

DERBYSHIRE MISCELLANY



N. W. view of DUFFIELD CHURCH.

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A BISHOP'S SUMMER JOURNEY INTO THE EAST MIDLANDS IN 1708

(by John E. Heath, Trent Polytechnic)

In 1708, Sir William Dawes, who was chaplain to Queen Anne, was consecrated Bishop of Chester and almost immediately he set out on a journey through his diocese which at that time extended into Nottinghamshire. He was accompanied by Henry Prescott, deputy registrar of the Diocese of Chester, who kept a diary (to be published in due course) of the day-to-day activities.

The group entered Derbyshire from Stockport on 18 August:

After Tea, etc. about 9, my Lord, Mr. Egerton, Legh, Dr. Egerton, etc. sett out for Buxton, thoro the park to Waley Bridge, thence to Shalcrosse, thence over Buxton Moor and in it by Whitehall, all a wild and uneven road to Buxton. About 12 a clock, Mr. Egerton, the Doctor, Mr. Legh, Shalcross, Downes, Dodrel, myself and Jack (i.e. Sir William Dawes' eldest son) go into the warm bath, swim and divert $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour. After, Mr. Coucher and Mr. Clutterbrook bring mee and Jack near a mile to Pools Hool. Wee two only with Guides and candles enter the horrid Antrum, pass over the higherway with difficulty to the Queen of Scots pillars, are told and admire the Figures in the way. Return thoro the lower passage, step up and see pools fancyd Cubicle and are restored about 40 minutes from our Entrance to the Day. Wee hasten to Buxton, take remains of the Dinner. After Mr. Stratham an Attorney and Trustee for young Mr. Pierrpont, treats all my Lords company. Mrs. Egerton comes hither, in all 42. A brisk shower fall, wee mount in it and it is constant over the Moors 8 miles to Bakewell where wee come steepd about 7 to the Red Lyon. Common application is made to avoid dangers from the rain. My Lord, Mr. Egerton, Mr. Legh are interrupted by Mr. Brownhall's confidence. By artifice I remove him out of their company. I and Jack lodg at a private and decent House.

19 August:

About 10 wee go to Church, the congregation is great in expectation of my Lords sermon on the solemn Thanksgiving, Lee from Fatigue is excused. The Curate has a very dunstable discourse on I see the ruinous Monuments of the Rutland Family. Mr. Bagshaw sees and compliments (with a present of

course wine) the company. About 2 my Lord, Mr. Egerton, Dr. Egerton and myself in Mr. Statham's coach sett for Chatsworth, the rest on horseback. Mr. Legh (being returned home) Mrs. Egerton and Mrs. Billot in the chariot and six. Wee in an hour come to the magnificent palace, are conducted thoro the noble Apartments, admire them, the costly Furniture, even to lassitude and stupidity. The Gardens, Groves, Statues, Fountains, Cascade, etc. are another Toyl as well as pleasure. The Duke was in the House but not see, cause hee understood the business was Curiosity. A decen repast of Wine and Tea was sett to refresh the Company. We returned to Bakewell about 7 and after recollection in the Inn to bed about 10.

20 August:

All equipt about 7 Mr. Egerton treats all (horses excepted). Hee and his company return to Astbury by Leek. My Lord, Mr. Clutterbrook, Mr. Coucher, myself, Jack and 2 servants pass over again to Chatsworth, rise up by the stand, thoro the park to Eastmore, cross it, fall into Scarsdale, ride thoro Chesterfield, thence to Mr. Nevils near Oldcoats. About 12 a clock, wee walk down to Oldcoats, observe the great but inconvenient model and contrivances, dine, after with Mr. Nevil. The dinner substantial, the Beer good and old, the Wine decayd. Invited, my Lord walks half a mile to the Earl of Scarsdales, Sutton (the Earl of Nottingham). Wee are well received by the genteel Cook with 2 sorts of wine. I make bold for a Bottle of that after my Lord gon to bed, distinguished by a long Cork and am bantered for it. To bed about 11.

21 August:

Indisposed from the strong Beer at Mr. Nevils wee walk about the Gardens and Houses expecting dinner till 3, when the Earl returns. Sir John Waters and 2 coaches of Ladys with him. Wee sit down to an elegant dinner of the modern mode (i.e. one of five or six courses served at an hour later than 3 p.m.). After it the Wine of the long Cork g'os in the highest health wee can invent round till after 9.

22 August:

Indisposition continues till relieved by a Nap at Church where my Lord in the Forenoon preaches the same sermon as at Manchester. After another exquisite dinner, prayers in the Church, after wee return to the long Corks. I desire but fail of seeing Hardwick. Jack sees Bolesover Castle a mile hence. We part early with the Earl and to our Chambers about 10.

23 August:

The party visited Worksop, Ryton, Rufford, Nottingham.

24 August:

About 7 on horseback wee pass Wollerton a mile from Nottingham, a noble and fine situated Stone-house of Sir Thomas Willoughby, the park surrounded with a new brick wall, wee pass the river Earwash (dividing the Counties) at Stapleford come to Derby, leaving a place calld Little Chester a mile on the right hand to Derwent, over which a good Bridge into the town before 11 to the sign of the Buck Couchant. Wee go to All Hallows (a fair Church with a remarkable high steeple) to prayers (the day St. Bartholomew). We observe here the monuments of the Devonshire family well preserved in a Chapell on the South Side of the Church. Dind about 2, wee mount, come to Ashbourne about 5. My Lord fatigud, goes to bed about 6, The Curate comes to the Inn, knows little of our way forward. I leave him with Mr. Clutterbrook and to bed about 10.

25 August:

My Lord rises and calls, about 3 wee are ready and mount about 4 in moonshine, presently cross the River Dove, rise the mountains into the Morelands of Staffordshire, falls into difficult roads in a barren and wild country

The party continued their journey by way of Leek and Middlewich to Chester.

I am indebted to Dr. John Addy for these extracts. I am responsible for the modifications to the punctuation, the spelling being as in the original, and have omitted the mileages.

THE MATLOCK MONSTER - A DERBYSHIRE FOLK-TALE

by Ernest Paulson

When I was teaching in Matlock, I was asked at least once by every form I took whether there was a monster under Masson. After about twenty years I thought I'd better find out. I found it at last hidden in old copies of the High Peak News and almost immediately afterwards I came across another version - or rather two parts of a version - in R. L. Tongue's Forgotten Folk Tales. Eventually I got the Matlock and district version.

The Matlock Monster

A great wind came out of the north east and on the wings of the wind came a great black dragon attended by fierce, hungry ravens. Wherever he landed he feasted in flame and great woe and word of his coming ran before him like the fire in dry reeds. No man could withstand him, no woman was safe from him and as the news ran back that he was heading for Chesterfield, the townsfolk fled to the hills in great terror.

