

Report to the General Board of Health on a preliminary inquiry into the sewerage, drainage, and supply of water, and the sanitary condition of the inhabitants of the town and parish of Brixham, in the county of Devon / by Alfred L. Dickens, Superintending Inspector.

Contributors

Dickens, Alfred L.
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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT.

(11 & 12 Vict. Cap. 63.)

REPORT

TO THE

GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH

ON A

PRELIMINARY INQUIRY

INTO THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND SUPPLY OF
WATER, AND THE SANITARY CONDITION
OF THE INHABITANTS

OF THE TOWN AND PARISH OF

B R I X H A M ,

IN THE COUNTY OF DEVON.

BY ALFRED L. DICKENS, ESQ., C. E.,

SUPERINTENDING INSPECTOR.



LONDON:

PRINTED BY GEORGE E. EYRE AND WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,

PRINTERS TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

FOR HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE.

1854.

REPORT
OF THE
GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH
PRELIMINARY INQUIRY
NOTIFICATION.

THE General Board of Health hereby give notice, in terms of section 9th of the Public Health Act, that on or before the ~~21st~~ ^{28th} day of ~~March~~ ^{April}, being a period of not less than one month from the date of the publication and deposit hereof, written statements may be forwarded to the Board with respect to any matter contained in or omitted from the accompanying Report on a preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Town of BRIXHAM, in the County of Devon; or with respect to any amendment to be proposed therein.

By order of the Board,

28th February

T. TAYLOR, *Secretary.*

Whitehall, ~~23rd~~ January, 1855.



LONDON:

AND BY GEORGE E. YEN AND WILLIAM BLOTTWOOD,

PRINTERS TO THE GENERAL BOARD OF HEALTH,
AND HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,

1854

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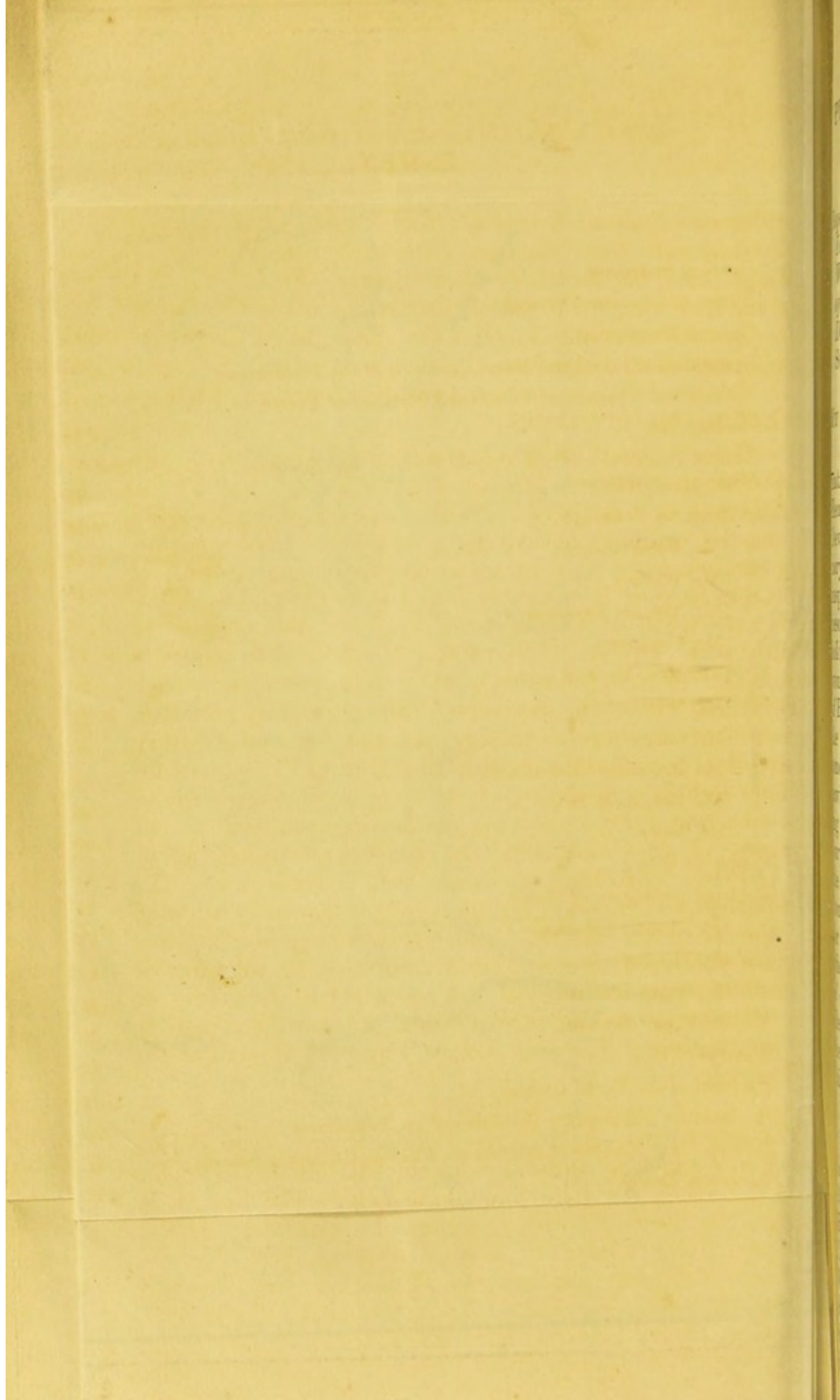
M A P
OF THE
PARISH OF BRIGHAM

T O R B A Y



REFERENCE

- The division between Chubbston and Brigham is marked thus* (solid line)
- The Ecclesiastical boundaries thus* (dashed line)
- The limits of the proposed new boundaries for the Public Health Act thus* (dotted line)



PUBLIC HEALTH ACT (11 & 12 Vict. c. 63.)

Report to the General Board of Health on a Preliminary Inquiry into the Sewerage, Drainage, and Supply of Water, and the Sanitary Condition of the Inhabitants of the Town and Parish of BRIXHAM, in the County of Devon. By ALFRED L. DICKENS, Esq., Civil Engineer, Superintending Inspector.

London, November, 1854.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

IN obedience to the instructions I received in the matter of the petition for the application of the Public Health Act to the parish of Brixham in the county of Devon, the ordinary notices with reference to the preliminary inquiry to be held by me as one of the superintending inspectors to your Honourable Board were given, and Wednesday the 18th of October was fixed for the purpose of holding such inquiry. I have now the honour to report to you on the following matters relative to the town and parish of Brixham, viz.:—the sewerage, drainage, supply of water, the state of the burial grounds, the number and sanitary condition of the inhabitants, the Local Acts of Parliament for paving, lighting, cleansing, watching, regulating, supplying with water, or improving, or having relation to the purposes of the said Act, the natural drainage areas, the existing parochial or other local boundaries. The boundaries which may be most advantageously adopted for the purposes of the said Act—and other matters whereof you are desirous of being informed, for the purpose of enabling you to judge of the propriety of reporting to Her Majesty or making a provisional order, with a view to the application of the said Act or any part thereof to the said parish.

REPORT.

The inquiry was held in the Public Rooms near Bolton Cross, on Wednesday and Thursday the 18th and 19th October 1854. Present the following gentlemen:—The Rev. J. R. Hogg; the Rev. M. Hill; Messrs. T. Lakeman, Henry Chilcote, John Underhay, John Underhay, jun., Richard Wolston, Brooking, sen., surgeon, Brooking, jun., surgeon, Samuel Bowden, surgeon, Hockin, solicitor, Dartmouth, Saunders, Henry Browne, Nicholas Browne, E. L. Hoblyn, E. Vittery, Wm. Calley, Peter Varwell, Wm. Dart, Thomas

BRIXHAM. Brown, Edward Soper, Webber, Samuel Sanders, Christopher Bowden, Joseph Tucker, John Martin, Joshua Collins, Charles Clements, William Clements, Thomas Stevens, Maddick, W. G. Kendrick, John Child, Robert Paige, William Blake, Robert Jones, John Mitchelmore, Christopher Green, James Green, Barnabas Green, W. Cayme, Richard Heath, John Evans, John Smith, Nicholas Smith, Robert Smith, W. L. Collier, George Buckingham, Wm. Wright, Wm. Leo, Samuel Fox, John Brownie, Thomas Searle, John Blackler, Robert Adams, assistant overseer, &c., &c. My thanks are especially due to Messrs J. R. Hogg, M. Hill Lakeman, Chilcote, Hockin, Brookingsen., Brooking, jun., Underhay, jun., Wolston, Brown, Wm. Calley, Barnabas Green, Christopher Bowden, Samuel Calley, Kendrick, and Robert Adams, for the assistance received from those gentlemen, during my inquiry and also on my perambulation of the district.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.—Brixham is a sea port, market town and parish, in the union of Totnes, hundred of Haytor, Paignton, and south division of Devon. It is $27\frac{3}{4}$ miles south of Exeter, and is six miles from Torquay. It is very pleasantly situated near the southern extremity of Torbay. The town is usually considered as being divided into two portions, Upper and Lower Brixham. The parish is bounded on the north by Torbay, on the east by the English Channel, on the south by the English Channel and the river Dart, and on the west by the river Dart and the adjoining parish of Churston Ferrers. A considerable trade in fish is carried on here; there are about 120 decked fishing boats, averaging about 30 tons each, belonging to Brixham. The markets of London, Bath, Cheltenham, and Exeter, are partly supplied from this source, to the extent, in value, of about 20 tons weekly. There is a good harbour managed by Commissioners under an Act of Parliament. There are upwards of 12,000 tons of shipping, consisting of brigs and schooners from 100 to 200 tons each, engaged in the foreign and coasting trade, owned by residents of Brixham, and all fitted out from this port. The exports are confined to a small quantity of iron ore and a little malt and cider. The imports consist chiefly of coal, culm, timber, hemp, flax, and the necessary supplies of groceries and draperies, for the use of the inhabitants. The whole of this trade used to be performed by the coasting vessels, but the Great Western Railway has of late years absorbed a large portion of it.

During the last war the trade of the place was somewhat increased by His Majesty's ships coming here to wait

For their convenience government works were constructed, which still form one of the chief sources of water supply, not only for the general shipping in the port, but also for a large portion of the inhabitants of Lower Brixham.

There are two churches. The first, St. Mary's, at Upper Brixham, is an ancient structure. The second, at Lower Brixham, was erected in 1822, by subscription, and by a grant of 1,200*l.* from the parliamentary commissioners. It was made a district church by the Act of the 58th George III. It is a remarkably unsightly edifice. There are also places of worship for the Independents, Baptists, Wesleyans, and Wesleyan Reformers.

A great portion of Lower Brixham is built on the sides of the west cliff, the streets and alleys forming galleries or terraces on the face of the hill, which rises very precipitously to a considerable height above the level of the sea. From the hills to the south and west of the town magnificent views of the surrounding country are obtained. Looking northward, across the noble Torbay, the watering place of Torquay is seen nestling in the hill sides opposite, while further towards the east the receding coasts of Devonshire and Somerset may be traced. Due east, Berryhead, a conspicuous headland, forming the extremity of the bay, is a bold and prominent object. On the heights at this point are the fortifications and barracks, both of which are now, I believe, disused. From east to south the eye wanders over the broad expanse of the English channel, while looking inland towards the west, extensive views of hill and dale are to be seen, most picturesquely wooded; with an occasional glimpse of the river Dart. It is difficult to imagine any place more favoured by nature than the district comprising the parish of Brixham. The general contour and features of the town are highly favourable for drainage purposes and works of sanitary improvement.

I have been favoured, by a resident, with the following description of the general, social, and moral condition of a large portion of the inhabitants of Brixham:—

“The parish of Brixham comprises two distinct classes of people—the seafaring and the agricultural; and these occupy two separate districts, locally known as ‘the quay’ and ‘the town.’ ‘The quay,’ however, contains the greater portion of houses and inhabitants; the town being the old agricultural village, and consisting chiefly of one long straggling street, with a few detached villas and farm houses. ‘The quay’ contained originally only a few fishermen’s cottages, and a small jetty; but the former have grown up into several narrow, crowded, and irregular streets, built up the sides of two steep hills; and the jetty has been superseded by the erection of a serviceable and substantial pier.

BRIXHAM. The houses in this part of the parish have been built at many different times, and in a great variety of shapes, forming a kind of type of the people ; for they show a noble disregard of unity and harmony, each jutting out from its own position, in a style and with an aspect peculiar to itself. It must not be supposed, however, that the good people here are given to quarrelling among themselves ; but they certainly cherish a degree of independence in their notions and habits, which militates against any combined action for the improvement of their town. Hence, though they were once induced to agree in the erection of gasworks, they have never been able to join together in lighting their streets ; and while they are almost unanimous in the opinion, that they require sewerage and a supply of water, they have not combined to avail themselves of an excellent fall of ground for the one, and two good streams of water for the other. There is, however, a cause for the apparent want of improvement in those respects, arising from the division of interests between the agriculturalists and the shipowners ; the former, feeling that they bear the burden of the parochial rates, and being therefore jealous of any plans for the benefit of 'the quay,' which are to be carried out at the charge of the whole parish. From these and other causes, those of the inhabitants who desire to see the place properly cleaned and supplied with water have found that their only hope for doing this effectually has been to bring in the aid of some external body possessing authority such as the General Board of Health.

"The report of the superintending inspector will show how far Brixham has or has not the necessary appliances for health and decency ; but to any one who knows the circumstances of the place and the character of the people, there can be no doubt that if left to the ordinary working of parochial machinery, it will not soon or easily be improved as it manifestly requires to be.

"Still it is a source of satisfaction to hope that the moral condition of the population is not as bad as one might have expected from the deficiencies referred to. While there is a good deal of roughness and noise, and apparent disorder at particular times there is an absence of some of the vices usually found in crowded places and in sea-port towns. Perhaps the worst feature is the number of public houses and beer shops, offering constant temptations to the boys as well as men, and becoming fertile sources of evil to the class employed in fishing, of which a great portion of the male population consists. But there is scarcely such a thing as a house of ill-fame in the place, and but few open prostitutes, though here, as elsewhere, there is much sin before marriage, which is seldom followed by desertion of the female. It is feared, however, that from the facility afforded for civil marriages, there is a gradual lowering of tone as regards the sacred nature of the union between man and wife. But the more degraded aspect of immorality is not presented so much at Brixham Quay as in many other places ; and while early marriages among the seafaring class are frequent, there is little fear of this leading to pauperism if the husband has the prudence to become a member of a good sick club. The sailors, whether in the merchant service, or

fishery, are well able to maintain a wife and family as soon as they are out of their apprenticeship; and if the wife makes her home such as it should be, and can keep her husband away from the public houses, she need have no fear of starvation for herself and children. There is indeed a larger proportion of widows and orphans in this place than in parishes of similar population inland, since the casualties attending the sailor's life are greater than those of the landmen; but even here a provision is made for some help in the worst time of need by 'the Shipwrecked Mariner's and Fishermen's Society,' which, for the trifling subscription of half-a-crown a year, ensures a few pounds for the widow and each child if the husband perish in the exercise of his calling, and has latterly been able also to grant small annual gratuities to the widows of members in addition to the first sum at the time of decease. Of the aid thus offered, a gradually increasing number of sailors at Brixham avail themselves, and it is very desirable that many more of them should become members of the society. One or two other points may be mentioned, as bearing on the habits and social condition of the people. Most of the shipping property is held by persons who have themselves been to sea, and whose sons are many of them in command of the vessels. On this class, the recent legislation, as to the mercantile marine, brings the influence of education to bear more than was the case before examinations had to be passed by candidates for the berth of master or mate. Hence the present and future race of captains will be raised in the social scale; and their influence over the men under them will be beneficial in proportion. An impulse has been given from the same source to the education of the place at large, for both parents and boys see that if a youth goes to sea with a fair stock of knowledge and under the guidance of a good master, he may hope to rise in his profession, and obtain his certificate for becoming both mate and master himself in due time. To effect this there must be sound religious principle as the basis of all education; and such, it is hoped, is the foundation on which it is has been placed, and will continue to rest here as elsewhere.

