

proved possible to make a copy of it for the Rothesay Museum.

Relics of the Early Iron Age were especially numerous and varied, derived mainly from the society's excavation of the vitrified fort at Dunagoil. These objects occupied two cases, while early Christian relics were placed in another, together with a model of St. Blane's Chapel, Bute, made in the Museum at Glasgow.

The backgrounds of the archaeological cases were painted so that each period represented had a colour of its own. In all of them outline maps of Bute played an important part, showing the known sites of the period and giving the changing pattern of life in the island from age to age. Together, the archaeological cases form a series illustrating the story of life in Bute from New Stone Age times, about 4,000 years ago, to the Middle Ages.

Later historical relics were accommodated in two wall cases provided by the Royal Scottish Museum and in desk cases arranged in a group in the centre of the room. The penny-farthing bicycle resisted the resources even of the Royal Scottish Museum to encase it, and had to be fastened to the floor and supported against a wall. Most other objects not in cases were, however, raised off the floor: the querns and knocking stones together on a stand of their own, the cross slab, too, on a stand, both stands being specially made. The cost was met by the Carnegie grant.

Professional joiners were engaged to make special cores and stands and to box in the lower part of the desk cases, which also provided storage space. When the display was completed, there were sufficient funds left from the grant to pay for the painting of the cases. A warm grey colour was chosen, with kicking boards of dark brown.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROTHESAY TO THE PASSING OF THE EDUCATION ACT, 1872

(a) the Parochial Schools.

(b) the schools under The Education (Scotland) Act, 1872.

[Read 19th October, 1954]

By ROBERT D. WHYTE, J.P.

The information to be obtained with regard to the early schools in Rothesay is extremely meagre; the local historians ignore them and, while some information may be got from the local Municipal and Church Records, these are in many respects very defective.

There seems to have been a school in Rothesay between 1557 and 1634, and probably the Town Council made payments towards it, but beyond the mere mention of it in Grant's "Burgh Schools,"* nothing more is known of this school.

From the Kingarth Kirk Session records we know that in 1649 there was one school in Rothesay which served for the whole island and that John McGilchrist was the Teacher, but there our information regarding this school ends.

From the Town Council Minutes we learn that Donald McGilchrist, the Town Clerk, was also Parochial Teacher. He was appointed on 15th May, 1655 to hold office for one year, but apparently he held office till 31st December, 1656, for on 1st January, 1657 he was succeeded by James Stewart, who was only one year in office and was succeeded by Rev. Robert Stewart of Scarrell, a son of the Parish Minister of Rothesay, who

*History of the Burgh Schools of Scotland p. 460-1

held office for three years, 1658-1661. He resigned, as he was invited to appear before the Kirk Session on a charge of undue familiarity with his servant. Next came a James Stewart, but, it was not clear how long he continued to act. Then came Patrick Stewart, a nephew of Rev. Robert Stewart, who seems to have acted intermittently till 1700. During this period other teachers served for short periods — thus Duncan Martin and John Stewart for the year 1681, Claud Alexander 1693-4, and Dugald Stewart 1695-6. Patrick Stewart was drawing salary till 1700. Before he retired the Town Council recorded their appreciation of Mr Patrick Stewart's services, on 1st October, 1669:

The Magistrates and Counsell of this Burgh for the love and respect quhilk they have and beirs to Patrick Stewart their schoolmaister do with consent of Mr Robert Stewart of Scarrell his uncle who and his predecessours has bein in peceable possessionne of ane yaird byland in Polskyte* ther diverst yeirs bygane lyand betwixt unquhile Colin Sterling land on the wast and the lands of Robert McArtour eist dispone the said yaird to the said Patrick Stewart his airs and assigneys heretablie and ordaynis one of the baillies to infest him thairintill.

Up till this time the Teachers were appointed by, and the school was generally managed by The Town Council. At this time, the ideal aimed at in Scotland was to have at least a grammar school, that is a school in which Latin was the principal subject taught, in every sizeable burgh, and a school in every parish. Where the Burgh and Parish boundaries were not coterminous, the school was a parish one. The Parish of Rothesay then embraced the whole of the Burgh and the whole of what is now North Bute Parish. The school was for the whole parish, and, for many years the whole Island, until the Kingarth heritors set up a school of their own. The Town Council represented only a small part of the Parish and the management of the school should have devolved on the Heritors and the Parish Minister. The Heritors seem to have been

* "Polskyte" or "Balskyte," now Castle Street

content to leave the general management of the school with the Town Council but Sir James Stewart, the leading heritor, claimed that he, as Patron, had the privilege of appointing the Teacher. The Town Council were not willing that this should be so. They did not want to quarrel with Sir James and for some years a double appointment of a Teacher was made. But let the Minutes of the Heritors and Town Council speak for themselves. First a minute of the Heritors dated 28th October, 1696.

