

History of Bishop Cotton School, Shimla

Raaja Bhasin

Introduction by Ruskin Bond

Researched by Colonel (Retd) R. Dewan

One of my pleasantest public acts, I trust I have done something permanently for the good of the diocese and of the country and pray that God, though whose mercy it has been accomplished, may grant to it His blessings and make it for all time a home of
Godliness and good learning.

- Bishop George Edward Lynch Cotton after establishing the School.

INTRODUCTION BY RUSKIN BOND

THANK YOU, B.C.S.

There were some who became legends -- Freddie Brown, T.M. Whitmarsh Knight, Bob Murray, Frank Fisher -- dedicated teachers through whose hands several thousand school boys passed during their years at B.C.S. through the critical years, just before and after Independence, these and other stalwarts made certain that B.C.S. standards and traditions remained high.

To a school boy, a non-teaching Headmaster may seem rather remote. But all of us can look back on our schooldays and recall at least one, sometimes two or three teachers, whose influence on us was strong and permanent 'Tubby' Whitmarsh Knight lent me his own books, encouraged me to write. Freddie Brown taught me integrity. Others left their mark in different ways. Mrs. Knight tried her best to teach me to sing but failed hopelessly; I was tone deaf. So she did the next best thing. Insisting that I looked just right in a cassock and surplice, she had me stand in the choir and open and shut my mouth with the best of them; but I was not allowed to sing a single note. For two years a silent member of the school choir, I grew into a frustrated opera singer.

A few years earlier, a more accomplished B.C.S. choir had given a memorable performance of Handel's Messiah, which was also broadcast over All India Radio. The school's musical reputation was also enhanced by performances of Gilbert and Sullivan operettas -- *The Pirates of Penzance*, *The Mikado*, *Iolanthe*, *Trial By Jury*. G.L. Papworth, our music teacher in the 1940s, was the inspiration behind many of these efforts. School plays were also popular, and were occasionally performed at Shimla's famous Gaiety Theatre. Although, naturally, I did not get any signing roles. I made a hit playing a tipsy waiter in a one-act farce.

The Sixth Form of 1950 was not a brilliant class, with the exception of the Kirschners, Kasper and Andreas, who went on to become leading lights in their chosen scientific

fields. The rest of us were average students, and some were more taken up with sports, the cinema, current jazz, and the tuck-shop. In my own case, the tuck-shop took precedence. Those hot fresh *samosas* and *jalebis* made up for the rigours of early morning P.T. occasional canings, and having to write “a hundred lines” (the same line repeated over and over again) as punishment for some misdemeanor or the other. I’m not sure if this rather pointless task still exists. If it does, today’s boys will no doubt be doing their “hundred lines” on computers.

B.C.S. was a great place for tradition, and canings (usually by Headmaster or Housemaster) were common enough right up to the 1960s. This tradition came down to B.C.S. from *Tom Brown’s Schooldays* and English Public Schools such as Rugby, where our Founder was once one of the junior masters. We took these canings fairly phlegmatically and without fuss. In my time, young Tata held the record for being caned the largest number of times, and he went on to a successful career in the hotel business. Some of us would thrust exercise books down the seats of our trousers to mitigate the effects of the swishing cane, but these were usually detected and resulted in and even more vigorous whacking. Three strokes was the average; six the maximum. Not every boy was equally compliant. My small brother William (Bond II), on being caned for the first time, leapt up and struck his Housemaster, Mr. Fisher, on the chin. Mr. Fisher was greatly amused and took it sportingly, young Bond being only eight or nine years old.

Mr. Jones, a junior master, had strong views on the subject of corporal punishment, and refused to cane boys. He was a dear man, who smoked a cigar and kept a pet pigeon which perched on his bald head and accompanied him on his rounds, although not to class. He had a soft spot for Tata and Vakharia, the most punished boys in school, and years later, when Vakharia dropped in to see me in Dehra Dun, we walked across to a local school where Mr. Jones was working, long past the age of retirement. He was still smoking his cigar and he still kept pigeons. He was a man of character, strong in his principles, and so he remained to the end. The best teachers are not always the most qualified.

No one forgets his school years. Memories of B.C.S. grow stronger with the years. Each of us has his own special memories, but there are many that we have in common. Like that first day at school....

I remember that day in 1943 when my father brought me to the Prep School, then situated in Chotta Simla. It was mid-June, and because of the War and my father's R.A.F. service, I was a late admission. I remember standing on the retaining wall above the playing-field, watching a horde of some two hundred small boys making a great deal of noise as they ran and tumbled about during what must have been the morning break. I did not think I would survive amongst that rather rough-looking lot, and I remember telling my father: "Let's go home!"

But B.C.P.S. was to be my home for the next three years, and I was soon to become one of the noisier boys on that little playing-field. Mr. Advani, who now runs a book business in Lucknow, was then the school Bursar, and he remembers me as a small boy, for he helped to facilitate my admission, telling Canon Sinker that I was a deserving case.

Bigger playing fields beckoned, and from 1946 to 1950 I was in the senior school, the *sola topee* having given way to a school cap as a sign of changing times!

There were many changes during this period. The Prep School closed down; and in 1947, when Independence saw the partition of the country, our Muslim friends, about a hundred of them, had to be evacuated to Pakistan. This was a grave blow to B.C.S. At the same time, many good teachers were leaving the school and the country, and quality replacements were hard to find. As students we were unaware of the crisis. In 1950, when I took the Senior Cambridge exam, the Sixth Form consisted of barely a dozen candidates. Sanawar, then a school for British soldier's children (my father's old school) was in deeper trouble, and could hardly put together a football team.

However, as we all know, B.C.S. along with other hill schools, survived this difficult period and moved onward and forward with independent India, nurturing talent and

providing an English education that was as good as any envisaged by Bishop Cotton and the early pioneers.

As I write this little memoir, memories come flooding back: the great storm of 45, when a couple of giant deodars came crashing down on the prep school roof; a freak snowfall on the 1st of April; fiercely contested hockey and football matches against Sanawar; getting a black eye in the boxing ring; happy hours in the Library; and Scout Camp at Tara Devi, when I rolled out of my tent and down the khud. And of course, those excursions to town during the June and September breaks. First priority was an ice-cream at Kwality's; then a comic at one of the book-shops; then a film at the Rivoli, Ritz or Regal. No TV in those days. No video games or computers. But plenty of fun all the same, especially those occasional "socials" at Auckland House, where we were permitted to dance the fox-trot or samba with the girls. Traditions and modernity always went together at B.C.S.

Games, of course, were compulsory, and that included the marathon, which I detested. I was invariably last, although D.C. Anand would sometimes compete for this position. This was due partly to the fact that I would stop to buy and eat a roasted "bhutta" (corn on the cob) from a wayside vendor just below the Governor's House.

In spite of these occasional acts of indiscipline, it was probably self-discipline that I really learnt at B.C.S. and this has stood me in good stead for the greater part of my life. It has carried me, and many, other Cottonians through good times and bad, through life's ups and downs, triumphs and vicissitudes.

It helps even in small ways. Today, aged almost seventy, I still make my own bed, polish my own shoes (rather ineffectively) and tidy up my study and bedroom; all habits I learnt at school. And if challenged I can still make a "French bed". The sort that will get you entangled in the sheets.

But, of course, self-discipline is more than just self-help. It means working regularly and with commitment; meeting deadlines, revising, giving of one's best.

Courtesy is another quality that we acquired at B.C.S. And courtesy is a powerful weapon, especially in business and the professions. We learnt to say “Sir” to our teachers and seniors.

A year after leaving BCS, I was being interviewed for a job in the Public Health Department in Jersey, in the U.K. Called into the Director’s office, I automatically greeted him with a “Good-morning, Sir”. He looked up, started. Apparently none of the other candidates had bothered to call him “sir”; apparently it had gone out of fashion.

“Where did you go to school?” he asked.

“In India”, I said.

“I didn’t know they had public schools in India. It must have been a good school”.

“Yes, Sir, it still is””, And I had the job.

Thank you, Bishop Cotton.

A Tree on the Ground

Between the Main Block and the Headmaster's Lodge grows a large elm. No exact estimate has been made about its age. Yet, a calculated conjecture would place this tree's age at about two hundred years – a good few of decades before the first trench of foundations were dug for the buildings. In many ways this has become an icon, a watchful well-wisher of the acres that make Bishop Cotton School. With high arches reaching over the roofs, it has a rhythm that keeps step with the school's calendar and one wonders whose routine and timetable came first. As spring comes and the classrooms and dormitories fill, the flowers that are really red bunches of stamens also step out of their buds and steadily cover the branches. The clinging glow of soft misty crimson whose tiny sprays can barely be discerned from the ground, rapidly changes with the passing months. As the school's pace accelerates, the tree also alters its character till it becomes the full-bodied green tower of the monsoons. When autumn advances and the winter chill draws close, the leaves slowly fall to the ground and the vivid tracery of the trunk and branches stand revealed in regal repose. As the snow prepares to fall and past the deserted First Flat, past the worn and cracked flagstones where thousands of heels have run or dragged, and past the stillness of the corridors, this is the time when the tree also allows a glimpse into its silent might. Pared to the essentials, it also speaks of times to rest or to think or plan; it speaks of times that are and of times that lie ahead.

In more ways than one, the rises and the cascades of this majestic tree and the school have mirrored one another. Both have matured, both have gone through good times and bad. The leaves have spent their time on the branches and then gone on - some caught by the wind never to return, some that shall continue to swirl around the trunk, others that may if they will, fertilise the soil that first gave them sustenance. You cannot speak of this tree but with respect, you cannot write about it but with affection, even emotion.

Generations of Cottonians have sought inspiration and courage from various quarters at different points in their lives. Many have looked for answers in the gift that is this tree. For someone who has admired it for decades, who still caresses it every time he passes, it

is easy to be quite proprietorial and yet quite sharing about 'our' elm. It has seen so much. For all the weathering, it has grown and it has done so quietly and without a fuss.

It still stands tall. So do most Cottonians.

(This elm, *Ulmus Wallichiana* named after the distinguished botanist Nathaniel Wallich, is rare in Shimla but quite common in the forests around Narkanda. The one in BCS is the largest I have seen).



I

When Bishop Cotton Built His School

The final years of the eighteenth century and the opening decades of the nineteenth, were a period of considerable turbulence in the hills of the western Himalaya. From a nondescript village whose name is variously reported as Shimlu, Shemalaya, Semla, Shumla and Shemla, the town went on to become the ‘summer capital’ of British India.

In 1864, under the Viceroyalty of John Lawrence, Shimla was officially declared the ‘Summer Capital’ of the British Empire in India - a status it retained up to Independence in 1947. The move to the hills was normally made in early April, and the migration back to the plains took place in late October or early November.

Municipal governance was introduced as early as 1851, piped water was available from the 1880s, hydro-electric power was available in the early 20th century, an engineering marvel of its time, the Kalka-Shimla railway line was completed in 1903 and one of the world’s early ‘automatic’ telephone exchanges began functioning in Shimla in 1922.

As the summer capital, Shimla also saw a spate of remarkable building activity in the town and some of the finest structures of the British-colonial genre still stand over its seven hills. Shimla by the mid-nineteenth century had become a focus for the British community in India. Given its rising importance and salubrious position in the hills, and once it had been decided to create a system that would impart ‘Anglo-Indian education’, it was quite the logical place for Bishop Cotton to have chosen for his School.

As one of the oldest boarding school’s in Asia, the creation of Bishop Cotton School paved a new path. In a few decades, the Anglo-Indians or Eurasians had significant numbers. The earliest schools for their children were started by churches, the military and by individuals. It was the arrival of Bishop Cotton as the second Metropolitan Bishop of Calcutta that gave coherence to all these disparate elements. In two crisp sentences Hazel Innes Craig has explained the heart of the issue, “Cotton provided the stick with which to

prod the Government of India into realising its responsibilities in the education of such children. The scheme he proposed for a dual role between Government and Church was to make him famous as an educationist in the sub-continent.”¹

¹ Hazel Innes Craig, *Under the Old School Topee*, p. 59

II

‘A heart overflowing’ –

George Edward Lynch, Bishop Cotton.

As the second decade of the nineteenth century unfolded over plains and hills of northern India, parleys and preparations were on for the final thrust of the ‘Gurkha Wars’. Peering over the dust and heat of these ‘wars’, the town of Shimla had set fast its foundations. At the same time, in faraway Europe, the first phase of the Napoleonic Wars was at its height when a son was born in the town of Chester to Captain Cotton of the 7th Fusiliers on 29 October 1813. A fortnight after the boy’s birth in his grandmother’s house, the father was killed while storming an enemy redoubt before the village on Ainhoue in the Battle of the Nivelle. The boy was baptised George Edward Lynch and when he turned eleven, was entered at Westminster School. Short-sighted, though tall in his later years, Cotton walked with a stoop that must have emphasised his intellect and quiet strength of character. As a child he was not much of a sportsman, but was an omnivorous reader and had an abundance of hobbies and a great sense of humour. A substantial measure of his personality was due to his mother’s influence – and this was to remain with him for the rest of his life.

In 1832, as a ‘Westminster Scholar’, Cotton went to Trinity College, Cambridge; he obtained his BA there and stayed on to read for his Fellowship. It was at Cambridge that he met several young men from Rugby School and whatever he heard about their old master, Dr Thomas Arnold, made Cotton want to know more about him. In 1836, he was appointed as an assistant master at Rugby and became an ardent admirer of the famous educationist. In certain quarters, Arnold was considered responsible for creating the public school system in England – and was the father of the celebrated critic and poet, Matthew. Despite his junior position, Cotton’s own impact on the school was not without substance -- and he makes a cameo appearance in Thomas Hughes *Tom Brown’s Schooldays* as the young master who comes to the help of Tom in his rebellion. In 1845, George Cotton married his cousin Sophia Anne.

Seven years after his marriage, Cotton was appointed Headmaster of Marlborough College at a time when that school was in deep crisis. ‘Marlborough’s Great Rebellion’ of 1851, as it was later called, had taken its toll. “Events of undeniable barbarity and uncompromising character”² had set into motion a chain of incidents that almost brought the eight-year old institution to its knees, but was also - at least, partially - responsible for crystallising the English public school system. The ‘rebellion’ had started when some pupils stole and ill-treated a donkey and virtually destroyed the porter’s lodge. As the perpetrators could not be identified, the presumed ringleaders were expelled. The pupils reacted by amassing an arsenal of fireworks and starting a riot.³

It was at this messy juncture that George Cotton was appointed the Headmaster. Guiding the institution with both firmness and tact, Cotton achieved what few would have thought possible and within a surprisingly short time, he rooted out the indiscipline, brought in a powerful sense of pride and a remarkably high level of academic success. At Marlborough, Cotton established organised games and the House and prefect systems. He believed that “the prefects are and shall be, as long as I am the Head, the governors of the school. As soon as I see this impracticable I will resign.” The systems that Cotton established at Marlborough were soon adopted up by other public schools in Britain and when he came to India, these very systems and ideals were to form the basis of the institutions owing their existence to him.

In 1858, Cotton was consecrated Bishop at Westminster Abbey by the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was Queen Victoria who had personally selected George Cotton as Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan Bishop of India, Burma and the Island of Ceylon, keeping in view the critical period in India around 1857 – just after the ‘Great Uprising’. There can be little doubt that the Bishop’s role at Marlborough would have had a substantial bearing on the decision to send him to India at this juncture. With their baby daughter, the Cottons landed at Kolkata (then, Calcutta), on 13 November 1858.

² *Cotton Wadding : Marlborough College and the Path to War* by Brian Edwards. Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Magazine, vol. 94 (2001), pp. 75-87

³ *ibid.*

Temperance, forgiveness and reconciliation seem have been the three pillars on which Bishop Cotton based his ecclesiastical work in India. Terrible atrocities had been conducted by both Indians and by the British during and after the Great Uprising. The Viceroy, Lord Canning – often called ‘Clemency’ Canning on account of his views and measures after the Uprising by the hardliners who wanted retribution to its fullest degree, emerged as one of Cotton’s strong supporters. To improve conditions around him, Cotton saw the role of education as being critical.

In one his earliest manifestos on the subject of education, the Bishop hoped ‘that a sound physical, intellectual, and religious education might, under God’s blessing, not only benefit children likely to remain permanently in the land, but might also, indirectly, tend to remove the barriers of prejudice and misunderstanding which separate the races to whom India is now a common country.’

The foundations of Bishop Cotton School were set by these principles in distant Kolkata when, on 28 July 1859, Bishop Cotton conducted the thanksgiving service for the restoration of peace in India. A part of the offertories of that day were to be devoted to the establishment of the hill school, ‘with a chapel in which its memorial character should be recorded’. The task of raising funds began and Bishop Cotton submitted a definite proposal to the Government. The Viceroy, Lord Canning, in Council, noted, “A system as has been proposed by the Metropolitan of India may fitly be encouraged, and liberally aided by the Government”.

In April 1860, the Cottons visited Shimla. The Bishop and his family took up residence at Ravenswood, at the site of the present-day High Court of Himachal Pradesh, and admired the landscape around them. As the Bishop’s plans began coming to fruition, it was no real wonder that Shimla was selected as the place for the proposed ‘hill school’. The Government solved the problem of a suitable site by making over the grounds of the recently abandoned cantonment at Jutogh which lay a few kilometres west of Shimla - this lay along the original track to Shimla. In 1862, Cotton could note that subscriptions

and the grant-in-aid from the Government amounted to a healthy hundred and twenty thousand rupees – a part of this he planned to set aside as a core corpus leaving the rest for building works and preliminary expenses.

