

## Dissenters' Schools, 1660-1820.

THE contributions of nonconformity to education have seldom been recognized. Even historians of dissent have rarely done more than mention the academies, and speak of them as though they existed chiefly to train ministers, which was but a very small part of their function, almost incidental. This side of the work, the technical, has again been emphasized lately by Dr. Shaw in the "Cambridge History of Modern Literature," and by Miss Parker in her "Dissenting Academies in England": it needs therefore no further mention.

A brief study of the wider contribution of dissent, charity schools, day schools, boarding schools, has been laid before the members of our Society. An imperfect skeleton, naming and dating some of the schoolmasters, may be pieced together here. It makes no pretence to be exhaustive; but it deliberately excludes tutors who were entirely engaged in the work of preparing men for the ministry, so as to illustrate the great work done in general education. It incorporates an analysis of the 1665 returns to the Bishop of Exeter, of Murch's history of the Presbyterian and General Baptist Churches in the West, of Nightingale's history of Lancashire Nonconformity (marked N), of Wilson's history of dissenting churches in and near London. The counties of Devon, Lancaster, and Middlesex therefore are well represented, and probably an analysis of any county dissenting history would reveal as good work being done in every place. A single date marks the closing of the school. Details about many will be found in the Transactions of the Congregational Historical Society, to which references are given. The schools are grouped in periods defined by the state of the law as to schools. Until 1672 they were quite illegal, till 1687 they were on sufferance; in 1714 it was intended to extinguish them, but the death of Anne occurred instead; till 1779 every master had to sign certain of the thirty-nine articles; in 1820 dissenters defeated Brougham's Bill to establish parochial schools supported by the rates but controlled by the clergy.

## I. Schoolmasters before 1672.

- Richard Adams, Mountsorrel, Leicester.  
 William Ball, Dartmouth.  
 John Bryan, D.D., Coventry. 1675. iv, 41.  
 Thomas Cocken, St. Keverne.  
 Thomas Cole, M.A., Nettlebed, Oxon. 1674. iv, 233.  
 Robert Coode, Cury, Cornwall.  
 William Coule, Barnstaple.  
 Stephen Coven, Halberton, Devon; "a wandering seditious seminary."  
 Samuel Cradock, B.D., Wickhambrook, Suffolk. 1706. iv, 241.  
 Thomas Delaune, London.  
 Thomas Doolittle, M.A., Moorfields, London. 1707. iii, 286.  
 John Drake, Sampford Courtenay, Devon.  
 John Fewen, High Bickington, Devon.  
 John Flavel, B.A., Dartmouth. 1691. iv, 252.  
 Richard Frankland, M.A., Rathmell, Yorks. ii, 422; iii, 20.  
 Theophilus Gale, M.A., Newington, Middlesex. Died 1678, school continued by T. Rowe. iii, 274.  
 Obadiah Grew, D.D., Coventry. 1689. iv, 41.  
 Henry Hickman, B.D., Stourbridge. 1675. iv, 46.  
 Nicholas Hodge, Penryn, Cornwall.  
 Samuel Jones, M.A., Brynlllywarch, Montgomery. 1697. iv, 245; vi, 136.  
 Hanserd Knollys, Bishopsgate, London.  
 Henry Langley, D.D., Tubney, Berks. 1679. iv, 47.  
 Lavercombe, Tavistock, Devon.  
 William Lea, Swimbridge, Devon.  
 Elizabeth Loveman, Westleigh, Devon.  
 Edward Manning, Dartmouth.  
 J. Maulden, Alkington, Salop. 1680.  
 Charles Morton, M.A. 1685 to New England. iii, 277.  
 Mary Mullins, Tavistock.  
 Christopher Nesse, Hunslet, Yorks. 1675.  
 Michael Prestwood, Fowey, Cornwall.  
 J. Reyner, Nottingham. iv, 251.  
 John Rowe, M.A., Newington Green. 1677. iii, 276.  
 Charles Segar, Blackburn. 1683. N, ii, 249.  
 Thomas Shewell, M.A., Leeds, Kent. Removed to Coventry, 1689-1693. iv, 43.  
 Christopher Taylor, Edmonton; Friend.  
 Margaret Underdon, Barnstaple.  
 Daniel Upton, Berry Pomeroy, Devon.  
 Hugh Warren, Fowey, Cornwall.