There was a hermit living under Cratcliff rocks and when men told him of the coming of the great beast and prayed to him for aid, he said to them, "Fear not, God will deliver us out of the hand of the serpent", and returned to his prayers. But they came again and besought him saying, "Deliver us from the great dragon".

Then he took in his hand a cross of bright metal and climbed to the top of the Faybrick rock over Asher and waited the coming of the dragon. When he saw its great shape afar off, he stood upon his feet and raised the cross. The dragon dived down upon him to burn him up, but from the cross streamed a great light which wrapped him round like a shield, so that the dragon could not harm him. The dragon blew with his breath and fire streamed from him, but the hermit was not harmed, : only the rock melted and his feet sank into the stone. Thrice the dragon essayed to strike the hermit and thrice he was forced to go by, then as the light grew stronger, he turned and fled away into the north country leaving wailing and lamentation where he had flown.

The hermit came down from the rock and returned to Cratcliff saying, "The dragon is gone, but he will return. Let you get arms and strong walls and trouble me no more".

When the hermit was dead and his cave was empty the dragon returned. Again the folk of Chesterfield and the vale fled to the hills, leaving their homes to burn and again they were helped.

A lad from Asher went to the smith on the Chesterfield road and said, "Make me a sword from these ploughshares", and he pointed to new shares in a corner of the smithy.

"From those?" laughed the smith. "The weight is far too great for such as thee".

"That I cannot lift, but with others I can", said the lad, and he looked out and saw two brothers riding up from Chesterfield on a donkey.

When he called, they came to him. Together they raised the ploughshares with many a puff and grunt and placed them in the fire. When the iron was hot, the smith beat the iron and from it he forged a keen, bright blade, tempering it seven times in running water flowing from the rock. It was a great sword and the cross piece was so long that the lads could place both hands upon it, one on each side and one straddling the shaft.

When it was made the smith looked at it and again said, "The weight is too great for thee".

He who had come first to the smith answered and said, "For one, yes; for three, never. With the help of God we will prevail", and they wrapped the sword in sackcloth and took it from the forge.

At the rising of the sun they harnessed the donkey to the sword and with the donkey pulling and the lads guiding, they set off up the hill.

On the way they met a drover.

"We'eer ta takin' that?" said he.

"To the Faybrick", came the answer.

"Then go round. Do not climb straight. There's more ways of killing a cat than choking it with cream".

"That we will do", said the lads. "We will go round to the east and together we will defeat the Antichrist".

So with great straining and sweat they struggled to the hilltop and sat down at the foot of the rock. Over the hill came a pedlar, driving before him a laden horse.

"What are you doing with that great sword?" he enquired.

"Raising it to the top of the rock", said they.

"That you will never do", cried he and ran after his horse.

"With the help of God we will", cried the boys.

Together they propped the sword upright by the rock and one stayed to guard it whilst the others led the donkey round to the flat land behind the rock. When they were gone the lad twisted the sackcloth that had been round the sword into a rope, then climbed up to join the brothers. As the sword appeared at the top of the rock the hermit appeared to them and said, "Set the sword upright in my footmarks and wedge it there with stone".

When it was done, the hermit said, "Look to the eastwards" and went from them.

"There is smoke in the east", cried he who had come first. He turned to the younger brother. "Get you down to Asher and bid them ring the bells".

Then said he to the other one, "Get on the donkey and rouse the Chesterfield men. Then go to town and climb the steeple. Gather the ringers and keep strict watch. Watch both the sword and the smoke. As the smoke nears, watch for the flash of the sword and when you see it, ring the tocsin loud".

"And you?" asked the brothers.

"Here shall I stay, close by the sword. With God's help we will slay the dragon".

"I will raise the country", cried the younger brother, running off.

"And I will raise the town", cried the elder.

Soon came the dragon, laying waste before him. As his form appeared, the lad seized the sword and span it in its socket on the rock so the bright beams flashed in the sunlight. Then the ringers of Chesterfield pulled on their ropes and roused the district so that bells ran up and down from there to Castleton. The boy on the steeple told where the dragon was and the dragon raged and roared. He blew so hot and angry a breath that the church steeple warped and twisted, but the boy behind the weathercock was saved.

The dragon then mounted into the upper air and dived upon the rock, blowing with all his might, so that the hills were scorched and burnt brown and black, but the lad who stood by the spinning sword was saved by its power as it flashed above him. Then the sword flashed mightily, the bells rang loudly, the great smoke lifted and there was the dragon, his great wings beating, rendered powerless by the might of the sword, and as they watched, the sword ceased spinning and stood as a cross uplifted from the rock above the men of Chesterfield, their swords reversed, so that they stood beneath a forest of crosses.

Then the dragon knew that his power was gone. He mounted again into the upper air, bowed in salutation to the cross and flew over the hill to dive into Jughole.

There he still lies, afraid to move, but still fiery so that springs from the hill run warm, sparks from his fiery breath flame and shoot on the hillside at Riber and the rocks move. He is very still, but when his tail twitches, as it must do from time to time, folk say that there is an earthquake at Winster or that rocks are falling in the mines.

LONG EATON SCHOOL BOARD AND ITS SCHOOLS

by Claire E. Brown

Long Eaton lies in Derbyshire half way between Nottingham and Derby on the edge of the boundary separating the two counties. Nowadays it is much larger and more important than neighbouring villages such as Breaston and Draycott, but until the mid-19th century it was a small township in the parish of Sawley, an adjoining village now enveloped by Long Eaton. Sawley's early importance lay in its position at a crossing of the River Trent and its church of All Saints. So in 1831 Sawley boasted a population of 1009 to Long Eaton's 750 and also had the major share of the local framework knitting industry as well as the thriving cotton mills at Wilne, the boat-building and canal centre at Trent Lock and the beginnings of a lace trade. Long Eaton did have stocking frames but far fewer than many of the other villages in the area. Long Eaton was predominantly agricultural.

In 1839 events occurred which began to alter entirely the distribution of population and industry in the area. Long Eaton became a stage on the Derby to Nottingham Midland Counties Railway. This and more especially the building of the Erewash Valley line in 1847 brought new accessibility and an influx of industry and people. Since Long Eaton was still surrounded by open countryside, it gave great scope for development in contrast with Nottingham's space problems. New industries directly related to the railways such as Messrs. Clayes' wagon works and Toton railway sidings obviously affected the growth in population, but of greater ultimate importance was the development taking place in the lace industry in the mid-1850s.