These considerations, as far as actual promotion is concerned, do not bear upon the fishermen, though for them, equally with their fellow sailors, is education provided; and, it need scarcely be added, for them as for all, is religious principle needed, both in their training up and their after life. They are, however, recruited by boys from other parts of the country, and too often by such, as having plenty of animal strength and courage, have broken through the restraints of home or the farm house, and prefer the rough and daring life of a Brixham trawler to the more quiet occupation of the day labourer. The fishery is of two kinds—trawling and hooking. The former is carried on by decked sloops of the average size of forty or forty-five tons: the latter by half-decked or open boats. The trawling business is managed as follows:—The owner provides the sloop, sails, and all fishing gear, and keeps all in repair. This, when complete, does not cost less than 600*l*. The owner generally keeps two apprentices for each sloop, for whom he finds provisions at sea, and food

BRINHAM. and lodging at his own home when they are on shore. Besides the two apprentices, there are two men also on the sloop who are paid not by regular wages but by a share in the fish. The produce of every sloop is divided into seven parts, of which the owner takes—for the vessel and the apprentices, four shares and three quarters; the captain, one share and a quarter; and the second man, one share. The fish is brought in every day, weather permitting, and sold by women in the market; one woman selling perhaps for six boats. The accounts are made up and the money divided every fortnight. From this arrangement it is plain, that if the owner of a boat goes out in her as captain, he makes a good deal; and though it is hardly and deservedly earned, yet as he gets up in years, if he is steady, he may generally manage to increase his property to one or two sloops, and a house of his own in which to live. The plan of working by shares rather than by wages, seems to answer well, and it enables any well-conducted young man to lay by enough to procure part of a sloop, and gradually the whole of one in the course of a few years. The apprentices also have a chance of saving money; for certain sorts of inferior fish are their perquisite; and they often make some shillings a week from this source. Being, however, generally drawn from the rougher and less educated class of boys, they are liable to great temptations, and too frequently are induced to spend their earnings in the public houses. Hence, on Saturday evenings and on Sunday, when they are on shore (for there is no fishing carried on here on the sabbath) they are a source of great noise, and occasionally of disorder, in the parish. An evening school and reading room has been opened for them on Saturday nights, and a Sunday school, where both men and boy meet, and are taught by one of the clergy of the parish. The numbers who *occasionally* attend both these schools are considerable, though not very many at one time. Yet, as they pass through the schools and get some love for reading, as well as some knowledge of religious truth, they seem to come under an influence which is very often found to bear good fruit in after life. This is the case especially with those who go away from home for a time and then return; they generally come to school as to another kind of home, and seldom leave again without requesting to have a few books and tracts for the voyage. Indeed, very many of them purchase books, and supply themselves with prayer books for their own use, as well as drop in their contributions for the good of others, in the shape of missionary efforts. On the whole, the men and boys employed in the fishery (who form the bulk of the seafaring population at home) are far from being an immoral race of men, though they are rough and noisy, and too often led astray by the snares of the beer shop. For the last few years, many of the young men among them have entered the yacht service during the summer months, and have gained a very good character for themselves in it. This has had an excellent effect on them, brushing up their manners, giving them some notions of order and leading to an improved tone in their general habits, which it is hoped may have a good influence on the whole body."

Number and Tonnage of Vessels and Number of Crews. 11

The following is a list, compiled by the custom house officers some little time since for the use of the Rev. J. R. Hogg, of the number of vessels belonging to Brixham, and of the men and boys forming their crews:—

NUMBER AND TONNAGE of VESSELS, and MEN, employed in the Coasting, Foreign Trade, and Fisheries belonging to Brixham.

Vessel's Names.	Tonnage.	Men.	Trade Employed in.	Fisheries.		
				Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Men.
Patriot - -	75	5	Coasting and foreign.			
Wave - -	83	6	Foreign.			
Breeze - -	136	7	"			
Storm - -	154	8	"			
Racer - -	158	8	"			
Farmers - -	57	5	Coasting and foreign.	Happy Return	29	4
Catherine - -	96	6	Foreign.			
Foyle Packet - -	128	7	Coasting.			
Tribune - -	132	7	Foreign.			
Nancy - -	90	6	"			
Augusta - -	76	6	"			
Martha - -	86	6	"			
Lotus - -	111	7	"			
Samuel & Ann	85	6	Coasting -	Secret -	26	4
Violet - -	72	5	"			
Jane - -	100	6	Foreign.			
- - -	-	-	- - -	Fly - -	20	4
- - -	-	-	- - -	Hero - -	26	4
- - -	-	-	- - -	John - -	22	4
- - -	-	-	- - -	Betsey - -	22	4
- - -	-	-	- - -	Liberty - -	24	4
- - -	-	-	- - -	Peerless - -	29	4
- - -	-	-	- - -	Valiant - -	40	5
Gratitude - -	84	5	Coasting -	Ark - -	30	4
Adeline - -	75	5	Foreign -	Orderly - -	26	4
Nautilus - -	116	7	"			
Rheda - -	87	6	"			
Antelope - -	80	6	"			
Why Not - -	14	7	" -	Elizabeth - -	24	4
Caroline - -	110	7	"			
Clementina - -	121	7	"			
Adelaide - -	74	6	"			
Elizabeth - -	100	6	Coasting.			
Lebanon - -	104	6	Foreign and coasting.			
Wanderer - -	123	8	Foreign -	Herald - -	45	4
Transit - -	167	9	" -	Gem - -	31	4
Aurora - -	68	5	Coasting -	James - -	27	4
Fame - -	85	6	Coasting and foreign.	Auspicious	27	4
Endeavour - -	68	5	Coasting -	Zealous - -	28	4
Pacific - -	135	7	Foreign -	Zebra - -	25	4
Sharon - -	132	7	" -	Stag - -	31	4
Susan & Ann - -	97	6	"			
Prothesa - -	78	5	Coasting -	Alpha - -	30	4

BRIXHAM.

NUMBER AND TONNAGE, &c.—*continued.*

Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Men.	Trade Employed in.	Fisheries.		
				Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Men.
Lark - -	53	5	Foreign -	Dove -	24	4
Star - -	56	5	" -	Storm -	24	4
Alarm - -	79	6	" -	Tarter -	31	4
May Flower -	98	6	" -	Friends -	21	4
Pallas - -	106	7	Coasting -	Charles -	24	4
Minerva - -	94	6	Foreign -	Lark -	29	4
Elizabeth -	130	7	" -	Phœnix -	22	4
Dove - -	88	6	Coasting -	Gould -	31	4
Emerald - -	77	6	Foreign -	Friendship -	33	4
Lavinia - -	98	6	" -	Flower of Ovigay	24	4
Hiram - -	121	7	" -	Blessing -	29	4
Recovery -	106	7	" -	Samuel -	27	4
Ark - -	124	7	" -	Sarah -	26	4
Hope - -	120	7	" -	Rosamond -	24	4
Victoria -	88	6	" -	Elizabeth -	29	4
Bertha - -	90	6	" -	Hope -	23	4
Pendenis -	69	5	Coasting -	Dolphin -	23	4
Lewis - -	98	6	" -	Peace -	27	4
King of Tyre -	81	6	Foreign -	Providence	23	4
Argo - -	103	6	Coasting -	James -	31	4
Exile - -	122	7	Foreign -	Lark -	24	4
Rival - -	129	7	" -	Providence	23	4
Release - -	86	6	" -	Ann -	23	4
Daniel - -	60	5	" -	Four Brothers	24	4
Rhoda - -	87	6	" -	Arbitrator -	26	4
Harriett -	111	7	" -	Rose -	25	4
Vigilant -	98	6	" -	Industry -	24	4
Resolution -	102	7	Coasting -	Paragon -	31	4
Maria - -	156	8	Foreign -	Betsey -	22	4
Gibraltar -	34	3	Coasting -	Matilda -	22	4
Camilla - -	122	7	Foreign -	Amelia -	27	4
Mary - -	96	6	" -	Esther -	24	4
Diana - -	88	6	Coasting -	Rose -	18	4
Britannia -	84	6	Foreign -	Complete -	23	4
Triton - -	128	7	" -	Phœnix -	24	4
Mary Ann -	98	6	Coasting -	Sophia -	26	4
Swift - -	148	7	Foreign -	Flora -	27	4
Daphne - -	90	6	Coasting -	Friend's En- deavour	25	4
Industry -	65	5	" -	Ann -	24	4
Two Brothers	27	4	" -	Susan Ann	24	4
Two Sisters -	66	5	" -	British Queen	25	4
Mariner - -	112	7	Foreign -	Fawn -	31	4
Mermaid - -	31	4	Coasting -	Reindeer -	33	4
Cato - -	98	6	" -	Saucy Jack	29	4
Heber - -	128	7	Foreign and coasting.	Good Intent	26	4
Brothers - -	113	7	" -	Renown -	31	4
Freedom - -	113	7	" -	Diligent -	27	4
Providence -	56	5	" -	Unity -	23	4
Brisk - -	91	6	" -	Lively -	27	4
Jane Cumming	108	7	" -	Start -	25	4
Ann & Maria	103	6	" -	Doris -	21	4
Brothers - -	59	5	" -	Ann -	28	4

NUMBER AND TONNAGE, &c.—continued.

BRIXHAM.

Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Men.	Trade Employed in.	Fisheries.		
				Vessel's Name.	Tonnage.	Men.
Ebenezer -	101	6	Foreign and Coasting.	Lively Cruiser	24	4
Samuel -	68	5	"	John and Sarah.	24	4
Salome -	111	6	"	Hiram -	18	4
Helen -	73	6	"	Alert -	17	4
Eagle Wing -	123	7	"	Diligence -	27	4
Courser -	144	8	"	Spy -	26	4
Friends -	73	6	"	Gleaner -	29	4
Two Brothers	55	5	"	Susanna -	19	4
Venus -	78	6	"	Fortitude -	24	4
Rebecca -	75	6	"	Samuel and Arn	29	4
William -	46	5	"	Brave -	26	4
Clarence -	67	5	"	John -	23	4
Concord -	77	6	"	Rosabel -	26	4
Agenoria -	94	6	"	Kent -	25	4
Trial -	106	6	"	Rose of Sharon	27	4
Sarah -	95	6	"	Happy Return	23	4
Aurendale -	132	7	"	Emma -	31	4
Gleam -	129	7	Foreign	Wesley -	26	4
Equity -	120	7	"	Dove -	27	4
Venus -	70	6	"	Rose -	27	4
Jane Smith -	164	9	"	Thomas -	27	4
Providential -	160	9	"	Jane -	27	4
Alexander -	150	8	"	Saucy Lass	30	4
Galetta -	160	9	"	William and Ann	30	4
Lady New- burgh.	104	6	"	Queen Victoria	24	4
Sylph -	134	7	"	Phœbe -	28	4
Liffey -	120	7	"	Dove -	24	4
Enterprise -	108	6	"	Marquis Wellington	26	4
Triumph -	120	7	"	Brothers -	24	4
Bideford -	140	8	"	Clarence -	24	4
Barbara -	90	6	"	Griper -	26	4
Vivid -	156	8	"	Zephyr -	30	4
Laura -	120	7	"	Imogean -	20	4
Abeona -	124	7	"	Gazelle -	31	4
				Kate -	30	4
Total -	12,214	610			2,788	447

122 Schooners, Brigs, Brigantines, and Smacks, employed in the Coasting and Foreign Trade. Total Tonnage, 12,214 Tons, and employing 610 Men.

107 decked Vessels of 2,788 Tons, employing 447 Men, and 50 open Boats, employing 100 Men.

	Tonnage.	Men.
	12,214	610
	2,788	447
		100
Total -	15,002	
Total -		1,157

BRIXHAM.

GEOLOGY, &c.—Brixham is partly built on the Mountain Limestone. The rocks of the district are of the Devonian or old Red Sandstone formation. They are generally calcareous and fossiliferous. Argillaceous beds and ironstones are found near. There are ironstone mines, worked by Mr. Wolston, on Furzeham Common, north west of the town.

No record of the climate of Brixham appears to have been kept by any of the inhabitants, but the following is an extract from the report of the Registrar General of the climate of Torquay, on the opposite side of Torbay. It must be remembered that Torquay is sheltered from the northern winds, while Brixham is exposed to their full force:—

CLIMATE OF TORQUAY.

Extracted from the Registrar General's Report.

Mean Temperature.	Highest Extreme.	Lowest Extreme.	Mean Daily Range.	Quarterly Range.	Days of Rain.	Inches of Rain.	Vapour in Cubic Foot of Air.	Vapour required to saturate do.	Mean Humidity.
46·3	63·0	24·0	7·6	39	48	11·2	53·2	0·7	·83

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENT STATE OF THE SEWERAGE, DRAINAGE, AND SUPPLY OF WATER.—There is no systematic arrangement of drains in Brixham. This remark applies equally to surface and house drainage. Such covered drains as have been constructed are exceedingly imperfect in form and execution, and perhaps only tend to aggravate the evils at present complained of, by keeping a quantity of refuse out of sight, but not out of smell. If these impurities remain on the surface, there is a slight chance of their being swept away, to add to the hoard of the dust contractor or scavenger; but lying, as they do, in some drains in the streets and alleys (which drains are of the V shape, with untrapped gullies), their exhalations are given out, as I can testify from personal observation, to render the surrounding atmosphere most unpleasant and offensive. The natural drainage of the town district is into two streams which are known to the inhabitants by the names of the "north" and the "south" streams. The "north" stream rises in Sir John Yarde Buller's park, near his residence at Lupton House. One small mill, situated not far from the source of the stream, derives its motive power from the storing of its waters. It then flows nearly parallel with the

turnpike road from Torquay to Brixham, into the town of Lower Brixham, and *should* empty itself into the pond known as the "Government Reservoir." This water was considered by the government authorities, years ago, sufficiently pure and wholesome to warrant the construction of regular water works here for the purpose of supplying the King's ships, the fine anchorage of Torbay rendering such an accommodation additionally desirable. The "south" stream rises, as its name implies, to the southward of the stream already mentioned, and its source is near the Higher Lupton Farm, about a mile from the north stream head. It flows nearly parallel with the main street of Upper Brixham, behind Bolton Street in the lower town, and *now* empties itself into the government reservoir. It formerly emptied itself by means of a drain or "leet" below the reservoir into the main drain locally called the "lake," but at the time of my inspection, as I have already stated, it was running directly into the reservoir.

There is one mill on this stream, and below the mill, and between it and the reservoir, as will presently appear, the stream itself becomes a common sewer.

The water from the government reservoir is conveyed in iron pipes, which are laid along the bed of the "lake," down to the quay, where there are convenient taps for the purposes of the shipping.

Mr. Thomas Lakeman, a large brewer, and one of the principal inhabitants of Lower Brixham, informs me that, in 1849, during the outbreak of cholera in Brixham, accompanied by the churchwardens, he went to examine the state of the south stream at its entrance into the reservoir. The sluice was down, but immediately above it there was observed a quantity of vegetable refuse, night soil, ashes, and three dead kittens.* The overflow from the reservoir forms the open ditch, or "lake," which empties itself into the harbour. The "lake" is used for every offensive drainage purpose by the inhabitants of the worst part of the town of Lower Brixham, and its contents dribbling into the harbour, as they usually do, enhance the very disagreeable smells of fish offal already emanating from that spot. The offal is negligently thrown beneath the quays by the people employed in cleansing the fish, and owing to the position of an old pier, as I apprehend, there is not a sufficiently strong set of the tide to wash it away.

