

out, and that two of the present and two of the late Churchwardens shall within one month after Whitsunday visit the said Children to see that proper care is taken of them."

The salient features of this extract are:

(a) The parish officers actually visited the factory and reported on the treatment of the children there. Thus, in Camberwell at least, the parish did not just wash its hands of the children once it had got them employment in a factory. That this happened elsewhere, however, is suggested by many writers, such as Dorothy George in "England in Transition", who remarks that the parish officers, in their efforts to keep the poor rates low, strove to find a master, "any master, so long as he lived in some other parish, since where the first forty days of an apprenticeship was served, there a settlement or right to maintenance under the Poor Law would be gained" (p. 124).

(b) In consequence of the parish officers' report it was resolved that Strutt should be informed that the Children would be withdrawn within one month. An Act of 1746-7 (20 Geo 2 c. 19) had authorised the cancellation of the indentures of those apprentices "whose masters use them ill", and so in Camberwell we have an example of the parish exercising its legal right in this respect, for the protection of the children, and at its own inconvenience. Another Act, of 1793 (33 Geo 3 c. 55), had provided for the punishment of those masters who ill-treated their apprentices, but Camberwell does not seem to have contemplated taking the matter to court.

(c) To prevent the ill-treatment of Camberwell children in other factories it was resolved that a list of these children be made out and that they should be visited by parish officers. It was not until the Act of 1801-2 (42 Geo 3 c. 46) that overseers were ordered to keep a register of parish apprentices, and so here, perhaps, Camberwell was doing more than the mere letter of the law demanded.

According to Mr. G. Cornwall, the local history correspondent of Ricksmansworth, the parish of Rickmansworth had prohibited the employment of their own pauper labour by Strutt in his factory in 1786. He quotes the following extract from the vestry minutes of that year:

"in future no Governor of the Workhouse

is to suffer any person or persons that shall be under his care and maintenance to be employed at the cotton manufactory of Mr. Joseph Strutt."

This extract suggests that in Rickmansworth, too, the parish officers were humane in their treatment of the poor, and were not the tyrannic monsters that some writers would have us believe.

JOHN HARRINGTON.

BOSWELL'S PROJECTED HISTORY OF AYRSHIRE

THAT a history of Ayrshire, the county in which lay the family seat of Auchinleck, was one of the many uncompleted works of James Boswell was first made clear by the printing of the *Private Papers of James Boswell from Malahide Castle*. In the Journal of 1776 there is an entry dated Friday, 4th October:—¹

Blanefield, Mr. McMyne, Knockroon, and I walked up to Lochdoon and saw two great drains from it worked by powder through the hard whin rock, at the expense of Craigengillen and the other proprietors of the ground about it. I must have a particular account of this to insert in my history of Ayrshire.

Boswell states in the same entry that he had been looking into Craufurd's *History of Renfrew*,² which he found "confusedly arranged and ill-expressed." It is now known that he had his county history in mind at least ten months earlier than the above reference. Among the Boswell Papers at Yale are sixteen columns of notes and queries by Boswell relating to Lord Hailes's *Annals of Scotland* Vol. I (1776), together with a letter by Hailes dated 18th January, 1776, and some five pages of replies by Hailes to Boswell's notes. The letter is somewhat irritable in tone and unkindly suggests that Boswell could have found many of his answers in books instead of bothering the author. On pp. 6-7 of his notes Boswell wrote:—³

¹ Vol. 12. p. 53. cf. also *Index to the Private Papers of James Boswell from Malahide Castle* (Oxford, 1937) p. 45. I am indebted to Pro. F. A. Pottle for these references.

² Craufurd or Crawford George. (d. 1748) *The General Description of the Shire of Renfrew* first appeared in 1710 as part of his *Genealogical History of the Stewarts 1054-1710* It was published separately, with additions, at Paisley in 1788.

³ This material is quoted by kind permission of the Yale Boswell Committee and Wm. Heinemann, Ltd.

