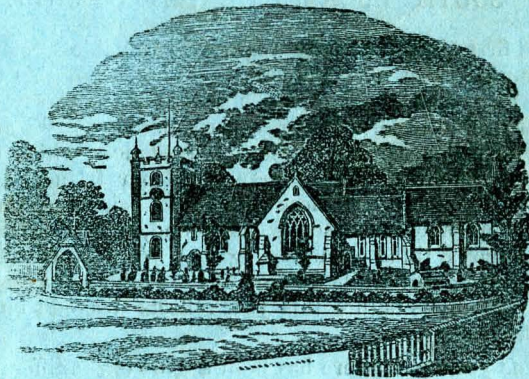


THE
HAMBLEDEN
Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALF-PENCE.

August, 1868.

Extracts from the Parish Registers.

BAPTISMS.

- June 21st.—(Born May 10th.)—Ellen Billson, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Langford, of Pheasants' Hill.
- July 5th.—(Born May 24th.)—Thomas, son of George and Harriet Holloway, of Hambleton.
- Same day.—(Born June 1st.)—Walter, son of William and Susan Hobbs, of Rockwell End.
- July 19th.—(Born June 20th.)—Frank, son of William and Mary Ann Walter, of Skirmett.
- Same day.—(Born June 10th.)—Rosa Emily, daughter of James and Emily King, of Hampstead Heath.
- July 23rd.—Alice Mary, daughter of Frederick Samuel and Anna Maria Avery, of St. Giles, London.
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SOUTH BUCKS FRIENDLY SOCIETY.

For the first time for many years this valuable Society has not had its Annual Feast at Hambleton. The loss of this feast is felt not only by the members of the club, but we may say by all the parish, for it used to form the great parish holiday. We are anxious, therefore to call attention to the circumstances which caused the omission of the Feast, and to request all our friends, as well the Members of the Society, as those who do not belong to it, to consider with us, before another season comes round, what can best be done to prevent such a thing occurring again. We hope we shall be forgiven for saying that while the loss of the holiday is a great general loss, the cause of its failure this year reflects discredit on the Members of the Society.

For some years past there has been a growing indifference among the Members of the Club to attendance at the Feast. The numbers have gradually diminished. At the same time the price of provisions has been on the increase. The consequence has been that the funds obtained for the Feast instead of leaving a balance in hand did not meet the expenses of the day. In 1867 less than half the Members of the Club met at the dinner, *forty-seven* out of a hundred. The gentry, viz. Mr. Scott Murray, Mr. Marjoribanks, the Rector, and Mr. Cripps, contributed their usual donations, exceeding in amount the sum paid by the Members. Notwithstanding this there was a deficiency of £1. 9s. 8½d. when all was received. This amount had to be borrowed to pay the butcher's bill, consequently the Club had that debt upon it when the year 1868 arrived. The Sub-committee of the District, together with the Stewards of the Feast, deliberated

with great anxiety as to what should be done. They found that by enforcing a yet more strict economy than had been hitherto practised, they might with the help of the fall in the price of meat, manage to keep the expenses of the Feast within the limits of the Annual Receipts, if a sufficient number of members took tickets. But this of course would be impossible, if dinner were provided for 100, and not more than 50 helped to pay for it. Moreover how were they to pay the debt? They determined, *first*, that the price of Tickets must be raised 6d. each: and *secondly*, that all Tickets should be taken by a certain day. This would shew them exactly how many persons would attend. But when the last day was passed for the sale of Dinner Tickets, it appeared that not *forty* members, male and female, were prepared to sit down to the Feast. This argued in the first place a great want of interest in the Members of the Club. When other inferior Societies all around make heavier demands on their Members for their Annual Feast, which are cheerfully paid, because by their Rules every Member must pay for his dinner even if he does not attend, this looked like shirking on the part of our Members, because they were aware that in our Society no such Rule could be made. In the second place the amount thus provided would be insufficient for the expenses. But a third consideration presented itself. How were the Gentry to be asked for their generous assistance when the number of persons to be assisted was so small? If the Club members did not care for their Feast, with what face could application be made to the gentry to encourage them? And if the gentry gave in proportion to the numbers attending, and generously considered that £5 10s. was a proper sum to contribute to 100 members, how small would be the sum which would be forthcoming for less than 40! It was felt that one course only remained, namely, to have no Feast at all this year. The disappointment has been, as we have already observed, very great and very general. Those members who had taken their tickets, their many friends, and the multitude who reckon on the Annual Holiday, were all thoroughly disappointed. There is also a feeling, at which no one can be surprised, that it is hardly creditable to the Club that they should not be able, even with such generous assistance as is always accorded to them, to get up a Feast, while other Societies unassisted can maintain theirs year by year. We earnestly hope that all persons will kindly consider whether some part of the blame does not attach to themselves; *first* and chiefly, the members of the Club, because they do not put forward to attend the Feast; then again all their friends and those who were glad of the holiday, for not stirring up the members to take a proper interest in the Club Feast. Will the employers of labour forgive us for suggesting that they might do great good to their labourers by taking a personal interest in the Club's holiday, attending at the Feast and taking part in the sports? There is plenty of time during the intervening months to consider what ought to be done, and what can be done; and we hope this time will not be all lost; but that all persons will lend their aid to bring about a satisfactory solution of the difficulty.

FRIETH CHAPEL CHOIR.

The Frieth Choir went for their Summer Excursion on Monday, July 6th. They engaged Mr. Feesey and his Van, which conveyed them to the celebrated Burnham Beeches. They started early and reached their destination at 11 a.m. They took their dinner with them in the shape of a capital Ham, which was devoured under the shade, then specially acceptable, of the old trees. They amused themselves in the afternoon in wandering about, in admiration of and astonishment at the size, etc. of the wonderful Beeches; in the trunk of one 15 of their number stood at one time. They rode donkey races, and patronised the ponies which they found there. At 4.30 p.m. they had a regular gipsy tea, the provision for which, kettle included, they had taken with them. They gathered their own wood, make their own fireplace and hanger, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. They reached Frieth on their return about 10 p.m., having spent a most delightful day. They beg us in their behalf to express to all their kind friends their gratitude for assisting them with the means of enjoying so pleasant a treat.

WATER SUPPLY.

The absence of rain for so lengthened a period, which has been the source of so much suffering for want of water in almost all parts of the country, has been greatly felt on our hills. The ponds and tanks, and springs have all, more or less, suffered; some being completely exhausted. The land and the cattle have thirsted, often in vain. But the greatest sufferers of course are the people: the poor especially, who have with difficulty, and at the cost of great fatigue, got barely sufficient for the supply of the most pressing necessity. In this emergency Miss Doyle has, with her usual thought and generosity, provided a fund, which has been liberally added to by the generous occupiers of Greenlands, to enable a supply of water to be sent up from the valley to the hills. Small though it is, and necessarily must be among so many, it will be highly appreciated by those who hardly know otherwise, what really pure fresh water is, such as the valley-wells produce. We beg, in the name of the recipients, to thank these kind and liberal persons for their help.

It is no matter of surprise that we have to record two cases of sun-stroke. George Hobbs, carpenter, in the employ of Mr. Courtney, and Charles Harvey, of Burrow, shepherd to Mr. Chambers. We are thankful to say that so far neither attack has proved fatal.