

of the Books from the Royal Library were missing. There can be no more reflection on Bradshaw's honesty than there would be on any Cabinet Minister who had borrowed official volumes, which, after his death and a major national crisis like the Restoration, could not be found.

F. J. V.

LORD TAVISTOCK'S REMOVE

The letter printed below, which is published here for the first time by kind permission of the Duke of Bedford, is one of the many interesting documents relating to Westminster which have come to light through the researches of Miss G. Scott Thomson among the MSS. at Woburn. From Busby's time onwards there have been members of the Russell family at Westminster, and Miss Scott Thomson's recently published *Life in a Noble Household* contains many references to the School. The Lord Tavistock of the letter was the second son of John, 4th Duke of Bedford, by his second wife, Lady Gertrude, eldest daughter of the first Lord Gower, and was the grandfather of the best known of the Westminster line, Lord John Russell. He was admitted to the School in June, 1749, and went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, at the age of 17, in 1757. He died just ten years later from the effects of a fall from his horse while hunting.

Dr. John Nicoll was Head Master from 1733 to 1753. "He was," wrote one of his pupils, "a Master not only of the dead languages but also of the living manners"—a verdict which readers of this letter will hardly dispute.

(*Letter from Dr. John Nicoll to John, fourth Duke of Bedford, concerning the progress of Francis, Lord Tavistock (then aged twelve), at Westminster School: Dated July 2nd, 1752: in Dr. Nicoll's hand throughout.*)

Westminster,
July 2nd, 1752.

My Lord,

I hope your Grace will do me the justice to believe that if I had imagined a remove into the Fourth Form would have been to Lord Tavistock's advantage, he had certainly gained it. But he certainly wants to be steadier in Latin before he enters upon Greek.

He has now talked with some of his school-fellows who have gone before him, and has learned from them of what importance half a year more well spent in the Third Form will be to him; and I believe when your Grace sees him next, you will find him easy and happy in continuing where he is. Two or three of the places he lost might be, and I believe were, by accident. That would easily have been got over, had it not been of real service for him to stay in the Third Form till the next remove.

It is with some reluctance that I take this liberty. But in an affair where Lord Tavistock's improvement is so much concerned, I doubt not of your Grace's pardon, if I act to the best of my judgment, and rather refuse what would make him happy for a day than grant what he would have reason to be sorry for ever after.

I am, my Lord,

Your Grace's most obedient humble servant,

JOHN NICOLL.



The Demolition of the Fives Courts in Yard; part of the plans for preparing No. 17, Dean's Yard for use as a School Building.