



# *Letter to the Editor Minety*

Mr Editor, --

Knowing your liberal opinions, and believing you are opposed to oppression, more especially when practised towards the poor, and at such a season as this when he has to pay so dearly for the means of his subsistence, I beg to trouble you with the following case of clerical charity and good will towards the labouring poor, many of whom are part of his flock.

At a Benefit Society held at Minety on the 27<sup>th</sup> May last, the clergyman refused to preach to the members unless he was paid a guinea for his services!

The society contains fifty-eight private members and six honorary ones, being an addition of three honorary members, since last year. Very many of the private members are so poor as to be put to great inconvenience in remaining in the society; and many of them are more lads that have never yet received men's wages; so that they are not yet able to have three years' club, but are obliged to part their money every year.

Now, Mr Editor, which do you think would have been the likeliest way to promote good feeling, and to have acted according to that precept of Scripture which says, "it is more blessed to give than to receive," to have given the poor men a guinea towards their society or to have demanded one of them for an hour's service, a service which ought to have been esteemed a pleasure?

Had the clergyman been a poor curate, with a small salary and a large family, I should not have troubled you with these remarks, but this clergyman is the Rector, with an income of rather more than £300 a year! And perhaps it may be as well to mention that this is not the first time there has been discord betwixt the clergyman and the society.

Two years ago he was applied to to preach a sermon, when he demanded two guineas; but afterwards offered to preach for one, which the society refused to give. It was then in contemplation to have had a Dissenting minister, who offered to preach without any pay; but in order to give no offence the clergyman was again applied to; he still refused to preach himself, but got the Rev Mr Neeve, of Poole, to attend; but before the next ensuing yearly meeting where was the Rev Mr Neeve, but gone where many others are fast verging – to the Roman Catholics.

Last year the clergyman of the parish gave the club a sermon, and promised to subscribe towards it next, even in the pulpit, while delivering his sermon, but whether the dearness of provisions has induced him to break his promise, and instead of subscribing towards it, to demand a guinea for preaching, I cannot say; but this I can say that his refusal to preach, and locking up the Church doors, have caused a general burst of indignation, even amongst the most rigid Churchmen.

Mr Editor, are not the greatest enemies of the Church of England within its own pale? Really I think as we have a free-trade Corn it is nearly time we had a free-trade in Religion.

With respects,

I beg to subscribe myself, yours respectfully,

AN ENEMY OF OPPRESSION.

Minety, June 1, 1847.

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