

SIR FRANCIS
SHARP POWELL

BARONET
AND MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

A MEMOIR

BY HIS NEPHEW

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PREFACE.

Sir Francis Powell devoted himself, heart and soul, to public life, and the greater part of this Memoir deals with his public work and achievements. The writer's aim has been to let these speak for themselves and show what manner of man he was. Only his main interests are described here, but his love and patient mastery of detail frequently enabled him to turn aside effectively from these and to do much useful work by the way. Characteristic instances of such work are given in the reminiscences kindly contributed by Professor Hull (see Appendix I).

Sir Francis was constantly giving away large sums of money for public purposes. Comparatively few of these gifts are mentioned here. His method of giving is well illustrated by an anecdote, which has the authority of Canon Leach. Soon after the consecration of All Saints' Church, Sir Francis' princely gift to Bradford, it was decided to proceed with another of the ten new churches required by the town, as a memorial to Mr. Charles Hardy. A question was raised in committee as to whether sittings for 500 or 600 persons should be provided. Sir Francis happened to be there and asked that the decision should be postponed. Within a few days he wrote to the Secretary: "I have been to see the ground; the sight of that population is irresistible; the Church must be for 600. This means an additional cost of £500, for which I will send you my cheque in January."

The frontispiece and the photograph of his statue at Wigan, presented with this Memoir, both depict Sir Francis late in life, as most readers will

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PREFACE.

best remember him. A small copy in bronze of his statue at Wigan has been presented by Lady Powell to the Art Gallery in Manningham Park, Bradford, and may now be seen there. He was of medium height, with a massive head and broad shoulders. His figure was long one of the most familiar in the House of Commons, where he was liked and respected for his cheery manner, hard work, and independence of outlook, by all types of politician. In business matters he was stern and resolute, if opposed; but, when he had appeared most irreconcilable, he sometimes yielded at last, unexpectedly, and with the most charming grace.

Press cuttings, recording Sir Francis' speeches and public appearances from 1863 until the end of his life, have been carefully collected by Lady Powell in eight quarto volumes. These have afforded a mine of information, for which it has been impossible to give references. The writer has also received much generous help from "friends in need," many of whom are personally unknown to him. In addition to helpers mentioned in the text, his best thanks are due to Dr. G. D. Liveing, for information with regard to Sir Francis' career at Cambridge—they were contemporaries at St. John's and life-long friends; to Mr. Martin Tilby, Secretary of the Central Church Committee; to the Rev. W. H. Keeling, Head Master of Bradford Grammar School; to Mr. A. J. Fowler, House Master at Sedbergh, for much kindness and help; to Mr. Brian Fell, Clerk in the House of Commons; to Mr. Alderman Layland, for many years agent to Sir Francis at Wigan and his devoted admirer;

PREFACE.

to Rev. C. L. Hulbert, for help with the proofs ; and to many personal friends.

The etchings of Sedbergh are reproduced by permission of W. H. Beynon & Co., Cheltenham. The old School House shows the School as Sir Francis found it, when a boy there. It is meant to be contrasted with its latest development, the Powell Hall, which is one of the large group of school buildings built under his auspices. The plate of Horton Old Hall is from a large pen and ink drawing by Mr. Isaac Watts, 570, Wakefield Road, Bradford, and has been reproduced by his kind permission.

Finally the writer hopes that those who have kindly interested themselves in his book will excuse the unforeseen delay in its appearance. This delay gives him the opportunity of recording that the Jubilee of All Saints' Church, Bradford, has just been celebrated. The preachers were the Bishops of Bath and Wells, Richmond, Whalley and Knaresborough ; the Archdeacons of Richmond and Craven ; and the Rev. the Hon. R. Parker, Rector of Wem, formerly Curate at All Saints'. The Bishop of Bath and Wells, Dr. Kennion, second Vicar of All Saints', preaching to an overflowing congregation on All Saints' Day, said how fitting it would have been if "the wise, generous and farseeing man," who had founded the Church, could have been present ; and there were naturally many other sympathetic references to Sir Francis.

H.L.P.H.

Brixworth, Northampton.

November, 1914.

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- For Fulligar read Fullagar, p. 21 line 6.
- For charater read character, p. 56 line 21.
- For Mr. E. E. Kempe read Mr. C. E. Kempe, p. 109 line 7.
- Read (see pp. 32-3), p. 135 line 28.
- For opposition read opposition, p. 53, line 14.
- For chapter read chapters, p. 90 line 4.
- For decrepid read decrepit, p. 134 line 1.

CHAPTER I.

FAMILY HISTORY.

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE.

MAIN EVENTS OF AFTER-LIFE.

FRANCIS SHARP POWELL of Horton Old Hall, Bradford, was born at Wigan on June 29th, 1827, the year of the publication of John Keble's *Christian Year*, and was the eldest surviving son of eleven children. His father, the Rev. Benjamin Powell, of Bellingham Lodge, Wigan, and Incumbent of St. George's Church, Wigan, died in 1861. He left property which became the nucleus of Francis Powell's Wigan estates.

His mother was Anne, the sole surviving daughter and heiress of Elizabeth Wade (née Bridges), wife of the Rev. Thomas Wade, Incumbent of Tottington, Lancashire. She died in March, 1873. His only brother to survive infancy was the Rev. Thomas Wade Powell, Vicar of Aspatria, near Carlisle, who died in 1896. His eldest sister is Elizabeth, widow of the late

Right Rev. John Wareing Bardsley, Bishop of Carlisle. She has two sons and three daughters living. Her eldest son, Francis Sharp Bardsley, will succeed to the Horton estates. His fourth sister, Louisa Powell, married the Rev. C. A. Hulbert, Incumbent of Slaithwaite and now Rector of Castor and Honorary Canon of Peterborough. She died in 1872, leaving two sons. The elder, the Rev. Charles Lacy Hulbert, Vicar of Great St. Mary's with St. Michael's Church, Cambridge, will succeed to the Powell estates in Wigan and Lancashire. The younger is the writer of this Memoir. He had also three sisters who survive him, Mary Anne, Jane Bridges and Amelia Sharp Powell. Mr. F. S. Bardsley and the Rev. C. L. Hulbert are both married and have sons to carry on the succession.

His connection with the Sharp family of Horton, Bradford, was through his maternal grandmother, Elizabeth Wade, co-heiress with her brother, Francis Sharp Bridges, of Horton Old Hall, who inherited the Yorkshire estates of the Sharp family. Mr. Bridges had also two sisters, Mrs. Lindley of Hallfield House, Bradford, and Miss Jane Bridges, who lived with him for many years at Horton Old Hall and died unmarried.

It is remarkable that the male representatives of the two branches of the Sharp family

resident at Horton died within a year of each other in the middle of the eighteenth century, and that the succession has since been carried on through heiresses. Abraham Sharp, the distinguished astronomer and the friend of Sir Isaac Newton, died in July, 1742, and was the last of the male line of the elder Cromwellian and Puritan branch of the family. He lived at Horton Hall, the larger house adjoining the Old Hall, where his library and observation tower still stand.

Isaac Sharp, the last male representative of the younger Royalist branch of the family which lived in the Old Hall, died in the following year (July, 1743). Dorothy, his surviving daughter and heiress, married Francis Stapleton of Little Horton and by two inter-marriages of the families of Stapleton and Bridges the Horton estates descended through heiresses to Francis Sharp Powell's great uncle, Francis Sharp Bridges. Mr. Bridges lived a long life at Horton Old Hall and died a bachelor in 1844, aged seventy-eight. It was by his will that Powell succeeded to his Horton estates at the early age of seventeen.

Stories of his boyhood are few but his lifelong passion for all kinds of information and the pertinacity with which he exhausted any source of it which came his way, are illustrated by one of them. When digging in the garden

with his brother (the late Rev. Thomas Wade Powell), at Bellingham Lodge, Wigan, which was then their home, the two brothers came on coal. Imagining themselves the unexpected owners of a seam, Francis proceeded to find out how to make coal gas and is said to have actually produced a short-lived flame. He showed his inborn love of oratory by erecting a pulpit in his nursery at an early age, into which he used to ascend and deliver discourses to his brother and sisters. His earliest schooldays were spent at Wigan Grammar School. From Wigan he went for a few terms to Uppingham School and the following letter gives a vivid picture of his life and strength of character at the age of fourteen.

Uppingham,

April 30th, 1842.

Dear Papa,

“I hoped to have had the pleasure of hearing from home, before now. We received your last letter on Monday or Tuesday night. Pray let me have the pleasure of hearing from you soon. We have been doing *Œdip: Tyrannus* of Sophocles during the week, at least since Wednesday. Every Wednesday we go up to Mr. B. with some *Theocritus*: and I suppose on that account the week is divided by that day. We do *Xeno: Cyrop*: one week, *Homer* another and *Greek Play* the third.

We do thirty lines at a time. Whether there is a fourth subject I do not as yet know. I will tell you in my next.

“ We have had rather an idle week. On Tuesday we had a whole holiday, it being the Audit day, as it is called, of the trustees of the Oakham and Uppingham Schools. On Thursday a half holiday for some reason which I do not know.

“ We have to do some verses every week, a hard and an easy set. I have been set to do the hard ones, but have done the easy ones also for a lazy fellow who is in my class and too idle to do them himself. On Wednesday Mr. B. gave out in the School that the trustees had the previous day decided that the annual examination at Michaelmas would not for the future be confined to the candidates for Exhibition, but extend to the whole of the sixth form, the higher and lower fifth. A gentleman is coming down from St. John's, Cambridge, next time. I wrote to George W. the other day. I have endeavoured to stick up for myself a little more the last few days and the result is very satisfactory. Out of eight boys in our room there are only three who annoy us now. I was unfortunately concerned in a little affray the other day, it has only had the effect which I anticipated, viz : that the boy and I have since become most excellent friends. I think I may safely say that we are now.

“I would not like, even it were possible, again to pass so unhappy a week as we did on leaving home for the first time. You spoke to me in one of your letters about reading over the Psalms for each day with another fellow. I do not know any one to whom I can make the proposal. One little fellow who sleeps in my room and is in my class, has been marked out for the purpose; I have had him in my study one day, and talked to him of faults that I observed him very liable to commit and I have had the satisfaction of seeing him endeavour to check them. He had when he first came a great habit of swearing but since I spoke to him on the subject I have only once or twice, if that, heard him swear. I am doing him every little act of kindness that I can, and think in the course of a few days I shall be able to make the above-named proposal to him. I have not omitted the most important step of all, *viz*: to make mention of him in my daily prayers.

“Mr. B. gave me my ? Homer the other day. I have been reading some of the former parts on the Divine Inspiration of the Scriptures and some similar subjects. I like it very much indeed.

“We had an excellent Sermon from the Curate on Sunday on the text “Ye cannot serve two Masters, ye cannot serve God and Mammon.” I have only room for a word or two more. Please to write soon *and do send me a news-*

paper now and then. If you have not time to write, a newspaper will serve to say that you are all well. I have not been very well lately. I have had a slight * * * * * complaint, but it is much better to-day.

*"I entreat you to give me permission to bathe. I bathed yesterday and it certainly has done me a great deal of good. I do hope that you will let me know how you all are, if you have not time to write * * * * * has."*

I remain,

Your affect. Son,

FRAS. S. POWELL.

From Uppingham, at the age of sixteen, he went with his only surviving brother (the late Rev. T. W. Powell) to Sedbergh Grammar School of which the Rev. J. H. Evans was then Head Master. At that time all the classes were held in one room, now the library. The education given was almost exclusively classical, only about eight hours a week being devoted to mathematics. Notwithstanding this, the list of successes secured by Sedbergh boys at Cambridge in mathematics as well as in classics, during the time of Mr. Evans, was very remarkable. The School was founded some years before the traditional date, 1527, by Roger Lupton, Provost of Eton and Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, who

was probably born at Sedbergh.* It was closely connected from the beginning with St. John's College, Cambridge, where it held six scholarships (afterwards increased to eight), and two Fellowships for scholars "chosen out of Setber School and no other."

Powell left Sedbergh in June, 1846, and went to St. John's as a Lupton Scholar the same year. In 1850, he was last but two in the Second Class (Senior Ops.) of the Mathematical Tripos and head of the Second Class in the Classical Tripos. His reading was interrupted by an attack of smallpox just before the examination, and his place was disappointing. The fact that he had been placed in the First Class in the College Examination in classics both in 1848 and 1849, shows that he was expected to be in the First Class in the Classical Tripos. In 1851 he entered for a Fellowship under the Lupton Foundation and was elected, but not before he had consulted his tutor, Dr. Hymers, as to the propriety of this course, seeing that he was heir to considerable property.

There were at that time at St. John's thirty-two unrestricted Fellowships for which all graduates of Oxford or Cambridge, born in England or Wales, were eligible. There were also twenty-one Fellowships restricted to

* See Sedbergh School Register, 1546-1909, p. 3

graduates from particular counties or schools. An eligible member of another College might be elected, or a Fellow of the original Foundation transferred to a Lupton Fellowship. Both these methods of keeping up the standard of learning were in use until the revision of the Statutes in 1860, but as neither of them was adopted when Powell applied, it is clear that his scholarship must have been up to the mark. After holding his Fellowship for three years, he resigned it and was succeeded by the Rev. F. H. Woodward.

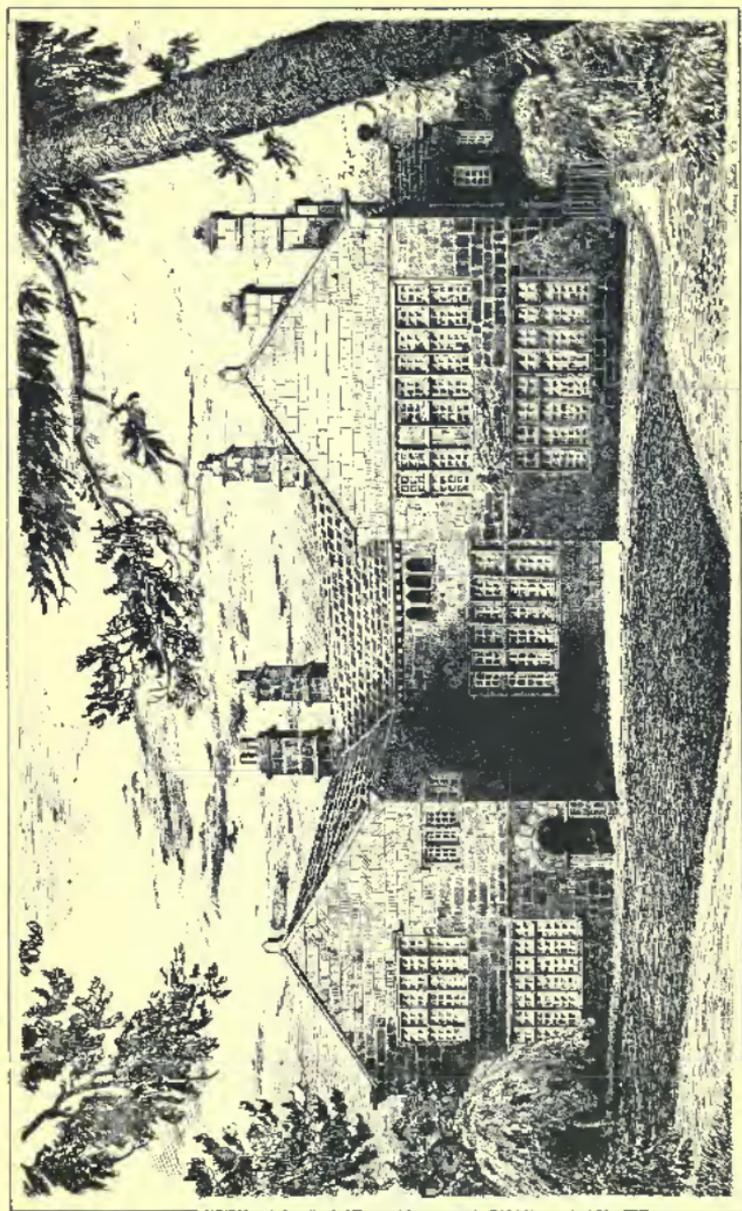
On leaving Cambridge in 1850 he read Law in London, was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1853 and went the Northern Circuit for a short time.

This brought him to Liverpool where he first met his wife, Annie, second daughter of Matthew Gregson of Toxteth Park, Liverpool and niece of Samuel Gregson, M.P. for Lancaster. He soon gave up law for politics and had been Member of Parliament for Wigan for more than a year when he was married on August 26th, 1858, at St. Michael's Church, Toxteth Park. There were ten groomsmen and ten bridesmaids and the parents of the bride and bridegroom were all present on the occasion. After the honeymoon, spent in Germany, Austria and Italy, Mr. Powell brought his bride home to his Father's house, Bellingham Lodge, Wigan. The following description of their home-coming

written by an eye-witness at the time of their Golden Wedding appeared recently in a Wigan paper :—

“I well remember the time when he (Sir Francis), brought home his bride to Bellingham Lodge, Wigan, and a number of his supporters took the horses out of the carriage at the Station and pulled it themselves. It could not have been an easy task as the road was very steep all the way * * * As it was evening when the carriage arrived at Bellingham, the grounds were illuminated with scores of coloured lamps suspended in the trees and where the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary now stands, there was a row of cottages, called Cinnamon Row, where every window was lit up as a welcome to the Member for Wigan and his bride.”

After two Parliamentary Sessions spent in temporary residences in London the young couple took and furnished 1, Cambridge Square, Hyde Park, in 1860. There was a most tastefully selected collection of old pictures at Horton for many of which there was no room in the Old Hall. Mr. Powell had the largest and some of the choicest of these moved to 1, Cambridge Square and no one who enters the house can fail to be struck by the beauty and dignity which they lend to it and the admirable way in which



HORTON OLD HALL, BRADFORD.

he had them hung there. Mrs. Powell and he made this house and Horton Old Hall their homes for the remaining fifty one years of their married life.

They had no family ties to keep them at home but the most tempting invitations never seduced them from their Parish Church at All Saints', Bradford, at the great festivals. Conservatism and unswerving adherence to fixed times and habits of life, so far as they were compatible with a busy social and political career, were characteristic of the domestic regime under which Mr. Powell lived. There can be few households in England which have changed so little during the last fifty years as those of Horton Old Hall and 1, Cambridge Square.

When the London season and the Parliamentary Session were over Mr. and Mrs. Powell usually went abroad for their annual holiday. They visited many parts of Europe together besides taking two more extensive tours to America and the East, which will be described in a later chapter. At the time of the building of All Saints' Church at Bradford, from 1860 to 1864, Mr. Powell made a special study of the Cathedrals of France and Belgium, taking measurements of many of them.

On their return home, unless an Autumn Session took them to London, they spent most of the remainder of the year at Horton. During

this time they visited the farms on the Yorkshire estates. In this way Mr. Powell made himself personally acquainted with his tenants and their needs, in which he took the most kindly and practical interest. His kindness and consideration as a landlord were fully appreciated. In November 1891, his tenants at Cullingworth presented him with an illuminated address, expressed in most affectionate terms, on the occasion of the opening of the new Conservative Club in the village. The members of the old Conservative Club had received notice to quit and Mr. Powell stepped into the breach and converted some of his cottage property at Towngate, Cullingworth into a club for them. The tenants on his Yorkshire farms also gave him an address and silver punch bowl at Horton in November, 1892 to celebrate his baronetcy.

The supervision of his estates in Yorkshire and Wigan was but a small part of his work at Horton.

He was the oldest living Magistrate for the West Riding at the time of his death. He sat on the Bradford Board of Guardians as regularly as he could and attended an almost endless succession of meetings both in Yorkshire and Lancashire. There were certain fixed engagements for which he sacrificed everything else and which he rarely, if ever, broke. Such were the Sedbergh

School Speech days and Governors' meetings, the Rent Days at Horton in July and December, and the meetings of the York House of Laymen and of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Conservative Associations.

Concerning this Union Mr. W. P. Fulligar of Bolton writes as follows in a letter dated 17th July, 1912 :

“ I have for many years past resided in the Blackpool Parliamentary Division and have represented it on the Executive and Council of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union of Conservative Associations of which Sir Francis Powell was Chairman up to shortly before his death. We met quarterly in Lancashire and Cheshire and, whatever the time of year, or the weather, or his distance from the meeting place, we always felt sure that our Chairman would be there with his warm and friendly greeting and prepared to give us an address full of sound and thoughtful comment and advice on the political questions of the day and which would send us home amply repaid for our trouble of attendance.

“ We were together on the York House of Laymen and on the Committees of several Church Societies and his first enquiry when we met was always “ Well, and how is our party going on in Lancashire ? ” He seemed to throw himself heart and soul into every question affecting the best interests of Church and State,

and no man, I believe, worked harder or more consistently in support of the principles which he loved so dearly. Without being in any sense an orator, his words always bore weight because they had the true ring of sound wisdom and heartfelt conviction. His death left a blank which, in these days, is very difficult to fill.⁵

In 1900, after the Council Meeting of the Association held at Manchester, he was entertained at dinner at the Manchester Conservative Club. Sir William H. Houldsworth, Bart, M.P., presided and when proposing "Our Guest" he stated that since the Council was formed in 1883 Sir Francis had attended 106 of the 111 meetings which had been held. Commenting on the value of his speeches, Sir William said that he had come to the conclusion—and this was not far from the truth—that the only recreation Sir Francis allowed himself was the reading of Blue Books. Sir Francis retired from the post of President of the Lancashire and Cheshire Union in 1906 when the National Union of Conservative Associations was re-organized on a more democratic basis.

This brings us to his political life. He was a ready speaker and thoroughly enjoyed addressing a large audience from a public platform. When the audience consisted of sturdy and critical North-countrymen at Wigan or in Yorkshire, he was always particularly happy and entered thoroughly into the spirit of the thing.

His commanding voice, sonorous periods and good natured chaff were just what a North country workingman likes and admires. He sometimes lapsed into the Lancashire dialect to amuse them. They thought him grand and he became known as "Wigan's Grand Old Man."

His nineteen contested elections claim a separate chapter.

