

SHERBORNE SCHOOL

COMMEMORATION, JUNE 22ND, 1912.

1. PROLOGUE, written and recited by C. K. MUSPRATT, Head of the School.

Three years have passed since he, whom gladly there
We see in Aldhelm's and in Asser's Chair,
Began his prosperous rule, but till to-day
Once only in this high and festive way
Have all of us this mutual pleasure gained,
We by your presence who to-day have deigned
To grace our festival of thanks and praise,
You by that welcome which shall ever raise
A thrill of pride in every honoured guest
Of Sherborne still the glory of the West.
But nobler than such pomp and pageantry
Behold the work of love and industry! ⁽¹⁾
Matching the splendour of these Gothic halls
In massive dignity rise yonder walls,
The gift of pious and of grateful hearts,
A Temple to high Mavors and the Arts:
Where fitly Nature's secrets are unsealed,
And all the powers of draughtsmanship revealed,
And whence our martial youth come forth to learn
The greatest privilege that man can earn,
To be the guardians of this English land.
Such, opened by the great Proconsul's hand,

(1) The Carrington Buildings and Westcott Art School, opened by Lord Milner, November, 1910.

Is yonder pile, first laid with omen bright
According to the Masons' ancient rite.

Another honour to our present reign,
Sherborne regains her former strength again ;
And with the added dark blue standard we
Proclaim once more our sixfold empery.⁽²⁾

Our warriors prospering under fortune's wing
Were lately called to greet our Emperor-King :
And of our tribunes two⁽³⁾ for merits rare
As legates now their martial office share,
While leads the legions of the *Μεγαλομάτωρ*
No more a praetor but an imperator.⁽⁴⁾

Let me record but two achievements more,
One in the new and one in ancient lore.
He who last year, regarded by the great,
Respected by the wise, controlled our state
The first attained;⁽⁵⁾ the second,⁽⁶⁾ one who still
Quaffs of the Muses' Scireburnian rill,
And guilds our glories for a few weeks more,
The many-tongued musician: by the door
On yonder tables are their names, that all
May know their honour as they pass this hall.

Lastly no more the incautious swimmer chides
The frigidarium⁽⁷⁾ for its rugged sides:
While o'er the banded powers of Fire and Water⁽⁸⁾
Victrix utrinque we salute our Alma Mater !

(2) Mr. Milford's House was opened January, 1912, and took the colours formerly worn by Mr. Price's House.

(3) Messrs. Bensly and Davis, recently promoted Captains.

(4) Major Dunkin.

(5) G. Bennett, Head of the School, won a Science Demyship at Magdalen ; (6) P. N. R. Butcher a Classical Scholarship at Oriel.

(7) The sides of the Bath have been smoothed with concrete.

(8) The bard appears to allude to the fire which broke out on Good Friday in Mr. Bensly's House, and to the breakdown of the Sherborne Urban Council's Waterworks in May.