

Obituary



Dinton

WILLIAM WYNDHAM

The simple announcement of the death of William Wyndham, Esq., of Dinton House, Wiltshire, which we see in the papers, is sufficient to excite the deep regret of all those who have partaken of his friendship, that he is lost to them and his country. But somewhat more is due to him who has so recently been taken from us, and to those who remain of the class to which he may be said peculiarly to have belonged.

Mr Wyndham was a perfect *Country Gentleman* – a man of ancient family, and of good estate, who resided upwards of half a century on a large portion of that estate, performing all the duties which naturally are attached to the possession of land.

In his early years he was a Colonel of a local Regiment of Militia, when his kingdom was threatened with invasion, and was much beloved by his corps- and as master of a pack of fox-hounds he contributed largely to manly country amusement.

Through a long life he performed the duties of a magistrate with great discrimination and firmness combined with patience and that indulgent feeling which never forsook him on any occasion.

To his tenants he was liberal and friendly; to his servants and those who were in his employ in various stations he was a good and kind master; to his excellent wife, who was separated from him by death about three years since, he was a most affectionate husband; and to his numerous family of children he was a kind and indulgent father. But, above all, he was a kind friend to the poor, who at all times had access to him for his advice – his sympathy – and his assistance in their distresses and their wants; and the charities of Dinton House were as liberally dispensed to deserving objects who were poor, as its hospitalities were to all the friends of the owner.

A more sincere or steady friend than Mr Wyndham, this world could not produce. He was also by nature a *gentleman*, and his disposition and his conduct through life well sustained that character.

That he was very popular with all classes need scarcely be said after these observations.

The death of such a man, even at the age of 71, will be long and deeply lamented by all who knew him.

He is succeeded by his eldest son, who is married, and has a family, and will no doubt tread in the footsteps of his late father.

Let those who scoff at country gentleman, and call them useless drones, read this character of Mr Wyndham, and say where they can find a man who has been more *useful*. In what can a man be more useful than in dispensing comfort and enjoyment of life amongst a large circle of all classes who surround the spot on which he resides? – which circle, with such a man as Mr Wyndham, will always be of diameter in proportion to his means – in administering the laws of the land with firmness and the strictest impartiality without pecuniary reward – in giving advice and protection to the poor, and also charitable assistance with due discrimination – and, above all, is setting a good example to all by his own conduct, and the conduct of his family, who, under his auspices, were constantly engaged in works of active benevolence.

(*Salisbury and Winchester Journal*, 4th October, 1841)
