

Bedfordshire Institution

Upon Dr Bell's Plan

For the Education of the Children of the Poor, in the Principles of the Established Church

At a respectable MEETING of the GENTRY and CLERGY of the County, holden in the *Sessions-House, Bedford*, this 24th day of June (1816), pursuant to Advertisement.

SIR GEORGE OSBORN, BART. IN THE CHAIR:

It was unanimously resolved,

- i. THAT it is highly expedient to form a Society for the purpose of educating the Children of the Poor, in the County of *Bedford*, in the principles of the Established Church, in suitable Learning, and in the works of Industry, according to the *Madras* System of Instruction, and in union with the National Society, instituted in London.
- ii. THAT the *Lord Lieutenant of the County* be the President – That the following Gentlemen be Vice-Presidents, *Sir George Osborn*, Bart. Right Hon. *John Trevor*, *Francis Pym*, Esq. M. P. *John Higgins*, Esq. *Colonel Osborn*, M.P. *George Nigel Edwards*, Esq. *Stephen Thornton*, Esq. and *Richard Parkes*, Esq.
- iii. THAT *Joseph Barnard*, Esq. be the Treasurer, and the Rev. *E. B. Frere*, *John Gibbard*, Esq. and the Rev. *R P Beachcroft*, Secretaries of the Society.
- iv. THAT the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Secretaries, and twelve other Persons, to be chosen in the manner hereinafter mentioned, be appointed a General Committee, for managing the affairs of this Society.
- v. THAT the general committee shall have the power to appoint Sub-Committees, under proper Regulations, for the Establishment and Management of Schools in the Towns and Villages of the County.
- vi. THAT no religious Books, or Tracts, be submitted into the Schools, but such as are, or shall be contained in the Catalogue of the *Society for promoting Christian Knowledge*, or shall be recommended by the National Society.
- vii. THAT the children of each School do constantly attend Divine Service in their Parish Church, or other Place of Worship, under the Establishment, on Sundays; unless such reason for their non-attendance be assigned as shall be satisfactory to the General Committee, or to the Sub-Committee, having the direction of the School.
- viii. THAT a subscription for the Establishment and Support of the Society be now entered into: and that Books be opened for Benefactions and Annual Subscriptions, at all the Banking Houses in the County, and that the Subscriptions for every Year be considered as due on the 1st January of that year.
- ix. THAT the twelve following Gentlemen be a Committee for the ensuing Year, viz – Mr *Pearse*, Mr *Dawson*, Mr *Day*, Mr *McQueen*, *Sir William Long*, Capt. *Trollope*, R. N. the Rev. Messrs *Cardale*, *Williamson*, *Crespin*, *Mesham*, *Cumming*, and *Pulley*.
- x. THAT an annual meeting of this Society shall be held in the *Sessions-house, Bedford* on 24th of *June*; at which, all Annual Subscribers of *One Guinea*, or Benefactors of

Ten Guineas shall be entitled to attend, and vote: and that the General Committee shall then make a report of the Receipts and Disbursements of the preceding year, and of all their proceedings for promoting the objects of the Society.

- xi. THAT four out of the twelve Members of the General Committee, including any vacancies that may have happened in the preceding Year, by death or removal, be then declared to be no longer Members of the General Committee; and that four new Members be chosen in their room, by ballot.
- xii. THAT the Trustees of Schools already established, with Funds provided for their support, be requested to connect such Schools with this Society, so far as to adopt the mode of Education recommended by it: and that this Society will afford them any assistance in its power towards the furtherance of this important object.

(signed)

G. Osborn, Chairman

Sir George Osborn having left the chair, the Thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted to him, for his great attention to the business of the day.