At the same time, the Bishop had been searching for a suitable headmaster to take over the fledgling establishment. In the Rev. S. Slater he felt he had found the correct person. Slater was in England at this juncture, but had spent a substantial portion of his life in India and had been connected with education.

In 1869, an account of the foundation of the school was published under authority of the Governors. In its simplicity lies the eloquence of the sentence that declares, “The first boy joined the school on March 16, 1863. Next day three more came.” Within the year, the number of pupils in the School had risen to thirty-five, and throughout the year, construction work continued to build more dormitories. In early 1865, the premises at Jutogh held sixty-five boys – all that they could accommodate.

In September, 1864 the Bishop came to Shimla. The Bishop visited the school at Jutogh – which was to later resume its role as a cantonment - and presented the prize for divinity. At that point, the school was variously referred to as the ‘Memorial School’, ‘Simla Public School’ and ‘Bishop’s School’ – the last was the name under which it was officially opened. Throughout the month he was in Shimla, Cotton had several private conversations with John Lawrence, who had taken over as Viceroy, preached to various ‘overflowing congregations’ - and assisted in the selection of the land that would finally hold Bishop Cotton School. The Knollswood spur was the one that was chosen out of the ten sites that were examined. This location belonged to the Raja of Keonthal who was initially reluctant to part with it and it was only in 1866, that the Raja accepted an exchange with a village near Subathu. On 26 September that year, the Viceroy, John Lawrence laid the foundation stone.⁴

⁴ The Bishop was also responsible from bringing under his wing as it were, Maddock’s School in Mussoorie and St. Paul’s in Darjeeling. By the close of the nineteenth century the rather exclusive Maddock’s School (officially called the ‘Mussoorie School’ but more popularly referred to as ‘Mackinnon’s School’ after the founder, or as ‘Maddock’s School’ after the Rev. Robert North Maddock

At that time, and travelling by barge, the Bishop was on a visitation of north-eastern India. On the very day when in distant Shimla, the stone had been placed, Cotton wrote to Bosworth Smith from Shillong, “ ... the Bishop (of Calcutta) shall in no possible case leave the country till he has dwelt and worked in it for ten years. My ten years expire on November 12, 1868, and if I live so long, I hope ... to go home either on eighteen months furlough or permanently.” On the 6th October, even though he was far from well and had had a fever for a few days, the Bishop went to consecrate a cemetery in the little village of Kushtea. After the ceremony, Cotton stayed on to discuss something with the residents. Unable to come to shore, his vessel ‘Rohtas’ lay anchored in mid-stream off a sandy flat in the Gangetic delta. Darkness was falling as the Bishop began walking over the causeway of planks that connected dry land to the boat. Somewhere his foot slipped and he fell into the waters. His body was never found.

Standing testimony to this towering figure who left the world when his ‘powers were at their highest’, the Viceroy’s Order in Council notifying the death declared, “His Excellency in Council does not hesitate to add the expression of his belief that large numbers, even among those of Her Majesty’s subjects in India who did not share the faith of the Bishop of Calcutta, had learned to appreciate his great knowledge, his sincerity and his charity...”

who ran it between 1849 and 1864) had ceased to exist and went on to provide the site of the Savoy Hotel. St. Paul’s continues as one of India’s foremost ‘public schools’.

The School Badge

The badge is a replica of the coat of arms of Bishop Cotton and was adopted by the School. However, in place of the Cotton family motto which is *En utraque fortuna paratus*, the school motto is 'Overcome evil with good'.

The shield is essentially a 'per pale' one, which means that it is divided vertically down the centre. In the larger tradition of English heraldry, this design allowed the arms of both the man and his wife to appear on the shield. Derived from Latin, the two sides are called the 'dexter' and the 'sinister'. The man's arms being the dexter and the woman's, the sinister. In the case of the Bishop (and other ecclesiastics), the arms of the diocese take the position of the man. Here, the arms of the Bishopric of Calcutta are given the place of honour – Bishops and other clerics were regarded as 'wedded' to their dioceses. The arms on this side of the crest are the mitre, the staff and the open Bible. On the other side, the twisting figures are skeins of cotton and are an allusion to the family name. The chevron, the inverted V between these hanks, is a part of the 'per fess' division that divides the crest horizontally. This was normally taken to represent the gable of a house and was added where the family had an established tradition of military service. George Cotton's relative, the Viscount Combermere (after whom Combermere Bridge in Shimla is named) had served as Commander-in-Chief of the East India Company's army.

The portrait of Bishop Cotton

The portrait in oil of Bishop Cotton that occupies the place of honour in Irwin Hall, was commissioned after his death in 1866. The first headmaster, Rev. Slater set up a subscription to pay for this and the major contribution came from the parents. The artist Eden Upton Eddis (1812 to 1901), who had painted a portrait of the Bishop in 1852 - which was housed in the Rugby School - accepted the commission to paint a fresh one using the original and a photograph of the Bishop taken about a year before his death, as the basis.

Eddis was a portrait and landscape artist who also painted biblical themes. He was well known for his portrayals of public figures. In 1868, Eddis accepted a fee lower than what he normally did, for this impressive painting of Dr. Cotton. It finally cost a total of seven hundred and twenty rupees.

III

Finding the feet

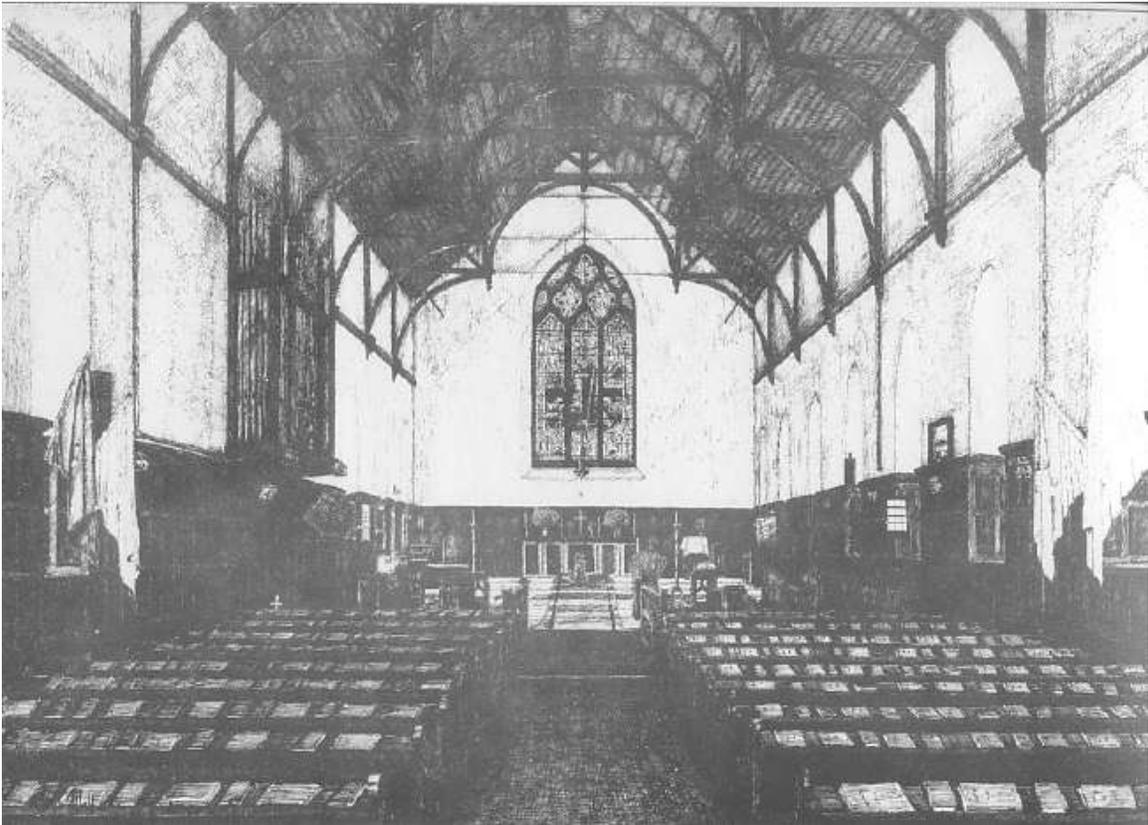
A day after ‘Bishop’s School’ opened at Jutogh, “Creeping like a snail, unwilling to school,” fifteen-year old Fredrick Naylor joined on 16 March 1863 and became the first ‘Cottonian’. Next day came the three Matthews brothers aged eight, thirteen and fifteen. During that year thirty-five boys were admitted. These were the initial charges of Dr. Samuel Slater who had been handpicked by Bishop Cotton to be the school’s first headmaster. The Rev. Slater already had a substantial experience of education in India, and before his appointment to Bishop Cotton School, he had been at St. Paul’s School in Darjeeling. His qualifications were also considered sufficient – Slater had been educated at King’s College, London.

On 6 May 1863, the Governors-elect: of the School held their first meeting. Those present were Sir Herbert Edwardes, the Deputy-Commissioner of Simla; Colonel Lawrence; F. Peterson Esq., Rev. L. Poynder; Captain Pengree, and the Headmaster.

Accommodation was limited at Jutogh and many applications had to be refused. The main building of the School was what now houses the army mess. As a result, more dormitory space was added and in 1864, the school’s rolls rose to sixty-five – which was as much as could be managed. Slater was unhappy over the site at Jutogh which lay a few miles west of Shimla – and a year’s experience had done nothing to dispel his conviction about its unsuitability. Meanwhile, the process of teaching and examination had to go on and in 1864 a General Examination of the School had been held at Michaelmas by the Bishop of Calcutta.

For the move out of Jutogh, the Bishop concurred with Headmaster’s views and two places were examined – one near Boileauganj and the other was the Knollswood spur. In the autumn of 1864, the site at the southern end of the Knollswood spur was selected. The owner of the land, the Raja of Keonthal was persuaded to part with it in exchange for a

village near Subathu. The land taken formed some fifty-four acres and the process to construct the school buildings began. Loosely Gothic in character, the plan was furnished by Mr. Campbell a civil engineer based at Delhi and the work entrusted to Major Innes. This first phase of structures was to contain classrooms, six dormitories to accommodate a hundred and fifty boys, a small library and lodgings for five masters. The chapel, consecrated in 1870 and named the Holy Trinity Chapel also formed a part of the initial plan.



While work was on for the school buildings, Major Innes superintended the construction of the Headmaster's Lodge, a hospital, and lodgings for the school sergeant and the matron. The foundation stone of the new school was laid by the Governor-General and Viceroy of India, Sir John Lawrence on 26 September 1866. Ten days after this, the Bishop tragically drowned in Bengal. In 1867, as a mark of respect and to perpetuate the memory of its founder, the name of the school was changed from Bishop's School to Bishop Cotton School. On 29 September 1868, the school moved from Jutogh and occupied the new buildings.

Bishop Cotton's aims for creating the school in Shimla were quite clear to him. In a letter regarding the buildings required for the purpose, he had noted, "The general object is to found a school for what may be called the middle class of European and Eurasian residents in India." A reflection of this goal may be found in the enrollment of students in 1873. At that time, of the hundred and five boys on the rolls, sixty-two were the sons of clerks – people who did not draw a salary of over Rs. 500 – and the mothers of another twenty were widows.

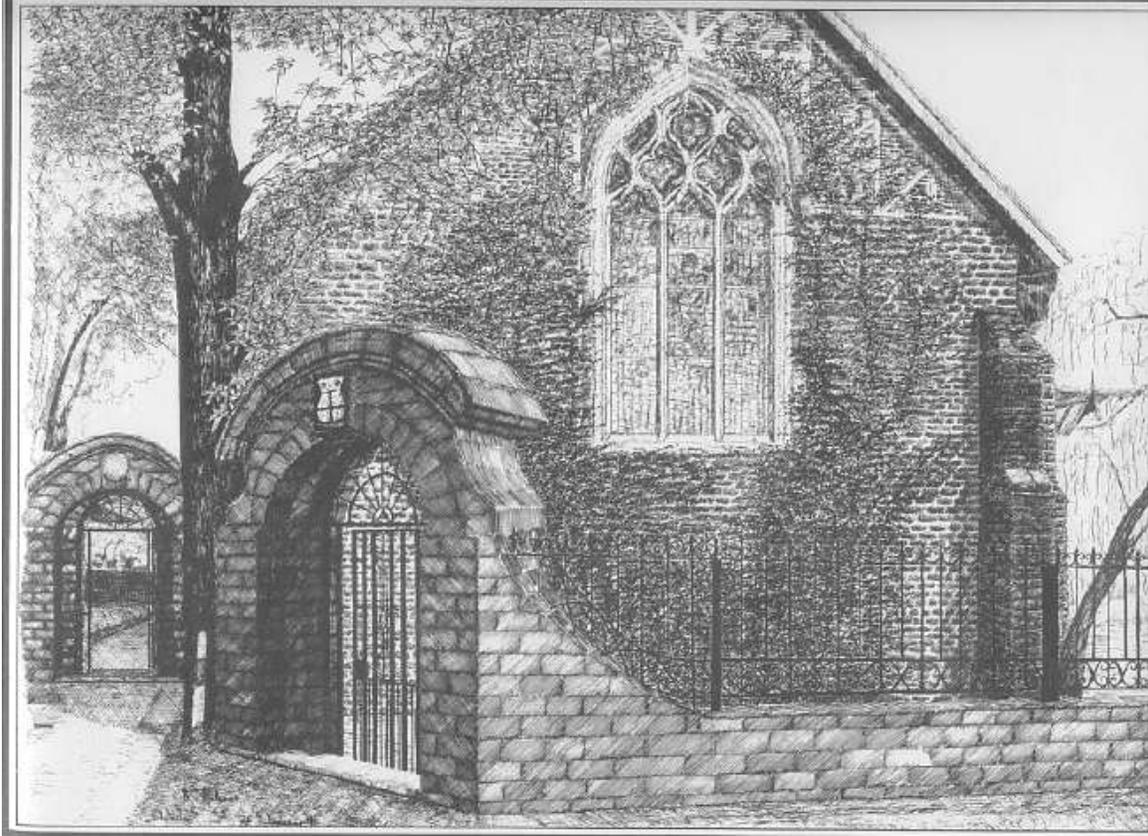
Setting the scale of fees at this stage had also come in for careful deliberation and the structure that was employed had taken various factors into consideration. For example, the school had to be affordable for the people that Bishop Cotton had in mind and at the same time, the amount had to be such that the institution was largely self-sufficient and would not have to face closure or other difficulties due to a lack of money.

The role of endowments at this stage was of considerable importance and only with these monies could the fees be held low and the financial security of the School kept safeguarded. The Endowment Fund of Bishop Cotton School initially stood at Rs. 1,04,706⁵ and after expenses, commissions and other charges had been deducted, this became Rs 98,300 which was invested in Government Securities and yielded an interest of 5 ½ %. This note was deposited in the Bank of Bengal and was in the name of the Bishop and Archdeacon of Calcutta. The interest was remitted twice a year by the Bank Secretary, to the Governor of the School at Shimla and this money was utilised for the payment of the Headmaster's salary – three years after the School began functioning on the Knollswood spur, in 1871, the income of the School from the interest of the endowment, the government grant and fees was Rs. 38,758.

⁵ The break-up was as follows –

Subscribed direct to fund -	Rs. 13,595
School share of memorial fund to Bishop Cotton -	<u>Rs. 38,758</u>
	Rs. 52,353
Government equivalent -	<u>Rs. 52,353</u>
	Rs. 1,04,706

In addition to this, about Rs. 70,000 had been collected by private subscriptions and was utilised for building work. The government also pitched in and after the first set of buildings was complete, in September 1872, the balance against the building fund was Rs. 17,000.



Shift to the new building

By 15 January 1870, the new building was complete and the school was ready for the shift from Jutogh. It had schoolrooms, six dormitories, a small library or day room, quarters for four masters, the chapel and the headmaster's lodge – which also had accommodation to hold some boarders. The detached quarters for the hospital that could hold sixteen boys with separate wards and accommodation for the matron and sergeant had also been built – as had the servants' houses, kitchen, storeroom and laundry. A playground had been levelled and a road to the school with its two little bridges was complete. The double storied structure of the residence of the first assistant master –

today's senior master – was under construction in 1873 at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,000. In 1869, the bill for the works had touched Rs. 2,12,551.⁶



The Statutes

Under the School's statutes there were four *ex-officio* and four elected Governors of the institution. The *ex-officio* members were the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, the Bishop and Archdeacon of Calcutta and the Commissioner of the Division in which Shimla was situated. The Elected Governors were to be residents of Shimla or its immediate neighbourhood. The Headmaster was to be the *ex-officio* Secretary to the Governors and ordinarily, had the right to be present at the meetings – but could not vote. The Governors were entitled to hold meetings where - by a special vote - they could exclude him.

⁶ With all these figures, even if this part of the volume may read like what I imagine a *Lala's* 'bai-khata' would — these are of interest as they were what gave shape to Bishop Cotton's vision and in a very substantial way, were the foundation for an enduring institution.

