Ave Atque Vale

Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth, is Mount Zion, on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. . . . Walk about Zion, and go round about her, tell the towers thereof. Mark ye well her bulwarks, consider her palaces; that ye may tell it to the generations following.

These words of the 48th Psalm constitute a mandate for the teaching of history. They might well have been written of the Royal Burgh of Stirling, whose history is part of Scotland’s heritage, but unhappily has not yet been published in easily available form.

The High School has been more fortunate than the town in this respect, for the crowning achievement of the first real Rector, Mr A. F. Hutchison, M.A. (1866–96), was his History of the High School of Stirling, a work of great scholarship, and a mine of information, which the amateur historian may exploit at will. Mr Hutchison’s theme is the development, throughout several centuries, of a small, exclusive group of scholastic clerics and their boy pupils into a great modern school, which, while attempting to equip young folk to play their part in the Nuclear Age, must ceaselessly strive to maintain the high level of scholarship and character that distinguished it in the past.

The coat-of-arms, and the motto, Tempori parendum,
were not adopted until the early twentieth century, but they well illustrate the origin of the school, and its adaptability. The coat-of-arms shows Queen Margaret, ‘richly habited and crowned bearing in her right hand a sceptre and in her left a book all proper between two trees of knowledge’, to remind us of the remote twelfth century, when a Bishop of St Andrews, in whose diocese Stirling was, gave to Queen Margaret’s Church of the Holy Trinity of Dunfermline the Churches of Perth and Stirling and their schools. The wolf, ‘couchant guardant’, at the Queen’s feet is taken from the ‘Small’ Burgh seal, and reflects the early interest in education taken by the magistrates of the Royal Burgh, for later Charters speak of Scolam de Strivelin, and Scolam ejusdam ville, which suggest that the ‘Church’ school fairly soon became the town’s school. We can only speculate where this early school was situated, as all the buildings, except the castle, of the old town were destroyed by fire in 1406.

Until the Reformation in 1560, the Abbot of Dunfermline appointed the ‘Magister’, but the Town Council assumed other practical responsibilities, and about 1450, built a thatched single-storey school, on the south-east of the Castle Hill, where the school remained until 1856. Here the Master, a graduate, as his title implies, taught Latin, assisted by a Latin ‘Doctor’ and a Scots, later English, ‘Doctor’, who eventually, also gave lessons in writing and arithmetic. Boys only were enrolled at the age of eight, although ‘six’ is mentioned in various local edicts, prohibiting private, rival seminaries. Five years was considered long enough to master these subjects, although occasional enthusiastic masters undertook a sixth-year
class, who were for the most part sent to study by themselves in the attic. When, in more recent years, Class VI have been located on the roof of the Tower, or in the ‘Sink’, it appears they were merely following an old custom.

By 1522-3 the Town Council spoke of the Master of ‘thar Grammar Scholl’, the name then commonly given to schools maintained by the principal burghs of Scotland.

For the first three years, a boy memorised Latin grammar. His fourth year was spent on Latin verse, including a Latin version of the Psalms. In his fifth year, he undertook translations from original writers, wrote prose, and took part in Latin debates (disputations). His reading began with Erasmus’ Colloquies, progressed through Terence’s comedies, Cicero’s Epistles, the poems of Virgil and Horace to the final goal of Sallust and Caesar.

In 1602, the Town Council chose the school’s textbooks, stating that they would do so until the General Assembly of the Kirk, or the King and Parliament could agree upon a ‘universall grammar to be teached throughout the haill realm’. However, the ‘Universall’, or National, grammar book proved as elusive as the philosopher’s stone, and not even the Authority of James VI, the Scottish ‘Solomon’, who, in Stirling Castle, had been taught Latin by George Buchanan, and Greek by Peter Young, two Scottish scholars of international repute, could persuade Scottish burgh schools to abandon their own ‘fantasies’ in the choice of text-books.

Thomas Buchanan, nephew of the celebrated George, was Master in the Stirling School from 1571 to 1578, and it was one of his ‘boys’, Robert Rollok, who became the
first Principal of the newly founded University of Edinburgh (1592). Possibly it was Thomas Buchanan who began the study of Greek in Stirling. At any rate it had become part of the School’s curriculum by the early seventeenth century.

