



Visit of Baronet Beach

Rejoicing at Netheravon and Fittleton

On Friday and Saturday 5th and 6th of November, the quiet villages of Netheravon and Fittleton were the scene of much rejoicing, upon the occasion of the visit of Sir Michael E. Hicks Beach, Bart, on his coming of age. His tenants went out to meet him on horseback, on the Amesbury Road, and escorted him through the two villages. The bells rang a merry peal, flags were flying, and as the young Squire, accompanied by J. Stratton, esq. and William Beach, esq., MP for North Hants, alighted at the Fittleton Rectory, the tenants and school children welcomed him with several hearty cheers.

At half past six on Friday evening Sir Michael E. H. Beach took the chair at a dinner which he gave to his tenants in the Netheravon schoolroom, which was tastefully decorated with evergreens for the occasion. Nineteen sat down to an excellent dinner. The young baronet was supported on his right by William Beach, esq., MP and on his left by J. Stratton, esq. and among his guests were the Rev. T. Pearse, Rector of Fittleton, and the Rev. W. H. Heaven, Curate of Netheravon, three of Mr. Beach's tenants, and ten of his own on the Netheravon and Fittleton estates. After the usual loyal toasts, Mr. Jenner of Chisenbury, the senior tenant on the estates, proposed the health of Sir Michael E. H. Beach, which was heartily responded to, and cheered with three times three and one cheer more. Sir M. E. H. Beach returned thanks in an appropriate speech, and said he hoped the more he and his tenants knew each other the better friends they would be. Lady Hicks Beach's, the Vice-Chairman's, Mr. Kilmister's and other healths were drunk, and the company separated at a late hour, after thoroughly enjoying a very pleasant evening.

Through the kindness of Lady Hicks Beach, the aged women and widows of the two villages had received, on Friday morning, a present of tea and sugar, and so were enabled to drink the young baronet's health in a cup of their favourite beverage, which "cheers but not inebriates".

The weather was all that could be wished on Saturday, the 6th, as it had been on the previous day, and at one o'clock Sir M. E. H. Beach gave a dinner in Mr. Draper's barn at Netheravon, to the carpenters and labourers employed on the estate, and also to the oldest men of the two villages, and to those youths who had attended the evening schools last winter.

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