

Indeed Mr. Birkett, Mr. Robinson's curate, who taught at the school gave a very good sermon but seemed unable to control the pupils! The people themselves don't seem much taken with the educational system. In May 1841 Mr. Robinson writes to the Bishop:

"As regards the school they will never be satisfied. They had a master of their own providing who was very attentive, conducted himself as a gentleman yet they kept him little more than twelve months."

Furthermore Mr. Robinson considers the locals as:-

"being such an ignorant sort of people they don't know right from wrong."

The delicate task which is conveyed through the correspondence is the need to get rid of Mr. Birkett!

1850 - A NEW SCHOOL

It is the correspondence of Mr. Garnett, the landowner in 1850 which indicates why the school disappeared. The "state of Admarsh School" had already been reported to him in 1846. Mr. Garnett was possibly therefore prompted to try to improve the educational facilities. Thus he writes on April 15th 1850:-

Admarsh School, Township of Bleasdale

"The above named school was connected about 15 years ago with the National Society when it was found necessary to apply to the society for assistance towards the erection of a new building by the then incumbent the Rev. Wm. Fenton. A grant was made and the school was placed on a new site belonging to certain three trustees of a Parkinson's Charity, who had, however I believe, no voice in forming the connection between the school and the National Society.

Since then, I have become one of the three trustees, of the Charity, out of the funds of which we pay annually to a Schoolmaster £22.

This school was badly built and badly situated for the general convenience of the District, and I now propose to rebuild it on a new site, and on rather a larger scale than the existing school, and with the addition of a house for the schoolmaster, and mistress for whom at present there is no provision."

On 19 March 1850 a meeting of the Ratepayers of Bleasdale held in the vestry of Admarsh Chapel sealed the fate of the old school.

"It is proposed by Mr. Wm. J. Garnett that it was recognised and advisable to rebuild and remove the site from the present one near the new cottage below the church and that to the furtherance of this object the Ratepayers should lend their assistance in carting the materials for the said school within all reasonable distance. Mr. W.J. Garnett offered on the part of his father Mr. W.G. Garnett of Quernmore Park to convey sufficient land for school, School house and playground to the Trustees of Parkinson's Charity."

The ratepayers also agreed to accept a sum of £100 from Mr. W.J. Garnett and a sum of £25 and "probably more" from the Parkinson's Charity towards the building of the new school. They also agreed unanimously to assist in the carting of materials. Possibly they used material from the school built in 1833.

Thus a new chapter was opened in the education story of Bleasdale which still continues.

Jean E. Fone.

Acknowledgements:-

Original correspondence located at the Church of England Record Office, London, and at the Lancashire Record Office, Preston.

History of the Parkinson Family of Lancashire - Richard Ainsworth.