James VI and I returned to Scotland in 1617, and took part in a great scholastic disputation at Stirling. So pleased was the King with this display of Latin oratory, that he announced his intention of founding a ‘free college’ in Stirling. Alas, the King did not fulfil his promise, in spite of the laudatory Latin poems presented to him by Master William Wallace (1612-17), and his grammar school pupils; otherwise, Scotland’s ‘fifth’ university would not still be a subject of discussion. One boy involved in all the excitement of this royal visit came from Kilsyth. He became the Rev. John Livingstone, and a Covenanter who died an exile in Rotterdam for opposing the Episcopalian policy of Charles II. It was Livingstone who left an account of his sixth year – spent in the ‘little chamber’ above the school, ‘where we went through the most part of the choice Latine writers both poets and others’, and declared it to be the ‘largest most profitable year’ of his school career.

Until 1694, the school day began at 6 a.m. and ended at 6 p.m. – Saturdays included. In that year, Stirling Town Council ordained that their school should commence at 7 a.m. In 1696, the High School of Edinburgh changed its hour of opening to 9 a.m., and the rest of the country gradually followed its good example.

In these far-off days the Master’s salary varied from £5 to £15 sterling per annum. In addition, the Master collec-
ted the fees fixed by the Council, from ‘tounis bairnes’, but could drive his own bargain with ‘outten tounis bairnis’. This fee-paying explains the Council’s reiterated threats to ‘staik up’ the doors of potential ‘pirate’ schools, but also shows the local demand for education.

The ‘doctors’ were so poorly paid that they seldom stayed long. To begin with, they were boarded ‘for free’ in the homes of scholars, in rotation, but this was so unsatisfactory to all parties, that it was given up, and higher wages offered.

Sunday was hardly a day of rest for Grammar School boys, who had to listen to a long sermon from the ‘Scholars’ Loft’ of the Parish Church, and later in the day answer questions on its content ‘for a large hour’, as well as make public repetition of the Catechism. After the Reformation, and the abolition of Saints’ days, holidays were reduced to ‘Bent Play’, when the cutting of rushes for the schools’ floors occasioned so many accidents that it was commuted for a monetary payment, and three Mondays ‘off’. Candlemas (2nd February) was a national holiday when each boy brought a gift of money (‘Blaze Silver’) to his teachers. This custom lingered on in Stirling until the middle of the nineteenth century. It is perhaps as well that the present summer vacation does not depend on the reception, by the Education Committee, of a Latin petition addressed to them by the pupils! And all they were granted then was three weeks’ freedom!

One of the great masters of the seventeenth century was Master David Will, who presided over the Grammar School here from 1624-42, was lured away to Glasgow, but returned to Stirling in 1649.
The Council built for him in 1633 a new two-storey building, roofed with slates. He stayed in the top flat. Later, in the century, other properties were added: a byre, a brew house, a ‘yaird’ and a ‘coal house’. Both salaries and fees were increased, the master’s emolument being augmented by legacies from local benefactors, such as John Cowane. During the eighteenth century this second building decayed, but the number of pupils increased. Instead of erecting a bigger and better building, the Council, in 1740, disjoined the English (Writing and Arithmetic) School and made it a separate establishment. In 1747, the Writing and Arithmetic masters and pupils hived off to form an independent, successful venture on their own.

Later, since the town was expanding, the English School was itself divided and a ‘branch’ opened in Baxter’s Wynd (Baker Street). Thus four official burgh schools were by then in existence, all controlled by the Town Council. These ‘break-aways’ moved from one lodging to another, until, in 1787, the Merchant Guildry, along with their old rivals, the Seven Incorporated Trades of the Burgh, jointly paid for erecting a two-storey school on the former Greyfriars ‘Yaird’ (where the High School now stands in Academy Road but a much smaller place). The original English School was housed on the ground floor, while the top storey was given over to the teaching of writing and arithmetic.

In 1788, the Council built the third, and last grammar school on the Castle-Hill site, where it remains, having been, in turn, an army store and school. Just recently, it has been converted into a shop and tea-room, the ‘Port-
cullis'. Beside it, stretched the former tournament ground of the Castle, a rough but ready playing field for primitive games of footba' and club (shinty), which were gladly abandoned, when the equally primitive circuses and their 'fules' (clowns) paid their annual visit, along with the Horse Fair, and filled the 'Valley' with sound and fury.

