

THE
HAMBLEDEN
Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALFPENCE.

June, 1875.

Extracts from the Parish Registers.

BAPTISM.

May 23rd, (Born March 21st), Annie Sarah, daughter of Thomas and Lydia Collins, of Mill End.

MARRIAGE.

May 6th, George Boone and Tabitha Seagrove.

BURIAL.

May 21st, (Died May 17th), Susan Clark, of Mill End, aged 19 years.

FUNERAL REFORM.

During the last 30 years we have seen an immense improvement in the performance of all our Church Services. We can hardly find a place in this country in which occasional Services, as well as those of Sunday, are not performed with more reverence, and with more suitable circumstances, than we remember when many of us were children. Our Baptisms, Churchings, Marriages, Confirmations, are all celebrated now with some consideration of their meaning, and in a manner more or less fitted to their character. The same is true of Burials, though perhaps in reference to these more than to anything else, much remains to be done. In Hambleton Parish we have not for very many years had anything about Funerals but what is perfectly decent and proper. We have no complaint to make. But we desire to suggest whether further improvements in the conduct of Funerals may not be attempted to the great satisfaction of all the Parishioners.

The first and grand point to which we would draw attention is one which does not at all peculiarly concern this place. English people in their Funeral arrangements seem to think only of the loss to themselves which the friend's death occasions, not in any degree of the gain which it is hoped that that friend has entered upon. All is black and dismal, except in the case of young persons, when the black is exchanged for white. But there is nothing which speaks of the bright hopes which the departed one is realising, nor of the happiness and glory and joy of the other world. As Christians we believe that "to die is gain," that "to depart and be with Christ is far better" than to live here. We believe that Jesus died and rose again to make a happy home for His people, and we hope that our friends when they leave us go to this home. We ought therefore to rejoice in this their

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gain for Jesus Christ's sake, though we cannot help mourning for our own present loss. It would be well therefore, (would it not?) to make more use of *flowers* at a funeral, putting flowers *in* the coffin with the dead, laying them *on* the coffin both in Church and in the grave, and letting flowers grow round their graves.

Would it not be well also to get rid of a good deal of the *black* at funerals, especially of the *Black Pall*? Would it not be more suitable to the words and thoughts of the Burial Service to have a Pall of brighter, pleasanter colours? *e.g.* White, with a Red cross on it, representing the sinner's forgiveness and acceptance, and the ground of it, washed white in the Blood which flowed on the cross?

And would it not be well to have the coffin furniture more *religious* in shape and appearance than that commonly used? There might be a cross pointing to Jesus as our Saviour, and circles telling of the hope of eternity, and other suitable emblems of good things.

Shall we begin here by getting a better *Pall*? It will cost about £5. It ought to be taken care of, and to be ready for use at every funeral where the friends desire it. If our readers will subscribe for this according to their means the Rector will procure the Pall, and provide for its being properly cared for. Subscriptions may be paid to Mrs. Falkner at the School. The Rector will give £1.

ASCENSION DAY.

The Services were hardly as well attended on this great Festival as we might have hoped. At 5 a.m. there were 15 Communicants. And at 5.30 a.m. at Frieth, 12, while at Mid-day there were 17 at Hambleton. We know that there were special circumstances this year which interfered with the observance of the day.

The children went, as was proposed, to Great Marlow for the Prize Scheme Examination. The results have not as yet been made known.

The Nurse has been busy during the last month, but not so busy as she was earlier in the year. The following Subscriptions have been received towards her maintenance.

	£	s.	d.
Ryder, Vice-Admiral and Miss	3	0	0
Stanley, the Hon. Misses	2	0	0
Wetherall, Rev. C. M. & Mrs.	0	5	0

MEDMENHAM CORNER.

BIRTH.

May 14th, Mrs. William Spencer, of a daughter.

BAPTISM.

May 6th, Mary Ellen Fawell Spence.

The Education Department has notified its intention of sending a Government Inspector to examine our School in the Autumn. As the comfort of the Parish will very much depend upon the result of this examination, it is hoped that Parents will permit no irregular attendance of their children ; then the School may pass creditably, otherwise it cannot.

It has been found necessary to ask for £10 a year more towards our School expenses. There was a general agreement among those who attended the Easter Vestry that the Parish cannot avoid this additional burden. The means of raising the increase which seemed to find most favour were as follows :—

a.—That at such times as the Vicar and Churchwardens shall think fit, collections be made in Church.

b.—That those who do not subscribe already be requested to do so without delay.

It should be remembered that it is no easy matter to many of us to make the contributions which may be referred to in the April number of the Magazine, and that even to meet the expenses there specified, help from more quarters is to be expected. Now therefore to bear the greater strain, greater strength will be required. The Vicar will be glad to receive the names of those who, not as yet doing so, will in future guarantee something. Sums small, certain, and frequent, will be valued, for when many help difficulties are wont to vanish.

The Annual School Treat will be held (D.V.) on or about St. Peter's Day, when Mrs. Hill will be glad to see the friends of the children on the Vicarage lawn. Only those children who have attended the Day School and the Sunday School regularly will be invited.