HAPPY MEMORIES

OF

ROBERT BARNES.

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"The liberal deviseth liberal things; and by liberal things shall he stand."

ISA. xxxii. 8.

"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule."

PROV. xii. 24.

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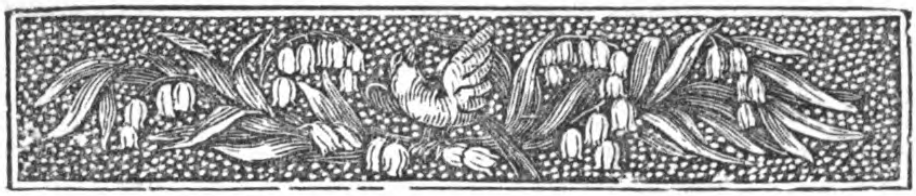

PREFACE.

THE following reminiscences I have had printed, believing that they will interest surviving friends, and also the recipients of my father's thoughtful beneficence; the latter, probably, knowing nothing of him beyond his name. The following pages may prove encouraging to those just entering upon the perplexities and temptations of trade. Though business-life is in many respects different from what it was forty years ago, yet the same means will produce the same end. "In keeping" the statutes of the Lord "there is great reward."

If all is true that we hear from India, Africa, and the colonies, there never was a time when "stern truth and honesty" were more required to uphold the honour of our great country. It seems almost hopeless to

send missionaries to teach the commandments of the God who has made our country what it is, while so many Englishmen, by their lives and conduct, openly disregard them. The gigantic failures of late years are attributable to the same cause,—*deficiency of Christian principle.*

As biography, written by those most interested in the subject of it, often records all the good, forgetful of faults and failings, this has been submitted to two friends to criticise and revise: one of the two was associated with my father for many years in business; he could therefore speak of his strict integrity from experience and personal observation.

M. L. B.

Oxford, 1875.

HAPPY MEMORIES OF ROBERT BARNES.

"The sweet remembrance of the just
Shall flourish when he sleeps in dust."

THE above lines are to be seen on a simple headstone in the churchyard of the quiet village of Orton, Westmoreland, the burial-place of Thomas Barnes, who died in 1797. He had little more than his blessing to leave his children; but his consistent Christian life proved a great gain to others as well as himself, for the above lines are equally applicable to his son, grandson, and great-grandson.

Robert, the eldest son of the above, was born at Orton in 1765. He left home about the age of twenty-four, with the intention of going to Canada; but the vessel in which his passage had been taken was detained so long in the Mersey by adverse winds, that he, weary of waiting, went to visit his friends near Manchester, and only returned to Liverpool in time to see the vessel go to sea without him. He had reason to recognise the hand of God in this disappointment, as the vessel was lost with all on board. He returned to Manchester, and fortunately obtained a situa-

tion in the bank of Messrs. Jones and Company, (afterwards Jones, Lloyd and Company).

He married Maria Roworth, of Knutsford, whose brother John was in the employ of Mr. Meyer Rothschild, then of Manchester, afterwards of London, Paris, &c. In 1815, John Roworth was sent to watch the movements of the French army, and he witnessed the engagement at Quatre Bras, and the Battle of Waterloo, after which he immediately rode to Ostend, crossed to Deal in a fishing-boat, and reached London some hours before the King's Messenger, so that Mr. Rothschild was the first to hear of the victory; being thus enabled to lay the foundation of the princely fortunes of his sons. In acknowledgment of this and other services rendered, Mr. Rothschild purchased a commission for Mr. Roworth's only son, and his two daughters were educated with the Misses Rothschild.

Robert and Maria Barnes were evidently fond of reading, as they were both well acquainted with the best authors in poetry as well as prose; and in the education of their large family they spared no expense. One who knew Mr. and Mrs. Barnes, described the former as "a handsome, lively, well-read man, of unbounded energy, and genuine piety;" the latter, as "a calm, dignified

woman, of strong mind, sound judgment, and a pattern wife and mother."

