

## Column 1

### OPENING NEW NATIONAL SCHOOLS AT SOUTH MARSTON.

We have lately had to chronicle the opening of schools in Wiltshire, erected by the munificence of private persons interested in the education and moral welfare of the children of the poor. A two since we recorded the handing over to of a free school erected for the children of poor at Malmesbury, by Mr. Walter Powell MP. On - Wednesday last an interesting celebration at South Marston, on the occasion of the inauguration of handsome and commodious schools in that village, which had been erected at the sole cost of Mr Alfred Bell, of Marston Manor, an extensive landed proprietor and lord of the manor. South Marston, as many of our readers are aware, is a district chapelry of the parish of Highworth, containing about 400 inhabitants, and three miles distant from Highworth. Until about 20 years ago the children of had no means of education except a small dame's school. This state of things so affected the mind of Miss Rowden, a daughter of the late highly-respected vicar of Highworth, the Rev. Edward Rowden, that she used every exertion to obtain subscriptions, and so succeeded in building a very small school by the roadside. That little school proved of inestimable value, but although subsequently enlarged by Mr. Bell, is now wholly inadequate to meet the requirements of the district. Under these circumstances Mr. Bell determined to erect a thoroughly sufficient school which should be connected with the Church of England, simultaneously declaring by a circular distributed among the inhabitants of South Marston that his object in so doing was first and foremost to secure beyond all doubt the elementary religious instruction of the children ; and, at the same time, to give them a real and useful rudimentary education, and to the girls in addition instruction in sewing, cutting out, and as far as practicable in all other departments of home and domestic work. Hence have arisen the present new National Schools, which have been erected on a plot of land forming one corner of Mr. Bell's park, near to the old school, and in about the centre of the village, facing the Shrivenham road, thus making the distance about equal for all the scholars. The schools form a picturesque group of buildings of the early English period of Gothic architecture. The walls are built of local stone faced with Swindon stone, the dressings of the doors, windows, bell turret, and chimney shaft being of Bath stone. The roofs are covered with Broseley plain tiles, which project well over the walls, and finished with ornamental barge boards. The bell turret above the stone work is formed of deal, covered with oak shingles, and surmounted by a finial and weathercock of appropriate design. Very pleasing harmonies of color are obtained by the red ballasting of the playgrounds, the grey stone of the walls, the brindled tiles of the roofs, and the peculiarly handsome green of the barge boards. The internal arrangements consist of a schoolroom 37ft. 6in. long by 18ft broad, with a class-room 14ft. square : the height of both rooms being 15ft. 6in. to the ceiling, which, together with the walls, are plastered and colored in distemper. The floors are boarded, and the walls to the height of 4ft. are lined with deal wainscoting. There are distinct entrance porches for the boys and girls, with cap and bonnet rooms attached, the walls of which are faced with brickwork neatly pointed, and the floors paved with tiles of three colors laid irregularly. The chimney-pieces are of stone, the upper part of the one in the schoolroom being panelled and filled in with painted tiles. illustrating some of the fables of Aesop ; the centre tile being illuminated and bearing the motto, "Laborare est orare." This is a happy adaptation of art to useful purposes. Hundreds of children had their minds awakened for the first time years ago by

lessons given from the quaint Dutch tiles of the chimney-corner, and the revival of the idea in a schoolroom is highly appropriate, carrying out the Shakespearian idea of

Tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in everything.

The school and class-rooms are fitted up with Colman and Glendenning's Eastern Counties patent desks, which are ingeniously contrived to allow of their being need as desks, either flat for working or sloping for writing and drawing; or they may be converted into a backed-seat, or two of them placed together form a convenient table for tea-meetings. &c. A very novel arrangement has been carried out in the class-room. The desks stand on a stepped platform, and on their being removed and placed against the side walls, by means of hinged flaps in the floor of the platforms an infants' gallery is provided, the flaps forming the backs to the seats. Cutting out tables, mistress's desk, cupboards for work, books, music, &c., blackboards, and every other modern appliance for teaching of the most approved description is provided, one thing especially inviting attention being a box of models, which is a perfect little museum of natural and artificial objects. The fire-places in the rooms, it should be stated, are fenced round with a substantial iron guard, which is secure by a lock, therefore meddling with the fire is impossible.

