

Chapter 16

Retrospect and Prospect

*“Quis scit, quid veniat? Stultissimus iste videtur”*¹

What would be the thoughts of Robert Edward Ward, or the Headmasters and pupils who laboured for almost half a century in the *Old Schoolhouse* on Front Street, if they were able to visit the School today, to see its facilities and to hear of the achievements - and the sacrifices - of the boys of *Bangor Endowed School*? Indeed, even those who attended the School during its second fifty years, during the stewardship of James McFeeters, Maurice Wilkins and John Ricketts, for whom the School was no more than the building made possible by the benefaction of W.K.Crosby, would surely be amazed to see what progress the last half century has brought.

And yet, even those facilities are now inadequate to meet the needs of the education of boys in the 21st century, so what changes will the next fifty years bring? It is somehow appropriate that, after exactly 100 years on the College Avenue site, and on the School's 150th anniversary, it has been confirmed that Thomas McBride's hope for '*much larger and better equipped premises, surrounded by a spacious domain of playing fields*' is to be fulfilled. But will changes in the structure of secondary education also sweep away the grammar schools?

One thing is sure: Bangor will remain a centre of education, will perpetuate the 1,500 year tradition of the town, and wherever the School may be situated, the values inculcated in the boys of Bangor will continue be taught, as they have been since the foundation the School in 1856. And may it be the case that, for another 150 years, boys will continue to sing:

*'Sana mens in corpore sano
Hic quaeratur, et humano
Quisque sit, discipulus
Animo. Ne pavidus
Exeat, Laboratorus
Inter pares, oraturus
Oraturus,
Fidem quolibet laturus.'*

'Here let a sound mind and a sound body be sought, and let every pupil be of a civilised spirit. Let him go out without fear, to work among his fellows, to pray, to carry his faith with him everywhere.'

¹ "It is an imprudent man indeed, who attempts to scan the future": Dr.R.J.Rodgers in his Speech Day Report in 1977, reprinted in *The Gryphon*, 1977.