* Mr. Lakeman further says, that Lord Viscount Sandwich once visited Brixham, and surveyed this reservoir: floating on its surface, he found a quantity of night-soil, and other offensive refuse, which occasioned him to observe that it was fortunate the sailors did not know what they drank.

BRIXHAM. A memorial from some of the inhabitants has been presented to the Harbour Commissioners for the removal of the old pier above referred to.*

The surface paving in the streets, yards, alleys, and courts is of the worst possible description. The surfaces are generally badly paved with cobbles, the irregularities of which serve as holes to collect the solid refuse. Certain portions of the lower town are exceedingly filthy; the worst part is that lying between the harbour and the top of the cliff at Furzeham Common. The houses are here built tier on tier; the streets, or rather alleys, forming galleries cut in steps in the face of the limestone rock, which constitutes the cliff and natural bank of the stream. Small and wretched tenements are crowded on each other, so that the floors of the upper series are on a level with the chimneys of those immediately below; and this is repeated over and over again to the top of the cliff. The ordinary communication between these galleries is by steep stone steps. Some of the houses, being built with their backs to the wall of rock, have no through ventilation. Even such as are lucky enough to possess back yards are, in many instances, poisoned by the nuisances created by the houses in the tier above. A large majority of these places are destitute of privy accommodation. Outside the houses, in the public thoroughfare, it is by no means an uncommon circumstance to see open pails and other utensils, placed on the footpath for the purpose of emptying into them, the house soil accumulated during the day; nor are these receptacles emptied until they become so full that they must be removed or overflow. Towards the higher part of the cliff, where "the lake" is not conveniently approachable, their contents are actually emptied into large square holes dug in the ground and are there left totally undeodorized and uncovered, to fill the air with stenches calculated materially to assist, if not actually cause epidemic disease. It was in these places that cholera thinned the population in 1831-2 and in 1844, and in these places the medical gentlemen of the place are continually treating fever and its attendant disorders. In a few instances there are drains of the V shape; the flag forming the top of the drain being part of the paving of the street. The covering flags are not cemented, nor do they fit very closely. The sickening emanations through the cracks and at the gully holes are complained of by all. In Higher-street where this is particularly the case, the street is only ten feet

* See Appendix E.

wide ; it may be conceived therefore that the statement of some of the inhabitants, that it is impossible for them to bear the place without shutting their doors and windows, is not exaggerated.

On the surface of the streets are to be seen—here, the heads, tails, and entrails of fish in various stages of decomposition—there, a heap of potato parings or cabbage leaves, half rotten, waiting until a heavy shower shall carry them down to a lower level, or until some child shall throw them through the gratings of the gully holes into the V sewer below. It is to be remembered that, except in times of heavy rains, these imperfect sewers are completely dry. In no instance are there drains from sinks into them. The slops from the houses are thrown on to the surface, and the side drains and channels are so badly constructed, that the liquid rarely find its way to the gully gratings.

In times of heavy rains the impurities from the upper tiers of houses are washed down on the tier below them. There is generally a narrow open surface drain constructed at the side of the steps forming the communication between the tiers of houses, but it is wholly inadequate to protect the houses below from the effect of the rain floods.

Even with the substantial benefits derivable from a properly arranged system of drainage and water supply, most of these houses, dark, low, and dismal as they are, would be but sorry residences. The complaints of their inmates are loud and frequent, showing that although such demoralizing influences are at work, as the almost total want, amongst a large number of inhabitants, of the ordinary accommodations alike necessary for decency and health, there is still a feeling of shame and disgust surviving the practices they are publicly compelled to follow.

It is not only the physical evils produced by this existing state of things that are to be deplored, but the perpetuation of such a system is calculated to blunt and debase the moral feelings of those who are subject to their influences. Children brought up in the midst of such an utter disregard of the common decencies of life are prone to become demoralized from their familiarity with such scenes, and the result is too well known to those who observe and study the effects produced by such causes.

The general supply of water, for all purposes, for the part of Brixham I have described, is derived from the storing of the rain water, collected in large square tanks constructed of slabs of stone or slate jointed in cement. There are no

BRIXHAM.

pumps on the upper portion of the cliff. At the lower levels the supply is obtained from four separate sources—viz.: 1stly, from public wells or pumps; 2ndly, from the government reservoir; 3rdly, from private wells or pumps; and 4thly, from some private waterworks constructed by Mr. Thomas Lakeman. The sources of these different supplies are more particularly described in the evidence hereinafter given.

EVIDENCE ON SEWERAGE, &c. — Mr. *Robert Adams*, assistant surveyor of highways, states,—

“There are no main sewers in existence in Brixham, except from the lower part of Fore-street to the beach, a distance of about fifty yards. This sewer is an 18-inch barrel culvert. It takes the surface water and also a few house drains; that is, slops and such like house refuse. There is also a drain in Higher-street which falls into the harbour. It is a V drain of thin slabs of slate or stone. It, like the last-mentioned drain, takes the surface water, and such slops from some houses as the inhabitants throw into the open channels communicating with the drains by gratings. The gratings are untrapped, and the smell emanating from them is sometimes horrible. Witness has been in office two years and a half, and during that time has constructed no new sewers. The surveyors indeed decline the responsibility of executing such works. The surveyors pay a man six shillings a week for collecting refuse from the houses, besides which he sells it for his own benefit. He gets about 1s. 6d. to 2s. per load for it.”

Mr. *Webber* states,—

“There are some other surface drains besides those mentioned by Mr. Adams, and he believes there are no communications between them with privies or ash-pits; but he knows they are sometimes made use of for equivalent purposes, by people throwing their refuse into them. At the backs of the houses in Bolton-street there is a ditch called the south stream, which now empties itself into the reservoir belonging to the Government. This ditch is used for sewage purposes. Thinks that a quantity of water, abstracted by Mr. Wolston for the purposes of washing his iron ore on the banks of the stream, prevents in a considerable degree the proper cleansing of this ditch.”

My attention was particularly called to this matter. Inasmuch as Mr. Wolston only gets the water when the mill above is at work, and when the stream is running tolerably full, and as he restores the whole quantity of water again, although at a lower level, I do not think the scouring of the stream is much interfered with. There is no doubt that a certain amount of water is abstracted between the points formed by Mr. Wolston's dam and the spot, where

releases the water again; but I am of opinion that with twenty times the quantity of water "borrowed" by this gentleman for the purposes of his business, added to the ordinary flow of the stream, the ditch in its present irregular and filthy state would not be cleansed of its impurities. When I saw it, which I did several times during my visits to Brixham, it was choked at intervals with animal and vegetable matters in various stages of decomposition. Old rags, broken crockeryware, boughs of trees, and a variety of other substances formed dams here and there that would require a very much larger quantity of water to remove them than the stream would appear to contain at any ordinary times. When the mill is not at work there is little or no water flowing, consequently a mass of impurities are left exposed to the action of the sun and allowed to rot as they lie.

Mr. *Webber* further states,—

"There is only one sewer or public drain in Upper Brixham. It runs from somewhere near the old workhouse down to a place called 'the horse pool.' This is a square covered drain, and takes the contents of the privies from the old workhouse and the surface drainage below it."

Mr. *Thomas Lakeman* states,—

"Between the new road and Cumber's-road, and from Cumber's-lane, there is a square house drain falling into the open ditch, which runs from the government reservoir to the harbour, and helps to pollute the water therein. There is no other covered drain, surface, or otherwise, either north or south of the new road. The drains of a number of houses empty themselves into the north stream, which stream is the supposed source of supply of 'pure' water to the government reservoir. In the 'back lane' there is a drain, the outlet of which is smaller than the drain itself. The parties using this drain have contracted the inlet to the size of the outlet, leaving the intermediate portion as it was. Some time ago complaints were made by the inhabitants about the state of the lake; it was in a very filthy condition, and required cleansing. Part of the stream runs through private property, and part alongside the highway. Application was made without effect to the surveyors of the highways, then to other authorities, but with no better result than a recommendation that the surveyors should take powers from the vestry to expend the funds necessary for its cleansing, or that the inhabitants should obtain a local improvement Act. Ultimately, the guardians cleansed the stream, and continue to do so at intervals to the present time, under the powers of the Nuisance Removal and Diseases Prevention Act."

Mr. *Caymbe* complains that the surveyors of highways have frequently objected to cleanse some stagnant drains.

BRIXHAM. This is explained by Mr. *Adams* as having arisen from misapprehension on the part of the then surveyors. The present surveyors *do* cleanse the drains.

The Rev. Mr. *Hill* states,—

“Above *Cumber's-road* is *Manor-terrace* consisting of eleven recently erected houses. Each of these houses has a drain for general purposes (not for privy drainage). All these drains have a common main drain to fall into, but the main drain has no outfall. The refuse is therefore allowed to soak through the surface in any way it can. Rarely comes into the town about eight or nine o'clock in the morning, by way of a street near the Baptist chapel, without meeting girls carrying various utensils filled with refuse that ought to be conveyed along the sewers. He believes there are many houses in the town entirely destitute of privy accommodation. When he was looking for a house for his own use, about twelve months since, he saw many such instances and was informed of many more. Very often where there is a privy, there are only shallow pans or boxes, which require constant emptying. This duty devolves on the servant girl where there is one. Witness mentions a place at *Chapel-hill*, in an alley leading to some steps, where there is an amount of ordure to be found every morning, which sufficiently shows it to be commonly used as a public privy.”

Mr. *Wolston* corroborates Mr. *Hill's* statement, and mentions the fact of meeting girls with various utensils, as stated, as a common occurrence.

Mr. *Calley* thinks he has frequently, on one morning, met as many as forty persons thus engaged.

Mr. *Brooking*, medical officer, states,—

“There are very few houses provided with proper privy accommodation in any part of the town. Even some of the most respectable houses are without this necessary provision; and witness mentions parts of the *New-road*, *Bolton-street*, and *Fore-street* as instances.”

Mr. *Lakeman* states,—

“The refuse from the fish market, and a little distance round is let by public auction; it now fetches 9*l.* per annum. Witness would be a competitor for the sewage manure, in the event of being collected and disposed of in a proper form.”

The Rev. *J. R. Hogg* states,—

“He believes that if the sewage manure were properly manufactured, it would be much used by the farmers in the district who would be glad to pay a reasonable price for it.”

Mr. *Soper*, farmer, states,—

“He would be glad to have the sewage manure, knowing its value, if it could be got at a reasonable price.”

It was stated by Mr. *Lakeman* in conclusion of this part of the evidence,—“That the general state of the sewerage of the whole of Brixham, both for surface and house drainage, is in a highly imperfect state, and capable of great improvement.” This statement was warmly corroborated by the following gentlemen—viz.: The Rev. J. R. Hogg, the Rev. Mr. Hill, Messrs. Saunders, Calley, Wolston, Browse, Underhay, jun., Webber, Brooking, Charles Clements, Stevens, Cayme, John Martin, Richard Heath, Nicholas Browne, and Kendrick. BRIXHAM.

As regards the SUPPLY OF WATER, the following is a portion of the evidence obtained.

Mr. *Thomas Lakeman* states,—

“The general water supply for the public use in Lower Brixham is—Firstly, from a public pump near the London Inn; secondly, from the government reservoir; thirdly, from public wells or pumps; and, fourthly, from private sources, such as the well and pump usually attached to the best class of houses, and from some collected private springs of the witness. He used to obtain his supply, as a brewer, from the government reservoir; but for some time, not having been satisfied with the quality of that supply, has now constructed some waterworks for his own purposes. From these works he supplies about thirty families. The supply is derived from collected springs, and is distributed by gravitation. Has also bored for water through the slate rock; and at a distance of sixty feet the water now rises within a foot of the surface. He charges for the water he supplies to private consumers (an unlimited quantity) sixteen shillings per annum. Believes that if he had continued to use the government reservoir water he would have lost his brewery customers.

“There is a well called Greenswood in Lower Brixham, and there are also four conduits from the government reservoir. There are several private pumps supplying the houses to which they are attached. In many instances a number of houses or cottages have only one pump amongst them. The general construction of the soft water tanks is of stone or slate slab built in cement, and they are usually covered. Some of the wells are occasionally contaminated by drains. This is the case with the public pump opposite the London Inn.*

“Upper Brixham is supplied from several sources. One is called the Town Shoot, or St. Mary’s Well; another, Lay-well. Besides these there are several small streams which are used where they are accessible, and also a few private pumps. He has never known the Town Shoot or Lay-well fail, although at the present time both are unusually low. The Lay-well water is

* This is corroborated by Messrs. Henry Browne, Charles Brooking, Wolston, and Kendrick.

BRIXHAM. considered very good, but it would in the opinion of witness be impossible to obtain it for the complete use of the public without a special Act of Parliament; it is used for many purposes, and a great number of private interests would be interfered with. This would not be so much the case with the north stream."

With respect to the government reservoir, it was stated to me, after the inquiry, by Mr. *Peter Varwell*, a shipowner, that "he had had complaints made by several skippers of trawlers of the water which was drawn from the reservoir, as being productive of diarrhoea; especially from one named *George Pitman*, who stated that it frequently stunk and bred vermin, and that his crew were often seriously attacked with diarrhoea after drinking it."

Mr. *Wolston* states,—

"In consequence of the great demand for water from the public pump opposite the London Inn, he knows that the wives of his workmen, unless they have gone late at night, or very early in the morning to get their 'turn,' have been obliged to pay a penny per pair of buckets for other water."

Mr. *Henry Chilcote* states, with regard to the supply of water at Upper Brixham,—

"That besides the sources of supply mentioned by Mr. *Lakeman*, there are others. There is *Frogwell*: this well never fails. It is in the upper part of the town, and is convenient for the inhabitants of the district. There is also a public well at the bottom of Mr. *Pierpoint's* lawn, supplying eight or ten houses. There are private wells fed from the waste from *Laywell*. There is also a source of good water at *Packhole*, which is about a quarter of a mile from any of the houses.

"The overflow from *Laywell*, *St. Mary's Well*, and indeed from all other sources in Upper Brixham, feed the south stream, already pointed out as being now the principal source of supply to the government reservoir."

Mr. *Lakeman* states,—

"There are two fire-engines: they were purchased by subscription of the town. There being no public body on whom the care of these engines devolved, the Harbour and Market Commissioners have taken charge of them. The town were glad to accept this proposal. The town pump is also kept in repair by the Harbour and Market Commissioners, and is paid for, witness believes, more particularly out of the market fund. Is of opinion the Commissioners are exceeding the powers given them by their Act of Parliament by so doing."

Mr. *Henry Browse* states,—

"He is chairman of the Harbour Committee. There are fifteen Commissioners: five go out annually. The reason why the Commissioners take charge of the fire-engines is, because the

conceived such things were requisite for the safety of the harbour and shipping. The Commissioners borrowed the town engines in preference to buying new ones out of their funds. The engines are used for the town generally. BRIXHAM.
—

“The pump mentioned by Mr. Lakeman is kept in order by the Commissioners, because the water from the government reservoir has become so impure, they sometimes do not like to supply the ships from that source. They therefore prefer to have the opportunity of supplying better water, at the expense of keeping the pump in order. Does not know why the market fund is more particularly charged with the cost of these repairs.”

