



Great Wishford School

Farewell Presentation to Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield, Schoolmaster at Wishford

Tea and Presentation

On Friday the scholars of the Day and Evening schools assembled to have tea, and to wish goodbye to Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield. The day being very wet, tea was held in the Schoolroom, where the wants of all were attended to by Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield, Misses H. and D. Young, Miss L. Scott, Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Down, etc. After tea, various games were indulged in, and Colonel and Mrs. Plummer bestirred themselves to amuse the children. Later on, the room was crowded with the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield, among those present being Col. and Mrs. Plummer, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Young, Mrs. Jos. and Miss M. Thatcher, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Scott, Mr. and Miss Lever, Mr. Geo. Plowman, Mrs. S. Plowman, Mr. and Mrs. Mundy, Mr. and Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Dobell, Mr. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Diaper, Mr. Geo. Smith, Mrs. Newton, Mrs. Davis and others.

Mr. G. M. Young, in presenting a beautiful black marble time piece from the parishioners and friends (provided by Mr. T. W. Newton, Fisherton Street, Salisbury), said he was sorry the weather was rather like their feelings – depressed – for it was never a pleasant task to say “Goodbye” to those they loved. He remembered attending school under the late Mr. Goulden, a very able man, and he thought Mr. Hatfield had been just the same. Mr. Hatfield had been with them over eight years and had entered largely into the life of Wishford and had always done what in him lay for the benefit of the parish and neighbourhood. In the school he was second to none, and had brought it to a high standard of efficiency. He had carried on an excellent evening school and summer gardening classes for seven years, and received excellent reports. He had filled his post with conspicuous success and earned the liking and respect of the children and their parents. As a leading member of the choir he was of great service. As assistant overseer, he seemed to come for the money in such a manner as to almost make one glad to pay the rate. He was also clerk to the Parish Council and his advice could be relied on at all times. At the annual dinner of the Slate Club and other social functions, he was sure to entertain us with a good song. At their great “Oak Apple Day”, then at the Pig Club (of which he was secretary), and as secretary of the now “defunct” Flower Show, he was always ready with his help, in fact, whatever was afoot for the benefit of or the amusement of enjoyment of Wishford people there he was sure to be, helping, assisting, suggesting, and always with good results. As Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield had decided upon leaving and taking up another appointment nearer their native country, Wishfordians desire to present them with a small token of regard and esteem, something which would remind them when far away of the many friends they had made. They all desire them happiness and prosperity in the future, and hoped sometimes to have the pleasure of seeing them again.

Mr. Scott then rose, and said he had great pleasure in presenting a beautiful electro-plated inkstand to Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield from the teachers and children. He quite agreed with all Mr. Young had said and was extremely sorry to part with Mr. and Mrs. Hatfield, who, he had hoped would have spent many more years with them. They knew the real reason of their leaving, and wished them prosperity and happiness in their new sphere of work. He and Mr. Hatfield had been co-workers in so many things, and had always pulled so well together that he felt his going away very much. He knew also that the children were greatly attached to them both, and that the school was working smoothly and pleasantly.

Mr. Hatfield, on rising to respond, was evidently much affected. He said he did not know how to put into words his great thankfulness for their kindness. He could not pretend to be such a prodigy as he had been represented, but he thanked Messrs. Young and Scott for their too kind remarks. From the people of Wishford he had always received great kindness and whatever he or Mrs. Hatfield did in school they never took exception to. It had always been a pleasure to him to do all he could for the place, as he was a firm believer in the "brotherhood of man." He had tried to do his duty at all times, and was pleased to feel he had given satisfaction. There had been, as they all knew, some "pin-pricking" going on for some time, and that was the reason he had decided to change his place. He was sorry to leave the children, and trusted all would remember him, as he should never forget them. It was with great reluctance that he had decided to give up all his work there after eight years of successful effort. He hoped that the present acrimony would gradually die down, and that there would be more harmony in everything. He would always take a great interest in Wishford, and hoped to see it many times, especially on "Oak-apple Day" (the old village fete), which, he trusted, would never die out.

On Saturday evening the weather being fine, races, cricket and dancing were indulged in by the people and friends from adjoining parishes. Through the kindness of Mr. Scott, the South Newton Band was present and played a choice selection of music. Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves, the only trouble being it was the bidding farewell to good and true friends.

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