

the purchase of the Lecture Hall in Station Road. The first few years were certainly full of trouble for the Salvationists. Sudbury's rowdies, and toughs from neighbouring villages, tried their best to break up meetings, using staves and stones in their attempts to capture the flag, even invading the hall itself. Captain Littlejohn had his ribs broken, the followers were bespattered with flour, ochre, eggs, etc., and Captain Hodder, annoyed at the rough treatment of the sisters on one occasion, rolled up his sleeves and dealt with a gang of toughs as they tried to rush the Hall. When he had restored order he began the meeting with a song, "The devil and me, we can't agree". It is interesting to know that General Booth, the founder of the movement, visited Sudbury in September 1905.

In time the police and magistrates, especially when Mr. R. Mattingly was Mayor, together with the patience and fortitude of the Salvationists, combined to check the hooliganism, so that to this day the Army remains an important and respected part of Sudbury's religious life.

Chapter VII

THE SCHOOLS

The Grammar School

In the latter half of the Will of William Wood, Warden of Sudbury College, dated 6 April 1491, and proved 28 July 1493, provision was made for the foundation of a Grammar School.

His feoffees "William ffelton, gentleman, John Wayte, Chaplain; William Warer otherwise named Baker, grocer and John Brooke of Sudbury" were given a messuage with croft lands formerly belonging to John Hilles, "situated along a lane leading from the house of the preaching friars as far as the Church of St. Gregory, between the tenements of John Robert, senior, the tenement of Robert Maldon, the tenement of John Chapman on the north side and the lane called Wylewerlelane on the south side . . . and the garden of John Bukke on the east side".

These feoffees were to enfeoff sixteen other persons nominated by the Warden of the College, and these were to see that the Master of the College should "hire and nominate an honest and honourable man to dwell in the said messuage and teach grammar and in the same continuously and daily to educate boys and others able to profit at the said school for ever". The said Master of Grammar was to receive the yearly outgoings and profits of the messuage and garden, but was to pay ten shillings a year to the Warden of the College to be used for the repair and maintenance of the property.

There is no reason to doubt that the illustration is that of the original "messuage" granted by William Wood, and used as the school until 1858. It was a two-storeyed, half-timbered house, with clustered chimney-stacks and Gothic doorway. In this building a good proportion of the boys of Sudbury have received their education, sons of the flourishing clothiers, of the lesser nobility, and the more prosperous farmers, sitting together on the same bench. Religious instruction, Latin and Grammar were the main subjects at first, with some time spent

in Rhetoric and perhaps the newly-popular Greek. Probably the scholars had to attend St. Gregory's Church, and the close connection between the two institutions, originating in the foundation, was maintained for many years. It will be realised that when Thomas Paston bought the Collegiate grounds at the time of the Dissolution, he also became patron of the living of St. Gregory's, and of the School. It was during this period that the rent of a farm of fifty-five acres at Little Maplestead in Essex was paid to the schoolmaster. Possibly this was the gift of one of the Pastons, or the Edens, who had property there. The earliest reference we can find to this farm is an entry in the Borough Chamberlain's Account for 1569 which is worded thus: "Ressayvid ye 11 day of April 1569 of Thomas Gosslynge, Farmer, of the Lande calyed Fireburnes in Parva Mapysted the which do belonge unto the Scholle Hows in Sudbury, and is for ye halfe yeres rente of he sayd lande dewe at ye ladye daye laste paste by me in money ye sum of VI. I saye in money five pounds. The 17 day of Aprill 1569 I payd to Richard Masson Schoolmaster this VI. in money as is above received and he contentyd to do reprasions upon ye same Skolle hows in Sudbury to the sum of XXI, of the said money."

There is an interesting reference to the School in 1641 in the diary of Sir Simon D'Ewes, the Puritan Member of Parliament for the Borough, when he tells of a letter that he had just received from "Mr. Smyth, a minister of Suthburie in Suffolk". The letter complained that the new patrons, the brothers Andrews, were underpaying the curates of St. Gregory's and St. Peter's, and were grossly neglecting the Churches, the Hospital and the free-school. The townspeople had taken sides, and during the rioting the School was damaged. The description "free-school" is perhaps misleading for it is unlikely that all the boys were educated free of charge.

