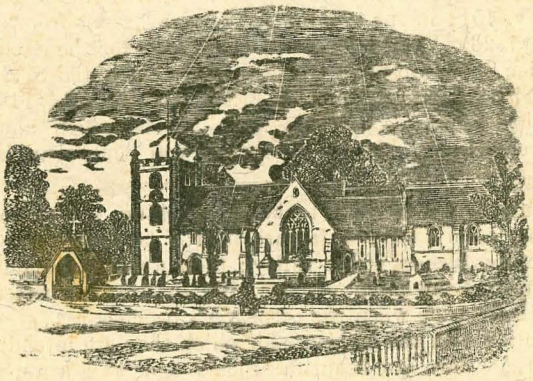
THE

HAMBLEDEN

Magazine.



PRICE THREE HALF-PENCE.

OCTOBER, 1899.

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Baptism.

Sept. 3.—Ivah Maud, daughter of Jesse and Mary Hobbs.

Frieth.

Aug. 27.—Gladys Mary, daughter of George and Clara Axten.

Burials.

Aug. 31.—Alfred Sidney Irvin, aged 6 months.
Sept. 9.—Jane Gray, aged 73 years.

The **Harvest Festival** was observed at the Parish Church on Sept. 17, at Frieth on Sept. 24, at Skirmett on Sept. 21, the Feast of S. Matthew, and the following Sunday. The Churches were, as usual, tastefully decorated. The customary procession took place at Hambleden, the workmen from the farms carrying sheaves behind the choir and stacking them in shocks in the Chancel. Our preacher, like all visitors, was much impressed with this part of the proceedings, and hoped that in these days of rigid legality in matters of ceremonial no one of the Kensit type would report it at Lambeth, or it might be rather difficult to prove that it was ordered in the Book of Common Prayer! The Rev. E. W. Sergeant preached an instructive sermon in the morning upon "The impartiality of God in nature" (S. Matt. v. 45); in the evening on "Some lessons from the birds" (S. Matt. vi. 26). The collections, which were for the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, amounted to £10 7s. 2d. at the Parish Church, £2 13s. at Frieth, and £1 10s. 11d., at Skirmett. The Sunday collections at Skirmett, which amounted to £1 8s., were given to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution.

The **New Schools** seem to be approaching completion. Outwardly they form a striking feature in the landscape and add much to the picturesqueness of the valley; their warm red colour standing out well against the green woods. We shall know better what to think of their inside when the carpenter's benches, etc., are gone, and they are filled with the furniture for which they are intended. Suffice it to say that they are beautiful rooms and well arranged. One might almost read the history of the progress of the English people during this century in our Church Schools, and see the great advance that has been made. At the beginning of the century the building that faces the Village "square" was "the New School"; it had not the gable window over the door of the Master's house. There was no Master's house. The building was then in two storeys. Below was the Lace School, and above the Sunday School. In our present Infant Room there is barely sufficient space to give enough fresh air to teachers and children in accordance with the rules of the Education Department, founded upon sound medical knowledge. What must the atmosphere have been with 323 in the upstairs room alone in the Sunday School! That was the number in the Rev. Henry Colborne Ridley's time, and in the time, one might add, of some of our old people, such as Martha Clements. There was no Day School as we know it; the boys were receiving what would now be called "technical" education at the plough tail, the girls in the lace school.

Reading and writing were taught in the Sunday School, and children came from all the country round, from the hills, even from Marlow. There was a "free dinner" in the middle of the day which may have had something to do with the good attendance. Hambleden was altogether in front of the times in the matter of education when old George Barlow was a boy. Our old Schools have done their part well, and they need not be ashamed of themselves. Still our ideas have so much advanced, thanks to the education received in the old buildings, that teachers and children will be very glad to get into the new ones before we write A.D. 1900.

MOTHERS' MEETINGS.

The Mothers' Meetings in the parish will begin again this month—

At Hambleden Rectory, on Friday, Oct. 13th, at 2.30;
At Frieth Parish Room, on Thursday, Oct. 19th, at 2;
At Skirmett Parish Room, on Friday, Oct. 20th, at 2.30;

and will be continued fortnightly during the winter.