W. Whitaker, Bermondsey. 1672. Wilson iv, 333.

John Williams, Plimpton.

Several women in St. Martyn, East Love, Poluit and Liskeard.  
A school at Elswick, Lancashire.

A school built and endowed at St. Helen's, Lancashire.  
N, iv, 131.

## II. Opened between 1672 and 1687.

From the Indulgence of Charles to the Indulgence of James.

William Angel, Houndsditch. Wilson iii, 337.

Ralph Button, M.A., B.D., Islington. 1680. iii, 285.

Chadwick. Wilson ii, 385.

Matthew Clarke, Market Harborough. Wilson i, 474.

Francis Glasscock. 1706. iii, 284.

Stephen Lobb. 1699. iii, 282. These two, with Wickins, took  
over some of Morton's pupils and continued his school.

Richard Newcome, Manchester. 1716.

James Owen, Oswestry. Removed to Shrewsbury 1699, where  
he died 1706, the school being continued by Benion.

William Reynolds, M.A., Nottingham. 1698.

Thomas Rowe, Newington Green. 1705. iii, 277.

James Shuttleworth, M.A., Sulby, Northants. 1689. iv, 243.

John Sprint, Andover. Wilson iii, 137.

Lawrence Steele, Bristol Friends. Succeeded by Patrick Logan,  
he by James Logan, M.A.

Edward Terrill, Bristol. 1686. His bequests created the  
first permanent endowment for the training of ministers.

Edward Veal, M.A., Wapping. 1708. iii, 289.

Matthew Warren, Somerset. Taunton 1687-1706; on his death  
several west-country ministers developed his school into  
a co-operative establishment, which lasted till 1759.

John Weaver, Knell, Radnor.

Robert Whitaker, Fordingbridge. Wilson iv, 411.

W. Wickens, Newington. iii, 282.

John Woodhouse, Sheriffhales, Salop. 1696. iii, 387.

A charity school was built and endowed in Zoar Street,  
Southwark 1687.

## III. Opened between 1688 and 1714.

From the Toleration Act to the Schism Act.

Samuel Benion, M.D., Broad Oak and Shrewsbury. 1708.  
v, 18.

Samuel Bourn, Bolton; twenty poor children. Murch 61.  
Derby, N iii, 6.

