subscriptions £8, 1s., 11d.; in all £72, 10s., 11d.

In the mean time other small parcels of land had come into the possession of the feoffees by devise or by grant, the consideration for some of the grants being the release of the annual rent charge upon other portions of the grantors' lands. A grant by the General Court of five hundred acres in Oxford to the town of Roxbury "for the maintenance of a free school" was claimed by the feoffees, but the town and not the school obtained it, sold it in 1770 and '74 for £233-10 and preserved the proceeds as a distinct fund for school purposes until 1790, when they were paid into the town treasury and appropriated to the ordinary expenses of the town.

Nothing further in the history of the school need be noted here until the act of the General Court in 1789 incorporating the Trustees of the Grammar School in the easterly part of the town of Roxbury, abolishing the two boards, of Feoffees and trustees of Mr. Bell's lands, and giving the control of the property and the school to a single board, of not more than thirteen nor less than nine members, of which the act provides that the minister and the two oldest deacons of the First Church of Christ in the said town of Roxbury shall always, by virtue of their

offices, be members. The trustees are made "the true and sole Visitors, Trustees and Governors of the said school in perpetual succession forever." It is provided further that "as often as one or more of the trustees shall die, resign, remove, or in the judgment of the major part of the said Trustees for the time being, be rendered by age, infirmity or otherwise, incapable of discharging the duties of his office, then and so often the remaining part of the Trustees then surviving or the major part of them, at some stated meetings, shall elect by ballot one or more persons, being reputable freeholders in the town of Roxbury aforesaid to fill such vacancy or vacancies." The trustees are required to hold annual and quarterly meetings. The trustees named in the act as the original members of the corporation were: the Honorable John Lowell, Esquire, Nehemiah Munroe, James Mears, Reverend Eliphalet Porter, Clerk, Honorable Increase Sumner, Esquire, Samuel Sumner, Joseph Ruggles, Esquire, Thomas Williams, Physician and Joseph Williams, Gentleman.

The first important action of the new trustees which it is necessary to note here, was the leasing of the greater part of the school lands for one hundred and twenty years. This policy seems to have originated with Judge Lowell to whom, says Mr. Dillaway, "the present financial prosperity of the school is in a great degree to be attributed." In December, 1793, the trustees voted to lease a part of the lands for the term above mentioned, and leases were executed accordingly, reserving an annual rent of ten cents if demanded, and with covenants securing to the school such buildings and improvements as might be on the lands at the end of one hundred years or at any time thereafter, to be preserved in good order until the end of the term. Other leases with like considerations were executed in the next year, and in 1796 the greater part of the remaining lands were leased on the same terms. Most of these lands are so situated as to be now highly valuable and on them are

buildings erected by the lessees which will add to their value when they revert to the school at the expiration of the leases. The leases were sold at auction and the sums received for them were not much if any less than could have been obtained by the sale of the fee of the lands. The price received for the sale of all these leases in 1794-5-6 was about eleven thousand five hundred dollars.

The wisdom of these acts of the trustees appears to have been seriously questioned in later years, but was elaborately justified in a report presented to the board in 1834 by a committee of which John Lowell, son of the judge of the same name, the originator of the policy of long leases, was chairman. The report defends that policy on the ground that the trustees needed a capital more productive than the lands had been, yet thought it would not comport with the views of the original donors to relinquish altogether their title to the lands; that their value, which in little more than a century had risen from the price of a few blankets to the considerable sums for which they were then sold, would doubtless go on to increase in the same ratio or perhaps a higher one, and that it would be improvident in any generation to grant away from posterity property designed for that posterity. Their action possibly needed a defence then, it certainly needs none now.

The successors of Mr. Lowell and his colleagues have not for the last fifty years rigidly adhered to the policy he set forth in that report, but have sold the reversion in a large part of the lands held by the trustees in his time. Then the lands of the school subject to long leases considerably exceeded one hundred acres in total area, now they are much less than half that. With the growth of the city, the increasing number of scholars applying for admission, and the higher standards and broader scope of educational requirements, the need of a larger working capital for the adequate equipment of the school became imperative and could only be supplied by the sale of its

reversionary title to a portion of its lands. The school, however, still owns the reversion of numerous tracts of land in various parts of Roxbury, some of them having small present or prospective value, while others would bring a high price now, and will, it may be presumed, be worth much more twenty-eight or thirty years hence. Besides these leased lands, which yield no income, the school has a few tracts which are in its present occupancy, and invested funds yielding an income sufficient to employ a principal and six assistant teachers of such quality that the school maintains a rank equal to the highest among the great schools of the country for the scholarship and general performance of its pupils. Of its standard of scholarship in the early days it is perhaps as well not to inquire too closely. Cotton Mather does indeed say in his life of John Eliot:

“God so blessed his endeavors, that Roxbury could not live quietly without a free school in the town; and the issue of it has been one thing which has almost made me put the title of *Schola illustris* upon that little nursery; that is, that Roxbury has afforded more scholars, first for the college and then for the public, than any town of its bigness, or, if I mistake not, of twice its bigness in all New England. From the spring of the school at Roxbury there has been a large number of the streams which have made glad this whole city of God.”