All those for whom the Meetings are intended are earnestly invited to attend.

The members can work either for their own families, or the Foreign Missions of the Church, or the Society for Providing Homes for Waifs and Strays. We print below the letter that Mrs. Stanton has received from the lady-in-charge of the Mission at Mbweni in the Central African Mission, thanking the "Hambleden Mothers" for their present to the Mission.

MBWENI, ZANZIBAR,

August 27th.

DEAR MADAM,—I am very sorry that I have delayed for two, if not three, mails to thank you for your kind present of frocks from your Mothers' Meeting. I think it is so very good of people who possibly have a struggle to keep things straight at home, to give up their time to work for the heathen here. I am sure their self-denial will be blessed to them: and their present was a very nice one. I do so wish I had the gift of describing things and could make your people realize the sort of life the brown mothers live here, so much simpler than ours at home. They live in mud huts with a thatch of palm leaves, one storey high and generally three rooms and a little yard, the partition walls not going up to the roof. They dress in two pieces of calico, one round their waist and one over their head and shoulders; the stove is three stones on the mud floor, and the smoke goes out by the door. The pots cost one, two, or three farthings each according to size, and their fuel they pick up. The women fetch the water from the well and carry it on their heads, and if they want to wash their clothes they simply beat them on a flat stone, and then hang them in the sun; for light they have a tiny lamp costing 3 farthings; if they have children they tie them on their backs, and yet they are perfectly happy and content, and ready to dance whenever the drum beats!

Again thanking you, I am,

Yours truly,

ELLEN M. NELSON.

Rummage Sale.—It is proposed to hold a small Sale of second-hand goods, of all descriptions, in the Hambleden Schoolroom on Saturday, October 21st. Mrs. Stanton or Mrs. Willis will be glad to receive any contributions for the Sale. The profits will go first towards paying off the debt on the Church-workers' outing, and the remainder will be kept for a fund for sending invalids for change of air.

FRIETH.

They have got their piano for the Memorial Hall, a "grand" of course! They are to be congratulated.

Miss West has been appointed as Assistant at Bovingdon Green School. The Managers were so pleased with their last Teacher who came from this Parish, Miss Louisa Lucas, that they have come to us again now that the name Lucas is exchanged for another.

Our readers at Frieth will like to see the words with which Archdeacon Burney, who signed himself as "An Old Friend of seventy years standing," concluded a memorial notice of Mr. H. W. Cripps in the "Guardian" newspaper "That his death was keenly felt was shown by the attendance at his funeral, when his body was laid in the flower-strewn grave in the Churchyard, whose paths he had so regularly trodden. The little Church was crowded, and the Service, as more than one who knew him well remarked, was in harmony with his own taste, touchingly simple and devotional."

The Church of All Saints, **Skirmett** has received a handsome Font bucket of oak with brass fittings, the gift of Rev. and Mrs. G. F. Eyre. An ordinary iron bucket is useful, but not ornamental. With no other vehicle for the water, one can hardly obey the rubric which directs that the font shall then be filled with pure water when the Priest comes to begin the Baptismal Service.

We would like to draw attention to the other rubrics at the beginning of the Baptismal Service, which direct that Baptisms should take place "when the most number of people come together," that is to say not on Sunday afternoon when there is no other Service, but after the last Lesson at Morning Prayer, or else after the last Lesson at Evening Prayer. There are two reasons given why the general congregation should be present, first, that it may "testify the receiving of them that be newly baptized into the number of Christ's Church"; it is the duty of the Church to be "witness" of so solemn and important a proceeding; secondly, because "in the Baptism of Infants every man present may be put in remembrance of his own profession made to God in his Baptism." It would be more in accordance with the letter and spirit of the law of the Church that the hymns and sermon should be omitted, if it is thought that the addition of Baptism would make the Service too long for the patience of a congregation of the present day.

Violin for sale, full-sized. Apply Miss Stanton, the Rectory.—ADVT.