He was first elected a Member of the House of Commons in 1857 at the age of 29, having contested the two previous elections, and sat there intermittently for nine years, between 1857 and 1885. For the next twenty five years, until he retired from Parliament in 1910, he sat continuously for the County Borough of Wigan—his "native borough" as he loved to call it. He sat under ten Governments and attended the House most assiduously, arriving early and seldom leaving before it rose. Some of his most important work was done on Special Committees. The Annals of the House record that he sat on seventy two such Committees between 1863 and his retirement. He had the honour of being Chairman of the important Police and Sanitary Committee in the Session of 1892 when it sat for forty one days. He was also Chairman of the Museums Committee in the 1898 Session, having previously taken the chair four times during the absence of Sir John Gorst. This Committee brought to light

abuses and defects in the state of the South Kensington Museum and Art School. It resulted in the complete re-organization of the national collections of which the present generation is now reaping the benefit. Sir Francis liked to see things for himself and was constantly at the Museum during this time and often in consultation with the late Sir Purdon Clarke, its Director.

To return to the House of Commons. Though Sir Francis complained in his later years of its increasing exactions there was no place which he liked better. When he rose to address the House it was to draw attention to points, which from special knowledge and experience he knew to be important or likely to be overlooked. He was a thoroughly practical legislator. Bills connected with the Church of England, Education and Public Health were those in which he was mainly interested. When such measures were before the House, he endeavoured to study their probable effects in every detail and watched their progress with the most vigilant care. By this vigilance he was able to effect many improvements in points of detail, even in the case of measures to which he was opposed. This often won him the consideration and gratitude of friends and foes alike.

Years advanced, but his energy seemed to remain unabated. On the Queen's Birthday, 1892 he was created a Baronet. In 1907, it being fifty

years since he first took his seat, he celebrated his Parliamentary Jubilee. On the evening of April 23rd of that year, his colleagues in the House gave him a complimentary banquet. The Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour took the Chair and Mr. Finch, who was then Father of the House, sat on his right hand. The following inscription was printed in letters of gold upon the menu :—

TE, FRANCISCUM POWELL, ASCRIPTUM CURIAE
BRIT : FERRE PER LUSTRA DECEM, REGNI ET
ECCLES : SERVUM FIDELEM, AMICI TOTA
MENTE SALUTANT.

The proceedings were private but a newspaper gave the following list of some of those present :—

Sir Alexander Acland Hood, Mr. Akers Douglas, Lord Balcarres, Mr. F. E. Smith, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Claude Hay, Sir Edward Carson, Sir P. Magnus, Sir William Ball, Sir W. H. Hornby, Hon. Arthur Stanley, Colonel Hall Walker, Mr. Ashley, Mr. E. Parkes, Colonel Lockwood, Mr. T. L. Corbett, Sir H. Fletcher, Mr. H. W. Forster, Mr. R. P. Houston, Sir Gilbert Parker, Sir George Fardell, Mr. Wolff, Lord R. Cecil, Mr. T. Rutherford, Mr. W. W. Rutherford, Sir W. Anson, Colonel McCalmont, Lord Valentia, Mr. H. Pike Pease, Lord E. Talbot, Mr. Stavely Hill, Mr. Lane Fox, Colonel Williams, Viscount Helmsley, Mr. Lawrence Hardy,

the Hon. F. Lambton, Sir F. Lowe, Mr. Mitchell Thompson, Sir F. Banbury, Mr. Gervase Beckett, Mr. Rawlinson, Mr. C. Craig, Mr. G. L. Courthope, Mr. Abel Smith, Colonel Harrison Broadley, Mr. C. Salter and Mr. F. B. Mildmay.

The House of Commons had been recruited at the General Election of the preceding year by an unprecedented number of new Members. Many of these were of a class with which it had been hitherto unfamiliar. The Labour Party had been formed. Sir Francis must have found it difficult to realize that it was the same place in which he had sat in 1857 when Lord Palmerston was Prime Minister. He took a remarkably unprejudiced view of the situation saying that though the new House was "marvellously inexperienced" at first, it was "learning its business well" and contained an exceptional number of men who were serious students of social and political questions.

On August 26th 1908, the year following his Parliamentary Jubilee, Lady Powell and he celebrated their Golden Wedding. They were taking a holiday at the time at the Moor Park Hotel, Chagford, North Devon, where they received many telegrams of congratulation, amongst them being one from the Mayor of Wigan, Mr. Sam Wood, on behalf of the people of Wigan and himself.

Soon after their return home, the parishioners of All Saints', Bradford, invited them to the Schools on the evening of September 28th to celebrate the same event by giving them a solid silver bowl, richly gilt, and an illuminated address followed by a list of subscribers. In the course of his reply of thanks Sir Francis said:—"During fifty years Lady Powell and he had lived in the same house and had pursued the same work. They had endeavoured to serve and had perhaps sometimes succeeded in serving those of their neighbours who in successive generations had occupied houses and streets within a short distance of Horton Green. He felt as he walked about the district that he was not a mere sojourner for a part of the year in a busy manufacturing town, but that he moved among sympathising friends. He had thought it possible in looking through the records of his family to find instances of a similar occasion to that, but he had not done so. John Sharp, well known as a Royalist, was a gentleman of leisurely disposition. He lived in this world to the age of ninety three. He (Sir Francis), confessed that he should have thought that this forerunner of his, might have had the opportunity of enjoying fifty years of connubial bliss. (laughter). He appeared to have looked round very carefully but in a manner fatal to that long term of family joy. As to the occurrences in the parish of All Saints within the last fifty years, he thought it was not extravagant to say that their history was the

history of that parish, and, so long as life was preserved to them, so long would they remain in close association with All Saints' Parish, and be in residence during part of the year in the old home where they and their ancestors had dwelt so long."

The protracted Summer Session of 1909 allowed him no time for his usual holiday. At length, influenced largely by his increasing and incurable deafness, he reluctantly determined to retire from the House of Commons and wrote the following letter to his Electors. It was published in fac-simile and was written in his clear bold hand which showed no sign of faltering :—

To the Electors of Wigan.

Gentlemen,

"The progress of time and advancing years warn me that my political association with my native Borough must soon end.

"Under those circumstances I do not propose to seek the honour of representing you in the next Parliament.

"I take this opportunity of thanking you for the consideration and confidence which you have so generously extended to me on many occasions during these long and arduous years, and for the high honour which you have thus conferred upon me.

"The regret which I feel on this separation is greatly increased by my sense of the grave importance of the questions which will be discussed by the constituencies throughout the country and subsequently dealt with by the Legislature at Westminster. Once more, but not for the last time, I thank you for the abundant opportunities of taking part in public life which you have given me, and assure you that my earnest desire for the welfare of our ancient and loyal Borough will ever remain unchanged."

I remain,

Gentlemen,

Your ever grateful servant,

Francis S. Powell.

House of Commons,

Sept 30th, 1909.

Retirement from Parliament gave him more time to reflect on the dangers which were besetting his country and its time-honoured institutions during 1910 and 1911. He deeply resented the Government's disregard of old rules of Parliamentary procedure and the constitutional changes embodied in the Parliament Bill. Yet he condemned the policy of Lord Halsbury and his followers with regard to this measure. When he saw that it must pass, he thought that the dangerous precedent of creating new peers in order to pass it, should be avoided. The heat, the strikes

and the political events of the Summer of 1911 distressed him sorely. He became more and more worried and anxious about political affairs and on September 12th, 1911 little more than three months before his death he wrote in a private letter :—" As regards politics I can only hope or "endeavour to hope that they have reached their worst."

After this time he became rapidly feebler but struggled on with his work as long as he could. His last public appearance of any importance was at the Bradford West Riding Court House on November 9th, 1911. He appeared there as Senior Magistrate, and on behalf of Lady Peel, presented the portrait of the late Sir Theo. Peel to his colleagues on the Bench. Soon after this he was obliged to keep to his room owing to increasing infirmity. He died peacefully and unexpectedly in his sleep on the night of Christmas Eve, 1911.

CHAPTER II.

CHURCHES AND CHURCH WORK.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH AND PARISH, LITTLE HORTON, BRADFORD.

WHEN the Yorkshire Estates of the Sharp family descended to Mr. Powell in 1844, the family residences, Horton Hall and Horton Old Hall, which are near each other, were in the country on the outskirts of the town of Bradford and their owners had been accustomed to attend Bradford Parish Church. These two Halls with their gardens, the fine old Yorkshire houses and cottages belonging to the estate round Horton Green and the surrounding fields, which Mr. Powell kept green regardless of tempting offers and increasing taxes, now form an oasis in the City of Bradford. Many little one storey stone cottages also survive in the neighbourhood to testify to Sir Francis' consideration for his tenants, whom he would not turn out to make way for so-called improvements. Still nothing could prevent the extraordinary increase in the manufactures of Bradford converting Horton into a thickly populated urban district. This resulted in the building of All Saints' Church and Schools,

and the formation of All Saints' parish. The first vicar, the Reverend Henry Leach, whom Mr. Powell appointed in 1863 to inaugurate the parish, has kindly written for this book the following account of the origin of All Saints'. "Nothing," writes Canon Leach in a covering letter, "could be more welcome to me than to help in any way to honour the memory of my dear friend to whom I am so deeply indebted:"—

"ATTENTION had been directed to the spiritual destitution of Bradford by the Report of the Bishop of Exeter's Commission of inquiry into the want of Church accommodation throughout the country. It was found that no large town in England was so ill supplied, and a Committee was appointed which took a broad view of the whole position and propounded a comprehensive scheme for providing ten churches, each with its assigned parochial boundary, its school and parsonage. It was no light task that was thus undertaken. As might have been expected, Nonconformity was rampant, and numbered the vast majority of the leading merchants and manufacturers among its staunchest adherents. Chapels and Sunday Schools of every denomination abounded and at once absorbed and diverted into alien channels religious feeling, which Church apathy had disregarded, and which was so leavened with antagonism to the Establishment, that a few years later, Mr. Miall the protagonist of

Liberationism, was elected one of the members for the borough. But the Committee manfully faced the situation. The Hardy family, already honorably identified with Church extension in the district, and other prominent Churchmen contributed generously. For the proposed new parish of All Saints, Little Horton Green, Sir Francis at once claimed the entire responsibility on a scale of munificence far surpassing what was attainable for any of the other churches embraced in the Ten Church Scheme.

“ A vacant plot of ground immediately opposite Sir Francis’ house, Horton Old Hall, and on rising ground, provided a conspicuous and central site for Church and Schools. There were five Chapels and Sunday Schools, but no public elementary school in the new parish. Three quarters of the population were of the working class, just then enjoying thriving times and earning ample wages—keen, intelligent, independent, outspoken, warm-hearted, the best and highest type of the British workman. How to reach and win these was the problem. A brief address, explaining that the new Church was to be theirs and inviting them to make it their own, was issued by the new Vicar and delivered by his own hands at every house in the Parish. ‘ Who’s that man with them papers?’ he heard a woman call out to her neighbour, as he ducked under the linen hung out to dry on lines stretched across the public streets.

'That's the new parson, going about to get a congregation' was the terse and admirably accurate reply.

"In March, 1863, the Vicar designate began work in the Parish, and on Whit Sunday the school was opened for Sunday school and services. At the same date, a day school the only one in a wide area, under a trained teacher was commenced. An exceptionally excellent choir had most kindly volunteered their aid. The room was provided with movable fittings suitable for public worship by the patron's care, and from the very first, a full Cathedral service was given. So hearty was the attendance, it was almost with affectionate regret that the earliest adherents of All Saints looked back upon the School-room services when the statelier worship in the Church had superseded them. Day and Sunday schools filled up rapidly and the nucleus of a congregation was formed.

"The Sunday Schools of Lancashire and the West Riding are unique. Young men and women continue to attend until marriage or even later. The influence and importance of the institution are therefore obvious and repay careful consideration to details. For the Sunday School an elaborate scheme of prizes was devised which rewarded regular attendance and good conduct rather than exceptional ability, and brought these coveted distinctions within the reach of all. Such a plan was

inevitably costly, but Sir Francis took keen interest in all its minutest details and lavishly supported it. The greatest parochial gathering of each year was the Christmas-tide tea party, when he invariably presided over the huge after-meeting, and himself gave the prizes with words of kindly humour and encouragement that won the hearts of his hearers.

“In the early spring of 1864 the Church was ready for consecration. It was built with walls of ashlar stone, carefully finished inside and out, the capitals of the massive columns beautifully carved, the arches enriched with elaborate mouldings; no thought or expense spared to render it a dignified temple for Christian worship. The Bishop of the Diocese, Archdeacon Musgrave, Bishop Atlay (at that time Vicar of Leeds), Dr. Vaughan, Canon Gregory and others preached at the opening services. The building calculated (I think), to hold from 900 to 1,000 worshippers, was from the first well filled, and the appropriated sittings eagerly secured, the main difficulty being to dissuade applicants from renting more seats than they could occupy. It was characteristic of the founder that no spot inside or outside of the Church bore his name or proclaimed at whose expense it had been erected. When, in after years the transept and chancel windows repeated in stained glass the glorious song of the Te Deum, a kneeling figure in the final compartment alone

recalled Sir Francis, surrounded by the legend, 'In Thee have I put my trust: let me never be confounded.'

"Needless to say, both Church and Schools passed through some anxious vicissitudes. Attempts of zeal, not adequately tempered with discretion, to force an advanced ritual on an unwilling Vicar and congregation, brought on a serious crisis. The change from seat rents to the free and unappropriated system, although only adopted at the request of two-thirds of the seat-holders and energetically upheld by a personal visit from Archdeacon Emery and other foremost advocates, proved a failure and resulted in the loss of some valued friends, not all of whom were recovered by reversion to the original plan. Throughout these trials, the Vicar was supported by Sir Francis with the staunchest loyalty.

"The growth of the schools was chequered in like manner. It may be taken as an indisputable maxim that the teacher makes the school, and it was only after one or two trials that the right men and women were secured. The day school, once satisfactorily manned, speedily outgrew the accommodation it afforded, which was then more than trebled. The new rooms were so planned with movable partitions that Boys', Girls' and Infant Schools could be opened out as one large room, thus affording a splendid hall for Parochial

concerts and other meetings. The cost of these additions, about £5,000, was raised by public subscription without the aid of the interference of the Committee of Council on Education. Generous contributions flowed in readily, many Dissenters as well as Churchmen desiring to show their appreciation of Sir Francis' munificence. A few years later further school space was called for, and, on a site in Bramley Street, an admirable structure was erected to serve as a large Infant School and Mission Room. The requisite funds were provided after long and laborious preparation by a three days' bazaar in St. George's Hall, which resulted in a profit of nearly a thousand pounds. With the successful conclusion of this work, the material equipment of the Parish was for the time complete.

“Many of the parents expressed their high appreciation of the schools, and paid the fees so readily that little besides these and the Government grant was required for their annual maintenance. Indeed, one of the mothers, coming into the Girls' School when the children's weekly pence were lying on the table, gave it as her opinion that the Vicar was making a fine thing out of it. It must suffice to say that about 800 children were on the Day School registers, and a thousand scholars and teachers were enrolled in the Sunday Schools when the first Vicar after an incumbency of thirteen years, left for a South Country living.”

The architects of the Church were Messrs. Mallinson and Healey. The shaft of an old mine was unexpectedly discovered on the site for the tower, which gave them great difficulty and resulted in an additional expenditure of £500 to secure the foundations. Mr. Powell carefully studied all the details of the plans and made some of the drawings himself, as he was a serious student of architecture, and took a great interest in the Gothic Revival, which aroused so much enthusiasm in England at this time. His greatest concern, however, was to see that the needs of a growing population should be met. Canon Leach was succeeded in 1876 by the Rev. G. W. Kennion, who left the Parish to be consecrated Bishop of Adelaide, in 1882 and is now bishop of Bath and Wells. During Bishop Kennion's time the Mission Church of Dirkhill was built on a site given by Mr. Powell, and the Bishop gathered a strong staff of six curates around him. Among these was the Rev. Rawdon Briggs, now Honorary Canon of Ripon, who came to the Parish in 1876 and has been Vicar since Bishop Kennion left in 1882. During Canon Briggs' time, the Mission Churches of Bramley Street and Dirkhill have been enlarged at a cost of £1,400. Mr. Powell took his share in this as in all extensions of the Parish. He also added an Infants' School to the existing school buildings at All Saints', and improved the Church by building a Clergy Vestry, and re-building the organ at a cost of £850.



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, BRADFORD

He addressed the parishioners every year at their New Year's gathering in All Saints' Schools, and attended the Anniversaries at the Mission Rooms. Lady Powell and he, entertained the Sunday School children every Whit Monday in the field in front of Horton Old Hall, and gave each child the time-honoured school-treat bun with their own hands. Every Christmas, the All Saints' Choir boys sang and were regaled in good old English Style in the dark panelled hall of Horton Old Hall with its old pictures and armour, high mullioned windows, oak gallery and blazing fire. However busy he had been during the week, Sir Francis attended both the morning and evening services on Sunday at All Saints' with the greatest regularity, sitting in the front pew under the pulpit with Lady Powell. For many years he read the lessons, and continued to take round the Alms dish until the end of his life. He objected to any innovations in the Church services, whether Ritualistic or Evangelical. On this account he was always glad to return to the dignified Cathedral service at All Saints' after the many changes and chances which befell him at the London churches which he attended. Though he took a common-sense line of his own on many points,—he objected for instance to a proposed abandonment of the system of pew rents, which was a convenience to many as well as a source of income to All Saints'.—he loyally supported his Vicars both with advice

and money. Canon Briggs writes of him, in a letter dated February 8th, 1913 :—

“No squire could take a more real and deeper interest in the spiritual welfare of a Parish than he, constantly writing and asking how we were faring, when he was busy with his Parliamentary duties, either at Wigan or in London. Our Church was his child of which he was greatly proud, He grudged no time given for anything that it needed, and no reasonable appeal made on its behalf was ever refused. There are few clergymen who have enjoyed the friendship of such a faithful and kind patron as has been my privilege during the whole of the past thirty years.”

ST. COLUMBA'S CHURCH AND SCHOOLS, BRADFORD.

Notwithstanding the building of Dirkhill Mission Room Church and Schools in 1877 and the additions to them in 1883, the population in the neighbourhood increased so rapidly that more Church accommodation became necessary. The congregation at Dirkhill first approached Mr. Powell on the subject in 1890. He promised a site for a new Church, and in 1893 he bought and afterwards walled in the plot of ground on the town side of Horton Grange Road, on which the Church of St. Columba now stands. It was not, however, until January 1899 that he was able to announce at the annual tea party at Dirkhill,

that a new Parish of St. Columba was to be formed from parts of the parishes of Great Horton, All Saints' and St. Andrew's, Lister Hills, and that Lady Powell intended to build the new Parish Church.

From that time there was no further delay. Lady Powell laid the foundation stone of the Church on Whitsun-Monday of the same year (May 22nd 1899), and it was consecrated by Bishop Boyd Carpenter and dedicated to St. Columba three years later on Easter Tuesday, April 1st, 1902. The Wardens presented Sir Francis and Lady Powell with appropriately inscribed prayer books and hymn books to commemorate the day of the Consecration.

The architects of St. Columba's were Messrs. T. H. and F. Healey who had built All Saints'. It is a dignified building in the Early English style and an ornament to the neighbourhood. Sir Francis, on behalf of Lady Powell, paid the most minute attention to all the business connected with it and with the formation of the new Parish. Lady Powell endowed the living and the patronage was invested jointly in her and Sir Francis. At the death of either it was to remain with the survivor and it is to pass eventually to the Bishop of the Diocese. There are no Church Day Schools connected with the Parish, but in 1910-1911, Sir Francis and Lady Powell, assisted by

funds raised by the Parishioners, built a Sunday School and a comfortable Men's Institute, on a site which had to be bought for the purpose. The Sunday School consists of class rooms surrounding a large Central Hall, according to the convenient modern plan which secures quiet and privacy for each class.

The Rev. Aislabie Denham Barker, who had been curate-in-charge at Dirk Hill since 1897, was appointed the first Vicar in accordance with expressed wishes of many Parishioners. His devoted and able ministry has attracted a large congregation and a band of loyal and enthusiastic workers. St. Columba's Church has become a new centre of spiritual life in the neighbourhood.

THE FORMATION OF THE DIOCESE OF WAKEFIELD.

Mr. Powell was one of the leaders of the movement for the sub-division of the unwieldy Diocese of Ripon. The first practical step which appears to have been taken in this direction was the publication of the following circular, dated Halifax, June 2nd, 1875:—

PROPOSED DIOCESE OF HALIFAX.

The wide extent of the Diocese of Ripon, and the vast population included therein, have

during many years caused friends of the Church of England to look forward to the time when a sub-division of the Diocese will become necessary.

The death of Archdeacon Musgrave and the consequent vacancy in the Crown living of Halifax, present an opportunity of no ordinary importance, and it is thought that measures ought now to be taken with a view to the creation of a new Diocese of Halifax.

The revenues of the Parish are considerable, and the Parish Church, which would become the Cathedral, is one of the most spacious and venerable in Yorkshire.

The position of Halifax is such that a Diocese, already containing a population of six hundred thousand, may be formed with Halifax as a convenient centre. The boundary would leave the Diocese of Ripon with a population far in excess of that found in an ordinary Diocese. The assignment of this boundary is, however, a matter of subsequent detail to be settled under the sanction of the highest authorities.

The income of the new See would be derived in part from a portion of the present income of Halifax Vicarage ; partly from Voluntary Contributions.

It is thought that, after making liberal

arrangements for the Vicarage of Halifax, £1,000 per annum may be spared from the revenue of that Vicarage towards the endowment of the See; the augmentation of income from the falling in of leases will produce further emoluments estimated at no less than £1,500 per annum, and it is hoped that the liberality of Churchmen will provide such a contribution—say £50,000—as will raise the income of the future Bishop to at least £4,000.