The Heritors met and inter alia:—

"As lykeways in respect of the Grammar School of Rothesay being at present vacant and Sir James Stewart of Bute, Patron of the said School, have by his letters of presentation presented Mr James Stewart, son of Mr John Stewart, Minister of Kingarth to be schoolmaster thereat for teaching of the Grammar in all its poynts and instructing the children to read and wright in the vulgar language and he presented him to the constant several and modified stipend bilonging to the office. Therefore the heritors and elders of the Parish acceded to the presentation."

The Town Council Minuted 5th November, 1696.

"For as much as the School of Rothesay is now vacant by Mr Dougall Stewart late schoolmaster thereat his removing himself from said schoole have given call to Mr James Stewart, son of Mr John Stewart, Minister at Kingarth, to be schoolmaster for instructing of youth in Latine and vulgar language, both read and wryte, the said Mr James compeiring have accepted of the said schoole. Therefore the Magistrates and Council reseaves him to the same and ordains his entry the first of November instant."

The school is for the first time called "The Grammar School." While the Town Council Minute does not so designate the school as a "Grammar School" they took the Teacher bound to teach Latin. There was no other public school in Rothesay.

The Minute of Heritors did not specifically appoint Sir James Stewart as Patron of the school, but only tacitly admitted his claim, which was not definitely

admitted by the Town Council, but to make the position quite clear the Heritors of Rothesay and Kingarth met on 1st October, 1700, being the Michaelmas Court, when a large number of Heritors probably attended, "to consider and make such acts as may be for the good of the shyre," and, being met with the Magistrates and Town Council for the interest of the Burgh and Minister and Elders of the Parochin of Rothesay, sessionally agreed:—

"To guarantee the payment of 5/- out of every Merkland in the Parish of Kingarth and Rothesay landward and in respect that most of this money would be payable by Sir James Stewart agreed that he and his heirs and successors should always make choice of and present the schoolmaster."

The Agreement was signed by Sir James, Bannatyne of Kames, several proprietors in Kingarth Parish; Rev. Dougall Stewart and John McNeil as representing Rothesay Kirk Session; Archibald Stewart, Provost (1700-1705), two Bailies and a Councillor of Rothesay and the Town Clerk of Rothesay.

This would almost seem to have ended the controversy, but No! The question of the competency of the Town Council having anything to do with the appointment etc. of Teachers was raised by the Factor for the Marquess of Bute about 1868. The Council took the Opinion of Counsel and their Resolution of 13th June, 1868, reads:— After considering the Opinion of Counsel and the Search of the Records prior to the Act of 1803, they find that there is in these records sufficient evidence to show that during the century previous to the Act the Magistrates and Council exercised the sole power of appointing the schoolmaster, and managing the Grammar or Public School of the Parish and Burgh of Rothesay, therefore consider that the Magistrates and Council have still, in terms of the Opinions of Counsel, the same powers with reference to the Parish School as regards the appointment of Teachers and resolve to attend with the Town Clerk

the adjoined Meeting of Heritors and Minister and to intimate that while they do not desire to interfere with the proceedings since 1863, it is the intention of the Magistrates and Council for the future to exercise their full rights unabated. But the Education Act of 1872 ended all such disputes.

James Stewart did not long remain as Teacher for from 1st September, 1700, James Hume was Teacher. There is no Minute of his appointment. He apparently held office till 3rd May, 1703. He was followed by James McLea, who seems to have acted for only one quarter. His successor was John Dallas, appointed 3rd February, 1704, resigned 6th July, 1707. The next name we meet is that of Robert Forbes, who apparently was Teacher from 1st September, 1713, till probably 1715. On 13th April, 1715, Robert Wallace, Younger of Bush was appointed Session Clerk, and is designed in the Minute of Appointment "present schoolmaster of Rothesay," but there is no Minute appointing him schoolmaster. Robert Wallace was the son of Robert Wallace of Bush, a prominent man in Rothesay, a Town Councillor and Bailie and Provost from 1730 to 1735. Wallace's tenure does not seem to have been a happy one, and six years later he seems to have ceased to be schoolmaster, although it would appear that he did not actually resign. A Minute of Kirk Session almost suggests that he took advantage of his position, as Session Clerk, to have his grievances remedied. The Minute of Session of 15th November, 1721, is as follows:—

"They think themselves concerned to inquire anent the Grammar School (this while bygone neglected) the which they presently understand was given up by the late incumbent's manifold discouragements, particularly the want of a sufficient schoolhouse to teach the children in for 2 or 3 years, the withholding of public salaries near 2 years, and the Magistrates, David Glass, Provost and John McNeil, Bailiff, signifying their inclinations to allow none hereafter. The Session resolves to interpose their good offices in these things wherein God's glory and the good of both the present and future generations is so much

concerned and to apply to the Magistrates anent the same, that such unprecedented neglects of the Burgh may not lie at their door."