Mr. Barnes spent most of the time that he could call his own in visiting the sick and needy, and the scholars of a large Sunday-school, of which he was superintendent. It would have been wiser to have given more of his time and attention to his own family; but happily for them their mother was equal to her circumstances, obeying St. Paul's admonition, Titus ii. 4, 5.

Robert, their second son, was born in Bloom-street, July 11, 1800. Bloom-street was then in accordance with its name; the houses were surrounded by bright gardens, corn-fields were within a short walk, and in the Medlock fish abounded. Robert was at a large private school in Manchester until he was sixteen, when he went to reside for three years with the Rev. H. Hayes, Vicar of Hinckley, Leicestershire, to prepare for Oxford; he having chosen the Church as his future sphere of labour. In 1819, his father, by a series of misfortunes, lost nearly all his property; the cotton-mill, in the purchase of which the money had been invested, was burnt down, uninsured. Certain of the future success of the cotton trade, he rented a mill at Miles Platting. Robert, in order to relieve his father, and give

his mother and sisters the benefit of the small income remaining, abandoned the pleasant prospect of college and clerical life for that of a cotton-spinner. The father's health failed soon after, and in 1824 he died at Newton-lodge.

Robert was now the responsible and working partner, as his elder brother disliked trade; the want of means had prevented his going into the army. He entered the Yeomanry Cavalry, which at that time was frequently on duty. He was at Peterloo, an occasion often misrepresented. The deaths that occurred were caused by the crowd, on the advance of the military, taking sudden and rapid flight, and, in so doing, crushing some of their own number to death.

For several years Robert was at the mill before six o'clock every morning—and often all night, when repairs or alterations were necessary; he thus prevented the machinery standing still in the day-time, and avoided the necessity of any work being done on Sundays; (at that time millwrights' work *was* often done on Sundays). Although all his tastes were in another direction, yet as work had to be done, he did it thoroughly; and before he had been in business long, he could do, and well too, the work of any of his employés; for, as he frequently re-

marked, "If you yourself are ignorant, you not only cannot teach others, but you are at the mercy of every one. He was not ashamed of working with his own hands, following the example of St. Paul, whom he considered, after our Lord, the Christian pattern most worthy of imitation.

Robert Barnes succeeded in business beyond his expectation; his large fortune was not made by lucky speculation, but by close application and persevering, self-denying industry. He was systematic in everything, and a strict disciplinarian; there were, however, few changes among the work-people, or in the names found in the day-books; year after year the same faces were to be seen; to use the words of the editor of one of the Manchester daily papers, "The employés seemed like one huge family."

The state of the manufacturing districts was at this time so disturbed, that the mill-owners required considerable judgment and moral courage, both of which Robert Barnes possessed. He made and enforced regulations which he believed to be beneficial, without regard to what others in the trade did, or to the dictation of the work-people. The mill was more than once in a state of siege, but he experienced no unpleasantness;

his own work-people had confidence in him, and results proved him to be right. He was one of the first to pay the wages on Friday instead of Saturday, and at the counting-house, not at public-houses, (which was then generally done). By these changes he had the pleasure of seeing more money find its way to the homes, and less to the beer-shops. Believing cleanliness to be next to godliness, he required all "the hands" to appear in clean clothes on Monday mornings; otherwise they were not allowed to proceed to their work. So well was this lesson on the importance of cleanliness understood, that the necessity of refusing admittance to man, woman, or child, was of rare occurrence.

During the troubled time before referred to, most of the mills were often closed for many successive weeks; on one occasion they were so for nearly a year, but during the whole of that time the work-people of Thomas and Robert Barnes received three days' wages each week.

Considering the small amount of capital with which they commenced business, and that the accumulated profits had just been spent in purchasing Jackson-street Mills, it is evident they could not have acted as they did without great personal economy, as they never would borrow

money under any circumstances. The late Edward Lloyd, Esq., stated publicly that he had offered, as their banker, and also out of respect to their father, to lend them whatever money they might require; but they never availed themselves of the kind offer.