There is reason to believe that the Bishop of Ripon would offer no opposition to a well-considered plan, and it is not probable that Government would regard otherwise than with favour, a scheme which, like the constitution of the See of St. Alban's, increases the efficiency of the Church by the sub-division of a most populous Diocese. *Halifax, June 11th, 1875.*

Mr. Powell was a supporter of this economical scheme from the beginning. The rival claims of Wakefield to become the new Cathedral City were however, so great that the decision between the two towns had to be left to the Home Secretary, who decided against Halifax. Mr. Powell regretted this, but submitted to the inevitable and helped to work out the Wakefield scheme. In March, 1877, an elaborate statistical table of "Suggestions for New Dioceses in South Yorkshire" was published under his name

together with those of Lord Wharncliffe and Mr. W. Spencer Stanhope. In this scheme the New Diocese of Wakefield was to be constituted as follows:—

Proposed Diocese (Wakefield).

	AREA.	POPULATION.
Taking from Diocese of York the Unions of Wortley, Rotherham, Sheffield and Ecclesall; also Darfield and Normanton Township.	149,038	353,012
Taking from Diocese of Ripon the Superintendent Regis- trars' Districts or Unions of Dewsbury, Halifax, Todmorden, Huddersfield, Barnsley (Silkstone), and Wakefield, with the ex- ception of Darfield and Normanton Township, which are in the Diocese of York.	256,276	559,418
	<u>405,314</u>	<u>912,430</u>

On October 11th, 1878, Mr. Powell explained this scheme and the Act for the extension of the Episcopate at the Ripon Diocesan Conference at Leeds. He pointed out that no such extensions of

the Episcopate as those which were taking place had occurred since the reign of Henry VIII. In his reign were founded five new Sees: Bristol, Peterborough, Oxford, Gloucester and Chester. In the reign of Queen Victoria it was proposed to constitute six Sees: St. Albans, Truro, Southwell, Liverpool, Newcastle and Wakefield. The former five were made by the re-distribution of ecclesiastical revenues, those in our days, in the main at least, by the self-sacrifice of Churchmen. He urged his hearers not to be behind Lancashire where the fund for the Liverpool Diocese was almost complete.

The Wakefield scheme, however, continued in abeyance until 1884, when the death of Bishop Bickersteth, over-burdened with work, led to its revival. In October of that year, Mr. Powell once more drew the attention of the Ripon Diocesan Conference to it, moving that the Bishop be called upon "to name a Committee to carry out the Act of Parliament authorizing the See of Wakefield."

In June, 1885, the subscriptions to the fund of which Mr. Powell was a Treasurer and had contributed £1,000, reached £24,365 out of the £90,000 computed to be required. The new Bishop of Ripon (Boyd Carpenter), published a Pastoral urging the completion of the scheme, and meetings were announced under his presidency at Huddersfield, Leeds, Bradford, Dewsbury,

Keighley and Halifax in rapid succession, from June 30th until July 7th. These were followed by a meeting at the Mansion House in London, on July 14th, 1885. Three years after this (1888), the present Bishopric and Diocese of Wakefield were founded.

Ripon Diocese was the most populous and cumbersome in England before its division and Mr. Powell never had any doubt of the need of this new See. On the general question of the desirability of making more Bishops, he expressed himself in favour of a moderate increase in the Episcopate at the Ripon Conference of 1907, when the question of new Yorkshire Bishoprics was under discussion. Speaking of Bishop's Palaces, he said it was certain that in the future, Bishop's residences would be constructed on a more modest scale, but at the same time he hoped that they would not run impulsively from one extreme to the other. "I believe," he said, "that so long as we live in this mortal state something does depend upon keeping up a certain air of dignity and consequence in connection with every high office."

CHURCH DEFENCE.

All through his life, Sir Francis strenuously resisted all attempts to dis-establish and dis-endow any part of the National Church, and he was an active member and Treasurer of the organizations for Church Defence.

These seem to have been almost excessively careful to define their positions by means of cumbersome titles. Thus in 1859, the "Church Institution and Association of Clergy and Laity for defensive and general purposes" was founded. Mr. Powell became an active worker with this Institution in 1863, when Member for Cambridge. During this time he did all he could for the Church of Ireland, both inside and outside the House, watching the progress of the Irish Dis-establishment Bill of 1869. In 1873 he was elected Treasurer of the Institution with the late Mr. H. Gerard Hoare, which had in the meantime (1871), simplified its name to that of "The Church Defence Institution."

It was not, however, to be allowed to keep this more convenient name when the Church of Wales was seriously attacked in 1892. Archbishop Benson was anxious to have an organization for Church Defence in every Parish and founded a "Central Church Committee" with this object. Sir Francis saw that it was a mistake to have two organizations with the same object, and took a leading part in the delicate negotiations which resulted in their amalgamation in October, 1896. "The Church Committee for Church Defence and Church Instruction" (now known as "The Central Church Committee for Defence and Instruction") was thus evolved, and Sir Francis remained Treasurer of this amalgamated body by special

request of the Archbishop. Throughout his political life he was an actively working member of these various bodies, which served one object with such a multiplicity of names. He attended their various Committee and sub-Committee Meetings with great regularity, and patiently studied the details and difficulties of their organization. He frequently visited the Church Defence Office on his way to the House of Commons and helped its Committee to defeat such Bills as the Welsh Disestablishment Bill of 1895. His was also a familiar figure on the platform at Church Defence Meetings.

As already stated, Sir Francis was a regular attendant of the York House of Laymen. He was elected a representative of the Diocese of Ripon in 1892, the date of the constitution of the House. He was made its Vice Chairman on May 8th, 1901. He continued to hold that office until May 25th, 1910, and was a Member of the House until his death.

He attended the first Church Congress which was held at Cambridge in 1861, and was a regular speaker at subsequent Congresses for many years.

He was Member of the Councils of Selwyn College, Cambridge, and of the Whitelands and St. Katherines, Tottenham, Training Colleges for School Mistresses : Governor of St. Mark's College, Chelsea : Vice-President of the Incorporated

Society for Promoting Enlargement, Building and Repairing of Churches and Chapels : Trustee of St. Margaret's Church, Ilkley, since its foundation : connected for many years with the Ripon Training College and the Ripon Diocesan Lay Helpers' Association : a constant subscriber to the Church School Masters and Mistresses Benevolent Institution and a Member of the Standing Committee of the S.P.C.K. from 1875 until 1887. Perhaps, however, it was the "National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church" to which he was most devoted. Its Secretary, Mr. Talbot Baines, writes :—

July 26th, 1913.

"He first became a Member of the National Society's Committee in 1864. Under the Constitution of the Society the elected Members of the Standing Committee go out by rotation every four years, but are eligible for re-election; and Sir Francis Powell's repeated re-election at those intervals for over 45 years, until his retirement, was a striking proof of the confidence reposed by the Members of the Society in his faithful and effective advocacy of its principles."

"There was hardly any leading Church Society," wrote a correspondent in the "Record" (*Jan. 12th, 1912*), at the time of his death, "of

which he (Sir Francis), was not an active supporter, but the National Society perhaps owed more to him than any other. A former Secretary said of him, "You can always rely on Powell. He never shirks work. His judgment is so accurate, that once he is convinced any particular course he is taking is right, nothing will change his opinion or make him compromise. His piety and his work are alike unostentatious but real. The late Bishop Bardsley (of Carlisle), a brother-in-law of his, once said: 'If England possessed a hundred Members of Parliament of the sterling worth of Francis Sharp Powell, humble, honest, fearless, one who never knew an idle hour, wise, patriotic, God-fearing, the face of Society, the position of Church and State alike would be transfigured.'"

CHAPTER III.

NINETEEN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

MR. POWELL, one of the most patient and indomitable wooers of the suffrages of the English people who have ever lived, was first returned to Parliament as Member for Wigan in 1857 at the age of twenty-nine. He contested the seat unsuccessfully in 1852 and 1854, and again in 1859.

He was introduced to the electors of the Borough of Cambridge as Conservative candidate in January, 1863. In his opening speech he advocated non-intervention in the American War, which was then the one great question in the public mind. He deprecated alike Lord John Russell's promise of British protection to the Pope at Malta and the cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece. He rejoiced at the freedom of Italy and promised to do all that lay in his power to support the Church of England. In the event he was elected, defeating Professor Fawcett by 81 votes. This victory he repeated at the General Election of 1865, and continued to represent Cambridge in Parliament until the General Election of 1868.

During this time he was indefatigable in his promotion of Working Men's Conservative

Associations, speaking to such Associations on the subject of reform and the Reform Bill of 1867, at Bradford, Wakefield, Cleckheaton, Huddersfield and Leeds. He took up the cry for "Household Suffrage" as embodied in this Bill, saying that the proposal of the Government excluded no man who occupied a house, but gave opportunities of access to the franchise to every family man in England and Wales. Every householder who paid rates was to have a vote. This provision would have excluded all those who occupied houses for which the landlords paid the rates, called "Compound Householders." Eventually, Mr. Disraeli silenced opposition to this limitation by unexpectedly accepting the proposal of Mr. Hodgkinson, Liberal Member for Newark, to abolish "compounding" in the limits of Parliamentary Boroughs. The Bill was passed in 1867 and led to an increase in the electorate of 1,109,711 votes by 1870.

At the General Election which followed in 1868, an alarm was raised that the rate-paying clause in the Reform Act was likely to be a terrible burden on the poor tenant, who now had to pay rates which, under the old system of "compounding," had been paid by his landlord. Mr. Powell, who stood again for Cambridge with Mr. John Gorst (now Sir John) as his colleague, replied that he had not opposed this clause and believed the landlords would re-adjust their rents

to meet its provisions. He made a counter-attack on his opponents by accusing them of an abortive attempt to transfer from candidates to the rate-payers, the expense of erecting the hustings at Elections. Feeling in Cambridge was so strong that Mr. Gorst and he had stones thrown at them in the streets, and at the Nomination on November 21st, they spoke with much difficulty, owing to disturbances and uproar. They were both defeated, and thus ended Mr. Powell's connection with the borough of Cambridge. It is worth noticing, that the poll at this Election was more than double that at the last General Election at Cambridge in 1865, partly owing to the inclusion of the Liberal suburb of Chesterton.

Out of Parliament, Mr. Powell became an active supporter of the National Education Union, whose object was to secure the primary education of every child, by judiciously supplementing the existing denominational system of national education. He spoke for the Union at places as divergent as Newcastle, Leeds, Leicester, Manchester and Oxford, and its objects became largely embodied in the Government Education Bill of 1870. Notwithstanding the fact that this was a Liberal measure, he became one of its warmest supporters. At the beginning of April, 1870, we find him addressing an important meeting at Chatham in support of a petition, praying "your honourable House to pass the Bill in the present

Session of Parliament, preserving unimpaired the principle therein contained, of the liberty of religious teaching." A few days later he was speaking in the same sense at Cambridge in connection with the proposed new schools for St. Matthew's district. The number of children in England without education at that time (April 1870) was estimated to be 1,000,000. He advocated twelve or eighteen months grace before the measure came into operation, to allow time for the building of the additional schools required by voluntary effort, believing that such would be the repugnance of the people to an additional call from the rate-collector, that they would rather build schools for themselves than pay an extra rate for the purpose. At the same time he considered that the moral value to the community of a religious education was sufficient to make unjustifiable John Stuart Mill's demand that those who made use of religious teaching should pay for it themselves, instead of taxing others for it. He advocated that the community 'be trained to respect the Divine Law, "Thou shalt not steal," and the promptings of Christian charity, rather than be restricted from theft by penal settlements, and relieved from want with money extracted by the rate collector.'

At the end of this year, 1870, he became a candidate for election at Marylebone upon the new Metropolitan School Board but was rejected.

In his election address, he urges the importance of elementary instruction on the physical laws of health, then entirely neglected, basing this on his experience as a member of the Royal Sanitary Commission.

In February of the next year, 1871, he contested the seat of Staleybridge and Dukinfield at a bye-election in the Conservative interest. This election was of a most uproarious nature and full of dramatic contrasts. The uproar began the very week after the public funeral of the late Conservative member, Mr. Sidebottom, had cast a gloom over the neighbourhood. The Liberal candidate, Mr. Buckley, was a large employer of labour in the district, and had lately built a new mill in Dukinfield. Mr. Powell was a stranger, but did his best during the week at his disposal to make himself and his views known, ending it by addressing immense open-air meetings, both at Staleybridge and Dukinfield, and disposing of the attempts made to blacken his character by the "*Ashton News*." He stated that he had never before been so enthusiastically received. Then followed the nomination. Twelve thousand people assembled before the hustings. These were at the back of Victoria Market, Staleybridge, and accommodated some 300 persons. In the centre were the Mayor, town councillors, town clerk and other officials. The left side, near the river Tare, was set apart for Mr. Powell

and his friends. On the right, near the Huddersfield Canal, were Mr. Nathaniel Buckley and his Liberal supporters. The crowd nearly broke down the barriers. A plank fell on the Liberal side, after the smashing of a beam. This caused a panic, but failed to do any useful execution for the Conservative cause. The Mayor restored confidence in the stability of the hustings by stepping forward upon them and saying, "Ladies and Gentlemen, let me request you to be as peaceful as possible during this election. It is time that we should redeem our character and conduct ourselves better than we have done for some years past. Therefore let us try to differ without coming to blows."

The writ had already been read, and there followed the proposals and secondings of the candidates, and their speeches. These were made amidst shouts, hissings, groans, free fights and singing of the refrain "We will all sing gay, when Natty comes marching home." "Natty," alias Mr. Nathaniel Buckley, seems to have encouraged his friends to obstruct the proceedings. At length came the show of hands. About a third of the assembly put up their hands for Mr. Buckley, but these included many factory girls and children.

When "Hands up for Mr. Powell" was called by the Mayor, a perfect forest of hands was raised. The Liberals, who had made the most noise, were

so much surprised and dismayed, that they suspected some misunderstanding and demanded another show. The Mayor yielded, and more hands than ever were put up for Mr. Powell. He then declared the show of hands to be in favour of Mr. Powell, an announcement met by deafening cheers and the demand of a poll by the Liberals. In the event Mr. Buckley was returned next day by a majority of 208. Mr. Ralph Bates, Chairman of the Conservative Committee, attributed this result to the fact that their candidate was not a fellow townsman. He added that Mr. Buckley, "since the last Election had gained considerable influence in Dukinfield by opening a new mill. In three months time, however, they would have the ballot (cheers), and then they would not see mill owners bringing up their men to vote."

It is significant that Mr. Powell, who had denounced the ballot in 1865 on account of its secrecy, had declared himself in favour of it, as a necessary complement to the enlargement of the franchise, in his election address on this occasion. He explained this apparent inconsistency, which the Liberals of course pointed out, by saying that the old £10 householders were rightly required to vote openly, as representatives of the class of small householders, many of whom had no votes. Now that all householders could represent themselves, he thought there was no further need for open voting. However this may be, the question

of the ballot which had been fought for forty years, was settled the next year by the tardy passage of the Bill through the Lords.

The sequel of this paradoxical election is thus described in a newspaper of June 26th, 1871 :—

“On Saturday afternoon, a grand Conservative demonstration, accompanied by a procession and gala, took place at the Recreation Grounds, Cheetham Hill Road, Staleybridge, in honour of Mr. F. S. Powell, the late Conservative candidate Staleybridge and Dukinfield wore quite a holiday aspect during the day, and the popularity of the event was demonstrated, alike by the hundreds of pretty flags and banners to be seen in the principal thoroughfares, and the thousands of people abroad, who displayed the *predominating* Conservative colours.”

A presentation was made to Mr. Powell on this occasion.

On August 5th of this year, 1871, he sailed for America with Mrs. Powell in what he described as “one of those fine steamers that cross the Atlantic.” It was a paddle boat. They visited New York, Boston, Quebec, Montreal, Niagara, Chicago, Salt Lake City, the Yo Semiti Valley and San Francisco, returning to New York by way of Denver, St. Louis, Philadelphia and Washington. They went well armed with

introductions, particularly to Bishops of the American Church, Education and Sanitary authorities.

Soon after his return, at the end of the year, Mr. Powell retailed the results of his study of American schools and American methods of education, in a speech on December 23rd, 1871 at the opening of St. Matthew's School-room, Cambridge. He hesitated to express an opinion as to "whether it was an advantage or not that all classes of society should assemble together and receive instruction in common?" He described as a novelty to an English audience the breaking up of entire schools into small class-rooms.

Sixty children in one room under one teacher was then considered a "small class" in America, and was the usual arrangement. Forty is now thought here to be the greatest number which can be adequately controlled by one teacher in a class-room. If the hint had been taken from America in those days and class-rooms had been built instead of the large school-rooms which became prevalent, a vast amount of expensive building, and expensive but usually unsatisfactory alterations to existing buildings, might have been avoided in subsequent years.

He found large schools ranging from 500 to 1,500, where the population admitted of it,

the rule in America. As regards discipline, corporal punishment had already been abolished. In San Francisco, a schoolmaster showed him "with much pride" a school of 1,400 children, where it was unknown. On the other hand, the School Board of a City on the Atlantic Coast was most anxious to abolish corporal punishment, but the parents objected to the proposal "on the ground that such boys as theirs would never be taught without the birch." In New York again, the abolition of the rod seems to have led to chaos. He quotes "the following pathetic lamentation" from the New York report of 1870:—"Indeed so much time many teachers say, is taken up, and their energies exhausted to such a degree in preserving order—in keeping their pupils quiet—that they have little of either left to enable them to give sufficient instruction." The largest amount of religious instruction was given in the schools of Chicago. It was forbidden by enactment in St. Louis and Cincinnati, and optional in New York where every school except one availed itself of the privilege of reading a portion of Scripture at its opening. He visited schools for the black population also, and expresses his satisfaction that they were not only being well educated, but also—owing to the recent American War—being educated as freemen.

The onset of the New Year (1872), found him in the thick of the momentous Bye-Election for

the Northern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire.

The vacancy was caused by the lamented death of Sir W. Crossley, to whose public-spirited generosity and business genius Mr. Powell gave eloquent testimony. The situation was a peculiar one. The militant Nonconformists were resolved to have Mr. Forster's Education Act of 1870 amended, on the ground that it gave too much support to denominational schools, most of which belonged to the Church of England. Churchmen and moderate Liberals supported the Act, as being favourable to religious education, and better than the alternative policy of allowing nothing but secular education in state-supported schools. The Constituency had always been Liberal and was largely under the control of Nonconformists. Should the Liberals nominate a moderate Liberal or an extremist? They adopted the latter course by nominating Mr. Isaac Holden rather than Mr., afterwards Sir H. W. Ripley. The Conservatives replied by nominating Mr. Powell, an 'out & out' Churchman, and a supporter of Mr. Forster's Act, so far as it concerned religious education. This, together with the fact that he had declared in favour of a Ballot Act (though he refused to give unqualified support to the Bill then before the House, owing to its confused nature), enabled him to conciliate a large number of moderate Nonconformist Liberals and Liberal Churchmen.

The main points in his election address were his support of the Church of England as a valuable national asset; distrust of purely secular education, and a desire that the denominational schools should have fair play; the need for Public Health legislation as the result of the recent Royal Sanitary Commission, of which he was a member; the need of a Minister of Commerce; that the remedy for intemperance was to improve the moral tone of the community rather than resort to legislation such as the "The Permissive Bill," then before the House; that publicans should be compensated for any loss due to a new Licensing Bill; that the Government had been negligent in dealing with the Mines Regulation Bill and with the iniquities of the truck system.

The address was published on January 15th, 1872. Large and often noisy meetings were held in all parts of the Constituency. The largest were at Bradford, where St. George's Hall and the New Mechanics' Hall were crowded. The noisiest, judging from the newspaper reports, were at Halifax and Hebden Bridge. At the latter place Mr. Powell was heard with difficulty owing to the uproar and shouts of "Three cheers for Holden." He enjoyed re-visiting Settle, Sedbergh and Dent, and rejoiced that the fells in the valley about Dent, which were waste in the early part of his school-days, were now enclosed and cultivated. When asked at Dent what he thought

of the game laws, he said "he thought the main mischief was from excessive preservation of game. When a man preserved moderately and gave liberally to his neighbours, he did not see that there was any harm in the game laws. Those who preserved game ought to deal more liberally with those around them; then everyone would assist to preserve moderately."

In his speeches the greatest emphasis was laid on the necessity for religious education and the open Bible in the schools. He advocated equal Government grants for Denominational and Board schools, based on their efficiency in secular subjects. He strongly supported the contentious 25th clause of Mr. Forster's Education Act which allowed School Boards to pay the school pence for certain needy children at Denominational equally with Board schools, according to the wish of the parent. He maintained that this was not an acknowledgment of the principle of the concurrent endowment of both types of school, as not one penny of what the Government gave would be spent upon religious teaching.

The Election turned largely on such provisions of the Education Act and on the question of Church Establishment.

The nomination of the two candidates took place from extensive hustings erected in the Bradford Fair Ground, where an immense crowd

assembled. Mr. Powell was proposed by James Farrar, Esq., J.P. and seconded by William Fison, Esq., J.P. He declared from the hustings that he was fighting for the preservation of the Church and for Bible teaching in the schools. The poll took place on February 6th. It was a neck-to-neck contest. At ten, eleven and twelve Mr. Holden was ahead. After that, until the end, Mr. Powell held his own, and on February 7th he was declared to be elected by 44 votes. Though rain fell the whole time, an enthusiastic crowd of eight to ten thousand people stood before the hustings to hear the declaration of the poll. The proceedings terminated with a speech and three cheers for the Queen at the call of the newly elected member.

This was Mr. Powell's last contested Election under the system of open voting. It was a unique victory in the history of the Constituency, which has, on all other occasions, been Liberal. It is said that when Mr. Disraeli heard of it, he did not believe it. During 1873, Mr. Gladstone's Government was gradually falling to pieces. On April 17th of that year, a meeting of the Conservatives of the Northern Division of the West Riding was summoned, and a Resolution passed, congratulating Mr. Powell "upon the ability and assiduity with which he had discharged his Parliamentary duties," and inviting him to stand again. He accepted in a letter

dated "House of Commons, May 1st, 1873."

