

CHAPTER FOUR

James H.Rainey, 1878-1893



James Harry Rainey

James Harry Rainey had been a pupil at *Bangor Endowed School*, and he was '*an undergraduate of Queen's University, Peel Exhibitioner and Prizeman at Queen's College Belfast*'. While Headmaster at the School, he was a member of Bangor Masonic Lodge No.746, of which he was Senior Warden in 1885.

'THE NORTHERN BRIGHTON'

Mr.Rainey's 15 years as Principal saw numerous developments in the town. There were already two football clubs and a lacrosse club, the *Orange Order* and *Good Templars* were active in the town, and a new Masonic Hall was built around 1880; there were '*three comfortable hotels, the Imperial, the Royal and the Abercorn*' and a number of schools: No.1 National School (adjoining *Second Bangor Presbyterian Church*), the Main Street National School (which had been opened in 1878, adjoining *First Bangor Presbyterian Church*), the Market House School (for boys) and the Lodge School (for girls), and Miss Magee's private girls' school. Among the new recreational activities were a *Musical Society*, the *Corinthian Sailing Club*, *Bangor Rugby Football Club* and a *Bicycle Club*, of which Mr.Rainey was one of the patrons and, from 1889, until it was destroyed in the great gale of December 1894, a *Thompson's Patent Switchback Railway* operated at Kingsland. Horse races on Ballyholme beach and shooting competitions organized by *Bangor Hit or Miss Club* also became features of local life. The year after Mr.Rainey's appointment, *First Bangor Presbyterian Church* '*received the addition of a very high and most graceful tower and spire*'. Two years later the building of the new Bangor Parish Church was begun, which led to the closure, for 35 years, of Bangor Abbey; the new church - *St.Comgall's* - was completed in 1890. In 1889 the new *Second Bangor Presbyterian Church* was built on lower Main Street to replace the church on Brunswick Road. Briefly, in 1889, a passenger steamer service operated to Peel in the Isle of Man, and in that year a gymnasium was opened in the town and a *Total Abstinence Society* was set up. A company of the recently formed *Boys' Brigade* was formed in Bangor in September 1890.

By 1881 the population had passed the 3,000 mark for the first time since 1841. The following year, the Town Commissioners purchased the gas works from a private company and the town was lighted by 80 gas lamps, while the water supply was brought from Conlig, until the opening of the Ballysallagh reservoir in 1907.

Two publications in the mid-1880s provide a fascinating picture of Bangor at this time. In 1885, W.G.Lyttle, editor of the *North Down Herald* (the fore-runner of the *County Down Spectator*), and author of *Betsy Gray or Hearts of Down*, wrote in his *The Bangor Season*:

'Nature has done much for Bangor, but unfortunately until a few years past, the owners of the estates upon which it stands have not been particularly anxious to devote their time or capital to its further development and artificial ornamentation. . . . This apathy is, however, fast disappearing, and Bangor exhibits, year after year, all the evidences of increasing prosperity in the enlargement and rebuilding of business premises, newly arranged and reconstructed streets, and, more than all else, the constant and ever-increasing additions to the chastely designed, elegant villas overspreading the landscape. . . .

'Viewed from the sea, Bangor presents an attractive sight, with its villas rising tier upon tier in varied architectural style and crowning the heights, which on the land side encompass it like the arc of an amphitheatre. . . . Like other bathing places, Bangor provides ample accommodation for Summer Visitors, and during the season it is estimated that the floating population is something over NINE THOUSAND SOULS. . . . Visitors to Bangor will not see much in the town itself to attract their attention. There are few public buildings worthy of note, evening entertainments are few and far between, so that healthful bodily recreation must be resorted to if time hangs heavily. Boating, fishing, driving and promenading can be had in abundance. . . . Bathing accommodation is fair. At Skipperstone, beyond Pickie, a spacious bathing box has been erected for ladies and there are others in the direction of Ballyholme. The famous Pickie Rock and Clifton Rock . . . continue to be the favourite resorts of gentlemen bathers. Swimming contests are held at Pickie every year and there is an Annual Regatta.

'Yet everything is not perfect even in Bangor. The pier . . . could be greatly improved . . . the present structure being not only altogether insufficient to meet the needs of the summer marine trade but also, under certain conditions, absolutely unapproachable and dangerous. The want of manufacturies in Bangor is much felt. Messrs.Robert Neill and Sons, and Mr.Charles Neill carry on a good business as ship owners, coal merchants, and lime burners.'