But with Provost Glass and Bailie McNeil antagonistic, Wallace did not relish an application to the Town Council by the Session and got in touch with the Earl of Bute as Patron of the School and as a result a Meeting of Town Council was called — but Provost Glass did not attend. The Minute reads:—

"25th November, 1721. The Town Council being convened in obedience of a presentation direct by the Right Honourable the Earle of Bute to the Magistrates and Council of the Burgh of Rothesay in favour of Robert Wallace, late Schoolmaster of the said Burgh, to be received and admitted schoolmaster of the Grammar School of the said Burgh and to have salary paid him by the said Burgh conform to use and wont. The Council agreed."

Wallace continued to act as schoolmaster and all he gained was an appointment by the Earl as Patron, and so neither Provost nor Bailie could dispute his right to the office nor decline to give him the remuneration which was his due. Wallace continued as Teacher till 1747. In that year his father died and he was served as his heir. He represented to the Council "his desire to quit public business" and resigned. He appears to have been in bad health. His successor, Thomas Smith, was appointed in 1748, and continued for two years. His successor was William McCartney, a student of Divinity, appointed on 20th February, 1750.

On 25th June, 1762, the Council being of opinion that McCartney, their schoolmaster, "cannot teach navigation and bookkeeping he is improper to be continued in this place," and therefore resolved to look out for a person who could teach these subjects, and also "if possible, Latin, English and Writing." This Minute is signed by inter alios John Dunlop, Provost. John Dunlop was Sheriff Substitute and also Factor on the Bute Estate. On 4th November, 1762, McCartney was re-elected by the Town Council as Schoolmaster for one year until Martinmas, 1763. On 29th October, 1763, the

Council, considering that McCartney was elected only until Martinmas, 1763, and being resolved not to continue or re-elect him after that date, "instructed the officer to intimate this to him without loss of time that he may not pretend ignorance thereof." The Provost was not at this meeting. On 17th November, 1763, the Council "taking into consideration that the office of the Master of the Grammar school of this Burgh and Parish is now vacant and in their gift and disposal" appointed David Hyndman, student of Divinity, to be Schoolmaster "during their pleasures." The Minute is signed by John Dunlop, Provost. The Council apparently forgot the Agreement of 1700 and of the success of the Appeal, to the Earl of Bute by Wallace. Twelve days later the Provost called a Meeting and informed the Council that Lord Bute disapproved of the method of dismissing McCartney "without any legal or other trial as to his insufficiency, qualification and deportment" and recommended that he should be reponed. The Council, the Provost only dissenting, adhered to their former resolution. But when the Provost formally dissented, to "free himself and any who might agree with him, from any bad consequences which, including a probable litigation, might follow" the acts of the Council, apparently the Council did not insist on their resolution and McCartney continued Master until his death in 1792.

Now a word about Hyndman. On 4th November, 1762, the Council resolved to look out for a well qualified person "to teach the children of such of the inhabitants as chuse to employ him," the Council to pay him £6 Stg. "besides what he may get from the parents who send their children to him," the employment to be for one year. To make sure of getting a qualified teacher the Provost and Bailies undertook to pay the expenses of Daniel Hyndman, a student of Divinity, if he would learn navigation and book-keeping and so be able to teach these subjects in the school. He went to Glasgow and took lessons and on his return

asked for payment of his expenses amounting to £6 stg. but the Council allowed his application to lie on the table. As we have seen, the Council appointed him teacher of the school in place of Mr McCartney. In appointing him it was stated that he was well qualified and that he had taught a school in Rothesay since Martinmas, 1762.—I presume the private school set up with financial assistance provided by the Council, but never paid. Obviously the intention of the Council was to appoint him as Schoolmaster of the school and to get rid of McCartney. There is no record of the private school being continued and after Mr McCartney's re-instatement, Hyndman is not again mentioned in the Minutes.

On McCartney's death the Council resolved that a Teacher qualified to teach English, Latin, Arithmetic, Book-keeping, Navigation and Church Music, with the ability to teach the principles of the French language as an additional recommendation, should be appointed. An advertisement* in the above terms was inserted in Newspapers with the additional inducement that, "from the salary and emoluments of Schoolmaster and those of Session Clerk of the Parish which have been usually conjoined, a respectable living may be derived by a teacher of ability and corresponding deportment, but no probationer or student of Divinity need apply." Seven years were to elapse before a teacher with the above qualifications could be got. The Council then selected Archibald Curry and they asked Lord Bute as Patron to appoint him and he was accordingly appointed on or about 16th September, 1799. Now while the Heritors had charge of the school, the Presbytery could take cognisance of the conduct of the Schoolmaster. As Curry's conduct was questioned the Presbytery met in Rothesay on 12th November, 1812, to consider the complaints against him. The decision of the Presbytery was against Curry and he

*For the terms of the Advertisement see Transactions
Vol. VIII., p. 39

left Rothesay in 1813. In that year he was tutor in the house of a gentleman in South Knapdale.

Curry was succeeded by Daniel Macbeth, an excellent teacher. He had been a student of Divinity, and after his appointment he took orders, although he never applied for settlement in a Parish. He died in 1835.