During the year 1873, as Member of Parliament for the West Riding, Mr. Powell took a leading part in two important events at Bradford. The first was the opening of the new buildings of the Bradford Grammar School in June. In his speech then, he expressed a wish that the school might soon be open to girls as well as boys—a wish which has since been fulfilled. The second event was the meeting of the British Association. Speaking on a paper by Professor Lewis in Section F (Economic Science and Statistics), he claimed that there had been a decrease in expenditure on Poor Law Relief during the last ten years, and that it was an incontrovertible fact that the wages of the working classes had increased in a far larger proportion than their expenses. He regretted the small proportion of their wages spent by the working classes upon rent, which had been shown in the Professor's paper, urging them to create a demand for better houses, by being willing to pay a higher rent. By doing this, he said they would be serving their own interests, as the building trade more than any other, when prosperous, gave employment to large masses of labourers.

The President of the Section, the Right Hon. W. E. Forster, had said that some refused to obey the laws of Political Economy, but Mr. Powell

maintained that all must obey these laws, either as "masters or martyrs," as they must 'obey physical laws. He urged them, therefore, to 'learn and master' them.

During this time he was pressing sanitary legislation on a House occupied by the futile Irish Universities Bill, and on a Government much embarrassed by the financial mal-administration of some of its members. He took a large share in the drafting of the Bill which eventually became the Public Health Act, 1875, and forms the basis of English Public Health administration.

The General Election came in January, 1874. Mr. William Fison was nominated as Conservative candidate with Mr. Powell, against Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Wilson. Mr. Powell remained faithful to the 25th Clause of the Education Act, and his speeches deal principally with Church and Education, as before. There were many hecklers and much uproar at some of the meetings. At Settle, the mob refused him a hearing. At Sedbergh, the landlord of the *White Hart*, the head-quarters of the Liberal Committee Rooms, seems to have successfully interrupted the proceedings from first to last. Most of the questions asked were on party lines, but at Todmorden a mill-hand began this part of the proceedings by shouting out to Mr. Powell, "Why did you stop the whistles?"—a question

which was received with loud laughter. Mr. Powell said he never stopped the whistles, but had given the representatives of the rate-payers an opportunity of stopping them, if the rate-payers did not like them. The matter, however, seems to have rankled, for he was asked later at another meeting with delicate innuendo, "Will you stop the Church bells on Sundays?" The reference of course was to "The Steam Whistles Act," to regulate "buzzers" used to summon mill-hands to their work. Owing to his action with regard to them, Mr. Powell was nicknamed "Buzzer" Powell at this time.

Democratic candidates must beware of interfering with the personal convenience of voters, and it is impossible to say how many votes "the buzzer" may have lost Mr. Powell. Be that as it may, the Liberals rallied, and Lord Frederick Cavendish and Mr. Wilson were returned. The figures were :—

Cavendish	-	-	8,681
Wilson	-	-	8,598
Powell	-	-	7,820
Fison	-	-	7,725

The main consolation was that the Conservatives had gained votes since the Bye-election, when the figures were Powell, 6,961, Holden, 6917.

In September, 1874, Mr. Powell was nominated as official Conservative candidate for a vacancy in the County of Cambridge and Isle of Ely. His opponent was Mr. Hunter Rodwell, Q.C. of Ampton Hall, Bury St. Edmunds, also a Conservative. Mr. Rodwell came forward at the request of the tenant farmers, who were determined to elect him. The walls of the "*Lion Hotel*" at Cambridge were completely covered with "Powell" placards on this occasion, and Mr. Rodwell made a display at the "*Bull.*" Eventually Mr. Powell retired and thereby avoided the risk of the nomination of a Liberal candidate.

CHAPTER IV.

NINETEEN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

(Continued.)

HE passed the year 1875 without an election. On February 1st, 1876, he published his election address as Conservative candidate for the City of Manchester. This was another gigantic enterprise undertaken against great odds. There were 60,000 electors; the Constituency extended from one end of Manchester to the other, and he was a stranger to it, except by reputation. His opponent was Mr. Jacob Bright. The defence of the National Church and Voluntary schools were once more brought to the fore in his address. He also urged the necessity of improving our technical education, so as to enable our artisans to compete on more favourable terms with those of foreign nations. This matter was much in his thoughts at this time, as he had had much to do with the recent inauguration of the Yorkshire College of Science for the benefit of the manufacturing industries of the County. He advocated amendments of the Public Health Laws and commended the action of the Government in passing the Public Health Act of 1875,

much of which he had himself drafted. With regard to social legislation, he said:—"I shall eagerly embrace every opportunity of thus promoting the happiness of all classes." No promise was ever more abundantly fulfilled. He reminded the electors that he was a Lancashire man by birth, and that his prosperity was bound up with their own, and promised heartily to support the removal of the duties on the importation of cotton goods into India. This was a "*bonne bouche*" at the end of his address.

At the meeting at the Conservative Club, St. James' Square, Manchester, at which he was enthusiastically adopted as the party candidate, more than half his speech is occupied with the old point. "Education, I have declared on many occasions, is imperfect unless a citizen is taught duty towards God as well as fear of the Magistrate (*Cheers*)—and I know not how duty towards God can be inculcated in a better manner than by the reading and the teaching of Holy Scripture in our schools on every day of the week." (*Loud cheers.*)

A side educational issue at that time was the question whether education should be made compulsory in Rural Districts, as it had been in Urban. He declared himself in favour of this, and said that with Mr. Hugh Birley, their sitting Member, he had pressed it upon both

Mr. Gladstone's and Mr. Disraeli's Governments. Abroad he advocated the annexation of the Fiji Islands, as a British base in the Pacific likely to keep slavery in check. He supported the Government's move in purchasing shares in the Suez Canal. He blamed the Liberals for the Alabama claims and for the nine millions spent on the Abyssinian War. In business matters he claimed to have been the consistent advocate of Free Trade throughout his political life, and boasted that at Cambridge he had strongly denounced the remaining shilling duty on corn. At the same time the spice of common sense seasoned his economic theory. At the Manchester Town Hall "amid cheers, uproar and laughter," he defended Mr. Disraeli's Government's action in retaining the paper duties in a year when the country could not afford to do without them.

His opponent, who came from Eccles, had been very indignant about the currant duties and in one of his elaborate jokes he said this was natural, for Eccles stood for a corruption of Ecclesia, and Mr. Bright's great political maxim was "Up with the cakes and down with the Church."

His connection with sanitary and factory reforms made Mr. Powell a strong candidate as far as regards social legislation, but at five

o'clock in the morning of July 30th, 1873, he gave a vote which was much canvassed at this election. It was against a motion to omit a clause in Lord Elcho's Master and Servants Act, which exposed to penalties of imprisonment working-men who failed in the performance of a contract. This motion was brought forward in order to make the Bill non-contentious and get it passed in the "dog-days" without adequate discussion. To avoid this undue haste, and to ensure that the measure should be discussed again in detail, and either amended or repealed, he voted against the motion. In spite of his explanation and condemnation of the clause, the matter was brought up again and again at meetings during this election. The fact of his vote to retain the obnoxious clause could not be denied, and the diplomatic reason for his action was hard to explain to heckling matter-of-fact audiences.

He supported the principle of Trades Unionism even in these early days, in a speech at Higginbotham's New Mill, Canal Street, Ancoats, in which he asserted that work-people of this country were "fully entitled to combine for their own protection."

He received a letter from the Trades Unions of Manchester in the course of the election and was delighted by the moderation

and sense of their demands. They desired a more efficient system of factory inspection, and that the sanitary condition of factories and workshops should be improved. He had worked for both these ends, and was able to express himself in general agreement with all the wishes expressed in this letter. He was also able to remind his working class audiences that the Conservative Ministry had made their savings more secure by improving the laws affecting Friendly and Building Societies. He went on to boast of the Reform Act of 1867 in the same speech, but was answered by a wise Conservative voice—"a leap in the dark!"

No stone seems to have been left unturned to find grounds for personal attack during this election. He was accused of turning his back on Wigan, of contradicting his principles by holding grossly insanitary property, of giving two sums of £100 to Manchester Institutions in order to secure votes. All these charges were easily contradicted by the facts, but their appearances on the hoardings may have done him injury.

At a meeting in the Memorial Schools, Howarth Street, he produced a telegram found in the street, asking a Bradford man to send information against Mr. Powell, and promising that the name of the sender should not be

divulged. His characteristic rejoinder on this occasion was "Dont leave telegrams about in the street," and he generously refused to publish abroad the names of those concerned in the telegram. There was much organized disturbance, particularly at the Town Hall, where the disturbers forced their way through the doors opening on to the platform.

A feature of the election was his vast meeting at the Free Trade Hall, on February 7th. An account of it can be given in his own words, quoted from a private letter written the same evening from the Conservative Club.

"We have had the most marvellous meeting. The Free Trade Hall in Manchester—the largest room in this City, probably the largest room in England—was not only crowded, but the number of those unable to get in was equal to those admitted. Birley kindly went out and addressed those outside. The crush and consequent noise were such, that until this step was taken I could not proceed. I spoke one hour thirty minutes, and then went outside and gave them another speech. Our friends are in raptures. They say it was—some the very best, others one hundred per cent the best speech—ever made in that room on a political occasion. Of course I can feel no confidence in the result, as we deal with 60,000

voters, but I think there is some ground for hope. I am feeling perfectly well, but am living with extreme care."

The writ arrived two days later. The nominations took place on February 14th, and the poll on February 17th. All his available time was occupied by constant meetings in all parts of the City, but he lost three opportunities of addressing the Electors through enforced absence to attend the funeral of his Father-in-law, Mr. Matthew Gregson, at Liverpool. The result was another disappointment, mingled with triumph on account of the unique magnitude of the poll.

The figures were :—

Jacob Bright	(L)	22,536
F. S. Powell	(C)	20,974
		<hr/>
Liberal Majority		1,562
		<hr/>

Whatever may have been the effect on the Poll of the dastardly attacks made on Mr. Powell's personal character during this election, his friends were not content to let the matter rest. The Wigan Conservative Men's Club, the Wigan Conservative Association and the Cambridge Junior Conservative Club showed their indignation by presenting him with Addresses (See Appendix) of which—as a large

property owner and public man—he was justly proud. Two of them still hang in his dressing room at Cambridge Square, where he could always see them.

In his speech of thanks at Wigan he said:—

“When the attacks were made respecting my actions in a particular district in Yorkshire, I consulted the most eminent engineer in the district. I asked him to visit the property and make an independent report. He made the report and he found that the property was in a condition eminently satisfactory; and went on to state in reference to many portions of it that so satisfactory was its condition that no improvement known to science and no amendment could be made I consulted the highest legal advice within the reach of any Englishman, and I was advised that if I did take proceedings, those proceedings would result in a manner satisfactory to myself; but those whom I consulted proceeded to say that ‘they advised Mr. Powell to treat the matter with the contempt it seemed to them to merit.’”

This speech ends with a review of his position at that time: “It has fallen to my lot to fight many a hard battle for the Conservative cause, and I have at least this

gratification that if I have not in my own person always been successful, the cause has been served. It was my duty to accept the invitation of the northern division of the West Riding in 1872, because I would not permit that constituency to be represented by one who was in favour of secular education, and the disestablishment of the Church. It was my duty, at least I thought it to be my duty—in 1874, not to desert my friends. It is true that upon this occasion I was not successful, but the cause was served, because no man dared to appear before that division of Yorkshire who would speak one word against the Church of England, or utter one syllable in favour of secular education. It is true that when accepting the invitation of the Conservatives of Manchester the majority of votes was not cast in my favour; but there was given me a larger number of votes than had ever been previously recorded in favour of any candidate* in any constituency in Great Britain or in Ireland. I received 1000 votes more than even my friend, Mr. Birley, and I received between 2000 and 3000 more votes than were recorded at the strictly party vote of the Election of 1874. I therefore repeat once more my gratitude to the Conservatives of Manchester, and my acknowledgment of the

* *i.e.* Conservative candidate.

manner in which they fought by my side on the occasion of the last election."

In July, 1877, a testimonial was presented to him by his Manchester friends at his London house, No. 1, Cambridge Square. The Addresses from Wigan and Cambridge were in the room, the latter in its beautiful silver casket, and the deputation consisted of the following old friends:—The late Sir J. W. McClure, Bart., Chairman of the Manchester Conservative Association; Messrs. Gatrix, Windsor, Rose and Birch, Vice-Presidents; and Messrs. Hugh Birley, M.P., J. R. Tennant, M.P., W. S. Stanhope, M.P., J. E. Gorst, Q.C., A. G. Marten, Q.C., M.P., L. R. Starkey, M.P., J. Hick, M.P., Basil Woodd, M.P., Thomas Knowles, M.P., Edward Hardcastle, M.P. Mrs. Powell, their hostess, was the only lady present. In his speech of thanks he not unnaturally dwelt upon the social progress which he himself and so many of those present had helped to bring about. Speaking of Lancashire, he said:—"I can remember the time when the factory lamp was lighted early indeed in the morning, and when it burnt far into the night; when there were to be seen at each street corner during the brief hours of leisure, weird and haggard forms, the victims of industry; when the streets were encumbered with refuse, themselves scarcely passable by carriages;

when water was hardly obtainable, and when its quality was so mischievous that its scarcity was by no means its chief defect; when the habitations harboured wretchedness and disease; and when education was in a great degree unknown. Can it appear surprising that in those days there was discontent in Lancashire and Yorkshire? . . . Happier indeed are the days in which we live. Legislation has been active and the condition of the people has improved. That reform has been accomplished in no small measure by the Conservative party."

From the Manchester election to the dissolution in March, 1880, the country was agitated by the Afghan and Zulu wars, but the predominating interest was the Eastern question, produced by the Bulgarian atrocities and the Russo-Turkish war, and ended for the time by the famous 'Peace with Honour' Treaty of Berlin in 1878, in which Mr. Disraeli and Lord Salisbury represented this country. Mr. Powell defended Mr. Disraeli's foreign policy throughout this time on many platforms, and came forward for the third time at the 1880 General Election as Conservative candidate for the Northern Division of the West Riding with Mr. C. S. Lister, afterwards Lord Masham, against Lord Frederick Cavendish and Sir Matthew Wilson.

In his election address, dated March 15th,

1880, he declares :—“ With Home Rulers and their devices I have not and never have had, any sympathy. It is the first duty of a statesman to maintain the integrity of the Empire.” As regards our foreign policy he maintains that “the foresight and energy of the Government have preserved this country from war, and have defeated the ambitious designs of Russia ;” that “the action of Lord Beaconsfield in relation to other countries has received the emphatic approbation of Parliament,” and that it remained for the constituencies to determine whether a change of the administration of foreign affairs “at a critical moment” was desirable. In answer to a question at Clayton as to whether the Conservative candidates would support a proposal to put an impost on corn for the protection of farmers, Mr. Powell declared himself a “Free Trader altogether,” and Mr. Lister a “Protectionist altogether.” This difference of opinion however did not affect the voting to any important extent.

The contest seems to have been conducted on party lines, but Mr. Powell had to waste much time in refuting the charge of being a Home Ruler. He had promised the Manchester electors that he would vote for Mr. Butt’s Resolution in favour of an inquiry into the question of Home Rule for Ireland, should the majority of the Irish members desire it. He did this merely from a sense of justice, but, with the

loose logic of party politicians, it was interpreted to mean that he had a lurking love of Home Rule.

His speeches dealt for the most part with foreign policy, and the use made by the Conservative Government of Mr. Gladstone's surplus. He claimed that it had been paid back to the tax-payers in the form of reduced Income Tax, by the abolition of the Horse Tax (which restored into the pockets of horse owners £840,000 a year), of the tax on sheep-dogs, and of the sugar duties, and by the reduction of the National Debt.

The result was another defeat which can hardly have been a surprise. Mr. Gladstone was at the height of his popularity in Yorkshire at this time, being at the top of the poll at Leeds with 24,622 votes, and there was a swing of the pendulum throughout the country.

These uphill fights were fought one after the other with an energy which never flagged, and a courage undaunted by defeat, at a great sacrifice of money and personal inclination. They won the warrior that respect of all political parties, which he retained and increased until the end of his life.

It is a pleasure to find him returning at last to his old home among the burgesses

of Wigan, who elected him once more after an interval of twenty-two years. The vacancy was caused in 1881 by the death of the Earl of Crawford and the succession of his son, the sitting member for Wigan, to the title. His opponent was Mr. J. Lancaster. The first public meeting was held in the Theatre Royal, King Street, where Mr. Powell was most enthusiastically received by about 3,500 people. He had similar receptions in all parts of the town. He could address his audience as old friends. He reminded them in the Scholes Ward, that he had watched the building of their church, St. Catherine's, from the windows of Bellingham Lodge. At Bishopgate his mother had been educated, in the very house in which he was then a guest. At Clayton Street he told them that he had laid the foundation-stone of the school in which they were meeting. He was most kindly received in the homes of the colliers, but alluded frequently in his speeches to his distress at the poverty which he found there, confessing that it was due to the difficulties produced by the recent Employers Liability Act. He advised free and friendly discussion between masters and men which, he said, was sure to lead to the overcoming of their difficulties. Everything depended on the maintenance of a friendly spirit between the parties.

The campaign terminated with a great Conservative demonstration in the Circus, Market Street, on January 25th, at which over 3,000 people were present. A letter supporting his "old friend," Mr. Powell, was read on this occasion from the late Home Secretary, the Right Hon. Sir R. A. Cross (the late Lord Cross). The result of the poll was a Conservative victory by 476 votes. A petition, however, was lodged, the Election declared void the following March, and the writ suspended. Mr. Powell defended the seat and was declared by the Judge, Lord Bowen, to be free from all blame. On April 2nd he published a letter to the electors, in which he says: "When the petition was presented, it became my duty to defend the seat, not only for my own sake, as your representative, but also in order to protect the town against grave accusations, and to prove that there was no desire on my part, either to conceal or to excuse any irregularities which had been committed without my knowledge, and contrary to the most express instructions given in the clearest words by Mr. Eckersley and myself."

There was never any doubt that Mr. Powell was the true choice of the electorate of Wigan on this occasion. To revenge themselves upon the petitioners, a decided majority of the electors gave him a written guarantee that his seat would

be safe if he presented himself as a candidate at the next General Election.

In 1882 he helped to secure the return of the Hon. A. F. Egerton as Conservative member for Wigan. In October 1884 he was entertained at a complimentary dinner at the Bradford and County Conservative Club and was presented with his portrait by Mr. W. W. Oules, R.A., which had been subscribed for by upwards of 300 Yorkshire friends.

At the General Elections of November, 1885, and June, 1886, he was again returned for Wigan and retained his seat for 25 years, though never without a contest, until he retired from Parliament in 1910.

On the Queen's Birthday, 1892, he was made a Baronet, to the great joy of friends and foes alike.

At the next General Election, in June, 1892, he was able to claim that Lord Salisbury's Government had kept the peace by a firm and dignified foreign policy; reduced the National Debt by £38,000,000; the duty on tea by 2d. in the pound, on currants by 6d. and on tobacco by 4d., and all with actual profit to the Exchequer, owing to increased consumption. As to his own more personal work he could point to the Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1890, which had been voluntarily adopted by public authorities

representing more than half the population of England and Wales outside London. This Act deals with a multiplicity of details in sanitary administration omitted from the more comprehensive measure of 1875. By means of it Mr. Powell claimed to have benefited Lancashire by preventing the river at Manchester from becoming a mere sewer, emptying itself into the new Ship Canal.

He opposed the Eight Hours Bill for miners until such time as the miners themselves were unanimously in its favour. Quoting the evidence recently laid before the Labour Commission, he says: "I find these miners, one after another, say an eight hours' bank to bank means seven, six or even a less number of hours at the face, and I want to know how you can lower the hours at the face without diminishing the get, and consequently without lowering the wages Does anybody think that Parliament, after having passed a Bill to reduce the hours of labour, will also pass a Bill to keep up wages?" (laughter). Recent events show how the claims of labour upon capital have altered since these words were spoken at the General Election of 1892.

Another Act at which he had worked during the past Parliament for the benefit of Wigan was the Cotton Cloth Factories Act of 1889. This Act regulated the condition of

the atmosphere in factories in which cotton was steamed, and was the first step towards improving what had been a very unhealthy occupation.

It was thus with a record of useful work on their behalf that he successfully appealed to his old constituents on this occasion. At the next General Election in 1895 his majority was increased from 110 to 874, and in addressing the crowd from the dining-room window of the Conservative Club in Market Street after the declaration of the poll he pledged himself as follows:—"Depend upon it, the effect of this Election is to make me more and more bound up with the people of this town (Applause) "and my connection with you will only end with the termination of my command of physical energy."

He was destined to fight two more elections before this time arrived,—the so-called Khaki Election of 1900, and the General election of 1905. At his nomination as candidate at the latter, which proved his last election, his proposer, Mr. Alderman Gee, referred to the fact that there were both Liberal and Labour candidates in the field. "If there had been such a thing as gratitude in this twentieth century," he said, "one would have expected that in the case of an old man, seventy-eight

years of age, who had spent the whole of his life for the amelioration of his country, and in season and out of season, many times under great physical disability, had attended his place in the House of Commons that the interests of all classes should be safeguarded—one would have thought that gratitude alone would have suggested that, at this time of life, he should have no opposition." As there was opposition, Mr. Gee urged them to work harder than ever to secure Sir Francis' return, and concluded a most eloquent speech by confessing to "a sentimental reason" for their giving their support to Sir Francis—"he was a fine old English gentleman. They had knowledge of his past—Sir Francis did not make promises which were to be unfulfilled; he was a typical man to represent them, and it could be said without fear or hesitation that Sir Francis had never forgotten the interests of Wigan in all matters which came before him."

The result was that, notwithstanding the Liberal and Labour triumphs all along the line at this Election, Sir Francis was returned with the magnificent majority of 1,368. Although he attended regularly at the House of Commons until the dissolution in 1910, he determined not to stand again, owing to his increasing deafness.

Thus ends the unique tale of Sir Francis' nineteen contested Parliamentary Elections. He fought, regardless of expense, in all the thirteen General Elections which took place during fifty years, and also in six Bye-elections, scoring eleven victories and eight defeats.* His retirement resulted in the election of Mr. Twist, the Labour candidate, at the first General Election of 1910, though he twice visited Wigan in the depth of winter to advance the claims of Mr. R. Neville, K.C. Mr. Neville won back the seat at the second election of 1910 and remains the sitting member.