The Rector (the title is first used in 1753) was at that time Dr David Doig, who has the unique distinction of having attended the first Burns Supper to be held in Stirling along with Burns himself, his crony William Nicol, Christopher Bell, and Captain Forrester from the Castle, in Wingate's Inn, now the Golden Lion Hotel, in 1787. Dr Doig was himself a writer, as well as an outstanding scholar and teacher, who, in his forty years of stewardship, gained a great reputation for the School, and counted among his friends outstanding Scotsmen, such as Lord Kames of Blairdrummond and John Ramsay of Ochtertyre. Mr Christopher Bell, according to Burns, a 'joyous fellow, who sings a good song' ruled happily over the English Schools (reunited in 1793) from 1771 to 1813, and still found time as Precentor to lead the praise on Sundays in the Parish Church, and teach music in the town.

The schools in the Greyfriars' Yaird came to be known locally by the names of their respective masters. Thus the English School was 'Weir's School' from 1814 to 1845. It was attended by girls as well as boys, and mapping and drawing became popular subjects.

There had long been a separate establishment, where the daughters of burgesses were taught housewifery. In 1694, a mistress was appointed by the Council for this
purpose, and so well did she instruct her girls in the art of baking 'seed and plumb cakes for funeralls and other occasions' that the baxters (bakers) lodged a complaint about loss of custom! The next mistress engaged special-ised in teaching 'suing of white and colloured seams', and 'washing and dressing', which apparently aroused no pro-
essional jealousy! There were also several private schools for girls.

The last Master of the English School was Mr William Young, (1846-86) who became first English teacher in the new 'High School', which narrowly escaped being called the 'Academy'.

The eighteenth century witnessed a dazzling intellectual revival in Scotland. Edinburgh was known as the 'Athens of the North', and Stirling reflected, at least, some of this educational 'glory' in the quality of its teachers. The Writing School then reached its zenith. 'Book-holding' had been taught in the Grammar School, but even teachers came to learn book-keeping and arithmetic as taught by Mr Daniel Manson, M.A. (1761-91). He was followed by Mr Peter (Patie) MacDougall (1791-1846) who demonstr-atated the practical value of mathematics during field-
excursions for land surveying purposes, and refreshed his pupils with tall glasses of ale, in his own home, on the return journey. It is hardly surprising that young seamen came from far and near to attend his class in navigation.

Duncan MacDougall (1846-82) his nephew, who suc-
cceeded him, was the first Master of the Mathematical De-
partment in the new High School. The MacDougall Prize presented annually to the best student of Mathe-
matics is a fitting memorial to these great Highland teachers.

The Grammar School itself fell upon evil days. Dr George Munro, who was Rector from 1820 to 1854, was a brilliant linguist with 'an intimate knowledge of a dozen languages, who could read twenty and had a smattering of forty', but he could not convey his learning to the average boy. His great success as a Master in Dumfries Grammar School was not maintained in Stirling; the number of pupils fell; an assistant teacher seceded and set up a rival 'academy'; but the Doctor rested on his laurels and declined to retire.

Even before his death in 1853, plans for an entirely new scholastic establishment had taken shape. A former pupil of the schools, Colonel H. T. Tennent, H.E.L.C.S., donated £1000 for a new school, and was, at first, given enthusiastic support. In August 1854, the foundation stone of the High School was laid with full Masonic ceremony. Stirling was en fête for the occasion which received nationwide recognition. One local paper stated; 'Not even when Royalty graced our ancient town was there ever witnessed a finer spectacle than that which was seen this Third of August at the laying of the foundation stone of a school.' But this enthusiasm did not extend to subscribing the full sum of money required to implement the plans for the collegiate building originally envisaged. Only the west front was ready by 1856, and that was only achieved with financial assistance from the Town Council. The site was again the Greyfriars' Yard, where the English and Writing Schools had been demolished to make way for the new 'High School', which was entered from Academy
Road by a great archway under the central tower, which contained the janitor's house - long since given over to class-rooms. To north and to south of the entrance stretched two huge single-storey class-rooms, each with a large stone fireplace. That on the left housed Mathematics, that on the right, English. At either end were two-storey buildings, to the north, a gymnasium with an Art room above it; and to the south, a modern language 'school' on the ground floor, the Classics room being upstairs. The entrance was for many years graced, on either side, by trees growing in swards of green grass, all of them, with their protective railings, victims of the Second World War.

