



Some Famous Headmasters

By
MR. VICTOR RAILTON, M.A.
(SCHOOL HOUSE MASTER
AT ST. JIM'S.)

*Wielders of the Rod
in Olden Times*

ST. JIM'S can boast a long and honoured scroll of Headmasters. The majority of them have been kindly and lovable men, who have ruled by kindness rather than by fear. Some few, however, were severe martinets and stern disciplinarians; but allowance must be made for the fact that they ruled during stormy periods of history.

The first Headmaster of St. Jim's was Dr. Josiah Oldacre, who was appointed in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. We know very little about Dr. Oldacre personally; but as he held office for thirty-five years, and the school prospered exceedingly under his sway, we may safely assume that he was a wise and good ruler, hard-working and energetic—what we should to-day call “a live wire.”

Dr. Oldacre's son succeeded him as Headmaster. He found everything running smoothly at St. Jim's, and perhaps this made him think that he could afford to govern with a loose rein. At all events, the new Headmaster shut himself up in his study, and was not seen by the boys for weeks together. He was nicknamed “The Hermit,” on account of his retiring disposition. Dr. Oldacre, junior, was a very learned man and a great scholar.

He liked and understood books, but he neither liked nor understood boys. Instead

of entering wholeheartedly into the politics of Public-school life, he held aloof from his pupils, seeming to take no interest in them. This was fatal for the welfare of the school.

St. Jim's was soon on the down-grade—“going to the dogs,” as we should put it. The masters did their best to arrest the decline, but without the support and co-operation of the Head they were practically powerless.

When Dr. Greville Mason became Headmaster, in the seventeenth century, he found the school in a shocking state of apathy and neglect. Immediately he set to work to restore the *morale* of St. Jim's, and win back some of its former prestige. Dr. Mason succeeded beyond all expectations.

He was a great-hearted man, just and humane, and an untiring worker. The power of his personality was extraordinary; masters and boys rallied round him; he was beloved by all. What Dr. Arnold was to Rugby, and Dr. Thring to Uppingham, so Dr. Mason was to St. Jim's. He died in the fullness of years, honoured and lamented by all.

Dr. Mason was succeeded by a brilliant train of Headmasters, none of whom, however, was so great and good as he.

Many amusing stories are related of Dr. Mulvaney, who was appointed Headmaster

of St. Jim's in the year 1840. Like the celebrated Dr. Spooner, he had an unfortunate habit of muddling his phrases. He was frequently known to say, when dismissing a class, "The miss will now dis-class!" On another occasion he announced, "I shall leave no turn unstoned to preserve order in this school!"

After the school tuckshop had been raided, Dr. Mulvaney summoned a general assembly, and astonished everybody by saying, "I wish to know who stifled the roar!" He meant, of course, "I wish to know who

rified the store." The "Spoonerisms" perpetrated by Dr. Mulvaney would fill a good-sized volume.

Our present Headmaster, Dr. Holmes, is immensely and deservedly popular. He is a man of wide sympathies and boundless tact; and every culprit who comes before him knows that he will receive fair play. Dr. Holmes has the interest of the school deeply at heart. He has brought about many valuable improvements; and future historians will doubtless speak of him as I have spoken of Dr. Mason.

Hidden Schoolboys!

In each of the sentences printed below is hidden the names of well-known schoolboys at Greyfriars, St. Jim's and Rookwood. See how many you can discover! The letters of the hidden names will be found to run consecutively, as in this example:
The hero faced the mob *un*terrified.—Bunter.

Greyfriars Boys.

1. There is always risk in nerve-racking experiences.
2. The waters of the Mighty Deep enfolded the shipwrecked mariner.
3. He has no opponent with whom he can quarrel in Leyton. Next item, please!
4. Is it odd that a father should teach his tot to play cricket?
5. To wing a telegram, or to communicate by wireless with new lands, are marvels unknown to our forefathers.
6. My erstwhile friend Tubby is ill, but the latest bulletin is favourable.

