

FOUNDING HEAD MASTER, Dr. THOMAS NOLAN MILLER  
(CBHS 1881-1883)

The founding Headmaster of CBHS was Irish-born and English-educated. In 1880 Miller was selected for the Board of Canterbury College, from a field of 22 applicants, by an English advisory board comprising: Professor Jowett (Balliol College, Oxford), Professor Seeley (Cambridge, where Miller had been a Classical Lecturer and Fellow) (1870-1871), Professor Blackie (Edinburgh University), Mr A. Sidgwick (Oxford), Dr Wilson (HM of Clifton College) and Sir Walter Kenneway. Thomas Miller had enjoyed a distinguished career in education, having served as Headmaster of Clifton College from 1871 to 1880.

Canterbury // ( British advisors and led to a serious drop in the CCBHS roll for some years. The Millers sailed back to the UK in 1884 and settled in Germany where Thomas researched a Ph.D in philology from Gottingen University (the UK did not recognize and grant doctoral degrees until 1919). Later Dr Miller was appointed to an Imperial Professorship at the Universite de Strasbourg (France), the first Briton to do so. Ill-health led Miller to return to London where he died on 24 June 1900. The School commissioned this memorial brass tablet and placed it in the Old School to honour a great man and inspiring educator, lost through a mixture of spiteful parochial folly and *hubris*. The Thomas Miller Literature Prize (bequeathed by his widow with one-hundred pounds capital) also hon , 0 (0 , / , ,1 , ( academic *Paterfamilias*.

As Ferg. Murray (MA), Old Boy (1916-20) and CBHS master, opined: **ōVj qo cu' Miller was a great gentleman whom the School was singularly fortunate in having as its first headmaster. His unique qualifications for the difficult pioneering work he was called on to perform have already been noted; and although his reign lasted only three years he æk 'vj g'Uej qmū'hwpf c'vqpu'ht o r' 'cpf 'y gn0J k'wphcklpi "** understanding, his sense of justice, his high ideals and gift of inspiration, stamped j k 'cu'gzeqr vqpcrc'cu'c' hcf gt 'cu'j g'y cu'dt kncpv'cu'c' t'ej qm t 0'<sup>2</sup> Thus the charcoal drawing and memorial plaque are hung in a place of centrality and signal honour in the refurbished Deal // ( ( 0 1 , ( 0 1 1 ( ( 1 ) CBHS.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Fergus John Boag ( /,( ( *CBHS Magazine: Jubilee Number (1881-1931)*, p.13.

<sup>3</sup> CEB Brown claimed in 1920 erroneously that Miller became a Professor of English at Gottingen but did note that his name ( , 1 / / 1 ( // ( // ( , 1 ( / ( ( 0 ( *CBHS Magazine* No.63 [December 1920], p.13). One would have thought that the HM in charge (Brown) would have checked this before it was engraved and/or hung up! Psychologists would call this lapse ) 1 / , , 1 : of hidden (and redundant) , / 1 /