

continue the schools, giving them either their former lands or other lands in order to form an adequate endowment. But this intention was not carried out. Two separate Commissioners of Continuance were appointed, Sir Walter Mildmay and Robert Kelway (a lawyer whose name is still known in the courts as the compiler of a series of law reports). Their commission was pretty comprehensive, and the schools were "made quite a subordinate part of the business they had to do." The fatal part of their commission, as stated by Mr. Leach, was this:—

"And forasmuch as present order and direction cannot be had and taken for and concerning the said grammar schools and preachers, and for the continuance and alteration of the same," and all the rest of it: "our pleasure is that so much money as heretofore hath been yearly employed towards the maintenance of any such schools, preachings, schoolmasters," etc., "shall be paid from Easter last to the sustentation of the same in such manner as the same has been used to be paid, until such time as other order and direction shall be taken therein, in manner afore rehearsed." And so they were directed to issue their warrants accordingly, on the strength of the certificate of any of the said auditors or particular surveyors, or any of their deputies. It therefore came down to this, that the question of schools was really settled by the clerk of a person who occupied the same sort of position as a local agent of the Woods and Forests now. He took out of the certificates what schools were kept and were to be kept, and Mildmay and Kelway signed the warrants, which the deputy of a deputy of a deputy drew up. . . In such a fiasco ended the great promises of Henry to his Parliament, and the expressed will of the Parliament of Edward VI., for the reform of the

chantries and the advancement of learning. For most of the schools the "other order" never came.

The value of the "so much money as heretofore hath been yearly employed towards the maintenance of any such schools," etc., steadily fell; and the painful illustrations cited by Mr. Leach may be commended to the study of those who laud Edward VI., and who approve of piecemeal interference with a comprehensive existing system.

Mr. Leach gives an interesting sketch of the various classes of schools of the time—schools connected with cathedral churches, with monasteries, with collegiate churches or colleges, with hospitals, with guilds, with chantries, as well as independent schools, unconnected with and in no way dependent upon other such institutions. He speaks of the re-foundation of certain schools in consequence of the dissatisfaction prevalent on the outcome of the Acts. "By their wealth and by their good works," he points out, "we can measure the loss sustained by their contemporaries and compeers, which were restricted to a fixed sum, adequate in some cases at the time, but long since shrunk into a miserable pittance." He shows that many of our existing schools go back not simply to Edward VI., but to a remote antiquity. "Grammar schools, instead of being comparatively modern post-Reformation inventions, are among our most ancient institutions, some of them far older than the Lord Mayor of London or the House of Commons." The records he reprints, which are by no means complete, show close on two hundred grammar schools in England before the reign of Edward VI., "which were, for the most part, abolished or crippled under him." He thinks three hundred is "a moderate estimate of the number in the year 1535." "Most of them were