In 1809 Heathcoate's bobbin net machine had begun a change that brought lace making from a domestic craft to a factory industry. This alteration took place gradually, as the early machines produced only plain net which was frequently 'flossed' or decorated at home by women and children, so that the domestic side of the industry continued for some time, but tenement factories to produce lace began to be built, using steam engines as a common power source for the many small firms occupying parts of the same large factory. When in 1841 the Jacquard punched-card system made machine production of fancy lace an economic proposition, a huge expansion in the lace industry resulted since, as often happens, fashion took advantage of technology. Factories were built in many areas of the Midlands to cope with the greatly increased demand, and Long Eaton shared in the newly-created employment and prosperity. The first large factory of four storeys was built near the town's market place in 1856 but before long many more rose above the shops and houses of the work-people. To keep pace with the demand for labour, rows of terraced houses were constructed. The Midland Railway built Midland Street, Trent Street and Erewash Street in the 1870s to house their employees, part of the rapidly-growing population, which rose from 933 in 1851 to 3,204 by 1871. A comparison with Sawley's populations for the same years shows the extent to which Long Eaton had overtaken its neighbour, since the figures there only increased from 1001 to 1144.

In the early 1870s several factors caused a rapid acceleration of Long Eaton's growth. The good communications, plentiful supply of land for industrial and residential development and the cheap rates would

probably have lead to a steady growth anyway, but events in Nottingham itself created a situation which was to cause the population of Long Eaton to very nearly double in a decade. In 1873 began a series of serious industrial disputes between the increasingly active trade unions in the Nottingham lace manufacturing industry and the employers. With very few exceptions, the lace makers in Nottingham belonged to the Amalgamated Society of Operative Lacemakers, who were demanding better working conditions and pay. In contrast, attempts to start a union lodge in Long Eaton in 1874 met with no support, and even concessions for membership in 1878 only led to 150 joining from a workforce of 700. Probably in comparison with pay in the stocking trade, which had been dropping steadily since the 1830s, the laceworkers' wages of 12s. to 22s. a week were considered good. The employers in Nottingham were not slow to see the advantages of moving their businesses the few miles to Long Eaton, and new factories rapidly sprang up, especially near the Erewash Canal which runs through the town, until by 1889 over 700 lace machines were in operation. After several further attempts to goad the Long Eaton workers into action, the Nottingham unionists seemed to have accepted defeat, and the rates paid in Long Eaton remained as much as 25% below those paid in Nottingham until well into the 20th century.

The owners added to the growth in population by moving with their families into the still semi-rural districts of Long Eaton. Large houses and villas were built on the 'better' side of the town in College Road (now Derby Road, but then named after Trent College founded in 1868) Park Street, Wellington Street and Russell Street. Some lace manufacturers, notably the Orchard family, played an important part in the running of the town, for their names feature prominently in local government.

With such a rapidly expanding population, the provision of education in Long Eaton seemed an insoluble problem by the 1870s. Until 1826, there was no educational establishment but the population at that time was small and presumably the educational demands of a mainly rural people not great. In 1826 a National School was built in the Market place, still commemorated by the original tablet which stands outside Long Eaton Library. The school which cost £82 (though other sources say £250) to build, consisted of two rooms, each eighteen by fourteen feet, of brick with a tiled roof. Supported by voluntary contributions, it aimed to educate "poor boys and girls" and had accommodation for 150 boys, girls and infants, though the average attendance in the early 1850s was about 110. By the 1860s the need for a new school was becoming a matter for concern, and finally at a cost of £876 the new National School was opened in 1862, built on a site in Croft Street, (later Claye Street) presented by the owner of the Railway Wagon works, Samuel Claye. The old school site was sold for £3 and is now part of Long Eaton Market Place near the end of Union Street. The total accommodation in the school was for about 260 children, boys, girls and infants, under a headmaster, a girls' mistress and infants' mistress.

During these years there were also several private schools established in Long Eaton. The most notable of these, Trent College, had been founded in 1868, but it did not greatly affect the numbers of school places available to the general inhabitants of Long Eaton, since the fees in 1876 were £15 a term, 'payable in advance', which limited its use to that originally intended "as a boarding school for boys of the middle class, that is, for the sons of farmers and men of business, between the ages of 8 and 17". Built in the 'collegiate Tudor style' and with its own church erected in 1875, it accommodated 250 boys, but many of these came from outside the district to enjoy the benefits of its "two large schoolrooms,

dining hall, seven large dormitories, two libraries and classrooms" and the tuition of ten resident masters who between them offered a "course of instruction including a thorough English education, Latin, French, geography, mathematics, vocal music and drawing, with the option of Greek, German and book-keeping". This was obviously not the sort of education deemed suitable for a lace worker's son, even had he been able to afford the fees.

Long Eaton supported several other much less ambitious 'private educational establishments' which continued after the establishment of the local School Board in 1878. The Midland Academy, whose principal, the Reverend Frederick Todd, a Baptist Minister, held a teaching certificate offered "Thorough Tuition with careful moral training" for fees varying from £1.1s. to £1.5s. per quarter, though music and French cost extra, as did books. The French master, Monsieur Bonelard, divided his attention between the Midland Academy and Miss Elizabeth Bell's Ladies School in the High Street. The Misses Ruffell of Brook Villa ran a Ladies Boarding and Day School on moderate terms and also ran "evening classes for elder girls, Thursday by arrangement". Other small private establishments catered mainly for the daughters of the middle classes so that their existence had little effect on the need for more educational provision for the working-class children of Long Eaton.

The educational situation in Long Eaton when the Education Act of 1870 was passed was not good. The growth in population had outstripped the provision of school places by voluntary means to such an extent that of the 840 children between 4 and 13 known to be living in Long Eaton, (the count was made by house-to-house visits but the census of 1871 revealed only 653), some 260 were attending the national school and 65 were being educated in private schools. This left 500 children for whom no educational provision was available, beyond Sunday School attendance, and who therefore received none of the benefits of even an elementary education.

The Education Act of 1870 had been passed after many attempts (spanning many years) to bring about public elementary education for all children. Previous efforts had foundered on the rocks of economic, religious and political resistance and had resulted in piecemeal government aid in support of the voluntary bodies providing cheap elementary education. Despite evidence from abroad many people believed an educated populace would desert their menial tasks and join a revolutionary movement to overthrow their masters. Some feared state intervention would endanger freedom of thought and lead to tyranny and repression. In their view, parents had a duty to pay for education for their children and this education, if provided free, would not be appreciated. More understandably, many objected to the raising of local rates to provide funds for elementary education and felt that government aid should be used to stimulate voluntary activity rather than replace it. But the biggest hurdle in the path of the Education Bill was the question of religion. Until 1870, the voluntary schools were not inspected in religious matters, and were free to teach denominational religious instruction if they so chose. The Church of England had always played an influential role in the provision of education for the lower classes but its strong position was increasingly resented by the non-conformists. Many of these were willing to accept non-sectarian religious education in public elementary schools but this was in turn unacceptable to most Anglicans. Yet few were willing to conceive of a system without any religious instruction, as this was held to be an integral part of education.