REMARKS.—It will be readily seen from the foregoing general description and evidence that there is no proper system of sewerage and water supply in the town of Brixham. Although Upper Brixham is generally more cleanly than the district around the quay and harbour, the same want of decent accommodation for the use of the inhabitants of houses and cottages is perceivable. It will presently be seen, from the extracts from my notes made during my perambulation of the district, that in instances where privies are in existence, even in Upper Brixham, they are often in situations so inconvenient that they are seldom used; also that the cesspools attached to them are very filthy. The present appearance of the place denotes that the Sanitary Committee, stimulated by the fear of another visitation of cholera,* have made exertions to remove some surface nuisances; but as it can hardly be expected that a body of gentlemen can continually act as inspectors of nuisances, the impurities on the surface will soon re-appear to their old extent, when this temporary apprehension shall have passed away.

The Rev. *J. R. Hogg* states,—

“There has been a good deal of *surface* cleansing in the part of the parish under his charge; but the two main points, a supply of water and sewerage, are very defective, and with no prospect of remedy, as far as he can see, except through the Board of Health.”

I have already remarked that a considerable portion of the town of Brixham, lying between the harbour and Furze-ham Common, is entirely without water of any kind, except the soft water collected in tanks.

In many instances the distance of the pumps from the houses and cottages, compels the inhabitants to make the

* Cholera is now (Oct. 30th) prevalent in the neighbouring town of Dartmouth.

BRIXHAM. best shift they can with a minimum quantity of water, and, for household and washing purposes, to use the same water over and over again. The having to send only a hundred yards for water is a great hardship on the poor. The loss of time to them is the loss of money, and consequently a heavy yearly expense is entailed on them by this process. The anxiety to obtain their "turn" at the public pumps leads to a vast amount of squabbling, and much ill-feeling, and hot blood is occasioned from this apparently trivial cause.

The "north" stream, which formerly supplied the government reservoir, is now, in dry seasons more especially, completely lost, through a variety of causes, before it reaches Brixham.

THE STATE OF THE BURIAL GROUNDS.—There is one church-yard at St. Mary's Church, in Upper Brixham. This ground has recently been enlarged, and there is ample space for some years to come. The cost of enlargement was defrayed by a church-rate levied in 1849. The rate was laid over the whole parish at 1s. in the pound, producing a gross sum of 477*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* The ground is pleasantly situated, and is now at present much encroached on by habitations. The old poor-house abuts on this ground. This house is now let out in a number of small tenements.

The only other burial ground is that belonging to the Dissenters. It adjoins the Church of England ground, and is almost empty, but very negligently kept.

It has been objected by Mr. George Cutler, an inhabitant of the neighbourhood of Brixham, that the present burial ground attached to St. Mary's church is exceedingly inconvenient for the use of the town. He complains "*that unhappily an epidemic was to break out in so populous and densely housed a place, as was the case in 1849, the evil of transporting the dead through a mile of town to the graveyard of another church, which is in the unusual condition of being also the recipient of the dead of a distant parish, would again be repeated and prove a serious calamity.*"

Wherever a cemetery may be situated in the neighbourhood of a town, it is quite clear that the dead must be conveyed through some portion of the streets to it. As far as my observation goes, I cannot see that any immediate alteration in the site of the Brixham burial ground is called for. If its situation were altered, the dead from the quay and that district, the most populous in the place, must necessarily

pass through the town. As the present graveyard is completely away from the densely inhabited part of Brixham, and as it has been, as I have already stated, recently enlarged at the expense of the parish, and is not objectionably encroached on by houses, I do not think the cost of a new cemetery is justified at present. However, should the general feeling of the inhabitants coincide with that of Mr. Cutler, they have a remedy for their complaint, by the "Burials (beyond the Metropolis) Act," 16 & 17 Vict. cap. 134.

BRIXHAM.
—

THE NUMBER AND SANITARY CONDITION OF THE INHABITANTS, &c.—The following table (extracted from the Superintendent Registrar's Return) shows the Number of inhabitants, houses, churches, chapels, schools, &c., in the parish of Brixham :

Parish.	Number of enumerative District.		Churches and Chapels.						SCHOOLS.						Population.			Houses.			Total Population and Houses.												
	Churches.	Chapels.	Number.	Average No. of Attendants.	Independents.	Baptists.	Wesleyans.	Wesleyan Refrs.	Average No. of Attendants.	Day Schools.		Sunday Schools.			Males.	Females.	Total.	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.							
Brixham.	1		600							Rural district consisting of farm houses.					148	151	299	48			680	805	1485	311	4								
	2 a	2 b								2	No returns.	1	56	76	132	17	12	19															
Eccl. District of Brixham.										3	Imperfect returns	No returns.			243	391	634	138	14	2													
	2 c	2 d								7	121	129	250	1	60	40	100	6	9	15													
" "										4	Imperfect returns.	1	78	115	193	6	11	17															
	2 e	2 f								1		1	35	42	77	9	6	15															
Total of Registrar's District										2		2	14	37	51																		
										5		2	103	44	147																		
			3	1750	1	1	1	1	701	1	30	238	210	448	7	229	273	502	28	38	66	2540	3385	5925	1228	91	15						
															1860	2580	4440	917	87	15	1860	2580	4440	917	87	15	1860	2580	4440	917	87	15	
															1638	2304	3937	815	53	5	1638	2304	3937	815	53	5	1638	2304	3937	815	53	5	
															227	276	503	102	34	10	227	276	503	102	34	10	227	276	503	102	34	10	
															680	805	1485	311	4	3	680	805	1485	311	4	3	680	805	1485	311	4	3	
															773	884	1657	262	26	3	773	884	1657	262	26	3	773	884	1657	262	26	3	
																		49						49									
															93	79	172				93	79	172										
															2540	3385	5925	1228	91	15	2540	3385	5925	1228	91	15	2540	3385	5925	1228	91	15	
															2406	3188	5594	1077	79	8	2406	3188	5594	1077	79	8	2406	3188	5594	1077	79	8	
															134	197	331	151	12	7	134	197	331	151	12	7	134	197	331	151	12	7	
															Total of the Ecclesiastical district of Brixham -																		
															Ditto of Upper Brixham																		
															Ditto of the whole parish of Brixham, including the higher and lower districts																		

The following is a statement of the number of deaths in **BRIXHAM**, the parish of Brixham during seven years:—

For the Seven Years ending June 30th, 1853.

1847	-	-	Total number of deaths	-	162
1848	-	-	Do.	-	124
1849	-	-	Do.	-	119
1850	-	-	Do.	-	271
1851	-	-	Do.	-	95
1852	-	-	Do.	-	122
1853	-	-	Do.	-	105

Total number of deaths for the seven years 998

Assuming the population to be 5,925 (the census of 1851), this gives an average of 142·4 deaths per annum, or 1 in 41·7, or 24 per 1,000.

For the Seven Years ending June 30th, 1854.

1848	-	-	Total number of deaths	-	124
1849	-	-	Do.	-	119
1850	-	-	Do.	-	271
1851	-	-	Do.	-	95
1852	-	-	Do.	-	122
1853	-	-	Do.	-	105
1854*	-	-	Do.	-	99

Total number of deaths for the seven years 935

Assuming the same population as above, this gives an average of 133·4 deaths per annum, or 1 in 44·5, or 22 per 1,000.

Mr. Adams, the assistant overseer, gives the following turn of the houses and rateable value thereof in the parish of Brixham at the present time:—

Rateable Value.		No. of Houses.	
Under £3	-	-	911
£3 and under £5	-	-	259
5	10	-	263
10	15	-	42
15	20	-	15
20	30	-	8
30	40	-	5
40	50	-	1
50 and upwards	-	-	1

Total number of rated houses 1,505

The above return includes all shops, manufactories, stores, barns, stables, &c., where separately assessed, although not connected with any dwelling house.

* The Petition from the inhabitants of Brixham, praying for a preliminary inquiry, was sent to the General Board of Health, in March, 1854.

BRIXHAM. The following is a statement of the number and amount of poor rates levied for five years:—

Rate when made.	In the £.		Amount.		
	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
April, 1849 - -	1	3	635	1	5½
July, „ - -	1	3	633	1	10½
October, „ - -	1	0	510	0	11½
* January, 1850 - -	1	3	638	4	8
April, „ - -	1	0	511	7	8
July, „ - -	1	0	512	0	1½
October, „ - -	0	9	385	10	9½
January, 1851 - -	0	9	387	11	4½
April, „ - -	0	9	387	13	1½
July, „ - -	0	9	388	0	1
October, „ - -	1	0	518	12	7½
January, 1852 - -	0	9	390	3	4
April, „ - -	0	9	390	9	3
July, „ - -	1	0	522	14	2½
October, „ - -	0	9	392	10	10½
January, 1853 - -	0	9	392	13	1
April, „ - -	1	0	523	14	7
July, „ - -	0	9	398	6	0
September, „ - -	1	0	525	14	0½
December, „ - -	1	0	526	15	0

* The cholera raged from the 21st of September till the 11th December, 1850.

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ewing

COMMON CHARGES.		Balance in favour of each Parish at the end of the Half-year.	TOTAL.		
Barrow again Parish com ment Hall	Salaries of Officers and other Common Charges, apportioned according to the existing Averages.				
£	s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	
	18 6½	91 6 10	121 5 10	635 9 0	5
	5 7	28 18 1¼	- - -	123 19 7	¼
	12 1½	50 3 10¼	9 11 11	286 9 6	¼
	12 10 ½	184 14 4 ½	149 11 5	1,137 6 11	¼
	5 10 1	74 10 21	102 8 3	511 11 7	3

	1,157 5 5½
£56 19 0	
3 7 1½	
	60 6 1½
-	<u><u>£1,096 19 3½</u></u>

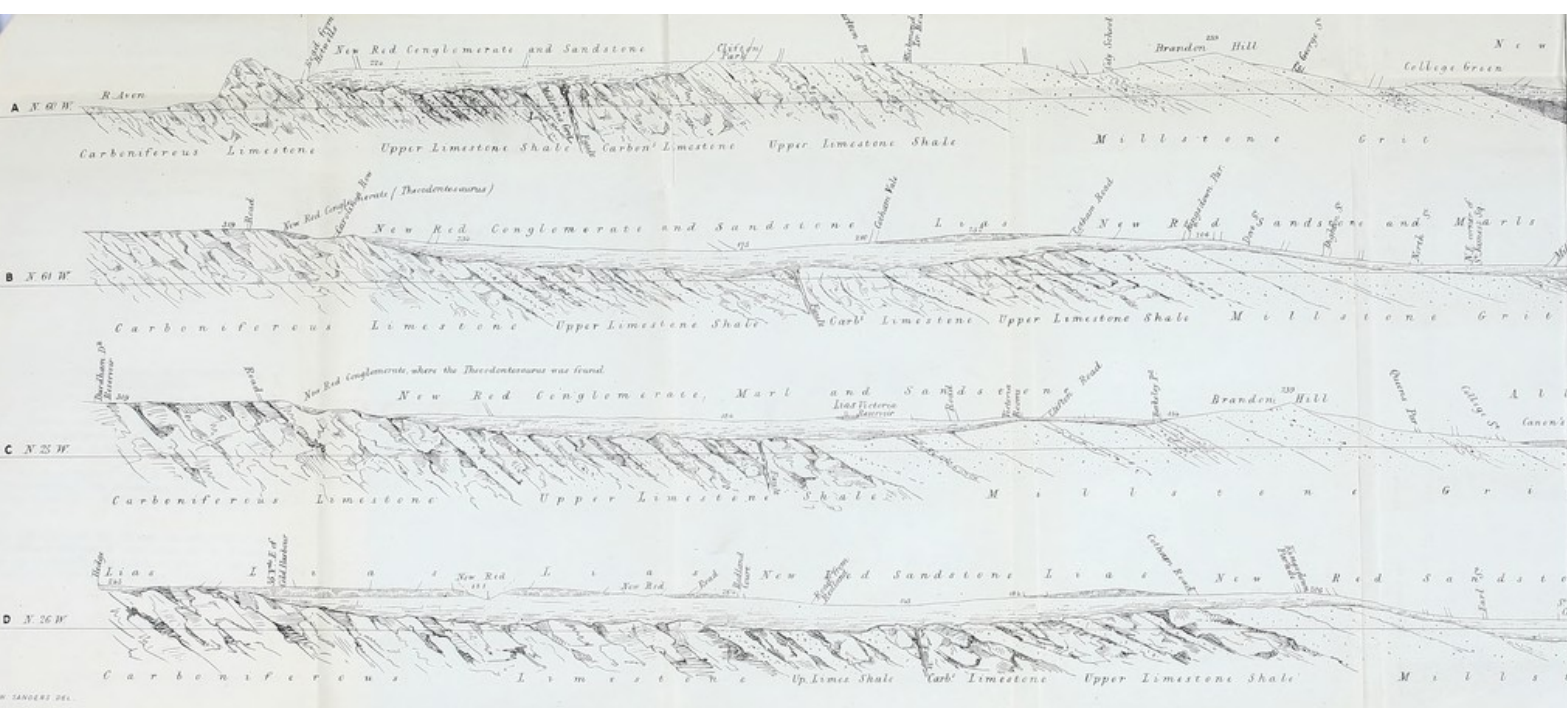
Auditor.
WINDEATT, Clerk to the Guardians.

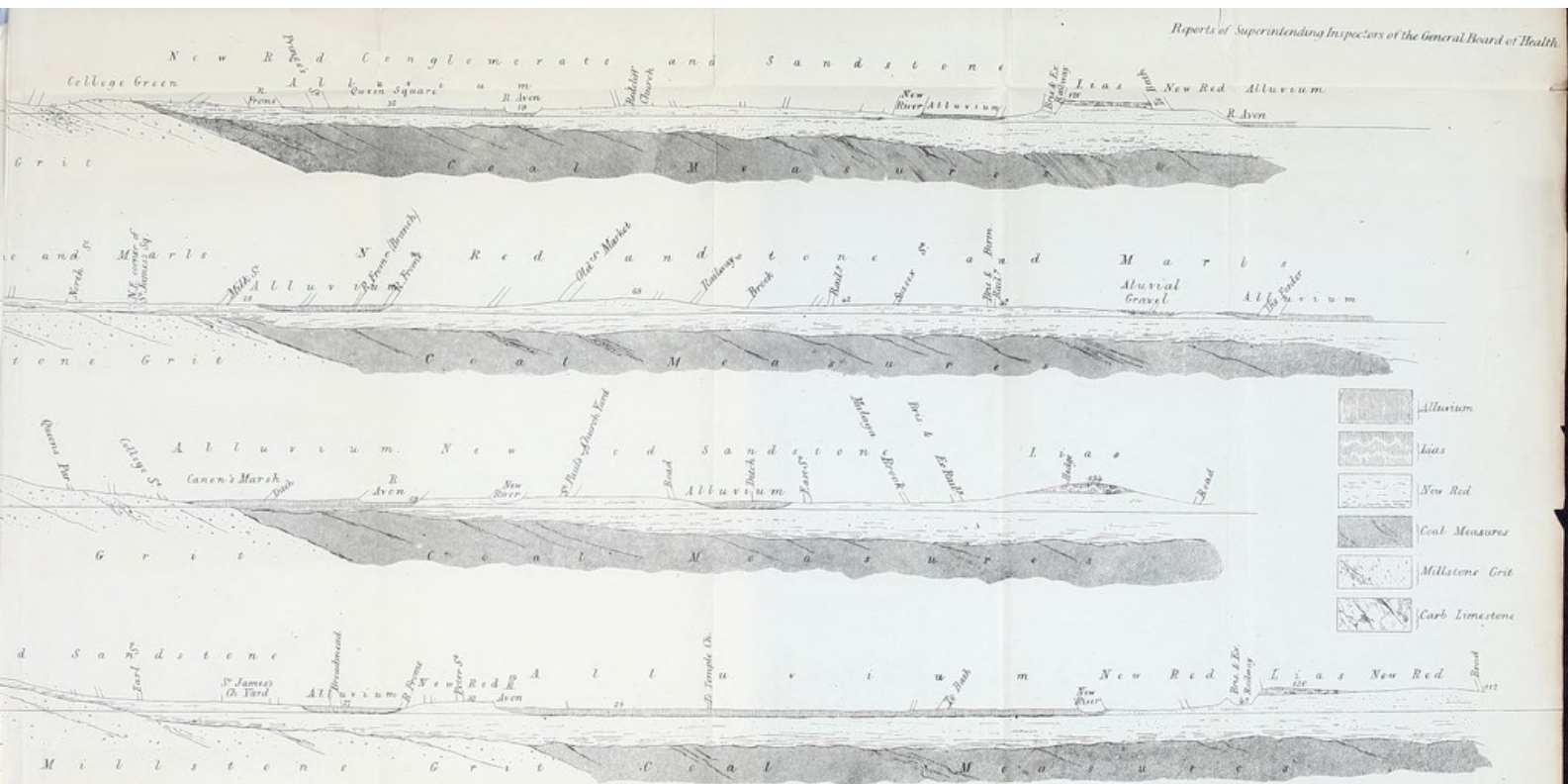
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BRIXHAM. The following is a statement of the number and amount of poor rates levied for five years:—

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July, „ - -	1	0	522	14	2½
October, „ - -	0	9	392	10	10½
January, 1853 - -	0	9	392	13	1
April, „ - -	1	0	523	14	7
July, „ - -	0	9	398	6	0
September, „ - -	1	0	525	14	0½
December, „ - -	1	0	526	15	0

* The cholera raged from the 21st of September till the 11th December, 1850.





