



Parish News Wylfe Parish

1848

Wilts Friendly Society

The Wylfe Branch of this Society held the first of their annual meetings on Wednesday last, and though the weather was unpropitious, as it has been on all similar occasions during the present summer, it was very numerously attended. The honorary and benefit members assembled in the morning at the school room, from whence they walked in procession to the parish church, headed by the Wilton band, where a most excellent and appropriate sermon was delivered to them by the Ven. Archdeacon Hony. They then proceeded to a very handsome tent, that had been erected for the occasion in the Rectory –grounds, where a party of nearly two hundred sat down to a most excellent and substantial dinner. The chair was taken by John Davis, Esq., of Fisherton-house, the Rev. J. S. Stockwell, the Rector of the parish, acting as vice-chairman. Among the company were Mrs Davis and family, Mrs Stockwell, The Archdeacon, the Rev. Dr. Webster and Miss Webster, the Rev. Dr. Thring, the Rev. C. Awdry and Mrs Awdry, the Rev. W. Gray, Mr and Mrs H Butcher, and a numerous party of ladies and gentlemen from the place and neighbourhood. The usual loyal and appropriate toasts were given and responded to, and Mr. Butcher, in the course of his speech, observed that during the present year, seventeen new branches had already been formed, and more than seven hundred additional members had been enrolled. About six o'clock the whole party adjourned to the Rectory, where they were most hospitably entertained by Mr and Mrs Stockwell, and refreshments were provided, not only for the honorary members and visitors, but also for every benefit member present. The merry dance then commenced upon the lawn, and was kept up with great spirit till dark, when the party separated, after having spent as happy a day as was ever known in the village of Wylfe, the only cause of regret being the absence of Mr. Sotherton, who was unfortunately detained in London by urgent Parliamentary duties.”

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