

**A POPULAR HISTORY OF  
THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
OF QUEEN ELIZABETH,  
AT HEATH, NEAR HALIFAX**

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A Popular History of the Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth, at Heath, near Halifax by  
Thomas Cox

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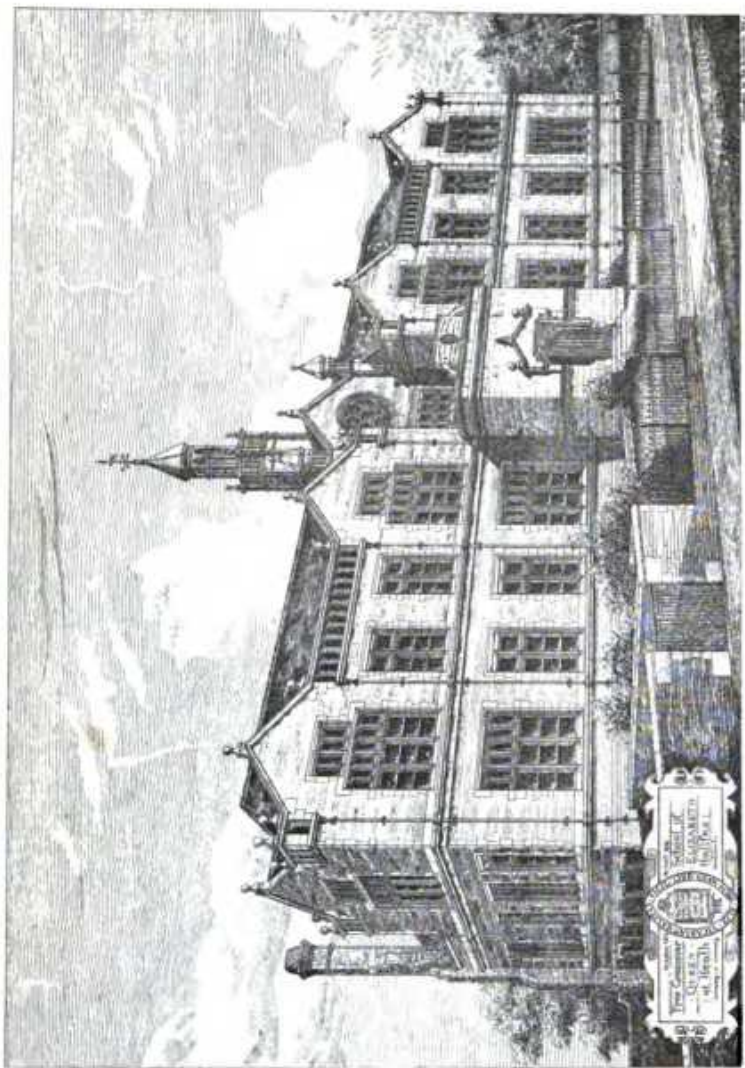
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**THOMAS COX**

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THE ROYAL EXCHANGE  
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Engraving of the Royal Exchange, London, showing the building's facade, a clock tower, and a street scene with a sign for 'THE ROYAL EXCHANGE'.

A POPULAR HISTORY

OF

The Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth,

AT HEATH, NEAR HALIFAX,

BY THOMAS COX, M.A.,

MASTER OF THE SCHOOL.

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“Whilset that the childe is young, let him be instructed  
in vertue and lytterature”.

*(Euphues, by John Lily, about 1580.)*

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“In tenui labor, at tenuis non gloria”.

*(Virgil)*

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HALIFAX :

F. KING, PRINTER, EXCHANGE BUILDINGS, NORTHGATE.

1879.

To the Memory  
of my School Masters,  
The Right Reverend FRANCIS JEUNE, D.C.L.,  
late Bishop of Peterborough;  
The Right Reverend JAMES PRINCE LEE, D.D.,  
late Bishop of Manchester;  
and To my College Tutors,  
The Reverend JOHN HYMERS, D.D.,  
now Rector of Brandsburton, Yorkshire;  
The Very Reverend Charles Merivale, D.D.,  
now Dean of Ely,  
I dedicate this little Book,  
in gratitude for the many advantages which  
I received from them  
at School and at College.