The walls are hung with maps, and a set of very handsome colored lithographic prints, and at the two ends of the schoolroom are two pictures, painted by the eminent artist, Henry Holiday, of London, representing at the boys' end the Greek stadium, or racecourse. The scene represents the runners nearing the goal, the winner making for the place where sits the director of the sports holding forth the crown of laurel which is to reward the victor. The picture is highly suggestive. One of those in the rear has fallen, others shows signs of distress, and the one who is last is panting and exhausted. The object of the picture is to illustrate and enforce the passage of Scripture in the 24th verse of the ninth chapter of the first Epistle to the Corinthians: " Know ye not that they who run in a race run all. but one receiveth the prize so run that ye may win." On the wall at the girls end of the room is a picture illustrative of passages in the thirty-first chapter of the Book of Proverbs, and is meant to point out a moral to the scholars. The picture is divided into groups or panels. Beneath one are the words "She eateth not the bread of idleness." and the scene represents several females in the flowing drapery of eastern costume occupied in various useful or instructive pursuits. The next panel represents a mother and children, the inscription being "In her tongue is the law of kindness." Another division represents a fruit garden, from which females are gathering fruits, the inscription being "Give her of the fruit of her hands. The pictures are surmounted by a stone frame, connecting them with the architecture of the building. The idea is an excellent one, and if the authority of the poet Keats may be relied upon, that

A thing of beauty a joy for ever,

then provision has been made for a continual source of pleasure to the pupils of this school. We believe in the influence of the Beautiful, even upon the humblest minds, and though the idea has been exaggerated until it has become absurd, it is none the less true in principle. The same taste is developed in the playgrounds, a portion near the building being railed off, in which bright and beautiful flowers are to be planted, out of the way of injury, but in full view of the children. Thus will be illustrated the following lines of Longfellow :-

Spake full well in language quaint and olden,  
One who dwelleth by the castled Rhine,  
When he called the flowers, so blue and golden,  
Stars, that in earth's firmament do shine.

Stars they are, wherein we read our history,  
As astrologers and seers of old :  
Yet not wrapped shout with awful mystery,  
Like the burning stars, which they beheld.

Wondrous truths and manifold as wondrous,  
God hath written in those stars above ;

But not less in the bright flowerets under us  
Stands the revelation of his love.

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Everywhere about us are they glowing,  
Same like stars, to tell us spring is born :  
Others. their blue eyes with tears o'er flowing,  
Stand like Ruth amid the golden corn.

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In all places. then, and In all seasons.  
Flowers expand their light and soul-like wings,  
Teaching us. by most persuasive reasons,  
How akin they are to human things.

Coronae have been provided for sufficiently lighting the building with candles in the winter months, for penny readings, concerts, and other entertainments, while the arrangements for light, drainage, and ventilation, have been carefully considered. Ample playgrounds have been set apart for the recreation of the children, furnished with a large swing for the girls, and with parallel, horizontal, and jumping bars for the boys. They are enclosed towards the road with fencing, and towards the park with a dwarf stone wall, and iron railing ; they are provided with the necessary wash basins, etc. and well supplied with water. The sanitary arrangements are worthy of all praise, and the same thoughtfulness which suggested flowers and pictures for the play-ground and schoolroom appears to have devised that habits of cleanliness and an observance of the decencies of life should be inculcated. While, therefore, the teacher is imparting rudimentary knowledge, other beneficial influences will be at work.