Most expenditure was under the Governors' control. The day to day expenditures and 'ordinary disbursements' lay in the Headmaster's realm. Of these, he was expected to submit full accounts to the Governors at the meetings. The pamphlet published under the Authority of the Governors in December, 1869 stated, "Any extraordinary disbursement is made by the governors. Under ordinary disbursements are included salaries, wages, the purchase of stores, school-books, crockery and furniture." This arrangement seems to have stood the proverbial 'test of time' and remains largely unchanged today.

At the time these statutes were placed, the money held by the school's trustees was devoted primarily to the construction of buildings, and for the purchase of land. The 'ordinary business' of the school was to be conducted by the Governors at 'ordinary meetings' – but on 'certain grave questions' the opinions of the non-resident Governors were to be sought by letter. These out of the ordinary matters were the election of a new Governor, the dismissal of the Headmaster, or the inclusion of a bye-law – the Governors could enact a fresh bye-law provided that this was not inconsistent with the statutes. When the opinion of all the Governors was sought and the votes cast were equal, then the Bishop of Calcutta held a second and decisive vote.

The core of the School's ethos was held in the statutes. These guiding principles as it were, translated Bishop Cotton's philosophy of schooling into workable mechanisms. Yet, to provide a means to alter a statute also existed and could be done with the concurrence of the Visitor⁷ and six of the Governors - of whom the Bishop had to be one. Any assent or dissent had to be communicated in writing and interestingly, these notes were then to be circulated among the Governors to enable them to reconsider their individual stands in light of what the others had said.

The Day Boarders

The question of day boys or day boarders was an issue that arose at the very beginning.⁸ While analysing the list of foundationers at the School, A.J. Lawrence in his report

⁷ The Viceroy, had accepted the position of Visitor to the School.

⁸ When I was at School, the Headmaster R.K. von Goldstein 'Goldie' once rather rhetorically asked a bunch of boys, "What is the first question a newcomer is asked by his seniors?" Replies varied from the

observed that the proportion of boys from Shimla struck him ‘as large.’ He said, “These residents of Simla should have attended the school as day boys or day boarders. But up till the middle of 1871 the governors successfully resisted the desire of the Government that day boys should be received.”

Lawrence quoted a letter dated 24 February 1870 from E. C. Bayley, Secretary to the Government of India to T.H. Thornton, Secretary to Government, Punjab. In this Bayley had observed, “It has been reported to the Governor General in Council that the Head Master, Bishop Cotton’s (*sic*) School, at Simla, has refused to admit day scholars to the school, alleging that it is intended for boarders only. The result of this refusal would naturally be to debar from the benefits of the school the subordinate officials of the large public offices when at Simla and the comparatively large European community resident at that station.”

The Governors did not seem to have been very happy at this intervention of the Government and said, “ ... because it was Lord Canning’s desire, as expressed in his minute on the subject, that if certain officers be included *ex-officio* among the Governors (as has been actually done), no further authority by the Government, as such, should be exercised in its management.”

They added, “That while some Governors think that it is in itself *right* to admit day scholars, and others deem it only *expedient* under the present circumstances, it was unanimously agreed that day scholars and day boarders should be admitted.”⁹

The rest of this resolution passed by the Governors on 26 May 1871, allowed day scholars and day boarders to join the school.

mundane ‘where are you from’ to the absurd ‘ how did you get here’. “All of you are wrong,” he said. “The first thing you ask is – do you have a sister?”

⁹ Italics original.

The school management

Once the general course of education had been approved by the Governors, the management of the school lay in the hands of the Headmaster. He was appointed by the Bishop of Calcutta but could be removed by a vote in which six of the eight Governors had to agree. Apart from a general control exercised by the Governors, the Headmaster handled both discipline and education in the School.

The assistant masters and all subordinate officers of the School were to be appointed by the Headmaster – while their salaries and their number were to be set by the Governors. Any member of this staff could be removed by a vote of the Governors.

Rev. Slater, the First Headmaster

The Headmaster, Rev. Slater had four other members as his teaching staff. The Rev. D.J. Mackey was the first assistant master and had a B.A. from Cambridge; he was employed as a tutor in England before joining Bishop Cotton School and here, taught the First Class. W.R. Cox held the position of second assistant master and had studied at the Mussoorie School and taught the Second Class. The third and the fourth assistant masters were W.W. Smith¹⁰ and J. R. Chubb.¹¹

The death of Bishop Cotton had had a very deep impact on the School's first headmaster, the Rev. Slater and he felt that he had lost his 'faithful friend and brother'. Slater's own personality was such that he was able to make good contacts with government officials, civil servants, the parents and the public at large. In June 1868, the Viceroy, Earl Mayo visited the School and attended evening service in the chapel – and a few months later, in November, accepted the office of 'Visitor of the School'.

¹⁰ Who had left by 1872 and was replaced by Mr. Dearsly.

¹¹ The salaries were as follows – Headmaster Rupees 616 Annas 10 and Paise 8 (with residence). 1st assistant master – Rs. 250/-, 2nd assistant master – Rs. 150/- , 3rd and 4th assistant masters – Rs. 100/- each; board and lodging was provided.

While reviewing the progress of the School in 1866, Bishop Cotton said of the subjects he expected to be studied, “Our desire is that the boys should be instructed in Christian knowledge, in Latin, English, one Indian vernacular, a short course of mathematics, history, geography, and either music or drawing, with certain optional studies according to their various tastes and inclinations.” While the Bishop had not overemphasised the study of English, this was to become an important focus as it was felt that Indian boys were deficient in the subject.

The year George Cotton made these observations, the School was affiliated to the Calcutta University and the courses of study were designed for its papers. The ‘1st and the 2nd Department’ as they were then known, at Roorkee was the other target of the School’s curriculum. Established in 1847, Roorkee, later known as Thomason College, and presently, IIT-Roorkee, had the first engineering college to be founded in the British Empire. While Calcutta provided a ‘classical’ education – especially in the liberal arts, it was to Roorkee that the sons of many Anglo-Indians and Europeans settled in India turned. Many of Roorkee’s early alumni also moved to other parts of the British empire like Africa and Burma. And as the railway network in India rapidly expanded in the second half of the nineteenth century, it was Roorkee that provided the early surveyors and engineers.

Lawrence notes, “In 1868, two boys passed in the 1st Class, and two in the 2nd the Entrance Examination, one for the G.T. Survey, and 1 for the 2nd Department, Roorkee.”

The school got its library, playground and a cricket club in 1872. Through those early years, as the old staff left or retired and new teachers came, as the School governors changed and new boys came, it was Dr. Slater who was the School’s bedrock guiding and nurturing the institution that had become so dear to him. The school made steady progress and in March 1879 it is recorded that the previous December seven candidates had been examined ‘for entrance to the First Division and four in the Second Division’.

Dr Slater was obviously a man who had given all who came into contact with him good reason to appreciate him as Headmaster of the fledgling School. As the year 1881 was coming to an end, at the recommendation of the Governors, the Bishops of Calcutta and Lahore had requested the Archbishop of Canterbury to confer the Degree of Doctor of Divinity on the Headmaster. In 1882, 'His Grace had complied with their request'. In 1881, the first Indian boys joined School. This was Suren Tagore, the son of Satyendra Nath Tagore, the first Indian to join the ICS – and nephew of the Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore. Two years later, the next boy Vishnu Singh was admitted. After this, it was only in 1915, that the next lot of Indian boys joined School.

The School Motto

Bishop Cotton, in a letter written to Dr. Slater had suggested the School Motto:

‘Overcome Evil with Good’.

He wrote:

I have suggested ‘Overcome Evil with Good’ as the motto for the School. It was the text on which I preached in the Cathedral in Calcutta on the Thanksgiving Day in 1959 when the School may be considered to have been founded.

Setting the Stone

It would probably have been one of Shimla's crisp autumn evenings with the equinox just over and a content succulence all around when Sir John Lawrence, Governor-General and Viceroy of India set the School's Foundation Stone at 5:00 PM on 26 September 1866.

During the performance of the Service which was choral throughout, the Church and School Choirs being in attendance, the Stone was laid in the usual manner, the coins of the Realm being placed under the Stone and a copper plate with the following inscription was fixed:

IN THE NAME OF

In the name of

The father, the son, and the holy Ghost.

The one eternal God

The foundation stone of this school

Called Bishop's School, Simla, was

Erected as a Memorial of the Mutiny of 1857,

And as a Thank offering for the Deliverance from the same was laid

On the 26th day of September, 1866

by

His Excellency Sir John Lawrence, Bart. G.C.B., K.S.I.

Governor-General and Viceroy of India

The Hon. Sir D.F. Macleod K.C.S.I. being Lieut. - Governor of the Punjab

The Right Rev. G.E.I Cotton D.D. Bishop of Calcutta,

Colonel Reynell Taylor. C.B. C.S.I. Commissioner of the Province.

The Rev. T.C. Smyth. D.D. the Chaplain of Simla.

The Rev. S. Slater Headmaster of the School.

“BENEDICTUS BENEDICAT”

The silver trowel was presented to His Excellency by Major Innes.

After the foundation stone had been placed, the Viceroy addressed the gathering – and the next day, John Lawrence sent five hundred rupees as a donation to the school funds.

IV

Turn of the Century

After Slater left, on 1 February 1885, the Board of Governors advertised in various leading English papers for a Headmaster.

To cover the interim till the new Headmaster was appointed and sailed out from England, the Board requested the Rev. H.M. Robinson to act in this position. At this point of time there were sixty-four boarders and nineteen day-boys on the School rolls.

It seems that Rev. Robinson's appointment had been inappropriate and there was no real contact between him and the boys. Robinson was eased out and on 1 November 1886 replaced by the Rev. Tomkins who handed charge to the new Headmaster on 27 February 1887.¹² The new Headmaster, **Rev. Edward Arthur Irons**, ushered in the twentieth century for the School.

It was under Irons that the prefect system evolved in School. The role of masters as academic coachmen was ending. There was now a concentrated effort to establish and organise a proper prefect system whereby trust would be placed in them and a proper sense of responsibility given. This cornerstone of public school life was expected to tone up the School's moral vigour as well.

Apart from what has been culled from Irons logbook, there is very little that is known about the School in those years. But it is clear that the School was making steady progress. Examination results for entrance to the Calcutta University and the Engineering College, Roorkee, were very satisfactory – and many boys obtained first divisions. There were games in School but they seem to have been fairly unorganised. Sports' Day had various field and track events and there were sporadic cricket and football matches of the First XI. Due to the keen interest taken by Mr. F.L. Key, the Football XI entered the

¹² Robinson died at Ingatestone on 5 July 1896 at the age of 56.

Durand Football Tournament that had been instituted by the Foreign Secretary, Sir Mortimer Durand.¹³ How the School fared at the Tournament is a story of its own and has a little to do with the sports' colours.

Organised games had to wait till after 1928 and the time of the Canon J.R. Peacey.

The Rev. Irons retired from School in 1901, after approximately thirteen years of dedicated and appreciated service. The School then had 130 boys on the rolls. His message to his successor, the Rev. H.M. Lewis, M.A. and the staff was, "I trust that the efforts of all connected with the School in future will be, "AEIN APIETEYEIN."¹⁴

¹³ Also see the 'How the School got its colours'

¹⁴ This translates as, 'Always strive to be the best'.

How the School got its colours

‘Light blue, dark blue,
Colours of ours,
Come on Cottonians
Show them stars.’

The cheer that most senior Cottonians are sure will strike terror into the hearts of their opponents and the juniors shout along just for the fun of it (or have been ordered to), have a little tale of their own to tell. ‘Footballer’ had this to say as his reminiscences,

In 1889, we were very keen on football and not only had several hotly contested inter-class and inter-dormitory matches, but several of us formed a sort of club in the School, under the designation of the “Holy Boys”, which used to challenge the rest of the School to games of footer. In this way we developed a number of useful footballers. Mr. F.L. Key, one of the masters, who was an excellent player himself, took a keen interest in the game, which gave the sport a great stimulus, and in our matches against local teams we generally managed to be victorious.

So we came to think we were quite good enough to play in the Durand Tournament and one evening after Chapel, we filed into the Dining Hall to discuss matters. Mr. Key was unanimously elected Chairman and set forth the objects of the meeting in a short but humorous speech, following which the proposal to enter a team for the tournament was carried *nem. con.* The selection of the team was the next thing, but this was no easy matter as there were quite twenty boys who were equally good at the game; but, after much discussion, a good representative team was picked, consisting, as far as can be remembered, of Frank Hein, Bob Myers, Frank Rivett, Reid, the two Milnes, Willie Littlewood and Marsden (and of course others) with Mr. Key as Captain.

The next item was to settle the colours our team should wear. The discussion of this led to suggestions for all possible and impossible combinations until Mr. Smith, one of the masters, proposed light blue and dark blue, as signifying the two universities, Oxford and Cambridge, from whence we obtained the majority of our educational staff. This proposal being accepted with acclamation, the question arose as to how these colours should be arranged, it being successively postponed that we should have a light blue shirt with dark blue band and white knickers, or a half-and-half shirt with white knickers. Mr. Smith who was in a facetious mood, suggested we should wear the *light* blue on the left side, to show we were *light hearted*, and white knickers (no special reason seems to have been given for the selection of the latter but, following up Mr. Smith's line of argument, they may be taken as indicating that we intended to play *fair*).

And this was how the School came to select light blue and dark blue as its colours.

With this chapter, copies of the originals –

1. Annual Distribution of Prizes,
14 December 1887.

2. Founder's Day, 1888.
Programme.

V

“Bossie” at the Bow

The Rev. Irons had left before the completion of the school year and Mr. A.H. Lee, B.A., officiated as Headmaster till the Rev. H.M. Lewis took charge in 1901. This tenure, in terms of years would span nineteen years and was second only to that of the Rev. Slater – who had been Headmaster for twenty-three.

On the Knollswood spur, “**Bossie**” as Lewis was affectionately known, soon endeared himself to the boys with his kindness and understanding. Despite several major setbacks, Lewis’ Headmastership is often termed as a period of consolidation and steady expansion for the School.

On 17 September 1903 it was the Viceroy Lord Curzon presided over the annual distribution of prizes.

The Great Fire of 1905

However, of all the events that have been associated with this period, it is the fire and the subsequent rebuilding of the Main Building that stands out. 7 May 1905 had a bright and slightly windy afternoon and most of the boys were off on their Sunday outing down to the *khuds* with their open grasslands and scrub, the woods and streams that once were; this is the area where the wonders of ‘New Shimla’ now stand. The boys had started returning to School when the cry went up, “Fire, Fire!” The flames, as far as could be later traced, originated the rooms of Mr. A.H. Lee in the right wing of the School building. In all likelihood this began from an oil stove that was burning there. In about half an hour, the fire had gripped the entire building. Each boy tried to save his own bedding – and most managed to retrieve this. One of the boys, the second lieutenant of the School’s Volunteer Company and Rodgers by name, managed to save all but four of the guns in the armoury.

The greatest damage was suffered by Mr. Lee, the master in whose rooms the fire broke - and he lost many books and other valuables. The fireman had arrived too late to save the main building. The boys were marched off to seek lodgings in town – some to the Central Hotel (that stood just by the present-day High Court), others to the Park School that was just across the valley – while those who were fortunate to have friends and relations in Shimla, went to stay with them.

Recounting that day, “E.F.B.” had this to say,

The fire ended that night, but the consequences had yet to follow. The boys (had been) sent off to different houses in Simla. There they remained for a few days. Four days after the day of the disaster the boys were at last got together in tents on the second playground. The tents were lent by His Excellency, Lord Curzon, then Viceroy, who had viewed the fire from a window in Viceregal Lodge; he also sent a kind letter of consolation to the school. The Hospital was utilised as a dormitory until other arrangements could be made. The verandah’s of the Headmaster’s and Mr. Duggan’s houses were used as class-rooms, while tents formed the rest of the accommodation. However, the tents proved of little avail; the monsoon at the time was very bad and consequently every night some tents were blown down and the inmates drenched. Later better accommodation was procured and the school shifted to Jammu Castle, while Mr. Lewis, the Headmaster, lived in Pari Mahal with the parlour boarders. Here they remained through that year.¹⁵

The Master in whose rooms the fire started, A. H. Lee was dismissed the same year after a physical altercation - though we do not know if this was connected to the fire in any way. More importantly, there was the realisation that the Governors had no funds that they could utilise for rebuilding the School and the only course available seemed to close it. The Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab, Sir Denzil Ibbetson, was averse to this as the School had been founded by an eminent divine and had rendered valuable service ‘to the European community’. The Punjab Government decided to reconstruct the School, provided it was given wider powers of control. This proposal including the Constitution was approved by the Viceroy in July 1905. The changes were as under –

¹⁵ In the Kasumpti area. The latter is still visible from School.

	Before the fire.	After the fire.
Visitor.	The Viceroy.	The Viceroy.
Ex – officio Members.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lieut-Governor of the Punjab, Patron. 2. Bishop of Calcutta. 3. Archdeacon of Calcutta. 4. Commissioner of the Division. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lieut-Governor of the Punjab, Patron. 2. Bishop of Calcutta. 3. DG Education, India. 4. Commissioner of the Division.
Elected Members	(a) Four to be elected from the residents of Simla by the whole body.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Elected from the immediate neighbourhood of Simla (b) Two to be elected by the Lt. Governor and two by the BOG.
Headmaster.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To be selected by the Bishop. (b) Could be removed if 6 out of 8 voted for removal. (c) Under certain circumstances, the Governors could appoint the Headmaster. (d) Ex-officio Secretary to the Governors. (e) No vote. (f) If necessary, the HM could be directed to withdraw from the meeting. (g) Management in his hands. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) To be selected by the Lt. Governor after consulting the Bishop. (b) Removal by the Lt. Governor or as earlier. (c) –Do- (d) – Do – (e) – Do - (f) – Do – (g) – Do – (h) The control and expenditure of all money vested in the Governors.

