

BRAMHAM COLLEGE

These views were taken during the Spring of the year 1871; and it was suggested that, if enclosed in a handsome case, along with a portrait of the late Dr. Haigh, they would form an interesting Souvenir of one who was the Founder, and, for a quarter of a century, the distinguished Head of Bramham College.

Dr. Haigh dearly loved this beautiful home; and with every scene around it, his name is inseparably associated. He lavishly expended his hard-won earnings in the erection of the commodious And elegant College buildings, in greatly enlarging and beautifying the house, and in rendering the surroundings of a naturally lovely spot, so charming and complete as to arrest the eye and command the admiration of the most fastidious.

These views will be especially interesting to those who spent their boyhood amongst the scenes here portrayed. What varied memories will they awaken, what well-remembered forms and faces will rise up, and how many strange sayings will be vividly recalled – how many strange doings will be pictured in all the startling freshness of outline and colour which belong to the indelible impressions of life's happy Spring-time!

Let us enjoy the treat of examining these clever sun-pictures. We are first arrested by an excellent portrait of Dr. Haigh copied from a photograph taken in Paris. It is surrounded by a border composed of a few twigs of evergreen plucked from some of the fine trees growing in the grounds. Here the light is thrown with artistic skill full on the fine forehead. It would need no study of phrenology to cause even a discerning stranger to pronounce that this is the noble head of a noble man. Yes, his form was noble – his mind was noble – his acquirements were noble – his life was a life of noble usefulness – and most noble was his soul beautified by true piety. Those who were his pupils and enjoyed the privilege of his earnest instructions and soul-stirring example will look on this likeness of their old Tutor with deep reverence, and many who shared his friendship will highly value such a memento of one they so greatly admired and loved.

The East Front of the ivy-clad house comes next before us. The view is taken from Bowcliffe Plantation, and shows some of the improvements made by Lr. Haigh. He planted the clinging ivy, and loved to see the softening effect of its dark green leaves clustering luxuriantly round window and turret. He felt how pleasantly it concealed a large surface of unadorned stonework, and afforded at the same time an agreeable contrast with the new and more picturesque buildings of the College and Gymnasium. He completely transformed the approach to the house by laying the front with grass, and by planting choice shrubs and forming walks in graceful curves around the noble lime tree. Before these alterations were made, (as some of the earlier Students at Bramham will remember, this part of the front of the house was used as their playground. Here their glad shouts resounded and many a pleasant game at "Relieve 0 " was earnestly contested beneath the shadow and around the trunk of the stately tree. In the next view we have the old tree itself, before it assumes its usual summer robe of foliage and flowers, and becomes vocal with the murmuring music of bees, and sends forth after its sweet fragrance. The College and Gymnasium are seen here, speaking to us again of the Doctor -monuments of his energy and taste, and the scene of his unwearied labours to guide and bless, and provide rational amusement for the young. This view May also remind some of that day of days, when in bygone years, a platform was erected in front of the College, while old And young listened to and vociferously Applauded the eloquent orations delivered thence in favour of the c^andidates chosen for the important office of Princeps or King of Bramham College.

In another view have a nice peep through the trees at the house, the glass dome of the dining-hall being a conspicuous object; while, rising above the dark yews, are seen the Elizabethan gables and tapering spire of the Gymnasium, and a distant view of the gasworks and the village of Bramham. Photography fails, however, to give the beauty of this prospect when the laburnums hang their golden tresses over the old grey wall of the pleasure ground in rich contrast with the yew trees, and the varied foliage of the ash, the beech and, the elm. This view is taken from the adjoining field leading, up to Well Hill Farm and to Bramham Park. Some will be reminded of their pleasant Sabbath-afternoon walk in the beautiful grounds of George Lane Fox ,Esq and how there they enjoyed all which the Poet Alliott has so sweetly described:

"The breeze
 'That plays with Sabbath flowers, the clouds that play
 with Sabbath winds, the hum of Sabbath bees,
 The Sabbath walk , the Skylarks Sabbath Lay
 silent sunshine of the Sabbath-day."