* For dates, names and figures, see Appendix III.

CHAPTER V.

EDUCATION.

(1) ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

THAT Mr. Powell was an enthusiastic and indefatigable supporter of denominational schools and Christian education has been made clear by the preceding chapter. It remains to give an account of some of the various means which he took to attain his ends.

In 1869 and 1870 he was Secretary of the National Educational Union of which some mention has been made in the last chapter, in order to explain his political attitude on educational questions. This Union was in opposition to the National Educational League, which was designed to propagate a new type of schools at the public expense, in which the education should be purely secular, free, and compulsory. The League maintained that the provision of school accommodation was grossly inadequate, whereas the Union held that it was rapidly increasing and that the existing system of denominational schools only required to be supplemented to meet the increasing demand, and in order to avoid an increase in expenditure from £100,000 to £3,700,000 per annum. School

pence should be continued, as their abolition would involve throwing away £500,000 a year. To meet necessitous cases more use should be made of the law enabling Boards of Guardians to pay the pence for children of parents receiving out-door relief. The conclusion of the whole matter was, as Mr. Powell said in his speech for the Union at Manchester in 1870, that "legislative measures should at once be taken for the completion of the present denominational system."

The result of this widespread educational battle was the introduction of Mr. W. E. Forster's Education Bill of 1870. Wherever Mr. Powell went, he spoke in favour of the principle of the liberty of religious teaching embodied in this Bill.

We find him in April, 1870, addressing an important meeting on the subject at Chatham one day; at Cambridge, in connection with the proposed new schools for St. Matthew's Parish, the next; and later, at Wigan. It was in the interests of the Union that he became candidate for the Marylebone Division on the Metropolitan School Board, in November, 1870, but being unsuccessful, he never stood again.

In 1883, his constant attention to all the details of education was recognized by his being

made President of the Educational Department of the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science, at Huddersfield. The question of over-pressure in elementary schools was brought prominently forward by Dr. Clifford Allbutt and Dr. J. S. Cameron, and he proposed a Resolution drawing the attention of the Government to it. This over-pressure referred more particularly to pupil teachers. At this time these were trained out of school hours by the masters and mistresses of the schools in which they worked during the day, a method which led to over-work. Mr. Powell recommended the present system of Pupil Teacher Centres in secondary schools in the nearest convenient town, and a system of intelligent observation of the health of the children in elementary schools. The latter project was at length realized by the appointment of School Medical Officers under the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907.

After successfully opposing the Education Bill of 1891, he became an ardent supporter of Mr. Balfour's Act of 1902. He approved of the County and Borough Councils being made the single central authority. Owing to their inexperience, he agreed that it might have been better for the Councils to undertake secondary education only at first, had not a more comprehensive measure been urgent on account of the straits of the denominational schools.

Considering the uncertainties of Parliamentary life, he thought it essential that a single comprehensive measure should be passed at once, to avoid further delays. He opposed the principle of local option of the form of school to be adopted.

Dealing with the opposition to the Act in a speech at Wigan in February, 1903, he said, "What the country would require to know was whether the children of the parents of England were to be kept out of their inheritance, and to continue in undeserved ignorance in order to gratify the malice of disappointed statesmen, the anger of choleric Welshmen, and the imperious temper of party demagogues." He recognized that the interests of the children themselves were being neglected in the party conflicts.

He must have been somewhat disappointed for a while in the working of Mr. Balfour's complicated measure. After heralding it as a solution of the education problem, we find him saying at the annual gathering at All Saints', Bradford, in 1905 that "unless the friends of voluntary schools persevered in their excellent labours, he believed religion would vanish from the schools of the country."

In 1906 he championed the Opposition in

the North to Mr. Birrell's Education Bill. He considered that it weakened the security afforded by Trust Deeds. "The security would be no longer in the deed, but in the deed subject to the chances of negotiation, conducted by the trustees and managers for the time being, with all the uncertainties of their humour or disposition. These trustees and managers would often be exposed to pressure, difficult or impossible to resist."

When he stepped on to the platform as Chairman of the meeting to protest against the Bill at St. George's Hall, Bradford, with Lord Hugh Cecil and the Bishop of Manchester, he had a most enthusiastic reception from an audience of 4,000. He happily recalled a meeting in the same Hall in defence of the Welsh Church, at which he had presided in 1895, and predicted a similar victory for the schools.

In 1908 he gave his support to the Clauses in the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, which rendered the feeding of necessitous children by Education Committees out of the rates, legal, and the provision of medical inspection for elementary school-children compulsory. This brought him into friendly relations with the Labour Party in the House. He was on the Committee which investigated the question of school meals, and there can be no

doubt that the harrowing evidence which he heard on that Committee, led him to recognize the need of such meals under existing social conditions, with proper safeguards to prevent "cadging."

In addition to his general interest in elementary schools, he took a detailed interest in all the schools of Wigan and the parts of Yorkshire where his estates lay, and was a generous subscriber to them. At the annual gathering of the Parishioners of All Saints', Bradford, in January, he usually took the opportunity of commenting on the present prospects of the denominational schools, and of impressing on his hearers, over and over again, the need for securing definite religious teaching.

(2) SECONDARY EDUCATION.

BRADFORD GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

"At the Annual Meeting of the Governors of the Free Grammar School of King Charles the Second at Bradford, held at the Talbot Inn in that town, on Monday, the 29th day of September, 1862, it was resolved that Mr Francis Sharp Powell of Horton, he elected a Governor in the place of Mr. W. R. C. Stansfield, who resigned."

On the same date in the following year (1863), the same school records state that "Mr. F. S. Powell attended (i.e. the Governors' Meeting),

and having been duly elected a Governor
. has this day taken the oath required by
the Charter to be taken for the due execution of
the trust reposed in him." He continued
this connection with the school until his death,
48 years later. At the re-opening of the school
in July, 1873, he proposed the vote of thanks to
the Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster, for presiding on the
occasion, which gave him an opportunity of
expressing his admiration for a political opponent,
who was also a friend with whom he had travelled
in the East.

In 1878, speaking of the enlargement of the
school, he said he could remember a time when
the Grammar School had remained small, though
Bradford had increased, and he had seen with
despair 'the dreary room and the empty benches
of the school, and the air of decay which
surrounded the building.' They had then (1878),
400 boys, of whom 50 learnt Greek, with
accommodation for 550, but the Governors
required more money than they might have at
least £20 a boy, wherewith to secure efficient
masters. The number of boys at the time of the
250th anniversary in 1912 had further increased
up to 580, and a Modern Side had been formed.

BRADFORD GIRLS' SCHOOL.

As early as 1873 we have found Mr. Powell
expressing the hope that the advantages given to

boys might soon be extended to the girls of Bradford. The words of the Charter granted by Charles II in 1662 are: "That there shall be one Free Grammar School of King Charles The Second at Bradford, for the teaching, instructing and better bringing-up of children and youth in Grammar and other Good Learning and Literature."

The Endowed Schools Commissioners under Mr. W. E. Forster's Endowed Schools Act, 1869, admitted the claim that this included girls; a scheme was formed and accepted, and the Bradford Girls' Grammar School was opened in 1875, with Mr. Powell as one of its Governors. Though administered under a separate scheme, it has always maintained its connection with the original Foundation, in so far as it draws £250 a year from the Governors of the Boys' Grammar School.

At the opening ceremony there was an evening meeting in St. George's Hall, at which Mr. John Morley (now Viscount Morley) was present. The advisability of the Higher Education of Girls was still being argued, but Mr. Powell, as we have seen, had long supported this movement, and at this meeting put the matter in this form: "What a man desired much," he said, "was opulence and comfort; what he desired more, if he were a wise man, was

sound hearty work; but what he desired most was a healthy home, and home was woman's realm."

Although Mr. Powell's other engagements prevented his giving detailed attention to the management of the Bradford Boys' and Girls' Grammar Schools, he was ever ready to support them on the public platform at any critical stage in their career.

WIGAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Sir Francis was one of the main supporters of this school, at which his earliest school-days had been spent. It passed through most troublesome times during his lifetime, before its establishment on its present basis. He was elected one of its Trustees as early as 1857 and continued to hold that office until 1873, the year of the adoption of a new scheme under the Endowed Schools Act, 1869. In 1879 the school was entirely rebuilt on a new site at the edge of the Mesnes Park, at a cost of £16,000. *Hinc illae lacrimae!* As the subscriptions did not rise to this amount, the required balance was supplied by the town and apprentice charities. In return for this assistance, and as a sort of interest, estimated at £350 on the loan, the Governors guaranteed free education to thirty-five boys to be nominated from the elementary schools of Wigan by the Joint Board of Wigan

Charities. As there were no endowment funds which could be allocated to the cost of educating these boys according to the usual practice of Governing bodies in such cases, the school became embarrassed by what the present Headmaster (Rev. E. C. Chambres) aptly calls a "negative endowment."

In 1896 the Royal Commission on Secondary Education reported that there were 106 boys at the school, of whom thirty-two had to be taught for nothing and that the Headmaster took the fees with £100 from the Trust Funds in lieu of a salary, and carried on the school as best he could, having even to resort to sub-letting the school-house, the large schoolroom and two class rooms.

Shortly after the issue of this report the late Colonel Blundell and Sir Francis lunched together at the Royal Hotel, Wigan, and are said to have agreed to find as much as £800 between them for any additions to the school which the Headmaster might ask for. They then summoned him to their presence and he was obliged to reply that additions would merely be a further burden, as they would entail more expense.

During many anxious years, Mr. Powell, who was created a Governor in 1892 and was

Chairman of the Governors from 1896 until his death, and other well-wishers did all they could to keep the school above water. He allowed some of an accumulating sum which he set aside for a University Scholarship (The Powell Scholarship) to be spent on such requirements as gymnastic apparatus, woodwork plant and laboratory benches. He also contributed £10 a year for school prizes for some years, and £250 to help to clear off its debts in 1892, the year following Mr. Chambres' election as Headmaster.

Brighter days at last dawned, through the facilities afforded by Mr. Balfour's Education Act of 1902. The Governors agreed to make the school premises complete by building laboratories out of their endowment fund, and on this condition the Borough Council undertook to meet the yearly deficit incurred on current expenses. As a result, the School nearly trebled its numbers, rising from 78 to 208, and this increase has been maintained ever since. At the Prize Day in 1906, when the successful completion of these new arrangements was celebrated and the new laboratories were opened, Sir Francis commented on the thirty-nine years during which he had been connected with the management of the school, and said that "Though he had had his discouragements in his life-time, he had always hoped and always succeeded; but as regards the Grammar School of Wigan he

confessed his hopes had been meagre, and he felt that he should have, on his retirement from public life, one failure to record. But what was a failure years ago was no longer a failure. The Municipal Authorities of the town, being rightly endowed with power and responsibility by the Act of 1902, had appreciated the difficult situation and risen to the occasion."

THE POWELL SCHOLARSHIPS.

At the time of the opening of the new school buildings in 1879, Mr. Powell offered a Scholarship at Oxford or Cambridge to the most deserving Wigan Grammar School boy who was eligible. The Scholarship was to be of £50 a year for three years, and no boy who had not been three years at the school could hold it. During the nineties the leaving age at the school had become low, and there were no eligible candidates whose parents were prepared to supplement the Scholarship with an additional £100 a year, necessary for residence at the older Universities. Consequently the money accumulated.

In 1907 Sir Francis allowed the Scholarship to be divided into two of £25 a year, and enlarged its scope to include Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds, or other Universities with the consent of the Governors. £25 about covers the fees of the modern Universities. Owing to the

accumulation of the funds, it is now possible to offer a third Scholarship, and one Scholarship of £25 a year for three years is given annually instead of the original single Scholarship of £50 a year, given triennially.

During Sir Francis' lifetime the terms of the Scholarship seem to have been informal, but it was founded by his Will. Owing to two candidates being equal in 1910 there are at present (January 1913), four Powell Scholars, one at Oxford, two at Manchester and one at Liverpool.

GIGGLESWICK GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

Mr. Powell and Mr. Thomas Yorke of Halton Place, Hellifield and afterwards of Beverley, were first appointed Representative Governors of Giggleswick School by the Master and Fellows of St. John's College, Cambridge, in October, 1872, according to the provisions of the scheme of the Endowed Schools Commissioners dated the 9th day of August of that year. Sir Francis continued to represent the College at Giggleswick until the end of his life. In January 1873, he was nominated a member of the Executive and Finance Committee and was always a member of the London Committee appointed from time to time for consultations with the Charity Commissioners. He attended the General Meetings of the Governing Body with great regularity, and took

a keen interest in all that concerned the welfare of the School. Although specially devoted to Sedbergh, he heartily supported the development of Giggleswick on its own lines, and the late Headmaster, the late Rev. G. Style, to whose kindness the reader is indebted for these particulars, wrote (August, 1913) that "his wide acquaintance with educational affairs in the North of England gave special weight to his counsels."

CHAPTER VI.

SEDBERGH SCHOOL.

MR. POWELL entered Sedbergh Grammar School at the age of sixteen in August, 1843, and left for Cambridge in June, 1846. He was fortunate in having as his Headmaster the Rev. John Harrison Evans, Third Wrangler and Tenth Classic in 1828, and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, 1830. During his school days the number of boys increased from 58 to 95. On the resignation of Mr. Evans in 1861, until it was re-constructed under a new scheme in 1874, the school rapidly declined. There were only six boys in it in 1874, when Mr. Powell was elected a Governor. He was elected Chairman of the Governors in 1876 and presided regularly at their meetings both in Manchester and Sedbergh, until his death in 1911. There were then 210 boys and five boarding houses at the School, and he has been justly called its second founder.

Three new buildings were added in 1879 by Messrs. Paley & Austin, at a cost of £27,250, and a new era was inaugurated at the Prize-giving of



THE OLD SCHOOL, SEDBURGH.

1880, when Mr. Powell announced the appointment of Mr. Henry George Hart, Seventh Classic (1866), and Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, as Headmaster. He also announced on this occasion that "they hoped soon to have a gymnasium, and then, with swimming in the river, and their magnificent playground, extending over 16,000 acres of fells, they would be as well equipped as any school in England."

During Mr. Hart's wise reign of twenty years, the school was completely re-organized on modern public school lines, and new buildings rose up almost year by year. Besides paying for most of these, Mr. Powell gave the minutest attention to the details of the plans, and spared himself no pains in dealing with any matter connected with the welfare of the school, which was submitted to him. As Chairman of the Governors he always presided at the annual Prize Days at the end of the Summer Term, and made the speech of the day. Latterly, other worthies, such as Sir Alfred Hopkinson and Sir Alfred Dale, were invited to give away the prizes, but with few exceptions Mr. Powell did this himself, and hundreds of Sedbergh boys in all parts of the world must have received prizes from his hands. He reviewed the principal events of the past year on these occasions, and generally had some important developments to announce.

In 1883 he was able to report that Mr W. H. Wakefield, one of the Governors, had promised to build a sanatorium to replace the existing one, which the townsmen complained of as being in the midst of the town. He added that another Governor had offered to build a gymnasium. At the subsequent luncheon Mr. Hart called upon the man who had made this offer to speak out, and in the event of this not being done, he coupled the toast of the Governors with the name of Mr. Powell, amid laughter and cheers.

On the 1884 Prize Day he and Mr. Wakefield laid the foundation stones of the gymnasium and sanatorium, with silver trowels presented by Mr. Hart. On the same occasion he read an highly satisfactory report from the examiner of the school, who said: "The boy who knows next to nothing of his subject and sends up papers nearly worthless, seems to be an extinct species at Sedbergh." In nearly all the papers it had been quite a phenomenon for a boy to get less than half marks, and the only fault which this gentleman (Mr. Burtridge) could find with the boys of Sedbergh was that "they gave an examiner too much to do."

In 1885 Mr. Powell announced the foundation of a Greek Testament Prize in memory of Mr. Evans, and to this object nearly all his old pupils contributed.

In 1888 three Sedbergh boys, H. J. Whigham, E. Selby, and B. H. Fell had won Hastings Exhibitions at Queen's College, Oxford. The cricket eleven had beaten Giggleswick, and young Wilkins, son of Professor Wilkins of Manchester, a Governor of the school, had been third out of 1,900 candidates at the London University Matriculation Examination. "Two of these victories," Mr. Powell said, "he mentioned with great satisfaction because young Fell and Wilkins were both Lancashire lads, and he was very glad to find that two boys from Sedbergh had good large Lancashire roses in their buttonholes that day."

The same afternoon he laid the foundation stones of a big schoolroom and three class-rooms, for which he promised £3,000. Mr. Hart gave him a silver trowel on this occasion, aptly remarking that it would go into a perfect armoury of such instruments, with which Mr. Powell had laid similar stones of buildings, which his generosity had provided.

In the following year, 1889, he declared these new buildings open.

In 1892 he had to congratulate masters and boys on their conduct during a serious epidemic of scarlet fever at the school, and in 1894 he rejoiced that the Local Authority had risen to its

duty and improved the drains of Sedbergh. A 'Tuck' shop and a Hostel for the masters had been added, and as regards the chapel for which the masters were then collecting money, he made the following wise remarks :

"First, when a chapel was built, it must be worthy of that great school. It must be solid and massive in character, because it was destined to continue for centuries, and because a building distinguished by these features was most adapted to this district of the hills. Secondly, while it was massive in character, it must be devotional in aspect ; and next, he did not think that succeeding generations ought to have to enlarge the chapel."

The masters persisted in their efforts to collect the funds, and in 1897 the chapel was opened and dedicated by the Bishop of Ripon (Boyd Carpenter), who preached from the text : "Whether is greater, the gift, or the altar that sanctifieth the gift?" St. Matthew xxiii. 19.

The late Bishop Bardsley, Sir Francis' brother-in-law, and the late Bishop Ware of Barrow, were also present at the dedication. At the luncheon afterwards, the Bishop of Ripon proposed the health of the school, rising to the occasion in a speech of wonderful wit, and Mr. Powell responded. The chapel fulfilled his

requirements. It was designed, like all the beautiful new buildings at Sedbergh, by Messrs. Paley & Austin, and is built of rubble from the school quarry. It combines dignity with simplicity, both in its masonry and plain oak fittings. The stained glass is being added by degrees, to fulfil a scheme by Mr. E. E. Kempe.

Sir Francis gave the east window, and Lady Powell the reredos. An admirable illustrated account of the chapel and opening proceedings has been published. (Sedbergh School and its chapel—Leeds, Richard Jackson, 1897.)

Three years later, at the 1900 prizegiving, Sir Francis had to be spokesman to bid farewell to Mr. Hart, who retired from the head-mastership after twenty years service. During this time they had worked together in close consultation over countless details of administration.

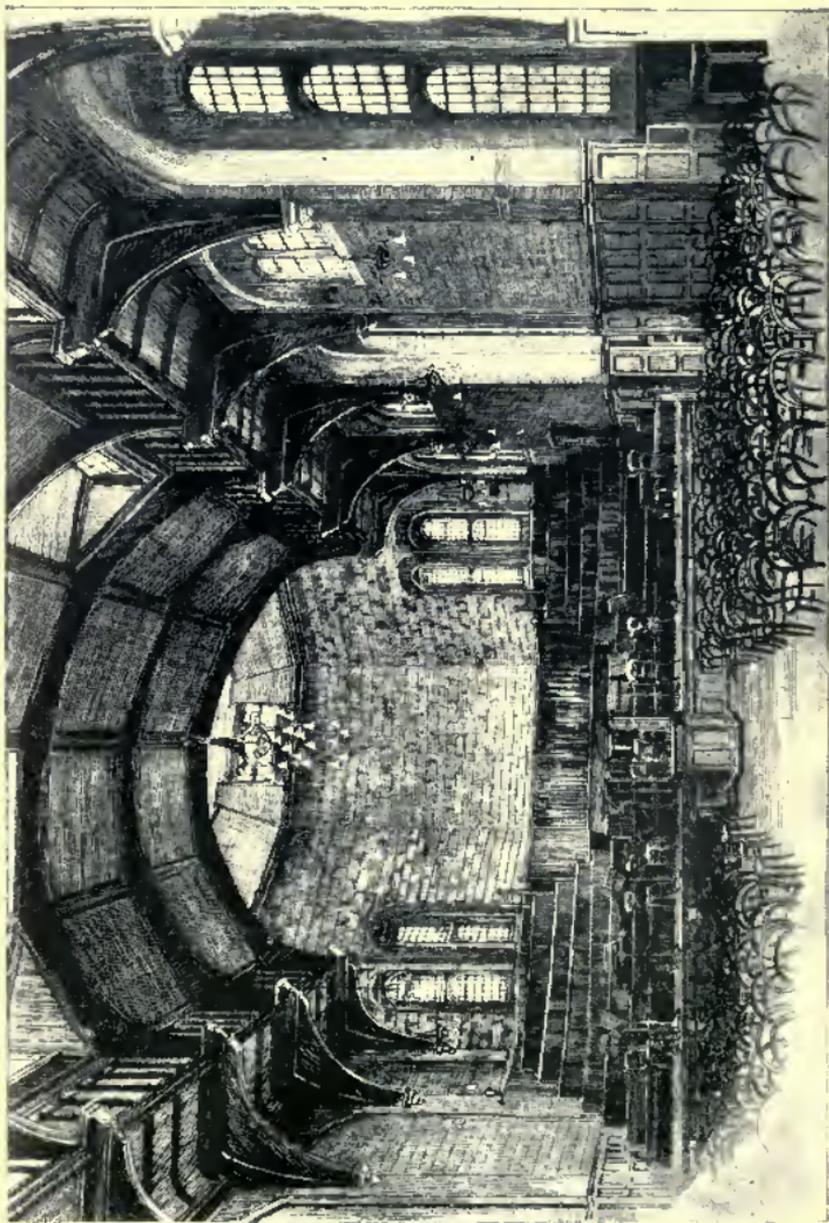
In reply, Mr. Hart said that "twenty-one times Sir F. S. Powell had been looked for on this occasion, and had only failed them once." This was a remarkable record, as these visits always involved a special journey from London and back, generally at the weary end of a Parliamentary session.