In 1833, Robert Barnes was married at the Collegiate Church to Mabel Louisa, elder daughter of Mr. James Backhouse Bindloss. His time now was divided between home and the mill, as he did not care to go anywhere without his wife; both were devoted to their children, who were never left; and as they grew old enough to learn, it was the pleasing task of their father each evening to interest them in history, geography, music, &c.; and Sunday afternoons were devoted to their instruction in the all-important truths of the Bible. In all families, it is a happy and beneficial arrangement for Sunday to be made "the best day of all the seven" to the children, when heaven and heavenly things should be so explained as to interest even an infant.

In February, 1842, he was bereaved of his elder son, and in September of the same year his cheerful, affectionate wife followed their much-loved son. For years he seemed unable to recover from the effects of this double affliction.

But far from indulging his sorrow, he gave himself no leisure. He entered the municipal Corporation, interested himself in the various charities, and in politics; visited the sick, especially those who were employed in the mill, the latter always receiving their wages the same as when at work. There was a systematic distribution of useful publications *to all willing to receive them.* Though a staunch Protestant himself, he did not approve of interfering with those of a different belief; he very gladly placed Bibles and other means of knowing the truth within reach of the numerous Romanists in his employ, but he left them to read them or not, as they thought best.

Mr. Barnes was one of the four friends to whom the Editor of the "British Workman" was introduced by the Earl of Shaftesbury, and by whose efforts that periodical attained a large circulation in Manchester. The Earl's long and unceasing labours to procure the passing of the "Ten Hours Bill" were warmly seconded by Mr. Barnes. On the subject of the Saturday half-holiday they differed; the latter believed eight hours' work, six days in the week, more advantageous than ten hours for five days, and Saturday as a half-holiday. Eight hours each day would prevent

the necessity for "the hands" leaving home so early in the morning, and would give them longer evenings to attend to their families. Uncomfortable homes drive many husbands to the public-house; and children allowed to live in the street can hardly be expected to grow up respectable men and women. Mr. Barnes always discountenanced the practice of *mothers* working in the mills; he thought more was lost than gained by their absence from their legitimate sphere at home. With reference to the Saturday half-holiday, he remarked, at almost the last Ragged School Union meeting he attended: "From what I have seen and heard, I have no reason to change the opinion I formed years ago; churches, chapels, Sunday-schools are not better attended than formerly, (keeping in mind the increase of the population); but places of amusement, &c., are more frequented, and the work of railway, omnibus, and steamboat servants increased. The numerous cases of drunkenness, and its results, that come before the magistrates every Monday morning, shew how many spend the time intended by the promoters of the half-holiday for the better observance of Sunday, as well as for bodily and mental relaxation and self-improvement."

In 1851 Mr. Barnes was elected Mayor of his

native town, and re-elected a second year[a]; in 1856 he was appointed Deputy-Lieutenant, and in 1859, magistrate for the county. A serious illness at this time compelled him not only to retire from business, but to spend the two following winters in the south. Disliking absence from home, and the neglect of duties connected with it, he thought it advisable to find a home where it seemed probable he would have health and strength to be constantly employed; like Dr. Young, he found that—

> "Without employ
> The soul is on the rack, the rack of rest,
> To souls most adverse; action all their joy."

He left Manchester with the greatest regret; not even did the hope of enjoying better health reconcile him to the loss of old friends and associations.

The same spirit that had made Jackson-street Mills patterns of order and cleanliness, manifested itself in the farm and estate of Harefield Grove, Middlesex. He was as earnest as ever in trying

[a] The charter creating Manchester a city was received by Mr. Barnes during his mayoralty, and in commemoration of the same he presented to the Corporation a large bust of the Queen, for which her Majesty gave several sittings to Mr. Noble, R.A.

to promote the temporal and spiritual welfare of those around him. He built a chapel for the Wesleyans, and erected a public reading and lecture-room: the deserving poor and the afflicted always knew where to find a friend.

