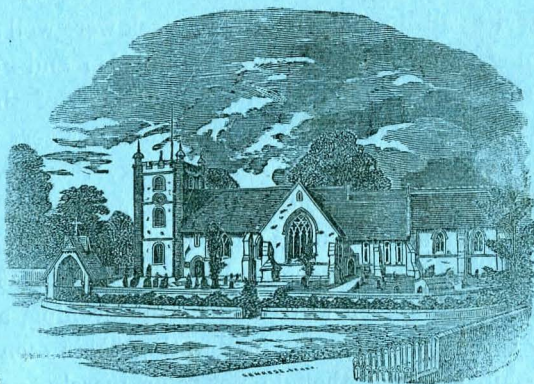


THE
HAMBLEDEN
Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALFPENCE.

May, 1871

Extracts from the Parish Registers.

BAPTISMS.

April 9th, (Born March 2nd), Rose Anna, daughter of Edmund and Caroline Higgs, of Frieth.

Same day, (Born February 19th), Frederick James, son of Henry and Harriett Edwards, of Frieth.

April 16th, (Born March 19th), Ella Nicholson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Courtney, of Hambleden.

BURIALS.

April 6th, (Died March 30th), Charles Gray, of Hambleden, aged 78 years.

April 17th, (Died April 14th), Thomas Elliott, of Hambleden, aged 77 years.

April 22nd, (Died April 18th), Elizabeth Gray, of Hambleden, aged 41 years.

HOLY WEEK AND GOOD FRIDAY.

The Services all through this Great Week were well attended. The evening congregation both at Hambleden and Frieth was good every evening. The Hymn, "The Story of the Cross" which was sung at Hambleden each evening was very touching and gave great pleasure. On Good Friday there were large congregations in the Morning. The Evening Service at Hambleden was attended by a much larger number of persons than used to come in the Afternoon. We must hope that another year more labouring men will come in the evening, and show that they can find a pleasure in devoting *their own* time to God's worship, and that they do not come merely to please an earthly employer. There were but few persons present at the Special Service in the School-room. But they were very attentive, and appeared to be devout and earnest.

The number of Communicants on Easter Day was greater than usual. A considerable number of those who were recently confirmed made their First Communion that day. Both at Hambleden and Frieth there was a good attendance at the early Celebration. We are sure that Communicants would find this early service specially pleasant and profitable, if they would make a trial of it.

Holy Communion is now celebrated at Frieth twice in every month, once at 8 a.m., and once in the middle of the day.

The Easter Decorations were very unpretending and very effective, showing how much may be done with very simple means and loving hearts. Primroses, violets, and wild anemones, with evergreens, were the only materials employed. The simple but elegant use of these gave a bright and cheerful aspect to our Churches on that joyful day.

FRIETH PENNY READING.

The second Entertainment of the Frieth Choir came off on Easter Monday Evening. Though the evening was bitterly cold there was so great a crowd of listeners that the room became very inconveniently hot. All went off very fairly, and in some respects the Entertainment was even more successful than its predecessor. But the want of a rehearsal on the night preceding was felt in the partial failure of some of the singing. Mr. Cripps, jun., opened the Entertainment with reading, very well and effectively, "The Vulgar Boy" from the Ingoldsby Legends. W. Webbe, sang "Ten minutes too late" very well indeed. "Betsey Waring" was given by H. Ward in capital style, and the audience was delighted to hear again, as an *encore*, "Medicine Jack." The choir sang in admirable time and tune, and altogether very well indeed, "Oh! who will o'er the downs." But the company appeared not to appreciate it as it deserved. We fear that their taste had been spoiled by inferior performances which had preceded it. "The Country Cousin" concluded the programme, and was very well rendered. "The Row in Dame Europa's School was well sung by T. Collier, the Rector having read the little work from which the song is taken immediately before the song. But the first prize of all must be awarded to H. W. Cripps, Esq., Q.C., for his Reading. On concluding Lord Macaulay's Poem on the Defeat of the Spanish Armada, he added some lines of his own in the same style, respecting Frieth and Pamoor and every spot and almost every person belonging to them. Then were roars of laughter as first one, then another familiar character was brought out and described, with inimitable wit and humour and much of true poetical grace. When he assured the audience that

"If you and I live long enough,
We'll have a peal at Frieth,"

the burst of applause was thrilling. We hope it was an earnest that when an appeal is made to them to assist in erecting a fit abode for a peal of Church Bells, they will readily and liberally respond to that appeal. The amount taken for admission was just over £3.

The Hambleden Church Choir has sustained a great loss in the removal from the parish of the best treble singer, William Curtis. But it is some little consolation to know that since his removal he has been elected as chorister at New College, Oxford, where the choir has the highest reputation, and competes with the very first choirs in the kingdom for the highest place.

THE CENSUS.

Monday, April 3rd, was a very important day throughout the British Isles. On that day an accurate account, or nearly so, was taken of every individual then existing in the country. The Census is a very valuable Institution. The particulars asked for on the Census paper give an immense amount of information which by the Registrar General is turned to the best account for the general good of her Majesty's subjects. A great many very curious as well as interesting and useful matters are learned from it.

In Hambleden Parish there are 315 houses, of which at least 18 were unoccupied on the 2nd April. The population is 1460, that is, fewer by 6 than in 1861. In the year 1831 there were only 248 houses, so that we have now 67 more residences than we had then. The population was then "about 1400," so that houses must have been much more crowded than they are now. This is a proof of a decided improvement, but it appears to be not as yet generally diffused. In the lower part of the Parish there are on an average about $4\frac{1}{2}$ persons to a house—in the centre $4\frac{3}{4}$ —in the hills $5\frac{1}{2}$. In the lower part of the Parish Females are greatly in excess of Males—in the other parts of the Parish they as nearly as possible balance one another. The children under 14 years of age amount to *two-fifths* of the whole population. It is satisfactory to find that since a new and better class of cottages has been introduced, some, at least, of the old pig-stye class fail to find tenants. A great improvement is visible in this respect, but there is abundant room for a yet further advance. There are houses which no amount of care and labour on the part of the occupiers can make even *decent* dwellings for a labourer and his family.

HAMBLEDEN CHURCH CHOIR.

The time is drawing near when the Choir ought to make their Annual Pleasure Excursion. The funds at present in hand are very inadequate, not much more than £4. Is it too much to ask the congregation to make it up to £12, to give both men and boys their usual treat?