

revenues of the Collegiate Church, at a cost of about 1200*l.* a year.

The Queen's Scholars wear caps and gowns; and there are four "Bishop's Boys" educated free, who wear purple gowns, and have 60*l.* annually amongst them. Besides this *foundation*, a great number of sons of the nobility and gentry are educated here. Of the Queen's Scholars an examination takes place in Rogation week, when four are elected to Trinity College, Cambridge, and four to Christchurch, Oxford; scholarships of about 60*l.* a-year.

The scholars from the fourth, fifth, and Sixth Forms "stand out" in Latin, Greek, and grammatical questionings, on the Wednesday before Ascension Day, in the presence of the Head Master, who presides as umpire, when the successful competitors being chosen to fill the vacancies, "the Captain of the Election" is chaired round Dean's Yard, or the school court. On Rogation Tuesday, a dinner is given to the electors, and all persons connected with the School, by the Dean and Chapter; and any old Westminster scholar of sufficient rank or standing is entitled to attend it. After dinner, epigrams are spoken by a large proportion of the Queen's Scholars. There are several funds available to needy scholars; and the whole foundation and school is managed by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

The school buildings are in part ancient. You enter the School court from the Broad Sanctuary, through an archway in a block of houses of mediæval architecture. The porch of the School is stated to have been designed by Inigo Jones. On the north front is the racket-court, formed against part of the west wall of the dormitory. The venerable School itself, once the dormitory of the monks, ranges behind the eastern cloister of the Abbey. It is a long and spacious building, with a semicircular recess at one end, the Head Master's table standing in front of it; four tiers of forms, one above the other, are ranged along the eastern and western walls; and the room has a massive open-timber roof of chesnut. The Upper and Lower Schools are divided by a bar, which formerly bore a curtain: over this bar on Shrove Tuesday, at eleven o'clock, the College cook, attended by a *verger*, having made his obeisance to the Masters, proceeds to toss a pancake into the Upper School, once a warning to proceed to dinner in the Hall.

The School is fraught with pious memories. Here "that sweet singer of the Temple, George Herbert," was reared; and that love of choral music, which "was his heaven upon earth," was, no doubt, implanted here, while he went up to pray in the glorious Abbey. And it was here that South, in his loyal childhood, reader of the Latin prayers for the morning, publicly prayed for Charles I. by name, "but an hour or two at most before his sacred head was struck off." Nor can we forget among the ushers, the melody of whose Latin poems had led him to be called "Sweet Vinny Bourne;" or the mastership of Eusby, who boasted his rod to be the sieve to prove good scholars, and walked with covered head before Charles II.; then humbly at the gate assured his Majesty that it was necessary for his dignity before his boys to be the greatest man there, even though a king were present. How successfully, too, is Busby commemorated in the whole-length portrait of the great schoolmaster standing beside his favourite pupil, Spratt. Upon the walls are inscribed many great names; and in the library is preserved part of the form on which Dryden once sat, and on which his autograph is cut.

In the *Census Alumnorum*, or list of *foundation* scholars, are Bishops Overall and Ravis, translators of the Bible; Hakluyt, collector of Voyages; Gunter, inventor of the Scale; "Master George Herbert;" the poets Cowley and Dryden; South; Locke; Bishops Atterbury, Spratt, and Pearce; the poet Prior, and Stepney the statesman; Rowe and "Sweet Vinny Bourne," the poets; Churchill, the satirist; Warren Hastings; Everard Home, surgeon; Dr. Drury, of Harrow School, &c. Among the other eminent persons educated here are Lord Burleigh; Ben Jonson; Nat Lee; Sir Christopher Wren; Jasper Mayne, the poet; Barton Booth, the actor; Blackmore, Browne, Dyer, Hammond, Aaron Hill, Cowper, and Southey, the poets; Horne Tooke; Gibbon, the historian; Cumberland, the dramatist; Colman the Younger; Sir Francis Burdett; Harcourt, Archbishop of York; the Marquis of Lansdowne; Lord John Russell; the Marquis of Anglesey; Sir John Cam Hobhouse (Lord Broughton); George Bidder, of calculating fame, now the eminent civil engineer.