Even a century later one must needs regret the grand design for a great galleried hall extending down Spittal Street on the north, and a library and museum on the east of the quadrangle, which never took tangible shape. The site chosen was admirable for the mid-nineteenth century, when Stirling's chief citizens still lived at the 'tap o' the toon' - in the Broad Street, beside the Tolbooth and the Market Cross - still the focal points of municipal life and within sight of the awe inspiring eastern apse of the Church of the Holy Rude.

Under its last Rector, Mr James Donaldson (1854-6), the Grammar School had made a great recovery and no fewer than seventy boys marched down-town to join their contemporaries of the English Writing and Modern Language Schools, to take formal possession of their new class-rooms.

Mr Donaldson left a flourishing Classical Department, when he went from Stirling to Edinburgh, to become,
later, Professor of Humanity in Aberdeen, and then Principal of St Andrews University.

The masters were then paid, in addition to fees, £60 p.a. except for the newcomer, the Modern Language master, who received much less.

Drawing, gymnastics, and dancing were new, but popular, subjects. The Art Department under the guidance of Mr Leonard Baker (1857-1909) began its long and successful career, which has continued to the present day, under such masters as Mr Edmund Baker (1909-27) (son of Leonard); Mr James MacGregor (1927-32); and Mr James Atterson, whose accidental death in July 1961, saddened the whole community.

No Rector was appointed, each master being absolute in his own department. The janitor kept the roll and matriculation book until 1863, when the number of scholars totalled 373, of whom 146 were girls. After that, the Classical Master took over this duty for an extra £10 a year. Mr A. F. Hutchison, the first real Rector, ably guided the school through thirty years of changes, and left it a unified body. He achieved this highly desirable end by encouraging social activities, with the able assistance of the Music Master, Mr J. Lascelles Graham (1880-1902), whose concerts were immensely popular. Mr Graham also preserved and published the speeches at annual functions, of distinguished ‘Old Boys’, some of whom were prototypes of The Young Barbarians, a tale of his schoolfellows by the Rev. John Watson (‘Ian McLaren’).

With the passing of the Education Act (Scotland), in 1872, the School passed from the control of the Town Council, but the Provost still attends prize-givings to pre-
sent to the dux of the school the Randolph Medal, gifted to the Royal Burgh by Charles Randolph, Marine Engineer, Glasgow (1809–78), who was educated in the Stirling schools, and whose portrait, with that of Mrs Randolph, the School now proudly possesses.

The youngest classes were disjoined from the High School in 1875, to become an independent elementary school under its own headmaster. From it was built, what are presently the Science Rooms. In 1908, a new Primary High School was erected further south, on the site of the old Trades’ Hall, the meeting place of the Seven Incorporated Trades. A marble plaque to Robert Spittal, Tailor to King James IV and to his Queen, Margaret Tudor, local bridge-builder and benefactor, is still to be seen inside, above the principal entrance, with its quaint legend which includes these words: ‘Forget not reader that the scissors of this man do more honour to human nature than the swords of conquerors.’

Unfortunately, in 1951, the life of the Primary School was ended, to the great regret of Mr Tait, and all its staff and pupils, past and present, in order to supply the desperate need of the senior school of additional class-rooms.

Stirling was and is a market town and its chief source of wealth, in spite of the Industrial Revolution, is farming. At the beginning of this century, many High School pupils boarded in the town, while others travelled daily by train, notably on the Forth and Clyde Railway, which has long ceased to function. The present ‘outten tounis bairn’ comes by bus from housing schemes, where a family’s rate of ‘progress’ is apt to be judged by the acquisition of a two-car garage – a ‘far cry’ from the rural
parish, in which the laird, the doctor, the minister, and the dominie once constituted an outpost of the humanities.

The Spittal Street wing of the School was added in 1889, to the design of a former pupil, Mr J. Marjoribanks MacLaren, F.R.I.B.A. Its dominating observatory tower, whose revolving dome was the gift of Sir Henry Bannerman, M.P., is unique among schools. Former pupils, among them, Sir George Alexander, actor, contributed funds to furnish the small library, wonderful oak-panelling and chairs of the Rector's Room.