In 1901, the first Speech Day under the head-mastership of Mr. Charles Lowry, now headmaster of Tonbridge school, the event of

the past year has been the appeal of more than half the boys, whose patriotism had been stirred by the Boer War, to be allowed to shoulder a rifle. A Cadet corps was formed under the command of Mr. Lowry himself. He was the first Headmaster in England to act in this capacity. The inspection of this corps on prize days became one of Sir Francis' new duties.

In 1904 the prize day was marked by the unveiling by Major O'Shea, of the Cross in honour of six Old Sedberghians, killed in the War. Among them was Lieutenant R. J. T. Digby Jones, the first old Sedberghian to win the Victoria Cross, and Lieutenant F. G. Tait, of the Black Watch, Amateur Golf Champion in 1896 and 1898. The same afternoon Sir Francis laid the foundation stone of the new Hall on March Hill, which was to be named after him, and was built largely at his expense. Two years afterwards (1906), the building was completed, and he had the satisfaction of declaring "The Powell Hall" open. The first music heard in the Powell Hall was the singing of "God Save the King" as arranged by Sir C. V. Stanford. R. E. Atkinson, afterwards three-miler for Cambridge, sang the first verse as a treble solo.

On June 6th, 1906, Sir Francis and Lady Powell opened a Sedbergh Mission Club for boys, at Norton Gate, in their own Parish of All Saints,



THE POWELL HALL, SEDBURGH.

Bradford. The Vicar, Canon Rawdon Briggs, had been invited to address Sedbergh School on the subject in the previous year. The result was that a gloomy warehouse had been transformed into a play-room, a comfortable reading-room and a book-room. A strong deputation came from Sedbergh, headed by Mr. Lowry, and the Bradford boys showed great enthusiasm. Next year, 1907, Mr. Lowry was appointed Head Master of Tonbridge School, and Sir Francis and the Governors had once more the difficult task of choosing a new Head Master. This always caused him the greatest anxiety, and he spared no pains to get the right man. This time the lot fell on Mr. F. B. Malim, of Trinity College, Cambridge, then a most successful House Master at Marlborough.

In 1908, Sir Francis, further improved Sedbergh by giving electric light to the Chapel, School House and Hostel. In 1909 he bought the covered fives courts and presented them to the School, and in 1910, he provided a workshop for manual instruction, and is described in the *Sedberghian* for July, 1910 as having "delivered an oration on that subject with his usual vigour."

The Speech Day of 1911, within five months of his death, proved his last. By this time he was suffering from rapidly increasing infirmities which made railway travelling precarious, but it

never occurred to him not to keep his annual engagement at Sedbergh.

His conduct of the Governor's Meetings is thus described by Professor S. J. Chapman, in a private letter: "I am delighted to hear that you are publishing a Memoir of Sir Francis Powell. I joined the Board of Governors of Sedbergh School in 1902, and then, as you know, Sir Francis was Chairman. I was at once impressed by his striking personality, and was soon convinced that the school was fortunate in having so devoted, capable and generous a Chairman. At that time Sir Francis was already very deaf, but he had a remarkable power of conducting business, nevertheless. He became deafer as time went on. In the case of very many people, deafness would have been fatal to effectiveness in such a capacity. However, it was not so in the case of Sir Francis Powell. Everybody felt (as I think I may say with truth), that his retirement would have been a serious loss to the School. He had high ideals and an amazing grasp of detail. It was his practice, I believe, to discuss different questions with different Governors before the meetings, verbally and by correspondence. In this way proper deliberation on debatable points was insured. Sir Francis was a strong man and generally got his way; but that, I should say, was mainly because his own way was usually the right way. His ascendancy over the Board was

largely due to the members' affectionate regard for their Chairman, and assurance that he carefully weighed points at issue and always had the best interests of the school at heart. It is not too much to describe him as one of the founders of the school as it is now. How lavish he was in his gifts to the school, you know. (The University, Manchester, 27th, April 1912)."

These gifts to the School included school buildings, the gymnasium, the Powell Hall, the cricket field, the east window of the chapel, the fives courts and the workshop. He also often made up awkward deficiencies in its accounts.

It was seldom that neither plans nor other business connected with the School were commanding his attention, either at Horton or Cambridge Square. One of the last serious anxieties of his life was connected with the choice of a new Head Master, when Mr. Malim left for Haileybury in the autumn of 1911; but as long as his mental vigour remained unimpaired, he spared himself pains, neither for Sedbergh, nor, indeed for anybody or anything which he had at heart. His services were fittingly acknowledged by the presentation of his portrait by Mr. Edward Patry, R.B.A., at the 1909 Speech Day. This is eventually to find a permanent resting place in the Powell Hall. In making the presentation Mr. Malim said: "He had done for Sedbergh

what no other Sedberghian, and he believed no other old boy had ever done for his school The English schoolboy was always devoted to his school, but Sir Francis was more than that. He had given them every aid by his wealth, personal interest, and personal service."

The picture was accompanied by an illuminated album, containing the names of the 162 subscribers, and these vigorous and ingeniously rhymed stanzas from the pen of the Head Master:—

London may know you as a keen debater,
 A critic sound, a doughty fighting man ;
 But here we think of you as something greater,
 A loyal and a true Sedberghian.

Elsewhere you go to fight some grim election,
 Amid the clash of party hopes and fears ;
 Hither the spell that draws you is affection,
 And far-off memories of your boyish years.

Through good and ill your love has faltered never,
 You have encouraged, guided, counselled, planned,
 Splendidly fostered every new endeavour
 With the rare bounty of your open hand.

Here is your picture, here is our expression,
 Truest of friends, of gratitude to you ;
 This is the thought of which we make confession
 You have loved Sedbergh and we love her too.

CHAPTER VII.

TECHNICAL AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATION. WIGAN MINING AND MECHANICAL SCHOOL AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE.

The Wigan Mining and Mechanical School was the first institution of its kind in England, having been founded as the result of a meeting in October, 1857, at which the late Lord Derby and the late Lord Playfair delivered addresses. It was opened in August, 1858. Mr. Powell supported it from the beginning, thinking Wigan ideally situated for such an institution, as it was possible there to combine the teaching of the theory of mining with its practice in the pits hard by. He spoke year after year at the presentation of prizes and medals to students at the School, rejoicing to see its gradual increase. This increase resulted, in 1884, in some of its classes being held in the Grammar School buildings, Grammar School boys being admitted to them. Mr. Powell was long content with this method of expansion, as experience made him cautious about embarking on ambitious and

expensive buildings for technical education. When however the time was ripe, he gave both his moral support and the sum of £2,500 towards the building of the large Wigan Mining and Technical College in Library Street. The building of this College, intended not only for Wigan but also for the neighbouring districts, was first mooted by Mr. Alfred Hewlett to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897. The completion of the enterprize, which was closely connected with the colliery industries of Wigan and Lancashire, was wittily celebrated by a local journalist as the "Black Diamond Jubilee of King Coal." The College cost £50,000, of which sum £42,500 had been raised at the time of its completion in October, 1902, when Sir Francis inaugurated the first day of a gigantic bazaar in the new building, held to raise the remaining £7,500 required.

It was formally opened by the Countess of Crawford in 1903. Sir Francis spoke on this occasion, and this School and College must be added to the swelling list of educational institutions which he helped to develop.

YORKSHIRE COLLEGE. LEEDS UNIVERSITY.

Among the earliest organizations for technical education in England were the Mechanics' Institutions. These were particularly flourishing

in some of the smaller towns of the West Riding of Yorkshire. They were intended to teach working-men the scientific principles on which their various industries were based. They largely failed in the sixties and seventies, owing to the lack at that time of a proper foundation of elementary education, and because the working-man was too weary for strenuous intellectual work in the evening, after a long day's manual work. The consequence was that these Mechanics' Institutions tended to become little more than clubs for light reading and recreation. Mr. Powell noted this. He commended the clubs, saying that such clubs for recreation ought to exist in every town and village, but added that the time was come to aim also at something better. He thought that working men might well be brought to understand something of the thought and invention required in order to turn out a bale of wool or cotton. At the same time he urged the study of English literature, and a wider culture. He expounded these views at the annual meeting of the Meltham Mechanics' Institution in 1872, and later in the same year at the annual Soirée of the Skipton Mechanics' Institution. He gave them concrete form when he assisted at the foundation of the Yorkshire College of Science, whose first Session began in October, 1874. By virtue of his donation of £500 towards its funds, he became one of its first

life governors. At the luncheon which formed part of the inauguration ceremonies of the College, on October 6th, 1875, he was called upon to propose the toast of "the manufacturing industries of Yorkshire," in the absence of Sir Joseph Whitworth. In his speech he urged the great need of the application of science to those industries. He added that he had formerly held that Owens College, Manchester, was enough for both Yorkshire and Lancashire, but later experience had brought him round to the opinion that Yorkshire must have an Owens College of her own.

In 1877, the Yorkshire College of Science added an Arts Course to her curricula, and assumed the less limited title of "The Yorkshire College, Leeds." Mr. Powell was elected a member of the Council of the Yorkshire College in 1878, and held this office until the foundation of the University of Leeds in 1904, when he became a Member of the Court and Council of Leeds University. When distributing the prizes at the College in July, 1879, he announced that it was soon to be connected with a University: it might be with Oxford or Cambridge, or with the Victoria University of the North, if chartered. He was able to boast on the same occasion that Yorkshire College had already command of resources, the capitalized value of which was

£105,000, whereas Mr. Owen had endowed his College with a gift of £150,000.

In the following year, 1880, the Charter of the Victoria University was granted to Owens College, Manchester, and the Yorkshire College, Leeds. Yorkshire College, however, did not complete its University Curriculum and take full part in the Victoria University until 1887, when additional Professors were appointed for this purpose. Mr. Powell rejoiced at this consummation in his speech at the annual meeting of the College in 1888, and prophesied the accomplishment of useful work by the new University, which could not be done for the North by Oxford and Cambridge. He never forgot to do a "good turn" in Parliament to institutions with which he was connected, and, during the discussion of the Budget Bill in 1894, we find him speaking on behalf of Victoria University, and helping to obtain the concession from Sir William Harcourt, whereby legacies to Universities were exempt from the Death Duties.

In 1899, at the annual meeting of the Governors of Yorkshire College, he pointed out the inadequacy of the College buildings at Leeds, and set the ball rolling which resulted in the future extensions. In 1902, he raised a plea for a new University for Yorkshire, with its head quarters at Leeds. After much controversy this

idea was dropped, and there were eventually two Charters given for Leeds and Sheffield respectively. Thus, on October 6th, 1904, he had the satisfaction of being present at the inauguration ceremony of the Leeds University. His thirty years' work on behalf of adult education in Yorkshire naturally led to the inclusion of his name in the distinguished list of Honorary Graduates on that occasion, when he received the Degree of LL.D. from the Marquis of Ripon, the first Chancellor, along with the late Duke of Devonshire, the late Earl Spencer (Chancellor of the Victoria University of Manchester), Lady Frederick Cavendish, the late Viscount Cross, and other well known men.

On the death of Sir John Barran he was elected to fill his place as Treasurer of Leeds University at the meeting of the Court on March 2nd, 1906, and held this office until his death, when he was succeeded by Lord Allerton. When acknowledging the honour paid him, he said that he believed there was no public work which brought a richer reward than that connected with such an institution as the Leeds University.

In January, 1907, Sir Francis was present at the Court dinner, and responded to the toast of "The University," proposed by Baron Komura, Japanese Ambassador, who was the guest of the evening. In the following year, on Tuesday,

July 7th, 1908, he took part in the opening of the new buildings by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra. He had the honour of being presented to the King in his scarlet Academic robes, which he wore as Treasurer and Hon. LL.D. of the University. He was then eighty-two, and Pro-chancellor A. G. Lupton, with whom he stayed, writes that "all were much struck by his wonderful vigour throughout a long ceremonial day, including the reception in the morning at the Town Hall, the luncheon in the Mayor's Rooms, and the afternoon University programme; and concluding with a display of fireworks at Roundhay Park in the evening at which he insisted on being present, whilst he left the house the next morning to catch an early train to enable him to preside at a meeting of the Sedbergh School."

At the meeting of the Court in the following July (1909), he paid a moving tribute to the late Lord Ripon, first Chancellor of the University, on the occasion of the presentation to the University of Herkomer's portrait of that nobleman in his Chancellor's robes. He told his audience that Lord Ripon and he were born within a few weeks of each other, and had entered Parliament at the same time, in 1857. Though their views had never been identical, they had agreed on questions affecting education. He prefaced his remarks by saying that he had probably been called upon as

one of the few survivors of those who met together in a back room and took counsel as to how to lay the foundation and as far as possible secure the prosperity of Yorkshire College. Sir Francis took an active interest in the selection of a new Chancellor, and his proposal of the present Duke of Devonshire to succeed Lord Ripon in that office was accepted unanimously by the University Court on December 1st, 1909.

To sum up: Pro-Chancellor A. G. Lupton writes: "In addition to the time and thought given by Sir Francis to the College and the University, his purse was always open to the growing needs of its Finance, and his original donation of £500 had grown at the time of his death to the generous sum of £5,000 The growth of the University during his life is shown by the fact that whilst in April, 1875, donations amounting to £27,000 were announced, the last balance-sheet signed by Sir Francis, that of October, 1911,—shows a capital account in buildings and investments of £397,000."

As a final instance of his persistent anxiety for the welfare of the University, he appeared at the Court on October 20th, 1911, to support the claims of the present Vice-Chancellor, Professor Michael Sadler, for that office. His health was then rapidly failing and, with one exception, this was his last important public appearance.

CHAPTER VIII.

SOCIAL AND SANITARY WORK.

BRADFORD AND WIGAN,

SIR FRANCIS was one of the old school of sanitarians, inspired by Mr. Edwin Chadwick, Dr. William Farr, Sir John Simon, and Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, which preceded the modern school of microscopical research. These men took a broad view of the problems of disease and advocated with inspiring zeal measures to remove the undisputed causes of ill health, dirt, squalor, overcrowding, bad drains and insanitary conditions of labour. They would minimise ill health by securing better conditions of life and a better environment for all classes.

Their work was preventive and it never occurred to them that it was the duty of a statesman to secure doctors and bottles of medicine for every one who wanted them. Sir Francis had a hand in nearly all those sanitary reforms, initiated by these men, which are some of the chief glories of Queen Victoria's reign.

It was to no small extent the result of his

own exertions that he lived to see the age of child labour raised from eight to thirteen; vast improvements in the conditions of labour resulting from "Factory and Workshop" legislation; the prohibition of "back-to-back" houses; the compulsory provision of adequate open spaces in front and behind, wholesome water supplies within a reasonable distance, and good drainage, in the case of every newly built house; the gradual abolition of cellar dwellings; the enforcement of legislation to prevent overcrowding; the virtual extirpation of small pox and typhus fever and the better control of other infectious diseases. As the result of all these reforms, the death rate in England and Wales was reduced during his lifetime from 22·4 (quinquennium, 1846-1850) to 13·5 (1910) per thousand living.

Sir Francis studied buildings and sanitation wherever he went and his own estates, being both in the country districts of the West Riding and in Wigan and Bradford, gave him valuable experience. When out walking, he would often stop and square himself up to look at some new building or disappear down a back yard or into a back street to explore. When he visited any Institution he usually carefully enquired into its ventilation and sanitation, and, when abroad, he studied the sanitary conditions of the Continental towns which he visited.

His first great work connected with sanitation was done as a Member of the Royal Commission in 1871. He drafted much of the Report of this Commission and of the resulting Public Health Act of 1875, although he was unfortunately not a member of the House at this time. In Parliament he took an active interest in all sanitary legislation, particularly in the Housing Acts. He also gave detailed attention to the question of the pollution of rivers, and framed Private Bills on the subject.

In 1890 he introduced his Public Health Acts Amendment Bill and had the satisfaction of seeing it passed into law, after it had been consolidated with Mr. Fowler's Urban Sanitary Authorities (Further Powers) Bill. This Act deals with many sanitary details overlooked in previous legislation. It incorporates into general law enactments passed in local acts on the recommendation of the "Police and Sanitary Regulation Committee" of the House of Commons. Sir Francis first served on this Committee in 1887. He acted twice as its Chairman in 1890 when it sat for fifty days, before being elected Chairman for the whole Session in 1892. As he explained in an elaborate letter to the *Times* dated May 27th, 1890, the time he had devoted to this Committee enabled him to embody in his bill a complete collection of clauses recommended by the Committee.

The act is adoptive and, by the adoption of its provisions, Local Authorities can now obtain powers which could before only be obtained by the expensive and cumbersome procedure of local bills. It also tended to reduce the labours of the Police and Sanitary Regulations Committee which had become so exacting that it was almost impossible for its members to attend properly to their other Parliamentary duties.

Sir Francis urged for many years the importance of granting security of tenure to Medical Officers of Health—a principle which has been embodied at last in Mr. John Burns' Housing and Town Planning Act. He also supported bills for the superannuation of Medical Officers of Health, with pensions on a contributory basis.

He was President of the Health Section of the Congress of the "National Association for the Promotion of Social Science" held at Manchester in 1879, and allusion has already been made to his recommendations with regard to overpressure and the health of pupil teachers and scholars when he was President of the Education Section of a similar Congress held at Huddersfield in 1883.

He became a Member of the Sanitary Institute of Great Britain in 1886. This Institute amalgamated with the Parkes Museum in Margaret Street in 1888, to become the Royal

Sanitary Institute. It is now housed in more spacious buildings in Buckingham Palace Road.

Sir Francis was a regular speaker at the sumptuous annual banquets of the Institute at which he supported the late President H.R.H. the Duke of Cambridge and the present President, His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, and had the opportunity of making acquaintance with leading engineers, architects and physicians who were the guests of the evening. In 1894 he was elected a Vice President of the Institute and had the honour of presiding over its annual Congress at Liverpool. In his presidential address, as in duty bound at Liverpool, he drew special attention to the abolition of quarantine, quoting the words of Sir John Simon (L.G.B. Report 1892). "Where great commercial countries are concerned, it can scarcely be dreamt of that quarantine restrictions will be anything better than elaborate illustrations of leakiness." He urged the necessity of "prompt and effective action" with regard to the pollution of rivers, reminding his hearers that, at the opening of the Manchester Ship Canal in 1892, Her Majesty the Queen had been prevented from passing more than a few yards down the Canal owing to the state of its waters. Though he said that further legislation was needed on this subject, he proclaimed the general truth that it is not more laws but the more thorough administration of existing sanitary laws which is required. This is

becoming more and more difficult to attain in these days of rapid legislation, often without financial provision for the necessary increase in the staff of Medical Officers of Health.

Sir Francis also made use of the Royal Statistical Society as a source of information. He became President of this Society in November 1904, when he delivered an elaborate inaugural address. In this he compared the number of scholars and the cost of educating them in England and Wales, Scotland, the United States, France and Germany. He next discussed School Hygiene and the statistics dealing with the wastage of School Teachers; that is to say the numbers of teachers who leave the profession before they have served their time, after having been trained at the public expense. This address is an elaborate compilation of facts and figures composed during his summer holiday, while he was still in Parliament and in his seventy-eighth year.

CHAPTER IX.

MUNICIPAL LIFE AT BRADFORD.

BRADFORD BOARD OF GUARDIANS.

MR. POWELL took the Oath as a Justice of the Peace for the West Riding of Yorkshire on December 4th, 1862 and this entitled him to be an ex-officio member of the Board of Guardians of the Parish within the Division in which he resided. He thus early became a member of the Bradford Board of Guardians and was afterwards regularly co-opted a member of each succeeding Board. Writing to the Chairman, Mr. J. H. Bentham, from the House of Commons, on April 22nd, 1901, in reply to a cordial invitation to join the Board once more, he thus expressed his position:—"It would be a great pleasure to continue my connection with the Board. I have always felt a keen interest in Poor Law Administration, involving as it does so many questions of the highest interest and affording so much opportunity of performing useful service. It has always been my endeavour to aid the Board by every means within my

power, and I have found knowledge gained in our Board Room of considerable value when matters relating to the Poor Law are under debate here." When resident at Horton, he attended the meetings of the Bradford Guardians as regularly as he could; he was always ready to intervene with the Local Government Board in London on their behalf and carefully watched the progress of legislation, which affected them, at the House of Commons.

This work brought him into constant communication with Mr. J. H. Bentham, Chairman of the Bradford Board of Guardians, who has preserved a series of his letters on Poor Law business. These letters are all brief but they prove how unbiassed his opinions were on these matters and how anxious he was to avail himself of Mr. Bentham's large experience as Chairman of the Guardians.

Although they were on opposite sides in politics, Sir Francis regularly signed Mr. Bentham's nomination papers at the Guardians' Election and rejoiced at his success.

They both adversely criticised the Unemployed Workmans' Bill introduced by Mr. Gerald Balfour in the summer of 1905. Speaking in the House of Commons on the second reading of this measure Sir Francis declared his dislike of the enormous powers which it gave to

the Local Government Board and regretted the proposed creation of a new authority for the relief of destitution, as he thought that the existing Boards of Guardians sufficed for the purpose. He said that the law would encourage those employed under it to continue in the employment of the local authority and would create a new dependent class in the community. He added that its financial provisions were quite inadequate.

In the autumn of the same year, 1905, Sir Francis helped Mr. Bentham to secure the presence of Mr. Gerald Balfour, then President of the Local Government Board, at the opening of the Bradford Union Infirmary, which is one of the best equipped hospitals in the country. It is close to Horton Old Hall, and Sir Francis and Lady Powell had the pleasure of entertaining Mr. Gerald Balfour there after the opening ceremony. In the preceding year, Sir Francis had himself had the honour of opening the Bradford Union sanatorium for pauper consumptives at Eastby. This was the first sanatorium of its kind in England.

