



BALL HIGH SCHOOL.

A PRINCELY ENDOWMENT FOR THE EDUCATION OF GENERATIONS OF BOYS AND GIRLS.

History of the School and Brief Sketch of the Noble Philanthropist Who Founded It.

Worthy of note as the first large gift to any cause in Texas, a matter of pride to the citizens of Galveston as the deed of one of those most thoroughly identified with the history and growth of the city, conspicuous as the precursor of the many other similar gifts that have added so much to the glory and renown of the Island City, the Ball High school, upon whose corner stone are the words "George Ball to the children of Galveston," should be of interest to all who honor large hearted liberality and public spirited munificence.

Scarcely had the second year of the public school experiment begun in Galveston in 1881 drawn to a close, when the community was filled with astonishment and delight to see in the News of June 5, 1883, a letter to the mayor and city council from Mr. George Ball, senior member of the firm of Ball, Hutchings & Co., announcing his willingness to give \$50,000 to erect a building for the public schools of the city, conditioned on the donation by the city of a suitable site.

Mr. Ball asked for one quarter of block 321, the block bounded by Winnie, Avenue H, Twenty-first and Twenty-second streets. This was granted at once and at the request of the committee on plans afterwards increased to the entire south half of the square. The excellence of this location will be appreciated when it is stated that within a radius of one block are Artillery hall, Turner's hall, Baptist church, Jewish Synagogue, Eaton chapel, Trinity Episcopal church, St. Mary's cathedral, Harmony hall, Presbyterian church, the courthouse and Tremont hotel. It is connected with all parts of the city by street cars that pass by the building.

The block has been raised about two feet, and bricked in next to the street. A handsome coping has been put on the property line just inside the sidewalk. There are openings in this coping at convenient points for entrance into the grounds. The entire block is owned by the school, although as yet only the south half has been formally deeded by the city authorities.

Two rows of trees are to surround the block, so planted as to make a covered archway over the sidewalk.

After making his donation and its acceptance by the city with the appropriation of the site just described, Mr. Ball appointed Mr. Oscar Gareisen of the school trustees, and Mr. H. Lee Sellers of the corps of teachers, as a committee on plans and architects; and for a committee on contracts and construction, he selected Messrs. John Sealy and W. H. Sinclair.



GEORGE BALL.

Mr. Ball chose the plan of F. Bauman, a Galveston architect, although informed by his committee that it would cost more than \$50,000. The lowest bid was given by the firm of George Locke & Co., and was for \$66,000. This was accepted by Mr. Ball, and work was begun at once on the building. By October, 1884, the building was ready for occupancy although some work still went on for the first few months of its use.

The building faces south and consequently every room receives the gulf breeze direct. It is two hundred feet from east to west and has a depth of sixty feet in the wings and ninety feet in the center.

The main entrance hall, fifteen feet wide, divides the building symmetrically. On the right hand as one enters, is the superintendent's office and trustees' room; next to this are two school rooms, after which comes the eastern wing which is the science room. On the left of the entrance, opposite the superintendent's office is the library, two school rooms and the west wing intended for calisthenics.

The entrance hall with its handsome tile floor crossed, one comes to the foot of the grand stairway leading to the second story. To the right and left is the corridor leading from the science room to calisthenics hall along the full length of the building with all of the rooms opening into it. The staircase fifteen feet wide goes to a landing fifteen feet by ten feet, where it branches into two parts going to the right and left, each part ten feet wide.

In the center of the second floor is the assembly hall which, with its large gallery, has accommodation for over a thousand people. On the rostrum in a handsome velvet lined niche is the marble bust of Mr. Ball, given by the children of Galveston.

desired. A steady stream of warmed air is entering and the same amount of air already breathed is leaving each room all the time.

Built in such a way that each room receives its share of the never failing gulf breeze which makes Galveston so perfect a summer resort, abundantly supplied with water and gas, perfectly heated and ventilated, equipped with all the conveniences suggested by a long experience in the school room, the Ball building is on its own account entitled to the praise it has received apart from the many causes of a personal nature making it an object of interest.

SKETCH OF GEORGE BALL. Mr. George Ball was born in Saratoga county, New York, May 9, 1817.



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To the east and to the west of the hall there are two school rooms and a large room similar to the first floor arrangements. Over the science room is the drawing room and over the room for calisthenics is the music room.

