

SIR WILLIAM BORLASE'S BENEFACTIONS TO MARLOW.

BORLASE SCHOOL

Originally founded to teach 24 boys reading, writing, and arithmetic, and the same number of girls to "knit, spin, and make bone-lace," has grown to importance. The school was carried on under the provisions of Sir William Borlase's will, 1628, until the year 1878, when it was made a second-grade school by the Charity Commission, with an exhibition of £30 per annum, and 12 foundation scholarships open to boys educated in any of the elementary schools of Marlow, Little Marlow, or Medmenham. He also founded a "house of correction," which, with the girls' school, have disappeared, the trustees alleging, according to Langley, in his "Hundred of Desborough," that "the estates are inadequate to it." But the "Free-school" has flourished exceedingly. New buildings have been added to the original 17th century house, and upwards of a hundred boys are now educated here.

The following transcript is from a contemporary extract of Sir William Borlase's will in so far as it referred to these endowments, and is preserved in the school chest amongst other deeds, and, by the courtesy of my colleagues the governors or "ffeofees," I am allowed to print it:—

Sir William Borlase Senior his Will
that part wch belongeth to the ffree Schooll

And whereas I have erected a House & bought also some other Houses & Lands in Great Marlow to bee employed for the charitable uses hereafter expressed as a memorial of my late Good Soune Hen: Borlase my Will is ye said house and other houses & Lands shall wholly bee employed for ever for the Benefit of the Poore of ye said Parish of Great Marlow Little Marlow & Medmenham and none other Parish in manner hereafter as I shall hereby express: And whereas I have allready as much in houses & Lands

in Great Marlow as will amount unto ffourteen Pounds a yeare not valuing herein the new house I have built for the schoole house And my meaning is if it please God to give mee soe long life to buy twenty Pounds a yeare in Lands or rent charge to lay also to ye charitable uses hereafter expressed And if it should please God to take mee out of this miserable World before I can buy ye said twenty Pounds a yeare: then I give bequeath & my Will is ffour Hundred Pounds should be bestowed by my executor^{rs} for the purchasing ye said twenty Pounds a yeare more at ye least by him: I have bought at bix in ye county of Oxon: about twenty ffoure Pounds a yeare in lands & two Houses all which shall be laid for ever to the said house to these uses following—and to bee assured with all ye said former Houses & Lands by my sonn & executor to 12 ffefees whereof 8 of them shall bee chosen by him in ye towne & Parish of Great Marlow three in ye Parish of Little Marlow & one in ye Parish of Medmenham & when any of the said ffefees shall Dye that ye surviving ffefees or the greatest part of them shall p'sent ye names of some other fitt persons to succeed in ye place of him soe deceassing to my said executor dureing his life Governor of ye said House & Lands and hee shall chose such one of them as hee shall think fit to succeed as ffefee with the rest surviving And after his decease I appoint the Lord of the manner of Davers in the Parish of Little Marlow for ye time beeing ever hereafter to bee Governor of ye said House & Lands soe appointed & hereafter intended to bee purchased ye Profits whereof I doe appoint to bee employed as followeth Imprimis 12 Pounds a yeare shall be allowed for a schoolmaster to teach 24 poore children to wright reade & cast ye account in wrighting such as their Parents & ffreinds are not able to maintaine at schoolle to be taken into ye said schoole between ye age of tenn and ffourteen and after any of them can wright reade & cast ye Accompt which I estimate in two yeares they will be ready to doe My Will is ye ffefees or the greater part of them shall at every Easter present ye number of twelve of ye fittest and the best learned of them to the Governor for ye time being after my sons decease

