



Sutton Mandeville

SALISBURY CHRISTMAS SHOW

This year, as last, there will be no “show” in the old sense of the term, by the butchers and other tradesmen of Salisbury. As we have previously explained, there are unusual demands at this season on the time of our shopkeepers, and they cannot, therefore, afford to spend many hours in mere decoration. This, however, need cause no alarm on the part of our readers, for we can vouch for the fact that very ample provision has been made to satisfy all the wants of the public at this festive season. Indeed, we have every reason to believe that the supply of all kinds of butchers’ meat, poultry, and game will quite equal, if indeed it does not excel, both in quantity and quality, anything previously witnessed in Salisbury. Our butchers will probably none of them show such extravagantly fat meat as may have been previously seen here, but judging from the purchases which they have lately made, we are satisfied they will all show meat of unsurpassed excellence; and knowing, as we do, the extensive provision which has been made, it is really a matter of wonder where customers can be found for it all in this town and neighbourhood. However, the butchers themselves seem perfectly satisfied that it will all be sold, and it is to be hoped, therefore, that even the poorest of the poor will in some degree participate in the enjoyment of this extraordinary abundance of good cheer.

As we have said, there will not be the old decoration of the interior of the shops or of the stocks, and we have therefore, no “show” to describe, but we understand most of our leading shops will be fully hung with their Christmas supply on Monday evening, and as we have already visited most of them, and know by anticipation what they will contain, we append, as usual, a brief sketch of each stock.

Without in any way intending to be invidious, we may take first in order of the establishment of Messrs William and George Marlow, whose well-earned reputation, as we have previously pointed out, is unsurpassed in this part of the country for the spirit and enterprise which they display in the management of their very large business. It was only last week that we noticed the spirited offer of Mr W. Marlow for Lord Aylesford’s prize steer at Smithfield, and in the account of our Christmas Cattle Market on Tuesday, which will be found in another part of this day’s paper, we report very large purchases by the firm, specially for their Christmas supply.

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Mr Stone, of Sutton Mandeville, purchased two fine Devon oxen of Mr J. Strong; one shorthorn heifer of Mr Benjafield; 10 prime down sheep of Mr Haines; some very fine sheep of Mr N. Coombes, of Chicks Grove, and a fat lamb of Mr Chinnock, of Dinton.

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With all this extraordinary supply of butchers’ meat it might be supposed that the poulterers and game dealers were going to suspend business entirely for the ensuing week, but we can assure our readers that the illusion will be speedily dispelled by a glance at the shops of those tradesmen on Monday evening, for we can speak to the fact that enormous quantities of exceedingly fine turkeys, geese, ducks, fowls, hares, pheasants, partridges, &c., have been arriving at Mr Wright’s premises, and no doubt very ample provision has also been made by other tradesmen in the same line.

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(*Salisbury and Winchester Journal* – Saturday 18 December, 1869)