

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A letter of support from A.P.T. James on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee (25th Anniversary)

The Principal,
Rev. Ivor Jones B.A.

Dear Revd. Sir,

Permit that I thank you most sincerely for the honour done me in asking that I should participate in the compiling of a Brochure commemorating in measure the quarter Century of good and useful work of the Bishop's High School now under your guidance as Principal.

If my information with respect to its recorded achievements is reliable, the school has justified its existence and has set a standard worthy of praise and emulation.

Your respected predecessor, Mr. R.S. Jordan (M.A.), the first Principal, laid a foundation on which, along with your able staff and Board of Directors, you continue to erect a super-structure worthy of the high position it was intended to occupy side by side with other Secondary Schools of the Colony ministering to the Educational needs of the youths of to-day and tomorrow.

Mine was not the privilege to benefit by preparation for one's life work, which an institution such as yours provides, but I am most happy and I rejoice in the knowledge that the youths committed to your charge go out of school armed with the necessary implements by means of which, they may carve out for themselves a path in which to climb to any position in life when the opportunity serves; which is but another way of saying that thus equipped, they should be able to "find a way or make it".

A Jubilee year, it seems to me, should do much more than record the achievements of the past, no matter how glorious and eventful or otherwise that past may be, but rather, as I see it, we are given an opportunity of looking backwards only that we may look forward more clearly and confidently. The past always has its very pointed lessons for the future.

Fortified with the knowledge that there are others, who like the revered founder of this institution, are infused with a burning desire to afford the young people of this Island an opportunity to "drink deep of the Perrian Spring", you as well as others to whom this noble but weighty task has been entrusted, surely must be heartened by the assurance that well wishers are not merely looking on in silent admiration but there are among them, those who are willing and ready to translate their thoughts and words into action and to give whenever called upon, the practical support and encouragement you need, if the good work, now being done, is to maintain the high standard of efficiency attainable by diligence and application of trainers and trainees alike.

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May I be pardoned if I here and now offer you the assurance that I shall take my place proudly among those who are ever on the qui vive to help the good work in any and every possible way, so that in years to come, the school, unfettered and untrammled by lack of any kind, may be enabled un-interruptedly to continue to deserve and to receive the plaudits and abiding gratitude of those, whose way of life should reflect, the early fashioning and moulding they received as past pupils of an honourable and benignant Alma Mater. And thus, you and your coterie of workers may enjoy the satisfaction born of the conviction that your service to the community has been honest, conscientious and fruitful, having contributed your full share in the making of good citizens, both for here and hereafter.

And may I further crave the honour to be associated at least in spirit in your proposed celebrations, which will mark so unique an occasion high lighted, I hope, by Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God emanating from humble and grateful hearts for His innumerable blessings during the period under review.

In conclusion, I wish the school and all those immediately connected with it, many long years of useful service in a cause than which no other is more worthy and meritorious.

Very sincerely yours,

A.P.T. James
Member (Tobago) Legislative Council

1950