These additional facilities called for a reorganisation of classes. Class fees gave way to school fees (abolished 1948), and pupils were grouped into two sections, Lower, 10-13, and Upper School. Four courses were arranged for Upper Pupils:

1. Classical or Professional.
2. Scientific or Technical.
3. Commercial.
4. Special course for girls, for whom a Lady Superintendent was appointed in 1888 to give instruction in domestic subjects and Modern Languages. Drawing, music, and gymnastics were available to all pupils. It is remarkable how little fundamental alteration has taken place in these courses, which are now open to girls, except for the proliferation of branches of each subject, especially in Science. Laboratories, in the Tower, were included in the new wing, and Science, which had been studied since 1878, could now be effectively taught. The first Science Master, Mr Andrew Wilson, F.I.C., son of a Bannockburn schoolmaster, was an experimenter and inventor, who actually took out a patent in 1890 'in respect of apparatus to con-
trol the rolling and pitching motion of vessels'. But his patent expired long before stabilisers were built into modern ships.

Manual instruction for boys was provided from 1897, in the old South Church in the south-eastern corner of the quadrangle. It fell vacant in 1902, and was promptly bought by the then School Board, to accommodate the Technical and Domestic Science Departments.

Unhappily it was destroyed by fire on 1st October 1961, thereby adding to the distractions of a transition session, when the prospects of presenting 320 candidates for the new Scottish Certificate of Education, Higher and Ordinary Grade, in May 1962, after the upheaval of 'flitting' to Torbrex in April, were more than enough to occupy the time and attention of Rector, Lady Superintendent and Staff. Nevertheless, an 'emergency' timetable was quickly devised, and three 'practical' subjects 'boarded out' in other schools.

Since 1896, a succession of able Rectors has striven, under the pressure of ever-changing social conditions in Stirling itself, and constant readjustments of educational policies at national level, to retain the high standard of scholarship inherited from a more leisurely age – Dr George ('Cocky') Lowson, M.A., B.Sc. (1902-21), who had only to emerge from his room and say, 'Quietly now, boys, quietly', for every boy within hearing to disappear without trace; and Mr A. S. Third ('Thirdy'), M.A., B.Sc. (1921-35), the most dynamic of Mathematics teachers, were the first non-classical headmasters. That dynasty was restored in the person of Mr A. J. Tait, M.A., who loved to escape from form-filling to take a class in Greek or
Latin. Of him it might be said, 'The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up', for he devoted himself unsparingly, to the promotion of the academic success of the School. During his time the roll of the school rose from 380 to 670, while the number of Group Leaving Certificates gained went up from nineteen in 1935 to sixty in 1946 - after six years of war-time conditions!

Both world wars cost the school many valuable young lives. Under the guidance of Mr Tait, part of the Primary School building was set aside as a shrine in 1949. Its beautiful, stained glass windows, Roll of Honour, and Book of Remembrance, which have, very properly, preceded the rest of the school to Torbres, now also serve as a memorial to Mr James Atterton, Art Master, who designed them.

In 1954, it was deemed fitting to commemorate the centenary of the building of the High School. A committee of seven former pupils on the Staff made the arrangements to hold, on the evening of 10th June, an 'At Home', which was attended by at least 500 former pupils and members of Staff, past and present, some of whom travelled from distant parts of Britain to keep 'tryst' with the beloved old school.

So much general and local interest in the welfare of the School was thus revealed, that a centenary fund, to build a sport's pavilion, was inaugurated by Mr Tait; while an ex-pupil, Mr Robert Preston, travel agent, succeeded in re-forming a Former Pupils' Association, which is worthy of much wider support than it has yet received from the thousands who boast of their years spent in Stirling 'High'.

On Mr Tait's retirement in October 1954, his successor, Mr
James Geddes, M.B.E., T.D., M.A., B.Sc., soon discovered that all his mathematical ability and military training would be required to marshall the School through one of the most momentous periods in its long history.

The Centenary Celebrations were concluded, on 11th May 1956, by a processional visit to the old Grammar School, the Tolbooth, and Guildhall, followed by a Thanksgiving and Rededication Service in the Church of the Holy Rude. Thereafter, preceded by the Chaplain, Rev. Charles B. Edie, and other officials, Staff and pupils took part in a ceremonial march down to Academy Road to re-enact the formal ‘Taking Over’ of the then ‘new’ High School on 12th May 1856. That evening the senior pupils were guests of the Former Pupils’ Association at a dance in the Museum Hall, Bridge of Allan.

