



Seend - Holy Cross

Testimonial to the Rev H Barne by the Parishioners of Seend

There are few incidents in life which have a more touching effect upon the feelings than a separation from those to whom we have been accustomed to look for comfort and consolation in the times of trouble and affliction; and in these days of divided opinion upon religious matters, it is no small testimony to the faithful and zealous discharge of duty on the part of a Minister, when we find a whole parish – combining all classes, rich and poor – united in giving expression to one common feeling towards that Minister of affectionate regard and esteem. And we believe there is no parish in the kingdom in which a clergyman has more thoroughly earned “golden opinions from all sorts of men”, than has Mr Barne in the parish of Seend. Of him it may truly be said that

“In his duty, prompt at every call,

He watch'd and wept, he pray'd and felt for all.

And, as a bird each fond endearment tries

To tempt its new pledg'd offspring to the skies,

He try'd each art, reprov'd each dull delay,

Allur'd to brighter worlds he led the way.”

The departure of Mr Barne from Seend is, indeed, a loss not only to that parish, but to the neighbourhood generally. On all public occasions of a religious character – especially where Protestantism needed a defender - Mr Barne was foremost; and although he never failed openly and boldly to express his views upon the various religious questions which have of late years agitated the Church, and his determined opposition to anything like an approximation to the superstitions and idolatries of Rome, yet he did so in a spirit so truly Christian, and in language so entirely free from personal animosity or bitterness, that we believe we may truly say, that even among those who differ from him, not one can be found who does not most heartily regard him as a kindhearted, sincere Christian.

It was to give expression to the feelings entertained towards the Rev Mr Barne by the parishioners of Seend, whom (after a curacy of 11 years) he is about to leave, for a more important sphere of ministerial duty, that a meeting was held on the school room in that parish on Monday last: on which occasion a splendid silver salver, of noble dimensions, handsomely chased, ornamentally engraved, and bearing the following inscription, surmounted by the rev gentleman's family arms, was presented to him: -

Presented to

The Reverend Henry Barne, MA,

Curate of Seend, Wilts.

By the Parishioners and others, members of his congregation,

as a slight but sincere acknowledgement of his

eminent services and unwearied exertions for their

spiritual service, during a period of eleven years; and

testimony of their high estimation of his

private worth.

A.D. 1852

The salver, which was much admired, was contained in a neat oak case, and manufactured by Messrs Payne and Sons of Bath.

Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette Thursday 15 January 1852