There are then, eight school rooms each thirty-three by twenty-five feet, four large rooms for special subjects each fifty-four by twenty-five feet, a library, superintendent's office and the assembly hall.

In each school room are two cloak and hat closets partitioned off next to the door so that a pupil on entering the room may pass through either closet and then emerging through an arched doorway he is in the school room. In the corridors are wash basins and conveniences for drinking supplied with water from two large tanks, located up among the roof timbers. In addition to these tanks there are two cisterns in the basement of the building.

There are several closets and small rooms for the supplies of the school, and for the superintendent to keep his general stock of supplies.

The halls and corridors have tile floors; the steps in front and the two sets of steps in the rear of the building, each set twenty feet wide, are of stone. There are two fire-proof stairways on the outside for safety in case of fire.

After Mr. Ball's death, his family desiring to carry out what they knew to be his intentions, decided to furnish the building; and to this end Mr. Sellers, principal of the school for which the building was built, was authorized to buy the necessary furniture and equipments to the extent of \$10,000. With this in view, he spent the summer of 1884 among the factories and ware houses of the north, choosing what was found satisfactory and having much made especially for the Ball building.

In all the rooms there is an abundance of blackboard surface, the lower edge of each board being brought forward sufficiently to give it such a slant as to make its use easier for teacher and pupils. In each school room there is a book case for the books of reference required by the class. Each class is encouraged to collect its own library of literature and to make a cabinet of objects of interest.

The furniture is of several makes and is all very handsome and in thorough keeping with the building. In the science room and in the library are handsome cherry cases made especially for the rooms named. There are no platforms for teachers to stumble over, nor teachers' desks that suggest a state of siege by the formidable barrier they interpose between the teacher and the class; but each teacher has a table two by seven with drawers and a rotating office chair.

The Ruttan system of warm air furnaces is in use for heating and ventilating the building. By this method the building is continually flooded with air as fresh and pure as it is out of doors and as warm as may be

At the age of 12 he went to Albany to become a member of the family of his uncle, Mr. Hoyt, a silversmith and jeweler, a man of high character and fine business habits, whose good example and wholesome precepts did much to form the character of his nephew.

After attaining his majority, Mr. George Ball traveled extensively through the western and southern states looking for a business location. He reached Shreveport in 1838 and settled temporarily there, but heard so much of Texas that he decided to make his home in the then young republic without a visit of inspection.

He returned to New York, formed a partnership with his brother Albert, provided himself with the material for building a small business house, secured a stock of general merchandise suited to the market, and arrived in Galveston during the epidemic of 1839. Undeterred by the pestilence and the consequent prostration of business, he built his house and began business on Tremont street, between Market and Mechanic.

In 1854 the famous house of Ball, Hutchings & Co. was established by uniting Messrs. J. H. Hutchings and John Sealy with Mr. George Ball—a firm that, with the accession of Mr. Geo. Sealy, has continued to do a leading business ever since. It kept its doors open and paid all demands on it during the general panic and bank suspension of 1873, and Mr. Ball afterwards declared that no prospect of loss would have induced them to close their doors.

Though a strictly business man and supposed to look mainly to profitable results, he loved a good name better than riches, and would have preferred any pecuniary loss to a tarnished reputation or any violence to his own conscience.

As a man of business he was as methodical and regular as a machine. His manner, firm and positive, sometimes suggested brusqueness, but always was frank and honest. His "yes" meant "yes" and his "no" meant "no"—a very rare virtue in these days of subterfuge and commercial chicanery.

Throughout his career he seemed to be on the lookout for deserving young men, who, by a little support in critical times, could be helped over the shoals of bankruptcy.

Where he found ability and honesty he was ever ready to help.

He had such a strong aversion to display and notoriety and especially to any publicity for his acts of charity that few people had any idea of what a royal giver he was.

He left \$50,000 for a fund, the interest of which is to supply the immediate necessities of the poor, regardless of age, sex, color or religion.

This, with the \$70,000 put into the Ball building, makes \$120,000, the \$10,000 for the furniture given by the family making a total of \$130,000.

In 1843, Mr. Ball was married in Galveston to Miss Sarah Catherine Perry. Of six children born to them

only two survive—Mrs. J. C. League and Frank Merriman Ball.