School was finally rebuilt and occupied in July 1907. On 3 April 1908 the repairs on the Chapel were also completed and this began to be reused. And, the first telephone arrived in School in 1909.

The Four Houses

It was soon after the fire that the dormitories were changed into the four Houses. Earlier, the four dormitories that now represent them were simply known by their numbers - 1,2,3 and 4. All four Houses honoured the men who were of considerable help in setting the School back on its feet after the fire.

In 1906, the first house to be created was Lefroy and was named in honour of the Rt. Rev. George A. Lefroy (1854-1919), the third Bishop of Lahore; he later became Bishop of Calcutta and Metropolitan of India. Lefroy took the motto *Sperno Mutare* (I scorn to change). The house colour taken was Green.

The second House to be formed was Ibbetson in 1907. This was named after Sir Denzil Ibbetson, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab from 1907 to 1908. The House colour is Oxford Blue – dark blue. In 1909, Mr. J.V. Malley became the first House Master. The first House Captain was L. Rossetti in 1907. The motto taken was, *Nec Impecto Nec Imperio* (Neither by attack nor by command).

Rivaz House took its name from Sir Charles Rivaz, Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab from 1903 to 1907. The motto of *Servamus* (We Serve) was adopted only in 1935. The house colour adopted was Cambridge Blue – light blue. The first House Captain of Rivaz was E.R. Lewis in 1908.

Curzon House was named after George Nathaniel Curzon, the Marques Curzon of Kedleston, Viceroy of India (1899 – 1905) with the Latin motto *Facta Non Verba* (Facts not words) and the House Colour taken was Red. The first House Captain was F.V.V.G Rossetti in 1909 – who was also a staff member from 1923 to 1926. The first House Master of Curzon House was H.J. Ford in the year 1919.

All the house names, mottoes and colours were chosen by Mr. G. S. Stookes M.A., Senior Assistant Master in 1906. A sportsman and the games master, Stookes was also responsible for organising inter-house sports and instituting a trophy for this – which was sponsored by the residents of Shimla, old boys and friends. The Houses played each other on two matches each of hockey and football and a round of cricket. These were played on league principles.

Lefroy Ghost

Almost as if it were to put a stamp on things and add a fresh legend, it was in these years that the ‘house ghost’ of Lefroy made his appearance. The story was recounted at length by N.D. Lisbey, School Captain in 1911 – and who went on to become a Member of the Board of Governors between 1955 and ’59 and an M.B.E. The episode began when Stanley Pearce, Bob Rossiter and Nisbey had completed their scholastic education and were ‘sweating for the competitive examinations’. They had separate studies that consisted of small cubicles over the porch in the Main Building.

As a part of their curriculum, they and other ‘specials’ studied practical chemistry. It was an unusually hot day when a large bottle of liquid ammonia that had been placed in direct sunlight exploded. The pungent fumes filled the room and the boys rushed out. The Science Master did a quick count of the boys and discovered that Pearce was missing. As the fumes had still not touched the floor, they crawled in on all fours and found Pearce lying there and ‘convulsed in a spasm of violent coughing’. They managed to drag him out but the severe shock required treatment in Hospital.

Later, Pearce had to go to Allahabad to appear for his examination for the Salt Department. The boys knew that this marked the end of Pearce’s school years and while saying good-bye, some of them ‘implored him more in jest than in earnest, to return to B.C.S. after his examination’. Two days after his departure from Shimla, Pearce was found dead in his compartment when the train reached Tundla. The cause of death was put down to heart-failure. Many felt that this was a result of the incident in the laboratory and ‘for many days the School was wrapped in gloom over the passing of a lad who, as

Head Prefect and School Captain, had won the regard and respect of the masters and boys'. Pearce's 'return' to School is recounted in Lisbey's words,

“One night, shortly after Pearce's death, I had spent several hours in my study grappling with a problem in Dynamics. Failing to get the correct solution, I decided, eventually, to give it up and retire to bed. It must have been near midnight and Lefroy dormitory was plunged in darkness. In those days, kerosene lamps were used in the School and the lights in the dormitories were extinguished by 10 o'clock each night. I dimmed my reading lamp in the study, took it into the dormitory and placed it on my bedside table. Having completed my preparations for retirement, I was on the point of getting into bed when I saw a boy enter the dormitory from a door at the far end. He was fully dressed and had a hat on his head. Completely mystified, I watched him glide rapidly through the room in a manner resembling that of a person on ice-skates. His lowered head prevented me from distinguishing his features. He vanished through the open door opposite my bed. Wondering if he was a somnambulist, meandering in his sleep, I resolved to follow him. While getting into my slippers, I saw him again come through the open door at which he had first appeared. I stood in bewilderment as he approached me, very slowly on this occasion. He stopped a few yards away, looked toward me and smiled. It was then that I recognised Pearce standing before me. In a flash, I recalled our effort to persuade him to return to School after his examination. Satisfaction at having accomplished a mission was marked on his clearly defined features. Still looking at him, I reached out my hand towards the lamp and raised the wick. As the light grew brighter, Pearce's image faded and vanished.”

The following day the School was all agog as the story of the 'Lefroy ghost' began doing the rounds. Many put it down to mental strain on Lisbey's part and even his best friend, Rossiter heard it all with silent amusement.

At the time, Charles Brandon, an old Cottonian, had been permitted to reside in the Curzon dormitory while undergoing training as an architect in a Government Department in Shimla. He shared a study with his cousin Rossiter and as he often came in late, he had

his servant keep dinner for him in this room, and ‘at the same time, he gave Rossiter permission to dispose of the dinner if he was not back in School by 9 pm’. A couple of nights after Lisbey had seen the ‘ghost’, he and Rossiter were wrapping up what was to have been Brandon’s meal, when Brandon walked in perplexed. Lisbey writes,

“We invited him to join us in what was left of the repast and he readily assented. During the meal he revealed the cause of his perplexity. On his way to this study from the Curzon dormitory, he noticed a figure coming towards him along the corridor of Lefroy dormitory. He moved aside to let this person pass without taking any particular notice of him. The oncoming individual, however, deliberately blocked his way. When a couple of yards separated them, the figure disappeared. Brandon, however, had sufficient time to recognise Pearse and get a glimpse of his attire. The outfit described by him including the hat, tallied in which the Lefroy ghost had appeared to me.”

The greatest doubter had been silenced and Lefroy acquired a relic the likes of which no other house could boast. It is almost a century since the ‘sighting’ and Pearse we trust, is at rest.

The Old Cottonians Association

A year or so before this, another gathering of kindred spirits had been set in order. The Old Cottonians Association was officially started on 13 May 1910 when seventeen OCs gathered in Shimla’s Freemason’s Hall. Those that gathered were -

E.O. Wilsey (1863 – 1867)

W.J. Crayden (1863 – 1866)

W. Cotton (1876 – 1884)

T. Archibald Brooks (1876 – 1877)

S.A. Blaker (1881 – 1883)

W.G. Dollman (1882 – 1890)

C. Davis (1882 – 1886)

Felix von Goldstein (1884 – 1892)

C.W. Kirkpatrick (1884 – 1888)

E.A. Reid (1887 – 1891)

W.I. Tilden (1887 – 1891)

D.A. Clarke (1891 – 1896)

Frank I. Tellery (1893 – 1895)

A.D. Grindal (1895 – 1899)

G.T. Wright (1898 – 1900)

G.A. Heron (1902 – 1903)

A. Farrar Brooks (1908 – 1910)

E.O. Wisley, the senior-most, had organised the meeting and was the first to sign the Roll of Association. With these seventeen acting as the core, the task was now to find and communicate with the numerous old boys who lay scattered across the world – England, Canada, Japan, China, New Guinea and of course, India. In under a year, the Seventeen had become 73. By 1 May 1913, there were eighty-four members and this rose to 101 by October that year.

The objectives of the Association were set out in its rules. First, it was sought to ‘establish a bond of union among Old Boys and present boys to meet each other and for this purpose annual dinners and dances at the School’ were instituted. Second, the Association wanted to put an end to the stigma the bureaucratic circle attached with an Indian education. Third, the Association promised, “ Should anything arise to occasion a demand for the active services of its Old Boys the School has the satisfaction of knowing a number of them are to hand, not only willing but pledged, to assist by every means in their power.”

Almost as if giving visible expression to their pledge, the Old Boys presented the School's Chapel with the stained glass window depicting the Good Shepherd. This was installed on 19 October 1915.

Matches with Sanawar

The matches between Sanawar (the Lawrence Military Asylum, as it was known till 1921) and B.C.S. began when Lewis was Headmaster – and in local grandiloquence were declared to be akin to the Oxford-Cambridge rivalry. The Principal of Sanawar at the time, Rev. George Dunsford Barne (1912-32) was also an old friend of B.C.S. and had served as the Chaplain of Christ Church. The first match, a soccer one was played in 1913 which B.C.S. won at Shimla, 3-1. This was followed by a hockey one the following year and was also played at Shimla; Sanawar beat B.C.S. 5-3. Cricket had to wait till 1921 and was won by Sanawar by 22 runs. The Colts' matches at that time were under 14; now U-16, were started in 1923 which B.C.S. won at Sanawar by 61 runs.¹⁶

As a part of the Volunteer Rifles, both schools had established some sort of competitive rivalry even before the matches between them began. For example, in 1910, D Coy. (B.C.S) of the Volunteers beat F Coy. (Sanawar) in a tug of war. The rivalry extended to the 'Khud Race', marathon open to the Simla Volunteer Rifles which was to cover a course from the top of Prospect Hill to the Cart Road and then back again by a different route. There were ten teams with eight persons in each. The B.C.S. team went into intensive training with 'the express purpose of beating Sanawar who were expected to win the event'. F.L Edge of Rivaz won the Khud Race in the inaugural year, 1909 and thereafter in 1910, 1911, and 1912.

¹⁶ The first Atom (U-14) and Electron (U-12) were played in 1965 and 1990 respectively.

The man who had sighted the 'ghost', N.D. Lisbey recounted the growing reputation of B.C.S. as an opponent to be reckoned with on the playing field in 'School days in Retrospect',

... for many years we had the reputation of possessing a hockey team which had never been defeated. A team from Bombay, on a tour in India, visited the school and played us on our ground. No goals were scored. The visiting team had won all the matches elsewhere on the tour. Replay was arranged at Annandale. B.C.S. won 5-0 ...

First World War

As the First World War plunged Europe into turmoil, its echoes were felt in distant Bishop Cotton School. For a start, the enrolment of boys dropped off. Then there was a shortfall in the teaching staff as some were called to the front.

Despite this instability, which was bound to affect the School's income, certain works continued. For example, in 1913 the Laboratory, Armoury and Sergeant's Quarters were constructed. The following year, a new gymnasium was built on the First Flat. 14 February 1914 also witnessed the tragic end of G.E. Ferry B.A. (Cantab.) who had joined the staff in 1910 in a shooting accident; he was 24. The following year a communion railing was presented to the Chapel in his memory.

It was only in 1915, after the first two Indian boys who had joined School in the 1880s that the next lot came. The reasons for this were not clear, and this change may well have been the result of the War years and the falling numbers of European and Eurasian boys. The financial crunch was definitely there, for in 1916 the Headmaster's salary was reduced. But be that as it may, in 1915 Ali Akbar Khan, Ali Asghar Khan and R.S. Tewari were admitted. The following year, five more joined and in both 1917 and 1918, there were two Indian admissions each year. In 1919, when the Rev. Gillespy was Headmaster, no objection was raised when Reginald and Cyril Ram and Abel Seth joined the School. But as the War came to a close and when Krishna Menon joined, the Headmaster was directed to refer the admission of all Indian boys to the Board of Governors. Another reason could have been the food served at School in those years and

the taboos that were observed by both Hindus and Muslims; in 1913 it had been decided that Hindu boys would be given different food.

This trend of rising numbers of Indian boys continued and in 1921, four Indian boys joined – this was followed by eleven in 1922 and fourteen in 1923. In 1929, out of the 202 boys in School, forty-four were Indian. In 1947, before the Partition of India, out of the one-hundred boys that joined School, sixty-nine were Indians.

In December 1918, the Rev. Lewis resigned from School and became the Chaplain of Bankipur. Yet, even after retiring from School and later, on his return to England, he maintained his connection with the institution that he had headed for nineteen years. Rev. H.M. Lewis became the President of the OCA (U.K.) and ended his association with School only when he died on 1 October 1938 at his home in Borden Hants.

VI

Ebb, Flow and Crimson tide

Francis Roebuck Gillespy, graduated at Hatfield Hall, Durham University in 1906, was asked, in the middle of 1918, by Bishop Durrant of Lahore if he would be ‘willing to organise a Preparatory School in Simla for the many small English boys in the country who could not be sent home owing to War conditions’.

At that point of time, B.C.S. was at one of its lowest ebbs as the number of boys had decreased substantially and it was proposed that those still there, would be accommodated in other Anglo-Indian schools while the Government would take over the premises and use them for a proposed Preparatory School. This Preparatory School would have been with the Army with whom negotiations were on to take the premises – and the children too would have been the sons of soldiers who could not be sent to England on “account of the submarine menace”. The old boys pleaded with the Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab and met the Viceroy with the request not to close the School. The Viceroy, Lord Chelmsford was sympathetic to these feelings and some sort of ‘bail-out’ package was being worked out.

As a Government chaplain, Gillespy was posted at Quetta (now in Pakistan) and was to be seconded for this ‘special duty’ at Shimla. He was also authorised to collect what staff he deemed fit from those with teaching experience and who had been temporarily posted to the army. With a slab of ice strapped under the fan of the railway compartment to combat the heat as best they could, Gillespy set out with his family to Shimla.

In November 1919 came the news of the Armistice and with it ended the plans of the Preparatory School. There was a rush to withdraw the names that had been entered and the usual reason given was, “Now that Tommy can be sent home, the sooner he joins his Prep School in England, the better.” And with each disappearing Tommy the Wee and his fee-slip, stability on the Knollswood spur again seemed like a distant dream. The Governors approached the Headmaster and suggested that the plans of the Preparatory

School be abandoned and an attempt be made to get the 'old Bishop Cotton School on its feet again'. Through the influence of the Bishop and certain Government officials, it was agreed that Gillespy be seconded for two years for the task.

Gillespy set down to secure fresh admissions for the School – and boys began coming in daily. 1919 opened with the return of twenty boys who were still on the rolls and another sixty new ones. Every year, the numbers rose and by 1922, there were some two hundred boarders and twenty-five day boys and the limits of available accommodation had been reached.

Gillespy was just thirty-nine then — making him second youngest Headmaster of B.C.S. to date. While this may have been perceived as a disadvantage of sorts in certain ways, it certainly gave him an edge on the games field. On merit, he found a place for himself on the School's hockey and football teams. Boxing was also added to the regular School curriculum.

The School Chapel

In the very early days of the School, at the time of consecration, the Chapel it had been named 'The Chapel of the Holy Trinity'. At the same time, the Bishop had presented the School 'with a handsome set of Communion Vessels in silver consisting of flagon, chalice and paten'. The Board of Governors had also permitted the Headmaster to purchase a harmonium. After the fire, services began in April 1908 but it was only by 1921, that the Chapel could be recognized the way we see it today – with its hammer-beam roof with pendant posts and braces.

In 1914, the communion rail had been presented in memory of G.E.H. Ferry, a schoolmaster. On 19 October 1915, the stained glass window depicting the Good Shepherd had been installed – this was a gift from the OCA in honour of the School's Golden Jubilee. The flourishing choir had had twenty-eight boys in cassocks and surplices since 1919 – the year a magnificent processional cross had been obtained from Madras.

Later additions included the Bishop Cotton banner that is displayed on the left wall and was consecrated in 1925. In 1929, the pipe organ was installed. In 1935, the chapel was extended and the two back rows were added in 1936 with twenty stalls for the use of the Staff. Three decades later, in 1966, the Italian marble font and three stained-glass windows arrived from the disused All Saints Chapel that lay on Shimla's former Viceregal estate. The windows were installed opposite the organ ones and one dates back to 1879. In 1938, the Beryl Tobin and St. Thomas windows were installed in 1938, while the window depicting Bishop Cotton was placed in memory of W.J. Litster. When Mr. Carter was Headmaster, two teak benches with the School Crest were placed for use by the prefects. A Bluthner piano sold by a German expatriate leaving India was installed in the Chapel in 1994, while windows in the rear (the East) depicting the School and House badges were consecrated in 28 July 1996. On 3 October 1997, the window with the School Crest and measuring eighteen inches by twenty-four inches made by Henry Beriff (Lefroy, 1940-41) and presented by the UK Chapter of the Old Cottonians was installed. On 30 June 1998, a Memorial Service was held for the legendary Senior Master, T.M. 'Tubby' Whitmarsh Knight who bequeathed a thousand pounds to the Chapel. In 1999, brass plaques commemorating the Staff were placed in the Chapel's panels.