The works have been admirably carried out by Messrs William Drewe and Sons, of Highworth, from the designs and under the superintendence of Mr. James Scholfield, of No 5, Keppel Street, Russell Square, London, and have been erected and completely furnished, at considerable cost, by Mr. Bell, whose initials may be seen quaintly introduced on a shield in the front gable of the school room, and who has spared no expense nor consideration to make the schools a model of their kind, and has furnished them in a way quite unique. and in a manner beyond all praise. 'It may be as well to mention that the proportion of the population for whom school accommodation should be provided is variously stated by the authorities , at either one sixth or one fifth of the total number of inhabitants, which give in this case either 67 or 80 children respectively. but according to the actual state of matters during the last few weeks the number of scholars in attendance has been over 100 necessitating the temporary use of the club room, and further demonstrating the need of a new building. The new schools are designed for 120 children. Reckoning 8 feet superficial for each child according to the requirements of the Committee of the Privy Council on Education after making a slight allowance for little

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children and infants. Of this 120, according to the usual calculations, an average daily attendance of 90 may be expected, and actual desk accommodation has been provided for this number. The general contractors for the works as before stated are Messrs. Drew and Sons, of Highworth ; the iron fencing, water works, etc., were executed by Messrs. Wakelin, of London ; the casements were supplied by Plester, of Finsbury, London ; the coronae from the architect's designs, by Messrs. Abercrombie and Son, of Whitheld Street, London, and the painted tiles by Messrs. Gibbs and Moore, of Great Russell-Street, London.

Having devoted this much by way of preliminary - not a line more than is deserved, am we are sure the inhabitants of Marston will endorse - we pass on to the proceedings of Wednesday. Previous to the service in the church, Mr. Bell entertained a party at luncheon at his residence. Among those present were, of course, Mr. Bell and his family, the Rev. J. C. Norman and Mrs. Norman, the Rev. Carlton and Mrs. Olive, Mr. D. Archer (Mrs. Archer being unavoidably absent from illness). Mrs. Archer (Lushill) and family, the Rev. F. M., Mrs., and Miss Rowden, the Rev. H.

P. and Mrs. Chesshire, the Rev. W. H. Bath, Mr. and Miss Steward, Mr. R. H. Hall, the Rev. J. B. and Mrs. Smeaton, the Rev. A. G. Glenn, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. Beart, Miss Statham. Mr. Hooking, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, the Rev. J. and Mrs. Hughes, Mr. Schofield, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Foote, Mr. J. H. Piper, &c.