Mr. Ball's birthday, the 9th of May, has been made a holiday in the city schools, and on the night of that, there is a celebration in the assembly hall of the Ball building, given by the pupils and alumni of the Ball High school, commemorative of the act of munificence to which they are indebted for their alma mater.

As the years roll on, and many men now great and prominent have become mere names on cold marble, thousands of warm hearts will offer up perennial tributes to him whose gift to the children has caused to spring up a harvest of flowers "that neither blanch in heat nor pine in frost," but in ever blooming beauty exhale a

fragrance of gratitude and affection. Mr. Ball did not live to see the completion of his work. He was unable to be present at the laying of the corner stone, and the first story was scarcely finished in time to be draped for his funeral.

He died on March 13, 1884. The Galveston News of March 15 said: "In all the history of Galveston there has never been a more spontaneous and fervent manifestation of sorrow at the death of a member of the community than that which was given yesterday upon the funeral of Mr. George Ball. The city wore a Sunday-like appearance, and except that the scores of flags that were at half-mast told their own story of the sorrow of the community, a corner to the city would have wondered at the general quiet that prevailed."

The Opera Glass of the same date, said:

"It seemed that every one was actuated by a generous impulse to attend the last sad rites of the noble man who had done so much to merit the love and affection of the people."

"Although Mr. Ball was not a member of any organization, his remains were followed to their last resting place by various labor and benevolent societies, to the number of some 700 men. Almost every carriage and vehicle in the city appeared in the funeral procession. Along the line of march the sidewalks were thronged with people, and at the cemetery there was a great concourse in addition to those in line."

The procession turned out of Broadway in order to pass by the partly finished building which was appropriately draped in mourning, and with all of the bells tolling and preceded by the working men, whose friend he was, his remains were taken to their last resting place.

Volumes could be filled with the many flattering outbursts of praise that began with the knowledge of Mr. Ball's donation, and have continued ever since. In a community that was looked upon as nothing if not mercenary, one man did a noble and unselfish act, and at once his praises filled the mouths of all, and to-day Galveston boasts of two other monumental buildings—the John Sealy Hospital and the Henry Rosenberg School, costing about \$75,000 each, and the end is not yet.

LAWRENCE'S BUSINESS COLLEGE.

This sterling institution is in its 16th year without any vacation in either day or night classes. It is newly equipped throughout and affords the finest, best arranged, and most complete facilities of any college in the South. Experienced and highly competent faculty. Thousands of graduates, successful in business. Has been awarded forty-five gold medals, souvenirs and diplomas. Send to E. B. Lawrence, principal, Dallas, Texas, for fine illustrated 32-column journal, free to any address.

ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.

CONDUCTED BY THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS—FOUNDED 1833. CHARTERED 1856.

An Institution Where Young Ladies Receive a Thorough Moral, Mental and Physical Training.

St. Mary's Academy was founded in 1878, by a little band of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, sent out at the request of some of the people of Austin from the long established and famous school of their order at St. Mary's, Notre Dame, Ind.

Its beginnings were small and unpretentious, as befitted a new school in a town of a few thousand inhabitants, just rejoicing in the recent acquisition of its first railroad, and where the field was already occupied by rivals of no mean attainments. But the principles that guided its founders were as intelligent and far-seeing as those that prevailed at the widely known and prosperous "Mother House" from which they had come, and, under such circumstances, the success of the little school was a foregone conclusion.

Through the wise management of that masterful and intelligent woman, the beloved, lamented Sister Mildred, aided by her little band of devoted assistants, the new academy grew in reputation and, as a consequence, in numbers, until the house which they had secured at the opening of their undertaking proved, in spite of repeated additions, too small to accommodate the requirements of the rapidly growing school, and in 1885 a new and much larger building was erected on the most desirable and suitable spot the city afforded—the block of ground set apart for the president of the republic of Texas when Austin was surveyed in 1838.

The historic little white, frame cottage that had done duty in those early days as the executive mansion, was torn down, and in a few months there rose in its stead the imposing stone structure now known as St. Mary's Academy.

The beautiful hill upon which it stands, lifts it above the level of the adjacent housetops, so that the windows of the Academy command an unobstructed view of the city, the river and the hills beyond; and through its bright, roomy apartments and its long corridors the gulf breeze from the south sweeps without hindrance.