St. Jim's Boys.

1. We must allow the rascals their late passes.
2. In Egypt, the Sirdar relies on his soldiers.
3. No blessing can equal good health; when you are ill you appreciate this.
4. A capital botany lecture was delivered last evening.
5. Having unnecessary brutality, and an ugly nature, the bully is feared by all.
6. Those who hanker ravenously after riches often dig by moonlight, among red ferns, for buried treasure.

Rookwood Boys.

1. A new comet flashed above the silvery clouds.
2. "I'll Sing Thee Songs of Araby"—that is my theme this evening.
3. His tailor considered the cape elegant and graceful.
4. Clovelly is an ideal holiday resort.
5. From morning to night, cooking is in progress in the school kitchen.
6. Those who wished to go were conveyed in a hansom-cab, drawn by doddering horses.

SOLUTIONS.

Greyfriars Boys.

1. Skinner.
2. Penfold.
3. Snoop. Linley. Temple.
4. Todd. Stott.
5. Wingate. Newland.
6. Myers. Tubb. Bull.

St. Jim's Boys.

1. Lowther.
2. Darrel.
3. Noble. Reilly.
4. Talbot.
5. Gunn. Glyn.
6. Kerr. Digby. Redfern.

Rookwood Boys.

1. Newcome. Silver.
2. Rahy. Smythe.
3. Peele. Grace.
4. Lovell.
5. Mornington. Cook.
6. Gower. Hansom. Dodd.

REPLIES TO TROUBLED QUERISTS

BY MONTY LOWTHER, of the Shell Form, St. Jim's.

*When troubles come and things look glum,
You're tired of persevering;
Just write to me and you'll agree
That my remarks are cheering!*

"GUSTAVUS" (No. 6 Study).—Alas, my poor old aristocrat! I am greatly grieved to learn that certain rash and misguided youths played football with your best Sunday topper. However, you must take consolation from the fact that you have ninety-nine more toppers to play with. True, your best topper (which now resembles a concertina) was the apple of your noble eye; but you must endeavour to bear your sorrow with fortitude. Here is a little verse which may help you to do so:

The curfew tolls the knell of parting day;
The lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea.
The ploughman homeward plods his weary way,
And leaves the world to darkness and to me.

"BAGGY" (School House).—Sorry to hear that you are being "reduced to a skellington through lack of nurrishment." I suggest that you approach the Head with the request that your daily diet chart may be as follows:

Breakfast: 12 eggs (6 boiled and 6 fried),
6 rashers of bacon, 20 slices of bread-and-butter, 1 tank of tea.

Dinner: 6 bowls of soup, 6 joints, 6 entrees, and 6 sweets.

Tea: Same as breakfast, with the addition of 6 cakes (3 currant and 3 seed).

Supper: This will be a "movable" feast, as it will consist of Stilton cheese!

If the Head consents to your requirements, all well and good. If he doesn't, recite to him the following verse:

Man wants but little here below;
He likes it nice and hot.
But I am just a kid, you know,
And, therefore, want a lot!

LORD M. (Greyfriars).—Yours is a pathetic tale of woe, my poor brother! You have lost your heart to the young lady in the Friardale bun-shop, and she—callous damsel!—repudiates your advances with scorn. Are you certain that you have done everything possible to win her hand? Have you been punctual in keeping appointments, or have you gone to sleep and forgotten all about them? Have you worn your most killing fancy waistcoat and your most flaming necktie? Has the hue of your socks been sufficiently fascinating? And, above all, have you been tactful and discreet in your wooing? If you have done all these things, and the damsel still says you nay, I can find only one verse from which you may imbibe consolation. Here it is:

It was the schooner Hesperus
That sailed the wintry sea,
And the skipper had taken his
little daughter
To bear him company.

