



Report on the Cirencester Choral Festival

Hankerton

The fourth annual festival at Cirencester of the Parochial Church Choral Union in the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol was held at the Parish Church, on Thursday afternoon, and passed off with the same success that has hitherto characterised these gatherings. The church was appropriately decorated with banners, flags, &c., one of which, immediately over the pulpit, bore the words, "Cirencester Choral Union," and another, hanging on a pillar to the west, "Hallow this house with Thy sure love, and bless our Festival." Four o'clock was the appointed hour for the service to commence, and half an hour before that time many had secured their seats in the church, and when the service commenced every seat seemed occupied. The choirs took up their position on either side of the middle aisle, and an organ pealing forth its melodious sounds, the choirs of Cirencester and Bisley, habited in their surplices, marched from the Town Hall through the South door, singing the Processional Hymn, "Jerusalem on high," &c. and passed up the middle aisle, the Cirencester singers taking their customary places, and the others in the chancel and on the south side of the pulpit. About thirty clergymen also joined the procession, and this opening part of the service bore a very solemn and imposing aspect.

The processional hymn having been sung, the Rev Canon Powell commenced the intonation of the introductory sentences, the choirs accompanying him.....

There then follows a lengthy and detailed account of the complete service

.....After the sermon were sung the offertory sentences of "Let your light so shine," "While we have time," "Give alms," and "Be merciful," &c. The hymn, "Holy! Holy! Holy!" followed, and after the pronouncing of the Benediction by the reverend vicar of the parish, the service was concluded.

The choirs then adjourned to the Corn Hall, where an ample supply of cake, bread and butter and tea was provided.

There were present at the festival the choirs from Aldsworth, Ashley, Barnsley, Baunton, Bibury, Bisley, Cirencester, Coates, Coln St Aldwyn's, Crudwell, Daglingworth, Hankerton, Kemble, Minety, Northleach, Poole Keynes, Preston, Rendcomb, Rodmartin, Siddington, Somerford Keynes, South Cerney, and Stratton; comprising 211 trebles, 61 altos, 63 tenors, and 73 basses, making a grand total of 408 singers.

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