Yet only a little earlier, namely in 1681, Thomas Bernard, schoolmaster, writes to the feoffees as follows:

“Of inconveniences I shall instance in no other than that of the school house, the confused and shattered and nastie posture that it is in, not fitting to reside in; the glass broken and thereupon very raw and cold, the floor very much broken and torn up to kindle fires, the hearth spoiled, the seats, some burnt and others out of kilter, so that one had as well nigh as goods keep school in a hog stie as in it.”

In order to reconcile the statements of these two contemporary authorities it seems necessary to infer that neatness was not then so near to godliness as has been often affirmed in later times.

In 1674, the master, Mr. Gore, was required to teach all scholars that shall attend belonging to the town, "whether Latin scholars, writers, readers or spellers." About one hundred years later the range of studies pursued was equally wide. From a list on file it appears that there were in 1770, eighty-five scholars, of whom nine were in Latin, twenty cypherers, seventeen writers, ten were in the Testament, ten in the Psalter, nineteen were spellers. In 1728, Eben. Pierpont, master, was informed in reply to a request for instructions, that he need not receive any children for instruction until they can spell "common easy English words either in the Primer or in the Psalter in some good measure."

In 1761, Joseph Warren, who some fourteen years later died gloriously at Bunker Hill, and whose house was standing in my boyhood almost within a stone's throw of the present site of the school, was employed as the teacher. In December of that year he had occasion to remind the Feoffees of the fact in the following letter, which I have copied from the original among the treasurer's papers :

BOSTON, *December, 1761.*

GENTLEMEN :

You may remembêr that you agreed with me to teach the school in Roxbury for forty-four Pounds sixteen shillings a year, of which I have received of Deacon Gridley twenty-five pounds twelve shillings, of the Rev. Mr. Adams about five Pounds, of the school boys to pay for the carting of wood two Pounds and eight pence, of which by your direction I expended eleven shillings and two pence in buying a Lock, Hooks, Staples and Nails for the repairing of the School House—So that there remains

due to me about Thirteen Pounds, by Payment of which to my Mother or order you will greatly oblige

Gentlemen Your

H. Servant JOSEPH WARREN.

P. S. I am not certain of the particular sums received of the Rev. Mr. Adams, but his Receipts will determine it.

To the Gentlemen intrusted with
the care of the School in Roxbury.

This letter or order bears the following indorsement :

Roxbury Dec^r ye 18th 1761. Received of Joseph Williams Esq^r. one of the Feoffees of the free School in the Town of roxbury The Sum of thirteen pounds six shillings & eight pence in full of the within order, and in full for my son, Mr. Joseph Warren^s keeping the said school I say received

MARY WARREN.

When my personal acquaintance with the school began, with my admission to it at the age of nine years in 1844, the number of scholars was less than half what it had been one hundred years before. Mr. Benjamin Apthorp Gould, since eminent as an astronomer, was the master. An assistant had been employed in the time of his predecessor, Daniel Leach, but I think Mr. Gould had none.

In the documents from which the history of the school is derived I find continual traces of hostility or jealousy more or less prevalent among the people of the town toward the school or its trustees. Within twenty-five years after its foundation John Eliot and Thomas Weld, in their petition to the General Court, say that "some interruption and opposition hath risen." Later at many times during the first two centuries of the school's existence, the trustees were publicly reproached or called to account for their management, as if instruction were not so freely provided for the children of the poorer people as it ought to have been. They always cleared themselves from any direct

charges, but the feeling of jealousy remained. Mr. Parker, then master of the school, who wrote a sketch of its history, which was printed in a pamphlet at Roxbury in 1826,¹ wrote: "Unfortunately for the town and also for the interests of the institution, an invidious prejudice has existed in former years which has prevented many from enjoying its benefits, which prejudice had its origin without doubt, in the circumstance that it was governed by individuals and not by the town. This prejudice has within a few years been nearly dissipated, and it is thought that nothing will tend so effectually to its complete removal as a candid statement of its origin, its history and the principles upon which it has been conducted."