The following year, G.H.Bassett published his *County Down Guide and Directory*. He wrote:

'Bangor is deservedly the most popular of the sea-side resorts in the Northern portion of the county. At the western side a high cliff, terraced almost to the top, is covered by handsome lodges. Ballyholme Bay to the East is less than half a mile from the centre of the town. . . . A large part of the space fronting the bay is occupied with comfortable dwellings two and three storeys high.

'After the line of railway to Belfast had been opened, Bangor's attractions as a watering place brought it into the front rank. It is now also connected with Belfast by steamers.

'Cotton and Linen have disappeared from the town as manufactures. Lime-burning and brick-making are carried on extensively and form important items in the list of exports. The harbour is owned by Mr.Ward.

'The only industry of long-standing . . . is embroidery. Fifty years ago there was a school of embroidery in the town. . . . Twenty-two years ago Mr.David McKenzie [the author's great-grandfather] established himself as an embroidery and lace manufacturer at Bangor. His designs were so chaste and the needlework was done so perfectly that they attracted the attention of the Duchess of Marlborough. She brought them to the notice of Queen Victoria and Mr.McKenzie presently received an order from Her Majesty. . . . Mr.McKenzie died about five years ago. . . . He was succeeded by Mr.John McMeekan [his brother-in-law]. . . [and he] provides employment for about 100 women and girls Embroidery is a cottage industry and helps keep "the wolf" from many doors in the winter season.'

In 1891, the population had reached 3,889, and during the following decade, the yards and buildings on the sea side of Bridge Street were demolished and many of the houses on Seacliff Road were built.¹

¹ W.G.Lyttle, *The Bangor Season* (1885), pp 30-38; G.H.Bassett, *County Down Guide and Directory* (1886), pp 283-294; I.Wilson, *Bangor: Historic Photographs of the County Down Town 1870-1914* (1992), p.ii; I.Wilson and A.Jaggers, *Bangor Bay and Harbour: a pictorial history* (2002), p.19; *Evening Telegraph*, 11 September 1890.

MR.RAINEY AND THE EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS COMMISSION

During his fifteen year or so as Headmaster, Mr.Rainey was 'examined' or interviewed by the Educational Endowments Commission on two occasions: in September 1879, just over eighteen months after his appointment, and again in October 1888. Much information about the School during that decade can be gleaned from the *Minutes of Evidence* of those enquiries.

In 1879, Mr.Rainey stated that he received a salary of £60 per annum and the use of a house, from the endowment, as well as the fees of the pupils. He taught Classics and English, 'including arithmetic and elementary mathematics', while an Austrian, Valentino Steinberger, came from Belfast twice a week to teach French. Mr.Rainey had, he said, two assistants, one of whom had only recently been appointed. The pupils were mostly the children of Belfast businessmen, who were living in or near Bangor, and of landed gentry. Mr.Rainey said that, as far as the inhabitants of Bangor were concerned, the School was of little service to them.

The school population had certainly increased rapidly since Mr.Rainey's appointment. He had inherited only three pupils in 1878, and when the Chairman of the Commissioners quoted Mr.Rainey's returns for 1879, showing that he had sixteen pupils - five Church of Ireland, ten Presbyterians and one Roman Catholic - Mr.Rainey was able to inform him that the figure had since risen to thirty, including two boarders, and that he could accommodate sixty day pupils and twelve boarders. Of the thirty pupils, twenty of the dayboys were Presbyterians and the others were Church of Ireland. Mr.Rainey was an Episcopalian. The fees for dayboys ranged from two guineas to sixteen guineas, while the fees for the boarders were £35 for those under the age of thirteen and £45 for those over thirteen. He said that he did not know whether there had been free scholarships originally, but that recently a system of scholarships had been established 'in the interests of the town', for which Lord Bangor and Mr.Ward jointly had provided a subscription of £10. The first scholarship examinations were to take place in October 1879.²

It is to Mr.Rainey's credit that the School was enjoying such success, considering the circumstances in which he was working. Some time between his interview in 1879, and 1881, the School was inspected by a Mr.Mahaffy, who found three boarders and thirty-two dayboys. However, Mr.Mahaffy was very critical, especially of the state of the building. He reported:

'The house is anything but commodious, and the out-houses and latrines are very badly kept. . . . The playground wants levelling and improving; there must be a proper water supply; and if the number of boarders is to be increased, the present sleeping accommodation and beds are quite insufficient. . . . The master is unable to cope with his difficulties. . . . Some outlay is imperatively required to make the school fit for any Headmaster to invest in it his time and money.'

