



People News

Wilton

MR. HERBERT'S WELCOME HOME

On Thursday last, the Right Hon. Sidney Herbert and his lovely bride arrived, after a brief matrimonial tour, at their baronial mansion at Wilton – an event which was hailed by the whole of the inhabitants with the sincerest joy. The tenantry on horseback, to the number of upwards of three hundred, met the carriage at some distance from the town, and greeted the newly-married couple with hearty cheers. Thus escorted, the happy pair reached the entrance of the borough, where a triumphal arch had been erected, bearing the motto, composed of dahlias, of "Welcome Home." Here the municipality were assembled in full costume, attended by the trades, clubs, &c., and a full band of music. John Swayne, esq., the Town Clerk, read an address of congratulations from the Mayor and Corporation, which was written on vellum, and splendidly illuminated. Mr. Herbert, standing on the step of the carriage, returned thanks in brief through eloquent terms. He thanked his friends for their kindness in having assembled to welcome him and his wife on their arrival home, and remarked, that the connection which had so long existed between his family and the borough of Wilton had been equally if not more gratifying to the former than to the latter. It had afforded him much gratification to learn the proceedings that had been determined upon on the day of his marriage, for he should not have felt completely happy had he not been assured that by their benevolent kindness every inhabitant of the town would be enabled to share in the general festivity.

The Cortège then moved forward, preceded by young females, dressed in white, wearing chaplets of white roses, strewing flowers, to the gates of the Abbey, where the happy pair were left to their repose after the fatigues of the journey. The splendid devise in Dahlias, which was so admired at the Horticultural Fete, was fixed to the entrance gate of the Abbey, where it was seen to much advantage.

The following is a copy of the address:

"Right Hon. Sir, - I have been deputed to express to you, on the part of the inhabitants of Wilton, the great pleasure we all experience in welcoming you on your arrival home, accompanied by the lady to whom you are now so happily united, and to offer you both our sincere and respectful congratulations on that auspicious event."

"We have so long been accustomed to receive from your noble family proofs of their kindness and condescension towards us, that we should be guilty of great ingratitude were we to view with indifference any circumstance affecting the welfare of any of its members; but towards you, Sir, who have always shown so deep an interest in the prosperity of the town to whose munificence we are indebted for the rebuilding of our beautiful parish church, and the employment and relief of so many of our poor

neighbours, and from whom we have uniformly received the readiest attention to all our wants and wishes, we are especially bound by every feeling of respect and gratitude to express our joy at an event so intimately connected with your domestic happiness.”

“In conclusion, we again most cordially and respectfully bid you and your lady welcome to Wilton; and it is our earnest prayer, that you may both long continue to reside among us, in the mutual enjoyment of every earthly felicity.”

We have been favoured by a correspondent with the following notes of Mr. Herbert’s answer:- He commenced by saying, that he felt highly gratified at the kind and marked respect they had met to pay him on his bringing his wife for the first time to her future home. It afforded him greater gratification to witness their efforts to manifest every mark of kindness, respect and good will, as it served to show his wife what excellent neighbours he had ever been surrounded by. He prayed that god would bless him, his wife, and all around him, and that she might long remain amongst them, and find in them, as he had done, kind friends and good neighbours. In the address, mention was made of the good feeling existing between himself and family and the inhabitants of Wilton; but he must say, that himself and family were more indebted to the people of Wilton for the kind marks of affection which had been so invariable shown towards them. He begged particularly to thank those many kind friends who had so munificently contributed to the enjoyment of the poorer classes of his neighbours on the day of his marriage. It was a great gratification to him to know that they partook of the happiness of the event, since it was his most earnest wish that the poor should always share in his happiness. He again begged to thank them most gratefully for the kindness they had shown to him and his wife; and he, in conclusion, assured them from the bottom of his heart, that he sincerely hoped that God would bless them all. – [Salisbury Journal](#).

[Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 3 September, 1846., Page 3, Col’s 4&5](#)