- Thomas Brand, Ireland and Bethnal Green. 1691. Succeeded by Kerr.
- Samuel Chapman, Yoxford, Suffolk. Wilson ii, 33.
- John Chorlton, Manchester. Took over fourteen of Frankland's pupils. On his death in 1705 James Coningham took over the school, but closed in 1712. v, 73.
- John Cumming, Shepton Mallett. 1710. Murch 170.
- Benjamin Denton, M.A., Greenacres near Oldham. N v, 234.
- Thomas Dixon, M.A., M.D., Whitehaven and Bolton. 1729. vi, 20.
- Thomas Dowse, Corfe Castle. Friend.
- John Dunsford, Bampton. Rippon i, 305.
- Martin Dunsford, Kingsbridge. Rippon i, 305.
- W. Evans, Carmarthen. Took over pupils of Samuel Jones and Rees Price; before his death in 1718 arrangements were made to continue the school, which has developed into the Presbyterian College.
- James Forbes, Gloucester. 1712.
- Gee, Dukingfield. This school under other masters lasted till 1793. N v, 289, 102.
- Gilling, Newton. Murch 269.
- Edward Godwin, Hungerford. 1721. Wilson i, 382.
- Thomas Goldham, Burwash, Sussex. Wilson ii, 332.
- T. Goodwin, junior, Pinner. 1716.
- Joseph Hallett, Exeter. 1721. v, 155.
- John Hardy, Nottingham. Wilson ii, 283.
- Philip Henry, Broad Oak. 1706.
- William Jenkins, Sidcot, Friend. Sold to a successor 1728.
- Timothy Jollie, Attercliffe. 1714. iv, 334; vi, 136.
- Samuel Jones, Gloucester and Tewkesbury. 1721. v, 75.
- John Kerr, M.D., Highgate and Clerkenwell, 1723. vi, 20.
- John Langston, Ipswich. 1704. vi, 137.
- John Moore and son, Bridgwater. 1747.
- John Noble. Wilson i, 459.
- Joshua Oldfield, D.D., Coventry, Southwark, Hoxton. 1729. iv, 45; vi, 129.
- Charles Owen, Warrington. 1754. N iv, 216.
- John Owen, Welwyn, Friend.
- W. Payne, Saffron Walden. 1726. v, 81; vi, 136.
- Perkins, Stoke Newington. Wilson iii, 339.
- Joseph Porter, Alcester. 1721. v, 80.
- John Reynolds, M.A., Shrewsbury. Took over Benion's pupils. 1715? v, 20.

- Benjamin Robinson, Findern and Hungerford. 1701.  
Wilson i, 374.
- Edward Rothwell, Tunley and Holcombe. 1731. N iii,  
158-160.
- James Sampson, Tiverton. Rippon i, 305.
- Jacob Sandercock, Tavistock. 1729. Murch 490.
- Julius Saunders, Bedworth, Warwick. 1730? v, 68.
- John Short, Lyme and Colyton. 1699. v, 157.
- John Singleton, M.A., Hoxton and Islington. 1706.  
Wilson iii, 90.
- Joseph Stennett, London. Wilson ii, 604.
- Gilbert Thompson, Great Sankey, Friend.
- W. Tong, Coventry. 1702. iv, 44.
- Abraham Toulmin, Wapping. Wilson i, 320.
- Matthew Towgood, Colyton Shepton Mallet and Poole. 1729?  
v, 157.
- Ebenezer Wilson, Bristol. 1704. Wilson i, 144.
- Hugh Worthington, Ormskirk and Dean's Row, 1735.  
N iv, 193.
- John Yeates, Lancashire, Friend.
- Newcome mentions visits to the charity schools at Poulton and Ribchester, N i, 112; ii, 250. Syddall's trust provided a school at Stand, N iii, 224. Rossendale Nonconformists built a school at Bacup, 1695. The Society of Friends in 1691 had fifteen recognized schools; Ayton, Chiswick, Croydon, Fearnhead, Hemel Hempstead, Kendal, Penketh, Rawden, Shacklewell, Sibford, Waltham, Weston, Wigton, Worcester, Yealand.

#### IV. Opened between 1714 and 1779.

Until Schoolmasters were relieved from subscription to the Articles.

- Stephen Addington, Market Harborough, 1758-81. Wilson i, 506.
- Aikin, Kibworth.
- John Alexander, Gloucester. 1737.
- Matthew Anstis, Bridport. 1768 onwards. Murch 336.
- Caleb Ashworth, Daventry. 1751-98. Took over Doddridge's pupils.
- George Benson, London. 1750 onwards.
- John Barclay, M.A., Bolton. 1723-1729.
- Joseph Bretland, Exeter. 1773 onwards. Murch 446.
- Edward Brodhurst, Birmingham, 1720 onwards. Wilson iv, 173.
- John Cennick, Kingwood colliery.

