



## *Report on the Cirencester Choral Festival*

### *Hankerton*

The annual festival meeting of the choirs of the above union was held at the parish church, Cirencester, on Wednesday afternoon, and the occasion brought numerous visitors into the town, which for a time wore a holiday aspect. Twenty four parishes were represented, the following being the names and number from each

Ampney	25	Ashley	19
Ashbrook	10	Barnsley	19
Baunton	14	Bibury	34
Cirencester	50	Coates	16
Colesbourne	11	Coln St Aldwyn's	22
Crudwell	20	Hankerton	14
Hatherop	17	Kemble	13
Maisey Hampton	15	Minety	20
Poole Keynes	13	Preston	17
Rencombe	12	Rodmartin	19
Siddington	25	Somerford Keynes	19
South Cerney	15	Stratton	17

Making a total of 456 voices. The service was appointed for four o'clock, but considerably before that hour a well-dressed congregation thronged the church, and the utmost attention was observed throughout the service. Shortly after this hour the southern door of the sacred edifice was thrown open, and the Cirencester surpliced choir entered, followed by nearly thirty of the clergy of the district, and singing the processional hymn.

The service was wholly choral. The Rev E A Fuller read the first lesson, and the Rev H Snow the second, and the prayers were impressively intoned by the Rev Cole Hamilton, the Rev Dr Millar taking a part in this portion of the service. The anthem was "Cry aloud and shout" (Dr Croft), and was sung with great power and good precision. Hymn 336, "Sing allelulia forth in beauteous praise," was sung

before the sermon, which was preached by Bishop Ellicott, his lordship basing his discourse upon part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> verse of the 29<sup>th</sup> Psalm, "Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name."

Before noticing any part of his subject, the right rev prelate said he desired to say how very thankful he was to be present on such a very happy occasion. His presence among them, at some little inconvenience to himself, testified how very fully he sympathised with the great cause they all represented. He rejoiced that they now had a Diocesan Choral Union, and Choral Unions, as far as possible, throughout the diocese. They were arranged in a very wise and well-considered way, and he trusted that by God's blessing this great and good movement would prosper. As members of a choral union they were all striving to advance that which their text set before them, giving the Lord that glory which was due unto His name.

At the close of the discourse hymn 275, "The day is past and over," was sung, and the Bishop having pronounced the benediction, the clergy and surpliced choristers retired by the southern entrance, singing the recessional hymn 325, "Hark, hark, my soul, angelic sounds are swelling," the whole being from the appendix to "Hymns Ancient and Modern." Mr E S Cockton, choirmaster, presided at the organ, playing with much taste and effect.

Afterwards, upwards of 500 of the choristers and their friends sat down to tea in the Corn Hall, which for the occasion had been very prettily decorated with flags, &c. Bishop Ellicott honoured the company with his presence, and there were also present most of the clergy and many ladies. With this closed the day's proceedings.

Western Daily Press Saturday 10 June 1871