and hee y^e said Governour at y^e time beeing shall chose six of them to whome my Will is shall be given ffifty shillings a peice towards y^e Binding of them Apprentices to some trades And soe likewise I doe appoin y^e said ffeofees or y^e greater number of them when any are upon places void to be putt into y^e schoole, or any as afores^d, to be prefered at any Easter, to present out of those Parishes where y^e number is void, double y^e number of those that are to be taken in, or prefered, to y^e said Governour, and hee then shall chose who shall have the Benefitt of y^e place void or bee prefered with the forty shillings: And touching the choise of y^e schoollmaster for y^e time beeing my Will is y^e Governour for y^e time beeing with y^e consent of y^e greatest part of y^e ffeofees shall after my said Sonns decease from time to time appoint or remove him: And the said schoolemaster besides y^e twelve Pounds a yeare shall enjoy & have to himselfe wholly y^e new house to dwell in where now Smith schoolemaster dwelleth, without paying any Rent, and also the Garden which hee now holdeth, together with sufficient roome in y^e backside to lay fuell in for his own provision, the which House the said schoolemaster, and succeeding schoolemasters, shall from time to time repayre My further Will is that there shall be yearely bought by the ffeofees two Reame of Paper allowed for y^e said schollers, and Primmers, Psalters, & some new testaments, as may serve for y^e said Poore Children, to learne to wright & reade— further my will is y^t the House where now Hugh Tanner dwelleth adjoyning to y^e said schoolhouse wth y^e Barne adjoyning to the west side of y^e said House of Hugh Tanner shall be for ever employed as a Work house & House of correction for y^e said three Parishes & none other & y^e said Hugh Tanner & his successors shall be chosen into that place accordingly as y^e schoolemaster is hereby Appointed to be chosen and hee & they shall have for wages beesides y^e said House Barn and orchard adjoyneing to y^e said Barne y^e summe of six Pounds or eight Pounds a yeare as y^e Governour & ffeofees or y^e greater part of them after my sonn's death shall thinke fitt: & hee shall teach yearely 24 Weomen Children of y^e Burrough of great

Marlow only to make Bonelace to spin or to knitt to be putt to him by y^e Churchwardens and Ovseers of y^e Poore of Great Marlow towne and Parish with consent of the greater part of y^e ffeofees & Governour as is before appointed: And the said Hugh Tanner & his successors shall whip or cause to be whipped all such offenders as y^e Petty Constables Officers or Tythingmen of any of y^e said three Parishes shall bring to him w^{ch} by y^e Laws of this Realme are to be whipped for any offences so punishable by y^e Comon Laws or Statutes of this Realme & shall also punish such delinquents of Great Marlow as y^e said Churchwardens & Ovseers thereof or y^e greatest part of them shall with the consent of One Justice of the Peace deliver over to him y^e said Hugh Tanner or his successors to be punished according to y^e statute: And shall keep for ffour days in his House of Correction any Rouge or Vagabond taken within the town or Parish of Great Marlow Little Marlow and Medmenham or any of them, but not out of other Parishes which by Lawfull Authority shall be sent to him and shall use such punishment & correccion upon the Person soe sent as may be done by y^e Laws of this Realme: my Will and meaning also is that if there be any surplusage hereafter of Rent to be had out of the Houses & Lands which are or shall be laid to the fores^d uses yⁿ y^e said surplusage shall be bestowed further to such uses for the Benefit of the Poore afores^d as by the Governour for the time being with Assent of y^e Greater part y^e ffeofees shall be thought fitt: And my Will is they shall lett out y^e said Houses & Lands at the best and highest rates they can well get because it is for y^e good of the said Poore provided allwaies & my will & meaning is y^t my executor my sonn shall during his Life have full and sole power to himselfe to place, remove carefor & take in ffeofees, schoolemaster, schollars, master of the house of corrëccion & those aforesaid which he is to teach without y^e Assent of any other at his own discretton And that y^e manner of election Appointing & removeing before herein expressed shall be used in forme aforesaid only from & after my said Sonns decease) the Will made August y^e 20th 1628 & Assigned October the 16th 1628: And

proved Novembr the 20th 1629: the feofees that I
approved on in Easter Week March the 28th: 95: were

Mr Eliezas ffelcher:

Mr Henry ffletcher

William: Elliott

Jonathan: Hammond

Thomas: Harmon

Mr Peter Dicconson

Gabriell: Page sen^r

Mr Henry Berker

Ralph Rose

W. N.