



Parish Celebrations

Hilmarton

FESTIVITIES AT HARTHAM PARK

On the occasion of the coming of age of Sir John Poynder Dickson, bart., we gave a detailed report of the festivities, which displayed a degree of liberality on the part of the heir to the Hartham and Hilmarton estates that did credit to his noble and generous spirit, and served to indelibly impress upon all those who took part in them important epoch in the life of the young baronet. Soon after, Sir John signalled his accession to the estate of his ancestor by intimating to his numerous tenants that the half year's rent due at Michaelmas would be remitted, and it is unnecessary to say that in these days, when agriculture is so much depressed, this act of practical sympathy with his tenants was highly appreciated. During the past week the rejoicings in connection with the attainment of the majority of the squire of Hartham were brought to a most fitting conclusion by two receptions at Hartham Park, which were carried out on a scale of Oriental splendour and magnificence. The first reception was on Thursday evening last, when upwards of 230 of the nobility and gentry of the county attended in response to the invitation of Sir John Dickson.

Temporary theatrical and balls room were fitted up so that they could be entered from the house, the former annexe being used as a supper room. Both of these rooms were decorated with very great taste. The embellishments of the ball room were most appropriate, and were greatly admired. Round the room choice plants were tastefully arranged, and huge mirrors placed at judicious distances from each other reflected the brilliancy of the scene. The guests began to arrive about half past nine o'clock, and the following list of names has been furnished to us as among those present:- Earl and Lady Cowley, the Marquis of Worcester, Lord and Lady Henry Bruce, Lord and Lady Avingdon, Lord and Lady Churston, Lord and Lady Raincliffe, Lord H Paulet, Lord and Lady Kilmarnock, Count Gleichen, General the Hon. Somerset, and Mrs and Miss Calthorpe, Mr and Lady Augusta Fane, Lady Hilda Rous, Mr and Mrs Doreen Long, Miss Long, Lady Eva Wellesley, Lady Westmoreland, Lady Margareta Fane, Lady and Misses Lopes, Mrs R and Miss Lopes, Lady and Mr Neeld, the Hon. Mrs Elliott and Miss Elliott, Sir Charles Hobhouse, Sir Gabriel Goldney, General Sir G and Lady Willis, Sir R and Lady Magdalen Bulkeley, Sir Robert and Misses Fowler, Sir R and Lady pollen, Major and Mrs Heneage, Captain and Mrs Aymer, Captain and Mrs T Calley, Captain, Mrs and Miss Chaplin, Colonel, Mrs and Misses Wallington, Captain and Misses Spicer, Captain Julian Spicer, Captain Cotes, Captain and Mrs Skinner, Rev. and Mrs Clarke, Rev. Mr Johnson, Mr. Lowndes, Mr. and Mrs Edmund Clutterbuck, Mr. P. Goldney, Mrs de Windt, Mr., Mrs. and Miss Fuller, Messrs. J. and H. Fuller, Mr. Wood, Mrs and Mrs Vaughan Lee, Mr Hargreaves, Mrs H. Williams, Mr G. Majoribanks, Mr. P. Wroughton, Mr. Charteris, Mr. and Mrs Alfred Burton, Miss I. Jones, Mr. Bouchier, Mr. Drummond Chaplin, Mr. C. and Miss Pollen, Miss E. Cockrill, Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Brown, Mrs. Napier and Misses Miles, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Long, Miss Neville, Mr. and Mrs. H. Clutterbuck, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mr. W. Hartopp, Mr. and Mrs. A. Sutton, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Phipps, Mr. C. Harding, Miss Henniker, Mr. and Miss Calley, &c.

Shortly after ten o'clock the company adjourned to the theatre to witness the following performances, the respective parts being taken by the under mentioned lady and gentlemen amateurs:—"Sugar and Cream," a comedietta: Mr. Wentworth, MR. Cecil Fane; Frank (his son), Mr. Arthur Bouchier; Mrs Mirfield, Lady Augusta Fane; Spruce (her maid), Lady Hilda Rous; Scene, Mrs. Mirfield Bondoir. - "Cups and Saucers" (an original musical satire, by George Grossmith). General Deelah (a China maniac), Mr. A. Bouchier; Mrs. Nankeen Worcester (another), Lady Augusta Fane. The performers displayed histrionic ability of a very high order, and the frequent applause with which they were received testified to the approval of their efforts by the audience.

Dancing began about midnight, the music for which was efficiently performed by the Blue Hungarian Band.

On the following evening (Friday) the whole of the tenantry and principal servants on the estate were entertained in a similar manner, and dancing was kept up great spirit till early the next morning. The musical arrangements on the second evening were under the conductorship of Mr. W. Taylor, of Chippenham. The refreshments were supplied by Messrs. Gunter, of London and the annexes were erected by Messrs. Simmonds, of London.

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