But by 1870 it became obvious to many people that the provision of education was becoming urgent, as not only had the extension of the franchise in 1867 highlighted the need for literacy and elementary education among the working classes, but the economic growth of the country depended on it, with the necessity for skilled workers and technicians becoming increasingly apparent. In areas such as Long Eaton the use of child labour was decreasing rapidly with the production of sophisticated machinery in a factory setting and so parents felt far more willing to send their children to school to receive an education which hopefully would lead to an improvement in their prospects.

After the passing of the 1870 Act, the government gave the voluntary organisations a space of six months in which to provide "sufficient amount or accommodation in public elementary schools ... available for all the children in such district for whose elementary education efficient and suitable provision is not otherwise made". This led to a huge upsurge of interest in the provision of voluntary schools, the Department of Education receiving 3,342 applications in 5 months for building grants compared with the usual yearly number of 150. 1,633 grants were granted providing 280,000 places and involving the contribution of £1,348,000. Such was the belief of many that the setting up of a School Board represented an evil to be avoided at all costs.

Long Eaton's provision of school places was certainly no worse than that of many other towns, but it was one of the first in Derbyshire to have a School Board, this being formed in 1873. Whether its formation caused the bitterness and strife feared and in some cases experienced in other places is not recorded, although the Vicar of Long Eaton did print a diatribe in 1873 against the School Board criticising the promised lack of Christian religious instruction in the new schools. But apparently even his support did not lead to much action on the part of the voluntary societies since the National School was not enlarged until 1889, some 13 years after the first board school had been built. Perhaps the extent of the problem discouraged attempts at solving it by voluntary means and even had the National School coped with the initial lack of accommodation the rapidly increasing population of Long Eaton would soon have outgrown this provision also.

So, in 1873, Long Eaton was provided with a School Board of five members, under the chairmanship of first Thomas Fletcher, then of Joseph Orchard, owner of one of the largest lace factories in Long Eaton. The Orchards were active participants in the work of the Board until 1903, together with many other local businessmen. The clerk appointed was John Black but as the minutes of the Long Eaton School Board have long been missing little is known about its work in the first few years.

What is apparent is that the new School Board set about remedying the lack of educational provision as quickly as possible. A site was obtained in the High Street and by 1876 "extensive schools were in the course of erection at a cost of £6,000 to provide accommodation for 600 children". The School Board obviously realized the need to provide more than the 500 places originally estimated to allow breathing space before more buildings were needed. John William Chambers came from Radford to be head teacher of the school, assisted by his wife Sarah as the girls' mistress and in 1880 they were joined by Miss Emma Blasdale who took charge of the 212 infants accommodated in the newly finished infants' department, built at a cost of over £800.

Although the immediate problems of providing the necessary school places seemed to have been solved, the School Board was not able to rest for long. By 1882 the new school was already too small, as the population of Long Eaton had grown from 3,204 to 6,217 in the 10 years since the original estimates of numbers of school age children had been made. As a temporary measure, additional rooms at the Bourne Sunday School in Orchard Street were pressed into service. By the beginning of 1884, 276 boys and 276 girls were squeezed into accommodation originally intended for 179 girls and 179 boys and Mr. Chambers was having to refuse admission to new applicants. Part-timers were housed in the temporary accommodation in Orchard Street but this was so unsuitable as to prevent them working properly and also produced staffing problems since an abundance of staff was rarely a feature of 'cheap' elementary education. The 300 infants in the infants' department were also creating staffing difficulties and pleas were made by Miss Blasdale for assistance with this number "at least until the exams" : and the National School could take none of the overflow since it too was overcrowded.

The School Board therefore applied to the education department for a loan to enable it to carry out the provision of the 1870 Act requiring it "from time to time to provide such additional school accommodation as is, in their opinion, necessary in order to supply a sufficient amount of public school accommodation for their district". If necessary, the School Board could use its powers of compulsory purchase to buy a suitable site and the necessary capital could be raised on the surety of the local rates. The Department in return claimed that only 200 places were needed, despite the average attendances of 888 in a school built for 570 children.

Despite the Department's return, the Board went ahead with its plans for a substantial new school. A suitable site was located in the newly developing area of Long Eaton bordering Derby Road, and a compulsory purchase order was issued to the owner, Herbert Woolley, a lace manufacturer of Sherwood, Nottingham, for the sale of 3,120 square yards of land at a cost of 6/6d. per square yard, a total of £1,014. Two new streets, Leopold Street and Stanhope Street would be constructed at the same time, although the proviso that these streets would 'ever remain open and unbuilt upon' did not last many years, as the pressures to release land for building in the convenient central areas of Long Eaton resulted in the schools gradually becoming hemmed in by lace factories and by houses and shops. By August of 1884, the plans for the new schools had been drawn up by Mr. Fullalove, a Long Eaton architect and builder, who was also to be responsible for the actual erection of the building since he submitted the lowest tender, although it required a visit in February 1885 to the Department of Education by Messrs. Orchard, Black and Chambers before the former was satisfied of the necessity of a new school.

The question of finance loomed very large at this point since, in common with most ratepayers, the people of Long Eaton objected to paying any more than the absolute minimum necessary to keep the board schools functioning, so that expenditure was carefully watched by some of the prominent businessmen of the town. Most school boards were extremely careful about where ratepayers money went, since being ratepayers themselves they could appreciate the concern felt, and each bill was considered by the committee before being paid. The extremes to which this concern could be carried is exemplified by the amount of time the Long Eaton School Board spent considering the small outlay necessary for the cookery classes which had begun in 1884 for girls in the High Street school. A separate teacher

was employed, which obviously entailed some expense, but it was not this aspect which caused so much dissent, although Miss Hudson's application for £20 p.a. increase in February of 1885 had been reduced to a payment of £12 and her railway expenses. The arguments, which became quite heated and involved people outside the School Board, concerned the money spent on the food that was cooked, since by June, £5. 1. 3d. had been paid out but only £4.19.3½d. received in. The receipts were the payments made by teacher and pupils for the dinners they cooked and later ate, and in addition, a 4/- a head grant was received for fourteen girls. One member of the School Board, Mr. Piggin, made the point that this was part of the girls' education and so should be supported, but as in the case of needlework in many other school boards, cookery remained a sore point in Long Eaton for some while.

