



Sir Michael Hicks Beach & Miss Susan Elwes

Sir Michael Hicks Beach Marries

On Tuesday the 5th instant these usually quiet villages were the scene of great rejoicings on the occasion of the marriage of Sir Michael E Hicks Beach Bart (of Williamstrip Park, Gloucester, and lord of the manors of Netheravon and Fittleton,) to Miss Elwes, eldest daughter of J. H. Elwes, esq. of Colebourne Park, Gloucestershire.

At Netheravon

The day was ushered in by merry peals of bells, which were repeated at intervals; and during the morning the only work that was to be seen doing was the completion of the decorations and preparations for the coming feasts, which Mr. M. Beach had kindly ordered to be provided for his tenants on the Netheravon estate, and for all those in any way employed on the property. A 12 o'clock the men and boys met in the park, and being marshalled by their various employers, headed by the Enford band, and gay with flags and banners, marched to Netheravon House, where they were joined by C. Raikes, esq. who had consented to preside at the dinner. Thence they proceeded up the village street, and marched through the neighbouring village of Fittleton (where also the joyful occasion was celebrated), returning to Mr. Draper's barn shortly after one o'clock. There they found a plentiful supply of roast and boiled beef, mutton and pork, meat pies and plum puddings with abundance of good ale and beer, to which they sat down to the number of nearly 200, and quickly did ample justice to the good fare. After dinner the usual loyal toasts were drunk, and then came the toast of the day, "health and happiness to Sir Michael Beach and his bride", which was drunk amidst deafening cheers. At half past 2 the school children, about 80 in number, were regaled with tea and plum cake at the school room; and at half past 4 the wives and grownup daughters of the labourers sat down in the schoolroom to a substantial meal of bread and meat, tea and plum cake. This over, the tables were cleared away, and dancing commenced and was carried on with much sprit till about 8 o'clock, when the party broke up. Altogether the day was a great success, and one not likely to be soon forgotten by the inhabitants of Netheravon. We must not omit to say that thanks were voted to Mr. and Mrs. Draper for the use of the barn, and for taking the trouble to cater for such a large party: also to Mr. Newton and his assistants for the tasteful way in which the barn and school room were decorated.

At Fittleton

Sir Michael Beach's wish that all the labourers on his estate there and their wives should be entertained upon the happy occasion was fully carried out. Mr. G. Kilmister's large barn was tastefully decorated with evergreens, flags and appropriate mottoes, and at half past six o'clock in the evening the labourers and their wives, and their sons and daughters who work on the Fittleton and Haxton estate, about 170 in number, sat down to a substantial supper, liberally provided for them by Sir M. Beach. The Rev. T. Pearse in the chair. Ample justice was done to the old English fare. During the supper the Figheldean band played some enlivening tunes, and after the usual loyal toasts, the rector proposed the toast of the evening - "Health and happiness to Sir Michael and Lady Beach". This was drunk with the greatest good will and one and all joined in good wishes for the worthy young baronet and his bride. Tables were afterwards removed and several of the party joined in the merry dance, which was kept up with

much spirit until eleven o'clock, when, after singing God Save the Queen, the party dispersed, much pleased with their supper.

Great credit is due to the kind exertions shown upon the occasion by George Kilmister, esq., George Melsome, esq., and J. Pearce, esq. There were also present the Rev. T. and Mrs. Pearse and Miss Roberts, Mrs. Kilmister, Mrs. Melsome, Mr. Pearce, snr, and Mr. James Pearce, Rev. W. H. Heaven, William Stagg, esq., Mr. Draper and Mr. Good. The following morning the remains of the feast were distributed to the aged and infirm. According to Sir M. Beach's wish the school children also had tea and cake at the Rectory, and the elder ones were much pleased with a Christmas Tree. Both old and young will long remember the happy event.

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