



Annual Fete for School Children

CODFORD

On Thursday, the 11th instant, the children of the Day and Sunday Schools were kindly entertained by J. Ravenhill, Esq., and family, their liberal supporters. At an early hour the children might be seen wending their way to the School-room, from which, having decorated themselves with garlands, &c., they walked in procession to Ashton House, the seat of Mr Ravenhill. Here they were supplied with tea and cake to their hearts content, after which they were allowed to amuse themselves on the lawn and park with the various sports provided for them, in all of which they were joined by their kind benefactors, until shades of evening began to close upon them. They were then collected before the house, where they received numerous rewards, and having expressed their loyalty and patriotism in several songs, concluded by singing the evening hymn: and we trust sincerely joined in praising "Him from whom all blessings flow," for having so kindly disposed the hearts of their generous friends towards them.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 26th August, 1854)

CODFORD

CHILDREN'S FETE.- The annual treat given by J. Ravenhill, Esq., of Ashton House, to the children of the Codford St. Peter Day and Sunday-schools took place on Tuesday, the 24th. The unsettled appearance of the weather in the forenoon filled many a young heart with disappointment at the thought of having this long-expected pleasure deferred for 24 hours. At three o'clock, however, a hasty summons was given, which was quickly obeyed, and shortly after four o'clock the children had assembled in the schoolrooms to the number of about 120, and from thence proceeded to Ashton House, where its inmates were waiting on the lawn to receive them, accompanied by the surrounding clergy and gentry, and surrounded by a plentiful supply of good plum cake and tea. Grace having sung, the children quickly seated themselves, and as quickly commenced a vigorous attack on the huge piles of cake which were handed to them, to which they did ample justice. As soon as tea was ended they proceeded to enjoy themselves in various sports suited to their age and sex. They were, however, soon stopped by a heavy shower, which obliged them to fly for shelter to a booth provided in case of such a mishap, but as it was of short duration, they were soon able to resume their sports, which, notwithstanding the dampness of the grass, were kept up very vigorously until evening began to spread its shades over them. They were then collected before the house, where, after partaking of more cake, each child received the reward of its diligence and good conduct at school; and having sung several songs, the "Gloria Patria" terminated the pleasure of the evening.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 4th August, 1855)

CODFORD

On Tuesday week, the children of the Sunday and Day Schools of Codford St. Peter, numbering 130, partook of the kind liberality of the worthy inmates of Ashton-house, J. Ravenhill, Esq., and family. The morning being misty caused much anxiety as to what the afternoon would be; but, to the joy of all parties, it ended in a bright and lovely day. At an early hour, therefore, the children met at the school, displaying a vast number of garlands and banners, with which they proceeded to Ashton-house. Here, upon the lawn, they were amply supplied with cake and tea, after which various sports were provided for their amusement, and most heartily joined in by nearly all the inhabitants of Codford of every age and rank. A pleasing sight they presented; the sunshine of their happy faces being in accordance with that of the weather; but at length the shades of the evening proved that all earthly joys are transient, and told the unwelcome tale that all must separate. The joyous party, therefore, having sung a hymn, went to their

homes, making the air ring with cheers for the worthy family to whom they were indebted for the pleasures of the day.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 9th August, 1856)

CODFORD

On Tuesday week, the annual fete given by J. Ravenhill, Esq., of Ashton House, to the children of the Codford St. Peter's Day and Sunday Schools, took place. The threatening aspect of the weather in the morning was a source of much anxiety to many, who had long anticipated with pleasure the enjoyments of this day; but before noon all appearance of rain had passed away, and shortly after four o'clock the children, to the number of some 130, marched in procession from the School to Ashton House, decorated with garlands, and carrying a variety of banners, which formed a very pleasing appearance. They were met on the lawn by their kind benefactors and a numerous assemblage of friends, from whom they received a hearty welcome, and having sung a grace quickly seated themselves, and were supplied with tea, cake, &c., to which having done ample justice, they scattered themselves over the lawn and park, and were soon engaged in a variety of sports, suited to their age and sex, in which they were joined by a large party of the villagers. The children, when tired of their amusements, were summoned to receive their rewards; after which they sung several songs and hymns in a very creditable manner, and having loudly cheered Mr Ravenhill and his family, they departed with warm expressions of gratitude, which we trust time will not efface.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 8th August, 1857)

CODFORD

On Tuesday last, J. Ravenhill, Esq., of Ashton-house, gave his annual treat to school children – Sunday, National, and Night – of the parishes of Codford and of Ashton, and with his wonted hospitality at the same time liberally entertained all classes of the inhabitants. The daily school children, under the admirable direction of Miss Ravenhill, were bountifully supplied with cake and other good things, and were then allowed to join in the various dances and games in the park appropriated to their use, all of them being presented with useful and appropriate rewards. The pupils of the Night-school (which has numbered 70 during the last winter) now made their appearance, and met with the same kind treatment. Several of these young men were the recipients of valuable books, and one of them was the fortunate possessor of a certificate of merit from the Hants and Wilts Educational Society. They heartily engaged in foot ball, running, and jumping, and the sturdy competitors were rewarded with prizes of hats, jackets, and other articles of clothing. At the close of this very interesting village fete the school children were collected, and sang with much taste several heartstirring and cheerful, as well as sacred, pieces, affording further evidence of the anxious care that had been bestowed on them by Miss Ravenhill. After giving vociferous cheers to the Queen, the founder of the feast, &c., the children reluctantly left the joyous scene, and the villagers dispersed. The large party of invited guests then partook of an elegant supper provided by the worthy host.

(Salisbury and Winchester Journal, Saturday 24th July, 1858)