



School & Education News

Durrington

SALISBURY DIOCESAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

The annual meeting of the subscribers to the Diocesan Board of Education was held on Thursday last, at the Council Chamber, when the Rev. James Fraser, Chancellor of the Cathedral, and Secretary of the Diocesan Training School attended for the purpose of giving an account of the progress of that excellent institution, from its first beginning in 1841, to its present flourishing condition. The chair was taken by the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Salisbury, and among those present were:- The Right Hon. Earl Nelson, Hon. And Rev. C. A. Harris, Rev. Canon Fisher, Rev. Precentor Heathcote, Rev. Chancellor Fraser, the Rev. Sub-Dean Eyre, Rev. Prebendaries Smart, Chermiside, and Renaud; Revs. R. M. Chatfield, N. Freeling, W. D. Morrice, C. H. Townsend, J. R. McDowall, J. E. Philipps; John Ravenhill, Esq., and a great many other persons, especially ladies. A large number of the present and former pupils of the Training School were in attendance.

.....The Chairman said that he felt sure that all present were much indebted to them for their services. His Lordship then called on Mr Chancellor Fraser to make his statement respecting the Training-school.

The Rev. J. Fraser, Rector of Cholderton, and Chancellor of Salisbury Cathedral, then addressed the meeting.

..... He next observed that no more money was to be expected from Government towards buildings; but he hoped that whatever they did they would not diminish the grants to certified students. He feared, however, that these grants had in some instances not been wisely or economically distributed, and that a good deal of money had been spent merely to erect picturesque buildings. There were some persons who seemed to have no idea how the work of education should be carried on, and he had himself witnessed some such pictures. On the other hand, he knew a parish, in which there was a school, the exterior of which was anything but pleasing to the eye of man, as it exhibited no appearance of taste or beauty. But just enter the room and see the order and discipline that was maintained among the children, so much so indeed that the school at Durrington would fairly bear a comparison with any school in the rural districts of England. It must be borne in mind that when we had erected a picturesque school-house we had not done all. His experience as an assistant-commissioner had extended over 402 schools in the western districts; and from

what he witnessed he felt sure that the most important thing in connection with a school was an efficient master and mistress, who, under God's providence, would commend the truth to the children with love and knowledge. The great work of education was not to be found in bricks and mortar, but in the healthy influence of mind upon mind. That was a beautiful thought which had been expressed at this meeting respecting the influence which had been exercised by the lady who presided over the Salisbury Training-school, upon the minds of those who had been under her care. She had influenced them for good, and their influence, in turn, had acted on other minds, so that it was impossible to calculate the good, both intellectually and morally, which had been effected during the 20 years in which Mrs Duncan had superintended this Training Institution in Salisbury.....

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 12th May, 1860)