After luncheon, the clergymen named above proceeded to the old schoolroom, where they robed, and, headed by the boys of the Highworth choir, walked in procession to the church, singing as a processional hymn, "Rejoice, ye pure in heart." The church was filled with an attentive congregation. The Rev. W. H. Bath, the minister in charge of the chapelry of South Marston, read the prayers ; the lessons bring read by the Rev. F. M. Rowden and the Rev. H. P. Chesshire. The Rev. J. C. Norman, the vicar of Highworth, of which South Marston forms a part, was the preacher. He selected for his text a passage from the 19th verse of the 11th chapter of Deuteronomy, " And ye shall teach them your children," referring to the commandments of God. The preacher commenced by observing that as far as the mere sustaining of life was concerned, there was not much trouble in instructing the people, but when it came to the higher or the spiritual life, with its great responsibilities, then it was difficult indeed to induce men to see how great were the duties, how many the cares cast upon them. Take the life of a child. It was true that there was a certain course to be taken if food were to be provided and the child nourished ; this was done, but how often was there a difficulty in getting parents to see how great was the responsibility resting upon them in the matter of the spiritual or eternal interests of the child. Yes ; though men would not often see it, there was the influence of almost every hour acting upon that little child, and it might be that to the first seed of evil sown in the mind of that child -by the sad example of a mother, by the sinful practices of a father or the thoughtless words of an elder brother or sister—might be traced the future career of sin, wickedness, and vice that had, in later years, when that child had become a man or woman, dragged him or her down to perdition. Passing on to the subject of the education of children, and the need of their being instructed in religion, Mr. Norman observed that there had of late been a desire manifested to separate secular from religious instruction, leaving the religious education to the parents alone, and that, too, at the very time that those who advocated the change knew that those parents, from past neglect, were entirely unable to give that education. Men were slow to move, but at last there had been an effort made to stir up a change, and adopt what was thought to be an improved system of education. But with that change had come deeper and heavier responsibilities. They had met that day on an occasion which illustrated that fact. They were met to thank God, and to congratulate themselves that he had put it into the heart of one to provide for that parish a new school. How great was the responsibility now cast upon them, time would scarcely permit him to tell. It was not an individual responsibility. It was on all, but especially should parents and employers do their parts. If parents cared for the physical lives of their children and nourished them with food, how much more should they see that the seed of faith sown in Holy Baptism was cared for and tended until it should germinate into a sense of the need of living a religious life and the consequences of acting in an opposite direction. Parents should not leave all to be done by others. Did they expect other persons to bring the food and water which nourished the bodies of their children? If not, why then should they expect that their duty in the matter of the spiritual welfare of their children should be left to others. Turning to employers, the preacher urged upon them that the mere employment of children and payment of their wages did not absolve them from the duty they owed, which was to care for their mental and moral welfare, to watch over their habits, to check tendencies to evil, and set an example which would be lasting and beneficial. The preacher returned again to the topic of religious instruction, to enforce a further lesson. He remarked that the Scripture said of those who were married, " Whom God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." If, then, so stringent a command were given in that case, could they separate religious from secular instruction in our schools, when the religious teaching was as important, nay, more important, to the eternal future of a child, than the mere secular knowledge, valuable that undoubtedly was, could be to his present. The two must go together; the spiritual and intellectual life must be kept alive, let no man attempt the evil course of separating them. Having again, in earnest and eloquent words, urged upon parents the duty of teaching their children in their homes, Mr. Norman said there was no getting rid of the responsibility. If parents said, " We can't teach, for we don't know ourselves," they might shift but not get rid of the charge. They knew where to take them to school, where they would be well

taught, and if they did not they would be answerable for the consequences, even if they could not teach themselves. The preacher repudiated the idea that the charge of the education of children rested entirely with the ministers. He did not dispute the grave and serious responsibility which rested upon the clergy, and to which he believed they were quite alive, but he contended the order in which the influence in a parish should come, was first the parents, second the employers, and third the clergy, whose influence was of a kind different to that of the two who preceded him. The preacher concluded an able and eloquent address, rather than a sermon, by recapitulating the points he had advanced, urging upon all concerned in the welfare of children they valued their eternal welfare, as they expected to be judged for all deeds done in the flesh, to leave no efforts unused, no influence unexerted to seek to educate and train both the intellectual and spiritual natures of the rising generation. The sermon having ended, the choir and clergy left the church in procession, followed by the congregation, and marched to the new schools singing the hymn, "Hark, the sound of holy voices!" Arrived at the schoolroom, which was speedily filled to overflowing, the remainder of the service, consisting of proper prayers, responses, and hymns, was gone through. At the end of the prayers, the Rev. J. C. Norman asked of Mr. Bell whether he gave those schools to be used for the instruction of children, and their training in the religious principles of the Church of England. Mr. Bell having given his assent, the schools were then declared opened "In the faith of Jesus Christ, and in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost." The Benediction having been pronounced, the religious portion of the service terminated.