His successor was James Fulton, who had been the senior assistant in the school. At the Disruption in 1843 he threw in his lot with the Free Church and, as he could not continue to be Parochial Schoolmaster, he resigned.

His successor was John Palmer, who was appointed in 1844. He was in office when the Education (Scotland) Act of 1872 was passed. He was thus the last of the Parochial Schoolmasters and the first Headmaster of the Public School. This Act provided that a School Board should be elected in and for each burgh and parish. In 1881 Mr Palmer attained his Jubilee as a Teacher, but by that time he was in bad health and had obtained leave of absence. Local arrangements were made to celebrate his Jubilee and a meeting was arranged for 4th June at which he was to be presented with £100, but he was too ill to attend and his son-in-law acted on his behalf. It had been arranged that he should retire on 1st September, 1881, on a pension of £140 per annum, but he did not live to enjoy his retirement, as he died on 6th June, 1881, aged 70 years. This ends our story of the Parochial Schools and schoolmasters.

In anticipation of Mr Palmer's retiral Mr John McKay, Mathematical Master in the Rothesay Academy, was unanimously appointed by the School Board to be Headmaster of the Public School on 8th June, 1881.

REMUNERATION.

Now let us look at the remuneration of the Parish Teacher. In 1633 Parliament ratified an Act of the Privy Council dated 1616 declaring that every plough

or husband land (26 acres) should be taxed for the maintenance and establishment of parish schools and another Act, passed by the Scottish Parliament in 1649, provided that each Parochial Teacher should have what was thought to be a reasonable salary — not less than 100 merks (£5 11s 1½d stg.) nor more than 200 merks (£11 2s 3d). He was also to have reasonable accommodation. This latter Act*, with all the other Acts passed by the Scottish Parliament during the Commonwealth, was repealed at the Restoration but an Act with similar provisions was passed in 1696.

So far as can be ascertained from the very defective Minute, when Donald McGilchrist "undertook to be Schoolmaster" his remuneration was £40 (Scots) (£3 6s 8d) payable half yearly, with fees at 10s for each town child and 12s for each landward child, payable at the beginning of each quarter, with £30 Scots payable by probably the Kirk Session, as he was also Session Clerk. As Town Clerk he was not paid by salary but by fees for work done. The Minute of appointment of James Stewart is clearer. His remuneration was £40 Scots (£3 6s 8d) payable out of the Common Good, with the accustomed fees (by pupils), penalties and "dewties payable by the country," that was the sums payable by the heritors outwith the Burgh, but it is not stated how much these "dewties" amounted to. The Teacher was usually Session Clerk and Precentor, and he was paid for these duties. These fees were paid out of penalties imposed by the Session on defaulters and for marriages and deaths, and were only payable if "there was so much in the box." James Stewart was paid by the Kirk Session £46 7s Scots, but this may have been rather more than the average amount of these fees. The proportion of salary payable by the Town Council was fixed at £40 Scots or £3 6s 8d stg. The fees payable by the Kirk Session when the Teacher was Session

*See as to Schools generally The Scot in History (Wallace Notestein), p. 157

Clerk and Precentor probably averaged £30 Scots (£2 10s) so we may take it that the teacher's remuneration did not amount to more than the minimum laid down in the Act of Parliament.

Up till Donald McGilchrist's time, the Schoolmaster was paid £10 by Kingarth Kirk Session in respect that the school in Rothesay also served the Parish of Kingarth, but on his applying for this payment in 1649 the Session authorised payment, but stated that they would not continue it in future as they had resolved to set up a school in the Parish. But their difficulties in getting a teacher and in getting the children to attend school is another story.*

Neither this small salary nor school fees were promptly paid. For example Patrick Stewart complained to the Town Council that he had not received payment of the school fees nor the proportion of salary due from the landward heritors. The Town Council promised to help and they asked the Town Officer to take steps to recover the school fees, but as the Burgh Court had no jurisdiction in the landward area they advised Stewart to employ the Sheriff Officer. The Kingarth Session intimated that they would not pay and they employed an Edinburgh lawyer to defend any action which Stewart might take. No legal action seems to have been taken. You remember that Robert Wallace complained that the Town Council did not pay his salary regularly. He was appointed in 1715 and by 28th September, 1731, he ought to have received a total sum of £640 (Scots), but he only received £367 9s, leaving £272 11s (Scots) still due. The Council undertook to pay the arrears by instalments! A small augmentation to the salary was made in 1695. In that year the Synod of Argyle and the Isles received from H.M. Treasury a sum of £40 (Scots) out of the Teinds of the Bishopric of Argyle and the Isles for assisting education and they assigned £20 (Scots) (£1 13s 4d)

*See Transactions XII., p. 55.

to the Rothesay school — “so long as this fund was in the hands of the Synod.” This sum was added to the Teacher’s salary.