The Chapel has had its share of weddings too. Miss Stella Mohr, Matron wed Mr. Cargill on 2 April 1925; Capt. S.J. Ford (Staff, 1914-1926) married Miss D.D. Cole on 17 February 1920; T.M. Whitmarsh-Knight (Staff, 1937-1942 and 1948-1953) married Lorna Quick the daughter of a major who was surgeon with the RIAMC^{*}; Freddie Brown (Curzon, 1934-1940, Staff, 1942-1947 and 1950-1961) wed Pat, a Sanawar girl on 18 February 1947; Mr. DeYoung, Housemaster of Rivaz married in 1954 and Mr. William wed in 1970.

All the effort to create this treasured part of School once sought to be undone by the most determined of Shimla's vandals, the monkeys. The simians once found the chapel door unlocked and moved in to wreck the interior. Gillespy says: "It looked as though there

* Royal Indian Army Medical Corps

had been a pitched battle, with prayer books and hymn books for ammunition, supplemented by kneelers and anything movable that they could lay their hands on”.

The chapel, which had been refurbished after the fire of 1905 and survived the visitation of the monkeys in Gillespie’s time, was given an English altar in 1929 and a two manual pipe organ by Norman Hill and Beard was installed. The following year, a bronze relief after Leonardo da Vinci’s “The Last Supper”, was also presented in memory of Revd. Lee-Baker who had been Housemaster of Rivaz. In 1935, the chapel was extended and the town’s well-known architect Rolland Hotz designed the extension; the contractor who executed the work, was a Christian named Fazal-ud-Din. Sir George Anderson after whom the Anderson Library is named, contributed Rs. 1,500 for this addition. A touching contribution was made by the workmen who gave a day’s pay toward the Memorial Stone laid below the altar. On 21 August 1932, the Bishop Cotton window was placed in the chapel as a memorial to William James Litster who was in School between 1878 and 1889 (or between 1879 and 1886). Thrice elected President of the OCA, Litster, was Manager of the highly successful Alliance Bank of Simla and Secretary of the Simla Municipality (1919 to 1930) and a Member of the Board of Governors between 1910 and 1930. The window was painted by William Travers of London and the face of Bishop Cotton was copied from the portrait in Irwin Hall.

Old Boys: The Back-up Brigade

“A school stands and falls by the attitude of its old boys.”

— Lord Chelmsford

In 1921, the Old Cottonians met at a dinner held in the old gymnasium on the First Flat. Mr. Norfolk set out a ten course dinner to which apart from the OCs, the staff and the prefects were also invited. Mr. Lister, who had been elected thrice as President and was a Governor, proposed the toast. The Headmaster spoke of the progress of the School and mentioned various schemes that if implemented would bring back the School’s glory. Knowing full well that the OCs pitch in whenever called upon to do so, Mr. Ford asked the old boys to contribute a hundred rupees a year for three years – in all three hundred

rupees each. This contribution would help the School expand and it is on record that a ‘fair amount towards the Rs.1.5 lakh required for necessary enlargement of the School’ was thus raised.

General Dyer: The Evil Cottonian

It was damage of a far different kind that also occurred at this time and was an event that in its horrifying barbarity, totally overshadowed anything else that may have happened in India during these years.

Reginald Edward Harry Dyer was born in Murree, a hill station now in Pakistan. When the boy was two, the family settled in Shimla to be close to Solan where the father Edward had set up a brewery. Just before setting up the one at Solan, Edward Dyer had also established one at Shimla – this was in the Khalini locality close to B.C.S. They took a house called ‘Ladyhill’ and renamed it ‘Dyerton’ – the house still stands and bears this name while the area is referred to the ‘old beer *khana*’. He grew up fighting snakes and school-fellows; averse to hunting animals and yet, a brave and protective brother, he was once prepared to take on a hyena to shield his sister.

In 1873, when Dr. Slater was Headmaster and Dyer was eight years old, he was admitted to B.C.S. He was in school for a bare seven months as a day-scholar. Dyer’s three older brothers were in School as boarders – and apart from the entry in the admissions register we know nothing of his time at B.C.S. At the age of eleven, he was sent to school in Ireland. Going by the remains of the admissions register, Dyer spent only a year at B.C.S. However, as many records were destroyed or damaged by the fire of 1905, it is possible that he remained there till he left for Middleton College, Ireland.

Some three and a half decades later, Dyer, a general to boot, on 13 April 1919 had troops under his command open fire on an unarmed crowd at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar. No exact estimate of the dead is available but the official figure placed this at about 400 dead – the unofficial one trebled this.

The world at large has since known Dyer as ‘The Butcher of Amritsar’ and generations of Cottonians have known him as ‘The Evil Cottonian’. The one who stood out as having spurned the core of the School’s ethos of ‘overcoming evil with good’.

End of Gillespy’s term

The Rev. Gillespy’s attitude to ‘all round development’ of the boys ensured that both studies and sports were given suitable emphasis. The house system had been fine-tuned and apart from the four houses – where all for the first time had Housemasters in 1919 – a fifth known as the School House was under the charge of the Headmaster and seemed to have consisted of only the parlour-boarders.

It was personal tragedy that saw the Rev. Gillespy leave the Knollswood spur. In 1922 an epidemic of influenza broke out in School and the hospital was packed. Gillespy’s two children who were with him, Peter and Alison also caught this. Nursing them, his wife, May fell a victim and the illness compounded by pneumonia claimed her life. She was buried at the cemetery in Sanjauli. Acting on the advice of the Station Medical Officer, it was decided to close the School early and the annual vacation began on 11 October 1922. Following this, the Governors gave Gillespy six months’ leave to take his children to England and also agreed that if could find a post for himself there, he would be at liberty to retire. He did not return and remarried while he was Headmaster at Kings School, Gloucester. Of the many commendatory letters sent to him when he left, the one by Bishop Durrant of Lahore stands out.

VII

Jubilee Years

The departure of Rev. Gillespie came at the moment when Bishop Cotton School prepared to celebrate its Diamond Jubilee; and it was the Rev. W.S. O' Neill who arrived as Headmaster in 1923 and took charge of the ceremonies. This was a year when the three big guns of the *Raj*, visited School – the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief and the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab. Each left leaving a pat on the School's back.

The momentous landmark of the School's Jubilee was celebrated by the Old Boys giving a dinner to the Present Boys and by the School Dinner for the Old Boys – where twenty-eight attended.

In the School's context, a reflection of the winds of change that were sweeping across India at the time is visible in the steadily increasing numbers of Indian pupils. In 1926, a 'Hill Chiefs Hostel' was constructed below the Third Flat – this was financed by the Hill Chiefs for the use of their sons. This stone building consisted of eight rooms with attached toilets – and was the ground floor of what later became the 'Remove'.

The same year, the School was affiliated to the School Leaving Certificate – more popularly known as the 'Senior Cambridge' – and the affiliation remained till 1962. In 1927, the School was proud to declare that it had 'gained unprecedented success in Public Examinations'.

Apart from scholastic achievements, the School continued to move on other fronts too. In 1924, the Cubs and Scouts and the Nature Study Club flourished. The following year, the B.C.S. contingent of the Simla Rifles participated in various events, including a guard of honour to the Viceroy, Lord Lytton.

The War Memorial

It was in O' Neill's time that the War Memorial was built on the First Flat. The Headmaster had issued an appeal for funds and placed before a gathering of some forty Old Boys a drawing of the proposed structure.

The Memorial was unveiled on Founder's Day, 28 July 1925 – and some modifications were done in 1955. As mentioned elsewhere, of the 15 Old Boys who are regarded to have died in the First World War, the names of only 12 are known. These are –

Second Lieutenant C.E. Bird, Suffolk Regiment (1904 -?)

Lieutenant A.H. Borrett, Indian Army

Lieutenant H. Herbert, Indian Army Reserve of Officers (1893 - ?)

Lieutenant F.B.D. Spread, Indian Army Reserve of Officers (1906 - ?)

Corporal R. Rossiter, Coldstream Guards (1899 - ?)

A.W. Greenway, Royal Field Artillery.

E. Duggan, Machine Gun Section (1898 - ?)

L. Duggan, Machine Gun Section (1897 – 1903)

C.R. Paul

Private Barnes-Cooke

Private J. Longmate, Machine Gun Section

Lieutenant I.P.H. Johnstone, Indian Army

Meanwhile, the Old Cottonians had been taking strides of their own. W.J. Litster, an OC and Governor, received a CIE in 1924 and F.E. Nugent who was in School at the age of eight in 1908, played hockey for England in 1922.

After four years at the helm, the Rev. O' Neill left the School on 5 May 1927. He remained in India till 1946, and died in England at the ripe age of 96.

While School celebrated its Founder's Day in 1927, far away in London under a grey, gloomy sky and steady rain, a Cottonian for a while, General Reginald Dyer, was being

taken on his last journey. His family believed he died of a broken heart and Rudyard Kipling's wreath at the funeral bore the line: 'He did his duty as he saw it'.



VIII

Trying to see Both Wood and the Trees

In 1927, Rev. John Canon Raphael Peacey took over as Headmaster on 11 September — and for all this tumult around, if one were to look for a single phrase to describe Peacey's years at School, it would perhaps be appropriate to call them “a time of quiet growth”.

Amateur Dramatic Society

A month after Peacey's arrival, on Speech Day, 8 October one of the most distinguished members of the Indian Civil Service of the twentieth century, Sir William Malcolm Hailey was Chief Guest. Hailey was the Governor of the Punjab – and one of the few ICS officers to be raised to the peerage in 1936. The Hailey Literature Prize is named after him.

The occasion was taken by the newly formed Amateur Dramatic Society to stage select scenes from *Hamlet* on a temporary stage constructed in the Dining Hall. The production and direction were both handled by C.H. Barry who was on the Staff; Barry was in school only till 1931 and in that brief period, staged several plays.

Barry's and his boys' talents did not remain confined to the Knollswood spur and he carried *Richard II* to the town's Gaiety Theatre. This was an elaborate production with a cast of fifty-four. Crosthwaite, the Music Master, with the help of Lorna McLaren (nee Lincoln), also on the staff from 1927 to 1939, managed to stage a substantial number of plays in the period – *Man in a Bowler Hat*, *The Camberley Triangle*, *Trail by Jury*, *A Night at an Inn*, *Portrait of a Gentleman in Slippers* and *Tons of Money* – the last was first staged in 1930 and produced again in 1940. After Barry's departure from school, in 1932, Mrs. Peacey and Lorna McLaren produced *It Pays to Advertise* and *Seven Keys to Baldpate*.

School theatricals continued to flourish. The school's Amateur Dramatic Company under the direction of Lorna McLaren produced *Ambrose Apple John's Adventure*, *Clive of*

India and *Cromwell* in 1936. The following year, among others, the hit of the period, *Charlie's Aunt* was produced, and for the first time girls' parts were taken on by boys. On 16 July 1938, a short musical *Once Aboard a Lugger* was presented – as was the play, *Outward Bound*. In 1939, an outstanding performance of *Goodbye Mr. Chips* was staged with a cast of eighty-seven that included both staff and students and had eleven changes of scene and the same year, a full-length musical *Rob O' the Forest* was a resounding success. *Tons of Money* was produced in 1940 – while the musical society came out with a production of *The Mandarin*. 1942 saw the staging of *Vice-Versa* where the boys again took on the female roles, this was followed by George Bernard Shaw's *St. Joan* with a cast of thirty-five and then came that magnificent production, *The Mikado*.

In 1943, the Amateur Dramatic Company staged *The Middle Watch*, a naval farce and followed it up by the 'Pyramus and Thisbe' scene from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. A culmination of sorts was achieved on this front when the School's Musical Society carried Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* to the stage of the town's Gaiety Theatre after a month of rehearsals. That was not all, the hundred-strong School Choir, directed by Mr. and Mrs. Priestley also went to the Gaiety and its acoustically perfect hall on 1,2 and 5 September to sing Handel's *Messiah*. All India Radio recorded the two-hour long performance and broadcast this at Christmas that year; the recording was supervised by Melville de Mellow, an Old Cottonian, Head of the European Section of AIR – and a legend in his own lifetime. By Command, this was also performed at Viceregal Lodge on 27 September. On 25, 26 and 27 May this was followed by the presentation of the complete version of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* on a specially constructed stage on the garden of the Headmaster's Lodge. The Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow was the Guest of Honour. A full-fledged Shakespeare festival also took place at this juncture in School.

First Indian on the Board of Governors

1927 was also the year that saw the first Indian to come on the Board of Governors. This singular honour went to Dewan Tek Chand OBE, ICS who at the time, was serving as the Commissioner of the Ambala Division. His son, Prem – later Lieutenant-General Dewan Prem Chand – also joined School that year. Two of Dewan Tek Chand's grandsons,

Sushil and Sunil were also at BCS in the 1950s. The second “first” came about the following year when an Indian became School Captain; this was Rustom J. Gandhi, from Karachi. This change was also reflected in the profile of enrolments and of the 202 boys in School in 1929, forty-four were Indians. The “Indian” presence in School was by now quite visible and in 1930, it was the Indian students that won many of the School’s prizes; for example:

Diocesan Exam Bishop Prize – L. Sawhney

Middle School – R.N. Batra

Junior Cambridge – J.C. Kakar

Cambridge School Certificate – F.C. Sanyal

On the academic front, a significant step was taken in 1929 when the School was affiliated to the Punjab University. By the time Peacey left in 1935, the academic front had begun to look up.

1933 was a year when history of sorts was created when the exam results of 1932 came in. Out of 115 boys, 111 passed various public exams. In the Cambridge School Certificate Examinations, BCS took seven Honour Certificates – the highest in any school in India – and thirty-seven Distinctions. Romesh Chandra, the son of Mr. Ramchandra, ICS – in whose honour Ramchandra Chowk in Shimla is named – got six out of a possible seven distinctions and stood first in India.¹⁷

The School Swimming Pool

In the winter of 1933, the Lady Willingdon Bath was completed and BCS became the only school in Shimla to have a swimming pool. This was made possible by donations made by Lady Willingdon, wife of the Viceroy, Freeman Freeman-Thomas, Marquess of Willingdon and by HH, the Rani of Rampur. A ‘charming but inaccurate’ story exists that the excavation was done by the boys; in April, the following year, swimming commenced. A cement running-dive and chute were added in 1946. The first BCS –

¹⁷ Perhaps in the entire Commonwealth.

Sanawar Inter-School competition was held in 1936 and was won by BCS. The second one was held at Sanawar on 12 September 1937 and was won by BCS, 34 ½ points to 21 ½.

The Tuck Shop

The year Rev. O' Neill arrived was also the time when Kesar Singh Negi joined School; it seems that Negi's first job was helping Mrs. Norfolk in the box room. In time, he began running the tuck shop and created a considerable level of affection if not immortality for himself as "Chipu". Chipu stepped into the shoes of Karam Elahi – better known as just 'Karam' – who had run this for two decades on the Second Flat adjoining the old, now burnt gym. Chipu set up business in what was then the 'old' box room that faced the First Flat. This was in the now rebuilt 'geography building' (also at times referred to as the 'arts building'). The name by which generations have known Kesar Singh came from his unforgettable potato chips and the red-hot 'masala' of his own invention – which no one has been quite able to replicate. Apart from the fiery chips, where the residue was savoured as much as the contents in the paper bag which more often than not, was turned inside out and licked clean, Chipu also served several other specialties – whose names would sound alien to many but were common School jargon. There were the red or orange sweetened 'drinks'; piping hot spicy samosas; 'puri-tak'; tamarind chutney and *besan* or white *burfis*. At times, Chipu would serve eggs too. With boys ranging from four foot nothing to six foot something, jostling each other and crying for Chipu's attention, the rush at his counter was always considerable – and when the tuck shop emptied, it was surprising to see how many boys that small room could hold and how busy Chipu's hands and head must have been. Today's tuck shop is named after the spare and sharp Chipu, filler of perpetually empty tummies and one of the institutions of BCS. At the end of 1980, Kesar Singh relinquished the shop, to be run by the School from the following year. Chipu's son, Khyat Singh joined the army the Corps of Military Policy and retired as a Naib Subedar in 1973. In 1977 he joined the School as the Estate Manager and served till 1994.

OCA, UK

By the end of the 1920s, there were a substantial number of Old Cottonians who had settled in Britain and in 1928, Raymond E. Wood (R 1920-22) and the Headmaster, Peacey founded the OCA, U.K. Within three years, a substantial distinction came the way of BCS when for the first time a Cottonian was elected to the British Parliament when when W.M. Kirkpatrick (BCS 1891) was elected MP on the Conservative ticket from Preston. A year later, four chapters of the OCA were in existence with the Governor of the Punjab as Patron; these were based at Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and in Britain.

At thirty-five years of age, George Sinker (Oxon., Brasenose College) was the youngest Headmaster to come to B.C.S. The day after Sinker took over as Headmaster, 13 September 1935, a small but significant addition was made to the School's campus when the Lawrence Gate was inaugurated by the Governor of the Punjab, Sir Herbert William Emerson. This was built in memory of Sir John Lawrence, Governor-General and Viceroy of India and Visitor to the School who had set the Foundation Stone and contributed Rs. 1,000/- towards the initial endowment. Major John Lawrence, a descendant was present at the ceremony.

In 1936, in addition to the House Matches, the hockey and football league matches were introduced; with this, more matches were possible and a greater number of boys could participate.

The Spartan Club

In 1937, the year when a freak snowstorm on 4 April brought the School to a standstill was also the year that the Spartan Club was founded; the Lord Bishop of Lahore was its Foundation President.

