The St. Bride Foundation Institute.

On Monday, November 20th, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, attended by the Lord Mayor and the sheriffs of the city of London in state, visited the partially erected building intended for the St. Bride Foundation Institute to lay a memorial stone which will stand upon one of the main piers, upon the first floor of the building. Over this floor a marquee had been erected, with a platform prettily decorated with flowers. Plenty of bright-coloured bunting and pennons were hung about, and conspicuous in the bright daylight were two large electric lamps, thoughtfully provided in case of fog, which happily did not disturb the very representative assembly gathered together. Outside, a guard of honour of the 3rd London Rifles was formed up on either side of the narrow yard, while inside, the band of the same regiment, under the direction of Mr. A. F. Day, gave the company some beautiful selections of music.

The civic dignitaries arrived first, and commenced a stately march to the platform, and so by the cheers outside we knew the Prince had arrived. The order of procession being formed, another stately march was executed, the Lord Mayor looking particularly nervous and ill at ease; in fact, the only member of the august reception committee who was perfectly nonchalent and knew what he was about appeared to be Mr. C. J. Drummond. The Prince appeared to be very much amused by the unreadiness displayed by those responsible, and quietly took the control into his own hands. After the procession had ended, and the party seated themselves with much deliberation, and careful arrangement of papers and eyeglasses, and an almost breathless—and therefore painful—pause, the Rev. E. C. Hawkins, vicar of St. Bride's, rose and read the following address:

"May it please your Royal Highness,—On behalf of the governing body of St. Bride's Foundation, I beg to offer you our cordial thanks for graciously acceding to our request that you would come here to-day to lay the memorial stone of this building. Your presence in this parish, sir, is more than commonly appropriate, for it is a parish which includes within its boundaries the royal hospital of Bridewell, once the Royal Palace of Bridewell, and the home of more than one English king. The last royal occupier was King Henry VIII.; for his successor, Edward VI., moved by a sermon from Bishop Ridley, on the wants and woes of London, transferred it to the corporation of London, to be used as a house of detention, correction, and reformation, of the idle, lawless, and shameful characters of both sexes who then infested the town. At the same time he founded another hospital, the Blue Coat School, for the education of the neglected children of the streets, and the royal hospitals of St. Thomas and St. Bartholomew—over which your Royal Highness so fittingly presides—for the care and healing of the sick and suffering poor. These measures were taken by advice of the Lord Mayor, and I suppose even in those days there were Mansion House committees, for as early as the sixteenth century benevolent persons went to the Mansion House, or what was then the Mansion House, for counsel and help just as they do in our day. But the new governors were not content with arresting and punishing offenders; they determined, by teaching useful arts, to reform the manners, to cut off the entail of mendicancy and vice, and to turn idlers and thieves into self-supporting citizens. With this view they maintained arts-masters for the instruction of the prisoners, and there were arts-masters of Bridewell down to the present century. It was, I believe, the first instance of a technical school in this country, so that we are maintaining the tradition of the spot in..."
having a technical school as an important feature of the work for which this Institute is designed. As this parish is the headquarters of the printing trade, and is justly proud of being the chief home of the English press, it is right and proper that the art taught here should be the art of printing. I am informed that there is much need of such an institution, for we are, it is said, behind some foreign nations both in letterpress and lithographic printing. The instruction given here will be largely aided by the valuable library of books, prints, and pamphlets on the history and art of printing, of the late Mr. William Blades, which has been purchased by private subscription, and by a grant from the Charity Com-

perhaps come when the secondary and technical education of this country demand a university of their own in London for the schools of London, where their teachers may claim to be represented on its staff. These schools of secondary and technical education, to crown their work, want a public and incorporated body, which shall stand to them in the same relation as the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London stand to what is known as the higher education of the country; a university which shall not only test results by examination but shall train and send out certified teachers, both theoretical and practical, to schools of art and schools of secondary education. The diplomas of such a university would have a practical value which would be quickly appreciated by students, and would be an important aid to their advancement in life. I am sure that your Royal Highness will feel that in furthering so many useful and desirable objects, as this building is intended to initiate and promote, your visit here to-day is an occasion not wholly unworthy of such a distinction. I beg you, sir, to accept this expression of the sincere gratitude of the Board of Governors of St. Bride's Charities for your kindness in laying this memorial of the work they have undertaken to carry out."

The Prince of Wales then rose and replied: "Mr. Hawkins, I thank you for your address. My repeated presence at ceremonies of this nature in connection with institutions designed to promote technical education is, I trust, a sufficient proof of the great interest I take in a movement which I regard as one of the most useful agencies, not only for maintaining the high position which British skill and craftsmanship have for centuries held in the world, but for promoting in the best sense education and civilisation. The Queen shares with me the interest which I take in this movement, and I believe I am correct in stating that one of the last and most memorable visits that she paid to

ST. BRIDE FOUNDATION INSTITUTE.

TO COMMEMORATE THE ERECTION OF THIS BUILDING

THIS STONE WAS LAID BY

H.R.H. Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, K.G.,

ON THE 20TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1879,

In the presence of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and the
Governors of the Foundation.