Mr.Mahaffy found the boys to be of 'varying ages', and in the summer the attendance was 'far larger and very different' from the winter, but he said that there were many deserving boys at the school, and one of remarkable ability. The majority, however, were, he said, 'very young and not advanced, but answered me well according to their knowledge.'

He praised Mr.Rainey's work, saying that the fact that the number of pupils had increased from three to thirty five, showed that even under the difficulties, something could be done. However, his overall conclusion was that the School was one of the clearest cases of an endowment that was being badly applied. He continued, saying that the endowment would:

*'easily afford the poorer inhabitants' families free or almost free railway tickets daily to Belfast, where they could obtain the highest class of teaching in Ireland for the same school fees which they pay in Bangor. . . . I do not think any outlay in Bangor will ever make it a valuable school.'*³

² Command Papers, c.2831; House of Commons Sessional Papers, 1881, Volume XXXV, pp 220 and 248.

³ House of Commons Sessional Papers, 1881, Volume XXXV, pp 220 and 248.



ENDOWED SCHOOL, BANGOR.

TRUSTEES :

RIGHT HON. LORD BANGOR.
ROBERT E. WARD, Esq., D.L.

MANAGER :

HON. SOMERSET WARD.

HEAD MASTER :

MR. JAMES H. RAINEY,
Peel Exhibitioner, and Prizeman Queen's College,
Belfast.



An undated advertisement in the possession of the School

'THE SUPERIOR EDUCATION THE SCHOOL AFFORDS'

However, the School did survive, and in 1882 the *Newtownards Chronicle* carried the following article:

'Bangor Endowed School

'It will be observed in our advertising columns that a very pleasant meeting took place between the respected and talented Principal in the above educational establishment and his pupils at the close of the recent examinations.

'This interesting occasion was taken advantage of by the scholars embracing the opportunity of presenting - through the assistant master, Mr. John A.C. Lamont - Mr. Rainey with an illuminated address and a handsome timepiece, as an expression of the esteem and affection with which they regard him.

'We heartily congratulate Mr. Rainey on this evidence of the good feeling entertained for him by his numerous scholars and hope that he may long continue to merit the confidence and respect of all with whom he may come into contact.'

The same newspaper carried the text of the address, and Mr. Rainey's reply:

'Address and Presentation to

*James H. Rainey
Principal, Bangor Endowed School*

'Dear Mr. Rainey,

'We the pupils of Bangor Endowed School take this opportunity of expressing our affection and esteem for you as a teacher and a friend.

'Since joining your school, while you have manifested firmness among us, we have experienced the utmost kindness and can testify to your careful attention to us and anxiety for our progress.

'As an evidence of our regard for you, we beg your acceptance of this timepiece, and it is our sincere wish that you may enjoy a long, happy and useful life and that the blessing of God, which maketh rich and addeth no sorrow, may rest on you in all your undertakings.

*'Signed on behalf of your pupils,
Minnie Bell
John A.C.Lamont
Isabella Neill*

Bangor, December 1882.'

Mr.Rainey replied:

*'Endowed School, Bangor
December 21st
1882*

'My Dear Friends,

'I thank you most sincerely for the address and beautiful timepiece which you have presented to me. Apart altogether from their intrinsic value, they are precious to me.

'They bear witness from you that some success has attended my labours and that I possess the confidence and affection of my scholars.

*Very truly yours,
James H.Rainey⁴*

Clearly Mr.Rainey was held in high regard. It would also appear that his assistant, John Lamont, was a senior pupil.