It was also in 1937 that the School's meteorological station began functioning and while star-gazing was now possible, on ground at School, the debating society flourished, the literary society carried on with its meetings – as did the Cubs and Scouts.

The Preparatory School

It was the same year, 1937, by the slope of the Chota Shimla bazaar that the Ayrcliff Girls School was purchased for Rs. 35,000 and the following year, this was converted into the Bishop Cotton Preparatory School.

In 1938, eighty-six boys were enrolled in the Preparatory School and 129 in the Main School. In 1939, a new building was constructed in the Prep School and the size of the playing field was doubled. The narrow path through a cedar forest between School and its 'little-brother' was also named 'Norfolk's Walk' after the School's steward who had passed away in 1937 after eighteen years of service; the lower section of the new structure was also dedicated to Norfolk's memory.

In two years, the number of boys enrolled at the Prep School had crossed a hundred and in 1941, its second Headmaster, F.E. Eccleston (who was later ordained), took over. In 1943, the number enrolled rose to a hundred and forty.

However, the Prep School had to be closed in 1947 and the boys shifted to Linlithgow.

On 1 December 1960 the Prep School was sold to His Holiness the Dalai Lama for Rs. 2,70,000/- and the estate now houses the Central School for Tibetans.

The Mitre

In 1938, the UK Mitre began publication and P.W.S. "Mali" Curtis (L 1921-27) was its first editor; this wound up in 1976-77. *The Mitre* published from School, which periodically updates us with news from Patina, began publication in 1956-57. In 1938, the Rev. Peacey revisited the School and this was also the year when a new School Song, in Latin, "Carmen Cottoniaum" was introduced.

World War II

The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 was to turn the world upside down. About a month before the German blitzkrieg and the sustained bombing of London that

left thousands of civilians' dead, the Headmaster reported in August 1940 that about fifty applications from boys of various schools in England had been received. The majority were expected to join the main school while some boys were of Preparatory School age. The Headmaster planned to open two dormitories in the Lodge with a small common room for these boys – and these were expected to accommodate about twenty-four boys and fulfil the requirements for the rest of that year. For the following year, it was suggested that the Pine Cottage, high above the main school be used as a hostel for these boys. The search was also on for masters and Mr. Sargent, a Governor, had both written and cabled to England for them. In view of this emergency of sorts, the decks were also cleared for the employment of Indians as masters.

At the same time, BCS quietly went around on its business of educating boys. The School choir went down to Delhi to sing at the wedding of the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow's daughter, Lady Anne Hope. A few years later, on 20 February 1947 the Twelve School Trebles, under the Choirmaster, J.L. Papworth also sang at the wedding of Viceroy, Lord Wavell's daughter.

It was also at this time that the Headmaster of B.C.S. and the Principal of Sanawar designed a new 'Colours Tie' to be worn by all who had taken part in senior BCS-Sanawar fixtures. The tie combined colours from both schools – red from Sanawar and light blue from BCS. In 1940 as a result of the War, and the shortage of staff, the Board decided to accept Indians as teachers.

With the School's strength having risen to 315 boys, the third Indian school captain, Jehanzeb (Jehon Zeb) Khan took office in 1941. Jehanzeb went on to join the Pakistani army and rose to the rank of Major General – and during the Indo-Pak war of 1965, he commanded a division against the Indian army in the Sialkot sector.

As Japan invaded Singapore and as the first American soldiers began arriving in Britain, in February 1942, the number of boys at BCS touched four hundred –several of whom had been sent from England to the relative safety of India.

There were several lectures given by distinguished speakers about the situation in India and the world. The first of these was by Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, who had served on the School's Board, was the father of two Cottonians and who later became Governor of Bombay. Later in the year, on 15 July 1942, a lecture on "Punjab's War Effort" was given by the Hon'ble Major K.B. Sir Sikander Hyat Khan K.B.E., Prime Minister of the Punjab, and also the father of two Cottonians. A talk was given on Australia by a former Prime Minister of New South Wales, Sir Bertram Stevens KCMG on 14 August. In 1945, C. Rajagopalachari, an ardent nationalist and later, the first Indian Governor-General of the country, spoke to the School on the Indian Political Situation. This hour-long talk was considered to be a fair and courteous picture and 'was greeted by some of the most whole-hearted applause ever heard in Irwin Hall'.

In March 1945, the Rev. Sinker resigned as Headmaster and in December, the Rev. Frank Drake arrived at BCS. Sinker returned to Britain as the Vicar of Bakewell. Both George Sinker and his wife died in 1986. They looked upon the years at BCS as the happiest in their lives.

Honour to our dead and a salute to the living

Expectedly, the boys of Bishop Cotton served with honour in the Second World War and many fell. The list of casualties, which is believed to be incomplete, honours those whose names are known -

1939-1945
TO THE GLORY OF GOD
AND
IN HONOURED MEMORY
OF
OLD COTTONIANS

S. Angelo (1895-99)

H. Mayer

N. Birch	P. Namgyal (35-)
M. Buckley (1923-24)	P. Pickering (1931-37)
D. Dale Green (1926-30)	R. Porter (1921-29)
J. Dale Green (1920-30)	G. Richards (1921-22)
P. Gillespi (1921-22)	R. Robinson (1934-36)
P. Gupta (36-38)	P. Rush (31-37)
A. Hemmingway (35-)	K. Shenton (1924-25)
R. Hill (32-36)	J. Tottenham (1941-)
W. King (1921-25)	R. Watts (41-43)
D. Ludlam	E. Wilson (1986-87)
D. Lyons (1940-)	

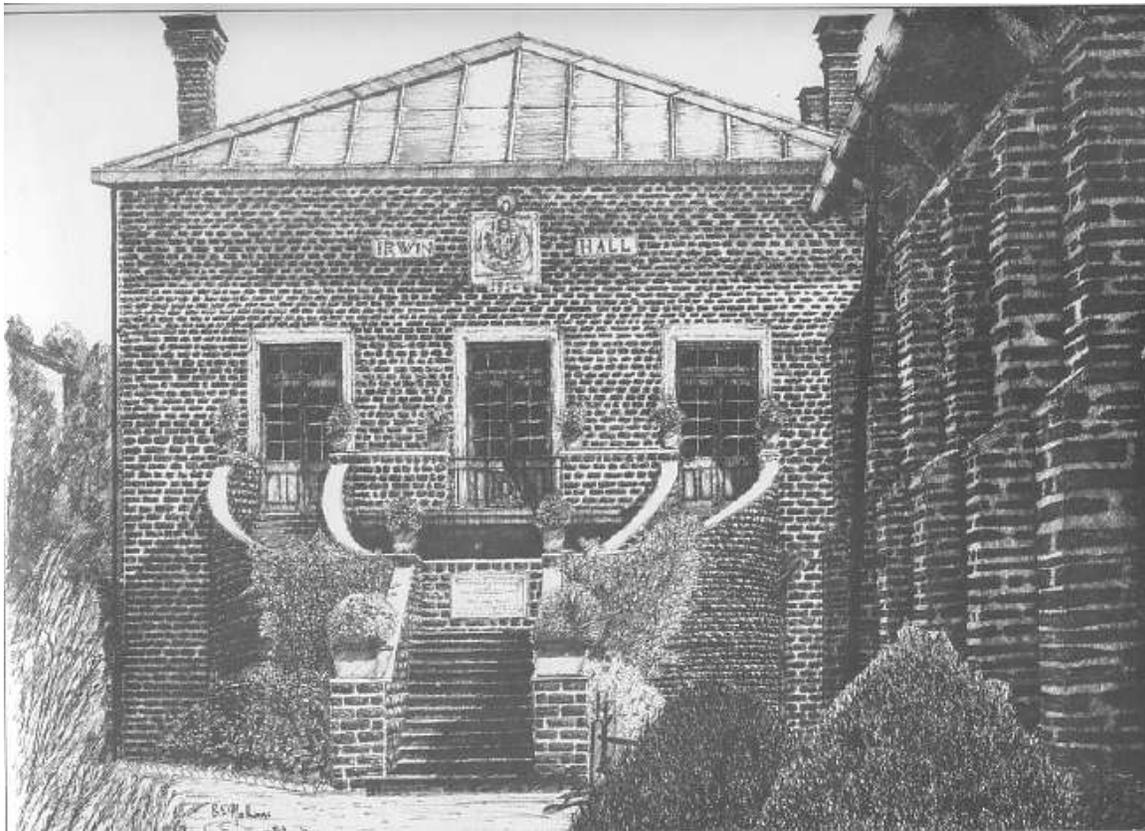
The boy who passed

It took fifty-two years for Peter ‘Lumboo’ Evans (Ibbetson, 1938-1944 and House Captain) to learn that he had passed the Senior Cambridge Exam in December 1944. Evans’ father, a Major, was serving in Burma during the Second World War and Peter returned to England after School. He did not study further and got down to work. The years past and he did well for himself. ‘Lumboo’ also remained involved with the OCA in the UK and for several years was its Secretary. At the age of fifty-two he met Elizabeth, a Dutch lady, and married her and moved to Holland. And fifty-two years after leaving School, he decided to visit Patina again. Colonel Dewan dug up his School record and Lumboo was elated at discovering, contrary to what he had believed all these years, that he had passed and could now feel educated. A happy man, he left his old school, but not before leaving a hefty donation for the gym and the O.C.A. (India).

Irwin Hall

The most significant addition to the campus during Peacey's time was the opening of the new hall. This was named in honour of the tall, spare Lord Irwin whose tenure in India was marked by rising nationalism (to which he was not entirely unsympathetic), who also inaugurated it.

Irwin Hall was built quite as a cross-arm over the dining hall with half-round dressed stone for the walls. Portraits of Revds. Lewis and Irons which had been completed and were hanging the Dining Hall were transferred to the Irwin Hall. In 1945, a portrait of the Rev. Sinker painted by Simon Elwes was unveiled; the cost had been covered by donations by the boys and Old Cottonians.



IX

Cleave to that Which is Good

The Second World War ended and in December 1945 ninety boys went back to England. This was wonderful for them and their families, but for BCS it meant rebalancing the books as the loss of income was substantial. The first Indian, Kunwar Sir Maharaj Singh, also came on the Board in 1945; A.E. Jones, one of Shimla's leading tailors and drapers and who had written a fine booklet on the area's birds was also invited to join the Board at the time.

Taking charge in January 1946, the Rev. Drake found the School flourishing in many ways, but financially, it was on the verge of serious difficulties and widespread reform was needed in matters of discipline. It was also in 1946, that Hussan Agha was selected as the fourth Indian School Captain.

Partition

The year 1947 would have come as every other year did on the Knollswood spur. The School's rolls that fateful year read:

	Main School	Prep. School	Total
Boys of British Nationality	50	26	76
Other Europeans	6	1	7
Anglo-Indians and Dom. Europeans	29	6	35
Indians	69	31	100
Other Orientals	1		1
Total	155	64	219

For all this sense of calm and order in this little corner of India, by the time the year ended, so much would have changed for the country and for Bishop Cotton School.

Unfortunately with the cheer of independence, came the chaos and bloodbath of the Indo-Pak partition. A sharp divide between Hindus and Muslims and the riots and murders across north India had led to the justified fear that some of this carnage could spill over to B.C.S. An indication of this came when the cottage by the First Bridge, *The Grotto* – where the police office now stands – was vandalised and a *chowkidar* found a body raised up on the foot of a tree. One Sunday, three men waving *kirpans* rushed into the chapel but were driven off by the Rev. Drake after an argument. The boys from the Prep School were shifted to the Main School for safety and a few of Shimla's European residents even came down to B.C.S. for protection. To safeguard the forty-two Muslim boys in School, under the charge of Freddie Brown of the Staff, the British and Hindu boys who were armed as members of the Simla Rifles, began patrolling the dormitories.

The Muslim boys who were to head to the newly created Pakistan, could not leave due to the dangers of the journey. On 13 October 1947, the Governor-General Lord Mountbatten – whom author, Ruskin Bond as a school-boy, recalled as a 'towering handsome man in a pin-stripe suit' – came to School to give away the prizes; Mountbatten had lunch seated at the High Table and the School Captain Hassan Agha, asked for his help in sending them across a border that had now come into being.

A few days later information came that all the Muslim boys were to leave the following morning and a frenzy of activity overtook the School. In box-rooms and *godowns*, packing and repacking began as trunks were filled and closed; the school *dhobi* began passing bundle after bundle of clothes and the Staff worked through the night making food packets.

In the presence of the School and Staff, the Rev. Drake addressed the departing boys in Irwin Hall. When he had finished speaking, the middle doors of the Hall, through which,

by tradition only Viceroys entered and School Captains left, were thrown open by two prefects and Hassan Agha walked out, not amidst the customary cheers but in deep and sombre silence.

The next day, 22 October 1947, a detail of army trucks and a heavy escort of Gurkhas arrived at Green Garages, today's Khalini Chowk. The departing boys and some staff that was leaving with them completed their last handshakes and hugs and bundled into the trucks. Cries of 'Three Cheers' rent the air and the trucks trundled off and here ended one of the most poignant chapters in the School's history.

Apart from one servant, who was lost at Kalka, all reached their homes safely.

1948: The Year of Economic Turbulence

The year had started with an emergency meeting of the Board on 26 January 1948. The Headmaster informed the Board that the departure of the forty-two Muslim boys and several European ones had resulted in some financial loss and the year was closing with a substantial overdraft which was hoped to be covered by the Endowment. Fresh admissions by Europeans had virtually ceased and as a result of the disturbances in the country, there had been hardly any from Indians either.

The Headmaster recommended the closure of the Preparatory School to help run the School. The idea of closing down the wing at Chotta Shimla was unanimously accepted by the Board and it was decided to rent out the premises; the Headmaster was asked to proceed accordingly.

At the same time, the Governor-General had a discussion with the new Education Minister, Maulana Kalam Azad regarding B.C.S. and informed the Headmaster that Azad had shown great interest.

Over the following couple of years, the belt-tightening continued. Bursaries were ended; and economy was sought in food expenditure.

All these measures, including encouraging Day Scholars to join BCS, bore fruit and by April 1949, the School was virtually full. In 1949, the Rev. Drake resigned his charge at BCS.

The Cock House Trophy, the most coveted House Award in School is set on a turtle shell that was presented in 1947. The turtle had been caught off the Cauvery Coast in South India and was acquired by the District Collector of Thanjavur (Tanjore) District; his son, John M. McLaughlin (Ibbetson 1941-1948) presented this shell to School which was then turned into the shield for overall House performance.

In 1930, the School Prayer was written by Peacey and thirty-four years later, put to music by Major R.K. von Goldstein. This read:

X

Change and Opportunity

At the time of accepting Drake's resignation, the Board had already honed down on Mr. F.H. Fisher, the Senior Master as the new Headmaster. Francis 'Frank' Hamilton Fisher, B.A. (Calcutta), B.T. (Madras) was the first Headmaster to be promoted from the Staff and the first who was not of the clergy; he was also the first not to have been selected in the U.K.

With an 'embarrassing' financial position to handle as most of the endowment funds were trapped in Lahore, the capital of undivided Punjab, Fisher took over on 6 August 1949.

In the early fifties, the changes that had swept across India made their presence more strongly felt in the School which was able to modify and adapt itself and yet hold on to its treasured traditions and distinct identity. The pupils were now overwhelmingly Indian, Punjabi was introduced as a subject and the number of periods for Hindi was increased.

Mohan Rakesh, the Hindi teacher, directed the School's Amateur Dramatic Company to stage a Hindi play for the first time. Rakesh went on to become one of the acclaimed pioneers of a new wave of writing in Hindi – and tongue in cheek, later likened the Staff at B.C.S. in their black academic gowns to bats flitting about the place.

The financial position improved in 1951. In 1952, the School took the hard but compelling measure of weaning itself away from Government grants and took upon itself to generate its own resources and appoint staff on its own terms. The School voluntarily relinquished the grant of Rs 24,000 that had been originally paid at the instance of Lord Mountbatten and Maulana Azad in 1948. The process of developing ties with other public schools – especially with St. Paul's, Darjeeling and Sherwood College, Nainital continued.

In 1954, the Kindergarten class was discontinued as it was found that the boys admitted to this class were too small and too young for a boarding school.

The same year, 1954, Whitmarsh-Knight's position as Senior Master was taken by F.M. Brown who was the Housemaster of Ibbetson. F.M. Brown took over from Fisher as officiating Headmaster for the years 1954 and 1955.

The cloak of silence that surrounded Fisher's departure when he was said to have 'botched his copybook and was granted leave without pay for one year – never to return', was punctured years later by Ruskin Bond. In *Scenes from a Writer's Life*, Bond was rather more forthcoming and wrote:

(Fisher was) a clever man, sharp mind, childless, seemed unable to understand children and their problems...discouraged any sort of relationship that penetrated the invisible barrier around himself ...His wife (Enid)...indulged in gross favouritism...this month's favourite would be next month's hate object, and she would go out of her way to make trouble for those who had fallen from grace ...I heard that they had been asked to leave the school...involved with some scandal...