The question of finance again came very much to the fore in 1885 for a number of reasons. The projected new schools obviously had to be paid for by the ratepayers of Long Eaton, and in June a 2½d. rate was levied in order to raise £800 needed for immediate payments, such as money owing to Mr. Fullalove for work already carried out. Then the temporary school in Orchard Street had added to the financial burden as it had needed some equipment which had cost £219.12. 2d. and new staff, and although both of these would be transferred to the new schools when completed, they had to be financed immediately. The High Street schools had cost £70 to repair and the School Board clerk, Mr. Black, had asked for his expenses. So the School Board appeared to be spending money rapidly and, it apparently seemed to many, without proper consideration. The £800 disappeared and became the subject of much bitter invective, prolonged by the pending triennial School Board elections.

In a town not renowned for its enthusiasm, these particular School Board elections in 1885 seem to have caused a level of excitement quite unforeseen. The argument which had been raging over spending ratepayers' money fanned the flames of oratory to such a point that halls were taken by the opposing factions to allow their representatives to press their case on the people of Long Eaton. The town was predominantly non-conformist and liberal and the members of the School Board reflected these biases. The Department of Education, however, had recommended the expansion of the Board from five to seven members at the Board's own request, since it was generally felt that this would allow a better representation of the ratepayers and would spread the burden of work more. The liberals and non-conformists formed together to put up several candidates including the past chairman, Joseph Orchard and several former members, such as builder Silas Poxon and Richard Piggin, a butcher in the town, since they declared they intended all their candidates to be men "of business capacity and sound judgement ... sound moral character, willing to act according to their principles". They organised public meetings and a house-to-house canvass but generally felt confident of the ratepayers' support since they believed they had served the community well in the past and had thus gained the confidence of the voters. Joseph Orchard, speaking as the group's representative, put forward the argument that though politics had entered into the Board's work, all felt free to speak and vote according to their principles, and minority representatives had always been treated with consideration and courtesy. He defended the Board's financial policy, pointing out that the new schools, although larger and better built, would, in fact, cost less to build than the High Street schools since great care had been taken to keep costs as low as possible. He felt proud of the good education offered to the children

of Long Eaton - the grant that year had amounted to £549 - and the clean comfortable schools provided. He added that "his children would not have to go to Board Schools but he wanted the children of his less fortunate neighbours to be as comfortable as his own" for "who was to know what these children would become". They would perhaps work up from paying 2d. a week for their education to be a prosperous manufacturer as he had done.

In opposition the conservatives were equally determined to gain control and "did not intend to leave one stone unturned to secure the return of their men", who included George Wallace, a fitter, Will Newsum an engineer, James McCarthy a Roman Catholic priest and a very well-known lace manufacturer and financier, Ernest Terah Hooley. One candidate, William Hooton, was put forward but rejected but he decided to stand anyway as an independent and economist and in the event, made a wise decision since he gained more votes than any of his opponents. (In School Board elections each voter could cast as many votes as candidates, so he could give all his votes to one person or divide them amongst a party, thus enabling minorities to elect representatives).

After weeks of mounting tension, the elections were finally held on Saturday, June 13th 1885, with Mr. Newbold, imported from Derby, to take charge. The Polling Station at the High Street board school opened early, and by the evening 1,442 people of the 1,850 entitled to vote had done so, although even the manner of their voting caused much friction and threats of law cases, since the clerks filled up the illiterates' papers with little or no attempt at secrecy. By seven o'clock in the evening 1,500 people were gathered in front of the school to hear the results, watched by a small group of policemen who were fortunately not required. James Heaps, a local businessman who had done much to bring the question of finances to the fore, announced the results which held several surprises. Mr. Hooton had polled 1,635 votes against Joseph Orchard's 966, and John Marshall who had been a popular and hard-working member of the Board since its formation, failed to keep his seat, to most people's regret. The conservatives had won a majority since E. T. Hooley, George Wallace, Charles Gaskin and William Newsum had all been elected, against Joseph Orchard and Silas Poxon for the liberals. However, despite some protests, Joseph Orchard was elected Chairman of the new Board with Mr. Hooton as Vice-chairman.

The election over, the School Board continued its work much as before, looking at the bills and overseeing the building of the new schools. The members may have changed but it does not seem to have led to the vast alterations many seem to have hoped for, probably because the old Board had done as well as it could and the new Board had little alternative but to follow the same path. There were in fact few ways that they could have cut expenditure, since new buildings had to be financed and reducing the number and efficiency of the staff would have led to poorer education and probably a cut in grant anyway. The inspector's report on the High Street schools the previous year had been good, the boys' and girls' departments being passed as efficient and in the case of the infants' department the inspector added that "the infants are kindly and intelligently taught. The school is in a creditable state of efficiency". Obviously the School Board did not want the schools to lose this status because of economics and the only other obvious source of income outside of the rates was the school fees. All the members felt a grave reluctance to increase the fees, although rate-payers were assured that they were "only remitted in genuine cases". Where

a mother appeared before the Board because her husband was either missing or unemployed aid was given but an employed labourer who made the same request in 1888 was told that there were too many more urgent cases and he would have to manage. The lace trade was going through a depression which affected the ability of many families to pay their way. Realising the inadvisability of depending entirely on one trade for employment, several companies were formed with the intention of building large factories in several parts of the town in order to introduce new industries, notably netting, dyeing and bleaching, which it was hoped would offer alternative work, but these failed to become established.

It had been hoped that the new schools in the Derby Road would be finished by July 9th, 1885 so that the formal opening could take place on July 13th. The teachers' salaries were commenced on June 24th and Mr. and Mrs. Snow took up their duties as caretakers on payment of 12/- a week on the same day. It was hoped to leave the schools open for a few days to allow the ratepayers to see where their money had gone. An aspect of the building which had caused great argument was the use of enamelled bricks which had cost £300 more than ordinary bricks, but which it was claimed, "would stay clean for 50 years". As it turned out, the building was not finished in time, as a sub-contractor responsible for the heating had found unexpected problems and needed an extra month. Finally, the new schools were opened on September 5th, 1885 with much interest and high hopes for their future.

The new headmaster, Mr. Prust, who had been master at the temporary school in Orchard Street, decided to establish three departments initially, although staff would be a problem at first. A temporary assistant mistress and two monitors who helped with the pupils enrolled the first day but as these came from the High Street board school more permanent staff were obviously needed. The interchange of staff between the two board schools continued for many years, especially in the case of pupil teachers who spent some months in each school and also in the various departments of the schools, which must have greatly increased their teaching experience, although not always appreciated by the heads of the departments whose staff numbers fluctuated suddenly. The numbers had risen to 144 by November and in January 1886 a mistress was appointed to the infants' department and two pupil teachers to the mixed school, easing the situation. However, although Miss Yeomans, the infants' headmistress remained until 1893, she was constantly troubled by staffing difficulties, not helped by the 'borrowing' of pupil teachers and monitors for other departments for several months at a time. Some of the assistant mistresses left much to be desired too. A certain Miss Fincham, who only remained in the infants' school for four months of 1888, did not, in Miss Yeoman's opinion 'know much about kindergarten or tonic sol fa' and, even worse, could not mark the registers properly. Miss Yeomans "discovered another error in Miss Fincham's register, a boy marked present who is not here. She excuses herself by saying 'his fee was paid and I thought he was here'. Told her I never had had such inaccurate marking before and she must be more careful or I should be obliged to send a pupil teacher to mark them for her". After an inspector's report which, while recommending the 1st and 3rd class as "well instructed and good discipline" continued "2nd class, Miss Fincham's, poorly taught, restless and inattentive. Good merit grant recommended with considerable hesitation, and will not be forthcoming next year unless there is a great improvement". Miss Fincham, not surprisingly, left. On this occasion, a new assistant was engaged immediately but often several months elapsed, during which time classes had to be managed as well as possible with pupil teachers and monitors.