Two years later, the *North Down Herald* commented:

'BANGOR ENDOWED SCHOOL

*'In our advertising columns will be found the report of the success of the pupils trained at this educational establishment during the past year. An analysis will prove conclusively that the instruction imparted by Mr.James H.Rainey, the accomplished principal and his highly-trained staff of assistants, is varied and solid, and that, in the matter of competition with other establishments, the Bangor Endowed School holds an honourable position, and its alumni, in the race for scholastic distinctions, are no laggards, judging from the creditable positions they have secured at the various university and Intermediate examinations. Having personal knowledge of the zealous Headmaster who directs the affairs of the institution, and knowing, in some degree, his varied and comprehensive qualifications, this is not a matter of surprise, and we are gratified indeed to know that Mr.Rainey's abilities are recognized by his fellow-townpeople and residents of the adjacent country. This is evidenced from the fact that, since its foundation, there has never been at one time a greater number of pupils on the roll or in attendance than now takes advantage of the superior education the school affords. Mr.Rainey has had many learned and popular predecessors in Bangor Endowed School, but we venture to say, judging from results, that there has never been one who laboured more energetically and successfully to establish it as a home of learning. The advantage of having such an institution in our midst is incalculable, and parents, who desire that their children may compete successfully for honours in the highest professions and raise themselves to a more exalted social position – which solid education can alone accomplish, should not fail to avail themselves of it.'*⁵

The Advertisement lists the names of prizewinners and shows that Catherine Aiken, who became Mr.Rainey's assistant the following year, had been a pupil at the School. It also gives

⁴ *Newtownards Chronicle*, 23 December 1882

⁵ *Northern Herald*, 16 February 1884. (Quoted in *The Gryphon*, Vol.6, No.2, June 1952, p.4).

information about the curriculum: Arithmetic, Algebra, Euclid, English, German, French, Latin, Domestic Economy, Drawing and Bookkeeping. (Shorthand classes were started in 1891.) It appears that annual Prize Distributions were held, as shown by the 1884 advertisement reproduced in *The Gryphon* in 1952, and from accounts in the *North Down Herald*, which reported in 1887 that Canon Maguire, who became Dean of Down that year, presided and Miss Emily Connor presented the prizes. Among the prizewinners were 'two tiny children – Mary Moore Rainey and Tottie Hunter, marching forward hand in hand to receive their prizes'. Miss Connor asked Mr. Rainey to 'allow the scholars a holiday on the succeeding day'. Two years later R.E. Ward presided at the Prize Distribution in the Masonic Hall. A Mrs. Lyle of Portstewart presented the prizes. The newspaper said that Mr. Rainey's report 'showed that while elementary education had been well attended to, the higher interests of the intermediate and university studies had been pursued with such a measure of success as reflected great credit upon the Headmaster and his staff'. A musical programme on that occasion included items by the Honourable Maurice, Denis and Barry Bingham, the children of Lady Clanmorris. (Although there is no evidence that eight-year-old the Hon. Edward Barry Stewart Bingham was a pupil at the School, it would be nice to be able to claim him; having joined the Royal Navy at the age of 16, he won the *Victoria Cross* at the Battle of Jutland in 1916. After his ship, *H.M.S. Nestor*, was sunk, he became a prisoner of war, and 'on his repatriation in November 1918, he was given a hero's welcome, was carried shoulder-high to the Castle and was later conveyed to the Dufferin Hall in a torchlight procession'. He also became an *O.B.E.* and was awarded the Russian *Order of St. Stanislaus*. The gun taken for the German submarine *UB19*, which was presented to the town by the Admiralty in his honour in 1919, can still be found in *Ward Park*. He retired as a Rear-Admiral in 1932 and he died in September 1939, just three weeks after the outbreak of the Second World War.)

In 1889 an editorial in the *North Down Herald* reported that, 'The Bangor Endowed School has taken a prominent position amongst Irish educational institutions and its talented teachers are resolved to maintain that position'.⁶

In 1885, Mr. Rainey's assistant was Miss Catherine Aiken R.U.I., and the French Master was M. Jules Festu, who had been teaching French at *Belfast Academy* in the 1860s, as well as giving private French lessons, along with his wife, at their home in Clarence Place.⁷ When, in October 1888, the Educational Endowment Commissioners, headed by Lord Justice Fitzgibbon and gathered in the Courthouse, again inquired into the running of the School, the Hon. Somerset Ward J.P., (a nephew of Lord Bangor and a veteran of the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny), Manager of the School, and R.E. Ward spoke of 'the great prosperity of the School since Mr. Rainey had been appointed Headmaster' and he told the Commissioners that Mr. Rainey had introduced girls into the School and that the system of having boys and girls together was working satisfactorily. Mr. Rainey told the Commissioners that, when he had been appointed 'nine years since, the School had become almost extinguished' and that he had introduced girls 'a year and a half or two years' after his appointment. There were now twenty girls and nineteen boys in the Upper School and thirty-eight pupils in the Lower School - a total of seventy-seven, the highest number ever. When Mr. Rainey had been a pupil, he said, the number had never exceeded thirty. Only one of the seventy-seven pupils was a boarder, and Mr. Rainey contradicted his 1879 statement about boarders, saying, 'we never have had room for more than three'. All the pupils were Protestants, although he said that some of his most successful pupils had been Roman Catholics. He also said that he believed that his pupils were of a higher class than those who attended the National School and that the education offered in his school differed from that of the National