I have already referred to the Agreement between the Town Council, Heritors and Kirk Session of 1700,* but so far as the Teacher was concerned the agreement as to the salary was more important than the Patronage, so let us look at the Agreement again. The meeting —

“Considering the ill condition, povertie and daylie decay of the School of Rothesay by reason of the small funds appointed for the maintenance and incouragment of the Schoolmaster yrof; and the uncertainty in getting a sufficient man and of his staying; and finding that the present funds for the salary of the said schoolmaster are:— five shill. scots out of every merkland within the countrey parish of Rothesay without Burgh, fourty pound scots to be payed by the town out of the common good with a sufficient schoolhouse, to be furnished and held by the said Town and Thretty Pound (scots) by the Kirk Session if so much be in their box” out of the first and readiest thereof.” As also six shill. (scots) for every Baptism and sixteen shill. (scots) for every marriage from the party marrying or having their children baptised. Together with the soume of twentie pound (scots) as part of the fowrty pound nortified by the Synod of Argyle for the schools of the Parochin of Rothesay.”

The salary under this Agreement thus amounted to:—

From Town Council (£40 Scots)	...	...	£3	6	8
" Landward Heritors (£48 Scots)	...	...	4	0	0
" Synod (£20 Scots)	...	...	1	13	4
			£9	0	0

There would also be:—

From Kirk Session (£30)	...	...	2	10	0
with the School Fees					

The salary payable by the Council was not only very small but often in arrear. By statute the

*Recorded in Sheriff Court Books 7th April, 1780.

salary was to be increased. The Schoolmasters’ Act of 1803, “an Act to make better provision for the parochial Schoolmasters and for making further regulations for the better government of the parish schools in Scotland,” applied principally to the purely parochial schools but it was provided that where the parish consisted of a Royal Burgh and a landward part the scale of salary and provisions as to accommodation should apply, the appointment of Teacher and the management of the School to continue as before the passing of the Act. The minimum salary was increased to 300 merks and the maximum to 400 merks, that is £22 4s 6d, with a garden of $\frac{1}{4}$ Scots acre or 8 bolls of oatmeal or the money equivalent in lieu thereof.

The maximum scale was applied in 1805 and the salary was fixed as follows:—

From Town Council	...	...	...	£10	1	11
" Heritors	...	...	...	12	2	6
				£22	4	5
" Synod	...	...	...	1	13	4
Allowance for Garden	...	...	...	1	15	0
				£25	12	9

With the addition of School Fees and Fees from Kirk Session.

In 1840 the salary was £38 with no garden.†

From 1835 an Assessment was levied on Owners for Schoolmaster’s Salary. From 1851 till 1861 the assessment was at the rate of $\frac{1}{4}$ d per £ and from 1862 to 1873 at the rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ d per £. In 1874 it was increased to 3d, and in the following year to 4d — From 1874 the School rate was payable by owners and occupiers jointly.‡

†New Statistical Account, p. 114.

‡Diagram of Burgh and Parish Rates by Adam D. Macbeth.

SCHOOLHOUSES AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

We have seen that the want of a schoolhouse militated against getting a teacher. The Town Council were under obligation to provide a schoolhouse, but the town was poor and there were other pressing demands, e.g., Harbour and Tolbooth, so the Council from time to time hired a "chalmer" for the teacher. The Council realised the necessity for a proper building and on 29th April, 1662,

the Council Apoints the rowme for bigging a skuillhouse to be biggit at the house end belongit to unquhile Androw Galy to the building quherof ordaynes a thousand load of stanes for furnishing and leading the saids stanes apoints the magistrates withe any two they please to chuisse withe them to drawe a roll of the cast upon the inhabitants of the burgh for furnishing and leading the said thousand load of stanes to the said skuill.

Andrew Galy was owner of several houses in the burgh. It is impossible to identify this particular house, but it seems to have been his house in Balskyte. Nothing further was done at this time but perhaps they were used to build the school in 1676 - 1680.

Then in 1664, the Council took a further step as shown by their Minute of 17th April, 1664:—

"The Provost, Bailie and Counsell being mett takinge to ther consideratione that the towne has wanted ane schoolhouse this many years bygone and which has been ver'e prejudicall to them, therefor they think meit that ane volluntar contribution be demanded from the inhabitants and autheris for building thereof"

and they appointed a Committee to ask for contributions. They were unsuccessful in their efforts to raise funds. Nothing further was done until some nine years later when Patrick Stewart, the Schoolmaster, as Principal, and James McNiven as his cautioner, were owing the Kirk Session fourscore merks (£53 6s 8d Scots, of £4 8s 10³/₄d stg.) and the Session assigned this