Unfortunately, pupil teachers and monitors were often far from efficient. The pupil teacher system had began in 1846, in an attempt to give some further education and training to elementary teachers. At 13 years of age, a prospective teacher was apprenticed to a schoolmaster for a minimum of five years, during which time he would be given some instruction by the teacher to advance his own education and learn by experience how to teach. At 18, he would be examined by an inspector and, if suitable, recommended for a place in a training college, possibly with a Queen's Scholarship. The system had many drawbacks but continued until the 1920s. The pupil teachers helped the staffing situation without the expense of adult assistants, but their own education was often not sufficient to enable them to carry out the task efficiently. Another major problem was strain - school boards were required to ensure that prospective pupil teachers were strong before accepting their indentures - as not only did the pupil teachers spend several hours a day teaching, they also had to study and prepare for examinations. How successful they were often depended on the teacher responsible for their training.

Miss Yeomans seems to have taken a great interest in the progress of the pupil teachers for whom she was responsible, even to the extent of giving them practice exams from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the Saturday preceding their external examination, which generally took place in Nottingham or Derby. She also allowed them to study during school hours for their scholarships, though sometimes a note of despair enters "Jessie Fullalove's Class III very poor, so changed classes". "Reprimanded Pupil Teacher Jenson for idleness, does not do half her home lessons". Despite everything, many of the pupil teachers did complete their apprenticeship and often continued in the same school as assistants afterwards.

Not only did staff leave suddenly, they were also frequently absent, usually through illness or domestic problems. "Teachers absent again. Miss Voce is nursing her mother. P.T. Jenson is ill". Sometimes this led to the school being closed. "P. T.'s Jenson and Wheeldon ill. Miss Yeomans called as mother ill - school closed", but on other occasions, the rest of the staff had to manage as best they could. "Florence Wheeldon, 3rd year Pupil Teacher has 3rd and 4th class. Emma Jenson, 1st, 2nd class. Hard on other teachers". Sometimes teachers were absent for less praiseworthy reasons. "Miss Voce asked for two days holiday on account of her birthday. I gave her one and she took half the other".

But generally, absence was due to illness and this affected not only the teachers but even more extensively their pupils, who mainly lived in much less hygienic surroundings. Long Eaton was known as an unhealthy area to live in, mainly because of its poor water supply and sewerage system. In 1885 Dr. Butler, the area medical officer, told the Long Eaton Board that "the water supply is anything but of a satisfactory character. (There is) very little wholesome water in the town". But the problem hinged on rates again, and the ratepayers proved very unwilling to provide the finance necessary to provide adequate facilities - a water supply was not available until 1892. The result was epidemics every year, varying in their seriousness but generally affecting large numbers of children. Illnesses such as 'Blister pox', small-pox, diphtheria, measles and whooping cough affected mainly the children, but the epidemics of typhus and cholera which regularly broke out led to parts of the town being put in quarantine and the children banned from school in an attempt to contain the illnesses. During the first week of November, 1889, only 173 children from a possible 786 were present and the following week 123 were away. This became a matter of urgency as government examinations drew near and that autumn only 207 were present on the vital day, the rest being away with measles and whooping cough.

Absenteeism due to illness could not be avoided, but many children stayed away for other less acceptable reasons. "Half the children at circus", "Children at Goose Fair" are frequent comments and the visit to the town of anything from a wild beast show to a band would nearly empty the schools. Attendances dropped when the Sunday School Treat season began as these were unaccountably held during the week. "The tea-party season has commenced. Only 141 present this afternoon in consequence". Sometimes heads gave up and closed the school, especially if a genuine reason for a holiday could be given. During the late 1890's schoolchildren were well off for occasional holidays with a week in 1897 to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee and a day in 1899 for the Queen's birthday and the relief of Mafeking. 1900 brought a day for Ladysmith and 1902 the peace celebrations were followed by a week for the coronation. Odd half days were also added for good attendance and "Excellent" in the grant examinations.

Despite the number of legitimate holidays, absenteeism was a major problem, especially as it had financial repercussions. Bad weather always led to a big drop in numbers. "Heavy Snow, 75 present from 230", "49 present out of 306 on Friday morning due to snow - holiday in afternoon". Many under 5's did not attend school at all during the winter, with the final result that the Attendance Committee passed a resolution in 1899 "That in cases of chronic bad attendance by infants between 3 and 5, it be an instruction to the headmaster to remove the names of such children from the register after the first week's absence". Many weeks, schools sent out fifty or more absent notes, but the attendance officer often seemed unable or unwilling to do anything. "Complaints to attendance officer useless, same excuses every week". "Wrote to Board about absences, nothing done". It was generally extremely difficult to achieve convictions even when parents were prosecuted for failing to send their children to school, and if convicted by a magistrate a fine of a few shillings only was imposed. Attendance officers must have often felt it was not worth the effort involved for their salary of £20 a year. Occasionally parents co-operated or actually requested action. "Several children punished for truancy by request of parents", but very often they were responsible for keeping the children home. "Admitted Bruce Roper. Has not attended school before, although 6 years old and strong and healthy. Mother didn't want him to go to school as he is the youngest and she didn't want to be at home without him". Many children still stayed home to look after younger children, mind the house or run errands. A complaint had been made in 1885 that children in Derby Elementary schools were under such pressure in school that they were ill. However, on further investigation it was discovered that in one of the cases a girl of ten had only become ill after staying home to move a ton of coal on her own. It did not occur to her parents that it might have been this exertion, rather than pressure at school, which had caused her illness. Although the call for child labour had drastically decreased, some children over ten still worked part-time or after school.

The abolition of school fees in 1891 led to an increase in the number of children attending school as during the first two months, Derby Road schools alone admitted 40 new children though most were between 3 and 4 years old.

By 1890 the numbers attending the board schools had again risen, the average attendances being 180 boys, 180 girls and 255 infants at the High Street schools and 200 boys, 180 girls and 240 infants at Derby Road schools.

