



Oddfellows Dinner 1899

Mr. Benett-Stanford and the Soudan Campaign

Mr. Benett-Stanford presided at a dinner in connection with the "Wardour" Lodge, Independent Order of Oddfellows, held at the Victoria Hall on Thursday evening. He was supported by Revs. F. E. Hutchinson and W. S. Hulme, Dr. Ensor, Captain Ensor, Mr. Pinkham, Mr. John Howell, Mr. Lovell, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Wheeler, Messrs. R., A., and A. Hibberd, Jnr., Mr. Seamark, Mr. Westfield, Mr. Corp, &c.

The loyal toasts having been honoured, that of "The Bishop and Clergy" was given from the chair, the Vicar responding.

"The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces" was proposed by Mr. Wheeler, coupled with the name of Mr. Bennett-Stanford.

The Chairman, in responding, remarked that he had served the Queen in many capacities, first in the Eton Volunteers, then in the Militia, from which he went into the Regular Army, and was at the present time in the Yeomanry. Referring to the Soudan campaign he said he thought it his duty to contradict certain reports which had appeared in the newspapers of late with regard to the slaughter of wounded Dervishes at the battle of Omdurman. He was himself present at the battle with Lieut. Morrison. He (Mr. Benett-Stanford) was acting as a war correspondent, and he could safely say the wounded were properly treated. There were no cases of British soldiers killing the wounded, although the Army had to pass over the field of battle. Many of the wounded shot at their victors when marching in line over the field, and the Remingtons were simply taken from them by the British. There might have been a few cases where the wounded were bayoneted by Soudanese soldiers, but that would be when they (the wounded) continued to fire at the Soudanese after the battle was won - and if those present knew the men, they would understand the necessity. The Dervishes, although shot in the legs or body, would continue to fire.

The toast of the "Wardour Lodge" was coupled with the name of the Secretary (Mr. Hill), who replied.

"The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. T Wilkins, and responded to by Mr. Pinkham, of Salisbury, and "The Health of the Host and Hostess" was also heartily drunk.

Mr. Griffin suitably replied.

During the evening songs were rendered by Messrs. Dennis and Sheppard, of Salisbury, Mr. Seamark, of Chilmark, Mr. Wheeler, Mr. J. Russell, and others. Mr. F. H. Hinton was at the piano.

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