obligation to the "Town for supplie to build ane schoolhouse." But the Council were owing the schoolmaster £30 Scots for three quarters salary. So on 5th November, 1673, the Council gave up Mr Stewart's bond to him on condition that he gave a full discharge for the salary then owing. So nothing was left towards a fund for building of a schoolhouse! Three years later the Council made a definite move to get a school built and agreed with a builder to do the work. But he did not even make an attempt to begin the building and other three years were to elapse before the building was started. The site was in Castle Street (now represented by Nos. 22 and 24 of that street). The building was a small one, twenty feet long by seventeen feet broad, with a thatched roof and earth floor, with a covering of brackens.* The Town Council had no money to pay the Builder so they gave him a piece of ground in the neighbourhood of The Thomson Home, called Fauldinloy, some stones and a boll of meal (value about £9 12s Scots or 16s stg.). The School was reported finished on 6th April, 1680. No dwellinghouse was provided but in September, 1680, the Council "conform to an agreement with the Bishop of the isles" agreed to raise the sum of £12 Scots yearly for the rent of a house for the schoolmaster "in case the Counsell shall think fit to build ane house for the schoolmaster's use any tyme hereafter." There is nothing in the Minutes to show that the £12 was paid to a schoolmaster! The schoolhouse was not very satisfactory, and seems to have required a considerable amount of repair from time to time, especially the roof. The want of a proper schoolhouse seems to have caused considerable discussion amongst the inhabitants. Mr Peter May, a former Factor on the Bute Estate, writing to John Blain, Town Clerk, on 6th January, 1794, said, "You astonish me with the Town's indifference relative to the school. A reasonable plan to procure a respectable schoolmaster should meet with the hearty approbation,

*See Transactions, Vol. IV, page 49.

at least with the respectable body of the inhabitants." The condition of the building had become so bad that the school for some time was held in a room in the house called the "Bishop's" house. This house stood in the Bishop's garden, at the North East end of the present Bishop Street. In 1786 the Council were informed that this house was to be removed to lay out the present Bishop Street, and new accommodation for the school would require to be found. The Council then agreed that a new school should be built, as, in their own words, "the schoolmaster and his scholars remain at this day much worse accommodated than any of the private schoolmasters or schools in the place." Meantime the old school was repaired to make it suitable in a temporary capacity. The Marquess of Bute offered Scots Fir logs for tables and seats, the Council to pay for the cartage from Mount Stuart and the cost of making the tables and seats. The Council agreed that a new building was necessary. They appealed to the inhabitants for subscriptions to build a new school. The Marquess of Bute offered a site and £50 and sufficient money was promised to enable the Council to take offers and to proceed with the work. In 1798 what John Blain called "a very handsome schoolhouse with teaching room" was built at the South East end of Bishop Street. It still stands there and is now the property of the County Council. Blain says that the cost of the building was £364 10s, but the figures given in the Minutes are:—

Building, including dykes	...	£274	5	4
Tables and chairs	...	9	15	10

£284 1 2

but there has to be added the sum of 10 9 9

paid by the Teacher (Mr Curry) for repairs to the dwelling house to make it comfortable, and repaid to

him by the Council, making a total of £294 10 11

The subscriptions amounted to	...	£181	15	2
The proceeds of fees for Burgess				
Tickets	...	40	16	0
The price obtained for the old school-house, sold by the Town Council,		67	0	0

making a total of ... £289 11 2

and leaving only £4 19s 9d to be paid out of the Common Good. In 1837 the Marquess of Bute built as an addition to the School "a large apartment." No rent was charged by his Lordship "so long as the teacher kept able assistants and gave satisfaction to the public." The room was used as a part of the school until the Public School was built in 1877. Thereafter it was given by his Lordship to the Parish Church for a Hall and is now the Girl Guides Hall.

In building the new school the Town Council not only anticipated the provisions of the Act of 1803, but built a much bigger house than authorised by that Act. That Act provided that the schoolmaster should be provided with a house and garden — the house to consist of not more than two apartments, including kitchen. Lord Advocate Hope, who promoted the Act, told Lord Cockburn that he had great difficulty in getting this provision through Parliament as the great majority of Lairds and Scottish Members of Parliament were indignant at being obliged to "erect palaces for dominies."*

The Education (Scotland) Act of 1872 established School Boards for every Burgh and Parish, and accordingly a School Board was elected for Rothesay. The Act also provided for compulsory education of all children between 5 and 13 years of age. The school in Bishop Street was too small for the number of children to receive education and a new school was

*See "Memorials of his time" by Lord Cockburn (p. 179 Ed. Foulis MCMX).

built in the Mill Park in High Street and was opened "with a great public demonstration" on 30th November, 1877. There have been some additions and an Infant School has been built to meet the requirements of the Education Code and of the Education Department, but the main school is very much as it was when built.

SCHOOLS OTHER THAN PUBLIC.

In addition to the Parochial School efforts were made from time to time to establish private schools. In the narrative of the circumstances in which the Rothesay Academy Company was formed and the Rothesay Academy was erected, the promoters of that school said:—

"At that time (1861) several adventure schools conducted by private individuals had been tried from time to time but these were liable to continual interruption and change. Congregational efforts were brought to bear as far as possible towards the attainment of a higher class school but after repeated attempts to meet the difficulties by which the matter was beset it appeared to the best friends of education that an effectual and desirable mode of providing for the requirements of the case would be the setting up of a first-class public institution with teachers fitted to conduct in a proper manner the several branches of a liberal education. For this purpose a joint stock company was formed, but the supporters of that scheme did not find their efforts more successful than those that preceded them, and it became almost hopeless by any ordinary means to provide a high class education for the youth of Rothesay at such rate of fees as would enable it to be generally taken advantage of without considerable pecuniary assistance being obtained from some quarter."