The previous decade had seen the population increase again, though more slowly, from 6,217 in 1881 to 9,636 in 1891. A large part of the residential building had taken place on the south side of Long Eaton, so that many children now had a long walk to reach the two established board schools and plans to greatly increase the housing in the Derby Road area meant more pressure on the nearby schools.

So the School Board once again looked for a suitable site for a new school on the Sawley Road side of Long Eaton. The chairman of the School Board, Joseph Orchard, owned a piece of land of 583 square yards on the corner of Sawley Road and Clumber Street and this was purchased for £165.11.11d. in August of 1890, a much smaller sum than had been paid for the Derby Road site. A tender, for Long Eaton firms only, was put out for the construction of the building which was to be designed and supervised by John Sheldon, a Long Eaton architect and surveyor. The lowest tender was put in by the firm of Francis Perks and Son, and a contract signed in June 1892 that for £7,368 Perks "will in a good substantial and workmanlike manner and with materials sufficient and proper of their several kinds" construct the Sawley Road Board Schools. The School Board intended to ensure that the work was carried out completely to their satisfaction and for the sum specified, the constructors having to pay for any extras and for the replacements of any materials not considered to be of suitably high quality and to re-do any work the architect considered not good enough. They were also responsible for replacing anything lost or damaged due to "fire, theft, weather and decay" and indemnified the School Board against any responsibility for injury or damage to persons or property. After the problem encountered at the Derby Road schools with sub-contractors who carried out faulty work and held up completion, the Board stipulated that no work was to be sub-contracted "without written consent of the architect and the School Board". To ensure that the building would be finished on the date required, the contractors signed a penalty clause which would cost them £10 for each week the building remained incomplete "except for strikes or inclement weather", after the 28th February, 1893. As a final control, the School Board reserved the right to sack all or any of the workmen employed whom it considered incompetent or improper. After the acrimony over the payments for the Derby Road schools, a plan of payment by instalment was formulated, so that Perks could receive up to 75% during construction, 15% on completion and the last 10% six months after the work was completed. The buildings planned included a schoolmaster's house and caretaker's house and the materials to be used for these were stringently specified too.

The schools were formally opened on July 28th, 1893 and as part of the celebrations the Board provided a tea party for all children attending the board schools. The first intake of 201 children took their places on August 14th under Mr. Chambers the former head of the High Street board school. His staff came from all over England, unlike most of the teachers in the other board schools who lived and trained locally and most had begun as pupil teachers and worked up from there to become certificated assistants having trained in colleges such as the Nottingham Day Training College, Peterborough College and Chester Training College. The higher standard of the qualifications of this school's staff is interesting, as it not only reflects the improved training facilities for elementary school teachers but also the demand for better education for ordinary children. Because of the teachers, Sawley Road school was always able to offer a more extensive subject list and ultimately became the higher elementary school for the district, taking the older children from the other two board schools. By September 1895 the School Board was considering sending all Standards VI and VII to Sawley Road and by February 1896, 150 boys and girls had been transferred from the other board schools under this scheme.

Science and Art department grants were sought to aid the extension of the curriculum and although the drawing class proved very successful, the Inspector's report for October of 1894 added "Promise in new school. Rather too much attempted but order, recitation and drill well done; answering is good". The introduction of subjects such as shorthand and mechanics had stretched the abilities of teachers and pupils too far in the Inspector's view, but it did show the definite intention of widening the education available, though some subjects remained confined by the limits of the code. By 1897 children were being examined in chemistry and physiology, shorthand and algebra as specific subjects and taking science and art department exams in freehand, geometry and maths and physics and chemistry. Part of the failure of pupils to do as well as they might was blamed on lack of equipment, but gradually this was remedied. At the suggestion of Mr. Swan from the Department of Art and Science, the School Board bought a skeleton at a cost of £2.7.8½d. to aid the teaching of physiology and further acquisitions included a piano and cookery equipment. These efforts brought results as the grant increased from £318.5.9d. in 1894 to £625.5.0d. by 1896 for 432 boys and girls and 194 infants.

One of the teachers who joined the staff of the Sawley Road schools in March 1896 was to have a long and varied career in education in Long Eaton, finally becoming headmaster of Long Eaton County School. Samuel Clegg was the son of Alexander Clegg who was master of Sawley Baptist British School from 1882 to 1896. In 1884 Samuel began his training as a pupil teacher in his father's School, gaining his certificate at Owens College, Manchester. He originally joined Sawley Road as an assistant master but during his first year he took over and re-organised the pupil teachers' centre in Long Eaton. This had begun in November 1894 in the Derby Road school but initially instruction had been given from 6.30 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. By December 1894 the third year pupil teachers were also being allowed to spend an hour every morning between 8.30 and 9.30 at the Centre in order to study for their exams and this must have been much more useful than working after a day in school. A Pupil Teachers' Centre also meant that the instruction given to pupil teachers would achieve a certain minimum standard rather than being entirely dependent on the interests and abilities of the head teacher responsible. Samuel Clegg realized how much some of the pupil teachers needed to continue their own education before they were able to educate others, and he instituted day-time classes covering geography, grammar, maths, drawing, music, history and school method. He also widened the pupil, teachers' general knowledge and interests by organized visits to local industries such as the Derby China Works and the Derby Locomotive Works. Pupil teachers still spent part of their time teaching in the board schools and Mr. Clegg visited them there to hear their lessons and to help them prepare for their examinations. Thus the pupil teacher system in Long Eaton became well-organized and many of the students obtained Queen's Scholarships to enable them to continue their training, frequently at the Nottingham Day Training College.

Although the qualifications of the teachers employed in the board schools improved, the Board showed a marked reluctance to increase wages correspondingly. Individual teachers put in requests for more money to every month Board meeting and occasionally these were granted. The School Board must have been feeling generous in January of 1886 when they granted Miss Yeomans, infant mistress at Derby Road, a rise to £45 a year plus a quarter of the grant, though efforts to increase the basic wage to £50 were defeated. At the same time Mrs. Britton at the Derby Road schools was granted £5 a year extra but the majority of applications during the next few years were refused.

Finally, in October 1891 a committee was appointed to revise the scale of salaries payable to assistant teachers in the Board's service. The wages recommended ranged from £60 to £80 for a trained and certificated master, plus a bonus of £20 which lay in "the absolute discretion" of the Board, to £30 - £40 for an ex-pupil teacher (female) who had failed to gain a scholarship. Since wage equality did not enter into these calculations, the salaries for men were in the region of £15 to £20 higher than those of female teachers of the same grade and experience. Interestingly, a footnote adds "This regulation shall not be applicable to the case of Mr. G. W. Atkin whose fixed salary is now above the maximum", thus proving the Board's occasional generosity, or probably oversight, in granting a wage higher than average.