- Joseph Cornish, Colyton, 1772 onwards. Murch 336.  
 Thomas Crosby, by Horslydown mathematical.  
 David Crosley, Goodshaw. 1744.  
 John Davisson, Trowbridge. 1721.  
 James Daye, Lancaster. 1736-1770. N i, 15.  
 Philip Doddridge, Northampton. 1729-1751.  
 John Eames, Moorfields. 1722 onwards. Murch 208.  
 Estlin, Bristol. 1770-1817. Murch 128.  
 Caleb Evans, Charity schools at Bristol, Downend, and Mangotsfield. Rippon i, 249.  
 John Fawcett, Ewood Hall, Halifax. 1773-1817.  
 John Fleming, Bridgnorth and Stratford-on-Avon. 1726-1740.  
 William Foot, Bristol. 1738 onwards. Murch 475.  
 Ralph Harrison, Manchester. 1774-1787. N v, 102.  
 W. Hassall, Rochdale. 1829. N iii, 242.  
 Helm, Hoghton Tower. About 1750. N i, 74.  
 Edward Hickman, Hitchin. 1758-1771. Wilson iii, 459.  
 Thomas Hill, Derby. 1720. Derby. v, 151.  
 Richard Hodgson, Nantwich. 1771-1801. N v, 6.  
 Philip Holland, Bolton. 1775-1789. N iii, 13.  
 John Holt, Kirkdale. 1757. N iv, 273.  
 Jardine, Abergavenny. 1766 onwards. Murch 153.  
 J. Jennings, Kibworth. 1722. vi, 188.  
 Isaac Kimber, Moorfields. 1734 onwards, with Edward Sandercock.  
 William King, D.D., Chesham. 1725-1740. Wilson iii, 299.  
 John Kirkpatrick, Bedworth, taking over pupils of Saunders. 1740. Murch 244.  
 Lamport, Honiton. Murch 261.  
 Ebenezer Latham, Findern. 1754. v, 151.  
 Samuel Lowthion, Newcastle. 1752-1780. N i, 312.  
 Thomas Lucas, Trowbridge. 1721-1743.  
 Samuel Medley, Soho and Watford.  
 Henry Merchington, Chinley. 1757 onwards. N v, 102.  
 Samuel Merwick. With others. 1760-1786.  
 John Milner, Yeovil. 1722-1731, Peckham. 1741-1757. Murch 223.  
 John Moor, Tiverton. 1721-1736. vi, 143.  
 John Needham, Hitchin. Wilson iv, 291.  
 Henry Philips, Salisbury, 1766-1789. Rippon i, 129.  
 Samuel Pike, London. 1760 onwards.  
 John Pope, Stand Grammar School. 1767-1791. N v, 34.  
 John Poynting, A.M., Worcester. Rippon i, 511.  
 Pryce, Talgarth. Rippon ii, 433.

- Caleb Rotheram, Kendal. 1737-1751. v, 158.  
 James Rowland. Moreton Hampstead. 1777-1803. Murch  
 479.  
 John Collett Ryland, A.M., Northampton and Enfield.  
 1758-1782.  
 S. M. Savage, Wellclose Square; assisted by Andrew Kippis  
 and Abraham Lees, 1762-1785.  
 John Towers, Bartholomew Close. 1770 onwards. Wilson iii,  
 234.  
 Martha Trinder, Northampton, 1765-1789. Rippon i, 140.  
 John Turner, Exeter. 1761-1805. Murch 446.  
 Benjamin Wadsworth, Attercliffe.  
 Walker, Framlingham. 1765 onwards. Murch 31.  
 John Ward, Moorfields. 1715-1734, then sold to Isaac  
 Kimber. List of his thirty pupils, with dates, Museum  
 Add. 6181, folio 181.  
 Samuel Wells, Cheltenham, about 1757: Rippon ii, 298.  
 Wilton and King, Hackney girls. 1750 onwards. Wilson i,  
 188.  
 The Wesleys founded at Kingswood a boarding-school for the  
 children of their itinerant preachers. John Seddon secured  
 a Public School at Warrington under trustees, 1757-1783.  
 The Friends established an Education Fund in 1758, and  
 opened a boarding-school at Ackworth.

