

twenty. At first, he was employed as private tutor, and, in that capacity he travelled with a pupil to Virginia. Of his success in teaching the family of his patron less is known than of his speculations in tobacco, which enabled him to return to England in seven years with a small fortune of £900. Afterwards, he entered the Church, and in 1787 went out to India with the somewhat vague intention of lecturing on natural philosophy and of doing other work in the way of tuition. There he succeeded in obtaining not only various military chaplaincies, but also the post of superintendent to the Military Male Orphan Asylum at Madras. It was in this institution that, owing to the difficulty of securing suitable adult assistants, he was driven to the device of separating the scholars into small classes, and setting the elder boys to teach the younger. The success of his experiment during nearly nine years was unexpectedly encouraging. 'I think,' he said, 'I have made great progress, and almost wrought a complete change in the morals and character of a generation of boys.' That he must also have succeeded in other ways is clear from the fact, unexplained in his biography, that he contrived to bring home with him in 1796 the sum of £26,000. Next year he published his pamphlet, *An Experiment in Education made at the Male Asylum at Madras, suggesting a Scheme by which a School or Family may teach itself under the Superintendence of Master or Parent*. It was dedicated to the Directors of the East-India Company, and was largely circulated among the clergy, then awaking to the importance of public education. He then began an active propaganda on behalf of his 'system' of mutual instruction; and in 1808 the 'National Society' was founded, under episcopal and other powerful patronage, for the extension of his methods and for the establishment of parochial schools all over the country. During this time his own prosperity continued to increase. He became, in 1801, Rector of Swanage; soon after he was appointed to the mastership of a rich-endowed hospital at Sherburn, in Durham; afterwards he was preferred to a canonry at Worcester, and subsequently became Canon of Westminster. It is not a little significant to find in a letter from one of his friends who knew him well this passage, 'Don't moderate your ambition to Sherburn Hospital, but continue your progress to the mitre. For very little money you may be paragrased up to the episcopal throne.' Although this consummation was never actually reached, Dr. Bell