



Old Rectory at Bemerton & Gardens

Bazaar

The prospect of a ramble over such well-laid out gardens as those attached to the rectory of this parish, on a day when the heat makes all labour seem arduous, possesses a charm that those whose lot it does not often fall to have such a walk always open to them, find it somewhat difficult to resist, especially when in addition to the pleasant walks among the well-arranged beds, there is the opportunity of making purchases from the hands of members of the fair sex, who are not themselves to be benefited by the sale, but who are performing the part of vendors for the purpose of aiding some object in which they are interested.

It was the knowledge that a bazaar was to be held in aid of the debt on the organ, and for the purposes of forming a choir fund, that drew a fair number of visitors to the rectory grounds on Wednesday afternoon, and they certainly found enough to claim their attention. A large marquee occupied the place of the stalls that are usually seen at bazaars, and within this, Mrs. Read, Mrs. Evans, and Mrs. Roberts, Miss Turner, Miss Cole, Miss Pearce (assisted by the school teachers), Miss Sanctuary, Miss Tanner, Miss Hussey, Misses Major (3), Misses Neate (2), and Miss Lavington endeavoured, certainly not without success, to dispose of the various articles that had been sent by willing friends for the purpose of aiding the object in view. Pleasant as it might be to some to spend money for articles more or less useful, such an afternoon as Wednesday was calculated to make light refreshments acceptable to most of those present, and, in order to see that the wants of the visitors were attended to in this respect, Miss Piggott and the Misses Curzon (3) had a tent set aside where they dispensed such refreshments as were required.

Bouquets, of course, act as a necessary finish to the dress of visitors to bazaars in the month of July, and in order to supply the necessary article to those who had neglected to provide one before entering the grounds, several young ladies acted for the time as flower girls, and, for the modest sum of 6d, sold choice bouquets to all who could be prevailed upon to buy. To add a little amusement to the proceedings, Capt. Stephens had under his charge a fine art gallery, and his exhibits certainly drew forth a good deal of laughter from those who patronised him. Amongst them was one described as "The meet of Lord Pembroke's harriers," which turned out to be a dog biscuit. "The Companions of the Bath," a sponge and a towel, "A specimen of antique lace," was represented by a stay-lace. A crinolette represented the picture "Some have greatness thrust upon them," whilst "Fair, but false," was illustrated

by a chignon. A sausage represented "The last of poor dog Tray," while a bottle of kid reviver did duty for "Patent medicine for children." When in addition to this, varied entertainments were given under the direction of Capt. Stephens, and a choice selection of music was played by the Fisherton House Band, under the direction of Mr. Fanner, the visitors had everything to enable them to pass a pleasant afternoon, whilst the ladies who were in charge of the stalls persuaded their customers to part with their money in such a way as to lead the promoters to entertain the hope that not only would the organ be cleared off, but that a substantial sum would be handed over to form a nucleus of a choir fund.

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