THOMAS COX, M.A.

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## PREFACE.

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Several years ago I collected for my own information some particulars relating to the History of Heath School, from Watson's History of Halifax, The Parish Church Registers, and Documents belonging to the Governors. As a suitable time was come for putting these together in a readable form, I thought of drawing up a paper to be read at a public opening of the New Buildings. I soon found, however, additional matter to such an extent that I laid aside the notion of a temporary paper, and aspired to be the writer of a permanent book. Then I found, that, if I printed the important documents in full, I should produce something too expensive for the public, and satisfactory only to anti-quarians. So I thought that by digesting the information supplied by manuscripts and books I might write a popular history, suitable to the pockets and pleasure of all who cared for the School. But I found it a more difficult task than I expected. There were conclusions to be drawn from imperfect *data*; contradictions to clear up; and often a want of continuity in the history. There had been so little interest taken in the School that scarcely anything was known of the Masters beyond their existence; and, for nearly two hundred years, there was nothing certain of the scholars which they had made. For some seventy or eighty years, even the names of the Governors were wanting; and yet, as they had property to manage, they must have signed documents, though I do not know of any. However, I have carefully gone through the Parish Church Registers, Brearcliffe's MSS.

of his own times, the Governors' Books and Documents, and the Papers which under the name of "Our Local Portfolio" appeared in the Halifax Guardian some twenty years ago. I have also gone through all the books in the Library of the Literary and Philosophical Society which I thought might possibly contribute something to the accuracy of a statement, or even a word or name, though not furnishing a paragraph or supplying a sentence. I have gone over several large volumes more than once, as names forced themselves on my notice which seemed to have no connection with my subject when I first read them. But I must beg pardon of my readers beforehand, if sometimes they find my knowledge inferior to theirs: for, twelve months ago, I was entirely ignorant of the old West Riding families, which happen to be mentioned in this book; and even now I have only such knowledge as a temporary sojourner in their land might get. I must also say, that, where I have had recourse to conjecture, I have honestly reasoned out the matter, and suspended my judgment for months, until I found statements in books to render that conjecture probable, and I have had no one to help me.

I must ask readers to bear in mind that this is a popular account of the School, and therefore documents are out of place. I have nevertheless introduced one or two, for reasons given where they occur. Nor have I gone into details about subscriptions, donations, or legacies; for they are very numerous, and very small in amount in general, and seem as forced as charity often is for the sake of appearances. I have forborne too to dwell on the fact, which surprised me in my researches, that Halifax as a town took very little interest in the School, either in promoting its foundation or in supplying it with scholars. Even when the School flourished most, it seems to have owed its success to foreigners,

not natives; and its very locality near the town was accidental. Still I hope, that, if any interest in the School is aroused by the present publication, all the documents connected with it will some day be given to the world in full (either by private liberality or by public subscription); and I shall be glad to contribute to such a work all the other particulars that this History is based on.

I may add that I have generally preserved the old way of speaking of people, as for instance, John Lacy, though we may now think it too familiar; that I have spelled words as we now spell them, except there is a point in keeping the old form; and that P.R. means "Parish Registers", and L.P. "Our Local Portfolio". I have quoted very few Authorities, because they would take up too much space in a popular Work, so condensed as this.

My readers must not measure the value of the book by the price which I have put upon it; that was fixed low to induce people to buy it; and though I have not got subscribers enough to pay for its publication, I print it because I promised to do so when a certain number of copies had been subscribed for. It has cost me many hundred hours of research, to say nothing of the trouble which I have had in writing over again passages, which I thought contained all the information that could possibly be got when I first wrote them. It has however given me a great deal of pleasure, such as no reader can possibly feel: yet I have endeavoured to write for his satisfaction; and I hope he will not think that he has thrown his money away, nor that the book is smaller than he expected.

I have especially to thank Mr. S. T. Rigge for the loan of several important books; and Mr. Craven, of Clapton Lodge, and Mr. Lister, of Shibden Hall, for some communications relating to Sterne. Mr. C. J. Fox and Mr. Stopford have kindly prepared the drawings for the illustrations, and deserve