A terrier of Church Lands of 1723 tells us, "We have in this parish a Grammar School founded by William Wood, Master of the College, about the year 1491, endowed with a dwelling house, croft of land (about three quarters of an acre) with an orchard and garden in the same parish, and an estate at Maple-

stead in Essex, commonly known by the name of The School Farm, rent £29 per annum, the present master, Humphrey Burrough, Clerk".

During part of his stay in Sudbury, the Rev. Humphrey Burrough was Curate-in-charge of St. Gregory's, probably went on to Middleton and Borley Churches, and possibly from 1714 to 1755 remained master of the School. In the late 1730's the son of Humphrey's sister, Thomas Gainsborough, attended the School, and according to tradition his youthful genius was directed mainly towards making caricatures, sketches, and carvings of his contemporaries. Many were the hours that the young Thomas spent sketching and painting in the country round Sudbury—hours that rightly should have been spent at his uncle's school. Fulcher tells us that on one occasion he forged his father's handwriting in order to gain a holiday. On discovering the deception, his father, righteously angered, declared, "Tom will one day be hanged". Later, however, when he saw the fruits of his son's holiday, in the shape of sketches of woodland scenery, he changed his mind and said, "Tom will be a genius".

Fulcher, a Sudbury poet of early Victorian times, wrote of him:

The bench on which he sat, while deep employed
Though mangled, hacked and hewed, yet not destroyed,
The wall on which he tried his graving skill,
The very name he carved, existing still.

Unfortunately nothing now remains of desks, walls or carvings.

In 1760 Robert Upcher, a Sudbury surgeon, left in his will to his nephew Peter Upcher, the right to nominate the parson to St. Gregory's and St. Peter's Churches, and the Schoolmaster to the Grammar School, with the School Farm at Maplestead, in order that six free scholars might be taught yearly as was done formerly by Humphrey Burroughs.

Carlyle in his *Endowed Grammar Schools* gives a picture of the School in 1818. He tells us that there were twenty boarders and forty day scholars, and that it was intended that the age of

admission should be seven years. It is described as an "English or Commercial School" still using the "Eton Grammars" of Lily. The Headmaster, Mr. Young, had no salary, but was allowed the house and grounds in consideration of his teaching the Free Scholars. He charged twenty-five guineas for boarders under ten years, and twenty-eight for boys over ten, with French, Classics and Dancing as extras. There was a second master who taught Classics.

On the death of Young in 1827, the patron, Sir Lachlan Maclean, appointed his own son Hippias, a student of Caius College, Cambridge, as Master, the young man receiving the rents of the Maplestead Farm, while a Mr. Mills did the actual teaching until 1841, when the School was closed. This closure was caused by Maclean insisting that the School Farm belonged to him as patron, rather than to the Grammar School. A long law-suit to decide this started in 1830 and was finally ended in 1857 when the estate was assured to the School, and permission received to raise a loan on the estate for the erection of new school buildings.

The Sudbury Grammar School, Minutes of Proceedings, with its first entry for 18 August 1856, is still in existence, a large volume beautifully bound in green leather with red facings. In it can be read all the details of the demolition of the old half-timbered school, the erection of the new schoolroom and schoolhouse for the sum of approximately £2500 and the trouble between Maclean's son and the trustees, before a suitable master was appointed. By a resolution of the time this Master, the Rev. John Cooke, had not to hold a living, so that the custom of the curate of St. Gregory's being the headmaster, broken in 1817, was not renewed and was no longer possible. The school hours at first were 7 to 8.30 a.m.; 10 to 12 noon, and 2 to 4 p.m., but very soon, in 1858, these were changed to 9 to 12 noon and 2 to 4.30 p.m.; Wednesday and Saturday afternoons were to be holidays. The boys had to continue to wear the "usual college cap in going to and from School" this being the mortar-board which was worn about the end of the century by all boys and by the boarders on Sundays until the time of World War I.