⁶ From the fragments of the *North Down Herald* preserved the *North Down Heritage Centre*: 19 February 1887, 23 January 1889, 8 August 1889 and 3 April 1891; Doherty and Truesdale, *Irish Winners of the Victoria Cross* (2000); M. Patton, *Bangor: An Historical Gazetteer*.

⁷ W.G. Lyttle, *op.cit.*, p.36; *Belfast Newsletter*, 25 July 1861.

Schools in that it directed the pupils into Intermediate study. (When Mr.Rainey was succeeded by Dr.Conolly in 1893, the girls who had been attending the School, transferred to the school Miss Aiken had set up on Sandy Row (Queen's Parade) possibly after gaining her B.A. degree in 1891, becoming '*the first Bangor lady who has won the high distinction*'.⁸)

By 1888, Miss Aiken was in charge of the French Department, which was now more successful than it had been under a French master. In all, there were three assistants in the lower school and one lady in the upper school, along with Mrs.Rainey, who taught Music and Domestic Economy. Mr.Rainey himself was the only male teacher. Speaking to the *Old Boy's Association* in 1932, Alex. Riddell recalled Mr.Rainey as someone who '*had the art of imparting knowledge, the art of driving those of his pupils who could be driven*'. There were about forty pupils, he said. Although they had no organized games, he did remember one occasion when, '*by raking in old boys and raking in a fisherman*', they managed to raise a rugby fifteen, which went to play Groomsport. He continued: '*There was a player called Niblock on the Groomsport side, who was much too many for us in the first half, but we discovered that he was blind of an eye and for the rest of the match, we tackled him on that side and then we were too many for him*'.⁹ He did not mention the outcome of the match. Almost a quarter of a century after first speaking to the *Old Boys' Association*, now aged 83, he claimed to have been the only boy to have sat the *Royal University of Ireland* matriculation examination under Mr.Rainey; when he passed, Mr.Rainey posted a notice outside the School reading:

'Royal University of Ireland Matriculation: The entry from this School passed entirely.'

However, in 1889 the *North Down Herald* offered Mr.and Mrs.Rainey congratulations '*upon the success of their pupils in the recent Royal University matriculation examinations*' and in 1892, Charlotte Williams, Edith Leck and '*Master James Latimer, the Manse, Groomsport*' also passed that examination., while the following year Emily M.Crooks passed '*directly from school*', W.J.Purvis, a former pupil, obtained a £15 exhibition at *Queen's College* and George W.Hanna passed the *Belfast Banking Service* examination.¹⁰

⁸ Jack Aiken, Catherine's brother, writing in *The Gryphon*, December 1949; *North Down Herald*, 31 July 1891.

⁹ *County Down Spectator*, 3 December 1932.

¹⁰ *The Gryphon*, December 1956; *North Down Herald*, 8 August 1889 and 19 August 1892; *Belfast Newsletter*, 7 August 1893. A list of pupils, known to have attended the School during Mr.Rainey's Principalship, can be found in Appendix 17B.

ENDOWED SCHOOL, BANGOR.
JANUARY, 1884.

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND

Miss Catherine Aikin, a candidate from this school, passed the *Matriculation Examination* in October last, in the following subjects :—*Latin, English, French, Mathematics, and Natural Philosophy.*

INTERMEDIATE EXAMINATIONS.

MIDDLE GRADE.

Charles Fordyce Wheeler, Pass in English *Arithmetic, Euclid, and Algebra.*

John Currell, Pass in *English, Arithmetic, Euclid, and Algebra.*

Robert Denison, Pass with honours in *English, Arithmetic and Algebra.*

JUNIOR GRADE.

Arthur G. McKinney, Pass with honors in *Arithmetic, Euclid, and Algebra, Pass in English.*

Robert F. McCrea, Pass with honors in *Euclid, Arithmetic, English, and Bookkeeping.*

Miss Maguire, Pass with honors in *German and French, Pass in English, Arithmetic, Drawing, and Domestic Economy.*

Miss Ferguson, Pass in *English and Domestic Economy.*

CHRISTMAS EXAMINATIONS, 1883

(INTERN).