P.176. note.⁴ Is it not strange that the Chronicle of Melros should place the battle of Largs in 1262 a year before it was fought according to Torfaeus. Does this not discredit its accuracy. I wish to have a *Catalogue raisonnee* of all the early books on Scottish History. Their dates their authours so far as can be known—their periods distinctly marked—their authenticity—their characters in every respect. A Table of the Materials of our History wherever extant would be valuable. How might the truth of the particulars of the battle of Largs be investigated?⁵ I should wish to do it as I meditate a History of Ayrshire.⁶

In view of the lack of other known references to this work in Boswell's papers, one would be tempted to assume that Boswell never proceeded any further than meditation as far as the history of Ayrshire was concerned. There are hints, however, in a correspondence between two prominent antiquaries, now little read, that Boswell carried the work a stage further.⁷ Richard Gough had sent the Scottish portions of his *British Topography* to George Paton, the Edinburgh antiquary, for revision and comment before the revised work appeared in 1780. When he undertook an expanded edition of the English translation of Camden's *Britannia* he was again anxious to consult the best Scottish authorities, particularly Paton himself and Lord Hailes.⁸ He seemed less anxious

⁴ The page-reference is to *Annals of Scotland from the Accession of Malcolm III surnamed Canmore to the Accession of Robert I.*

⁵ Hailes has scribbled a hasty note in the margin of this entry suggesting that Boswell could acquire the necessary knowledge "in Torfæus & by examining ye field of Battle." In the five pages of notes, more carefully transcribed, which Hailes sent to Boswell along with the latter's own material, there is a much fuller note to the same effect.

⁶ The history of Ayrshire has been covered in the two following works. Paterson J. *History of the County of Ayr, with a genealogical account of the Families of Ayrshire* (Ayr, 1847); Shaw J. E. *Ayrshire, 1745-1950. A Social and Industrial History of the County* (Edinburgh, 1953).

⁷ Both the Paton-Gough and the Gough-Paton letters are preserved amongst the Paton letters in the National Library of Scotland. I am indebted to R. P. Doig, Esq., St. Andrews, for pointing out the Boswell references and providing me with a transcript of the passage quoted.

⁸ Gough to Paton. Oct. 22 1786. "After you have got the whole revised and corrected by the best judges (among whom I rank Ld Hailes foremost if he will condescend to undertake the task) the whole may be returned in a single parcel to Mr. Nichols."

to consult another authority whom Paton suggested. Paton wrote on 14th October 1786:—

I am apt to believe that you will receive much information from James Boswell Esqr of Auchlenleck now settled in London relative to the shire of Air, Cuninghame &c. with most of the Western Counties, where he has & forefathers resided & I have been assured, that he has made great Collections relative to the first of these, for an intended purpose of exhibiting a Topographical &c. Account of it.

Paton wrote again to the same effect in December and also in January 1787, saying on the last occasion, "Frequently have I written to you, that application should be made to James Boswell Esqr of Auchleck." I know of no evidence that Gough took Paton's advice, nor is Paton's source of information concerning Boswell's 'great collections' known. One would suspect that their mutual friend and correspondent, Lord Hailes, who had been told of the work ten years before, was responsible. Examination of the Hailes-Paton letters' now extant reveals no mention of the collections. Hailes and Paton, however, both met and corresponded in Edinburgh, and the information may have been conveyed orally.

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⁹ The Hailes-Paton letters are in Vol. I of the Paton Correspondence. National Library MSS. 29.5.8.

THE PAPERS OF JOHN CHARLES BROOKE

BRIEF reference to a small group of papers of John Charles Brooke (1748-1794), Somerset Herald,^a was made in *Notes and Queries*, cxcix. 481, but as the bulk of his collection is at the College of Arms,^b a complete list of the items in the West Sussex Record Office may be of service to scholars. As mentioned at the reference quoted, this

^a Details of his career and unfortunate death will be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and in M. Noble, *A History of the College of Arms* (1805), pp. 428-434.

^b A. R. Wagner, *The Records and Collections of the College of Arms* (1952), pp. 11, 43. Another small group of Brooke's papers is in the British Museum (Add. MS. 21184). See also R. Gough, *British Topography*, ii, pp. 397, 401, 402.