Throughout 1906 Sir Francis was in constant communication with Mr. Bentham concerning the provision of meals for necessitous school children. The "Relief (School Children) Order" issued by the Local Government Board in 1905,

which made the Guardians of the Poor responsible for this duty, had not been entirely successful; the Departmental Committee on "Medical Inspection and Feeding of Children attending Public Elementary Schools" appointed by Lord Lansdowne, President of the Board of Education, had issued its report and further legislation was framed. This resulted in the Education (Provision of Meals) Act 1906. He served on the Committee dealing with this measure which sat for ten days and was deeply impressed by the evidence. It convinced him of the necessity of enforcing the principle of the measure for the benefit of helpless children. He therefore supported the measure but did his best, aided by Mr. Bentham, to secure that the cost of the meals could be promptly recovered from parents who were found after investigation to be able to afford to pay. The Act transfers all powers in the matter from the Guardians of the Poor to the Local Education Authorities. Mr. Bentham, as Chairman of the Bradford Board of Guardians, which had already tackled the question, was naturally anxious that the two bodies should co-operate and Sir Francis tried hard but failed to secure the inclusion of Guardians on the local sub-committee dealing with the matter.

Sir Francis' knowledge of the conditions of Bradford and his service on the special committee, appointed to obtain evidence in connection

with this bill, made him realize the seriousness of the need for legislation on this subject. He was so indignant at the frivolous attitude of some of his colleagues that on one occasion he left the House in disgust during the discussion of the measure. These are his words in a letter to Mr. Bentham dated December 8th, 1906. "I left at that point. A little clique, not twenty in all, were the sole survivors of our benches. Their action was frivolous and childish: and I saw no good in remaining any longer, as I could not associate myself with silly people."

Although Sir Francis supported the measure for feeding necessitous children out of the rates when other means had failed, he much preferred that this work should be performed by voluntary agencies. He subscribed to the Mayor of Bradford's Fund for this purpose in January 1907 when the Act had just come into operation and took the opportunity of emphasizing his preference for voluntary philanthropy to rate aid in these cases, when Chairman at the annual meeting of Bradford Royal Infirmary Samaritan Society in January 1909.

In 1906 Sir Francis was President of the annual conference of the representatives of Yorkshire Poor Law Unions held at Bradford. In his address he rejoiced that "in well ordered workhouses, such as Bradford's, the sick and

decrepit had every consolation and comfort. The pauper attendant was going or had gone and the trained nurse occupied the place to which she ought long ago to have been summoned." He suggested industrial colonies for the "sturdy vagrant," and prison if these failed. He commended the adoption of the system of "boarding out" pauper children and said that they should always be sent preferably to the elementary schools and not educated within the walls of the Unions. In March, 1897, he expressed much the same views as president of a conference organized by the Central Committee of Poor Law Conferences at the Guildhall in London. During the last years of his life he seemed to take at least as much interest in the physical well-being of children as in their religious education.

FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF BRADFORD.

It is a rare distinction to be made a Freeman of the City of Bradford. The late Sir Henry Mitchell was the first to receive it, a few days before his death. Next came Lord Masham and on October 24th, 1902, the names of Mr. Alfred Illingworth and Sir Francis were added to the list. The ceremony of signing the roll took place in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall. Alderman Willis Wood and Alderman Ratcliffe proposed and seconded the motion "that the said

freedom be now presented" and a letter was read from Lord Masham expressing his regret at his inability to be present. In the course of it he wrote:—"It would have been a great pleasure to me to welcome the two gentlemen to their new dignity as I have known them almost from my boyhood. No better choice could have been made as they are both thoroughly representative men and their lives and the results of their lives form a remarkable object lesson to the rising generation. For one, born to a fortune, has shown how it may be well and wisely spent—how seldom is this the case! for it is easier to make a fortune than to spend it wisely and well!—the other how by hard work, patient industry and business aptitude a man may rise from the ranks and take a leading position among his fellow townsmen."

In his speech Sir Francis returned special thanks for the handsome gold casket containing the certificate of freedom. He said it would "go down to other generations as a precious memorial of the past, and might, perhaps in an hour of despondency, encourage younger men and younger women in a future age to renewed exertions for the benefit of their fellows." He referred to the exceptional need which had led him in early days (see pp. 32) to use his exertions for the strengthening of religion in Bradford, to "the wonderful work" of the Bradford Schools and Technical College

and to the difficulties and dangers of Poor Law Administration with which he had so long been associated as a Bradford Guardian. He concluded by promising to "continue to work for the benefit of his fellow creatures so long as the necessary physical and mental resources were accorded to him by his Maker."

The fact that Sir Francis had valuable property in the City and its outskirts brought him frequently into business relations with the City Council. He was not a man to be easily overruled and he steadfastly refused to have his green fields about Horton Old Hall and Little Horton Green enroached upon. The increased taxes on "undeveloped" land in towns much exceeded the rent he got for these fields. Fortunately he could afford to pay them and so preserve an oasis of fresh air and green grass in the midst of houses and mills. In the matter of street improvements and harmless alterations to his property which were necessary for the development of the town, he met the Council in a generous spirit to which Alderman Willis Wood testified on this occasion.

CHAPTER X.

WIGAN. FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH. STATUE.

At Wigan Sir Francis conscientiously fulfilled all his obligations as a property owner and Member of Parliament. For many years he spoke at the Mayor's Banquet and his was a familiar figure in the Mayor's procession to the Parish Church on the following Sunday. He supported schools of all denominations in the town, both by means of subscriptions and by speaking for them at their bazaars and fetes, when invited to do so. On these occasions he was welcomed alike by Roman Catholics and Protestant Nonconformists, as well as by members of his own Church. All recognized in him a wholehearted supporter of religious and denominational education. In this connection he remarked in 1887: "It is a source of satisfaction to me and a cause of joy that Wigan should be one of those very few large towns in the country where education is conducted in a highly satisfactory manner wholly and entirely on voluntary principles."

There are two Conservative Working Men's

Clubs in Wigan which owe their existence to Sir Francis. One is a spacious building in Market Street which he built in 1887 at a cost of £5,000 for the members of the existing club in Commercial Yard whom he allowed to become his tenants. The other is in the Scholes Ward which he built twenty years later (1907).

Another of his interests in Wigan was the Free Library. The happy idea occurred to him of supplementing this by building a "Boys Reading Room" in a separate building in the Scholes Ward. This building is probably the only one of its kind in England. It consists of two storeys. The ground floor is occupied by the reading room which is 56 feet long, and the first floor consists of offices and a large lecture hall. On April 17th, 1895, Sir Francis declared this Club open and was presented with the Freedom of the Borough in honour of the occasion. The town was gay with crowds and bunting. A civic procession was formed from the Magistrates' Room, where the Mayor (Mr. D. Dix); received his guests, to the new building. On arrival there Sir Francis opened the door with a golden key presented to him by Mr. Winnard, the builder. The procession entered, followed by the crowd. In his opening speech, Sir Francis referred to the choice of books for Free Libraries. He urged the Library Committee to consider all classes of the population when choosing books.

“It had occurred to him,” he said, “as an observer of the human race, that there were periods in the history of every man when he was not a man but a boy. The object of his Reading Room was to enable the young folk to pursue their studies somewhat after their own manner.” This part of his speech, which enlarged on the diversity of the needs and habits of men and boys, was in the vein of pompous and good humoured verbosity which he often adopted. He concluded by formally handing over the building to the Mayor. Master Charles Mason, a scholar of the Presbyterian School, then presented an illuminated address of thanks from the boys at twenty-two Wigan Boys’ Schools, signed by representatives of each. Sir Francis was delighted by this graceful act of gratitude on the part of the boys, whom he thanked in another short speech.

Soon after this, the procession was re-formed and made its way by another route to the Council Chamber where the Freedom of the Borough was conferred. The Mayor made special reference to Sir Francis’ many previous gifts to the Wigan Free Library; to his donations to the Wigan Mining and Technical School, which had freed that Institution from debt; to his many donations to the building funds of various schools in Wigan, especially St. George’s new school. He said that the eminence of Sir Francis’ services to the town and to his country were apart from all question

of party politics and that the town has felt specially honoured by the recent bestowal of a Baronetcy on their Member. At the Banquet which followed, Mr. Alderman Smith proposed the health of their new Freedman. He said that every month, since the opening of their Free Library in 1878, the minutes contained a record of some donation from Sir Francis and that it was mainly due to his excellent engineering that the country was in possession of the Act which consolidated and amended all previous library legislation. Mr. Alderman Phillips relieved the monotony of all these encomiums and the minds of the Wigan ratepayers by informing anxious enquirers that the Freedom of the Borough would not relieve Sir Francis from the duty of paying his share of her rates.

Not only did Sir Francis pay his own rates but he was also a generous benefactor to the ratepayers. He pulled down many of his own cottages in order to leave more open spaces for those left, and gave the town a plot of land in the Scholes Ward, which is now a children's playground. When making large donations to schools of all denominations, he was mainly actuated by his wish to perpetuate religious education. Yet he was not unmindful of the economy to the rates which the preservation of Voluntary Schools secured.

A few days after this ceremony Lady Powell laid the foundation stone of St. George's new schools, the handsome block of red brick buildings which now stand on an eminence upon the open ground at the end of Windsor Street, Wigan. The Vicar (Rev. P. Hains), drew attention to the struggles they had had with the Government Authorities to keep open the old St. George's School in Church Street. After all it had been condemned and Sir. Francis contributed £2,000 towards the building of the new school to replace it. Sir Francis said that he could remember the time when the old St. George's school was not in existence, and the anxious care with which his father had built it, when Vicar of the parish. The Bishop of Chester of that day had described this old school as one of the most complete schools in his Diocese, and he thought that this was remarkable as showing how improvements advanced.

The new school was opened by Lady Powell in the following year (1896), and Sir Francis made a characteristic speech on the occasion. He was naturally attached by associations to the old school in which he had taught on Sunday as a boy, but he always moved with the times and expressed his satisfaction that the Churchpeople of St. George's had satisfied more modern requirements by building the new schools without the aid of the Government or the ratepayers. He

said he hoped that the youth educated in those schools might reach a higher level in the social scale, as opportunities arose. This might or might not be an advantage to an individual citizen, but what he desired to see was a raising of every class, as a class, in the social scale. He went on to say that he was not speaking in depreciation of School Boards, but that there was a sense of freedom and comfort, a feeling of home life, an atmosphere of wholesome domesticity, so to say, in their Voluntary Schools which they did not find in their Board Schools. He ended by asking the parents who were present to help to make the new schools fulfil their high purpose and more and more dear to the inhabitants of St. George's Parish.

In June, 1897, the Mayor of Wigan (Alderman Richards), gave a public banquet in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. When proposing his Worship's health, Sir Francis said that he could remember walking in the procession at Wigan at the time of the Queen's Accession in 1837. He attributed the wonderful improvements of the past sixty years to "orderly progress."

Sir Francis continued to take a leading part in Wigan public events throughout the succeeding year. It was on November 4th, 1910, that his fellow townsmen conferred on him a last and most uncommon token of their esteem. He was

invited to be present at the unveiling of a statue of himself in Mesnes Park. On April 12th, 1907, the Mayor (Councillor James O'Donahue) summoned a representative meeting to present him with a testimonial to commemorate his services to the town, it being then fifty years since he was elected its parliamentary representative for the first time. Mr. R. C. Burland proposed that this should take the form of a statue and a committee of leading men of all opinions was formed to carry out this suggestion, which was accepted unanimously. Councillor O'Donahue was appointed honorary treasurer, and two hundred and seven guineas were promised in the course of a few minutes. There was an open competition for sculptors of which Mr. Goscombe John was appointed adjudicator. He decided in favour of the specification and model made by Mr. E. G. Gillick.

The statue is a bronze figure seated, bare-headed, in an easy attitude. It stands upon a granite pedestal. On the front panel of the pedestal is the following inscription:—

SIR FRANCIS SHARP POWELL, BARONET.

BORN IN WIGAN, 1827. M.P. FOR HIS NATIVE TOWN,
1857—9 AND 1885—1910.

ERECTED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION, 1910.

When consulted about this inscription, Sir Francis characteristically made short work of

the matter by drafting it himself as it stands. On the two side panels are symbolical representations of Health and Education, Sir Francis' two main public interests. The whole is guarded by chains attached to stone posts on which are British lions and is well placed near the main walk of the park, between Mesnes Terrace and the fountain. Sir Francis and Lady Powell came over from Bradford for the unveiling ceremony, which was performed by Lord Derby. The Civic Procession headed by the Old Borough Band, Borough and County Magistrates, Mace bearers, halberdiers, and the Town Clerk (Mr. Harold Jevons) conducted Sir Francis, who drove in a landau with the Mayor, (Alderman Sam Wood, J.P), from the Municipal Buildings through crowded streets to the main entrance of the park. The walk from the park gate to the site of the statue was lined by the Wigan Grammar School boys, and several thousand school children were assembled on the terraces of the park. A large gathering of leading men connected with the movement were on the reserved platform near the statue. The Chairman of the Statue Committee, Councillor O'Donahue, greeted them, in the most expressive manner possible for an Irishman, with the words "Caed Mille Failthe" (One hundred thousand welcomes). He explained that "the Statue was not erected by any party but purely and simply by the whole of



STATUE OF SIR F. S. POWELL. MESSNES PARK, WIGAN.

the people of the town. Whether they differed from Sir Francis in politics or not, they appreciated the unswerving manner in which he tried to do his duty to Wigan." Lord Derby then unveiled the statue amid cheers. He emphasized again Mr. O'Donahue's point that it was the statue of a man who did his duty to all those with whom he came into contact. Colonel Eckersley proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Derby; the statue was accepted by the Mayor on behalf of the town; and Sir Francis made a brief reply, saying that he did not wish unduly to prolong the proceedings in the open air on a Lancashire November Day. He hoped that his prolonged labours on behalf of the town were not yet ended, and remarked, amid laughter and applause, that the hour had not arrived when he felt any conscious decay of intelligence. He thanked the great concourse for their presence and addressed a few words to the Wigan Grammar School boys who were there, reminding them that he was not only Chairman of the Governors of the school but an old boy. The ceremony in the Park, which was followed by a public luncheon, were concluded by the band striking up the appropriate refrain "A fine Old English Gentleman."

CHAPTER XI.

FOREIGN TRAVELS.

THE NEAR EAST. THE FAR WEST.

THROUGHOUT the fifty three years of their married life, Sir Francis and Lady Powell made a practice of taking at least a month or six weeks' holiday together. On thirty of these occasions they went abroad, visiting Norway and Sweden, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, many parts of France, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy. Twice they toured in Ireland (1876 and 1896) and four times in Scotland.

They also made two longer tours, one to the Near East and the other to the Far West, some details of which have been culled from Lady Powell's note books.

THE NEAR EAST.

It was on September 9th, 1869, that they left London for Constantinople halting at Paris, Munich, Salzburg, Vienna and Buda Pesth. Leaving Buda Pesth at 7 a.m. on September 23rd in a comfortable steamer, they sailed down the Danube to Rustchuk. There was much

traffic on the river and they passed many floating corn mills with rough wheels worked by the stream and with the millers' habitations attached, "looking like Noah's arks." The population on the banks was very scanty and barbarous in appearance. The passengers had to disembark to cross the rapids on small steamers. Re-embarking on another larger steamer they passed the Iron Gate Rocks, which are precipitous down to the water's edge. They next had an hour's drive in the dark, lighted by wooden torches, to yet another steamer, which landed them at Rustchuk by way of Widdin, the first typically oriental town they saw. From Rustchuk they travelled to Varna, by a line on which the porters were English and the engines from Manchester. They crossed at Varna the boiling serf and in rowing boats embarked for Constantinople. A very rough night marred their enjoyment of the Black Sea and they were glad to find themselves in a comfortable hotel at Constantinople on September 27th. They visited St. Sophia, the finest mosques in the neighbourhood and Stamboul.

They were joined at Constantinople by the Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster and Mr. John Ball, who formed a party with them to climb Mount Olympus in Asia Minor. After steaming down the Sea of Marmora to Mudania, they rode on to the side of the mountain and encamped there. They reached the summit next day. Clouds robbed

them of their view and a furious wind soon brought them down. While they were on the top an exciting adventure befell Mr. Forster.* He went off alone to climb a neighbouring peak, was attacked by a brigand and obliged to fire two shots. This incident deterred the party from any more straggling and they all descended together to Broussa unmolested. From Broussa they rode on horseback to the coast, staying at Gemlik and passing on to Isnik (the ancient Nicaea). They returned to Constantinople on October 15th.

Leaving by boat the next evening, a voyage of two nights and a day brought them to Smyrna at seven o'clock on the morning of October 18th. From Smyrna they visited Magnesia on the slopes of Mount Sipylus, where they partook of coffee and sherbet with the Pacha and made their first and last serious attempt to smoke cigarettes. They left Smyrna on the Austrian Lloyd Steamer for Athens on the 25th. They had a very rough crossing to the Isle of Scio and thence to Ipsera. The voyage from Scio to Ipsera took sixteen hours instead of seven; in fact their general experience was that the steamers in the East took double the scheduled time to make their voyages.

* For a full account of this adventure see "Life of Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster" by T. Wemyss Reid, Vol. I. pp. 419-421.

At last they reached Athens on the 28th, after three nights and two days on the sea. Luckily it was a lovely morning. The sight of the City, the Parthenon and the Piræus surpassed all their expectations and they felt amply repaid for the discomforts of their journey. They saw all they could in Athens and the neighbourhood but could not go through the Pass of Phylæ nor visit Marathon, for fear of brigands.

On November 2nd they saw the town and Acropolis of Athens illuminated in honour of the marriage of the late King of Greece, and left Piræus by steamer at 6 a.m. the following morning. They were driven across the Isthmus of Corinth in an omnibus. The second and third class passengers were consigned to hay carts. After a four days' voyage through stormy seas they much appreciated the comforts of the hotel at Corfu, which they reached on the night of November 6th.

The next day they had another stormy passage to Brindisi. They should have reached Brindisi from Corfu in twelve hours, instead of which the voyage took twenty three hours. They much enjoyed the journey home across Italy. The mountains were looking more beautiful than they had ever seen them, owing to the newly fallen snow. They arrived home in London after a final tossing on the Channel, on November 16th, having been away more than two months."

THE FAR WEST.

On August 5th, 1871 they left Liverpool on board the S.S. China for New York. The voyage was uneventful, except for a few squalls, and took ten days. After a short stay in New York, they sailed North up the Hudson River to Albany. From Albany they visited the Clifton Mill at Cohoes under the guidance of Mr. Stimpson, the proprietor. Here they saw all the processes of the manufacture of wool and woollen goods. They also saw the Harmony Paper Mills which employed five thousand workpeople. The hours of work in these mills at that time were sixty-six hours a week. From Cohoes they went to Saratoga, which they found full of gay fashionable people. They then sailed down Lake George to Burlington, "sandy as Southport," and principally composed of wooden houses. From Burlington they made their way to Montreal. From Montreal they went by train and boat to Quebec, and enjoyed the view from the Plains of Abraham on Sunday, September 3rd. After a few more days at Montreal, where they made many friends, they steamed up the Ottawa River to Ottawa. Here they made the acquaintance of Sir John and Lady Macdonald and Sir George Cartier, a descendant of Jacques Cartier. While at Ottawa they took a day's excursion to Carlton Place, in order to get some idea of Ontario. From Ottawa they steamed amongst the thousand islands of the St. Lawrence

River and down Lake Ontario to Toronto. They spent two days at Toronto, where Mr. Powell met Professor Cherriman, an old college friend, and Mr. Martland, a school friend at Sedbergh, and saw Mr. Goldwin Smith at the club. They next visited Hamilton and Niagara and this completed their three weeks in Canada.

From Niagara they went west to Buffalo and Cleveland and saw the processes for refining crude green petroleum and the manufacture of the barrels to contain the finished product. Their next stay was at Chicago, where they were hospitably entertained by Bishop and Mrs. Whitehouse. Mr. Powell, here as elsewhere, spent much time in the schools. On their way to San Francisco they stayed first at Omaha, which was the most primitive town they had yet visited, but was being laid out on a magnificent scale. Here they both visited the Common Schools and saw all the classes, from the first consisting of infants of five to the ninth where they found young men and women of seventeen and eighteen studying Algebra together.

They much enjoyed the journey on to Ogden in a comfortable "drawing room," seeing many antelopes and packs of prairie dogs. Leaving the important railway junction at Cheyenne, the train took them up to Sherman, 8,500 feet above the sea, then the highest railway point in the

world. Crossing the Rocky Mountains they saw something of their wonders. The fantastically shaped granite rocks seem to have particularly impressed them. On Sunday, October 1st, they had elk steak to breakfast, and passed the Echo and Weber Canyons, reaching Salt Lake City by moonlight. Here they visited the Mormon Temple and Mormon University. They saw Brigham Young's house enclosed in walls which included also a school for his numerous family, and the sulphur springs.

Passing lovely Sierra Nevada they left the train at Stockton, to prepare for an expedition to the Yo Semite Valley. They started, a party of eight in a carriage and four, at six o'clock in the morning. This was by no means an unusual hour for these indefatigable sight-seers. Having gone eight miles out of their way they had eventually to sleep at a German farm, two of them walking with a lantern in front of the leaders to show the way. Here they were most hospitably received and their hosts gave up their beds to them. They were following the Coulterville route, which took them through groves of the most magnificent and gigantic trees. After another day's drive they had to ride on horseback down the rough trail into the valley. They gazed long at El Capitan, The Graces, The Three Brothers, The Bridal Veil, The Virgin's Tears falls, The Cathedral Spires, The Sentinel. The Yo

Semite falls were dry. Sunday (October 9th) was spent quietly, as always with them, at Hutching's Hotel. The next week they rode up both the north and south forks of the Yo Semite Valley, saw the round North Dome, the precipitous South Dome, the Mirror Lake, the Nevada Falls, The Kings Star Mountains, and the Mariposa Grove of large trees, some of which Mr. Powell set to work to measure.

They reached San Francisco the next week and were much struck by the beauty of the Golden Gate, which forms the entrance to the bay, and by the oriental appearance of the town, when seen from a distance. The morning after their arrival they breakfasted at Cliffe House to see the seals on the rocks and took their first drive along the shores of the Pacific, so near the great green waves that the foam dashed against the wheels of the carriage. At San Francisco, as elsewhere, they were well armed with introductions and spent much time in paying and returning calls and in visiting schools and other public institutions.

