



Burton Hill House Rebuilt After the Devastating Fire of 1846

Destruction of Burton-Hill House by Fire

About 2 o'clock on Saturday morning, the inhabitants of Malmesbury were aroused by a cry of 'Fire,' and it was soon ascertained that Burton-hill house, the mansion of J. Cockerell, esq., was in flames. A very large number of persons were immediately on the spot; but, though the most strenuous exertions were made, such an ascendancy had the devouring element attained, that, in a short time nothing remained of this splendid edifice but a heap of smouldering embers.

By great exertions, a considerable portion of valuable furniture was rescued from the lower rooms, but all in the upper fell a prey to the flames. There were two females and one man servant sleeping in the house, who escaped in their night-clothes. The family, at the present time are in London. Mr. Cockerell arrived in Malmesbury on Saturday, a few hours after the fire was subdued, finding his house – which had lately been improved and enlarged, at considerable expense, a heap of blackened ruins. We have not been able to ascertain the exact cause of the fire, but there is every reason to believe it accidental. The loss is estimated at nearly £10,000.00, but whether or not the property is insured, we cannot say.

It is rather singular that the specific object of Mr. Cockerell's visit to Malmesbury, on Saturday morning, was to meet some tradesmen on business, relative to some further alterations at Burton Hill House.

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