Then comes a pretty view of the House, College and Farm buildings, taken from and shewing part of the Kitchen Garden, with its rivulet on either side affording convenient abundant supply of bright gushing water

And there on the bank of the stream, basket on arm, walks faithful Christopher, happier amid the useful work of his head and hands than half the Princes in Christendom.

The view taken from the road, under the beech-wood, leading to the Lodge, gives from the entrance to the playground a very pleasing picture, through the leafing trees, of the Gymnasium, the College and part of the playground. In the middle distance, is the Pear-tree alluded to in the Life of Dr. Haigh, and near the foreground are the overhanging branches of the Chestnut-tree mentioned in on of the Parting Songs:

"The meadow, park and streamlet,
The noble linden tree;
The beech-wood with its sunset smile
Shall long remembered be.

And we shall love to picture
Where we at ring-tow played,
So happy in the bright Spring days,
Beneath the Chestnut shade.

Then from the Cloisters there is an excellent perspective view of the East Front shewing the large low bow-window added by Dr. Haigh. This was a great improvement; transforming a mean part of the house into an elegant apartment – the pleasant, favourite sittingroom of Mrs Haigh.

We have now have two views of the South end of the house, There is a small conservatory in the centre and adjoining this on the left is the south-eastern corner of the Doctor's Library. On the right of the conservatory, the middle upper window looks from the pleasant room which was occupied by the second daughter of Dr. Haigh, Mrs. Porteous, who is now residing at Secunderabad in Indira.

"Her smile - our glad sunlight
Through long, happy years;
the voice of her laughter
So sweet on our errs;

And the warm gushing kindness
Of that loving heart,
Oh, how we have missed them
Since she did depart."

The room immediately above this is "Lady Peggy's Chamber," to which, of course, there is attached a mysterious ghost story. Her ladyship has, however, during the last quarter of a century, shown so much consideration for the feelings of the young as never to have affrighted their slumbers by

"Walking shadowless at night,
Silent in the pale moonlight,
With eyes of flame, in shroud of white."

Here is the Western Front. The foreground of the picture is part of "the Meadow" - scene of many an eagerly-contested game of Football. as an old Bramhamite sings:

"Then come we to 'the Meadow' - scene Of
many a triumph won;
What struggles keen have here been seen What
plucky deeds been done!

We've borne our part in bygone years, In
many a gallant game
And still would swell the ringing cheers Which
victory proclaim.

But other struggles we shall know, And
other battles fight,
In conquering self, and laying low
Whate'er opposes right.

These are the victories we would gain;
Nobler and better far
Than captured towns, or armies slain,
Or blood-stained spoils of war."

As we look from the point chosen by the artist, we see on our left the wing built by Dr. Haigh, which forms the noble Dining-Hall of Bramham College.

The Doctor's Library occupies nearly the whole of the right wing. In front of it are the two stately "Sister Elms" from whose breezy tops come forth the deep notes of their cawing tenants, to which the Doctor loved to listen. The extensive Lawn in front forms a pleasant Croquet ground, sheltered by lofty trees and ornamented by beautiful shrubs. The Library contains twenty thousand volumes of the choicest editions of the most distinguished ancient and modern writers. It was, of course, the place where Dr. Haigh loved to be, and to which he was proud to introduce his friends.

From the Library we pass to Bramham Church, so familiar to the College Boys, and lastly, to the Doctor's grave in the churchyard. There he rests from his labours. The artist has given us a beautiful little picture of his tomb, beside the three crosses where sleep his grandchildren. Fit resting-place for one who by his own love ever attracted the discerning love of children!

"Farewell, but not a long farewell:

In heaven may we appear;

The trial of our faith to tell

In thy transported ear;

And sing with thee the eternal strain:.

Worthy the Lamb that once was slain:"

STEPHEN WILSON