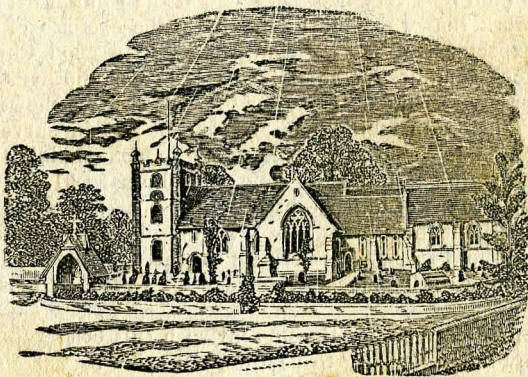


THE
HAMBLEDEN

Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALF-PENCE.

AUGUST, 1896.

HAMBLEDEN.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

The Parish Magazine is one of the few periodicals that has not the largest circulation in the world, but it circulates widely in the Parish of Hambleden; and as I want to address the parishioners, I shall, I believe, be treading in the footsteps of my predecessors if I do it through the medium of these columns.

Life is made up of ends and beginnings. This number records one or two. I think I am beginning to see the end of "the new Rector." I mean the Rector is beginning to think he is no longer 'new': the strangeness is wearing off: he hopes that he and you are now getting used to each other. I say this because I want to take this opportunity of thanking you all, on behalf of Mrs. Stanton and myself for your kindness and forbearance. New people and new ways are always trying, and space will not permit me to enlarge as much as I should like upon this topic. I have much to thank both Clergy and Laity for. I may take the Churchwardens at Hambleden and the Sidesmen of the district Churches as representing the laity in general. If we understand and trust each other, as I think we do (and it is very necessary that if the Church here is to do her proper work that we should) it is due to the exercise of qualities which one expects, but does not always find, in a good Churchman, namely: tact, candour, looking at matters from another's point of view. As for my assistant Clergy, our short experience shews me that I shall find much valuable help in Mr. Eyre. But in surveying the past few months, it is of course Mr. Dewey that one mainly thinks of. He has had a trying and difficult time since January 31st. I hardly know what else to say of him except that I do not know what I should have done without him, or what I should do without him. His experience of the Parish, his readiness to put this experience at my service, his unhesitating loyalty, have been and are to me simply invaluable.

I must content myself for the present with this brief expression of what is in my mind, and beg to be allowed to sign myself

Your affectionate Friend and Pastor,

A. HERBERT STANTON.

Baptism.

July 5.—William, son of Job Townsend and Thirza Silvester.
,, 19.—George, son of Frederick and Harriet Plumridge.

The Day Schools.

Our School year ends, as our readers know, on June 30th. The Inspectors have now paid their visits, but we have not yet received their reports. The cost of maintaining the two Schools is £432 per annum: about £300 of this comes from Government Grants, £100 from voluntary subscriptions, the rest by endowments and sale of needlework. We had been led to expect additional assistance from

Parliament for Voluntary Schools, but for the present the hope is deferred. Though, therefore, we have not as yet much to thank Parliament for, we are, notwithstanding, greatly indebted to the two M.P.'s who reside in the Parish, for they have most generously united in wiping off a debt of some £52 that lay upon the Schools.

The hope of our country is in the rising generation. We must give the young, therefore, the best education we can. The responsibility rests first with the parents, and secondly with the community in general: observe, gentle reader, in this order. The parents (and scholars) must remember that they are the persons principally benefited, and should not fail to do all in their power to second the efforts made to secure for them so great an advantage. Nothing so much frustrates the work of the School as irregularity of attendance. Not only does it affect the Government Grant, but it hinders the progress of the scholar, and it hinders the progress of the class, and of the School. The community in general practically means the subscribers. The Treasurer would like to take this opportunity of publicly acknowledging on behalf of the parishioners in general his gratitude for their readiness in finding the funds. He can assure them that the Managers do their best to combine efficiency with economy.

The prizes given to Hambleton School by Lady Esther Smith were presented, in the unavoidable absence of her Ladyship, by Mrs. Stanton, on Saturday afternoon, July 25th, S. James' Day. There was first a Flower Service in the Church at 2.15 (the flowers and apples being sent to Henley Union); the rest of the afternoon being spent at the Rectory in the dissipation usual on such an occasion. The Skirmett children joined the party. The children at Frieth will have their good time at Parmoor, on July 30th.