Mr. Parker's candid statement may have done some of the good which he proposed, but it did not obliterate the prejudice, which, though perhaps less violent than formerly, has survived him and will doubtless survive us. This in part caused the failure of the two attempts, one in 1839 and the second in 1852 and continuing for five years, to connect this school with the town school system, but no doubt the unwillingness of the trustees to be in any way hampered in their independence by a connection with the town or city government, tended to make joint action more difficult and a rupture of joint relations easier.

In my time this jealous feeling found expression in a perpetual feud between the town school boys and the Latin school boys, with a good deal of fighting, in single combat or in companies somewhat carefully organized and skillfully led. Once, I remember, we were besieged in our own school-house by a large force of Washington school boys exasperated by some recent occurrence. We were about ready to make a sortie, armed with ball clubs and other weapons of that character, confidently expecting to

¹A Sketch of the History of the Grammar School in the Easterly Part of Roxbury. Compiled from the Original Records of the School by R. G. Parker, A.M., Master of the Upper Department of the School. Roxbury: Printed by Thomas S. Watts, 1826.

defeat and disperse the enemy, who numbered about ten to our one, or to cut our way through and retreat without serious loss, when the higher powers, represented by a selectman and a constable, appeared upon the scene and raised the siege.

Toward the end of Mr. Gould's mastership he was ill for a week or two and sent one of his classmates as a substitute. Then occurred one of the two rebellions which I remember at the school. The scholars did not actually depose the master, for the older boys were shrewd enough to see that that would bring about a crisis. They simply did as they pleased, allowing the master to remain, but paying no more regard to his authority than was needed to prevent him from abdicating or appealing to the trustees. He tried appealing to force, but was quickly made to understand that, if that was the *ultima ratio*, we were better reasoners than he. The temporary master had the form, but not the substance of authority, he reigned but did not govern. The real power was in the hands of a few of the big boys. But the facts soon came to the notice of the trustees and an investigation was followed by the expulsion of three or four boys who deserved it.

This rebellion was followed shortly by an exhibition and an award of prizes. I gained one, I remember, for a translation from the Latin. It was a silver medal, bearing the motto "*Sic itur ad astra*," indicating, I suppose, that, in the judgment of the trustees, the way to the stars for me was by translation, notwithstanding the very few examples in sacred or profane history of the passage being made that way.

The principals of the school in my time (I left it in 1849), were Mr. Gould, Henry B. Wheelwright and Charles Short. Mr. Gould I am sure had the respect and affection of all of us. Mr. Short we knew as an exact and exacting scholar. I think the idea of scholarship in the sense of thorough and precise knowledge first came to us

through him. He was dissatisfied with the versions of the classics published in this country and insisted upon our using as text books copies of foreign editions imported by himself. The revival of learning at this school and the attainment of a high standard of proficiency by its scholars, as tested by comparison with the pupils of other schools in their examinations and work at college, seems to me to have begun with him. I am giving my own impressions only. Mr. Gould might have left the same impression if I had come under his influence later or remained under it longer, but a boy of nine or ten years cannot be expected to think much of scholarship.

To my mind the interesting facts in the history of this school, unquestionably the oldest by far, if not the only free school in this country not supported or aided by the proceeds of public taxation, are its continuity and the wisdom and faithfulness with which its property has been preserved and increased for nearly two hundred and fifty years, with scarcely any additional endowments after the first fifty years. It has lived within, but always up to its income, it has spent nothing in pretentious or stately architecture, but its teachers and scholars have been sheltered as cheaply as was consistent with comfort and reasonable convenience. Some of its trustees did in earlier days receive occasionally small sums for special services, but for more than forty years all their duties have been performed without payment, and not a dollar of the funds has, I believe, ever been spent for banquets or any form of personal gratification to the trustees.

Among the eminent and honored men who have been connected with the school as trustees or teachers, I will mention only a few: John Eliot, whose name should be worth more than a title of nobility to those who bear it, Governors Joseph Dudley and Increase Sumner, William Cushing, Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, the two John Lowells, father and son, Joseph

Warren, William Emerson, the father of Ralph Waldo, and in our own time the late Rev. George Putnam, besides those who have been mentioned in other parts of this paper. If the school shall live so long as some of these names will be remembered, a posterity more remote in the future than the earliest dawn of history is in the past will be grateful to its founders.

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