### V. Opened between 1779 and 1820.

#### Till the era of Public Education.

- Joseph Barrett, Darwen. 1792-1795. Wilson ii, 164.  
 J. M. Beynon, Yarmouth. 1784-1814. N iv, 197.  
 David Bogue, M.A., Gosport. 1789 onwards.  
 Joseph Bretland, Crediton. 1780 onwards. Murch 131, 198,  
 445.  
 Thomas Broadhurst, Manchester. 1780-1793. N v, 35.  
 W. Bull, Newport Pagnel. 1783 onwards.  
 E. Chadwick, Preston. 1814-1820. N i, 33.  
 Thomas Clark, Clitheroe. 1815 onwards. N ii, 194.  
 Cogan, Walthamstow. 1788 onwards. Murch 26.  
 Robert Cree, Preston. 1819 onwards. N i, 18.  
 Benjamin Davis, Ffynon, Pembroke. 1828.  
 David Davis, Carmarthenshire. Murch 300.  
 John Evans, A.M., LL.D., Islington. 1792-1827.  
 John Evans, Bristol. 1816 onwards. Murch 39.  
 Grindrod, Manchester. 1780 onwards. N iii, 161.  
 Thomas Hale, Heckmondwike. 1794-1821. N v, 240.

- Jonathan Hodgkinson, Birket Bank, Wigan. N iv, 10.  
 Peter Houghton, Prescot. N iv, 153.  
 James Kenworthy, Moor Platt, Horwich. 1797 onwards.  
 N iii, 107.  
 James Lindsay, D.D., Newington Green and Old Ford. 1787  
 onwards. Wilson iii, 215.  
 Thomas Littlewood, Rochdale. 1783 onwards.  
 Mabbott, Bartholomew Close Charity. Rippon iii, 310.  
 William Newman, Bromley. 1796-1810, sold to John Freeman.  
 John Parker, Kersley, Lancs. 1800-1831. N iv, 113.  
 Martin Ready, Peckham. 1805. Wilson iv, 284.  
 William Roby, Manchester. 1803-1850. N v, 202-211.  
 W. Shepherd, LL.D., Gateacre. 1791-1847. N vi, 203.  
 Small, Axminster. About 1804. N v, 140.  
 Robert Smethurst, Stand Grammar School. 1798-1822.  
 N vi, 203.  
 W. Tattersall, Preston. 1782-1788. N iv, 31.  
 Taylor, Lancashire Friends in 1790. Murch 237.  
 Samuel Thomas, Hambrook. About 1803. Murch 50.  
 Timothy Thomas, Islington. Wilson i, 454.  
 John Whitridge, Oswestry. About 1819. N v, 134.  
 John Winder, Hob Lane, Edgworth. 1807-1847. N iii, 72.

From 1782 the work of Raikes drew general attention to elementary education; schools were established all over the kingdom, teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic; owing to the demands of industrism, they met only on Saturday and Sunday: these Sunday Schools have gradually concentrated on Bible study. In 1808 the methods of a Friend schoolmaster were taken up by the Royal Lancastrian Institution, now the British and Foreign School Society, which established schools widely. Charity schools were still begun, as at Wild street; and even endowed, as at Kingston Lisle; Rippon ii, 385; iii, 118. But as from 1820 elementary education became a matter of national interest, and as from 1870 it has been provided at public expense, Nonconformists threw their energies into other branches. Many preparatory and secondary schools are still the property of private ladies. Public schools controlled by a permanent body had been shown most successful by the experience of the Friends since 1667. Despite three failures at Warrington, Manchester, and Silcoates, five institutions founded in this period are the fore-runners of many others:—Manchester 1783-1853 when it was limited to the teaching of theology, Mill Hill 1807, Sidcot 1809, Woodhouse Grove 1812, Newington, now Caterham, 1812.