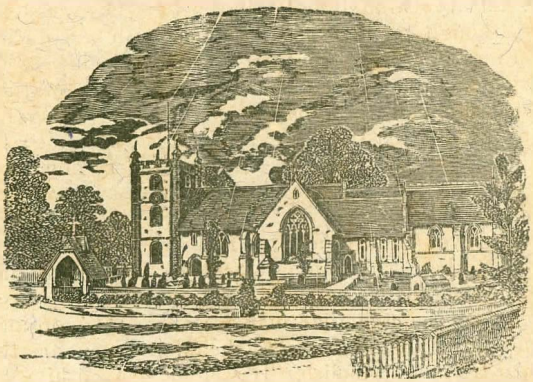
# THE

# HAMBLEDEN

## Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALF-PENCE.

---

## SEPTEMBER, 1899.

BLACKWELL AND GUTCH, Printers, London Street, Reading.

### Burials.

August 1.—Frederick Wingrave, aged 68 years..
,, 19.—William Lathan, aged 73 years.

*Frieth.*

August 18.—Henry William Cripps, aged 84 years.

### In Memoriam.

H. W. CRIPPS, Q.C.

If the Editor of the Hambleden Magazine would allow a little space this month to an old friend he would esteem it a privilege to send a few lines.

For so many years Mr. Cripps, of Beechwood, whose death we now mourn, had been intimately connected with Hambleden, though more especially with the Frieth portion of it, that his removal from us has caused a sudden sorrow to the hearts of many, although he was known to be in a precarious state of health.

For a long period during his residence at Parmoor, in years gone by, he threw himself into all the various interests of parochial life, though more or less occupied with the duties of his profession in which he was so justly distinguished.

In all good works likely to promote the welfare of the Parish, or the good of his neighbours, he was always willing to take a prominent though unassuming part. But we, who knew him well, believe that he was seldom happier in his country home than when engaged in entertaining the children of the poor at a School Feast at Parmoor.

He dearly loved children and felt real pleasure in their company. The writer of these words well remembers his delight in having a snowballing match years ago with the children at the Rectory. How often it is the case that many of more than ordinary abilities cannot throw themselves into such amusements as these, but think them trivial and foolish. It was not so with him. He well knew how to gain the love of the young and was always ready to join heart and soul in their amusements.

But to speak of other things. If it had not been for Mr. Cripps, Skirmett Church would probably never have been built. When the Rector, at that time, was in want of more accommodation than the Schoolroom could provide for the worshippers at Skirmett, Mr. Cripps, though not then living in the Parish, took the greatest interest in the matter, provided a site for the building, and largely helped on the proposed scheme.

He himself preferred the simpler worship generally enjoyed in country Churches to that usually found in town Churches, of which preference Frieth, Lane End, and Skirmett can bear witness. His courteous manners to all, and especially to the poor, won for him many true friends, as he would never pass a poor man by—whose face he recognized—without speaking a kindly word.

It is pleasant to recal such memories as these of one who was certainly a great man, but better still a good man! We do not speak here of his many distinctions in public life as they are duly noticed elsewhere, and are probably well known to the readers of the Hambleden Magazine, but we prefer to speak of him as an old parishioner and an old friend for whose memory we shall ever entertain the greatest regard.

Hambleden Parish must remain his debtor, as it can never now repay the many kindnesses received from him, but it will long cherish his memory and look back to the years of his life spent within it with true gratitude and affection.

C. M. W.

*August 23rd*, 1899.

---

The legend upon one of the wreaths placed upon his grave appropriately described him in the words of the Book of Job (v., 26) as having "come to his grave in a full age, like as a shock of corn cometh in in his season." He had reached his 85th year; just the age, as he himself observed a few months since to which his own grandfather attained. It was nearly 40 years ago that he became a parishioner of Hambleden, and though he left Parmoor and went to reside in the Parish of Marlow in 1883, he still continued to look after his farm at Goddard's in Skirmett, and from time to time worshipped in Frieth or Skirmett Churches and read the Lessons as in former times. Associations, new as well as old, kept alive his interest and affection for Frieth.

Lane End was the Church which he regularly attended; for it was in this parish that his principal farm, "The Moor," was situated. He had taken great interest in the rebuilding of this Church, a work which Canon Ridley did so much to promote. Mr. Cripps gave the peal of bells. He took a prominent part also in the building of the little Church at Skirmett. Our readers will have seen full accounts of his active and busy life in both London and local papers. We may just record with pride the connection of our parish with one who to the last held the offices of Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxford, Chairman of Bucks Quarter Sessions, and Recorder of Lichfield.

His health had been breaking up for some months past. It was a surprise to himself and those around him when he rallied from a sharp attack two or three months ago. He was not actually taken away till Monday, August 14th. He had just gone into his library to fetch something before taking a walk in the garden, when the call, he was waiting for, came.