Scale, 1 Inch to 150 Yards, same for height as for length. The level line represents the mean level of the Sea. The figures denote feet above mean Sea level.

Church Rate.—For ecclesiastical purposes the parish of BRIXHAM.
Brixham is divided into two districts, nearly equal in point of value.

For the upper district, in which the parish church is situated, the rates for five years have been,—

		£	s.	d.
For the year ending Easter, 1851, at 1½ <i>d.</i> in the		-	-	-
pound	- - - - -	27	3	4
Ditto	ditto, 1854, at 2 <i>d.</i> ditto	-	-	-
		36	3	1
		<u>£63 8 5</u>		

For the lower district the rates have been,—

		£	s.	d.
For the year ending Easter, 1850, at 3 <i>d.</i> in the		-	-	-
pound	- - - - -	64	10	6½
Ditto	ditto 1851, at 4½ <i>d.</i> ditto	-	-	-
		97	10	3½
Ditto	ditto 1852, at 4 <i>d.</i> ditto	-	-	-
		89	1	1½
Ditto	ditto 1853, at 3 <i>d.</i> ditto	-	-	-
		68	5	4½
Ditto	ditto 1854, at 3 <i>d.</i> ditto	-	-	-
		69	2	3½
		<u>£388 9 7½</u>		

There is certain property belonging to the old church which comes in aid of the rates, and makes them much lighter than those for the lower district.

Highways and Rates.—The total length of highways in the parish is about seventeen miles, with from four or five miles of foot-path or causeway in and about the town. The principal streets of the town, extending over nearly three miles in length, are turnpike roads.

COST OF MAINTAINING HIGHWAYS. £ s. d.

For the year ending 25th March, 1850	-	198	14	7
Ditto ditto 1851	-	159	5	4
Ditto ditto 1852	-	158	13	9½
Ditto ditto 1853	-	126	11	5½
Ditto ditto 1854	-	148	11	5

The rates levied for the repairs of highways for the last five years, are as follows:—

		£	s.	d.
January, 1850, at 3 <i>d.</i> in the pound	- - -	127	14	6
April, 1850, 4 <i>d.</i> „	- - -	170	7	3½
April, 1851 4 <i>d.</i> „	- - -	172	5	11
April, 1852 3 <i>d.</i> „	- - -	130	13	10½
July, 1853 3 <i>d.</i> „	- - -	131	10	9

The town of Brixham was severely visited by cholera in 1831-2, and again in 1849. I obtained no statement of the number of deaths which took place from this cause previous to 1849, but the following table shews the number of deaths from cholera, registered in that year, and the localities in which they occurred.

The total number of deaths was 77; which, taking the census of 1851, gives the proportion of death from this cause to the number of inhabitants as 1 in 76, or about 12 per 1000.

1849.—FATAL CHOLERA CASES, showing the Ages, D

BRIXHAM.

When Died.	Name.	Rank, Profession, or Occupation.	Age in Years.	Duration of Disease.
1849.				
Sept. 21	William Shepherd	Fisherman	40	24 hours
" 23	Samuel Collings	Tailor	34	8 "
" 25	William Gay	Fisherman	38	10 "
" 27	George Cobley	Mariner's son	7	48 "
" "	John Youlden	Do. do.	3	10 "
" 28	John Wynne	Fisherman	56	14 "
" 29	William Martin	Mariner's son	8	8 "
" "	Sarah Adams	Mariner's widow	53	8 "
" "	Ann Norrish	Fisherman's wife	36	9 "
" "	Mary Pierce	Shipwright's wife	56	12 "
" "	Mary Jones	Widow	82	—
" "	Sarah Johnson	Fisherman's daughter	4	6 "
" "	Maria Richards	Mariner's widow	53	12 "
" 30	Mary Hill	Labourer's wife	64	48 "
" "	Henry Hill	Labourer	53	45 "
Oct. 1	W. H. Barter Lilly	Mariner's son	4	48 "
Sept. 20	Robert Borlace	Apprenticed Fisherman	14	7 days
" "	Sarah Ann Knowles	Fisherman's wife	21	6 hours
" "	George Lamzed	Painter's son	2	48 "
" "	Sarah Shepherd	Stone Mason's wife	49	8 "
" "	William Sidmouth	Fisherman	22	8 "
Oct. 1	Thomas Snell	Fisherman's son	11	14 "
" "	William Warren	Labourer	64	—
" "	Ann Parker Varwell	Master Mariner's wife	27	8 "
" "	Elizabeth Gempton	Ropemaker's wife	63	—
" "	John R. Smallbridge Carlisle	Fisherman	21	—
" "	George John Ware Ferris	Mariner's son	4	—
" "	Elizabeth Netherton	Labourer's wife	22	24 "
" "	John Bolder	Fisherman	60	—
" 4	George Preston	Shipwright's son	6	1 week
" 3	Samuel Johnson	Fisherman's son	4	6 hours
" 4	Thomas Lee	Fisherman	45	11 "
" "	Joseph Gravels	Mariner	29	3 days
" "	Elizabeth Snell	Ropemaker's daughter	3	5 "
" 5	Sarah Holman	Fisherman's wife	60	10 hours
" 6	Nancy Matthews	Mariner's daughter	3	1 week
" "	Eliza Moore	Shoemaker's wife	32	—
" "	Benjamin Trist	Watchmaker	43	10 hours
" "	Jane Drew	Fisherman's wife	29	10 "
" "	Elizabeth Hill	Brewer's wife	27	20 "
" 7	Ellen Adams	Fisherman's wife	24	6 days
" 8	James Scobble	Labourer's son	14	4 "
" "	Edmund Gardner	Mariner's son	3	2 "
" "	Nancy Preston	Shipwright's wife	49	16 hours
" "	Mary Voisy	Ropemaker's wife	57	12 "
" 9	Elizabeth Lavis	Wheelwright's daughter	3	2 days
" "	Sarah Parkhouse	Shipwright's wife	73	24 hours
" "	Samuel Hammick Vittery	Mariner's son	8	10 "
" 8	Sarah Crispin	Mariner's widow	58	24 "
" 9	Mary Priddle	Do. do.	66	4 days
" 10	Elizabeth Bowden	Fisherman's wife	44	6 hours
" "	Mary Bartlett	Mariner's wife	32	9 days
" "	Elizabeth Hammick	Blacksmith's wife	62	10 hours
" "	John Kendrick	Master Mariner's son	10	3 days
" "	George Palmer Hill	Brewer's son	2	1 day
" 14	John Matthews	Fisherman	66	24 hours
" 15	Mary Palmer	Coachman's widow	72	—
" 16	William Macey	Labourer	52	1 day
" "	John May	Sawyer's son	6	9 hours
" 18	Stephen Perring	Labourer	36	—
" 23	Mary Norton	Blacksmith's daughter	2	6 hours
" "	Louisa S. Mogg	Shoemaker's wife	30	12 "
" 24	Susanna Pidgeon	Labourer's wife	29	3 weeks
" 26	Mary Williams	Shipowner's wife	63	12 hours
" 27	James Martin Stockman	Fisherman's son	11	28 "
" 28	Susan Bartlett	Fisherman's daughter	3	12 "
" 29	Sarah Dart	Single woman	23	4 days
" 30	Grace James	Farmer's widow	79	24 hours
" "	Elizabeth Partridge	Labourer's wife	41	12 "
" "	Nancy Tully	Shipwright's widow	75	3 days
" "	Keziah Blacker	Mariner's wife	30	5 hours
Nov. 8	Mary Elliott	Labourer's daughter	7	3 days
" 11	Ann Williams	Labourer's wife	56	10 hours
" 13	Henry Lisson	Labourer's son	3	6 days
" 15	Emma Phillips Pater	Master Mariner's wife	41	16 hours
" 17	Eliza Mary Martin	Sawyer's daughter	9 mos.	3 days
" 9	John Paige	Farmer	32	—
" 11	Mary Dart	Labourer's widow	67	1 week

BRIXHAM.

SANITARY CONDITION OF THE INHABITANTS.—The following is a portion of the evidence taken on the general sanitary condition of the inhabitants.

Mr. Brooking, surgeon, states,—

“During the time of epidemic disease, he finds it most prevalent in the lower parts of the town where there is any accumulation of stagnant water, and also where sewerage is very bad. He has had cases of choleraic diarrhœa. Fever is not very prevalent. Lately, the town has been tolerably healthy, although there has been some choleraic diarrhœa. Witness and Mr. Bowden act as medical officers to the district. Mr. Bowden is acting at the present time. Is decidedly of opinion that preventible disease could be considerably lessened in Brixham, by improving the town. That is, by a better system of sewerage and a more efficient water supply. The attacks of epidemic disease are amongst the public generally, and are not confined to the poorer classes. Alludes more particularly to the lower part of the town where the sewerage is very bad. Believes there is no sewerage at all in Upper Brixham. Thinks that the government reservoir in its present state is conducive to fever, and that it is likely to have assisted or accelerated those cases which have occurred in its vicinity. Finds disease most prevalent where there are cesspits and offensive smells. In speaking of the lower part of the town alludes more particularly to Bolton-street, the neighbourhood of the government reservoir, Higher-street, the alleys generally, and the neighbourhood of the quay, where there is stagnant mud. At the back of Bolton-street there is an open ditch, which now runs into the government reservoir. The inhabitants of some of the houses in Bolton-street have converted this watercourse into a common sewer, and made it very offensive.

Mr. Samuel Bowden, surgeon, states,—

“He has practised in Brixham twenty-five years. Is joint Union surgeon with Mr. Brooking. Considers that a vast amount of preventible disease might be avoided by a proper system of sewerage and water supply. Epidemic disease most often visits the lower part of the town and near the quay and the alleys above, going up the cliff. Has frequently had fever cases in these places. If cholera or typhus or other virulent epidemic should manifest itself in Brixham, believes it would be on those places, and re-visit the spots attacked by cholera in 1831-2 and 1849. Has frequently had cases of cholera brought in from sea; the parties attacked being sailors from Brixham. He can attribute these cases to no other cause than the badness of the water drawn from the government reservoir. This water is occasionally much complained of. In Milton-street, Upper Brixham has had many cases of fever, but this was some time ago. He attributed these attacks at the time to a large accumulation of dung and filth in the neighbourhood of the houses. As many as eight in one family were attacked. Considers that the great want in Brixham of proper water closets or privies is not only

highly demoralizing, but is also calculated to materially prejudice the public health. Frequently, in visiting the houses of patients in the morning, finds the smell and atmosphere of the rooms, from the storing of offensive refuse, most unpleasant. Although Upper Brixham is not so crowded as the lower part of the town, the same want of sewerage and convenient water supply is felt, and the same causes are to a great extent in operation to produce disease. At the present moment, Brixham is healthy." BRIXHAM.

INSPECTION OF THE TOWN AND DISTRICT.—In making my personal inspection I was accompanied throughout the day by the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Thomas Lakeman, Henry Chilcote, M. Hill, Underhay, jun., Hockin, C. Bowden, and W. Calley, and for a considerable part of the day by Messrs. Wolston, H. Bartlett, H. Browne, C. Brooking, medical officer, Dart, Kindrick, Rev. M. Saunders, R. N. Smith, &c.

The following notes of the localities inspected are extracted from my note book as they were made at the time:—

The Government Reservoir.—This is a pond situated near Bolton Cross. It is an undoubted nuisance. It is situate in the centre of the town, and is stagnant and offensive. The stream that is supposed to feed it, viz., the "north stream," was perfectly dry in Lower Brixham when I saw it, and the only water entering the reservoir at that time was from the "south" stream, which, as has already been stated in the evidence, is the main sewer for a large portion of Upper Brixham and Bolton-street. Great complaints are made of unpleasant fogs being prevalent about the neighbourhood of this reservoir, and on my first visiting it about dusk in the evening, there was a damp searching kind of mist rising from its surface.

Bolton-street.—There were five deaths from cholera in this street in 1849. It is one of the most recently erected streets in Brixham. At the backs of the houses on the west side of the street runs, at the bottom of the gardens, the "south stream." When the houses were built, there was a clause introduced in the lease forbidding the tenants to construct drains into this stream. There is a wall built at the bottom of the gardens, but as there are doors for all, or nearly all the houses, in this wall, the access to the stream is convenient. The consequence is, that although the inhabitants do not *drain* into it, they make use of it for all the purposes of a sewer. The result is very offensive, and there is no wonder that complaints are made of

BRIXHAM. the water from the government reservoir if it is always fed from this source, as it was when I saw it.

New-road.—At the upper part of the New-road are situated Mr. Lakeman's waterworks. They consist of a collection of springs into a culvert or tank. The tank is constructed of brickwork set in cement, and is of the following dimensions:—370 feet long by 10 feet wide, and 10 feet high, with an arched top. Mr. Lakeman states he has had as much as 172,800 gallons in it. At the period of my visit, a very dry time, it contained about 90,000 gallons. Mr. Lakeman is the owner of some houses in the New-road and has fitted them with a constant service of water from his own works. He is most anxious to fit up water closets in these houses, but there is no main sewer. There are some very respectable houses in this road without any privy convenience. They vary in size from six to nine rooms each, and with efficient drainage and water supply this would become a very decent street. There was no fatal cholera here in 1849.

Fore-street.—One of the principal streets in the town. The amount of filth observable among the ruins of part of a house recently burnt down bears ample evidence of the want of privy accommodation in the neighbourhood.

Wills's House.—A very offensive stagnant drain in cellar; the stench very bad; cellar used as a washhouse. The women washing complain much of the bad smells.

Harbour and Quays.—The tide rises at Brixham from eighteen to twenty feet. The "lake" empties itself into the harbour. Some of the houses on the quay are very dilapidated, those opposite the fish pier more especially so. There are catch-pits on the quays, into which portions of the fish offal are thrown, and into which the whole should be thrown, but that the fish cleaners find it easier to throw their refuse on the beach as already mentioned. The catch-pits are emptied at about eight o'clock in the morning; the fish being dressed about four o'clock in the afternoon, the deposit necessarily remains in them all night. On Saturdays they are emptied twice, in order that nothing may be left in them through the whole of Sunday. On the outside pier is a public privy capable of holding eight persons. It is quite open, without doors. There is also a public urinal. They both require improving.