Among the eminent Masters are Camden, "the Pausanias of England," who had Ben Jonson for a scholar; and Dr. Busby, who had Dryden, and who, out of the bench of bishops, taught sixteen.

The College Hall, originally the Abbot's refectory, was built by Abbot Lillington, *temp.* Edward III.: the floor is paved with chequered Turkish marble; at the south end is a musician's

gallery, now used as a pantry, and behind are butteries and hatches; at the north side, upon a dais, is the high table; those below, of chesnut-wood, are said to have been formed out of the wreck of the Armada. The roof-timbors spring from carved corbels, with angels bearing shields of the Confessor's and Abbot's arms; and a small louvre rises above the central hearth, upon which in winter a wood and charcoal fire used to burn until the year 1850. (1) The Library is a modern Italian room, and contains several memorials of the attachment of "Westminsters." The old dormitory, built in 1350, was the granary of the monastery; and was replaced by the present dormitory in 1722, from the designs of the Earl of Burlington: its walls are thickly inscribed with names. Here Latin plays are represented upon the second Thursday in December, and the Monday before and after that day. These performances superseded the old Mysteries and Moralities in the reign of Queen Mary, when the boy actors were chiefly the acolytes, who served at mass. Warton mentions that this "liberal exercise is yet preserved, and in the spirit of true classical purity, at the College of Westminster." Garrick designed scenery for these pieces; but the modern dresses formerly used were not exchanged for Greek costume until 1839. The plays acted of late years have been the *Andria*, *Phormio*, *Eunuchus*, and *Adelphi*, of Terence, with Latin prologue and epilogue pleasantly reflecting in their humour events of the day. Two new scenes were drawn for the theatre, in 1857, by Professor Cockerell, R. A.

Boating is a favourite recreation of the Westminsters, who have often contested the championship of the Thames with Eton. On May 4, 1837, the Westminsters won a match at Eton; when, by desire of William IV., the victors visited Windsor Castle, and were there received by the good-natured king.

(To be continued.)

Suggestive Hints towards Improved Secular Instruction.

BY THE REV. RICHARD DAWES, A. M.

(Continued from our last.)

V.

NATURAL HISTORY.

The subject of Natural History, both of plants and animals, so far as they differ from each other in external form, in habits, etc., may be turned to very good account, and made the means of a great deal of useful instruction in our elementary schools.

"All this, it has been observed, children are capable of understanding—it consists in attending to the objects with which Nature presents us, in considering them with care, and admiring their different beauties, but without searching out their causes, which belong to a higher department of knowledge: for children have eyes and do not want curiosity: they ask questions, and love to be informed, and here we need only awaken and keep up in them the desire for learning and knowing, which is natural to mankind."

The children here are in the habit, as the spring and summer advance, of bringing to the school plants and flowers when they first come out—small twigs of the different trees of the parish, as the foliage begins to expand—aquatic and other plants; all these, so far as a knowledge of them can be had from the organs of vision, with a little of the mind and of common sense to help it, are made vehicles of instruction.

For instance, the names of the different parts of a flower, from its root upwards, and the functions which each part performs—the nature of the root, whether bulbous, fibrous, or tap-rooted—the uniformity in number of the petals, stamen, pistil, etc.—running through the same class of plants;—difference in the shape of leaves—some are notched and some are plain—some rough, others smooth, some oval, some round; some bright green, others dark—the underside of the leaf differing in colour from the upper, etc.: the different kinds of soil on which they find the wild plants—showing that the soil on which any particular plant is generally found, is most likely one best suited to its habits—that some plants, and pointing out which (this they ought to know from their own observation), are only found in shady places; while others will not grow at all in the shade; that, when a flower or leaf withers, it is from the juices

(1) Fires continued to be made on a hearth in the middle of the hall called the *eredos*, in many college halls in Oxford and Cambridge, until about the year 1820.