The Chairman of the Trustees responsible for the new building was Mr. William Wood Humphry, who gave the School £300 Consols, the annual income of which was to be used for a prize-fund, and whose son, educated at the School, later became the famous Cambridge surgeon. Among the foundation boys admitted to the new building in 1862 was Arthur Hibble Higgs, who on his death in 1915 left the School £100. Two boys, the Jameson brothers, also attended, one of them almost certainly being the Right Hon. Sir Leander Starr Jameson, of South African fame.

The 400th anniversary of the foundation 1891, was celebrated by a luncheon at the "Rose and Crown" for the governors and former pupils.

By the scheme provided under the Endowed Schools Act of 1878 the School was placed under a governing body, but in 1909 it was transferred to the West Suffolk County Council at the request of the governors.

As a result the buildings and equipment were improved and the staff increased. The number of pupils after World War I was over a hundred, but with the closing of the Hadleigh Grammar School in 1923 and the transference of pupils, the number rose to about 150. The boarding establishment, which had been maintained on a small scale, was closed in 1932.

A new wing, comprising classrooms, library, laboratory, assembly room and stage, was completed in 1941, taking up part of the already small playground, at the same time many boys being transferred from Haverhill when the Secondary School there was closed. Today 180 boys receive free education at this old-established Grammar School.

St. Gregory and St. Peter's Schools

Education of poor children in Sudbury benefited in the eighteenth century by several charitable bequests. Some of these bequests gave financial help to charity schools already in existence, certain of them meeting only on Sunday. Probably the most important of these bequests was that of Susan Gurling, who in 1724 left buildings and land in Hitcham, Wattisham, and Preston, first to provide an income of 5s. a week to her

kinsman Robert Bennet, and when he died, 4s. to his widow. The surplus money was to be used for the teaching and instruction of poor children of Sudbury, and on the death of the Bennets, the whole of the money was to be used for this educational purpose. Before long eighteen boys and eighteen girls were receiving instruction under this Charity and in 1748 premises in North Street were taken over. The first balance sheet is interesting, the receipts reading: Mrs. Gurling's Trustees £18, Subscriptions £14 15s., Gentleman £3 3s., a Gentleman £1 1s. Total £36 19s. This was "distributed to" Henry Barret for tables and forms £2, Mr. Gardiner for coal £3 11s., Books £1 14s. 3d., the Master £17, the Mistress £10. We do not know the name of the first teachers, but in 1779 Mr. Woodward taught about twenty-seven boys, and Mistress Randal was responsible for twenty girls, the children to remain at school for three years. Other bequests helped this school, such as £5 a year from the Trustees of the Halstead Turnpike, and £50 from the Rev. William Maleham. In 1828 it was decided by the Crown Commissioners that the surplus of another Gurling Bequest to provide shirts and smocks, should augment the School's income. An Infants' School House was erected in 1842 at a cost of £70. In 1873 a separate Girls' School was built costing £445. The headmistress at this time was Sarah McMillan, and with one pupil teacher, she looked after fifty-six girls. An honorary "Ladies' Committee" helped with needlework and knitting, and provided ladies to read to the girls while they were needleworking. The fees were then 2d. a week, but were soon raised to 3d., in consequence of which several children left the School.

The Gurling Charity Accounts, the Minutes of the Proceedings of this Charity Estate and the School Log Books, give an interesting picture of North Street Schools in the nineteenth century. In 1880 a record number of 100 girls was reached, the number doubling before the end of the century; these were taught the song "What is Home without a Mother"! Sergeant Instructor Purcell took two classes of boys for physical training at the Drill Hall each Thursday; the staff for nearly 200 boys consisted of the headmaster, two assistants, and two pupil

teachers. These latter were given special instruction by the Head each morning from 7.15 to 8.15; this early hour was soon transferred to an evening session! Holidays were comparable with those of today, usually being eleven days at Easter, ten at Whitsun, three weeks at Harvest, and eight days at Christmas, with many Saints' Days. Attendance on particular days was often poor, the reasons varying greatly: "Sanger's Circus visited the Town", "Fire in town just before School", "Menagerie visited town", "Grammar School Sports", "weather dull and rainy", "weather very hot", "Snow-storm—want of shoes". The attendance officer, W. W. Hodson, the local historian, was kept very busy!