King-street.—There were three deaths from cholera here in 1849. There are no sewers, and the houses are generally without privies.

Over-gang.—Five deaths from cholera here in 1849. This place is most filthy. None of the houses have privies. There is a hole in the wall on the cliff side, through which is thrown, (or rather ought to be thrown, for it is seldom done,) down the cliff to the strand below, the refuse of all kinds from the houses. Night soil, stinking fish, and other putrefying matters, lie about on the road side, poisoning the whole atmosphere. The surface of the street is very irregular, and filled with slops, although there is a miserable kind of drain.

Furzeham Common.—One death from cholera here in 1849. On this common are dug large square holes; these holes, which are not lined or covered in any way, are the public cesspools of the neighbourhood. Anything more foul or disgusting cannot be; they are full of the most filthy refuse and liquid manure.

Manor-terrace.—Some decent-looking houses; rent 13*l.* per annum, including rates. These houses have privies. They are merely pans that require frequent emptying. The contents must be either thrown about the backs or fronts of the houses or else carried to the general receptacle on Furzeham Common.

Cumbers.—One fatal case of cholera here in 1849. Houses to which similar accommodation is very defective.

Chapel Hill.—Five fatal cases of cholera here in 1849. Very filthy. Total absence of conveniences.

Furzeham-street.—There is a yard here in which all kinds of manure and filth are collected; the contents remain sometimes for months without being carted away. The place is very offensive.

Higher-street.—Eight fatal cases of cholera here in 1849. The houses are built close on the cliff; at the back are steps leading up to Furzeham Hill. The privies, where there are any, are very offensive.

Philip Apter complains of a privy belonging to a house above, and which is situated over his soft water tank. He and his wife say the water has been spoiled in consequence. There are surface drains cut down the sides of the steps leading to the cliff above, but they are of little service in heavy rains. Every description of impurity is then washed down the steps and face of the cliffs into the yards, or even into the doors of the houses below. In part of the street,

BRIXHAM. which for some distance is only ten feet wide, with house on either side, there is a V gutter with gratings for surface water. Part of the street is only an alley or footpath. The top flag of the V gutter forms part of the paving. The joints are very open. Most of the gratings are stopped up with a variety of solid matter. The smells are horrible. There are two houses having ash-pits, which receive the refuse of the neighbourhood, and every six, nine, or twelve months, all this is taken through the dwelling-houses and laid in the street. It remains there until it suits the convenience of purchasers to remove it, very much to the injury of the inhabitants.

The tiers of houses below the Over-gang have no privies whatever.

On this side of the hill there is a total absence of water except the rain water collected in the tanks.

Middle-street.—There is what is called a sewer here which empties itself into the harbour. There were several fatal cases of cholera in this street in 1849. There are some respectable houses and shops without privies. Some part of the street is very narrow, with miserable, dirty looking houses.

Mill-tie.—Two deaths from cholera here in 1849. Pans outside the houses into which the house refuse is emptied. The surface drains here much complained of. The alleys are only about seven feet wide.

Paradise Alley and Rams Alley.—There were five fatal cholera cases in 1849 in these two alleys; they are very narrow, dirty, and low. They are divided by a stone wall which is a considerable obstruction to the ventilation. The parish authorities were anxious to remove it, but it being private property, the owners declined to be interfered with.

The outfall of the lake near this part is dammed up by a sluice, in order that the contents above may be concentrated to flush and cleanse the outfall. The contents of the ditch are very offensive.

Pump-street.—Another miserable, dirty place, as usual, without anything approaching to house convenience.

In a yard turning off from this alley, the "lake" runs immediately below the doors and windows of the houses. The foundations of the houses, indeed, form the side walls of the ditch. It is filled with everything that is disagreeable to the sight and smell. At the upper end of this yard

deposited every night the filthy accumulations of the day. The people living here told me, that early in the morning they find it actually covered with ordure. There were doors to the entrance of the yard, but they have long since been pulled down and taken away. The smells are so bad the inhabitants are forced to keep their doors and windows shut. Meat is very soon tainted in their houses.

The pump opposite the London Inn.—Very great complaints from the people drawing water here, of its being tainted by the drains. It seems full of flocculent matter, and has a disagreeable odour.

Prospect-place, on the South Cliff.—Respectable houses, without necessary accommodation. A large cess pit partly covered, filled with the soil and refuse from the houses.

There is a slaughter-house near here, a very unsightly and dirty place: the refuse is only moved once a fortnight. The excuse is, the want of sewerage. If there was a sewer, they say, the slaughter-house would be drained into it.

Great Gate Mill Pond.—Three fatal cases of cholera here in 1849. Five cottages. The floors of some of these cottages are paved with rough cobbles or boulders; some are flagged. There are no privies. Rent, 4*l.*, 4*l.* 4*s.*, and 4*l.* 10*s.* per annum. Each house consists of a kitchen, bed-room, and small attic over it. About five in a family. The house refuse is thrown out in the most convenient place, which is usually the nearest. A beer house in *Great Gate*, containing four rooms and a garret. Rent, 9*l.* Not the slightest approach to out-door convenience. The ground floor is paved. A dirty house, and smelling badly. The same features characterize nearly every cottage in this part of the district.

Greenswood.—There are some dirty and wretched looking cottages as usual without conveniences. Pigs are kept in an adjoining yard in front. Slops, &c., thrown on the surface. The ecclesiastical boundary crosses at a point near this part of the town at a place called Caster Lane. In this lane there were two fatal cases of cholera in 1849. There are two houses near here belonging to one *Joshua Hollins*. They have gardens and are let for 4*l.* per annum. No privies. The refuse is stored and dug into the gardens. Each house has three rooms.

There is another slaughter-house in Upper Brixham, this is moderately clean and decent.

BRIXHAM. *Lodging-houses.*—There are two public lodging-houses. They are under Lord Shaftesbury's Act. The first tolerably clean, but the yard very filthy. There are two bedrooms. One to hold twelve persons, the other hold five. The second lodging-house is higher up the village. There is one room in the roof with five beds, to hold six persons. In a lower room there are four beds to hold four persons. There is an open privy in a stable behind across a narrow yard. It is roughly partitioned off on the side next the house, but there is no door to it. It has not even a pan or box, and it is exposed to view whenever the back door is opened. There is another privy in an orchard at some distance. It is quite clear that the convenientest nearest the house is most used.

At a house belonging to *Mr. Luttrell*, under the same roof, and approached by the house passage, is a large stable very dirty and offensive. Small-pox was very virulent at this house on one occasion. A gentleman living near (Mr. Underhay, sen.,) complains very much of nuisances arising from this cottage.

There are some cottages lying a little off the high road which have one privy amongst them, most inconveniently placed. The cesspool is very offensive.

Bell Inn.—My attention was particularly called to the yard as being in a bad condition. I found it no worse, than if anything rather better, than some of the other yards in the town, but still susceptible of much improvement.

St. Mary's-well, or Town Shoot.—The water here was stated to be much lower than usual. There is a pit in which a quantity of house refuse is thrown, (there being generally speaking a total want of privies in this neighbourhood again,) and it is washed away along a drain into a place called "the horsepool," and ultimately into the "some stream."

Mrs. *Trevy*, who lives opposite the well, complains very much of the smell from the pit. She also laments the want of decent accommodation. There were several complaints to me of the well water being occasionally tainted.

In *Horsepool Street*, through which the drain just described runs, there was one fatal case of cholera in 1854. From this part of the town to the end, the houses are quite destitute of privy accommodation. There is a fair supply of water in point of quantity, but the wells are very inconveniently placed. There is every inducement for the poor

inhabitants to use as little water for all purposes as BRIXHAM.
possible.

LOCAL ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, &c.—There is one private Act of Parliament; it is entitled, “An Act for improving, enlarging, and maintaining the Pier, Harbour, and Market of Brixham, in the County of Devon, and for the Formation of a Breakwater in Torbay.” It received the royal assent on the 30th June, 1837.

Mr. *Wolston*, clerk to the Commissioners, states,—

“The Act gives powers to the Commissioners to remove or enlarge the market, and to build the same on any other site, with the consent of owners; for regulating the tolls to be paid by sellers therein, and for the investigation of weights and measures in the parish. The surplus funds, both of harbour and market, are spent in improving the market, &c.”

The present market-house is exceedingly inconvenient, and from its peculiar situation is so affected by the unpleasant smells from the harbour, that when the wind blows towards it the shutters are obliged to be closed, and the market-house is thus rendered useless.

I am informed by Mr. *Lakeman*,—

“That during the progress of the Act through the Committee of the House of Lords, the late Lord Shaftesbury required that the two estates of the harbour and market should be separated; but upon a strong representation as to the market being benefited by the harbour to a certain extent, &c., his lordship gave way, but directed two clauses to be inserted, by the latter of which, the commissioners are prohibited *at any time* from appropriating any of the harbour money to the improvement of the market, but allowing (under certain circumstances) the market money to be spent for the purposes of the harbour—that is, when the income of the harbour was insufficient to pay the interest of the money borrowed on the security of the tolls thereof. As this contingency has never arisen, I presume the commissioners have never been in a position to appropriate market money to harbour purposes.

“Although the Act was obtained in 1837, there has never been one stone laid on another for the improvement of the market, the majority of the commissioners having always been ship-owners; they have constantly resisted all attempts at improvement of the market, and not only so, but have refused to pay off any part of the market debt with the money in hand, and have used the money about the improvement of the harbour, and charged the market estate with the interest.”

BRISTOL. STATEMENT of the Market Accounts since the passing of the Act

Year.	Rental.	Balance in Hand.	Extra Expenses Paid.	Interest on Balance in Hand.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s.
1838	180 0 0	431 11 10	Old debt paid off	
1839	180 0 0	440 8 4	52 8 9	21 11
			Column and fish market	
1840	180 1 0	472 19 7	30 15 0	22 0
1841	176 10 0	529 7 4½	- - -	23 13
1842	160 0 0	552 18 10½	- - -	26 10
			Old debt paid off	
1843	172 0 0	547 2 4½	60 13 6	27 13
1844	- - -	- - -	- - -	27 7
1845	142 0 0	653 19 7¼	- - -	29 0
1846	142 0 0	679 4 3	- - -	32 14
1847	144 0 0	720 1 1¼	- - -	34 0
1848	152 0 0	758 13 7½	- - -	36 0
1849	132 0 0	776 12 3	- - -	37 19
1850	- - -	- - -	- - -	- -
1851	141 0 0	816 3 2½	- - -	39 16
1852	151 0 0	858 15 9½	- - -	40 16
1853	146 0 0	902 4 5½	- - -	42 19
		About		
1854	135 0 0	940 0 0	- - -	45 2

In concerting any measures of improvement under the Public Health Act, it would be very desirable that the commissioners should use the market money for its legitimate purposes, and arrange for the erection of a suitable building for the carrying on of the market business of the town.

There is a gas company, which was formed in 1838. The cost of the works was about 1,500*l.*, raised by shares of *l.* each from amongst the inhabitants, upon which there was a subsequent call of 3*l.* per share more, the company having been involved in a lawsuit about a right of way; in consequence of which, besides the additional call, they were obliged to borrow 800*l.* on the works, 700*l.* of which is still unpaid. The price of gas is 10*s.* per 1,000; last year it was reduced to 8*s.*, but the company found they could not afford it at the lower price; it is now raised again to 10*s.* The shops are generally lighted with gas. There are no public lights except those on the pier and quays, which are paid for by the Harbour Commissioners, out of the funds of the Harbour Estate. There was an attempt at lighting the town by subscription, but after one winter the subscription

were not forthcoming, and the company discontinued the lights. There have been two attempts since that time to light the town, under Lord Portman's "Act for watching and lighting," but both have failed, and the streets of the town are now left in total darkness. BRIXHAM.

The shareholders received no dividend from 1838 to 1846, but since the last named period they have received 5*l.* per cent. per annum.

Mr. *Saunders* states that many accidents arise from the want of lights in the streets.

The cost of lighting the harbour and quays for five years past is shown in the balance sheets of the Commissioners.*

ANALYSES OF WATERS.

The waters subject to analytical tests, were drawn from the following places:—

1. From the public pump, opposite the London Inn.
2. The government reservoir. This sample was dipped out of the reservoir on the 28th October last. There had been rain on the 25th, and a sharp frost on the morning of the 27th. The reservoir was not nearly so foul as it usually is after rain, and not so clear as after a few days of dry, cold, weather. Mr. Lakeman says, it may be taken as a fair average sample. A second sample of this water was afterwards sent for analysis. On this occasion the "north" stream was the only water running into it; the "south" stream being dammed out.
3. Government reservoir water, drawn from the tap at the quay.
4. South stream head, Lupton Farm.
5. North stream head, Sir John Yarde Buller's park.
6. Mr. Lakeman's tank or reservoir. This specimen was drawn from a conduit in Bank Buildings. It was drawn from this conduit in consequence of its being used as a public supply since the outbreak of cholera at Dartmouth this year.
7. Private pump at Mrs. Harris's, near the London Inn.
8. Town Shoot or St. Mary's Well.

These samples of water have been analyzed by Dr. Glover, and the results of that gentleman's investigations are given in the following report:—

"To ALFRED L. DICKENS, Esq., C.E.

December, 1854.

"SIR,—According to your wish with regard to the Brixham waters, I have especially paid attention to that from the Government reservoir, and from the south, and north, stream heads, and from Lakeman's tank.

* See Appendix D.

BRIXHAM. “The first specimen I got from the government reservoir (No. 1) was manifestly unfit for use. It was alkaline, contained red particles, had a slightly disagreeable smell, and a disagreeable taste. It contained numerous animalcules visible to the eye, and showed under the microscope, numerous vegetable and animal formations. It was a soft water, exhibiting only 4·5 degrees of hardness. I found it to contain 33·8 of solids to the gallon, of which 7·8 were organic matters. It contained sulphuric and muriatic acids, alkaline carbonate, and muriates and sulphates. The earthy bases were—lime, magnesia, and alumina.

“This water might therefore be condemned for its physical qualities, without a more minute quantitative examination.

“The new specimen of the government reservoir was altogether different. It was tolerably clear, not alkaline, and so hard as to require thirty measures of the soap test or 15 degrees of hardness. With this degree of hardness, the hardness must be attributed to the absence of an alkaline carbonate; as the solids do not exceed 28·2 grs. in the gallon, of which 6 grains were organic matter.

“This water contained otherwise the same salts as the other water. I understand since the first specimen was examined a change has been made, which has diverted some source of impurity from the water. This, however, has rendered it less so, as it was free at the second examination from animalcules, although still containing some vegetable growths.

“North stream head (No. 5). This water was found to be quite clear and tasteless, containing a very few floating particles: it was alkaline, which alkalinity did not disappear when the water was heated. It contained no animalcules or organic growths. Hardness, 3·4 degrees.

“This water contains carbonate of soda, to which it owes its softness, and earthy and alkaline muriates and sulphates; the principal salts are chlorides. It appears to possess every qualification but one. When heated, its alkaline carbonates and earthy salts undergo decomposition; and the result is, the precipitation of a large quantity of insoluble earthy salts—carbonates, which will be found to fur kettles and boilers. How far this may be obviated by Dr. Clarke’s process is a matter requiring a further trial. This water contains no alumina. In the gallon there are 38 grains of solid matter, of which five were organic matter.