The Burial took place on Friday, Aug. 18th at Frieth; his body being laid to rest between the graves of his beloved daughter-in-law and grandson, who had been called away before him in the spring and early summer of life. The little Church was beautifully decorated by loving hands. The Service was begun by the Rector at the Lych gate; Hymn 401, "Now the labourer's task is o'er," was sung by the Choir while the mourners were getting into the Church, which was not nearly large enough to accommodate

those who followed; the Lesson was read by the Rev. H. O. F. Whittingstall, Rural Dean and Vicar of Marlow. Hymn 266, "Lead, kindly Light," was then sung while the Clergy left the Church; the Rev. F. L. Nash, Vicar of Lane End, read the Anthem, "Man that is born of a woman," and the Bishop of Reading said the committal and concluding prayers, and gave the Blessing after Hymn 165, "O God, our help in ages past," had been sung by the grave. It was an impressive scene: the large gathering of children and grand-children and more distant relatives; the concourse of neighbours, high and low; the presence of an old schoolfellow like Archdeacon Burney; the representatives of public bodies, the Mayor of Lichfield, and others; the labourers from his farms; fitly marked the close of the life of a typical old English gentleman.

He was, as one of the newspapers said, a "many-sided" man. His intellectual capacity and his professional and county work did not lessen the love of country life and sports which was engrained in his nature. Those who remember him with his harriers; or in later years have seen him driving in his carriage across the fields and woods in almost impossible places, will testify to this. There was also a strongly romantic side to his nature. He had a wonderful store of poetry in his memory. He had not forgotten the Virgil and Horace which he learned at Winchester. A beautiful scene would at once bring to his lips an apt quotation from Byron, or Wordsworth, or Keble, or Mrs. Hemans. He shared with Keble, the author of the "Christian Year," not only a love for nature, but also a great affection and, one may say, reverence for little children.

The Bishop of Oxford was travelling in Italy, but he was represented by the Bishop Suffragan as well as by his Chaplain, Canon Holmes. The Archdeacon of Buckingham was also too far away to come. Canon Holmes preached at Frieth on Sunday morning a very appropriate and instructive sermon on Philippians i., 23, "Having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better." The preacher said, referring to the deceased: It was far better for him and for all that he should depart: he had finished his work and laid down his tools: it was his desire to depart: far better he should go, as he did, with faculties unimpaired, intellect unclouded. He had done his work, a great work, in both departments of our national life, in Church and in State. He had done great work in the State, at the Bar, as Recorder of Lichfield, as Magistrate, Chairman of Quarter Sessions and the County Council; in the Church, here in the parishes of Hambleden and Lane End; in a wider manner as Chancellor of the Diocese of Oxford; for 16 years under two Bishops, he had in this office been the Bishop's confidential adviser in all the intricate and difficult legal questions which a Bishop has to solve. He had done, and done well, such work as English country gentlemen of his type can do so well; and which is the pride and strength of this nation. He had finished the work. He had set a bright example of a pure and upright life to his children, grand-children,

and neighbours. His work, the preacher continued, though finished, was not ended. Just as when the school life at Winchester was finished, the life at Oxford began; when the life at Oxford was finished, the life in London and elsewhere commenced; so now having finished the work God gave him to do in this world, he had departed to the next. "Departed," this is the word of the Bible and Prayer-book, not dead, but alive with God, as we prayed at the grave on Friday: "Almighty God, with whom do live the spirits of them that depart hence in the Lord." They live and are conscious: and though we must be careful what we say where Scripture is silent, yet there is no reason to doubt that Tennyson is right when he makes one who is departing this life say:

> "Though I cannot speak a word, I shall hearken what you say,
> And be often, often, with you, when you think I'm far away."

And then we ask where has he gone to? To Paradise, a word that comes home to country people, for it means a garden, that is, a place where flowers grow and expand in peace and quietness in the light. So we may think of the departed expanding in intellect, in heart and affections, to a degree beyond what we can conceive of in Paradise, the intermediate state, till God calls each on to his final resting place in Heaven. And why is it better to depart when the call comes? Because it is to be "with Christ." On earth we grow and expand by reason of our companionship with wiser better people; so in Paradise, the nearer presence of Christ is the cause of the growth and development of the faithful departed. The "Dead March" was played and Hymns 266, 499, and 437 were sung.

At the Service in the afternoon, Hymns 22, 428, and 228 were sung. The Rector preached on Job i., 21, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; Blessed be the Name of the Lord." Remarking that the Lord had endowed him who was in their thoughts with exceptional gifts of powerful intellect and warm heart, he laid stress upon the fact that the richness and ripeness and mellowness of character which so conspicuously marked him were due to the high value which he set upon those gifts. He shewed the value he attached to them by the faithful and generous use to which he put them: and by the great thankfulness which he continually expressed for the happy life which God had given him.

A muffled peal was rung on the bells at Hambleden on the day of the funeral, and "The Dead March in Saul" played after the Morning Service.

The **Harvest Festival** at the Parish Church will take place on September 17th. The Sermons will be preached by the Rev. E. W. Sergeant, for many years a Master at Winchester College, and now helping Rev. A. G. Doyne, in Mr. Wetherall's old parish of Branksome, near Bournemouth.

The **Flower Shows** were both very successful: though the accompanying sports at Hambleden were stopped by a storm, which was otherwise most welcome. For full details we may refer our readers to the local papers. We are glad that the "Maypole" sustained its reputation at Frieth.