After a brief interval, Mr. Bell was unanimously voted to the chair, it being intended to deliver a few short addresses bearing on the subject of the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN (who was very warmly received) said he desired to say a few words upon the circumstances which had led to the opening of the school that day. Twenty years ago, there were no day or Sunday Schools in South Marston. This matter so much influenced Miss Rowden, the daughter of the late venerable vicar of the parish of Highworth, that she set about raising subscriptions to provide a school; but she did not meet with any great encouragement, and was only able to erect a very small building upon a piece of waste land by the side of the road. The increase of the population of the parish, however, as well as the requirements of the age in which we lived, had rendered it necessary to erect the schools, which they had that day opened, and the reason which had influenced him in taking that step was, first and foremost, and before all things, to provide religious instruction for the children who attended. He was most desirous that religion should have the place of honor in connection with that school, and he trusted that every child who entered that school, besides being instructed in that which would be useful through life, would also be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. In these days there were those who desired to support the secular and not religious education, but it had always occurred to his mind how they could consider such a course really possible. We were now living in the nineteenth century: it was now nineteen hundred years since the Faith of Christ and the knowledge of religion had been leavening what was, when first applied, simply pure secularism, and persons who were desirous to establish or, rather, re-establish secular education, could not now force it upon the children of this country without doing violence to what we considered the best and holiest influences. In support of his argument of the value of religious teaching, the chairman mentioned an anecdote of a distinguished member of the Society of Friends, who, coming under the notice of the Emperor Alexander many years since, visited Russia and inspected some of the schools in that empire. He found that a number of children were being instructed upon the Lancaster system, the Bible being wholly absent, and the book used as a text-book for the children was the writings of Voltaire. This so much affected the feelings of this good Quaker that he brought the matter under the notice of the Emperor, who promised to have a book prepared, consisting of extracts from the Scriptures. This was done, and the book introduced in the Russian schools, and so favorably was it regarded, that the British and Foreign School Society in this country adopted it for their own

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use in their schools, and many of the clergy of the Church of England so highly approved of it that they had it used in their own schools also. These facts, the Chairman thought, were most

convincing in favor of maintaining religious instruction in schools. Referring to the building that had been opened that day, the Chairman said they had been erected by a most experienced architect, who had sought to render everything of use, and had made utility a leading feature.

The Rev. J. C. NORMAN said he could hardly tell how much he felt the services of that day ; for apart from the joyousness inseparable from so auspicious an event, they would understand what he felt when he told them that it had been one of his most anxious desires during his incumbency to see a good school at Marston. He was, therefore, deeply thankful to Mr. Bell for what he had done. He most heartily coincided in all that the chairman had said as to Mr. Schofield, for a more suitable building could not have been erected. It was a model school ; everything was adapted to use, and that use was apparent at the first glance. The parish of Marston and all concerned in it were deeply indebted to Mr. Bell, and he would call upon the farmers by the way in which they supported the school, and the parents by their desire to send their children to it, to show how they appreciated Mr. Bell's liberality. Having paid a graceful compliment to Mr. Bell—to whom the speaker said he knew anything like flattery was distasteful - Mr. Norman passed on to notice a local matter, saying he had resolved that the first time he met the South Marston farmers he should have it out with them. In a tone of good-humored raillery he said his friends at Marston had painted him in all kinds of colors, and given him a most doubtful reputation, though if they had but looked a little closer and come and had a talk with him they would have found he was only one color and was not after all so bad as they thought him (a laugh). As for the separation of the parish of Marston and making it a distinct incumbency, he could only say that he had no objection, whenever there was a home for a resident minister, to see it done (hear, hear, and applause). He never had any objection—it had always been his wish, and was now his desire, but it must not be done by him ; he must not move in the matter, the movement must be from the parishioners. He repudiated having any other feeling but one of interest in Marston, though he dared say some would think, " Ah, it is all very well for Mr. Bell to give us a school, but we are bound to be under the dictation of the potentate on the hill " (laughter). He could assure them he did not wish to exercise any such authority, his only desire being to help them when his aid was needed. Having referred to the beautiful interior of these schools, and the efforts made to please and instruct the eye, Mr. Norman pointed out that not only had they new schools, but they also had children to put in them, and under the teaching of their new mistress they might hope to still further see them increase. There was, however, just one more word to be said. It was impossible to keep up schools for what they used to be sustained upon ; everything was going up in price, and all their expenses were increasing. They must, therefore, all be more liberal in their contributions in future, and he was sanguine enough to hope that there would be no difficulty in maintaining the schools in a state of efficiency (applause).