The building is a plain massive edifice, four stories high, constructed of the white limestone found in the vicinity of Austin. The block of ground surrounding it is artistically laid out, a green lawn gently sloping toward the main entrance, a thicket of vines and trees offering seclusion and shade on one side, a vine-clad arbor on another, a fountain bubbling amidst



ST. MARY'S ACADEMY.

rocks and ferns at one corner, flowers blooming in the borders of the enclosure in masses on the lawn, climbing over balustrades and trellises, and filling in fact every available spot with their bloom. The interior is finished in light native woods throughout. The rooms are spacious, with high ceilings and many large windows.

Everywhere within and without an air of brightness, simplicity, tastefulness and the most shining cleanliness prevails. The sisters teach by example, no less than by precept, that "cleanliness is next to godliness."

Their house is a beautiful and continual object lesson in good house-keeping. The floors are polished like mirrors. The window panes have a brilliancy seen nowhere else. Upstairs in the breezy, sunny dormitories little beds as pure as new-fallen snow stand in lovely little white-curtained alcoves. Even study halls and class rooms present an unvarying aspect of order and neatness which seem to hint that here the pursuit of knowledge goes on under exceptionally calm and untroubled auspices.

It goes without saying that the students who spend the formative years of girlhood here must develop unconsciously and without effort into excellent housewives.

In this abode, so spacious and cheerful, so simple and cleanly, so airy and

healthful, every condition being favorable, the work of educating the future women of our state goes bravely and successfully on, and the sphere of usefulness which St. Mary's Academy has chosen for herself enlarges with each year, until she numbers her students now from every section of the state, and occasionally also from the states beyond.

The curriculum includes all the branches considered necessary in a thorough literary and scientific course.

In addition to these there are departments of music, drawing, painting and elocution, ornamental needlework, physical culture and domestic economy.

Attention is given to such branches of a business training as are considered practical and useful in a course arranged exclusively for girls, as, for example, typewriting, bookkeeping, etc. It seems to be the aim of St. Mary's to include in its varied list of studies and occupations something that shall address itself to every side of the student's nature—to the mental, the moral, the esthetic, the physical. Its graduates come forth from the pleasant seclusion of their Alma Mater prepared to be self-helpful, if need be, in that bitter struggle for existence into which our modern civilization drags even young and tender women, competent to fulfill the more congenial duties of home life, and at the same time happily not lacking in that grace and charm of manner and bearing which the social world demands.

But, undoubtedly, the highest value attached to the training which schools such as St. Mary's academy give, is to be found in the earnestness of purpose and devotion to duty which is necessarily stamped upon the character of those young souls who are thus brought into hourly contact with women like their teachers. Noble conceptions of life must necessarily arise from continual association with those who, utterly forgetful of self, live but at the beck and call of duty, suffering, or even vicious humanity.

The teachers at St. Mary's academy have been ripened for their work by years of experience, by the traditions of their Order, gathered during generations of study and experiment in the educational fields of both Europe and America, and by the peculiar circumstances of their mode of life, which would seem to offer the most favorable conditions for the evolution of the ideal teacher.

The school is generously supplied with apparatus for use in the primary and scientific departments, and with many of the latest educational appliances. The students have access to a carefully selected library, and are encouraged to read under the guidance of their teachers.

Austin is justly proud of St. Mary's academy and ranks it among the first of her institutions for the education of women, in proof of which her citizens have from the first given it their

earnest support. It is likewise favorably known throughout the length and breadth of the state, and each year sees a steadily increasing number of students applying for admission. The number enrolled during the scholastic year of 1888-9 was 239, of which 181 were from the city and 58 from the state at large and neighboring states. Already the new quarters begin to be uncomfortably crowded and the sisters are planning extensive additions to their building in the near future.

Evidently this institution has a brilliant career of usefulness before it for the reason that circumstances seem to be so pre-eminently in its favor.

Its present enviable reputation, the high repute as teachers which the Order of the Holy Cross enjoys, the beautiful and commanding situation of the academy itself, the well planned building which it occupies, and, chief among good reasons, the well known salubrity of the climate of Austin, are all conditions which give the people of this city reason to believe that the time is not far distant when students will be drawn in large numbers from all the neighboring states, and when St. Mary's academy will be acknowledged among the first schools, not only of Texas, but of the south and west.