

CLASSICAL
EDUCATION IN
BRITAIN
1500-1900



BY THE SAME AUTHOR

Richard Porson

Greek Studies in England 1700–1830



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# CLASSICAL EDUCATION IN BRITAIN 1500-1900

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### **PREFACE**

'Not to name the school', wrote Samuel Johnson, 'or the masters of men illustrious for literature, is a kind of historical fraud by which honest fame is injuriously diminished.' If their place of education deserves to be mentioned, no less do the studies they followed, and since in the past most of those illustrious for literature, and for other things as well, have studied the classics, a special importance attaches to this subject, to the part it has played in our education and the way in which it has been taught. This, together with the interest which teachers of the classics will naturally feel in the history of their trade, is my excuse for adding to the already large number of books on education.

I have ended with the end of the last century, since the historian shrinks from what he cannot see in perspective, and I do not feel competent to survey the present-day educational scene, much less to suggest solutions for its problems. But if a knowledge of the past can assist towards an understanding of the present, my book may be of some value to those who are concerned with shaping our educational policy.

While I have been mainly concerned with England I have tried to do justice to Scotland, whose educational history presents an interesting and instructive contrast to that of England. As regards Ireland I have compromised. I felt it was beyond my capacity to treat that country with the same detail as England and Scotland, and decided to confine myself to Trinity College Dublin, the materials for whose history are readily accessible.

To a small extent the present work overlaps with my earlier book *Greek Studies in England 1700–1830*, published in 1945, and a little material from that work has been repeated here.

I am grateful to Professor W. B. Stanford and Dr R. G. Cant for answering questions relating to Trinity College Dublin and St Andrews University respectively, and to Mr R. N. Quirk for

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#### PREFACE

criticism and encouragement. Among published works I owe a special debt to T. W. Baldwin's *William Shakspere's small Latine & lesse Greeke*, which was my guide when I first began to study the sixteenth-century grammar school.

M.L.C.

BANGOR June 1958

Superior figures in the text refer to notes, which begin on p. 180