One act, though insignificant in itself, is worth recording, as being suggestive to others who may be (or are) desirous to do all they can to reduce the temptations to drunkenness. He erected a pump close to the highway, with the inscription, "Free for all" painted upon it. He did it with the conviction that thirst causes many to frequent the public-house, who would not go there, were good water within reach. For the same reason he had, before leaving Manchester, erected several drinking-fountains in different parts of the city.

During the winter months, Mr. Barnes provided for lectures on useful and scientific subjects to be given every fortnight by competent lecturers from London. Some that could not read were induced, by the interest excited on these pleasant occasions, to learn not only reading, but writing.

On the 10th of February, 1866, it pleased the Almighty to take Robert, his "dearly loved and loving, and only surviving son," to his heavenly inheritance: *in life*, consistent,—*in death*, triumphant.

From the first the sufferer believed his illness (caused by an accident) would be the last, but the prospect was to him a very happy one: it seemed almost strange that one to whom this life must have had many charms, should be so ready, so willing to leave all;—but it was to be with the Saviour whom he had for years loved and followed, and who was now evidently very near, enabling His young servant to realize the fulfilment of the promise, "When thou passest through the waters I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee [b]."

"If ever hearts were rent by ruthless death,
If ever tears of desolate grief were shed,
It was by those who watched thy failing breath,
And saw thee dead.

"But if assurance of eternal rest
E'er brought to broken hearts its heavenly peace,
Telling the mourners that the soul is blest
By death's release—

"Calming the wild distraction of the brain,
The rushing tears, the speechless agony;
It was the glorious thought that death was gain
When thou didst die."

The bereaved father founded a Scholarship at Worcester College, Oxford, where his son had been an

[b] Isa. xliii. 2.

undergraduate, as a memorial, and also in fulfilment of a wish expressed by his son.

As might be expected, Mr. Barnes never recovered from the effects of this sorrowful visitation. The day after the funeral he was taken ill, and for more than a year the state of his health caused serious anxiety to his friends; but weak as he was, he carried out a scheme, suggested by his son, for the erection of a building in the village, consisting of one large room and two smaller ones: the first was for lectures, meetings, &c., the other two for a reading-room and infant-school.

In 1868, he had so far recovered strength as to be able to return to Manchester, and for a few months the change seemed beneficial; he resumed his magisterial duties, and interested himself in some of the various charitable institutions: but the improvement in health was only temporary; the painful effects of heart disease increased, and he was once more obliged to retire from public life [c]. Knowing how uncertain human life is at all

[c] In a short biographical notice of Mr. Barnes in the "Graphic," it was stated that "he did not take any interest in public matters." This is a mistake. For some years his time and attention were almost wholly given to the public, though he did not often attend political meetings; and his charities were for the benefit of all requiring them, irrespective of creeds or politics; yet he was ready to act when wanted. At one of the parliamentary elections he was

times, but more especially to himself under present circumstances, and that the solemn change might come upon him at any single moment, he turned his whole attention to "setting his house in order." After providing and arranging with loving thoughtfulness for his only surviving child, and for some to whom he believed help would be acceptable, he devoted the remainder of his property to the erection of a Convalescent Hospital (£26,000), one for infectious diseases (£1,300), Industrial School for Boys (£14,000), Life-boat, &c., (£600), and the residue to a charity for supplying pensions to a certain number of Incurables (£70,000). All but the last were given during his lifetime; the Industrial School was the only one he lived to see completed and in use. What he gave in private was quite in keeping with his public acts; hardly a day passed without some one being the better for the riches God had bestowed upon him. It was his maxim, that no day should pass without some good being done, some treasure laid up where "neither moth nor

chairman for one of the candidates, and he was five times invited to stand in the Conservative interest for important constituencies; two out of the five being for Manchester. He liberally supported the Volunteer Rifle movement, and he was offered a lieutenant-colonelcy, which he would gladly have accepted had he then been resident in Manchester.