Governors:

E. C. Hawkins, M.A., Vicar of St. Bride's, Chairman.
Charles George Wood Moore, C.C., 1 Great-ravenshaw of
St. Bride's.
Horace Brooks Marshall, C.C., J.P.
John Lodge, C.C., James William Gore.
James Fortescue, Rev. W. Cartledge Heath, M.A.
William James Richardson, Rev. P. Clement-Smith, M.A.
Cholmley Austen-Leigh, John Thomas Beddard, Deputy
Thos. Chas. St. Andrew St. John, 
Charles James Drummond.
Walter J. Picket, Clerk to the Governors.
Robert Cuningham Murray, Architect.
William Bray & Son, Builders.

find recreation, rest, and instruction, as well as work in the parish of St. Bride. These institutes are springing up in many parts of London, and there are many technical schools both in London and in the country; but at present the only machinery for securing uniformity of object and method, or for maintaining a standard for teachers to aim at, or pupils to attain, is supplied by the City and Guilds of London, by the Society of Arts, and by the Science and Art Department of the Committee of the Council on Education. No one who is not familiar with the work of these bodies can form any notion of its variety and extent; no one who knows it can fail to regard it with admiration and gratitude; but, sir, the time has
the city was the occasion upon which she opened the Queen's Hall at the People's Palace, a ceremony which formed the public starting point, if I may say so, of an organised system of technical education for London. I observe, with satisfaction, two facts in regard to this institute which, I think, call for special notice from me, and for a large amount of sympathy from the public. I am informed in the first place that the St. Bride's Foundation Institute is mainly designed for the technical instruction of that class of workmen, who, I am told, have for many years been considered as among the foremost in intellect, skill, and progress; I refer to the printers of the city of London. The printing and allied trades, as all know, may be said, ever since the days when Caxton started the art of printing in the precincts of one of the chapels at Westminster Abbey, to have had an undisputed empire over the thought, intellect, education, and knowledge of this country; and I feel convinced that if this statement is true as to the past, it will be doubly true as to the future, when education, which I rejoice to think is now within reach of the humblest, has had time to bear those fruits which all well wishers of our empire must desire to see brought forth. I understand that a large amount of the ornamental portion of the printing trade, the highly skilled decorative part, as for instance coloured illustrations and Christmas cards, is produced abroad, notwithstanding that the designing is frequently done in this country. I cannot help thinking that this arrangement is in no small degree due to the want of such an institute as this, planted, as it is, in the very heart of the printing trade, and fitted, as I am sure it will be, with every appliance for assisting the apprentice with all those aids to efficiency which only such an institute as St. Bride's can possibly supply, thus supplementing, but not supplanting, the practical teaching of the workshop. The other fact which it gives me much gratification to observe, is that it is intended in this institute not only to train the intellectual faculties, and to develop manual dexterity, but to supply a want which is felt by humankind wherever it may be: I refer to recreation and innocent amusement. I notice that it is proposed to build a swimming bath and a gymnasion, and I can imagine no better recreation after poring over the "case" than to come to St. Bride's Foundation Institute for a swim or for gymnastic exercise. I may perhaps be allowed, before concluding, to utter a word of caution. I would venture to suggest that this institute should chiefly rely for success on thoroughness. Do not start new departments until you are sure that the elementary part of your work cannot be more satisfactorily or more efficiently carried on than it is; and I would remind you, likewise, of a fact which is, I think, too often lost sight of in institutions of this description, namely, that practical work bought by practical workmen is of far greater value—certainly to beginners—than the theoretical lectures of professors, who, however useful their teachings may be, have necessarily never had the occasion in actual practice to deal with or overcome the difficulties which workmen have to encounter when engaged in their trade. I shall be glad to be kept informed, from time to time, of the progress made by the St. Bride's Foundation Institute, the memorial stone of which it is my privilege, at the request of the governing body, and in the presence of this large and distinguished assembly, now to proceed to lay. I wish also to state that it gives me great pleasure that my sister, the Princess Louise, has accompanied me on this occasion."

The Lord Mayor and Mr. Passmore Edwards then addressed the Prince, thanking him for his presence, and expressing their pleasure at the inauguration of a work which would be of the greatest benefit to the trades, which, Mr. Edwards said, contained now six persons to the one of thirty years ago.

The Rev. E. C. Hawkins then read the inscription upon the silver truncheon, with ivory handle, decorated with the St. Bride badge of the cross, oak tree, and lamp, and presented it to the Prince, when the party moved to the edge of the platform, where the Prince, having laid the stone and given it three taps, concluded the ceremony by saying: "I declare this stone to be well and truly laid, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Mr. Alderman Trelaror then proposed a vote of thanks to the Prince, which Mr. C. J. Drummond most gracefully seconded, taking the honours by his happy allusion to the prominent part the Princess had taken in connection with the Evening Continuation Classes. The royal party were then conducted to their carriage, and the proceedings terminated.

Once more, in The Author, Mr. Walter Besant tries to make clear the functions of the Society of Authors to those who imagine they should be chiefly those of an almoner. He writes:—"Quite a common gibe to cast at the Society is that it 'helps' no one, meaning that it gives money to no literary person in trouble. A certain person, writing in The Daily Chronicle last July, stated, with admirable taste and feeling, that he himself had 'helped' more literary people in distress than the whole Society of Authors. Very likely. But the crown he was quite justified in his boast. The Society 'helps' many literary men and women in a distress that the ordinary 'help' will not reach, in a manner which it keeps them from robbery and from robbing. Which is better, to teach the use of the law to one who knows it, and to make it increasingly difficult to overreach them, or to give a shilling to a man in distress? The relief of distress is not one of the objects of the Society, and it cannot spend any portion of its funds for that purpose."