



Arbuthnot Memorial Window © Copyright Basher Eyre

Painted Window in the Church

A beautiful painted window was last week placed in the east end of the north aisle of Tollard church to the memory of the Hon. Alice Arbuthnot, who it will be remembered, was here married to Captain William Arbuthnot (14th Hussars) on the 26th of April, 1865, and was unfortunately killed by lightning on her wedding tour while ascending the Schelthorn, one of the Bernese Alps, near Interlachen, in Switzerland, on the 21st of June, scarcely eight weeks after her marriage.

The window has three compartments. In the center one at the top is a half-length representation of the Saviour blessing little children. Below these is a full length female figure, with upturned face and heavenly countenance, the arms extended and raised, as if in the act of ascension, and underneath on a scroll is written the text – “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.” – (Matt. V. 8.). The north compartment contains two figures, representing the wise and foolish virgins. The one is standing with hands partly raised, and a look of expectation on her countenance, ready to step forward; the other is seated, her face covered with one hand, while the other one holds the lamp which has gone out. The text below this is – “Behold the Bridegroom cometh; go ye and meet Him.” – (Matt. XXV. 6.) In the south light are two figures, representing orphan children, one holding an infant in its arms, while a third figure represents Charity, in the act of giving a dole to the orphans. The text below is – “Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the father less and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” – (James I. 27.)

On a brass plate under the window is the following inscription: - “To the glory of God, and in memory of the Hon. Alice Arbuthnot, the window above this tablet is dedicated by her husband, W. Arbuthnot.” The

stained glass is protected by plate glass outside, the size of each compartment, as well as by a wire guard. The window was painted by Bertini, of Milan; and the faces are exceedingly life-like and expressive.

On the north side is a marble tablet to the memory of the late Lord and Lady Rivers, the father and mother of the late lamented lady; and on the south side of the same window is a little wooden cross which was erected by the peasants on the spot where the unfortunate lady fell on the mountain, and which was replaced by a marble cross as soon as one could be obtained.

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