“South stream head (No. 4.)—This water contains animalcules and organic formations. It is similar in composition to the north head spring; but contains a much larger portion of salts and organic matter. It is however soft. It contains 45 grains of solids to the gallon, of which 12 grains were organic matter. On account of the amount of organic matter and the animalcules I do not recommend this water.

“Lakeman’s tank (No. 6.) This is an excellent water, containing only about 16 grains to the gallon of solids, and only about 4 of organic matter; clear and well tasted, perfectly free from impurity, and possessing only 3 degrees of hardness. It is derived from alumina.

“St. Mary’s well (No. 8.) To this water, if in any quantity, I should give a decided preference. It contains rather more salts than Lakeman’s Tank; but very little organic matter; and is very soft, not alkaline. BRIXHAM.

“Private pump at Mrs. Harris’, near London Tavern (No. 7.)—The same may be said of this water as of St. Mary’s well, except that it contains 34 grains of salts to the gallon, of which not less than 12 are organic. It has, however, only 6 degrees of hardness.

“The same applies generally to the other waters except the “tap from the government reservoirs at the quay.” The water here is not so abundant in salts.

“In short, the only waters to which I decidedly object are, 1st, the government reservoir, and 2nd, the south stream head.*

“I am, Sir,

“Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) ROBERT MORTIMER GLOVER,

“2, Tavistock Place, Tavistock Square.” M. D., F. R. S. E.”

REMARKS.—It will be seen from the result of these tests that the government reservoir water, (first sample) is utterly unfit, at times, for human consumption. The justness of the complaints of those who have been compelled to use this water are fully borne out by the analysis. It will be observed that the impurities contained in the specimen alluded to have had the effect of softening the water very materially, for, on the second specimen being examined, it was found to be much purer, although harder by 10·5 degrees.

The water at the north stream head appears to be very good, although “when heated its alkaline carbonate and earthy salts undergo decomposition, and the result is, the precipitation of a large quantity of insoluble earthy salts—carbonates, which will be found to fur kettles and boilers.” This fault is more easily got rid of than the impurities which manifest themselves in some of the other specimens examined.

The water at the south stream head would appear to be quite unfit for the purposes of a public supply.

The water in Mr. Lakeman’s tank is of a very excellent quality, and admirably adapted for the supply of a portion of the town of Brixham. The water at St. Mary’s well appears to be unexceptionable, although I am afraid it is not sufficient in quantity for the supply of the whole town of Brixham, besides which, pumping would have to be resorted to for an efficient distribution.

* Dr. Glover has since informed me, that he believes these waters may be safely used with lead pipes. They will at first act on the lead, but will form an insoluble crust which will protect the lead from further action.

BRIXHAM. BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the parish of Brixham are shown on the general map of the district which accompanies this report. The ecclesiastical boundary is also marked on the same map.

Having carefully examined the ground, I am induced to recommend the boundary delineated by a distinctive mark on the map above referred to, as being best adapted for the limits of the application of the Public Health Act to Brixham. It will be seen that the ecclesiastical boundary cuts off a considerable portion of the town of Upper Brixham. I therefore propose extending that boundary along the Bowling-green Lane, across the turnpike-road from Brixham to the river Dart, along the lane leading towards Lupton House and thence by the eastern edge of Sir John Yarde Bullock park, in a straight line to join the parish of Churston. The remaining limits, within which the application of the Public Health Act is proposed to be confined, will be identical with the ecclesiastical boundary.

CONCLUSIONS.

CONCLUSIONS.—Upon consideration of the whole case and the present sanitary state of Brixham, I beg respectfully to lay before you the following Conclusions.

That in the town of Brixham the present rate of mortality is excessive.

That there are no local Acts of Parliament in force for the purposes contemplated by the Public Health Act.

That the general government of the town is now carried on most imperfectly.

That there is neither efficient sewerage, drainage, or water supply.

That a considerable number of nuisances are in existence dangerous to the public health.

That there are not ordinary appliances for decency and health.

That the interior of a large number of houses are rendered unwholesome for want of such appliances.

That the alleys, courts, yards and many of the streets are ill paved, badly ventilated and dirty; and that at night they are in total darkness.

That preventible disease is sufficiently excessive to produce a large amount of suffering and cost, not only to the families of the afflicted, but to the whole body of ratepayers.

REMEDIAL WORKS REQUIRED.—I am of opinion that the sanitary state of Brixham can only be improved by the construction of the following works, viz. :—

BRIXHAM.

1st. A complete and systematic sewerage of the whole town. There are no particular natural features in Brixham to lead me to suppose that the cost of sewerage would be excessive. Indeed, the natural facilities for drainage are so far favourable, that I have no hesitation in saying, the cost of the execution of efficient public works for this indispensable purpose would be within the average cost of those towns already effectually drained under the Public Health Act.

2nd. A proper supply of water, which to be efficient should be on the constant system. The best source of supply for the whole town appears to me to be the head of the north stream. The water may be collected and stored in a covered reservoir in Sir John Yarde Buller's property, and from thence taken by iron pipes directly to the town. It would be supplied, according to the levels with which Mr. Lakeman favoured me, to the highest houses by gravitation. For an auxiliary supply Mr. Lakeman's tank could be made available, as the quality of that water is excellent, and as his works command sufficient pressure to supply a considerable portion of the lower town by gravitation. It has already been stated that Mr. Lakeman had, on the occasion of my visit, about 90,000 gallons in his reservoir. The daily supply to Brixham for all purposes, including the shipping &c., would probably require about 80,000 gallons, or at any rate it would not be safe to calculate upon a smaller quantity. The formation of the necessary works call for no particular engineering remarks, as their construction would be of an ordinary character, and the general features of the ground at the source of proposed supply are favourable.

The establishment of baths and wash-houses would be of immense benefit to the more densely populated part of the town. The convenience for washing within the houses are often so scanty, even where there is water, that a public establishment for such purposes would be a great boon to the poorer inhabitants. Washing dirty clothes in a confined room, in which, very often, there are beds, is a practice calculated to injure the health of the inhabitants of the houses from the amount of damp engendered, to say nothing of the domestic discomfort of the practice. Public baths would also be of vast service.

BRIXHAM. 3rd. An improved surface paving for all the courts, yards and alleys. Competent management and professional skill could construct good roads and pavements of the material now in use at Brixham at a less cost than the bad roads and pavements now made by uninstructed individuals.

4th. The establishment of proper soil-pans and water closets for the convenience and comfort of the inhabitants.

5th. The removal, filling up, and extinction of every cesspool in the town.

6th. A properly arranged system for the removal of nuisances on the surface, and in or about the houses; the frequent removal of all fish refuse and other offensive matters from the harbour and quays; a stringent regulation of the common lodging-houses; and the drainage, and regular removal of filth from the slaughter-houses.

7th. The proper lighting of the streets at night.

8th. The abolition of the government reservoir which in its present uncovered state is a great nuisance to the town and by reason of the impurities it receives from the polluted streams which supply it, its contents are rendered unfit for the supply of the inhabitants.

RECOMMENDATIONS.—I RECOMMEND: That your Honourable Board will grant the prayer of the petitioners, and will allow the Public Health Act 1848, (except Section 50 in the copies of that Act as printed by Her Majesty's printers,) to be applied to the parish of Brixham in the county of Devon, within the limits already described, and which are set forth on the general map accompanying this report.

That the Local Board of Health to be elected under the said Public Health Act, consist of fifteen persons.

That every person shall, at the time of his election a member of the said Local Board, and so long as he shall continue in office by virtue of such election, be resident, in the said Public Health Act is required, and be seised and possessed of real or personal estate, or both, to the value or amount of not less than 400*l.*; or shall be so resident and rated to the relief of the poor of the parish upon an annual value of not less than 15*l.*

That the first election take place within one month after a provisional order shall have been obtained for the application of the Act to that part of the parish already described and set forth in the general map accompanying this Report.

and that the annual election to replace the retiring mem- BRIXHAM.
bers take place on the first Monday after the 30th of June
in each year.

I have the honour to be,
My Lords and Gentlemen,
Your most obedient servant,
ALFRED L. DICKENS,
Superintending Inspector.

The General Board of Health.

&c. &c. &c.

BRIXHAM.

APPENDICES.

APPENDIX A.

THE petition from the inhabitants of Brixham, praying for a preliminary inquiry into the sanitary condition of the inhabitants, was transmitted to the General Board of Health on the 2d of March 1854. It was returned in order that the usual certificate might be given as to the signatures attached to it being those of persons rated to the relief of the poor within the parish. On the 15th of March the petition was again sent up to the General Board, duly certified by Mr. Robert Adams, the Assistant Overseer.

The total number of persons rated to the relief of the poor in Brixham is 1,270. The number of rated inhabitants who signed the petition was 135.

This number being considered rather small (although more than one-tenth of the whole number of ratepayers) it was suggested by the General Board that another petition, more numerous, should be got up. On which, the following Letter from the Rev. J. R. Hogg, Chairman of the Sanitary Committee of Brixham, was forwarded to the General Board:—

(Copy)

SIR,

Brixham, August 22, 1854.

I have been favoured with a communication from the office of the General Board of Health of the 17th inst., suggesting that a fresh petition should be sent from this place, praying for the application of the Public Health Act on account of the number of signatures, to the one already presented, being so few in proportion to the number of ratepayers.

In my communications to the General Board I have acted as the chairman of a committee appointed as herein-after described; and I have laid before that committee your letter of the 17th instant, and am instructed to inform your Honourable Board of the particular circumstances relating to the parish of Brixham; and of the origin and history of the petition already transmitted.

Brixham is a large parish, about twenty miles in circumference, and without any local authority; it comprises two districts, one known as the Quay, containing, about 4,500 inhabitants; and the other, known as Upper Brixham, with about 1,500. The signatures to the petition are principally from the Quay district, where the evils of imperfect sewerage and an inadequate supply of water are most severely felt.

There appears to be 1,270 ratepayers in the whole parish; but a great many of those are very poor persons, and occupiers of parts of houses, and others who from their occupation as sailors and fishermen are seldom at home; whilst the 135 who have signed the petition are, it is believed, for the most part owners as well as occupiers, and represent one half of the house property of the town.

It is admitted that a strong feeling existed amongst a few of the inhabitants against the adoption of the Act, from the fear of its being ruinously expensive in its operation; but those persons admit the evils complained of, and propose no remedy, and would be even more violently opposed to the obtaining of a local Act than they are to the adoption of the Public Health Act; and without some other powers than we have, and some control from the General Board of Health, or some other independent and disinterested body, it is impossible amidst the conflicting interests of the parish to construct a sewer, or a conduit, however necessary, and we are in fact in a much worse condition than a town with less than 2,000 inhabitants, who can avail themselves of the powers conferred by the 50th section of the Public Health Act.

The origin of the petition presented is as follows:—in the year 1849, Brixham was one of the towns in the Totnes Union, which suffered severely from cholera; and in the autumn of 1853, when the cholera had broken out at Newcastle, the medical officer of that Union for the Brixham district was required by the Board of Guardians to report as to the sanitary condition of the town, especially with reference to the supply of water, the state of drainage, and any particular nuisances affecting the health of the town.

The medical officer, in his report, after specifying some nuisances, described the drainage of the town as *very* imperfect, and the supply of water as *very* inadequate, and of *very* doubtful quality; and complained of the Government reservoir,* from whence the principal supply of water was drawn, as a cesspool in the centre of the town, injurious to the health of the inhabitants. Whereupon the Board of Guardians appointed a special committee to inspect the reservoir, and in consequence of the report of that committee, the Board of Admiralty decided on destroying the reservoir.

On the intention of the Government being made known to the inhabitants, a public meeting was convened for the purpose of taking some steps for supplying the town with water; at which meeting a committee was appointed to examine the provisions of the Public Health Act, and to report to another public meeting.

At this second public meeting, after hearing the report of the committee, a resolution was passed, without opposition, for the adoption of the Act, and another committee was appointed to draw up the petition, get it signed, and forwarded; and that committee, having obtained all the information in their power, published it in the accompanying printed report, and, having obtained more signatures than the number required by the Act, have forwarded it.

It will be perceived, therefore, that the petition has not been privately got up; that it arose out of the emergency of the circumstances; that it emanated from a public meeting which proceeded with great caution, refusing to adopt the Act, until its

* The impurity of the water in this reservoir was complained of to the authorities by the inhabitants in 1849.—A.L.D.

BRIXHAM. provisions had been examined by a committee specially appointed and the second committee, although they were fully authorized to obtain the signatures, and forward the petition, immediately refrained from doing so, until they had obtained all the information in their power, and published it in a report.

I am further directed by the committee to state, that if unhappily this town should be again visited with cholera, which is now apprehended, it would find us in as bad or a worse position than we were in 1849; the sewers have not been at all improved, and the supply of water is even worse,—water being at the present time taken in carts about the streets, and sold to the inhabitants.

Under these circumstances, the committee express great disappointment that the superintending inspector has not already proceeded with the inquiry, as they were led to expect would be the case by your letter of the 2d June; and they are convinced that, on the inquiry, all the facts stated herein will be fully brought out; and they therefore now hope your Honourable Board will proceed with the inquiry as therein promised without further delay.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. R. Hogg

To T. Taylor, Esq., &c. &c.

In compliance with the request contained in the above letter the ordinary notices were given of the visit of the superintending inspector to the town of Brixham, and the 18th day of September was fixed for the inquiry.

APPENDIX B.

REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER of the TOTNES UNION.*

Brixham, Sept. 24, 1853.

GENTLEMEN,

In reply to yours of the 20th, calling my attention to the sanitary state of this district, I have since its receipt examined the different parts of this town, in especial reference to the various causes of disease, viz.: nuisances, purity and sufficiency of supply of water, and drainage. I return the three forms forwarded with as many of the nuisances reported.

1. The Queen's Reservoir, generating a mass of damp vapour often mephitic, from the water being stagnant; the stream supplying it not being kept running in May or June.

2. Adjoining this, and made worse by the preceding, a liquid manure tank, always objectionable, and particularly offensive during the periods of emptying.

The cholera and diarrhoea, in 1849, were worse immediately contiguous to these two nuisances than in any other part of town.

3. A collection of black mud between the eastern and western quays offensive at all times of low water, and especially noxious

* Referred to in Mr. Hogg's Letter to the General Board of Health, dated August 22, 1854.

summer. There are also various other smaller nuisances which the Sanitary Committee are actively engaged in removing. BRIXHAM.

Water. The upper part of the town is well supplied from Waywell town shoot, &c. Lower Brixham is very badly supplied from,—1st. town pump, often broken into by neighbouring drains, and thereby rendered impure. 2dly. By two taps from the Government reservoir, which reservoir is often stagnant and offensive; this, with private tanks, constitutes the supply of more than 6000 persons.

Drainage. In this the town is lamentably deficient; there is scarce one efficient public sewer. Many of those constructed by the parish authorities are nuisances. Leaking gutters, without syphon or stink traps. There are no tile or brick drains. The stream, running through the centre of the town, would, if arched over, make a convenient outlet for all the sewers; many of which now end in cess pits, and require frequent emptyings.

I remain, &c.,

J. H. BROOKING,
Medical Officer for Brixham and
Churston.

To the Board of Guardians, Totnes Union.

APPENDIX C.

REPORT of the Committee appointed at a Public Meeting of the Inhabitants of Brixham, called to consider the propriety of adopting The Public Health Act.*

The Committee were appointed to take steps for obtaining the necessary number of signatures to a petition to the General Board of Health, praying for the application of the Public Health Act to Brixham.

They have received information that the rate of mortality in Brixham exceeds 23 in 1,000; but they consider it desirable that the Act should be applied through petition rather than through compulsion.

