Bere Regis
AND
Winterborne Kingston
Parish Magazine.
JUNE, 1900.
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My Friends,

This has been a month of rejoicing. I felt it the best of good omens that my institution to the parish took place just as the news came of the Relief of Ladysmith; since then, with the exception of the two or three unfortunate surprizes in which small bodies of our troops were captured,—there has been one unbroken story of successes in the progress of the War. Lord Roberts's game, both as a great strategist and a master of detail, not to speak of his character as a man and a Christian, has risen higher and higher. England went nearly mad over the Relief of Mafeking and its heroic defenders; and now as I write we read of the Vaal being crossed by the entire army, and before these lines are in your hands, who knows but Lord Roberts may have reached Pretoria? Deo gratias! Non nobis, Domine! From the religious point of view we have to be thankful, not more for the great successes, than for the perfect simplicity and absence of all ostentation and bluster that has characterized the whole undertaking. The temper shown by our people, as well in anxiety and disappointment as in victory, makes one weep tears of thankfulness to think of it.

It is I think rather a new departure as regards the Magazine for the Vicar to write in the first person, nor do I quite like the plan as a rule; but I cannot refrain from a few personal words at this period of my residence among you, for I have now made acquaintance with nearly all the Church people in the parish, and have visited—either Mrs. Sotheby or I have done so—at their own homes by far the greater number, and not a few of several others, who do not profess and call themselves Church folk. Everywhere we have met with the kindest welcome, everywhere there have been friendly feeling, everywhere we notice the strongest attachment to the parish and pride in the beautiful Church; everywhere we hear expressions of appreciation of and gratitude for the ministrations of my predecessors, the past Vicars of the parish. Sometimes—though not often—I have heard comments of one neighbour on another, and I may say—though I will not tell tales out of school—such comments have been invariably amiable, and such as the neighbour remarked upon would be well content to listen to himself. What specially impresses me is the glory of the country at this Spring season, and increasingly the great beauty of our noble Church. A friend said the other day, "That Church must be a continual inspiration to you," and so I feel it. I am sure it has stimulated the devotion of many of the parishioners.
May I be allowed to say just this one thing; the great ornament of a Church is its congregation; a Church is meant to be used and used regularly. Very good as in one sense the congregations are, I cannot but observe that there are numbers—not counting the dissenters—who fail to join us in worship; a very large number who do not join in the great act of Church worship—the Communion of the Lord’s Body and Blood. I pray God may put it into the hearts of such to feel how great is their loss by keeping away; how truly they are wronging the Body of Christ by allowing some small and trivial objection to keep them from what is a plain Christian duty as well as privilege. How far happier and more blessed the lives of these would be, how much more really this would be a Christian parish, if they would become worshippers in deed as well as Christians in name.

W. E. H. Sotheby.

CHURCHWARDENS’ ACCOUNT.

By some unaccountable mistake two items were omitted from the Expenditure side of the Churchwardens’ account, which appeared in last month’s Magazine, the result of which was to make the figures appear entirely wrong.

The two items omitted were—

Parish Clerk’s bills ... ... £8 5s.
H. Farr’s ditto ... ... £5 16s.

If this sum of £14 1s. is added in, the balance sheet will be correct.

KINGSTON.

The School Report has just come in and Mr. Berry and his Assistant-Teachers are once more to be heartily congratulated on its excellence. The School has again earned the highest possible Grant. We are glad to be able to state that the Board of Education has given an additional grant of £10, as a result of the decrease in the population shown by the Census which was lately made.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR’S REPORT:

"The School is well conducted and the children take an interest in their work. Good methods combined with steady work are producing good results in all the elementary subjects. Geography is commendable and great pains and trouble have been spent in the preparation of notes. Elementary Science also has been taught in a satisfactory manner. Note Singing is good and Needlework is creditably done. Freehand Drawing shows some improvement, but Scale Drawing in the highest standards should receive care.

"The Infants are carefully taught and a good average level of attainments is reached."
EVENING CONTINUATION SCHOOL.

The Report of the Evening Classes came at the beginning of May. It is a pity that the Inspector has had to report that "the Class is not a large one." In every other respect the Report is excellent, and it is to be hoped that next year the Inspector will be as satisfied with the number of pupils as he apparently is this year with the few who did attend, and the teachers.

GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR'S REPORT:

"The Class is not a large one this year, but has been very regularly and punctually attended. Geography has been taught in the usual efficient manner, and the boys have enjoyed the excellent lessons in history which have been kindly given by the Rev. W. A. Newman. Arithmetic is going on well. The Discipline is excellent."

BOYS' ALLOTMENTS.

Mr. Huntley has been over recently to inspect the allotments, and has expressed himself as quite satisfied with the way in which the work is being carried on.

QUEEN'S CHOCOLATE BOX.

Kingston is the proud possessor of a Queen's Chocolate Box, which has been sent home by Gunner Strode, of the 72nd Battery R.F.A., to his father, P.C. Strode. We are glad to have a representative of the parish at the Front, and we hope that Gunner Strode will come safely through the war, which seems at last to be nearing its end. We should like it to be known that it was not want of loyalty, but want of ringers which prevented our bells being rung for the Relief of Mafeking. Unfortunately the ringers were away, busy shearing and so on. The children did their best to make up for the omission by the lustiness of their shouts.

BERE REGIS.

BURIAL.—May 27th, Harriet Woolfries, aged 84.