Mr. DAVID ARCHER said public speaking was not his forte, but having been called upon he would say a few words. The people of Marston had much to thank Mr. Bell for, the schools opened that day being the best of the kind ever placed upon foundations (hear, hear). This much he would urge upon those present—to see that the building was kept up, to see that there were proper teachers, and see that the children were properly taught, and thus do without a School Board (hear, hear, and applause). If there was one thing more than another to be deprecated in a small parish, it was the establishment of a School Board ; it often led to discord, to litigation, and to anything but unity (hear, hear). Let them, then, unite and maintain their schools themselves. Mr. Bell had not only built these schools, but ever since he had been connected with the parish he had done all in his power to benefit the place. Look at the cottages he had built for the laborers -they were model cottages (applause) then, again, note the allotment gardens that had been provided for the laborers (renewed applause). Mr. Bell did not confine his gifts to his own parish alone, for when Schools were built at Stratton he generously helped. In fact, they had in their Chairman a kind friend and generous helper in every good cause

The Rev. W. H. BATH said he was but expressing the feeling of the whole parish when he thanked Mr. Bell for his generous gift of the school for the parish, and they desired to rejoice with him in the completion of the work that day. Alluding to the work of education in the parish, the speaker amid it was in a hopeful state, observing that the Diocesan Inspector—Mr. Powles—had spoken favorably of it, and in a recent letter he said, " I congratulate South Marston on its schools and on its squire. May Good bless and prosper both." There were 79 names on the register, and over 70 attended

the Sunday School out of a population of 400, and he thought this was very satisfactory as far as the attendance was concerned. The school had very much increased since the arrival of their new mistress. She began work with 30 children and now had 80, and he expected the next thing they would have to do would be to obtain assistance to help her. There were some persons in the parish, who he ventured to call "croakers," who had said that the large attendance of late was in consequence of the treat to the children that was in prospect. He, however, was not a "croaker" himself, and believed that the poor of South Marston appreciated Mr. Bell's kindness too much not to send their children now he had provided accommodation for them. The speaker concluded by expressing a hope that the school committee would occasionally visit the school and take an interest in it, and encourage the mistress by their presence and sympathy.

The Rev. J. C. NORMAN said he felt they ought not to separate without expressing their thanks to the Misses Bell (loud applause). The heart of many a man and woman in that parish was full of thankfulness and gratitude for the good work which was carried on in their midst by the piety, earnestness, and kindness of the daughters of Mr. Bell, they being warm sympathisers in every good object. An interest in the education and moral welfare of the poor of the parish originated years ago with Miss Rowden, and it had been happily taken up, extended, and increased by the excellent ladies whom he had named, and he was sure all present felt grateful to them (applause). The CHAIRMAN said he could not call upon his daughters to respond, for he hated what was termed "Women's Rights"—that is to say, their speechmaking and appearing in public (laughter and applause), and he feared he would be too partial a person to respond for them. He would, therefore, call upon the Rev. H. P. Chesshire to discharge that duty.

The Rev. H. P. CHESSHIRE gracefully acknowledged the compliment on behalf of the Misses Bell, alluding to the fact that every good, charitable, and religious work in every parish was always sustained and encouraged by the efforts of the ladies, and especially so was it, as he was personally aware, in the parish of Marston. Alluding to the object of their gathering that day, Mr. Chesshire urged upon those residing in the parish the necessity of liberality in maintaining the schools in efficiency, for whatever was expended in that direction would eventually be returned in the shape of an intelligent and well-trained body of laborers. He suggested that the members of the committee should occasionally visit the school and themselves examine the children, and thus additionally test the character of the teaching and the nature of the instruction given. The Rev. F. M. ROWDEN (who was formerly curate of the district of South Marston during his father's tenure of office as vicar of Highworth), referred to past phases of life in that district, and made an earnest speech in favor of maintaining religious education in its integrity, without which, he feared, secular education would be of little avail, and, indeed, without which, he feared, secular education could not stand. He laid great stress upon the necessity of men adhering to and believing in the pure and simple teaching of the Bible. It was too much the fashion of the present day to attach a great importance to what the church or chapel might teach. That, he believed, was an error, and, while giving due importance to both church and chapel, he would urge upon all—both those who were members of the Church of England and those who belonged to the Nonconformist body—to follow out, to live more, and to act up more to the teachings and spirit of the Scripture.