EXHIBITION, VALUE £5

Charles F. Wheeler, } equal.
Robert F. McCrea, }

PRIZES, VALUE £1 EACH.

Miss Maguire, Robert B. Campbell.

BOOK PRIZES GAINED FOR GENERAL PROFICIENCY.

Miss Aikin, Miss Neill, Miss Crosbie, Miss Dunn, John Currell, Robert Denison, Walter Furey.

PRIZES FOR SPECIAL DISTINCTION IN PARTICULAR SUBJECTS.

Latin—Robert Denison.

Writing—Miss Crosbie and Miss Neill.

PREPARATORY SCHOOL.

1st, John McCrea; 2nd, John McCarthy; 3rd, Edith Leck; 4th, Charles Sibbitt.

Apart from the above list of prize winners, the general answering of the Scholars on the work of the past year was of a highly satisfactory nature.

Good Conduct Prize, gained by vote of the Scholars—John Currell.

From a variety of causes several of the Scholars belonging to the School were prevented attending the Examinations.

There exists at present a VACANCY for Two BOARDERS. Terms and references can be had on application to the HEAD MASTER. 1454.

Reproduced in *The Gryphon*, December 1952



Bangor Endowed School, 1888

P.Nicholson, T.McCrea, J.McCarthy, Alpine Guthrie, C.Furey, B.Pollock, W.Purvis,
 G.Deans, J.Hanna, E.Charles, C.Hunt, G.Hanna, H.Sefton, J.Moncrieff, J.Moore, ? ,
 J.McKenzie, C.Cleland, C.Mancriff [sic], R.Carswell, ? , A.Wright, ? , W.Anderson, E.Gibson,
 Mr.J.Rainey (Headmaster), R.Neill, W.J.Colville, S.Charles, J.B.Carswell, H.Claney, R.Carswell, C.Neill, W.Deans,
 J.McBride, A.Campbell, B.Hunter, B.Hanna, H.Campbell, D.Wright, R.Bowman, J.Hanna.
 (Photograph presented by Victor Salter [1889-1893] in 1950)

The Lower School curriculum consisted of Reading, Writing and rudimentary training for the Upper School. In the Upper School, the curriculum of the Intermediate Examination Board, (established by the 1878 Intermediate Education Act), was followed, and pupils were entered for the Intermediate Examinations from 1880, when all the candidates passed. The question of the teaching of Navigation was raised, but Mr.Rainey said that he had never had any applications regarding it, and that even when he had been a pupil, he had never known it to be taught. There was no Religious Instruction in the School, which was entirely secular, although Rev.Edward Maguire, the Dean of Down, and the Rev.William Clarke, minister of *Second Bangor* (renamed 'Trinity' in 1894)) *Presbyterian Church*, both showed an interest in the School.

The Commissioners remarked on the good attendance in the Upper School - an average of thirty six out of the thirty nine pupils - but they asked why the attendance in the preparatory school was so poor - an average of 15.8 out of thirty eight, when in National Schools it was the reverse. Mr.Rainey explained that people of a higher class would not send their young children out in inclement weather, whereas the parents of pupils at National Schools '*want their children out of the way*'. The attendance in summer was better, he said.

The Commissioners echoed the earlier concern expressed by Mr.Mahaffy as to the facilities. Lord Bangor and Mr.Ward did carry out repairs to the tune of about £10 per annum, out of their own pockets, but the Commissioners felt that the School was overcrowded, and this led them to the main purpose of their inquiry - to prepare the way for drawing up a new Scheme for the government of the School. Mr.Rainey told the Commissioners that he had no apparatus for the

teaching of Natural Philosophy, and that he found that a great drawback. He said that, some years ago, an effort had been made to establish Science and Art classes, but that pupils did not attend the classes. Lord Justice Fitzgibbon asked if he had ever been in touch with South Kensington, and Rev.Dr.Molloy, another of the Commissioners, pointed out that if a Committee was formed in connection with the School, South Kensington would provide half the cost of the apparatus.¹¹

TOWARDS A SCHEME OF MANAGEMENT

Also interviewed on that occasion were Hon.Somerset Ward and Rev.William Clarke. Mr.Ward said that both the original trustees were dead, and that no new trustees had been appointed. When asked whether it would be possible to form a committee of people in the neighbourhood, who would take an interest in the School, collect funds for it and contact South Kensington, while at the same time preserving the rights of Lord Bangor and R.E.Ward as far as appointing and removing the Master were concerned, Mr.Ward said that he saw no objection and that he thought it would be a very great advantage. Such a step would render the School *'of still greater benefit to the people of the town and district'*. The Commissioners suggested that the Dean of Down and a Presbyterian minister would be proper members of a school committee.

