



Concert for the Benefit of the Aged Poor

Assembly Room Holt – A concert will be given for the relief of the aged poor of the place by the Holt Harmonic Society on Monday Jan 19, 1863

Conductor.....Mr. R. Papps

Piano-forte.....Mr. J. H. Papps

Price of admission:- Reserved Seats, 2s 6d; Front Seats, 1s; and a limited number of Back Seats, 6d. Tickets may be obtained of Mr. W. Deverell, Mr. H. Trent, and Mr. H. C.L aw.

Doors will be open at half past 7, Concert to commence punctually at 8 o'clock.

Trowbridge and north Wilts Advertiser 10th January 1863

That was a most gratifying sight that we were permitted to look upon on the Assembly Room, Holt, on Monday evening last – namely, a crowded audience, including all classes in the place, assembled in obedience to the promptings of one of the noblest feelings of the human heart, that of sympathy for the aged poor of their own immediate neighbourhood; and by their presence on this occasion, the company practically exemplified their sympathy, in patronising a Concert for the aforesaid poor. If, in like manner, “Charity begins at home”, wherever there was need of it, the sooner would the objects of it be spared the painful ordeal they often have to go through at this season of the year. The Holt people are a determined race, and if they set themselves to the accomplishment of a purpose, they go through with it. By united effort they established a Flower Show, and by similar exertion they organised a Harmonic Society. They devoted the first of their efforts on Monday to a good cause, and henceforward we predict for them a successful career. The concert consisted of vocal and instrumental music, and the Misses Forster of the Manor House, kindly volunteered their services to aid the object in view. The room was crowded to excess, and in the reserved seats we noticed Lady Forster, the Rev. Charles Turner and Mrs. Turner; Lieutenant Awdry, of Melksham; E. Hunt, Esq., and most of the leading inhabitants of the village. The room was tastefully decorated with botanic devices, and well lighted. The programme opened with an overture from “Tancredi”, which was very creditably executed by the band, considering the short time it has been organised, and the performers were greatly encouraged by the reception they met from the audience. Next came a glee, “The witches”, from “Macbeth”, sung by members of the society. Then followed the song “Some folks”, taken from the Christy Minstrels, given by Miss Judith Forster, Miss Forster accompanying on the pianoforte. The singer’s style was easy, distinct, and pleasing, and she took her audience entirely by surprise. She was rapturously encored, when she gave “Janet’s choice”, and, had decorum admitted of it, the fair vocalist would have been brought back again. But the audience contented themselves with listening to a well-executed quadrille from the opera of “Martha”, and *Calcott’s* pretty glee “The Red Cross Knight”, which were both applauded. Song “Il Bacio”, Miss J. Forster very sweetly sung, and loudly applauded. Waltz “Stars of the West”, by the band, who acquitted themselves in a very praiseworthy manner. The second part of the concert was introduced with an overture from “Fra

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Diavolo", which was followed by Mornington's sparkling glee "Here in Cool Grot", which so pleased the company that it was recalled with applause. Then came a most humorous song (Sporle). "Beautiful Mistress Crop", sung with charming naviette, by Miss Judith Forster. A tempest of applause followed the young lady's efforts to please, and it was kept up without intermission until these pleasing performers reappeared on the platform, when Miss Judith again detailed Mistress Crop's qualifications for matrimony, with even more ingenuousness than before. A lively polka, from "Zerline", exquisitely performed by the band, in which Cornet Pretty delivered a triple-tongued solo admirably, was followed by prolonged applause, and cries of encore, but on account of the lateness of the hour, was not complied with, and Bishop's glee, "The chough and the crow", came next. Once more the Misses Forster stepped upon the platform, and were greeted with warm applause. The beautiful song "The last rose of summer", was rendered by Miss Judith with much expression, and as the last cadences died away, one cry of "Encore! Encore", burst from the audience. The demand was very good naturedly complied with, but a laughable negro melody, called "Lilly Baker" substituted, which seemed to bring the fair vocalist into greater favour with her audience than even her preceding efforts, and the back seat holders manifested a desire to hear Lilly again. But this would be imposing on good nature, so the waltz "Dreams of childhood" played with taste by the band, concluded the programme. "God save the Queen", solo, duet and chorus brought this very pleasant evening's entertainment to a close at eleven o'clock. Many thanks are due to the Misses Forster for the kind aid they rendered the society, and the pleasure and gratification they afforded the audience. Mr. R. Papps officiated as conductor, and Mr. J. H. Papps took part alternately at the piano-forte and with the clarionet. We must not omit to mention that a very amusing comic song was sung in character by Mr. Smith, and encored. The concert was a decided success, and the way in which the proceeds will be distributed will be published in due time. Considering the performances were supported entirely by native talent, it would be unfair to criticise the glees, but we hear that after a course of rehearsals the society intends giving another entertainment at some future time.

Since writing the above, we understand that the receipts were £5 10s; expenses, £3 10s; balance £2; which has been divided between the poor of the church and dissenters. The Harmonic Society held a meeting the following evening, and passed a cordial vote of thanks to the Misses Forster for their kind assistance, and the vote has been duly conveyed to those ladies.

Trowbridge and North Wilts Advertiser, 24 January 1863