Before leaving the Far West, they made their way by sea and land to Callistoga to see the geysers, the Devil's Canyon, the sulphur springs, and the Witches' Cauldron. Here the ground under them burned their boots, the air reeked of sulphur and the very sides of the hills seemed to be "boiling

and hissing and ready to explode." Their way to and from Callistoga was through the luxuriant vegetation of the tropics and was enlivened by the sight of deer, squirrels, blue birds, humming birds, and highly coloured lizards.

On their way back to New York they spent a Sunday at Denver and came upon deep snow near Kansas City on October 30th. They travelled East from Cheyenne by the more southern route and were thankful to reach St. Louis on October 31st, after two nights and a day in the train from Denver. Here they varied their round of visits to the principal schools and institutions of the town by going to hear a lecture by George Francis Train. He appears to have been a clever but excitable fool who was making a "*succès de scandale*" in St. Louis, by his attacks on the English nation and by styling himself a fenian, a Mormon, and a pagan.

St. Louis reminded them of Liverpool and Manchester; Cincinnati and the country round it which they visited next, of Bradford and its neighbourhood. At Cincinnati they were startled by seeing dogs, horses, lambs, and cows on the monuments in the cemetery and by a cake in a glass case, adorning the grave of a confectioner. Continuing their journey they visited Pittsburg, Harrisburg, Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia and Jersey City. They went straight on to Boston

the day after their return to New York. At Boston they put themselves under the wing of Dr. Bowditch and Professor Shattock. They visited all the principal schools and institutions of the town and saw something of Harvard and Cambridge Universities. They exchanged calls with the poet Longfellow whom they visited at his house, which had once been Washington's headquarters, and heard Mr. Phillips Brooks preach. They spent their last week in America at New York and it is characteristic of them that they passed the last night at the Opera retiring at 12-30 a.m., to be called at 5-30 in order to be in time to start home on board the S.S. Scotia. They arrived in England on December 9th after another ten days' voyage.

Indefatigable energy and constant pursuit of information were the characteristics of this tour. When travelling they always seemed to choose the earliest trains or steamers in order that no time might be wasted, and usually arrived at their destinations late at night or early in the morning. When in towns, Mr. Powell often went out before breakfast and spent the whole day in visiting the educational and sanitary authorities, schools, prisons, asylums, orphanages, reformatories, public buildings and institutions of all sorts. He never rested except on Sundays. Then he attended church, twice if possible, and usually called on the clergyman. His interest in all he

saw and heard, and his determination to make the most of all his opportunities, when abroad, never flagged, and he considered foreign travel the best way of spending a holiday and an almost indispensable part of the education of a gentleman.

CHAPTER XII.

PRIVATE LIFE AND CHARACTER.

LAST DAYS. FUNERAL SERVICES. MEMORIALS.

AS Sir Francis had no children and indulged in no expensive tastes or amusements, he was able to devote most of his time and very large sums of money to the public and parliamentary interests described in the preceding chapters, but he also had the cares of two large estates in Yorkshire and at Wigan and much private business. When he was at home, he always seemed almost overwhelmed with work, but he grappled bravely with it all, seldom grumbling and never despairing. He never had a secretary and the prompt manner in which he got through an immense amount of important business in his library, day by day, without assistance, was perhaps one of his most astonishing characteristics. His days were generally fully occupied with meetings or Parliament and he had to write his letters when he could find time for them. They were usually

short and to the point, but he seldom omitted a kind message or a few genial words when writing to his intimates. When asked for advice or help, he expected to hear all the facts of the case and to have all the many questions he put frankly answered. He was apt, perhaps, to mistake reserve for unnecessary secrecy; but, when he was convinced that nothing was being withheld from him, he was a most sympathetic counsellor who spared himself no pains.

Except on his holidays, he had little leisure for general literature but he mastered an immense number of Blue Books and was a voracious newspaper reader. He learned from what he saw and heard rather than from books, and cross-examined every one he met on their own subjects. Although most people gave him more information than they received from him, even experts were often delighted by the acuteness and sympathy of his comments on what they told him. Unless he was making a public speech, he was not a man of many words, but could put much humorous wisdom into a few.

During the Parliamentary Sessions he was little at home, often leaving his house in the forenoon and not re-appearing there until the small hours of the next morning. He thought nothing of going down to Yorkshire or Lancashire from London for a meeting and returning the

following day. He sometimes did this twice in a week. Saturday afternoon was the only time which he devoted definitely to pleasure, when in London. For many years Lady Powell and he drove then to Kew Gardens for an hour's walk, or to Putney, Kingston, or Hampton Court to see friends. When the days were too short for this, they visited picture galleries, museums or exhibitions.

As Sir Francis grew older he seemed to become increasingly fond of pictures and would often spend a spare hour by himself in a gallery. He did not even profess to be fond of music. He never cared for games nor gave serious attention to any kind of sport, but was a great believer in the necessity for daily exercise, and tried to find time for a walk every day. One of the first questions he asked a young man in whom he was interested was how he got his exercise. "It is not the time but the thought devoted to sport which is excessive," he once said at Sedbergh. On these principles he grudged neither land nor money to cricket and football clubs, and was President of the Wigan Golf Club from its commencement.

He always preferred town to country, architecture to scenery, and soon became tired of a quiet place when on a holiday. He liked to walk in a park, where he could observe a

crowd of working class people, and indulged this taste in Hyde Park every Sunday evening in summer. He would often stop on these occasions, to express his satisfaction at seeing so many well dressed family parties quietly enjoying themselves. He had a most robust constitution. Commenting on a passing indisposition which had caused some alarm in March, 1898, a journalist observed:—"They need not be unduly alarmed. Sir Francis was born in the substantial jannock* days and his constitutional foundation was not laid with puff paste; though he has reached three score and ten years, he is a hardy veteran who is likely to outlive some of the younger generation."

It was only during the last few years of his life that he was obliged to curtail the long hours spent in the House of Commons, and allowed himself the luxury of a private brougham to bring him home at night. It was increasing and incurable deafness which led him to resign his seat in 1910. Up to the end, when anxious for others he never dreamed of sparing himself. During the last year of his life, when he was

* In the *Pall Mall Gazette* for Feb. 10th, 1914, A. J. C. records a discussion upon the meaning of this word, which he overheard in a railway carriage. "Neither of you know what jannock is, so I'll tell you," said one of the disputants. "It is a girdle cake made at Wigan and elsewhere, about 3 to 4 inches thick, and a small slice will last you some time; I'll send you a sample."

becoming very infirm, he travelled twice within the space of a few weeks from London to Brixworth, a village in the middle of Northamptonshire, for a few hours, to look after a sick nephew.

It was not until the last few weeks of his life that his mental power began to fail. He passed away in his sleep at Horton Old Hall on the night of Christmas Eve, 1911. He was buried in the enclosed ground outside the chancel of All Saints' Church, Bradford, on December 30th. His funeral was an impressive and touching tribute to the respect and affection with which he was held. The arrangements were made by one who had been a member of All Saints' congregation for many years. The bearers were old tenants on his Yorkshire estates. There was a large concourse of local clergy and representatives of the following public bodies lined up along the drive from the Old Hall and on the neighbouring road, while the coffin passed:— The Bradford City Council, Chamber of Commerce, City Magistrates and Board of Guardians; the West Riding Magistrates, Leeds University, the Ripon Training College and Diocesan Association, the National Society, the Bradford Conservative Association, the Yorkshire Division of the National Conservative Union, the Elland Division Conservative Association, the Bradford Junior Conservative Club, the Con-

servative Association (Central Office, London), the Lancashire Division of the National Conservative Union, the Little and Great Horton Conservative Clubs, the Bradford Liberal Association, the Little Horton Orpheus Glee Club, the Governors of Sedbergh School, the burgesses of Wigan, the Executive Council of the Lay Helpers' Association, the Horton Green Young Men's Class, the C.E.T.S., the Bradford Co-operative Society, Bradford Royal Infirmary, Bradford Primrose Leagues, Bradford Permanent Orchestra, Bradford Grammar School, City Guild of Help, Old Polling District of Howorth, Wigan and District Nursing and Technical College, Central Church Defence Committee, Bradford Mechanics' Institute and Church Institute, Bradford Parish Church, Bradford Church Extension Society, Eastbrook Hall, Bradford C. A. and F. C.

There were also a large number of relatives and private friends from all parts of the country. The late Bishop of Richmond, Dr. Pulleine, consecrated the grave and the service was conducted by Canon Rawdon Briggs, Vicar of All Saints', Rev. H. Gresford Jones, Vicar of Bradford, and the Rev. A. E. Sidebotham, Senior Curate of All Saints'. At the graveside "I heard a Voice from Heaven" was sung to Goss's setting. "Now the labourer's task is o'er" was the last hymn and the last "Amen" was Dr.

Naylor's "Threefold Amen," as sung in York Cathedral.

While the funeral was taking place, a Memorial Service was being held at the Parish Church, Wigan, which was attended by the Mayor and Corporation, the leading men and public officials of the town and Lord Balcarres, M.P. (now Earl of Crawford).

On Christmas Eve, 1912, the anniversary of Sir Francis' death, a stained glass window was dedicated to his memory at the east end of the side-chapel of S. Columba's Church, Bradford. It was the gift of Lady Powell. The Vicar, Canon Rawdon Briggs, gave All Saints' Church an altar cross in his memory and the parishioners of All Saints' commemorated him, in the following summer, by fixing a brass plate on the north wall of their Church, embossed with the following inscription, which will form a worthy conclusion to this volume.

"To the greater glory of God and in sacred remembrance of the sterling worth, the widespread liberality and the conspicuous public services of Sir Francis Sharp Powell, Bart., of Horton Old Hall, the founder of this Church in 1864, and Member of Parliament during thirty-seven years, representing Wigan, Cambridge and York-

shire (Northern Division of the West Riding), who died on the 24th day of December in the year of our Lord 1911, and in the eighty-fifth year of his age. This tablet is placed here by the Parishioners." "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord: They rest from their labours and their works do follow them."--*Rev. xiv, 13.*



APPENDIX I.

Reminiscences by PROFESSOR EDWARD HULL,
LL.D., F.R.S.

I gladly contribute a few lines of reminiscences to the memoir of Sir Francis Sharp Powell whom it was my privilege to call my friend through a period of about half a century; and for whom I entertained the highest respect and admiration as a Christian and Public Man. It was about the year 1864 that I made his acquaintance when resident for a short period at Wigan, engaged on the work of the Government Geological Survey of Lancashire. Mr. Powell then resided in a house near that centre of manufacturing industry, wherein coal-mining was being carried on from pits the deepest in the British Isles, side by side with cotton spinning and weaving in mills of the largest structure and most elaborate machinery.

How I became acquainted with my friend I am at this time unable to say, but the friendship then established was one for life. I was a frequent guest at Mr. Powell's house; and I recollect on one occasion he was kind enough to show me the plans of a handsome Church he was preparing to erect on his property at Bradford—

which, with parsonage and schools, remain a monument to his munificence and zeal for the cause of Christianity, and of that form of it, which was so dear to his heart, the English Church.

Powell took a great interest in the work of the Geological Survey and occasionally accompanied me into the field in order to become acquainted with the mode and manner of geological mapping. On one of these occasions as we were returning home in the evening, he made enquiry regarding the scale of remuneration the Surveyors received for their services, as constituting a branch of the Public Service requiring special training and scientific knowledge, which placed it outside and above the status of the ordinary Civil Service. At that time the pay of the staff was scarcely, if at all, above that of a clerkship in some public office. When I informed my friend on this subject, he stopped short in his walk, turned to me and exclaimed "is it possible that for so important and highly scientific duties as those you are engaged upon that is all the remuneration you receive. I am astonished," or words to that effect. Happily for my colleagues and for the work of the survey itself as a public department, the Government sometime after recognized the inadequate pay we received, and an improved scale of remuneration was arranged to our advantage; and it was not improbable

that my friend's influence was brought to bear in favour of the change, owing to his position as a Member of Parliament for an important mining constituency.

Many years elapsed after the events above recorded and my next meeting with my friend, during which he had received the well earned honour of a baronetcy—but on coming to reside in London our acquaintance was soon renewed and I was always amongst his guests at Lady Powell's receptions. One event, however, occurred of some importance, which ought not to be omitted from this little narrative, in connection with the institution with which I had been associated for forty years.

The Museum of Practical Geology in Jermyn Street had been and still remains the headquarters of the Geological Survey of the United Kingdom. It was designed and founded by the first Director-General of the Survey, Sir Henry T. de la Beche, and enlarged and enriched under his successor, Sir Roderick J. Murchison, with minerals, fossils, and rock specimens representative of the geological formations of England, Ireland and Scotland. Amongst these was the magnificent vase presented by the Czar Nicholas to Murchison on the completion of his survey of Russia, and the publication of his great work "Russia and the Ural Mountains." The Museum was the central

office for giving information to enquirers regarding minerals and fossils on their estates, and supplying geological maps and sections, and for this purpose its position was very convenient for visitors, as being near the centre of the metropolis. Notwithstanding these advantages, a desire had arisen amongst members of Parliament and others to have the contents of the building transferred to South Kensington; the intention being on the part of the authorities to convert the building itself into a Central Post Office! for which it was absolutely unfitted, without a complete transformation involving a large sum of public money. Accordingly a Parliamentary Committee was appointed to take evidence and advise the Government, and of this Committee Sir Francis Powell was happily nominated Chairman. On seeing the proposal in the papers, I determined to oppose it to the best of my ability, as it seemed to me almost a sacrilege to destroy the work and design of my former chiefs, and to convert a centre of scientific utility to the ordinary use of a department of state. I pictured to myself the feelings of indignation which would have been aroused in the hearts of the great leaders in geological science had such proposals been made during their tenure of office, and as a faithful follower I determined to oppose the plan. With this view I communicated my intention to the Chairman, who granted me an interview at his house, when I discussed the whole question with

him and made him acquainted with the history and purpose of the building. Sir Francis gave me a patient hearing and expressed his intention that I should have an opportunity of placing my views before the Committee, directing me to prepare beforehand my evidence. In due course the Committee sat in one of the rooms of the House of Commons, and I was called on to give my evidence, which appears to have satisfied the Committee not to recommend the transfer, for the proposal was allowed to lapse, and the Museum with its collections remains to this day. I fear it is not even now out of danger from further attack from the enthusiasts of South Kensington.

The only other occasion on which I was brought into contact with Sir Francis Powell was one shortly preceding his retirement from public life as M.P. for the Borough of Wigan. At the request of the Committee of the British Constitution Association I gave an address on the "Eight Hours Bill for Miners," which is now generally recognized as the origin and cause of the unrest in the coal mining districts. I recognized this measure as unwise and likely to lead to trouble amongst the mining population, a forecast which has unhappily proved correct. Amongst my audience was Sir Francis Powell, who sat in front of the Chairman, Lord Hugh Cecil, and with a copy of the address in his hand followed the lecture, and gave his approval of its object.

APPENDIX II.

THREE ADDRESSES AFTER MANCHESTER ELECTION, 1876.

ADDRESS I.

At a meeting of the Managing Committee of the Wigan Conservative Working Men's Club, held on the 2nd of March, 1876, the following resolutions were carried unanimously :—

“That this Club, comprising nearly one thousand members, desire to place on record their gratification on Francis Sharp Powell, Esq., having been selected as the Conservative candidate for the representation of so influential a Constituency as the City of Manchester, at the election of February 17th, 1876. That they view with profound regret the result of that Election, believing that Mr. Powell's absence from the House of Commons at this juncture is a national loss. That they desire to convey to Mr. Powell the expression of their unbounded confidence in him as a consistent politician, and their respect for him as a good and generous landlord, and regret that the so-called Liberal party thought it necessary and becoming during the contest to asperse the character of a true English gentleman by charges the most gross and unfounded. That the members of this Club desire also to tender their respectful sympathy to one so

generally esteemed by his fellow-townsmen. That a Deputation wait upon Mr. Powell to present him with a copy of the foregoing resolutions."

WILLIAM HARDING, *Chairman.*

R. F. HOPWOOD, *Treasurer.*

ADDRESS II.

At a meeting of the Managing Committee of the Wigan Conservative Association held at the Offices on Friday, the 3rd day of March, 1876, the following resolutions were passed unanimously :—

"That while congratulating Francis Sharp Powell, Esq., on his being invited to become candidate for the City of Manchester, and having the unprecedented number of twenty thousand nine hundred and eighty-five votes* recorded in his favour, this meeting expresses its deep regret that he was not successful. The meeting also desires to express its full confidence in the political character and conduct of Mr. Powell, and believes him to be a true and consistent Conservative, a sound Churchman, and a gentleman of the highest honour and integrity. This meeting also expresses deep regret that the Liberal party at Manchester thought it necessary, in order to forward their cause, to bring

*The final official return was 20,974 votes and not 20,985 as given in all these addresses.

false accusations against Mr. Powell, and that they resorted to most unfair and unjustifiable means to sully the character of a gentleman much honoured and beloved in his native town of Wigan. That a Deputation from this Association wait upon Mr. Powell to present him with a copy of the foregoing resolution."

N. ECKERSLEY, *President.*

WM. BRYHAM, *Vice-President.*

ADDRESS III.

To

Francis Sharp Powell, Esquire, formerly M.P., for
the Borough of Cambridge.

Sir,

We, the members of the Cambridge Junior Conservative Club, beg most respectfully to tender you this expression of our cordial respect, and to declare our most emphatic protest against the unfounded aspersions cast upon your public and private character by an unscrupulous "opposition" in your late contest as the Conservative Candidate for the City of Manchester.

From a fourteen years' intimate knowledge of your public career, and from your personal worthiness, we know the groundlessness and calumny of the attacks made upon you; but from our general experience of tactics so employed, we know that such attacks, in a large and excited Constituency, must of necessity be, at the time,

prejudicial, notwithstanding which it is gratifying to remember that you on that occasion polled the unprecedented number of 20,985 votes.

From the time when you first and successfully contested this Borough against Professor Fawcett, in 1863, up to the present time we know that, whether in Parliament as one of our honoured representatives, or out of Parliament as a private citizen, your best and untiring efforts have been devoted to your country's service. Many of the objects into which you have thrown your zeal and influence are objects which, although not forming part of the public administrative machinery of the country, are objects of Imperial and worthy interest; witness your efforts, but now bearing fruit, to acquire and disseminate reliable information on the vital question of the Public Health and the Sanitary Laws, and your self-sacrifice in the cause of public education and religion amongst your own people of Lancashire and Yorkshire.

No less have we as members of the Conservative party in Cambridge, to thank you for the great sacrifice you have made in our cause, and especially for the kindly aid and encouragement you gave us in forming this Institution, and in enabling us to acquire the building in which we now have the honour to meet.

That you may for many years be spared to see the success of the cause for which you have so long laboured, and to continue your works of usefulness will ever be the prayer of

Your faithful servants,

The Members of

The Cambridge Junior Conservative Club.

APPENDIX III.

RESULTS OF PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

WIGAN.		JULY 2ND, 1852.	
Thicknesse, K. A.	L.	366	
Lindsay, Col. Hon. J.	C.	356	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	324	<i>Defeated.</i>
		OCTOBER 3RD, 1854.	
Acton, Joseph	L.	339	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	334	<i>Defeated.</i>
		MARCH 28TH, 1857.	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	493	<i>Returned.</i>
Woods, Henry	L.	447	
Lindsay, Col. Hon. J.	C.	303	
		APRIL 30TH, 1859.	
Lindsay, Col. Hon. J.	C.	503	
Woods, Henry	L.	470	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	276	<i>Defeated.</i>
CAMBRIDGE.		FEBRUARY 12TH, 1863.	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	708	<i>Returned.</i>
Fawcett, Professor Henry L.		627	
		JULY 12TH, 1865.	
Forsyth, W.	C.	762	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	760	<i>Returned.</i>
Torrens, Col.	L.	726	
Christie, W, D.	L.	725	
		NOVEMBER 18TH, 1868.	
Torrens, Col.	L.	1,879	
Fowler, W.	L.	1,857	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	1,436	<i>Defeated.</i>
Horst, John E.	C.	1,389	

STALYBRIDGE. MARCH 1ST, 1871.

Buckley, N.	L.	2,189	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	1,033	<i>Defeated.</i>

YORKSHIRE, N.W. RIDING.

FEBRUARY 3RD, 1872.

Francis Sharp Powell	C.	6,961	<i>Returned.</i>
Holden, Isaac	L.	6,917	

FEBRUARY 18TH, 1874.

Cavendish, Lord Frederick	L.	8,681	
Wilson, Sir M.	L.	8,598	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	7,820	<i>Defeated.</i>
Fison, W.	C.	7,725	

MANCHESTER.

FEBRUARY 19TH, 1875.

Bright, Jacob	L.	22,535	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	20,974	<i>Defeated.</i>

YORKSHIRE, N.W. RIDING.

APRIL, 1880.

Cavendish, Lord Frederick	L.	10,878	
Wilson, Sir M.	L.	10,732	
Francis Sharp Powell	C.	7,140	<i>Defeated.</i>
Lister, S. C.	C.	7,096	

WIGAN. JANUARY 18TH, 1880.

Francis Sharp Powell	C.	3,003	<i>Declared void on petition.</i>
Lancaster, J.	L.	2,536	

NOVEMBER 25TH, 1885.

Francis Sharp Powell	C.	3,637	<i>Returned.</i>
Lea, G. H.	L.	2,721	

JULY 3rd, 1886.

Francis Sharp Powell	C.	3,371	<i>Returned.</i>
Percy, C.	L.	2,780	

JULY, 1892.

Francis Sharp Powell	C.	3,422	<i>Returned.</i>
Aspinwall, T.	Lab.	3,312	

JULY 15TH, 1895.

Francis Sharp Powell	C.	3,949	<i>Returned.</i>
Aspinwall, T.	Lab.	3,075	

OCTOBER 1ST, 1900.

Francis Sharp Powell	C.	3,772	<i>Returned.</i>
Woods, Col.	L.	3,130	

JANUARY 17TH, 1906.

Francis Sharp Powell	C.	3,573	<i>Returned.</i>
Smith, T.	Lab.	2,205	
Woods, Col.	L.	1,900	

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