Rev.William Clarke also thought that the establishment of committee of management would be advantageous and that the sympathies of the neighbourhood would increase, leading to a larger attendance. He also believed that, if the needs of the School were placed before the public, they would do their best to raise the money. He pointed out that three-quarters of the population of the neighbourhood were Presbyterian, presumably to strengthen the claims of the Presbyterians to have seats on the Committee, although Mr.Rainey pointed out that *'the higher class of Presbyterian'* had an Intermediate School provided for them at Upper Clifton, and that it had been in operation for seven or eight years. Mr.Clarke agreed to meet with the Dean of Down, Mr.Ward and Mr.Rainey to discuss the management of the School.¹²

A Draft Scheme was published on 13 December 1890. Lord Bangor and R.E.Ward *'cordially approved of the Scheme'*, provided that Section 28, which read, *'every Headmaster shall be a graduate'*, did not affect the position of Mr.Rainey, who was not a graduate. However, the Scheme did not meet with the approval of the Ards Presbytery, which instructed Rev.Alexander Patton of First Bangor and Rev.William Clarke to write to the Commissioners expressing their objection to *'the inadequate representation of the Presbyterian Church on the Board of Governors'*.¹³

At a Public Sitting of the Commission on 27 October 1891, Rev.Professor Todd Martin, Convenor of the General Assembly's Intermediate Education Committee, argued that since Lord Bangor and Mr.Ward were both Episcopalians, as undoubtedly would be the two governors nominated by them, the Church of Ireland would have six governors, including the two clergymen, whereas the Presbyterians, who were in the majority in the area, would have only two. The Presbyterian Church was seeking four additional Presbyterian governors.

The Commissioners contended that Lord Bangor and Mr.Ward were entitled to seats on the governing body of the School, regardless of their religion, and that their nominees would be

¹¹ South Kensington was the headquarters of the Department of Science and Art, which had been set up in 1853. Its object was to encourage the teaching of the Applied Sciences, by means of, among other methods, the payment of grants. To obtain grant assistance, a school had to be endowed already, and the fees and local grants had to be equal to the South Kensington grants. A full system of examinations in Science had been begun in 1860, but in the 1880s and 1890s, payment by results gradually gave way to a system of payment by inspection. (M.Argles, *South Kensington to Robbins*, London, 1964, pp 18-22.)

¹² *Educational Endowments Commission*, 1888; *Newtownards Chronicle*, 27 October 1888.

¹³ *The Principal Objections and Amendments to Draft Schemes received by the Commissioners during the year 1890-91*. (House of Commons Sessional Papers, 1890-91, Volume XXVIII, p.254).

neutral, and so the Church of Ireland and the Presbyterian Church were being treated equally, with two governors each.

James Bowman, Chairman of Bangor Town Commissioners, complained that his body too was being treated unfairly, and he asked that the Chairman of the Town Commissioners should be given a seat on the Board of Governors, since the Town Commissioners had succeeded the body to which the original bequest had been made, that is the Provost and Burgesses of the Corporation of Bangor. Lord Justice Fitzgibbon, the Chairman of the Educational Endowment Commissioners, asked Dr.Martin and Mr.Bowman to discuss their concerns with Lord Bangor and Mr.Ward, and to communicate the results to the Commissioners.¹⁴

THE SCHEME OF MANAGEMENT (1893)

There is no record of that meeting, but the Scheme (No.99), which was signed by the Judicial Commissioners in January 1893 and was finally approved by the Lord Lieutenant in July 1893¹⁵, laid down that the Governing Body of the School should consist of Lord Bangor and his nominee, Mr.Ward and his nominee, the Incumbent of the Parish of Bangor and his Curate, and the ministers of *First and Second Bangor Presbyterian Churches*, along with one governor for every ten Subscribers present at an Annual General Meeting of Subscribers, up to a total of three.