Mr. C. PINNEGER (a member of the school committee), in responding to a call, said he felt sure he was expressing the feelings of his colleagues—as he was his own—when he said they were deeply sensible of the kindness of Mr. Bell, and could indeed must be the heart of any man who could fail to appreciate such single-minded generosity as that which had suggested the erection of a school for the instruction of the children of the poor. Mr. Bell had set them an example which he trusted they would follow, and he hoped there would be no difficulty in raising necessary funds to keep up the schools. When he (the speaker) first came to Marston there were no schools and no means of instruction; the consequence was that the children grew up in vice, ignorance, drunkenness, prize-fighting, and every other kind of immorality, and nothing could be done but the little which Mr. Rowden was enabled to perform and he, as they knew, lived distant from that part of the parish. He was happy to say, however, things had taken a great change, and, thanks to Mr. Rowden's kindness, they had a resident minister in the place, and it had pleased God—for he honestly and sincerely confessed that he saw the hand of Providence in the matter—to direct Mr. Bell's footsteps to that parish, and his fixing his residence among them had led to the stimulation of good works and to the spread of religion, while by the excellent cottages he had erected he had

done much to improve the condition of the people and raise their moral tone; and he had just crowned a long series of acts of sympathy and kindness by erecting those beautiful schools. He trusted that Mr. Bell might live long among them to witness the fruit of his disinterestedness and sympathy, and he would see in the improved education, morals, and manners of the rising generation that what he had done had not been done in vain (applause). Alluding to Mr. Norman's remark

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that he was willing to sanction the erection of Marston into a separate parish, Mr. Pinniger said it was with much pleasure he heard those remarks and without any personal feeling towards Mr. Norman, he begged to say that he thought the parishioners were only too anxious for the opportunity of saying. 'We are obliged to you for past favors, but we don't want any more (much laughter). Referring to the suggestion that farmers in the parish should visit the schools, Mr. Pinniger said it was a misfortune that most of the farmers in that parish were bachelors, and he contended that only those who were married and had families could possibly feel an interest in the instruction and education of children. He would, therefore, urge upon his neighbors, if for no other reason but to qualify themselves for the post of visitors to the school, to enter into the bonds of matrimony, and he really thought that there would be very little difficulty to do that, seeing the number of amiable and attractive young ladies who were to be seen every day (much laughter). Mr. SCHOLFIELD, the architect, in responding to a graceful allusion to his name by the Chairman, said it gratified him to find the schools had given such satisfaction. He had had a generous and liberal client to work for, and Mr. Drewe had been a model contractor, ready and willing to do whatever he was requested, and executed his work with the utmost correctness and integrity. Everything had been done to render the schools useful and applicable, and he believed that Mr. Bell would hand them over in such a state of efficiency that it only needed a little stationery and a few pens and ink to enable the instruction of the children to commence.

The proceedings were brought to a close by three hearty cheers for the Chairman, led by Mr. Pinniger. The company then adjourned to the lawn of the Manor, where many more joined them, tea having been prepared al fresco. There, too, was the band of the New Swindon volunteers, discoursing sweet music. After tea had been partaken of, which was enjoyed without formality, and with that ease and freedom which make up the pleasure of out-door festivity - some being seated in chairs, others on grassy mounds or sloping banks dancing and other amusements were indulged in. A large number of persons had been invited--in fact, all comers were received—and the amiable daughters of the worthy owner of the manor were unceasing in their attentions to their guests, who were heartily and gracefully welcomed.

On Thursday a treat was given to the children attending the day and Sunday Schools, and yesterday (Friday) the parents of the children were entertained.

We must not omit to mention that the portion of the village near the church and schools was decorated with flags and evergreens ; an avenue of evergreens and foliage had also been formed from the entrance gates to the school door. Over the entrance were, in red letters on a white ground, the words, " Long may he live," referring to the founder of the buildings.

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