



The Barley Corn Inn, known as the Collingbourne Inn in the 1840s

## **Wealthy and Respectable Provide for The Humble Poor**

On Wednesday the 5th inst., the aged poor of the above named parish (agreeably to the commendable custom of the last few years) were regaled with their annual dinner at the expense of the Landed Proprietors and respectable inhabitants of the place, who willingly contributed towards so laudable an object. It was cheering to see them, many bending under the weight of years, slowly but joyously wending their way from the different hamlets towards the central point of meeting, the Collingbourne Inn - on that day at least animated by the expectation of doing full justice to the good viands they knew full well to be in store for them – expectations which it is only due to Mr. Glass, the landlord of the Inn, to say were completely realised.

The dinner was most admirably arranged, and roast and boiled of the best description indicated Mr. Glass to be a most liberal caterer in behalf of those, for whom in too many instances at the festive season of the year “nothing is prepared.” A few minutes before one o’clock, the Marchioness of Ailesbury with her usual punctuality made her appearance, and accompanied by the Rev. C. H. Poore, the Vicar of the parish, promptly proceeded to the commodious Club Room of the Inn, where her Ladyship, seated at the end of the groaning board, took an active part in carving the savoury and substantial joints, and dispensing what had been so bountifully provided to the privileged guests; and added at the same time much to the interest of the scene, by the animated and affable manner in which she replied to the simple and earnest enquiries of her more immediate neighbours after the health of her noble consort.

After grace had been said at the conclusion of the feast by the Rev. Vicar, and a few suitable and appropriate toasts had been given from the chair, the aged and happy party were left in full possession of the room, to enjoy the afternoon in social and friendly chat over the events of the day, and before nightfall they might be seen returning to their respective homes, we doubt not, gratefully impressed with the conviction that the respectable inhabitants of their parish were not uninterested in their welfare, as evidenced by the good things that had been provided for them; and practically convinced, by what they saw that day, as in former years, on a similar occasion, that the most elevated in rank can sympathize with the humblest poor, and know how to obey a Christian precept, by condescending to men of low estate.

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