

Some Old Schoolmasters.

UNTIL the introduction of the Education Act in 1870 the school at Meerbrook was one of the old endowed schools of the country, and its masters were generally either the incumbent of the parish, as was the 'Rev. James Turner, senior, or a layman of the better educated class. The last but one of the old style of masters was Mr. William Hulme, who was one of the Hulmes of Wetwood. He was somewhat of an exception to the rule as to well educated men, and was accidentally burnt to death.

The Turners were poets in their way and composed a good many epitaphs. One of them, Daniel Turner, M.A., junior, was, I believe, Rector of Norton, and he left the following "Imitation of the last Ode in the first book of Horace."

Would you invite me to a Feast,
 A little trouble I like best,
 From noise and bustle free ;
 With Dishes few and plainly drest,
 Few Friends with no vain thoughts opprest
 But all good Company.

Let them be Souls honest and brave,
 Their talk no double meaning have,
 In mirth and joy sincere ;
 These and Liquor you must provide
 And then your Friend will take a ride
 To see you once a year.