Specimens of Writing & c.
Lancasterian School
Kingston, Jamaica
1826

Images of a volume of samplers of children’s work in handwriting and needlework

from the British and Foreign School Society Archive,
located at Brunel University, London, UK.

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The British and Foreign School Society

One of the landmarks in the development of universal schooling was the opening of Joseph Lancaster’s school at Borough Road, Southwark, London, in 1798. A teacher training institution was added soon afterwards.

“The Society for Promoting the Lancasterian System for the Education of the Poor” was formed in 1808 to carry forward Lancaster’s work, which was supported by a number of prominent evangelical and non-conformist Christians including William Wilberforce, the abolitionist. In 1814 the Society was renamed the “British and Foreign School Society” (BFSS) and throughout the nineteenth century set up “British Schools” and teacher training institutions on non-sectarian principles. In addition to its work in Britain it established schools overseas and provided staff and support.

The “Lancasterian System” was designed to provide a basic education for as many children as possible with the funds available, and despite a great shortage of teachers. Monitors (older children who had already been taught the “three Rs”) taught groups of younger children in turn.

The Society’s aims are:

“the advancement of education, that is, the physical, mental, moral, religious and spiritual development of the whole person regardless of national, racial or cultural background in accordance with the principles of the Christian faith but on a non-sectarian and inter-denominational basis and without credal tests.” See www.bfss.org.uk
Specimen of Children's Writing who have been Educated in the Lancasterian School in Kingston. David Pich
The Lancasterian School in Kingston, Jamaica was first established by the Rev. Thomas Knibb, April 23rd, 1823. He was taught the System in England, and imparted its benefits with much zeal and success amongst the poor and long neglected children in Kingston, until removed by death April 23rd, 1824.

In January 1825, the Rev. William Knibb, brother to the deceased, arrived in Kingston and conducted the duties of the School, which had been in a declining state from the period of his brother's death until then.

In January 1826, a new large and airy School room, which is built and fitted up on the plan of the Borough Road School in London, was opened in East Queen Street, capable of holding 250 children.
prohibited the benefit of the System. The lessons are all obtained from The British and Foreign School Society in London.

The girls are taught useful needlework 2 afternoons in the week by Mr. Knibb. The accompanying Specimens will show what Progress they have made.

Sept. 25, 1826

William Hitchell.

The foregoing account is written by a Cup, carefully.

All the Specimens, both of writing and Needlework, are

in due the possession of the Schoolmistress.

Mrs. and Mrs. Knibb.

Sept.
It is my wish that every poor child in my dominions may be taught to read his Bible.

Speech of his Majesty,
George the Third

Commandment
Christ is the only Saviour

6 x 2701 at 7½ per do.
1 x 133.0.0
½ x 2 25.1
½ x 172.6
20 x 1088.1
£1345.8.1½

Philip Smith
General Monitor of Order
Sept 7th 1826
Remember thy Creator in the days of thy Youth.
Remember thy Creator in the days of thy Youth.
Remember thy Creator in the days of thy Youth.
Remember thy Creator in the days of thy Youth.
Remember thy Creator in the days of thy Youth.

Education.

Behold the Lamb of God.

Age 12.        David Dick
General Master of Arithmetic.
My son if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. My son.

God is good to all mankind.

Age 11

Settwill Smith
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

John W. Conolly

Age 18
If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.
If a ruler hearken to lies all his servants are wicked.
If a ruler hearken to lies all his servants are wicked.

Keep the Command.

Age 11
Earlington Townsend

Lord while the little heathens bend,
And call some wooden god their friend,
Or stand and see with bitter cries,
Their mothers burnt before their eyes.

Age 14
Alexander Grant
My son of sinners entice thee Consent then not
My son of sinners entice thee consent then not
My son of sinners entice thee consent then not

Happy are the just

Aim at improvement
Aim at improvement

Age 8 Bought from Slavery

James Millington
Writing of the little African, from Congo captured from a French Brig about a year ago and sent to the School by the Admiral; he can now read the Testament.

God can see me everywhere.

Francis Stalbo Hall

Communion.
There is a house with 3 toes of Windows and 3 in each toe.

the Height of these in the first is 7 ft. 2 in., in the second
7 ft. 1 in., and the third 5 ft. 1 in., the breadth of each is
3 ft. 1 in., what will the glazing come to at 2s. 6d. per foot?

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Total: £ 29 2s. 4½d.
Cautiously avoid sin.
Imitate good example.
Behold the Lamb.
Look down in pity, and forgive
Whatever I've said or done amiss
And help me every day I live
To serve thee better than in this.

Age 12
Mary Seward Smith

Now while I speak, be pleased to take
A helpless child beneath thy care
And correspond, for Jesus sake,
To listen to my evening prayer.

Age 12
Margaret Mc Carthy
Rule 8. When the price and quantity given are of several denominations, multiply the price by the integers, and take parts with the parts of the integers for the rest.

At £8. 4s. 6d per cwt. what is the value of 28 cwt. 2 qr. 6 lb. of tobacco.

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c}
\text{price} & 2 & 3 \text{qr. 6 lb.} \\
\hline
\text{lb.} & 5 & 5 \\
\text{cwt.} & 17 & 17 \\
\text{cwt.} & 16 & 16 \\
\text{total} & 51 & 51 \\
\text{price} & 8 & 8 \\
\text{value} & £99. 5s. 11d. & \end{array}
\]

William Sutcliffe, 1st.
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise him all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

13 Brightfix
Sarah Lancasterey

Blessings for ever on the Lamb,
Who bore the curse for wretched man;
Let angels sound his sacred name
And every creature say—Amen.

12 Name
Caroline Porter
Aim at improvement.
Aim to improve.
Gain laudable praise.
God is good to all.
From the commencement of the School in 1823 to January 1824, nearly 150 children had been dismissed, the School most of whom could read their Bibles.

When the new School was opened 100 children were in attendance and in two months the number was completed. From June to Sept. 1826-24 Boys and 36 Girls left the School, many of the Boys to assisted Tithes, capable of writing and ciphering and nearly all both Boys and Girls of reading the word of God.

The School at this time contains 160 Boys and 100 Girls, Seventy are Slaves, 40 were Slaves, but have been redeemed by Parents or Friends. The remaining children are, generally speaking, the offspring of the poor free. Total 260. Of these, 100 can read the New Testament, who entered in the Alphabet Class.

No Catechism is taught in the School nor any one.