

COMMEMORATION, JUNE 21ST, 1930.

PROLOGUE, recited by P. H. F. MERMAGEN, Head of the School.

Welcome to-day to each and all! Once more
This respite, all too brief, from work and rules
Sees us released, and you to share our ease
(Whose approbation is our dearest pride)
Hither assembled. Parents, sisters, friends,
Our Founders now with us commemorate,
With grateful hearts our Benefactors' praise
Rehearse, and those dear names of Sherborne's sons,
Who did great deeds and wrought for Church and Realm
Unnumbered benefits, tell forth with joy.
Nor those forget whose deeds obscure, unknown,
Won no victorious palms, no high renown;
Unwinged their utterance, on the lips of men
Unquoted, and their lives clean blotted out;
Yet these were humble men, just and sincere,
White souls, courageous, tolerant and kind,
Lovers of truth, of Sherborne worthy too:
We thank GOD for them, love and honour them.

Now first, as is most due, respectfully
I greet our Governors, whose daily care
Upholds our state, and you, Sir, first of all,⁽¹⁾
Their Chairman, to whose house we owe a debt
For friendship firm, and counsel ever wise,
And lands and buildings generously given.

Next should I greet the one,⁽²⁾ whose eloquence
The noble Abbey should have heard anon.
But ruthlessly the strain of over-work
Will claim its victims still, and none may fight
'Gainst the stern ban of medical decree.
From Hospital he pens his keen regret,
And we to him send back regret as keen.

And one there is,⁽³⁾ musician and divine,
(As both we name him now with gratitude)
Known through the length and breadth of Sarum's See
A willing helper, as of us to-day.

And last not singly, but to all I speak
Our heart-felt welcome! Stay with us awhile,
See how we live, our work, our play look o'er,
Indulgent critics, as we hope, of all
That here we shall present, speeches and plays,
Music and declamation; nor forget,
The while the few successful you applaud,
The many who have striven gallantly,
And found in the work's self their best reward.

But others now must occupy our stage,
Their work rehearse, receive the prizes due;
Here end I then my most unworthy verse,
To gaiety release you: so Farewell!

(1) Lieut.-Col. F. J. B. Wingfield Digby, D.S.O., T.D., D.L., J.P., Chairman of the Governors of Sherborne School.

(2) The Rev. A. E. Jarvis, C.M.G., M.C., D.D., Chaplain-General to the Forces.

(3) The Very Rev. H. W. Carpenter, Archdeacon of Sarum, Precentor of the Cathedral.