



The Clergy Daughters' School at Cowan Bridge. Elizabeth and Maria Brontë became fatally ill as a result of their treatment as pupils in this place. Charlotte endured such misery there that she later described every detail with great clarity when she depicted the notorious Lowood school of Jane Eyre.

he régime he created at Cowan Bridge a
the family unity at Haworth. Where
ly and, in his own way, fond of small
unfessing admiration of their 'amusing
on, in common with many churchmen
ne day, took a more pessimistic view.
learning, his joy in Wordsworth and
eau had endowed him with a sympa-
view of children, while Carus Wilson's
typical of Patrick's contemporaries,
ous regard for correction and the need
ias in children's natures.

outside world, the exposure to other
se of the Parsonage was to prove a
Brontës: the impact of the confronta-
culating, rather liberal life and the
the routine of the charity school was
l and intellectual repercussions.

ed the Brontë girls began to fall ill:
oor conditions at the school or their
ons which were the cause, or more
on of both, one by one they faded.
aria b

distanced from his children, so that the four y
children now began to weave the bonds of affecti
companionship they needed to sustain each other
loneliness and sorrow. Each member of the
responded in his or her own way to the loss of Ma
Elizabeth. Patrick had lost his firstborn and
companion, Charlotte, now the eldest child, shou
responsibility for her younger brother and sister
Branwell, it is said, never fully overcame the loss
whose serenity in death haunted him throughout
and inspired some of his most effective verses.
experience of the ill-run and altogether im
boarding school left Charlotte and Emily shaken
father more than ever convinced that they would
off at home. For the next few years, the pars
their only school. Patrick and Aunt Branwell