

**A HISTORY OF THE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL OF  
CHARLES KING OF ENGLAND  
IN KIDDERMINSTER**

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A History of the Grammar School of Charles King of England in Kidderminster by H. de B. Gibbins

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**H. DE B. GIBBINS**

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OF THE  
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IN  
KIDDERMINSTER

BY THE REV.  
H. DE B. GIBBINS, LITT. D.  
HEADMASTER.

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MCMIII.

## P R E F A C E .

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This short history of our ancient foundation has been undertaken in order to put upon record a few facts and names which might otherwise be forgotten. During the three centuries or more of the School's existence few records seem to have been kept, except in the Governors' Minute Book, and much that would have been interesting to later generations has been lost. But this little book will serve its purpose if it rescues from oblivion a few facts and a few names worthy of remembrance, and affords a starting point from which our history may continue. We belong to a foundation which is not of yesterday. It has a record of over three hundred years in the past, and will, we hope, continue to do its work still further into a distant future. If this little volume shall stimulate those of the present generation to surpass the deeds of those who have gone before them, it will not have been written in vain.

I have to acknowledge gratefully the help given me by the Rev. J. R. Burton, B.A., Rector of Bitterley, and sometime Headmaster; by Mr. Thomas P. Ivens, Clerk to the Governing Body; by Mr. A. F. Leach, M.A., the well-known author of *English Schools at the Reformation*, who has contributed a very valuable Appendix (page 90); by Mr. Richard Grove, Clerk of St. Mary's Parish Church, an old scholar, who has also written an Appendix; by Mr. Arthur C. Parry, who has given many valuable suggestions as the work went through the press; by Mr. Ellis W. Talbot, the indefatigable Secretary of the Old Boys' Annual Dinner; and by various "old boys" who have given me hints or reminiscences. There must be many errors of omission, but these are unavoidable when information has to be gleaned from scattered sources, and often by word of mouth.

I would call special attention to the Appendices, which are the most valuable portion of the work, and contain many names of local interest. It might also be added, in explanation, that no names of scholars, however distinguished, have been mentioned in the body of the book after Mr. Hookham's

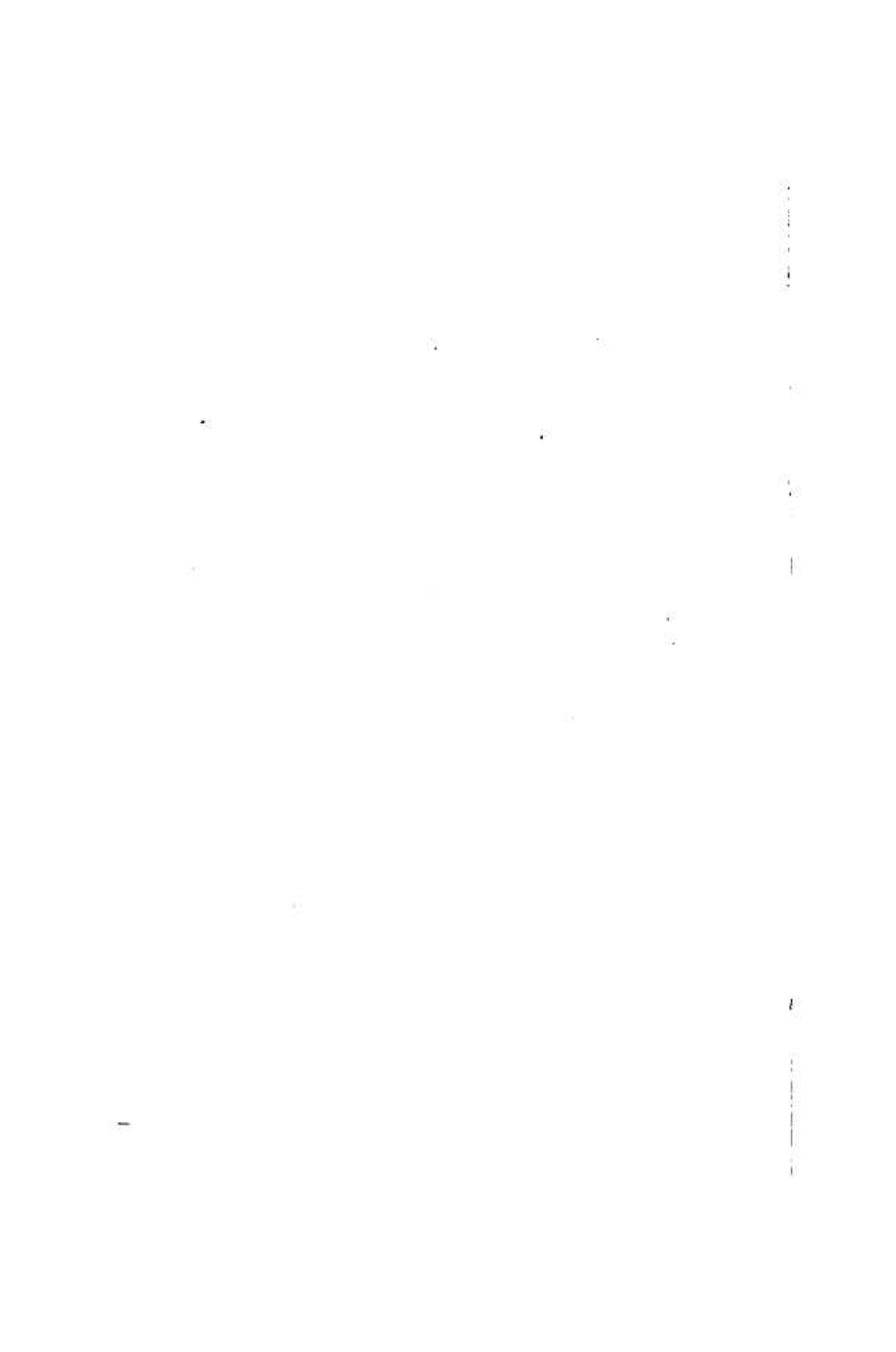
headmastership; but they have been recorded without comment in the list of *Praclari Alumni*. This seemed the best course to pursue for those of so recent a date, though several are worthy of mention in the text.

In conclusion, I dedicate this book, in the words of the Bidding Prayer which we use on Founder's Day, to "the Governors, Masters, and scholars of the Grammar School of Charles, King of England, in Kidderminster."

H. DE B. GIBBINS, M.A., LITT. D.,

*The School House,  
November, 1903.*





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