



Odd Fellows Fete and Gala

On Wednesday last the members of the Swindon Lodges of Oddfellows held their annual fete and gala, by permission of A. L. Goddard, Esq., M.P., at the Lawn. In the morning the weather was very unfavourable, and this, no doubt, had the effect of making the procession of members through the streets smaller than it otherwise would have been, but by the afternoon the weather had cleared up, and the attendance at the fete was larger than on any previous occasion, or at any former fete of a similar character. In the morning the members met at their lodge room at the Kings Arms, Old Swindon, and proceeded from thence to perambulate the streets of Old and New Swindon, accompanied by the Western (Bristol) Band, and carrying their silver-gilt regalia, and a profuse display of flags, banner, &c. By two o'clock the procession reached the Lawn, where arrangements had been made for the amusement and recreation of visitors, who soon began to assemble in large numbers. The entertainment commenced by a stage performance, consisting of the singing of comic and sentimental songs, and a juggling performance by the "Great Dugwar". This was followed by the performance of a selection of music by the band, and this again by some flat racing by men and boys for prizes, and a second stage performance, the programme concluding by dancing on the green. By the evening the number of persons present must have reached several thousands, all of whom appeared thoroughly to enjoy themselves, the proceedings throughout being conducted with the greatest order and decorum, and without accident or disturbance.

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