In 1956, Mr. E.G. Carter OBE, MA (Cantab.) took over from Brown for a short while – and it was never quite clear why Freddie Brown was not made Headmaster after having officiated well in that position. Carter was the retired Principal of the Lawrence School, Sanawar (1947 – 1955), and had left a reputation as being one of its finest Headmasters. By the time Carter came to B.C.S., he did not keep good health and was constantly in and out of hospital and his stint at Patina was a stopgap arrangement till the Rev. Dustan took over.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's first woman Cabinet Minister, came as the Chief Guest on Speech day, 21 September 1957. Moving past the cedar branches all dusky with autumn pollen along the drive, she was also the first lady to be a Chief Guest at Bishop Cotton's.

Rev. T.M. Dustan took over from Mr E.G. Carter on 15 February 1958. One of the first changes that took place under him was the replacement of the drab khaki uniform of summer that had a khaki shirt, khaki tie and a cotton khaki coat to a blue shirt, gray pullover, gray socks and black shoes.

The same year, B.C.S. became a full member of the Indian Public Schools' Conference (I.P.S.C.). This was followed by a formal meeting of the Conference at Scindia School, Gwalior in October 1939. The Member Schools of the IPSC are managed by the autonomous Boards of Governors and technically, an 'Indian Public School' is one that is a member of the IPSC. Today, this body has seventy-nine Secondary Educational Institutions as its members.

On 9 May 1958, a hundred and fifty boys were invited to tea with the President Dr. Rajendra Prasad and a week later, watched a film with him.

In 1959, with three hundred and thirty two boys on the rolls from eighteen countries, Bishop Cotton School had clocked a hundred years of its presence and it was time to celebrate. In April, Geoffrey Kendall's troupe 'Shakespearana' that toured the country performing both short scenes and full plays, arrived at BCS; there was a matinee

performance of *A Tale of Two Cities* and an evening one had scenes from *Julius Caesar* and *Henry V*.

Speech Day in 1960 was held on 1 June and the Chief Guest was Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President of India. Creating a history of sorts, he made his speech in Hindi.

Across India's borders to the north, major upheavals were taking place in Tibet and the country was to enter its first major war after Independence. With China flexing its muscles over the 'roof of the world', led by the Dalai Lama, there was a huge influx of refugees from Tibet to India. In 1961, Torrentium, where the BCS Preparatory School was located, was sold to H.H. the Dalai Lama – the agreement was executed by a representative of His Holiness.

Where did all those boys go?

One hundred and fifty years have come to a close. On an average, between thirty and forty boys have left School every year to take their place in the world and they have travelled and settled all over the globe. A few have fallen by the wayside but more often than not they have gone along their chosen roads to the very end and often enough, they have made paths of their own. In business, farming, the professions, academics, politics, the forces, the arts – in just about every sphere of life, there will be a Cottonian, and the odds are that he will stand out.

There may be personal success, but with that has also been societal responsibility and it is rare to find to find a boy off the Patina hill that is single dimensional. Some names stand out.

Jigme Dorji, King of Bhutan (Rivaz 1936-38)

Palden Thondup Namgyal, Chogyal of Sikkim, (Lefroy 1933-42)

H.S. Bedi, Supreme Court of India (Curzon 1954-62)

Air Chief Marshal P.C Lal, Padma Vibhushan, DFC, CAS (1927-29)

General Akhtar Abdur Rahman, military governor of Baluchistan and head of Inter-Services Intelligence, Pakistan

B S Bedi (Director General Police Assam & J&K)

Sir L Tomkin, CIE, IG Police Punjab 1922-26 (1882-87)

Ali Akbar Khan, IG Police , Hyderabad, India (Rivaz 1920-22)

Simranjit Singh Mann, MP, Punjab (Ibbetson 1951-61)

William Kirkpatrick, MP for Preston (Conservative), 1931 (1891-96)

D.C. Anand, Industrialist

Major Roy Farran, MLA, Minister of Utilities and Telephone, Canada (Curzon 1932-34)

Fali Nariman, Legal Luminary, Senior Advocate Supreme Court of India, MP (Rajya Sabha), Padma Bhushan (Ibbetson 1942-44)

Virbhadra Singh, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, MP and MLA (Ibbetson 1947-51)

Ronald W Bryan, Bishop of Barrackpur (Ibbetson 1920-22)

Anand Chandulal, Bishop of Amritsar and former Metropolitan of the Church of North India (Rivaz 1943-49)

Felix Rossetti, Poet (1899-1909)

Melville F O' De Mellow, Padma Shri, Broadcaster (Ibbetson 1925-29)

Ruskin Bond, Padma Shri, Author (Ibbetson 43-50)

Tarsem Singh, Hollywood Director, (Ibbetson 1972 -78)

Gallantry Unlimited: Major Roy Farran

The remarkable story of Major Roy Farran who passed away on 2 June 2006 could do with some more telling. He is believed to have been the highest gallantry award winner, in recent times, amongst all armies of the world. After B.C.S., Farran went to Sandhurst and was commissioned into the Third Carabiniers (Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards. He served with the Fifty-first Training Regiment and was then attached to the Third King's Own Hussars in Egypt seeing action at the December 1940 to February 1941 battle of Sidi Barrani, when Commonwealth forces defeated the Italian army in North Africa.

During the Second World War, 'Operation Wallace', one of the most successful post D-Day operations was led by the twenty-three year-old Farran. He penetrated two hundred miles through enemy lines in four days and the operation resulted in 500 enemy casualties, the destruction of ninety-five vehicles, a train and a substantial quantity of fuel.

Over the years, several honours came his way. The French awarded him their highest award for gallantry, the Legion d' Honneur and they also honoured him with Croix de Guerre with Palm; the British awarded the Distinguished Service Order and Military Cross with two bars; the United States awarded the Legion of Merit. Apart from these which were suffixed to his name, he was also awarded the Canadian One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Anniversary Medal in 1992; the General Service Medal with Palestine clasp; the Victory Medal 1939-45; African Star (8th Army Clasp); Italian star, France and German Star, Coronation Medal; Greek War Medal; French Legion Vosgienne Medal, (Resistance), Garibaldi Star (Italian), French Medal of the Resistance (Marquis).

XI

“Patina”, with Grey and Gold

On 7 January 1963, an O.C. and former Staff Member of standing, Major Ralph Kenneth von Goldstein, was appointed Headmaster. He was then fifty-four years of age and a bachelor.

‘Ken’ Goldstein, better known as ‘Goldie’ to all boys who passed under his hands was born on 25 July 1909 in Shimla and was the youngest of three brothers. His father Felix, was a civil engineer, contractor, and house agent. Goldstein was initially educated at the Lawrence School, Ghora Gali (now in Pakistan) and came to BCS at the age of eleven. A superb sportsman, he won Colours at School in cricket, football *and* in hockey in 1926-27; not unexpectedly, he came first in the School Marathon in 1927. His was a life that brought him back, time after time to B.C.S. He was House Captain of Ibbetson in 1928; Housemaster of the same House between 1938 and 1941 and was Senior Master in 1940-41. In 1942, he was called to serve and rose to the rank of Major in the Intelligence Corps and was awarded an M.B.E. for his service during the Second World War. A Cambridge Tripos, Goldstein was the second person to have won the Cambridge Scarf for Cricket; the earlier recipient was the Nawab of Pataudi (Sr.) who had played for both England and India. Ken Goldstein went back to Ghora Gali where he did his teachers’ training at the Chelmsford Training College. His bother Frank was also a Cottonian and was House Captain, Lefroy – and went on to become a Lieutenant Colonel in the army and Principal of the Yadvindra Public School, Patiala and was a Member of the Board of Governors of B.C.S.

Three years after Goldstein had been Headmaster, he observed, ‘Two thirds of the value of any public school education lies outside the classroom and so it is here.’ He followed this up by creating a ‘cumulative record book’ that had the progress, or its absence, of every boy from the time he joined School.

In 1963, Dr. Mukund Lal was appointed resident medical officer. The Board also suggested the officer should do some teaching, and would be permitted two hours of private practice per day.

Mr. Varughese, a Housemaster was appointed that year as Senior Master. The Board also approved the revised scale of pay to be given to Mr A.C. Advani, in the same grade as the Senior Master – in this revised grade Mr. Advani would still retain the appointment title of Bursar. Both would relinquish their Housemasterships and the emoluments attached to these appointments.

Meanwhile, Goldstein decided to put some of his vast and varied learning and talents to good use. The trees across the campus were botanically labelled and the School Prayer that had been written in 1930 by Canon J.R. Peacey was also put to music by him. In 1964, Biology was introduced as a subject and the following year, Economics and Commerce were added. A ‘Hindi Day’ was observed every Wednesday.

The value of the School’s Career Bureau soon became apparent; in 1965, four Old Cottonians were among the fifty selected in the Indian Administrative Service while nine were in the National Defence Academy. In 1965, there were an overwhelming 800 admission applications that had to be scrutinised. Looking at development in School in its entirety, an extended family or even as little city-state, in 1964 the Servants’ School was also restarted – while the following year, their quarters were given electric connections.

These years under Major Goldstein were years of steady academic achievements. Private tuitions were not encouraged and were to be treated as an exception rather than the rule. In 1966, of the two students to be awarded the prestigious Rolls Royce Scholarship in India, P.S. Sodhi (Lefroy, 1959-1965) was one.

The Full School Blazer for academics with its Silver Mitre was also introduced that year to give scholarship and academic prowess its due and place this alongside excellence on the games field that was awarded a Blazer with a Gold Mitre. Hand in hand with formal

learning, the Societies flourished and all were given the prefix, 'Cotton' – and thus the History Society became the 'Cotton History Society'. The major Societies at the time were the Literature, History, Geography, Science, Social Service, Drama and Photography ones; they now started electing office bearers too.

Rackets, hockey-sticks and bats continued to swing and in 1965, the Atoms Team – with boys under fourteen years of age – played the Lawrence School, Sanawar for the first time. In 1966, the School's boys wandered further afield and trekked to both Theog and Solan and went fishing to the valley of the river Pabbar at Rohru; a tour covered the Corbett National Park and some boys went rock climbing at Darjeeling. At the same time, all wings of the NCC flourished.

The Indo Pakistan War of 1965 skirted by B.C.S. but the School had been prepared for any eventuality. Lieutenant Colonel R.M. Banon, an O.C., gave lectures on security. There was a black-out after sundown, air-raid security precautions and a safe-evacuation drill under the charge of Mr. Farhat Paul (who was long remembered, affectionately, for his florid writing with wide-nib pens and equally florid manners), and the mild-mannered Captain Gurung. In October 1971, Canon J.R. Peacey passed away at his home in Hurstpierpoint, Sussex and a couple of months later, came the War of 1971. This moment too went by and sometime after this, Major Goldstein's hereto remarkable tenure began to falter and stumble.

Almost like a bolt out of the blue, Major Goldstein was retired on grounds of age. For a brief period he stayed with Miss Atkins at the Auckland House School and the man whose family had once owned some of Shimla's finest properties, moved to a tiny apartment in Prospect Lodge on the Jakho slope above the town's Ridge. He even toyed with the idea of moving in as a paying guest with a recently retired staff member who had a house in town. In March 1979, Major Goldstein passed away. He was buried at Shimla's Sanjauli cemetery.

Brigadier Mukund

Goldstein's replacement, Brigadier Mukund who was appointed in December 1976 was even older than the Major when he took over. Given the 'twenty-twenty' vision that time's hindsight invariably has, his arrival was only a partial solution to the numerous problems that plagued the School at that juncture. For all the mountains and the molehills that faced him, Rev. Brigadier (Rtd.) Samuel Joseph Mukund M.A., L.T., D.P.Ed., the fourteenth Headmaster of BCS, seems to have got down to work right away, especially in tackling the issue of internal indiscipline.

Brigadier Mukund seems to have taken a soldier's approach in dealing with the issues and within a couple of years, things seemed to be looking up. Strings were tightened; discipline was tightened; the School was pulled in. From the approximately 380 boys enrolled in 1977, the figure went up to 570 in March 1980. When a lightning strike by the brown-collar staff prepared to bring the School to a grinding halt, the Staff and Students rose to the occasion and manned all the services – including the cooking and cleaning. In 1977, Inter House dramatics was restarted and in October, after a gap of more than a decade, theatre found a revival on the Patina grounds when the Staff staged the comedy, '*All on a Summer's Day*' in October.

Other innovations and additions were the introduction of badminton on an experimental basis in 1980 and in 1982, hang-gliding sailed in with the School as a Founder Member of the Himachal Hang Gliding Association. In 1980, Sports Day was called off as a result of an outbreak of chicken-pox. In 1982, cricket fixtures were resumed against Sanawar after a gap of seven years. In 1979, the Boy Scouts had also been restarted for classes V, VI and VII. While the School boys may have been spectators, for the first time, a 'Nationals' was played on the grounds of BCS in November 1983; this was the Thirty-Seventh National Women's Hockey Final where the Indian Railways played the Punjab.

As the decade of the 1980s got under way, two gifts to School were welcomed. The twenty kilogram brass bell which for a hundred and twenty years had summoned boys to their classrooms, announced chapel or the Saturday movies was stolen in the first week of

January 1980 – a parent, Mr. Mohan Singh presented a replacement, cast in his own factory, in October that year. Its resonance would not have interrupted Granada Television when they visited School for the filming of the serial, *Staying On* the same year. This bell too was stolen and was replaced by one presented by Mr. Dewan of Yamuna Nagar. Mrs. Vijai Swaroop Sharma, also a parent, presented a water-filtration plant for the swimming pool in 1981 – which would, at least partially, offset the perpetual shortage of water in Shimla and the consequences it had for the pool.

In 1984, the School turned a hundred and twenty-five years old.

It was also in 1984 that Brigadier Mukand, requested the Board that he be relieved. He was requested, however, to continue till the end of 1986. Brigadier Mukund accepted. Between this meeting and 1987 and the death of the Headmaster, there was a sequence that could have led to the derailment of B.C.S. as an institution and imperiled its existence. At the Meeting held on 9 November 1985 the Chairman of the Board categorically stated that Bishop Cotton School was not a Diocesan Institution and a proposed ‘Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association and Statutes of Bishop Cotton School’ were read and approved. This Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association and Statutes of Bishop Cotton School, Simla, were registered with the Registrar of Societies under Section XXI of Registration of Societies Act 1860.

In the meanwhile, Brigadier Mukund passed away after a brief illness on 28 November 1986, and the matter of the fake society had also been resolved by its cancellation. Now, above all, it had become necessary for an immediate arrangement for the smooth functioning of the School and to do this, Mr. R.N. Hakim, the Senior Master was appointed Officiating Headmaster, on an ad hoc basis. On 21 June 1987 Mr. Hakim was formally inducted as the fifteenth Headmaster of Bishop Cotton School.

Mr. Ronald Narendra Hakim M.A. (Geography), L.T. had joined B.C.S. as the Geography teacher in 1969. Unassuming and down to earth, as a first impression he may have seemed an unlikely candidate for the post of Headmaster, but was perhaps the man

best suited for the task that ahead. He had inherited in more ways than one, a School in debt.

In 1987, School opened to a cold spring, a cold summer and a strength of 760 boys – which was double that of decade before. One of Mr. Hakim’s early decisions was to strengthen the position of the Housemasters who were given overall charge of the boys – and Assistant Housemasters were appointed to help them. A little innovation was done that year, 1987, when the Junior School Concert with a 114 participants was video recorded and copies of this tape were made available for sale – the idea of doing this seems to have gone down well for in 1989, the OC Week celebrations were also videotaped and copies put out on sale.

OCA, Delhi

The Delhi Chapter of the OCA that had gone into hibernation for six years was revived with D.C. Anand as President and Col. S.M. Jain as Honorary Secretary – and a lively OC Week followed this soaking Speech Day. In 1989, the Chief Guest was the Old Cottonian, F.M. ‘Freddie’ Brown who returned to School after a gap of twenty-eight years.

In 1987 the School basketball team won the inaugural UK Club (Shimla) basketball club while at the inter-house boxing finals, held in August, there were exhibition bouts by National Boxing Champions. In 1988, the Bharat Scouts were introduced at School and the following year, an aero-modelling club was started.

The 1993 Fire

On 1 March it snowed in the afternoon and again at night, lightly. As the ICSE boys took the Math’s II examinations in the afternoon in the Gymnasium, the mercury dropped below freezing point. Four *angethis* had been filled with charcoal and lit at 7 AM that day to warm the large hall of the gym.

Kanni Ram, a member of ministerial staff, whose room was in the building just behind the gym, woke up when his young daughter started crying. It was 3:45 AM. As he opened a window for some fresh air, he noticed flames coming out of the air vents of the gym. He rushed to the quarter-master, Mr. Hemraj Sharma, who lived close by. In turn, Mr. Sharma ran to the Headmaster, Mr. Hakim who ordered him to raise an alarm. The Headmaster rushed straight down to the Second Flat. At the same time, Mr. Sushil Kumar Thakur, the Maths teacher, who lived in the Pine Cottage, woke at 4.00 AM to prepare a feed for his baby son. He chanced to look through a window and saw a glow. Thinking that the school was on fire, he hastened down to the First Flat.

On the First Flat, the *chowkidar* Prem Thapa shouted the alarm and ran to fetch the estate supervisor, Mr. K.S. Negi. Manish Chaudhary of Lefroy heard the shout and looking through the windows saw the gym in flames. He woke his friends and rushed to the senior master, Mr. Kabir Mustafi who telephoned the Chhota Shimla Police Station for assistance. This call was followed by another made by Mr. Barretto, the resident Housemaster. As some rushed about in panic and others stood stunned helplessness, the fire raged on. Mr. Mustafi and Mr. Barretto quickly organised the boys into a bucket chain from the swimming pool to the viewing gallery above, to prevent the fire from breaking through to the covered path.