They have also been engaged in collecting information as to the working of the Public Health Act in towns that have adopted it, and have obtained from Plymouth a copy of a Report of a similar Committee, embodying a correspondence from Mr. Thomas's, Exeter, Rugby, Barnard Castle, Tottenham, Launceston, Dover, Leamington, Derby, Wolverhampton, Southampton, Wigan, Gateshead, York, Woolwich, Salisbury, and Penrith—16 towns—all of which speak favourably of the Act and its operations, and very highly indeed of the General Board of Health, and of the advantages of their supervision.

They have also obtained an official return, made out by order of the House of Commons to March 1853, and printed by order of that house, from which it appears,—

That 227 towns have petitioned for the Act, and to 28 towns

* Referred to in Mr. Hogg's Letter to the General Board of Health, dated August 22nd, 1854.

BRIXHAM. the Act has been applied on account of the mortality exceeding 23 in 1,000: total, 255 towns. To 81 of these, the Act has been applied by Provisional Order, and to 67 by Order in Council. To the remaining 107, the application of the Act is, for the present, suspended, or not yet applied, the inquiry not having been completed.

The average expense of obtaining the Act, by Provisional Order for 81 towns, is 136*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*, and by Order in Council for 67 towns is 88*l.* 2*s.* These sums include all expense of preliminary inquiry, and of printing and publishing reports and statements.

The Committee do not anticipate that the expense of applying the Act to Brixham will amount to as much as the average of the 81 towns, viz., 136*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.* They do not think it will exceed, but rather fall short of, the cost at Torquay, viz., 105*l.* 8*s.* 11*d.*

When this amount is compared with the expense of obtaining a Private Improvement Act, it appears a mere trifle; for the return above mentioned states that the average expense of obtaining eight Acts of Parliament for private improvement in 25 towns, including parliamentary fees (440*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.* in each case) was 1,627*l.* 12*s.* 5*d.*, and that the average expense of an *unopposed* Act of Parliament may be estimated at 600*l.*

The money expended under the Public Health Act in the various towns varies very much, as must be expected, since the expenditure depends upon the size of the town, the works required, and the facilities for doing them, as well as on the disposition of the Local Boards to be extravagant or otherwise.

The Committee see no reason to apprehend that the expense of the necessary working of the Act in Brixham will be great as in many other places; very great facilities being afforded by the locality for effecting every requisite improvement, both for drainage and the supply of water.

By the return alluded to, it appears that (whatever opposition had been previously offered), when the Act has been applied to a town, the private improvements are, in most cases, done voluntarily, as only 1 in 587 has been effected by compulsion.

FROM PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS relating to PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

	Average Total Cost per House.	Annual Charge per House.	Weekly Charge per House.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Average expense of private improvement works, of house drainage and water supply, --i.e., the house service-pipe, filling up cesspool, the substitution of a water-closet apparatus, fitting sink, &c.	3 15 7	0 4 10½	0 0

FROM PARLIAMENTARY RETURNS, &c.—*continued.*

BRIXHAM.

	Average Cost per House per Annum.	Average Cost per House per Week.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Average expense of the works for the constant supply of water,— <i>i.e.</i> , of main apparatus, as distinguished from the expense of any private improvement works.	0 5 1 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{4}$
Average expense of drainage of towns,— <i>i.e.</i> , the public or main drainage, as distinguished from house drainage works, executed as above by private improvement rates.	0 6 6	0 0 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
Total average cost of combined public works of water supply and drainage.	0 11 0 $\frac{1}{2}$	0 0 2 $\frac{1}{2}$
Average total cost of private as well as combined public works of drainage and water supply under the Public Health Act.	0 15 10 $\frac{3}{4}$	0 0 3 $\frac{5}{8}$

Average rate of expense in the pound for—

Works of water supply (public) solely - - - 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Works of drainage (public) solely - - - 3d.

Total rate per pound for combined works of water supply and drainage (public) - - - 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.

The above averages are made up from such returns as have been received from Local Boards; but from several, where works are in progress, or near completion, returns have not been made up or sent in, or they have been sent without any accompanying returns of the rateable value of the property.

The documents on which this report is grounded are open for inspection to any ratepayer desirous of examining them, on application to Mr. William Calley.

The Committee have not hitherto had the petition carried from house to house; but having now obtained the information contained in this report, they intend doing so forthwith.

Signed, by direction of the Committee,

J. R. HOGG, Chairman.

This report was printed and largely circulated amongst the ratepayers.

APPENDIX D.

The following are the balance sheets of the Commissioners for improving the Harbour and Market of Brixham, pursuant to Act of Parliament, from the 29th September 1848 to 29th September 1853.

GENERAL STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS or Balance Sheets of Receipts and Disbursements of the Commissioners for improving the Harbour and Market of Brixham, pursuant to Act of Parliament, 1st Victoria, cap. 75.

From 29th September 1848 to 29th September 1849.

HARBOUR ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
1848-9.	£	s. d.	1848-9.	£	
One year's tolls	770	0 0	Balance due treasurer on former account	262	
Cash for scapings of quays	4	11 4	Paid expenses, repairs of quays, &c.	230	
Tolls, shute	2	7 0	Ditto lighting harbour	28	
Cash of creditors, deducting income tax	6	10 2	Ditto pier proportion of treasurer's salary	8	
Balance received from clerk	3	3 4½	Ditto ½ year's interest on £4,270 new debt, to the 25th March 1849	106	
Ditto received from chairman of harbour committee	14	8 4	Ditto ½ year's interest on £160, old debt	3	
	801	0 2½	Ditto year's salary to harbour master	30	
Balance due to treasurer on harbour account	336	17 9	Ditto pier proportion of clerk's salary	16	
			Ditto pier proportion of sundry expenses	28	
			Ditto half-year's interest on £4,270, new debt, up to 29th September 1849	106	
			Ditto ditto on £160, old debt, ditto	3	
			Ditto income tax	9	
			Cash in hand of harbour committee	4	
			Paid wages and tradesmen's bills (Victoria Pier)	246	
			Cash in hand of harbour committee, of sums granted for Victoria Pier	53	
	£1,137	17 11½		£1,137	

MARKET ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
1848-9.	£	s. d.	1848-9.	£	
Cash in hand of treasurer	758	13 7½	Paid expenses of repairs, lighting, &c.	262	
Cash from chairman of market committee	1	4 9½	Ditto, half-year's interest on £1,262, new debt, to 25th March 1849	311	
One year's tolls	132	0 0	Market proportion of sundry expenses	77	
Ditto of weighing tolls	1	8 6	Market proportion of clerk's salary	44	
Ditto of creditors, deducted income tax	1	14 4	Year's salary to clerk of the market	88	
			Half-year's interest on £1,262, new debt, to 29th September 1849	311	
			Income Tax	1	
			Market proportion of treasurer's salary	1	
			Cash in hand of market committee	1	
				1188	
			Balance in treasurer's hand in favour of market account	77	
	£895	1 3		£895	

GROSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR.

RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
1848-9.	£	s. d.	1849-9.	£	
Total receipts of the pier	801	0 2½	Total disbursements of the pier	1,138	
Total receipts of the market	895	1 3	Total disbursements of the market	11	
			Balance in hand of treasurer on general estate	430	
			Balance in hand of clerk	1	
	£1,696	1 5½		£1,680	

R. W. WOLSTON, C.

Brixham, November 21, 1849.

The above Statement of Accounts was this day compared with the Vouchers, and allowed and approved by us,

EDWARD VITTEY, Treasurer.
 PETER VARWELL,
 W. MURCH,
 WILLIAM DART,
 HENRY J. DUGDALL,
 STEPHEN LAKEMAN, } Commission

Accounts of Brixham Harbour Commissioners—cont.

From 29th September 1849 to 29th September 1850.

HARBOUR ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.	1849-50.	£ s. d.
1850.		Balance due to treasurer on former account	336 17 9
Year's tolls	703 0 0	Paid expenses, repairs of quays, &c.	258 2 7½
for scrapings of		Ditto lighting harbour	28 0 0
quays	3 6 4	Ditto pier proportion of treasurer's salary	8 8 4½
whute	1 14 0	Ditto half-year's interest on £4,270, new debt, to the	
of creditors, de-		25th March 1850	106 15 0
ducting income tax	6 7 9	Ditto half-year's interest on £160, old debt	3 12 0
received from		Ditto year's salary to harbour master	30 0 0
Chairman of harbour		Ditto pier proportion of clerk's salary	16 16 9
Committee	4 13 6½	Ditto pier proportion of sundry expenses	24 16 9
Victoria Pier	53 12 6	Allowed Mr. Fogwell in defence of tolls	4 0 0
	772 14 1½	Ditto half-year's interest on £4,270, new debt, up to	
Balance due to treasurer		29th September 1850	106 15 0
on harbour account	285 11 5½	Ditto on £160, old debt	3 12 0
		Ditto income tax	9 0 4
		Cash in hand of harbour committee	11 8 3
		Paid wages, and tradesmen's bills (Victoria Pier)	110 0 9
	£1,058 5 7		£1,058 5 7

MARKET ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.	1849-50.	£ s. d.
1850.		Paid expenses of repairs, lighting, plans of market, &c.	48 14 5
Balance in hand of trea-		Engineering expenses	5 5 0
surer	776 12 3	Half-year's interest on £1,262, new debt, to 25th March	
from chairman of		1850	31 11 0
market committee	6 3 10½	Law expenses	3 8 8
Year's tolls	132 0 0	Market proportion of sundry expenses	4 13 3
of creditors, de-		Market proportion of clerk's salary	3 3 3
ducting income tax	1 18 9	Year's salary to clerk of the market	8 0 0
		Half-year's interest on £1,262, new debt, to 29th Sep-	
		tember 1850	31 11 0
		Income tax	1 13 10
		Market proportion of treasurer's salary	1 11 7½
		Cash in hand of market committee	2 9 5½
			142 1 6
		Balance in treasurer's hand in favour of market	
		account	774 11 4½
	£916 12 10½		£916 12 10½

GROSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR.

RECEIPTS.		DISBURSEMENTS.	
	£ s. d.	1849-50.	£ s. d.
1850.		Total disbursements of the pier	1,058 5 7
Receipts of the pier	772 14 1½	Total disbursements of the market	142 1 6
Receipts of the		Balance in hand of treasurer on general estate	489 6 11
market	916 12 10½		£1,689 14 0
	£1,689 7 0		
Balance due to clerk	0 7 0		
	£1,689 14 0		

R. W. WOLSTON, Clerk.

Brixham, November 26, 1850.

The above Statement of Accounts was this day compared with the Vouchers, approved, and allowed by us,

EDWARD VITTEBY, Treasurer.
 C. BOWDEN,
 NICH. BROWSE,
 PETER VARWELL,
 BARTLETT BROWSE,
 WILLIAM CALLEY, } Commissioners.

Accounts of Brixham Harbour Commissioners—cont.

From 29th September 1850 to 29th September 1851.

HARBOUR ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
1850-1.	£	s. d.	1850-1.		
One year's tolls	742	0 0	Balance due to treasurer on former account		
Cash for scrapings of quays	4	11 1	Paid expenses, repairs of quays, &c.		
Tolls, shute	1	18 0	Ditto lighting harbour		
Cash of creditors, deducting income tax, 1½ years	9	13 8½	Ditto pier proportion of treasurer's salary, half-year		
Ditto received from chairman of harbour committee	11	8 3	Ditto half-year's interest on £4,270, new debt, to the 25th March 1851		
			Ditto half-year's interest on £160, old debt		
	769	11 0½	Ditto year's salary to harbour master		
Balance due to treasurer on harbour account	45	19 8½	Ditto pier proportion of clerk's salary		
			Ditto pier proportion of sundry expenses		
			Ditto half-year's interest on £4,270, new debt, up to 29th September 1851		
			Ditto on £160, old debt		
			Ditto income tax		
			Cash in hand of harbour committee		
			Paid wages, tradesmen's bills, making, cutting, &c., Victoria Pier		
			By cash, lords of the manor, for materials		
			Cash in hand of Victoria Pier Committee		
	£845	10 9			

MARKET ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
1850-1.	£	s. d.	1850-1.		
Cash in hand of treasurer	774	11 4½	Paid expenses of repairs, lighting, plans of market, &c.		
Cash from chairman of market committee	2	9 5½	Half-year's interest on £1,262, new debt, to 25th March 1851		
One year's tolls	141	0 0	Market proportion of sundry expenses		
Ditto of creditors, deducting income tax, half-year	2	15 6½	Market proportion of clerk's salary		
			Year's salary to clerk of the market		
			Half-year's interest on £1,262, new debt, to 29th September 1851		
			Income tax		
			Market proportion of treasurer's salary, half-year		
			Cash in hand of market committee		
			Balance in treasurer's hand in favour of market account		
	£920	16 4½			

GROSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR.

RECEIPTS.			DISBURSEMENTS.		
1850-1.	£	s. d.	1850-1.		
Total receipts of the pier	769	11 0½	Total disbursements of the pier		
Total receipts of the market	920	16 4½	Total disbursements of the market		
	£1,690	7 5	Balance in hand of treasurer on general estate		

R. W. WOLSTON

Brixham, November 18, 1851.

The above Statement of Accounts was this day compared with the Vouchers, approved by us,

THOMAS LAKEMAN,	} Treas
WILLIAM CALLEY,	
NICH. BROWSE,	
WILLIAM DART,	
JAMES CLARKE,	
F. MAXWELL LYTH,	} Comm

APPENDIX E.

COPY of a MEMORIAL presented to the Commissioners of the Harbour and Market Estate of Brixham.

The Memorial of the Medical Men, Ship Owners, and others, Inhabitants of the Parish of Brixham, to the Commissioners of the Harbour and Market Estate of Brixham, in the County of Devon.

GENTLEMEN,

We, your memorialists, being deeply impressed with the importance of carrying out the Breakwater, but finding with your past energies that you have succeeded in giving great shelter to the present harbour, and caused the same to be much more still, the consequence of which is a greater accumulation of filth ; and feeling convinced of the necessity of cleanliness at all times, as necessary to the enjoyment of health, but more especially at this moment, when we find our country again visited by that dreadful epidemic—the cholera ; we beg to call your attention to the very great nuisance inside the old Eastern Quay, and to the great improvement which might be made (in addition to destroying the nuisance most completely), by taking down and removing the old Eastern Quay, and straightening the quay from the Western Pier to the Ballast Wharf. Although your memorialists know it will, in some measure, retard the progress of the Breakwater, at the same time we feel convinced this great nuisance, so injurious to the health of the inhabitants, calls for your immediate attention.

(Signed) Charles Brooking (and 66 others).

of a Memorial presented to the Commissioners of the
Harbour and Market Estate of Bristol.
Memorial of the Medical Men, Ship Owners and others, In-
habitants of the Parish of Bristol, to the Commissioners of
the Harbour and Market Estate of Bristol, in the County of
Bristol.

We your memorialists being deeply impressed with the
importance of carrying out the sewerage, but finding with your
Memorial that you have succeeded in giving great shelter to
the present harbour and cannot see the same to be much more with
consequence of which is a greater accumulation of filth; and
being convinced of the necessity of cleanliness at all times as
necessary to the enjoyment of health, but more especially at this
season when we had our country again visited by that dreadful
epidemic—the cholera; we beg to call your attention to the very
great nuisance inside the old Eastern Quay, and to the great
inconvenience which might be made (in addition to destroying the
Quay most completely) by taking down and removing the old
Eastern Quay, and erecting a new quay from the Western Pier

LONDON :

Printed by GEORGE E. EYRE and WILLIAM SPOTTISWOODE,
Printers to the Queen's most Excellent Majesty.
For Her Majesty's Stationery Office.

(Signed) Charles Brooking (and 66 others).