

**A CONCISE ACCOUNT OF TUNBRIDGE
SCHOOL, IN KENT, AND OF ITS
FOUNDER, GOVERNORS, AND MASTERS:
TO WHICH IS SUBJOINED THE SCHEME
FOR ITS FUTURE ESTABLISHMENT**

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A Concise Account of Tunbridge School, in Kent, and of its Founder, Governors, and Masters: to Which is Subjoined the Scheme for its Future Establishment by Various

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THE SCHEME FOR ITS FUTURE ESTABLISHMENT,
FRAMED
UNDER THE RECENT ORDER OF THE COURT OF CHANCERY.

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TUNBRIDGE SCHOOL.

At the North end, and in the more eligible part of the town of Tunbridge, stands the School;— one of those many monuments of the piety and munificence of our forefathers, which, during the last three centuries, have adorned this country, and greatly contributed to preserve amongst us the light of learning; to diffuse a taste for the polite literature of Athens and of Rome; and to afford to the gentry, the clergy, the liberal professions, and, in particular, the middle ranks of society, the means and advantages of an education at once pious, solid, and comprehensive. To the number and excellence of these classical institutions, founded in the principal towns and cities of the kingdom, and extending their beneficial effects, at the most susceptible period of life, to the rising generation, may perhaps be attributed that dignity of national character, which has long rendered the name of Englishmen respectable among foreigners, and hitherto secured, in all our intercourse with

them, whether political or commercial, a confidence in our integrity.

It is not the object of the following pages to enter into an inquiry, however important, whether the seclusion of a domestic and solitary education, or a preference given to superficial knowledge and accomplishments merely ornamental;—whether the study of a few modern languages, with an attention chiefly directed to colloquial facilities and the niceties of pronunciation;—whether the whole of youth devoted to the science and practical habits of commercial computation, to the neglect of liberal studies and generous philosophy;—whether an application to mechanical operations and physical experiments, with a total disregard of ethics, eloquence, poetry, and history;—whether any or all of these combined are more conducive to the personal excellence of the individual, or the best purposes of society, than the manly system pursued in our old grammar schools, founded, endowed, and exclusively encouraged by our wise and beneficent predecessors. Momentous as is this inquiry, it must probably be left to those great discoverers of truth—Time and Experience; and certainly it is too extensive to be comprehended within the limits of the present compilation.*

* See this subject fully discussed in "Remarks on Grammar Schools," Knox's Works, Vol. IV.

The School is built of stone, the produce of the neighbouring quarries, which are abundant and inexhaustible; and though the colour and appearance is far from beautiful, yet the stones acquire, from exposure to the atmosphere, singular durability. The marks of the chisel are still fresh and uncorroded, after the lapse of centuries; and the external walls of the original edifice exhibit scarcely any tokens of decay. The front, which extends about one hundred and thirty feet, is plain and simple, yet massy and substantial; and the addition of rooms and offices, which appear not from the road, is very considerable. The dormitories for the boys extend over the whole length, and are singularly well adapted for the purpose. They are divided into twenty distinct rooms, with a thorough light and air to each. The internal arrangements of the house, for the accommodation both of the master's family and of the scholars, are not only convenient for every purpose of the institution, but spacious and handsome. The ancient school-house is appropriated for the residence of the master and his boarders, and contains the school-rooms that are used in common by the whole number of scholars.

Detached from the ancient structure, stands the house of the Usher. It presents a handsome and modern elevation, and is remarkable as a specimen

of excellent brick-work. It was erected about fourscore years since, and contains every requisite for the comfortable habitation of a private family; and will, when the proposed additions to it are completed, be rendered in every respect commodious for the reception of boarders, though, at the present time, several might be accommodated in it, without inconvenience to the family of the usher. It has been purchased since the late chancery suit.

At the back of the School, and immediately contiguous to it, enclosed by a park-paling, are the play-grounds, comprising nearly twelve acres of land, which formed part of the late purchase. A large space has been covered with gravel and drained, and so formed by a gentle declivity, as to afford a sound and dry surface throughout the year. This yard presents a very fine area, extending from the School into the turf-grounds, from which, in consequence of their elevated situation, a view of the surrounding country, most singularly beautiful, is commanded. The materials used for the formation of the yard were dug upon the spot—the whole of the substratum of soil consisting of a very excellent species of gravel.

The situation of the premises is the more striking from the grounds, as the front gives the passing traveller no expectation of it; and while