rust doth corrupt." His affectionate, sympathizing disposition, especially towards the sick, the aged, and young children, was a pleasing characteristic of his nature; and the manner in which he left the bulk of his property was only the carrying out still further the labours of love in which he engaged when able. His visits to the Ragged Schools he abandoned most reluctantly, as he believed the time spent there was productive of more good to the teachers than the money given; and his influence at their union meetings was considerable. He was so persuaded of the importance of personal, Christian sympathy and influence, that, on his return to Manchester in 1868, he was most desirous to find a house in the city within walking distance of the poorest localities, in consequence of what he had seen and heard when staying (during his residence in the south) at an hotel in the midst of the city. He was of opinion that the distressing immorality prevailing in large towns was in some degree owing to the lowest class being left too much to themselves. The churches and chapels are there, but only the better part of the population are to be found in them. Mr. Barnes always had double pleasure in helping those of the Clergy who resided in their parishes, and those ministers who lived

within reach of their flock. This is happily not so rare an occurrence as formerly.

Mr. Barnes was naturally cheerful and fond of society, but his repeated domestic afflictions altered him considerably; he became more reserved, and often desponding, never happy excepting at home; but to his life's end he continued candid, sincere, conscientious, and truthful almost to a fault, as he sometimes, unintentionally and to his regret, caused pain by his plain speaking, and yet the error, if any, was undoubtedly on the right side. In reviewing his daily life, especially the latter part of it, his apparently constant remembrance of the presence of One who is "a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" is a satisfactory recollection. If it occurred to him that he had grieved any one by word or deed, he took the earliest opportunity of acknowledging his fault.

He continued his early rising, and late retiring, to within two months of his death; always giving the first two and last two hours of the day to devotional reading and prayer. The works of Dr. Christopher Sutton ("Learn to Live," "Learn to Die"), Thomas à Kempis, with the Bible and Prayer-book, were his constant companions. Very naturally, all his reading latterly was of a religious character, excepting the newspapers, which

on week-days were carefully and regularly read. Though compelled for many years to devote most of his time to secular business, yet he never allowed it to absorb him to the exclusion of other things. He delighted in music, and was quite conversant with the works of Handel, Mozart, Purcell, &c., and was for some years a leading tenor at "The Gentlemen's Glee Club." He retained his pleasing voice to the last. The classical and mathematical knowledge he acquired in early life was never lost.

During the year 1871, it was evident that "the outward man was perishing, but the inward man was being renewed day by day." He was most patient, thankful to God, and grateful to those who had the privilege of being with him, for every little attention; he was more cheerful than he had been for some years, and his mind as vigorous as ever; he seemed to dread being irritable or unthankful.

On the 12th of December he had a sudden attack of bronchitis, from which he said he believed he should never recover, and his remaining strength was devoted to giving directions for his usual Christmas gifts being sent to their destinations. His sufferings increased until Sunday the 24th, when he seemed decidedly better, and he

followed the Scripture and hymns that were read to him, which was a great comfort to those to whom he was so dear, as it not only proved him to be stronger, *but quite conscious.* He passed a quiet night, and awoke calmly on Christmas-day morning; but at half-past seven the loving father, the considerate master and true friend, suddenly, without even a sigh, "entered into the joy of his Lord."

"Thus Robert Barnes, on the day when the bells were ringing in honour of the Nativity of One who healed the sick and cared for little children, closed his eyes on this world, 'leaving a good report;' and it will go hard with poor human nature if, having regard to the character which is written in his life, Robert Barnes did not, on that very day, open his eyes again in the bright world we call Heaven, and find himself in time to join with those 'herald angels' in singing the old, old song of glad tidings which to him and to them was no unfamiliar strain."—*From one of the Manchester weekly papers.*

On the 30th of December, 1871, his mortal remains were laid to rest in Didsbury churchyard, with those of all his family but one, his only surviving child. In accordance with his request it was a quiet funeral, but not as much so as he

would have wished, owing to the distance being too great for him to be "carried to the grave."

