



*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  
confessing admiration of their 'amusing  
on, in common with many churchmen  
the day, took a more pessimistic view.  
learning, his joy in Wordsworth and  
neau 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  
as in children's natures.

the outside world, the exposure to other  
use 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

distanced from his children, so that the four  
children now began to weave the bonds of affective  
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 throughou  
and inspired some of his most effective verses.  
experience of the ill-run and altogether in  
boarding school left Charlotte and Emily shaken  
father more than ever convinced that they would  
off at home. For the next few years, the parson  
their only school. Patrick and Aunt Branwell