

Merchant Taylors', the other metropolitan school founded in 1560, owes its origin to Sir Thomas White, a member of the Court of Assistants of the company, and founder of St. John's College, Oxford. It was probably his promise to connect the school with his college which induced the Company to undertake the task, and to declare by the statutes, taken in great part from Dean Colet, that their school should "have continuance by God's grace for ever." Sir Thomas White redeemed his promise by endowing the school with thirty-seven fellowships at St. John's College. The fellowships have been thrown open by an ordinance of the Privy Council founded on an act of Parliament, but the school still retains twenty-one scholarships at St. John's, of £100 each, and tenable for seven years. The school is a day-school of 250 boys, the vacancies being filled by the nominees of the Merchant Taylors' Company. The boys now pay £10 a year for their education; all the surplus cost, amounting to about £2,000 a year, being borne by the company, in whose hands the management and government of the school exclusively rest. The only trace of the monitorial system is that some of the elder boys assist in the school-work. There is no fagging, the boys never being together out of school-hours. Merchant Taylors', it will thus be seen, is a grand foundation, of the highest value as a place of education to the sons of professional men and clerks living in London; but as a pure day-school, without the monitorial system, and belonging to (or at any rate claimed as belonging to) a city company, would scarcely have been classed as a public school but for the fact that it is so included in the Public School Commission of 1861. Its inclusion tends to show how broad the authoritative interpretation of the term is with the Privy Council and the legal advisers of the Crown.

Rugby, or the free school of Lawrence Sheriff, follows next in order, having been founded in 1567 by Lawrence Sheriff, grocer, and citizen of London. His "intent" (as the document expressing his wishes is called) declares that his lands in Rugby and Browns-over, and his "third of a pasture-ground in Gray's Inn Fields, called Conduit Close," shall be applied to maintain a free grammar school for the children of Rugby and Browns-over, and the places adjoining, and four poor almsmen of the same parishes. These estates, after providing a fair schoolhouse and residences for the master and almsmen, at first produced a rental of only £24 13s. 4d. In due time, however, Conduit Close became a part of central London, and Rugby School the owner of eight acres of houses in and about the present Lamb's Conduit Street.

The income of the whole trust property amounts now to about £6,000, of which £255 is expended on the maintenance of the twelve almsmen. There is no visitor, and the foundation consists simply of a board of trustees, a schoolmaster, assistant masters, a chaplain, and the boys. The trustees have from the first been country gentlemen of Warwickshire and the neighbouring counties, who have used the school for many generations for their own children. They were until lately self-electing, and the same names, those of the Warwickshire landed gentry, appear again and again ever since the creation of the board in 1614. The trustees possess legally almost unlimited powers over the management of the school, but in practice have left very large discretion to the head master, who in internal administration, appointing assistant masters, regulating studies, and the like, has practically done what he thought best, always, however, with the knowledge that the power of review and correction rests with those to whom he is responsible for the discipline and instruction of the school. This responsibility has, however, been shared by the assistant masters for the last fifty years, since Arnold on his appointment introduced the practice of holding a "levy of masters," as it is called, monthly, for consultation on school business. The practice has been attributed to his love of equality and well-known opinions on government; but, whatever the origin, the custom has worked well, and is not likely to be disturbed. The tutorial system of Eton was introduced at Rugby toward the end of the last century by Dr. James and Dr. Ingles, Eton men who were successively head masters. As modified by Arnold it still prevails. Rugby has no special connection with either university, but provides five exhibitions annually, ranging from fifty to eighty pounds, which are open to free competition. At Rugby the school close is thirteen acres in extent, and the games played in it are regulated by an assembly called "big side levy," consisting of all boys in the upper school, another democratic arrangement not in use in any other of the nine schools. The monitorial system exists in a carefully guarded form. The sixth form, or prepostors, exercise it over the whole school, for the purpose of enforcing rules and preserving order. They have the power of fagging all boys below the fifth form. The duties of the fags are limited to dusting the sixth-form studies, making toast at breakfast and tea, running messages, and attendance at games. Attendance at football, hare and hounds, and brook-leaping is compulsory, except for those who are excused by a medical certificate; in fact, as the Commissioners report, fagging at games