Judging by the views expressed during the following Board meetings, the members considered these wages generous. The general feeling was that it was necessary to pay good salaries to obtain good teachers and that the employment of second and third-rate teachers 'would jeopardize the grant'. At this time there were more applicants than jobs, enabling the Board to choose the candidates best qualified. However, despite the findings of the Committee, all the staff except the head teachers put in a claim for higher salaries in February of 1892, suggesting that either the Board were slow at putting into practice their good intentions or that the teachers did not consider the salaries as generous as their employers. Salaries formed a large part of the Board's expenditure, being from £1,450 for the half-year ending March 1894 to £2,100 for the 6 months preceding March 1899. Compared with other expenses for the same 6 months in 1894 of £475 for interest and repayment of loans, and £200 for "replacement and repairs to buildings and furniture" it is obvious why such wrangling went on between the teachers and the Board over wages, as these formed more than half of the cost of education in that period. This also explains in part the reluctance of the Board to employ additional teachers even when one teacher and a mistress were left in charge of 100 under-5s as a result.

Spurred on by public concern, efforts continued to keep the education rate to the minimum. The board had firmly taken into its own hands the ordering of equipment and goods in 1886, after a check on the expenses for the year had revealed a large number of small bills ranging from 5d. to 5/- for the purchase by individual teachers of materials for use in classrooms. It was decided that in future all orders would be passed to the Clerk who would ask for tenders, thus ensuring that the best price could be obtained and that bulk buying would save additional money. Although this should have led to greater efficiency, Miss Yeomans found that when she ordered a large quantity of kindergarten material recommended by the Inspectors in December, the "Clerk had forgotten all about it" and she finally received it in March the following year. Members of the Board would be required to check stock regularly and report any deficits to the Board. The extent of concern in Long Eaton about educational expenditure is clear from the extensive reporting in the local newspaper of these arrangements, with the closing words "There are other matters more important yet to be dealt with" and the amount of acrimony which resulted between the headmaster, Mr. Chambers, the School Board and the Long Eaton Advertiser.

Other ways were found of raising small amounts of money. One was letting the school buildings for various social functions, such as bazaars and meetings. The charges for the Sawley Road schools ranged from 1/- for a single classroom to £5 for a three-day bazaar, plus a 5/- a day fee for the caretaker who would "not be paid less than 6d. per meeting". The High Street and Derby Road schools arranged their charges "as required", but were presumably let out at a comparable rate.

In addition, the Upper Boardroom could be rented for 1/6d. per meeting and the Lower Boardroom for 1/-, the caretaker again receiving 6d. for his trouble. As Long Eaton had no Town Hall, these rooms were frequently hired for meetings and provided a regular, if small, contribution to costs. In addition, garments made by the girls in school were sold, which at least paid most of the cost of materials for these classes, and children purchased books occasionally, all helping to convince the rate-payers that as little of their money as possible was being spent.

When considering finances, the School Board always returned to the question of the grant earned, and this focused attention on the perennial problem of absenteeism, already referred to in connection with the widespread ill-health and general reluctance to attend school notable in Long Eaton. After complaints from the heads of all three schools that they experienced great difficulty achieving good results and high grants mainly due to the intermittent attendance of many of the children, and that the attendance officer seemed generally unable to improve the situation, Mr. Prust, head of Derby Road schools decided to try reward instead of punishment. In 1896 he began a series of magic lantern entertainments on Friday evenings for those children who had not missed an attendance during the preceding four weeks. At least this seems to have been more effective as the numbers receiving tickets rose month by month as long as the treat lasted.

Other areas outside the school curriculum also began to be part of school life. In 1897 the School Board, encouraged by the example of other Boards in the area, decided to allow the Derby Band of Hope Union to give lectures on temperance during school hours. However, Mr. Blandford, the H.M.I. for the area, was strongly against this and it was only after much dispute that the talks were permitted between 2 and 4 in the afternoon. Concern was also expressed about the lack of technical education and a sub-committee was set up to remedy this deficiency. This resulted in talks on gardening and fruit-growing given by well-known local agriculturists and plans for more extensive coverage of similar subjects were made. As an educational visit the children in Standard VII and above at Sawley Road schools were taken to Long Eaton gasworks.

Less educational, but possibly more entertaining events were arranged for out-of-school hours. Conjuring shows and school concerts were followed by regular swimming competitions at the new baths at the Derby Road schools, in which ex-pupils were also encouraged to take part. The schools became an important part of the social life of the children as well as the educational centres of the town, and the interest of the School Board and the qualities of many of the teachers ensured that both aspects were carried on to the best of their abilities. Many criticised the day-to-day workings of the School Board, its pre-occupation with small financial matters and personal differences but it brought a good education within the reach of all children in Long Eaton in the thirty years of its existence. Although often apparently parsimonious, the reluctance of ratepayers in the town to contribute more than absolutely essential to ensure the carrying out of the legal obligations of the 1870 Education Act, and the public criticisms levelled against the Board's financial policies, account for much of the Board's difficulties in its work. It was, however, able to build three good schools, two of which are still in use (the High Street schools were superseded in 1940) and a system of education catering for all levels of age and ability, from infants to pupil teachers.

There is a certain sadness in the finality of the last log book entry of the Sawley schools under the School Board:

"30th September 1903: From this date, these schools are continued under the control of the Education Committee of the Derbyshire County Council and are to be known from this time on as Council Schools".

The School Board was no more and thus the direct participation of local people in the organization of education in Long Eaton came to an end.

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I am also grateful to Mr. K. A. Reedman for supplying additional local information.

A LESSER-KNOWN DERBYSHIRE MAP BY WILLIAM SENIOR

(by D. V. Fowkes, Staffordshire Record Office)

William Senior's 17th century maps of the Cavendish family's estates in Derbyshire are very well-known. Perhaps less known to Derbyshire historians is a map produced by William Senior for Sir Francis Leeke of Sutton Scarsdale in 1621 of his Park Hall, Pilsley (North Wingfield) estate. "The Platt of Parkhal", as it is entitled, has survived among the papers of Hand, Morgan and Owen, Solicitors, deposited in the William Salt Library, Stafford (Ref. HM 38).

Apart from being comfortably the earliest known map of Pilsley, the map is also notable for showing an unusually early pictorial representation of an iron works. The furnaces are represented by two conical, kiln-like, structures and the forge buildings and water wheels are also shown along with the substantial Upper and Nether Dams and the "Sinder Hill" for the slag and cinders. The iron works was one of the Sitwell family's network of N. E. Derbyshire charcoal iron furnaces and there is an inventory for it in George Sitwell's letter book preserved among the Renishaw Hall archives.

The map is coloured in the characteristic Senior style, with pictorial representation of all buildings and other structures. All the closes are named on the map.