"Rest for the toiling hand,
Rest for the anxious brow,
Rest for the wayworn feet,
Rest from all labour now.

"The tossings of the night,
The frettings of the day,
All end, and like a cloud at dawn,
Melt from thy skies away.

"'Twas sown in weakness here,
'Twill then be raised in power;
That which was sown an earthly seed
Shall rise a heavenly flower."

REV. H. BONAR, D.D.

APPENDIX.

On Sunday, December 30, the day after the funeral, the following references were made to Mr. Barnes by those who knew him well, both in health and sickness. They are taken from the Manchester newspapers of January 1, 1872.

The Rev. W. J. Kidd, Rector of Didsbury, preached yesterday morning from Rev. xiv. 13, "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, for they rest from their labours, and their works do follow them." Speaking of the latter portion of the text, he said that "there were some who boasted of their good works, as if they *claimed* heaven as a right, or as wages for work done. Surely it was well when God bestowed riches upon them to spend it to His glory, and in promoting the welfare of their fellow-men, so that, living, they might see the effects of their bounty. Viewed in this light, the name of him whose mortal remains were yesterday lowered into the grave in that churchyard would long be remembered and cherished. Their own church and village owed something to him. His name had become perpetuated, especially in connection with two noble Institutions, one completed and the other rising in that neighbourhood; not to mention many other munificent donations, of which the world knew nothing, but which were bestowed with discri-

minating judgment, and exceeding the amounts necessarily known to the public, large as they were."

At Willington United Presbyterian Church yesterday, the Rev. Charles Mimet said :—"It is my sad duty to refer this morning to an event which has cast its shadow over not a few hearts at this happy Christmas time. One has been taken from our midst, who, by his benevolence and large-hearted charity, made himself the benefactor of his fellow-citizens; while, by the worth and kindliness of his character, he endeared himself to all who knew him well. His removal is a loss which all Manchester deplores, and in the general regret that has everywhere made itself manifest, we find perhaps the strongest proofs he could desire of the esteem in which he was held by all classes of the community, and their deep sense of the services he so generously rendered them. By us his loss will be felt in an especial manner, for though his connection with this congregation has not been of long continuance, yet it has been long enough to enable us to know something of his worth; and the kind interest he took in all that concerns our well-being, merits a few words of grateful recognition from me. I shall not speak of his princely munificence, of his liberal support of charitable institutions, of his care for the homeless and the destitute, because these things are well known. I shall rather confine myself to what I have gathered of his character from intercourse with him during the past twelve months. Almost all that time he suffered, and often most acutely. During the last most trying months of his illness, he was uniformly cheerful, and resigned to the wise and gracious will of God. No

murmur of discontent, or whisper of impatience escaped his lips. His own distressing pain never engrossed him so fully, that he could not think of others. In remembering them, he seemed to forget himself. He ever abounded in those little acts of kindness and gentle consideration, which are perhaps a truer index of a Christian character than the largest gifts. I should fail in my duty both to you and to him, did I neglect to point out to you the lesson of his life. Every life leaves a lesson behind it; and does not his remind us that we are all stewards, bound to dispose of whatever we have, as shall best serve the interests of Him who gave it? Does it not tell how much may be done by wealth wisely used? that while those who spend their substance only to minister to their own indulgence, shall pass into merited oblivion; those who devote it to relieving suffering and want, shall ever be had in grateful remembrance. Their memory and their name are blessed. Let us therefore shew our appreciation of him whom we mourn, by striving to perpetuate in our actions the spirit that actuated him."