Before the turn of the century, the name "St. Gregory and St. Peter's National Schools" was proudly displayed on a board at the entrance in North Street. In 1900 the School-mistress's House and old buildings were pulled down and a new Infants' School built on the site at a cost of just over one thousand pounds. Three years later the County Education Committee assumed part responsibility for the Schools.

All Saints' School

There were undoubtedly some charity schools in the parish of All Saints more than two hundred years ago, for as early as 1728 John Gainsborough (the father of the artist) gave money to help such institutions. Whether these schools met in the week-time or just on Sunday, we do not know. We have to wait until the nineteenth century before the more permanent buildings were erected. The school was built near the church, on the site of what was probably the residence of the Waldegrave family, part of the old structure being incorporated in the new building. The first stone was laid on 14 July 1847, the entire cost being £954. About half the money came from grants from the Committee of Council in Education and the National Society for the Promotion of Education; the remainder was raised locally, mainly owing to the efforts of the vicar, the Rev. Charles Badham. The architect was Mr. Westmacott, of the Committee of Privy Council on Education, and the builder, Mr. Samuel Webb, of Cross Street, Sudbury. The girls' school, holding about 120 pupils, was

opened in January 1850, and the boys' in the October of the same year, with 105 present. Within the next few years it was noticeable that the School was drawing pupils from poor and middle class alike, the fees, according to circumstances, ranging from 1s. to 2d. a week. The school catered for the children of the parish until 1894. Possibly the competition of the nearby Board School, with its new buildings, proved too strong, and Mr. Burgess, the keen secretary of the Sudbury Cycling Club, was the last headmaster.

The Secondary Modern School

In 1846 opportunity for education of a non-denominational character was offered to the children of Sudbury by the building of a British School. Buildings to accommodate boys, girls and infants were erected in Mill Lane. It is not known who was the first headmaster, but the school flourished, especially under the guidance of Mr. J. Leonard. He had been a pupil teacher under Matthew Arnold, the famous poet, at Leicester. Arnold became a school inspector and there is still in existence an interesting and highly satisfactory report by him on the Sudbury British School, dated 27 October 1864. On Leonard's resignation in 1881, Mr. W. Marshall became headmaster. The School was increasing in pupils, and mainly owing to financial troubles, it was transferred to the government of a Local Board of Management in 1888, its new name being the Sudbury Board School. The numbers were further increased with the closure of All Saints' Schools in 1894. We notice from the Log Books that homework was set in the 1870's, and that in 1890 there was a public distribution of prizes in the Corn Exchange. In 1903 the School was transferred to the West Suffolk Education Committee and became known as the Council School. Most Sudburians probably remember it by that name, but it has had two further changes. In 1937 it became known as the Senior School, and then ten years later received its present name of Sudbury Secondary (Modern) School, drawing pupils from many nearby villages.

The progress of the girls' side of this school has been very similar to that of the boys'. It owes a debt of gratitude to Miss K. A. Alston, headmistress of the Infants' School from 1906 to

1929, and to Miss L. M. Tripp, headmistress of the Council School for Girls from 1914 to 1923.