Churchworkers' River Party.

The Clergy, one Churchwarden, the Choir, Ringers, Sunday School Teachers, etc., spent a very pleasant day on the river, to Windsor and back, on Monday, July 21st. The party was unfortunately somewhat split up in consequence of two smaller boats being sent instead of one large one as arranged. However, though the members were not able to enjoy so much of the society of the rest as they would have wished, they contrived to enjoy themselves. The elements, as they are called, were favourable; the catering, which is no secondary matter, left nothing to be desired. We were sorry not to see either the Queen or the State Apartments, but then we saw the outside of the Castle, S. George's Chapel, the horses, and the Long Walk. Such an enjoyable day meant a great deal of very hard and self-denying work on the part of certain of the party. Your correspondent was not one of these, and is therefore free to express his heartfelt admiration of the persons alluded to, who shall not be caused to blush by being named.

One purpose of such an occasion is to give enjoyment, another is to draw those united in Church work together, and to make their fellowship in the Church more real. We hope that both objects were in some measure attained.

The Sunday School and Catechising.

We have now got a large staff of Sunday School Teachers, under the superintendence of Mr. Eyre. Though sorry to lose their assistance, we are glad to be able to give the week-day Teachers a proper Sabbath rest. We look to Parents and Godparents to help us to make the Sunday School what it ought to be. Our aim is not to do what can be done and is done in the Day School. The lessons of the week-day must appeal mainly to the understanding—the head; the Sunday School should appeal rather to the heart, should aim to make the children true Church-people, loving the Church and its Services. Particularly we should like to keep those children with us who have left the Day Schools, especially if they have not been confirmed.

We look, I have said, not only to parents, but to Godparents to help us. They should encourage the children to keep to Sunday School after they leave the Day School; for how can they better fulfil their “parts and duties” and provide that their Godchildren shall “be virtuously brought up to lead a godly and a Christian life,” and bring them rightly prepared to the Bishop to be confirmed by him? They should encourage them to attend Catechising, at 3 p.m., on Sundays, by sometimes coming with them. In other places grown up people often find that they can get in the Catechising, instructions which they failed, from one cause or another, to obtain in their youth.

MEDMENHAM.

BAPTISM.—July 19, Joseph William Tilbury.

On July 3rd a Festive Welcome was given at States, by Mr. and Mrs. Kearley, to all residents in the village proper. It was indeed a sumptuous entertainment. From the variety and frequent changes of amusement the utmost pleasure was derived. A little rain at one time threatened to spoil the evening, but it soon cleared off, and the enjoyment was uninterrupted. Everyone was much gratified by the thoughtful kindness and great hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Kearley, and they signified it by very hearty cheers before parting.

On Monday, the 20th July, Mr. Kearley took advantage of an Excursion Train from Henley to Portsmouth, and most kindly sent the Choir to spend the day at the Sea-side. The Vicar had charge of the party. Through letters anticipating the day, the kindest preparations had been made for viewing the many objects of interest in the harbour and dockyard. Truly the men and boys who were so fortunate as to go were most privileged, everything seemed open to them. A trip over to the Isle of Wight was also managed. Altogether it was the best of Choir treats, and from first to last was thoroughly delightful.

We are very pleased to hear and to announce that Mr. Hudson has ordered suits of uniform for the Pipe and Drum Band. This is a really generous and kind gift. We are sure the inhabitants will appreciate it, and we feel certain that the Band will be encouraged to make themselves worthy of the interest shown for them, and the smart appearance they are about to put on. It is only fair to say that the behaviour of the Band has at all times done credit to the members, and their wish to improve themselves has never flagged.

The chief—and most important it is—subject of interest during the past month has been the transfer of Danesfield from the possession of Mr. Scott-Murray to that of Mr. Hudson. The change has its side of sentiment and feeling, as well as of far-reaching consequence. We do not lose Mr. Scott Murray without assuring him how much we appreciate and cherish the kindness and peace we have ever enjoyed under the traditional influence of his House during so many years. We wish well to him and his most devoutly.

To the new owner of Danesfield and his family we proffer our hearty goodwill and congratulations, in view of their coming amongst us.