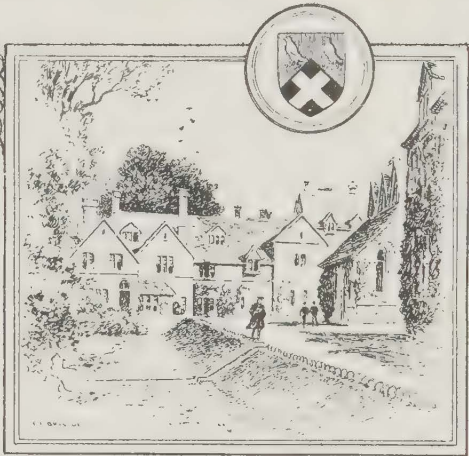
"TOMMY" (School House).—Sorry to hear that, after a hefty feed of lamb cutlets and apple turnover, you find yourself unable to write the editorial for "Tom Merry's Weekly." I will cheerfully undertake this task for you by writing an extra Comic Column. The readers are never able to twig the difference between your editorials and the other comic features. And now, brother o' mine, let us sing:

Merry had a little lamb,
And promptly came to grief.
Said little Merry, "After this
I'd better stick to beef!"

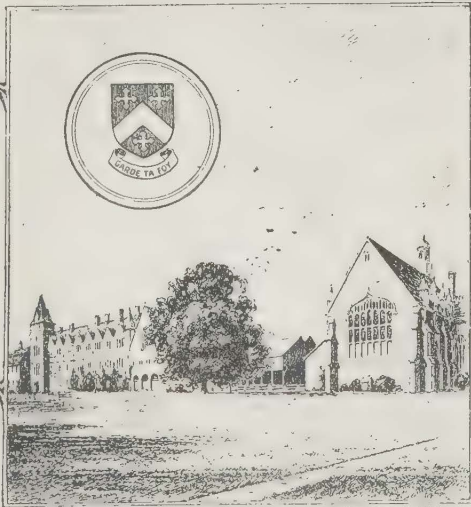
FOUR FAMOUS PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Ashburton Grammar Sch.



Bradfield College



Felsted School



King Edward's Sch. Birmingham

NEWSPAPER EXTRACTS

Which *may* appear in the year 1950!

By MONTY LOWTHER

AIR-MARSHAL SIR TOM MERRY, K.C.B., D.F.C., has been appointed to the command of the British Aerial Forces, now mobilising for a massed attack on Mars.

LORD EASTWOOD—formerly the Hon. Arthur Augustus D'Arcy—delivered a rousing speech in the House of Lords yesterday. His lordship made an eloquent appeal for the revival of the "topper" and the fancy waistcoat, which have gone out of fashion.

PRESIDENT KILDARE is one of the most popular Presidents the Irish Free State has ever had. Not for many years has "John Bull's Other Island" enjoyed such peace and prosperity.

IT is interesting to note that HARRY NOBLE, the popular skipper of the Australian cricket team now touring this country, received his education at St. James' College.

MR. AUBREY RACKE, the multi-millionaire, is making negotiations for the purchase of all the Elizabethan mansions in England.

MR. VICTOR RAILTON, M.A., has been appointed Headmaster of St. James' College, in succession to Dr. Holmes, who is retiring.

PROFESSOR SKIMPOLE claims to have disproved Darwin's theory that man is descended from monkeys. The learned professor's facial appearance, however, would seem to indicate that Darwin was right, after all!

KIT WILDRAKE is now the owner of Boot Leg Ranch, in British Columbia. His early boyhood was spent there, before he proceeded to England for his education.

MR. BERNARD GLYN, the celebrated inventor, has been knighted by the King for his wonderful invention of an aerial tank, which has been found of great value in the war with Mars.



Lord Eastwood—formerly the Hon. Augustus D'Arcy—made an eloquent appeal for the revival of the "topper."

DETECTIVE GEORGE FRANCIS KERR, of Scotland Yard, has received a special presentation from his colleagues, on the completion of his hundredth successful "case." Detective Kerr has encountered many perilous situations, but he seems to bear a charmed life.