Other schools

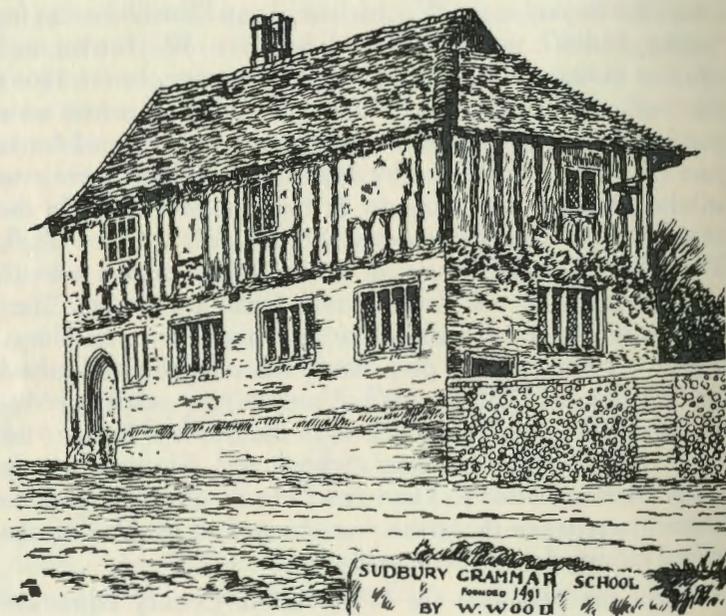
The story of education in Sudbury would not be complete without some mention of the numerous private schools that have been such a feature of the last hundred years. In 1845 Mr. Hasell advertised for a few daily pupils, and "six young gentlemen boarders" to be educated with his son. Mr. J. Heard, in his day school at Ballingdon, taught commercial subjects for 14s. a quarter, "Land surveying and maps a speciality, drawing 10s. extra". The Academy took boarders for twenty-two guineas a year, while a classical education cost two guineas more. Later Miss Chalk had a preparatory school for boys near the War Memorial. An "Establishment for Young Ladies" was "conducted by Mrs. W. Brown and efficient assistants" close to All Saints' Vicarage. In the 1860's the Sudbury Academy was situated on the Croft where now stands the Roman Catholic Church. Girls were catered for in part of Hardwicke House by Mrs. Sparrow, and there was another establishment opposite at the "Stone", while in the 1880's Mrs. Holmes had a day school for girls at Salters' Hall. The Misses Garrod, starting in Station Road, moved soon to Hardwicke House and then to Friars Street about 1885. They had a boarding and day school for girls, also taking small boys. It is now carried on as a preparatory school by Miss Marsland and is known as "The Lymes". About twenty years ago Miss Simpkin had a preparatory school in the Melford Road. Miss Poole started the Collegiate School and Kindergarten in Friars Street, moved to Hardwicke House, and then back to Friars Street when the name was changed to St. Davids, the school closing down about 1939.

About the year 1921 the West Suffolk County Education Committee took over Hardwicke House with the name of Sudbury Girls' High School, Miss Poole remaining as headmistress for eighteen months. Miss Muir took over for a short period, and then Miss M. V. Wilson became the new headmistress, and it was under her, in 1936, that the school moved to spacious new buildings on the high ground north of the town.

HISTORY OF SUDBURY

In 1940 a P.N.E.U. School was established at Salter's Hall, but this has recently closed, and a private school started in its place.

Towards the end of the last century the Roman Catholics held a day-school in a wooden building in the garden of the Priest's House. This structure was condemned about 1904, when the County assumed responsibility, and the new school was built while Father Peacock was priest. The official opening was on 28 August 1909.



Chapter VIII

FAIRS AND MARKETS

IN the Middle Ages the right to hold an annual fair was eagerly sought and was usually obtained by the Lord of the Manor acquiring a charter from the King. We do not know when Sudbury first had this right, but it certainly existed in the reign of Henry VI. In the return made of the possessions of the Earl of March in 1425, it states he received "the tolls of the markets and fairs held on St. Bartholomew's Day and on St. Gregory's Day, worth £10 per annum". These were held on Market Hill and were limited to three days—the vigil, the Saint's Day, and the day after. In addition to these two fairs, another was held on the Croft on St. Peter's Day, 29 June. This was altered to 10 July probably at the time of the Calendar Revision of 1751. The profits of the fairs originally went to the lord of the manor, but in time this was one of the valuable rights that freemen gained from their overlord. Merchants from far and wide attended these fairs. We know that in the early fifteenth century, Henry Tooley, a merchant of Ipswich, whose ship the *Mary Walsingham* went as far as Iceland for fish, often sold the cargo to London merchants at St. Gregory's Fair.

An important privilege claimed by the freemen of Sudbury was to be free from tolls at fairs and markets throughout England. When this originated we do not know, but it was confirmed by Letters Patent of 1440 and 1455. The latter states that "the men and tenants of the Town of Sudbury . . . have been accustomed to be free from tolls, pontage (toll for use of or repair of a bridge), passage, piccage (tax paid when ground broken for booths), pannage (tax for pasturage of swine) and murage (tax levied for repairing walls of a town) throughout our whole realm of England. We commend that the men and tenants of the town aforesaid shall be free of the same. . . ."

In practice this meant that when a freeman traded in another town he would take with him a certificate issued by his own mayor stating the tolls he was exempt from paying.