

GRAMMARIAN



STANLEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL



# GRAMMARIAN

SUMMER TERM, 1950

No. 12.

## EDITORIAL.

**Stanley Grammar School,  
Stanley, Co. Durham.**

*Editor :*

Wendy Herdman.

*Committee :* Mr. Carr, Miss Thompson, Mary Anderson, Kathleen Lowson, James Moiser, Pearl Mitcheson, William Wilson, Missouri Harrison.

*Readers :*

Miss Nicol and Miss Allison.

*Business Manager :*

Mr. Seed.

The first year forms have this term elected their magazine representatives as follows: Form I, Alan Gilroy; Form Ia, Jack White; Form Ib, Mavis Clark.

Once again the time for School Certificate Examination is here, with the usual pitying looks for Fifth Formers. This is the last year for this examination, however, and the corresponding examination next year will be for the General Certificate of Education. This will be of a higher standard than the present examination—the same number of marks will be needed for a pass as is now needed for a credit. The present Fourth Year are unlucky in that they will be the first to take the new examination and they are anxious to know which subjects will be compulsory.

We offer our congratulations to Sheila Lyons and Colin Armstrong, who have been made a Queen's Guide and a King's Scout. These are the highest honours a scout or guide can receive, and it takes years of hard work and enthusiasm to obtain them. Sheila was presented with her badge by the County Commissioner at Durham, and Colin by Lord Rowallen, Chief Scout, at Eton College.

During the Easter holidays three parties of teachers and pupils travelled to Paris, the Lake District and Northumberland. The visits proved very successful and were greatly enjoyed by all who went.

Since the new year 105 new books have been put into the library. Of these 31 are in the junior section. About 50 of those put into the senior section are non-fiction and 20 are fiction. Notable among these additions is a number of the beautifully illustrated Batsford books on varied aspects of English Life—The English Castle.

The English Abbey.

The Parish Churches of  
England, and  
English Sports and  
Pastimes.

We now have two volumes of the Oxford Junior Encyclopaedia. It is housed in the senior library, but is available to all. The word "Junior" in its title is misleading.

In the Library there will also be a copy of the "School Magazine Review." A copy of our last *Grammarians* was sent to its editor and we hope to see some mention of it when we receive the magazine.

The Junior Football Team has brought honour to the school by winning the local schools Junior Cup. This is the first time the cup has come to the school and we offer our congratulations, hoping the success will be repeated next year.

The tennis tournament which is open to Sixth Form pupils and teachers is making good progress under the capable guidance of Chris. Greenwell. Only three more matches are to be played and results will be published in the next magazine.

Sports Day this year has been postponed until the end of the term. Because of this we are unable to print the results and comments in this magazine, but they will appear in next term's edition.

A provocative article on Tom Payne's Doubts appears in this magazine, and attacks the Christian religion. It was felt that it might prove dangerous in persuading people against Christianity if left unanswered, so Mr. Carr has written an article on the other side of the argument entitled "The Modern View."

In our last magazine it was stated that Mr. Philipson, the school photographer, had offered a prize for the best essay on "Holiday Humour." This prize, a book-token for 10/6d. has been won by Robert Patterson.

Miss Thornton has been ill with pneumonia and therefore absent for much of this term. We hope she will be back at school before the summer vacation.

We regret that Mr. Elliott, who has been on the staff for over 29 years, retires at the end of this term. During his career he has taught many pupils, some of them parents of children now in school, and all have benefited from his teaching. All, especially those whom he has taught, will miss him and we will remember his ready humour and his frequent saying "I'll bet you a h'penny." We offer our good wishes for a contented retirement and hope to see him again on such occasions as Speech Day, Sports Day and at the Xmas party.

W.H.

### THOMAS PAINE'S IDEAS, AS EXPRESSED IN HIS "AGE OF REASON."

#### *His Belief.*

I believe in one God, and no more; and I hope for happiness beyond this life. I believe in the equality of man, and I believe that religious duties consist in doing justice, loving mercy, and endeavouring to make our fellow creatures happy.

I do not mean by this declaration to condemn those who believe otherwise; they have the same right to their belief as I have to mine. But it is necessary to the happiness of man that he be mentally faithful to himself.

#### *The New Testament.*

By what authority is the New Testament called the "Word of God"? 350 years after the time of Jesus Christ, the Popish councils of Nice and Laodicea voted the

books that are now called the New Testament the "Word of God." This was done by "Yeas" and "Nays" as we now vote for a law. This is all the Authority there is. One, however, is as capable of judging for oneself as they were, probably more so, as they had a self-interest in the vote they gave.

Are the books of the New Testament genuine? Were they written by the persons to whom they are ascribed?

Here, there is no direct proof for or against, and all that this tends to prove is doubt, and doubt is the opposite of belief. The agreement of all parts of a story does not prove that the whole is true, disagreement of parts of a story shows that the whole cannot be true. The historical parts of the New Testament concerning Jesus Christ take place in the short space of two years, therefore there is not much room for the violation of the unities. However, there are some glaring contradictions.

(a) The first chapter of Matthew gives a genealogy of Jesus Christ (by name) from David up through Joseph, the husband of Mary, to Jesus—twenty-seven full generations. From the birth of David to the birth of Christ is upwards of 1080 years; therefore the average age of each person mentioned in the list at the time his first son was born was 40 years. As the life of a man was then but of the same duration as it is now, it is absurdity to suppose that twenty-seven generations should all be old bachelors before they married. So far from this genealogy being solemn truth it is not even a reasonable lie. The book of Luke also gives a genealogy. Here the average age is twenty-six, which is also too high. In conclusion, if Matthew speaks truth Luke speaks falsely, and *vice-versa*. Therefore there is no authority in believing either. If these men cannot be believed about the genealogy of Jesus how are we to believe them when they tell us he was the "Son of God"?

(b) The story of Herod destroying all the Children under Two is only told in the book of Matthew. None of the rest of the Gospels so much as mentions it. Had such a circumstance been true it would have been a universal fact and all the writers would have known about it, as it would have been too striking to be omitted. The writer tells us that Jesus escaped the slaughter because his parents were fore-warned, but no such provision was made for John (the







