‘Cease Fires’ and unresponsive extinguishers were all used. The police and fire fighters arrived at 4.35 AM. By this time the roof the gym had collapsed and fire had completely engulfed the building. Five fire-tenders were parked on the First Flat as the fire-men quickly linked up hoses and turned on the water-jets. However the intensity of the fire was so great that the tenders ran dry. They switched to the school hydrants and with the help of a mobile pump connected their hoses to the swimming pool which was full with water – and it was this chance holding in the pool that the fire remained confined to the gym.

When the debris cooled and the site was inspected, hardly a thing could be salvaged. But the two English bats presented by Arthur Jones (Lefroy, 1941-49) and R. Plunket

(Lefroy, 1943-50) were found singed but in otherwise good condition. The wooden floor had been turned to charcoal. Examination tables, chairs, desks were reduced to ash. *The Mitre* was to note:

It was the bravery of the staff and the boys that stopped the fire at the swimming pool end from where it could have spread to the headmaster's lodge, the staff quarters, the surrounding trees and the main school building with greatest ease. The consequences of such a thing happening were beyond thought.

Police investigations were done but the cause if the fire could not be conclusively established and it was surmised that this could have been the result of a spark from an *angethi* that had remained smouldering through the night.

Efforts immediately began to construct a new gym, though this took a long while.

Looking back at Mr. Hakim's tenure one would be tempted to say that this was not a period of grand achievements but was a time of quiet success. No magnificent edifices, both metaphorically and literally were built in his time, just the nuts and bolts were sorted and tightened. The house needed to be put in order; that was all that B.C.S. required at the moment and this he did. Mr. and Mrs. Hakim while driving from Shimla to their hometown of Bareilly, in Uttar Pradesh, were tragically killed in a car accident on 26 April 1994.

In 1994, taking a cue from the previous appointment of Headmaster, Kabir K. Mustafi, M.A. (English), B.Ed., the Senior Master took over from Mr. Hakim and was sworn in on 4 April that year.

Chief Guests or Guests of Honour or Speakers in the years that followed, on various occasions, were Mr. **Salman Khurshid**, former Minister of State for External Affairs ; Mrs. **Sonia Gandhi**, President of the Congress party; Lieutenant General **Shergill** of the Mechanised Forces; the State Governor HE Smt. **V.S. Rama Devi**, the State Governor;

Major **Vijai Singh Mankotia**, an OC and Minister in the State Cabinet; Mr. **Martin Bell**, journalist and British MP; Dr. **Kiran Bedi** of the Indian Police; **David Saddler**, OC and Australian Ambassador to China; Sir **Rob Young**, the British High Commissioner; Vice Admiral **Harinder Singh**, also an OC; Dr. **Karan Singh**, former Cabinet Minister, and of the erstwhile ruling house of Jammu and Kashmir; the author, **Bisham Sahni**; Prof. **Prem Kumar Dhumal** when he became the State's Chief Minister; the distinguished OC, A.G.P. Niblett and the journalist and author, **Jug Suraiya**. Guests at School included a Ugandan Exchange Team in 1998 - this had three students and a staff member; they stayed for a little over ten days in October that year. Other 'visitors' came in the form of vintage cars in 2003 when **K.C. Anand**, an OC brought fifteen of them from a Vintage Car Rally to be displayed on the First Flat.

'Chipu's Tuck Shop', on the west end of the First Flat named after 'Chipu', Kesar Singh Negi was another addition in 1995.

In 1996, some modifications in the School's dress code for both Staff and Boys were made. Both were allowed to wear casual clothes on Sundays, House Ties became daily wear while the School Ties were reserved for special occasions. The Spartan Tie could be worn on Tuesdays and Fridays. In October that year, in what was to become a prestigious annual event – and named after the first Headmaster – the Revd. Samuel Slater Memorial Invitational English Debates were instituted; in the very first year, eleven schools participated.

As the millennium came to a close, on 30 May 1999, the Rt. Revd. Pardeep Kumar Samantaroy was installed as the Seventh Bishop of Amritsar and took over as the Chairman of the School's Board. And as the Millennium came along, so did the O.C.A. Delhi Millennium Reunion of October 2000. This large gathering had OCs from the UK, Australia, Pakistan, Switzerland and Holland – and of course, India. Many then travelled up to School.

After a decade as Headmaster, Mr. Mustafi was replaced by Mr. Roy Christopher Robinson M.A., B.Ed., T.T.C. Mr. Robinson was installed as the seventeenth Headmaster of B.C.S. by the Rt. Revd. Samantaroy in the Holy Trinity Chapel on 31 May 2004.

Mr. Robinson

Discipline, finances and academics were again at the fore when Mr. Robinson became Headmaster. In July that year, Mrs. Dorothy Robinson took charge of the Junior School.

In 2004, the Junior School staged the musical, *The Jungle Book*. In August that year, Steve Young, an American country blues singer and guitarist performed in the Irwin Hall. A month later, the Annual Invitational Music Festival 'SPARKS' brought the First Flat alive and in October, the School was the venue of the Fifth Festival of the Differently Abled and had over three hundred participants.

In 2005, when School opened, there were 499 boarders and twenty-seven day-scholars on the rolls. The Sixth Mountaineering Expedition went off to scale Phawaranga Peak at 6,349 metres – and sang the School Song at the top. It was also in 2005 that the Himachal Chapter of the OCA was inaugurated with Raja Virbhadra Singh as Patron-in-Chief; Narinder Chauhan as President and R.S. Thakur as Secretary. The 2008 ISC result was reason enough for good cheer and the average marks of the thirty-two boys who appeared, stood at seventy-nine percent; and in the ISCE, the fifty-one who appeared returned an average of over seventy-six per cent.

As the years roll on, in terms of age – for even an institution – a hundred and fifty years is a long time. Changes in the country and the world have sent their ripples down to Patina. Very few even call it 'Patina' now, and even the memory of the old village of Patina is long gone. Latin has given way to computers. The ponies and rickshaws that once brought boys to School cannot be seen today. It may not be easy to look at the past clinically, especially such a rich and chequered one. But it is harder if anything, to live in the present and plan the future — and at least for now, think of just another one hundred and fifty years.

Afterword

One has gone through the steam and simmer that has surrounded events both big and small or the arrival and departure of those whose role, at first glance, seemed only as large as the length of their lines. In many situations there were moments when substance seemed lost before a mass of hollowness which by its sheer size was overwhelming. There were times enough when one did not know whether one held the balloon, the pump or the pin. There were times when no amount of praise seemed enough and then, times when every bushel of barbs seemed inadequate – or the other way round. But be that as it may.

On one extremity of School, where once only the cedars, the bracken and the wildflowers seemed threatened by change, by fumes rising from the highway below and by the wisdom of ‘development’, stood Counsel Rock, a little ‘rock of ages’ for generations of Cottonians. We expected it to last forever. This, covered with shrinking lichens and moss, and the woods around were a place of retreat. These, among others, were little temples of childhood, which is perhaps the only part of our lives that is truly sacred. On the other end of School, past the flats, the classrooms and dorms stood clusters of the *Rosa brunonii*, the Himalayan musk rose. The flowers and the bush changed with the season, the week, the day – and one day, we expected them to be gone. It is the rock that has gone and at least for now, the roses are still there.

These, like the elm that I have spoken of, are reflections of life and the way things are and of the way they will be. Some things change. Some don’t. Some shouldn’t. At the end of the day as we know it, we must know that we are blessed. For all the ups and downs, some that have gone by, and of others that are sure to come, we have four words with us that have seen us through and will, ‘Overcome Evil with Good.’

Appendices

Appendix II

CAPTAINS OF SCHOOL

1882	W. Donald
1883	R. Plomer
1884	H.L. Rivett
1885	H.L. Rivett
1890	W. Cooper
1891	F.J. Rivett
1892	F.J. Rivett
1895	W.H. Scott
1896	W.H.J. Nettles
1897	R. Hotz
1899	H.R. Osborne
1900	C.D. Simons
1901	C.D. Simons
1902	F.J.B. Hastings
1904	S. Rogers
1905	De V.O.H. Vivian
1906	R.S.F. Pierce
1907	T.H. Throne
1908	T.H. Throne

1909	T.H. Throne
1910	T.H. Throne
1910	E.G. Tomlinson
1911	N.D. Lisbey
1911	R. Rossiter
1911	K. Ridge
1912	D.O. Capstick
1912	F.L. Edge
1913	J.C.L. Shaw
1914	J.C.L. Shaw
1915	A.E. Beitt
1916	J.A. Rigby
1917	W.A. Hutchison
1918	W.A. Hutchison
1919	I.J.A. Murray
1920	C. Wilcox
1921	C.E. Edge
1922	L.J. Perdriau
1923	G.A. Catling
1924	C.W. Archer
1924	H.A.N. Liddiard
1925	H.A.N. Liddiard
1926	K.M. Elloy

1927	K.M. Elloy
1928	C.J.W. King
1928	R.J. Gandi
1929	I.R.Cole
1930	E.C.H. Johnston
1931	E.C.H. Johnston
1932	M.P. Buckley
1932	M.E. Campos
1933	M.E. Campos
1933	AER Bruce
1934	B.W. Boucher Myers
1935	G.H. Robinson
1936	H. Chukerbuti
1937	A.E. Fennell
1937	D.L. Thompson
1938	F.E.W. Hardcastle
1939	A. Stickland
1940	R. Heron
1940	T.R.T. Wise
1941	Jehanzeb Khan
1941	J.J. Bland
1942	P. Barr
1942	J. Sloane

1943	J. Sloane
1944	D. Lyons-C. Cole
1945	C. Hardie
1946	P. Cullen-H. Agha
1947	H. Agha
1947	J. Pudwell
1948	I. Hitchcock
1949	K. Kirshner
1950	K. Kirschner
1951	J. Boga
1952	J. Boga
1953	J. Boga
1953	R. Sinha
1954	Daljit Singh
1955	Davindra Singh
1956	Harinder Singh
1957	Anil Sikand
1958	K.S. Sandhu
1959	S.M. Jain
1960	S.S. Lamba
1961	Gurmit Singh
1962	R.S. Sodhi
1963	Govinder Singh

1964	J. Gideon
1965	R.S. Bhatnagar
1966	V.P. Seereeram
1967	D.K. Stokes
1968	P.P.S. Gill
1969	M.S. Sehbey
1970	A.S. Mankotia
1971	P.S. Nat
1972	M.S. Narula
1973	B.B. K. Watra
1974	N. Chauhan
1975	V.K. Roach
1976	Akshay Garg
1977	Rajesh Mohan
1978	Bejan Shahabahrani
1979	V. Sethi
1980	G.S. Dhaliwal
1981	Harish Janartha
1982	Ajoy Hakim
1983	Deepak Mehta
1984	Sunder Singh Sidha
1985	S.S. Sehbey
1986	M. Joshi

1987	J. Yadav
1988	Sarabjit Singh Chahal
1989	Pujan Hada Pradhan
1990	Rupen S. Philloura
1991	N. Prasad
1992	B. Chauhan
1993	S. Thakur

Names from 1994 onward to be added.

Appendix III

HEADMASTERS

1863-1885	The Rev. S. Slater, D.D.
1885-1886	The Rev. H.M. Robinson, D.D.
1887-1901	The Rev. E.A. Irons, M.A.
1901-1919	The Rev. H.M. Irons, M.A.
1919-1922	The Rev. F.R. Gillespy, M.A. Frgs.
1923-1926	The Rev. W.S.O' Neill, M.A.
1927-1935	The Rev. J.R. Peacey M.C., M.A.
1935-1945	The Rev. Canon G. Sinker M.A.
1946-1949	The Rev. F.M. Drake, M.A. OXON
1949-1953	Mr. F.H. Fisher, B.A.B.T.
1956-1957	Mr. E.G. Carter, O.B.E.M.A.
1958-1962	The Rev. T.M. Dustan, M.A.
1963-1976	Maj. R.K. Von Goldstein, M.B.E.
1976-1986	Brig. S.J. Mukand, M.A.,L.T.D.P.Ed.
1986-1994	Mr. R.N. Hakim, M.A.,L.T.

1994-2004	Mr. Kabir K. Mustafi
2004 -	Mr. Roy Christopher Robinson

Appendix IV
HONOURS AND AWARDS

Lt. K. Ridge MC WW I

Lt. E.F. Ogley MC WW I

Lt. A.B. Aitken (1892-) MC WWI

Mr. R.A. Mathew (1877-) ISO. (His Investiture ceremony was held in the school on 15
September 1920.

Capt. Theo H. Throne (Lefroy, 1900-1910) MC Arty WWI

Sir John Donald (1880-) CIE, CSI, KCIE

Alex Stickland (Rivaz, 30-39) MBE and Mention in Dispatches.

Major General P. C. Gupta (Rivaz, 1923-31) MC WW II

Brigadier J.D. Nadirshaw (1931-33) Vr.C. 1947

Wing Commander A.S. Khullar (Ibbetson, 1951-54) Vr.C. 1971

M.L. Melvill (Lefroy, 1910-12) MBE

Lieutenant General N.C. Rawlley (Ibbetson, 1928-31) PVSM, AVSM, MC WW II

Major General S. Verma (Rivaz, 1947-49) Second Lancers, VSM Mention in Dispatches
- Sialkot Sector (1965)

Lieutenant Colonel Dewan Ranjit Rai, Sikh. MVC-1947

Major J.P. Singh, Punjab (Rivaz, 1951-55) Sena Medal 1962 War.

G.P. Pickering, DFC WW II

P. Gupta (Rivaz 1936-40) DFE WW II

Ernest Homes GR MC WW II

A word about Lieutenant Colonel Rai –

He was among the first Indian Army officers to reach Srinagar on 27 October 1947, when the Pakistani-backed raiders almost captured that city. Rai was killed during the battle and was awarded the Maha Vir Chakra for his bravery. He is believed to have been the first officer of the Indian Army to be killed in action after Independence. His widow, spent her summers in *The Grotto*, near First Bridge (where the police office now stands) and their son, Arun was also a Cottonian.

Appendix V
The School Song

1930 was the year when the third and current school song was written by Jack Hammond, the English teacher and Canon Peacey, the Headmaster; Lawrence Crosthwaite's talents were utilised in putting the words to music.

We sing of days now past and gone, we sing of days to be;
A song to fire the mind of youth and kindle memory,
We sing of one who built our school, on Simla's tree-crowned hill.
Whose motto and whose name it bears to spur us onward still.

CHORUS

And we'll not forget that motto Cotton's motto.
You must never, never, never be o'ercome.
When both friends and fortune fail.
When wild fears and doubts assail,
With our motto we'll prevail, and overcome.

CHORUS.....

We sing of breathless escapades, of pranks and dangers sweet,
Of all the mad-hat sport that comes when men and mountain meet.
Our song is of the purpling clouds, the pine trees tall and straight,
The lightning's stab, the thunder's roll, the streams in headlong spate.

CHORUS

So here's to haunts of joyous Youth, to Karam's tempting stock,
To Potter's and to Bigster's Pool, to Wolf Cubs Council Rock,
To Paradise, that pleasant vale, and Chor with mantle white,
And Tara's Gap through which the plains spread out beyond our sight.

CHORUS

And here's to all those hard-fought games we've played against Sanawar,
And all those giants of yesterday, who've had their glorious hour,
The cricket crease, the boxing ring, the sharp-stoned hockey field,
Where teams are never beaten whilst they still refuse to yield.

CHORUS

And so from those who've gone before to those who've yet to come.
We pass our motto loud and clear, All Evil Overcome,
As true as is brother's love, As close as ivy grows,
We'll stand foursquare throughout our lives, to every wind that blows.

Note on the Sources

The bulk of this volume is based on the painstaking and meticulous research conducted by Colonel (Retd.) R. Dewan for over a decade. He has drawn on a variety of sources – copies of *The Mitre*, *The Cottonian*, School Records and personal reminiscences of former members of the Staff and those of old boys. Some of the pages of the early years may well have come from the ‘lost’ manuscript that Major RK von Goldstein was preparing on the School; these pages are few and far between but in all likelihood belong to that MSS. Major Goldstein had once asked my father, the late A.L. Bhasin, Housemaster of Curzon to go over the typed pages; there are small notes in my father’s writing in the margins of those sheets which he made for the Headmaster.

The present Board of Governors, especially its Members, Mrs. Shanti Varma and Mrs. Joy Michael have made available a selection from the Minutes of the Meetings. This has been invaluable as many of the more ‘controversial’ aspects of the School’s chequered history have been drawn or corroborated with this.

Good friend, Barry Williamson who was on the Staff in the 1960s has over a period of time sent a variety of material from the UK that he felt could be of interest or relevance in preparing this text. Apart from other published volumes that were consulted, the ones used a little more often were –

Bhasin, Raja, *Simla : The Summer Capital of British India* (New Delhi, Viking-Penguin, 1992)

Colvin, Ian, *The Life of General Dyer* (London, William Blackwood and Sons Ltd., 1929)

Collett, Nigel, *The Butcher of Amritsar* (Delhi, Rupa and Co., 2005)

Cotton, Mrs., *Memoir of George Edward Lynch Cotton* (London, Longmans, Green and Co., 1871)

Craig, Hazel Innes, *Under the Old School Topee* (London, BACSA, 1998)