At St. Paul's, Brunswick-street, the Rector, the Rev. E. Hewlett, alluded to Mr. Barnes' death as follows:—"I cannot forbear alluding to the removal of one from amongst us, of one who had gained to himself an exceeding good report. In the stroke that has taken from us the individual to whom I refer, the cause of benevolence has sustained a severe loss. We all know how, for many years, it has been his chosen work to aid largely by gifts, and also by personal exertions, in the efforts which are being made to raise the fallen, reclaim the

wanderer, and mitigate both the moral and physical suffering of humanity. He had been successful in business far beyond the usual measure,—that wealth he used as a talent bestowed upon him by God, investing it in the mode most worthy and most truly profitable,—in doing good, and advancing the cause of Christianity. It has been my privilege to spend much time in his company during the long illness which has ended fatally. In these interviews, I have often been led to wonder at his extreme humility and childlike teachableness. He had done many things that men call good, but he did not like to hear them mentioned; and as for counting them a ground of merit before God, the very thought seemed abhorrent to his mind. His hope of acceptance was based on the simple fact of Christ's atonement for sin, and on the humble trust that the work was done for him. That feeling found expression in almost his last words. That beautiful hymn, so full of the Gospel, was read to him by his daughter, and at each line,—

'O Lamb of God, I come,'—

he earnestly joined in echoing the faith which pervades the hymn, and at the same time indicating, as it were, his own speedy departure,—'I come to Thee, O Lamb of God, for the pardon of my sins; and I come to Thee, to be with Thee in Thy kingdom.'"

The Barnes Samaritan Charity.

The Second Annual Report of this Charity states that the endeavour of the board of management has been to carry strictly into effect the object of the beneficent founder of the charity, which is declared to be "for the relief of persons afflicted with severe or incurable bodily disease, and of persons convalescent from bodily disease, at their own homes otherwise and elsewhere than in a poorhouse, almshouse, dispensary, hospital, or other building or establishment of a like nature." With this view an elaborate schedule of questions has been prepared and adopted, in order to ascertain the past and present position of each applicant—requiring the opinion of a medical practitioner as to the health of the applicant, and the testimony of trustworthy persons "recommending the case as a suitable and deserving one to be relieved by the charity." Each case is then inquired into by the Visitor appointed by the board of management, who tests the accuracy of the answers, makes careful personal inquiry and observation, and enters the result of his labours in his report-book, which is submitted to the Relief Committee. Each case so prepared is then considered and decided upon by the Committee, and its recommendations—whether as to admission or refusal, and the rate of relief to be allowed —are submitted at the stated meetings of the board for final disposal. The results of the last two years satisfy the board that much of human suffering is alleviated by

the operations of the charity, and that its funds are administered in a way to fulfil the benevolent intentions of the philanthropic testator. During the year ending September, 1874, the number of recipients has been 198; number terminated by death, 24; by suspension, 8; remaining on the books, 166. The capital account shews that the sum of £74,698 17*s.* 5*d.* has been received from the executors of the late Robert Barnes. Of this sum £71,363 2*s.* 6*d.* had been invested. The revenue account shews that the balance in hand on the 31st of December, 1873, was £470 16*s.* 6*d.*, which, added to the receipts of the year, made a sum of £2,827 4*s.* 6*d.* The sum of £2,419 3*s.* 6*d.* has been distributed to recipients in accordance with the provisions of the will, and on the 31st of December, 1874, there was a balance in hand amounting to £218 13*s.* 5*d.*

Barnes Home Industrial School.

Mr. Sydney Turner, her Majesty's Inspector of Schools, who visited and inspected this Institution on the 14th inst., has issued his report, in which he says that his inspection of the school had given him great satisfaction. The Institution was in excellent order; the boys bright and healthful, and the whole establishment appeared to be managed with the earnestness and good judgment which are so essential to success. The additions to the offices of the house and the school-kitchen were useful, and the garden-ground appeared to be in excellent cultivation. He examined the first three classes in the usual subjects. The boys generally passed

very well, and were very orderly and attentive. The report speaks favourably of the proposition of Mr. Ross to form a nautical class, and erect masts, yards, &c., for the purpose of the appropriate instruction, Mr. Turner thinking that this would be a valuable addition to the training of the school, and increase the means of favourable disposal. The arrangements for the boys working at the mill appear to the inspector to have answered very well.

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