Practically nothing is known of the schools referred to. Their life was too short to have any permanent result on the education or even to make any impression on the inhabitants.

As far back as 1808 an attempt was made to establish a girls school and an advertisement appeared in the "Edinburgh Courant" of 9th February, 1808:—

"A schoolmistress wanted. There will be wanted by Whitsunday next in the Town of Rothesay a respectable woman, of some experience, for the education of 30 girls in the english language and the usual branches of useful and ornamental needle work. The salary is £50 with a house and schoolroom and some benefit from seams, besides the emoluments to be derived by teaching in private classes the other branches of polite female education of which it would be desirable the applicant should be in possession, such as music, drawing, french, geography, etc. Rothesay contains about 4,000 inhabitants and, pleasantly situated in the Island of Bute at the convenient distance of 18 miles from Greenock, is healthful and retired. There is no opposition school and Boarders are allowed to be kept . . .

Applications are to be made to William MacRae.

Mr MacRae gives no address, and I have been unable to trace him, or other guarantors of the salary, etc. If started, the school seems to have had a short life.

The Rothesay Academy Company was no more successful than its predecessors, notwithstanding a good start. On 4th April, 1861, a public meeting of the inhabitants resolved to form a joint stock company and applications for shares were invited. The Town Council took shares to the extent of £500 and the Company took over Croft Lodge, a large house in Argyle Street, the site of which is now occupied by the Regal Cinema. But the venture was not a success and in 1867 steps were taken for the liquidation of the Company, but just at that time it became known that, by the Will of Mr Duncan Thomson, his trustees had power to devote a considerable portion of his estate for, inter alia, educational purposes. On 16th May, 1867, the Committee of the Deacons' Court of the two Free Churches in Rothesay, who had carried on a school since the Disruption, resolved to apply to Mr Thomson's Trustees for a grant out of their funds. In their application they stated that since the Disruption the Free Churches in Rothesay had carried on educational operations for children of all denominations who

wished to attend. Two small salaries were paid from the Free Church Education Fund with a supplement from each congregation, but these were not sufficient for efficient education. The present state of the Rothesay Academy afforded a favourable opportunity to establish an efficient educational institution. They estimated that from £5,000 to £7,000 would be required. The Trustees granted £5,000 to be applied, £2,500 for purchase or erection of a suitable building for an educational institute of high-class in Rothesay, and £2,500 for (a) maintaining building, and (b) endowing two teachers to receive the interest equally between them. The Managers were to be the Deacons' Courts of the two Free Churches and it was suggested that the building might bear the name of the Testator. The Deacons' Courts resolved to purchase the building of Rothesay Academy (Croft Lodge) and the adjoining building (Rosebank). Steps were to be taken to build additional classrooms, but meantime the Academy was to be opened in September, 1867, the classes to be carried on in Croft Lodge and partly in the schoolroom of the West Church. On 25th July, 1867, the Deacons' Courts applied to the Factor for the Marquess of Bute for the ground then rented from Lord Bute by the Directors of the Academy as a playground as a site for the new school to replace the Rothesay Academy, the Academy Company being in the course of winding up. As Lord Bute had not attained his majority, there was some delay in replying to this request, but on reaching majority His Lordship granted a feu of the ground extending to about $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres at 5/- per annum feuduty. Plans were prepared by Mr J. R. Thomson and submitted to Lord Bute for approval. Lord Bute did not like the plans and said he would prefer a gothic style of architecture. New plans were accordingly prepared and approved by Lord Bute and offers were taken for the building. Offers received amounted to £2,834 14/2d. The actual cost of the building and laying out of the ground came to £4,462 4/7d. Mean-

time the Deacons' Courts had purchased Croft Lodge for £1,500 and Rosebank for £800. These properties were afterwards sold, Rosebank for £750 and Croft Lodge for £1,500, the price of Croft Lodge being converted into a ground annual at 5 per cent per annum. The Foundation Stone of the new building was laid by Mr Adam Paterson, Writer, Glasgow, one of Mr Thomson's Trustees, on 3rd June, 1869; the name "Rothesay Academy and Thomson Institute" having been agreed to on 20th August, 1867. As the grant originally given by Mr Thomson's Trustees was not sufficient to build and furnish the new school, it was increased by additional grants up to £6,500. The grants from the Thomson's Trustees enabled the Deacons' Courts to build the Academy but they were anxious to increase the Endowment Fund. The liquidator of the Academy Company was paying out the funds in his hands in 1868, and the Committee in charge of the new school resolved to approach the shareholders with the suggestion that they might give the sums to be received by them to the Endowment. The Liquidator paid approximately 14/5d in the £. The Town Council showed a good example by giving the sum due to them, £360, towards the endowment, on condition that six scholars would receive free education in the Academy. Mrs Craig, the widow of the Minister of the East Free Church, gave £300. Other contributions amounted to £126 16/-. The building of the School progressed favourably, but the question of staff was a more difficult one. A new staff was required and on 20th August, 1867, the Committee advertised for two qualified teachers — one as Rector and Classical Master and one as Mathematical Master. Naturally the question of salary arose. The only income which the Committee had was the interest from the Endowment of £2,500. The arrangement was:—

