



Parish News

Oaksey

United Patriots Benefit Society

A Branch of the United Patriots Benefit Society has been opened at Oaksey. About 60 members and friends sat down to a cold collation, provided by Mrs Lovelock. The Rev F Johnson occupied the chair, and there were also present, Mr G L Hawkins, Mr R Warner, Mr Browne, Dr Kinneir, Mr Cole, &c.

After the report, the Chairman remarked that he was pleased to have the honour of presiding on such an occasion as the opening of a branch of a national benefit society. He should be most happy to assist them to the best of his ability, and promised that the village school should always be at their command for meetings, because he did not believe in men going to a public house and spending money every time they paid their contributors. He believed the society was a good one.

The toast of "Success to the Society" was responded to by Mr Greenaway, secretary of the Cirencester branch, who expressed his pleasure at meeting so many brethren and friends at Oaksey, and a hope that it would by no means be the last of such pleasant gatherings. He detailed the general working of the society, and explained that its division and scale of payments were variable enough to meet the wants of all classes. They had over 200 branches, with a capital of £33,342 standing to the credit of the society, towards which sum the Cirencester branch, since it started about eight years ago, had contributed over £300 from 80 members.

Mr Hawkins, Mr Browne, Dr Kinneir and Mr J Cook (the newly appointed secretary) also addressed the meeting, and remarking on the usefulness of the society, they promised to give it a hearty support.

The Kemble brass band was in attendance, dancing being kept up till about ten o'clock.

Swindon Advertiser and North Wilts Chronicle Monday 7 June 1880

The local branch of this society held their annual fete on the 10th inst. The members met at the National schoolroom, and at 11 am started in procession for the Rectory, headed by the Kemble brass band. The Rev F P Johnson there headed the procession to the parish church, where Divine service was held, and an excellent sermon was preached by the Rev F P Johnson.

At the close of the service the members returned to the schoolroom, and at one o'clock, being joined by all the farmers of the parish, sat down to a dinner provided by Mr Clements of Crudwell. The Rev F P Johnson occupied the chair, and Mrs Johnson kindly sat at the head of a table at which sat about 20 females, who have formed themselves into a branch of a club under Dr Kinneir, of Malmesbury.

After dinner the usual toasts were honoured. Mr Mitchell, of London, a member of the board of directors, made a speech on the advantages of the society. A vote of thanks was given to Mr and Mrs Johnson.

The band played a short time in the village, and then the members started in procession to the Manor Park, kindly lent by Mr W S Bown, where various amusements were indulged in. During the afternoon a cricket match was played between Oaksey and Ashton Keynes. At the close Oaksey was 30 runs ahead. There were also running matches, &c.

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