But by that time it was only too apparent that the total school-accommodation, provided by all the additions, including huts, grouped round the ‘quad’, was quite inadequate for the numbers seeking admission. The roll steadily increased until by 1962 it stood at 1108.

The only real question to be settled was whether the older buildings should be drastically reconstructed, and extensions built in St John’s Street, or whether an entirely new site should be sought.

For years, the Athletic Union had struggled to provide hockey and tennis for girls, and rugby and cricket for boys, in spite of the distance from Williamfield, and its Spartan dressing-room facilities. Only by moving out of town could this disability be overcome.

Almost as soon as he was installed in the High School, Mr Geddes was approached by a senior boy, John B. Lee,
with the request that he form an Army Cadet Force, which took shape in January 1955 under the direction of the Geography Master, Mr D. R. C. Brown, Mr T. I. Morrison of the Science Department, and Mr W. R. Kennedy of the English Staff. For centuries the school had heard the ‘brave music of the distant drum’. Now, the corridors re-echoed the wail of the novice’s chanter, of a Wednesday evening, and in a very short time the Cadet Pipe Band was playing ‘tunes of glory’ all round the town.

One outcome of this martial enterprise was the erection, after many days, of a combined Cadet Hut/Pavilion, which was opened on 30th January 1959 by Viscount Younger of Leckie, O.B.E., T.D., D.L., at Williamfield, where it affords these amenities for changing and cooking so long dreamed of by sports’ enthusiasts.

By great good fortune, the Education Committee secured a site at Torbrex, almost adjoining the Sports Field and Pavilion, and there, in the most modern architectural idiom, has arisen the new High School.

The decision to leave the venerable old ‘School on the Rock’, whose every stone reflects the skill of some long vanished mason, caused considerable heartburning among those who had trod its cloisters, and gazed admiringly on the names of their great predecessors engraved on stone and wood and brass. Within its walls have been educated an extraordinary succession of gifted men, ranging, within the twentieth century, from Major General Sir David Bruce, K.C.B. (1855-1931) who left school at fourteen to become, eventually, a pioneer bacteriologist, through ‘first’ bursars, gold-medallists, Snell-Exhibitioners to re-
cently appointed Professors of Philosophy. It is to the present day pupils’ credit that he hears of famous personalities, such as Sir Gilbert Rennie, Dr John Grierson and Muir Mathieson, and wonders which of his contemporaries is likely to reach national, let alone, international renown.

But the School’s real claim to distinction has never depended solely on the achievements of its ‘upper ten’. Its real worth is shown in the countless numbers of sound professional and business men and women, and plain ordinary good citizens, who year by year have left its sheltering walls, bearing with them some quality of value to themselves and their fellow men.

Because of them, the school can say as St Paul did, “Ελλησὶ τε καὶ βαρβάρως, σοφοὶς τε καὶ άνωθέως οφειλέτης εἰμί” (Romans I, 14).

It is but a poor plant that cannot stand transplanting. The oldest school society, whose early minute books are, alas! missing, the Literary and Debating Society, held its last ‘Mock Election’ in Room 26, on 30th March 1962; but doubtless, in A.D. 2000 its members will be arguing as to whether or not the traditions of the twentieth century can be carried on into the twenty-first! The originality of mind that produced thirty-two issues of the magazine, The School on the Rock, should be stimulated by new surroundings to produce, not only a new title, but even better articles for other generations of readers. Those who survived the production of concerts in the Albert Hall; plays such as Pride and Prejudice, and You Never Can Tell, in the halls of Riverside and St Modan’s Schools, respectively; and put on the operas, Dido and Aeneas and The
Mikado, under even greater difficulties, must be ‘rarin’ to go’ on to produce similar ‘shows’ on the stage at Torbrex. No doubt, in 1562, many Grammar School boys felt that the old order had changed too abruptly for them, when English was substituted for Latin in the Church Services; and each succeeding century has called for a re-adjustment of beliefs and interests, as the School’s motto indicates.

A mere change of environment cannot destroy the School’s heritage, which is invulnerable to everything but a loss of spiritual values, the most insidious evil of our times. If the Christian principles, on which the first school in Stirling was founded, can be maintained, then the spacious and shining new school at Torbrex will become, in the words of Dr D. A. R. Simmons, M.D.: ‘A vital community of teachers and pupils, living and learning together; committed, as the School motto ordains, to the service of its own day and generation.’

Floreat Schola!

J. M. T.