- (1) The income from the Endowment was to be divided equally between the two teachers,

- (2) The rent of Croft Lodge was to be £80, and the Rector could keep Boarders. This rent was afterwards reduced to £60 as Mr McLeod had not succeeded in getting sufficient boarders, and
- (3) The fees, estimated at £2 per pupil per annum, were to be divided, two-thirds to the Rector and one-third to the Mathematical Master. The number of pupils was estimated at 200.

On 24th September, 1867, Donald McLeod from Nairn was appointed Rector and Robert Smith from Anstruther was appointed Mathematical Master.

The School was to be opened (in Croft Lodge) on 22nd October, 1867. Sixty pupils enrolled on the first day, but the number had increased to 180 by March of the following year. Mr Smith was barely a year in office when he resigned and Mr D. D. Fraser was appointed his successor. Soon there was a request by the Rector for additional staff. In January, 1868, the Rector proposed to employ a female teacher — if the Committee could give any sum towards her salary, but they had no funds except the interest on the grants from the Trustees and this interest was only available till the actual building started. A Miss Christina Brown was willing to come provided the government grant* was guaranteed, whether obtained from the Government or not. After some hesitation the Committee agreed, but she resigned after 18 months service. Then the Rector appointed a male assistant, and a teacher of modern languages, an assistant in ordinary branches, and a female for industrial work were all required.

It became evident to the Committee of Management that more financial aid was required and the easiest and best method of getting this was to

*The Government began paying money grants to schools which satisfied H.M. Inspectors in 1839. See "Burgh of Ayr," Ed.

Dr. Dunlop, p. 229.

endeavour to get the Academy placed under the charge of the School Board established under the Education (Scotland) Act, 1872. So negotiations were entered into. Before these could be carried out, approval was required from the Thomson Trustees, from Lord Bute as Superior of the ground, and from the Scottish Education Department. Finally, the terms of the transfer were agreed to. These included inter alia that the Institute should be continued under the name of the Rothesay Academy and Thomson Institute, and managed by the School Board in a state of efficiency, and that the sum necessary to pay all outstanding accounts should be provided by the School Board to an extent not exceeding £300. These conditions were accepted by the School Board on 7th May, 1873, and the School passed under the management of the School Board. Alterations to meet the advances in education have been made from time to time.

Under the Education Act of 1918, the management passed to the Education Authority, in which all the schools in the County were vested. This Authority was abolished by the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1929, since when the School has been under the management of the County Council of Bute. In terms of the condition of transfer it was managed by the various authorities till it was totally destroyed by fire on 5th March, 1954.

It may be interesting to give an account of the actual cost of the building:—

Grants from Thomson Trustees	...	£6500	0	0
Donation from Town Council	...	360	0	0
" " Mrs Craig	...	300	0	0
" " Others	...	126	16	0
Interest	...	23	14	4
		£7310	10	4
Final sum due by School Board	...	275	11	1
		£7586	1	5

Payments for building and school ...	£4634	12	3
Investments by Committee ...	2850	0	0
To meet petty expenses ...	1	9	2
Allowance to Secretary ...	100	0	0
Payments equal income ...	£7586	1	5

KILCHATTAN BRICK AND TILE WORKS

By T. GILMOUR

[Read 13th December, 1949]

My only experience as a practical tilemaker is being taken over to the works as a child of 5 by my grandfather to see the last kiln being burned. That was in the year 1915. In my researches, however, I have been exceedingly fortunate in obtaining first hand information from one of the last of the old tilework men, Mr Hugh Gill, who, now an octogenarian, commenced work in the tileworks as long ago as 1883 when a boy of only 13 and worked there until production ceased in 1915. Mr Gill's father served in the works from the time when my grandfather took over the tenancy in 1866, so that I have had the benefit of as good as first hand information for all but the first 17 years of the tileworks' existence.

As far as I know Kilchattan Tile Works were built fully 100 years ago. The date on the porch of my house is 1849 and I understand that the works were built a few years before the house. The tileworks were built on the initiative of a former Marquess of Bute and in addition to making bricks and tiles they also served as the Estate Sawmill. The original tenant had the rather imposing designation of "Master of the Tilework" but in spite of this impressive title he and his successors were not too successful in business. By the year 1855 the tileworks were idle. My authority for this fact is an old Tourist Guide to the Clyde which I saw a few years ago at a Clyde Steamer Exhibition in the Mitchell Library. It stated that "At Kilchattan there is an extensive tilework, at present unhappily idle