The qualifications of subscribers were laid down as follows:

- (a) Those who subscribed at least £10 to the funds of the School; or
- (b) Those who had paid £10 for the education of a pupil, and had subscribed at least £5;
- or
- (c) Past pupils who had attended the School for at least three years, were at least 21 years of age and had subscribed at least £5; or
- (d) Those who subscribed £1 per annum.¹⁶

The specific demands of the Ards Presbytery and the Town Commissioners had not been met, but given the majority of Presbyterians in the town, the chances are that at least some of the Governors elected by the Subscribers would have been Presbyterian. The Governing Body was given powers to administer the finances of the School, to employ and pay the teachers, charge fees, grant scholarships, decide whether or not to give Religious Instruction, and to determine the general curriculum. The Scheme is a detailed document, running to sixteen pages in length.

¹⁴ Educational Endowments (Ireland) Commission, Public Sitting, Belfast, Tuesday 27 October 1891: Minutes of Evidence. (House of Commons Sessional Papers, 1892, Volume XXIX, pp 109-110).

¹⁵ House of Commons Sessional Papers, 1894, Volume XXX, Part 1, p.479.

¹⁶ *Scheme [No.99]*.



EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENTS (IRELAND) ACT, 1885.

No. 99.

Rt Hon R Ward

County of Down.

Date of Scheme—13th July, 1893.

FINAL APPROVAL BY ORDER IN COUNCIL.

Endowment—The Bangor Endowed School.

By the Lord Lieutenant and Privy Council in Ireland.

HOUGHTON.

Whereas the Right Honorable Gerald FitzGibbon and the Right Honorable William O'Brien, the Judicial Commissioners constituted under the Educational Endowments (Ireland) Act, 1885, have, in virtue of the powers conferred upon them by the said Act, and of every other power enabling them in that behalf, framed and signed under their hands a Scheme relating to the Bangor Endowed School, in the County of Down, which Scheme is annexed to this Order:

And whereas all the conditions in regard to the said Scheme, which are required to be fulfilled by the said Act to enable the said Scheme to be finally approved, have been fulfilled:

Now therefore, We, the Lord Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland, by and with the advice and consent of Her Majesty's Privy Council in Ireland, do by this Order, pursuant to the 27th section of the said Act, declare our approbation of the aforesaid Scheme, and the same is hereby finally approved.

Given at the Council Chamber, Dublin Castle, this
13th day of July, 1893.

**S. WALKER, C.
JOSEPH M. MEADE,**

THE END OF MR.RAINEY'S HEADMASTERSHIP

On 26 August 1893, the *Belfast Newsletter* carried an advertisement, which read:

'Intermediate Education – Wanted for Bangor Endowed School, a teacher from 1 October, who must be at least B.A. Emoluments £55 p.a., with free home and two thirds of the school fees. Apply to Rev.Dr.Patton, Hon.Sec. Applications, with testimonials to be marked "Endowed School".'

This sounds like an advertisement for a Headmaster, but it left unanswered the question of what happened to Mr.Rainey. Two days later, the same advertisement appeared, immediately preceded by one which said:

*'Mr.Rainey, for 15 years Headmaster of Bangor Endowed School, has, in consequence of a change in the Governing Body of the School, resigned his position and will therefore be unable to meet his students on 1st September as previously advertised.'*¹⁷

It will probably never be known what it was about the new Scheme, which caused Mr.Rainey, who had conducted the School with some success since 1878, to resign as Headmaster; perhaps he took offence at the stipulation that, *'every Headmaster shall be a graduate'*, although as has been pointed out, Lord Bangor and R.E.Ward had been keen to safeguard Mr.Rainey's position. These two advertisements do surely demonstrate, however, a continuity in the life of the School, which has in the past been called into question.

Mr.Rainey was obviously held in some regard, for in 1913, a sum of money was sent to Mr.Matthew Crosbie, one of the Governors, for the purpose of providing a medal or prize in his memory. Since the amount was not sufficient to provide a large gold medal, which was the memorial aimed at, Mr.R.Logan, the Hon.Treasurer, invited former pupils of Mr.Rainey to supplement the sum. In 1940, the Board of Governors was informed that Mr.Crosbie had collected a further £6-5-0 for the purpose.¹⁸ It does not appear that any such memorial was provided.

¹⁷ *Belfast Newsletter*, 28 August 1893.

¹⁸ *County Down Spectator*, 26 December 1913; Minutes of the Board of Governors, 29 January 1940.