



United Odd-Fellow's and Foresters Demonstration

Wednesday in last week was almost a general holiday at Wootton Bassett, on the occasion of a fete and gala of the "Rose of Independence" Lodge of Oddfellows, and "Court Clarendon," No. 2233, of the Ancient Order of Foresters. The morning was very showery, and up to about eleven o'clock, there was every appearance of a wet day. Fortunately, however, about noon the sky cleared, and the sun shone out brightly. It had been arranged that there should be a procession of the members of the two orders at ten o'clock, and the most extensive arrangements were made for it. Shortly after noon the procession was formed in the field, which had been kindly placed at the disposal of the committee by Mr. A. Watts. We have seen many processions of a similar kind in provincial towns, but must say we had never witnessed one to excel in magnificence that of Wednesday. The lead was taken by about 20 mounted Foresters, dressed in green velvet; then came the splendid band of the 11th Wilts (New Swindon) Rifle Volunteers, and in the procession there were nearly 300 members of the two orders, and about 40 members of the Juvenile Foresters Curt. Of course, there was the usual shepherd's car, with shepherds, shepherdess, dog and lamb. In the ranks were six large banners, a profusion of smaller flags, and the silver regalia of the Bristol and Calne districts, the whole being brought up by the Wootton Bassett Town Brass Band. After perambulating the streets of the town, the whole proceeded to the field, where a capital dinner was provided in two of Mr. Bendry's large marquees, by Mrs. Aldridge, of the Royal Oak Hotel. Considering that the dinner had to be conveyed such a distance from the town, the condition in which it was served up reflected the greatest credit on those who had the management of this part of the day's proceedings. About 400 sat down to dinner, Captain Bradford, the mayor, presiding. The vice chair was occupied by Mr. John Bryant, P.P.G.M. Amongst the visitors we noticed the Rev. J. Wicke, vicar, Rev. C. H. Chase, Dr. Watts, Dr. Petman, Lieutenant Cartwright, H. C. Tombs, Esq., H. Bevir, Esq., Alderman W. F. Parsons, George Horsell, Esq., R. Stratton, jun., &c., &c. After dinner there were the usual loyal and other appropriate toasts.

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