

# THE KILVERT SOCIETY

Formed (in 1948) to foster an interest in the Rev. Francis Kilvert,  
his work, his Diary, and the Countryside he loved.

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5th June, 1969.

Dear Member,

The newsletter of March 31st gave advance details of the weekend of June 21st/22nd, when we celebrate the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF THE SOCIETY with a "GET-TOGETHER" for members and friends at HEREFORD TOWN HALL on the Saturday evening (6.30 to 10.30 p.m.) in the presence of our PRESIDENT Dr. WILLIAM PLOMER - and other personalities. Further news about this event will be found on a following page.

Next day (SUNDAY, JUNE 22nd) the ANNUAL SERVICE is in HEREFORD CATHEDRAL at 3 o'clock in the afternoon --- by kind invitation of the Dean and Chapter.

It is to be a SERVICE OF COMMEMORATION AND THANKSGIVING for the life and work of the REVD. FRANCIS KILVERT M.A. in this twenty-first anniversary year of the Kilvert Society, and the ADDRESS will be given by Dr. WILLIAM PLOMER, C.B.E., D.Litt.

Conducting this SERVICE will be the DEAN OF HEREFORD (The Very Revd. N.S. Rathbone, M.A.), assisted by the Revd. Canon J.M. Irvine, M.A., and the LESSONS will be read by the Revd. T.J. Lewis (Vicar of Clyro and Rural Dean of Hay) and by the Revd. T. Wigley (Minister of Eignbrook Congregational Church and President of the Herefordshire Free Church Council).

We shall hope to see a very large congregation at this SERVICE on the occasion of the TWENTY-FIRST ANNIVERSARY of the formation of the KILVERT SOCIETY and it is to be hoped that members will tell their friends of it and bring their friends with them. There are many many thousands of readers of Kilverts Diary throughout the country and very many of these who live within the area will no doubt welcome this opportunity of joining in with us at this SERVICE in our lovely old CATHEDRAL.

After the service there will be TEA in the CLOISTERS, primarily for those coming from a distance. An important notice regarding this will be found overleaf.

Members who have not yet paid their current subscription are asked to remit same without delay to our Hon. Treasurer Mr. J.D. Worsey at 1, Harold Street, Hereford, or to me.

Yours sincerely,



C.T.O. Prosser (Mr)  
Hon. Secretary THE KILVERT SOCIETY.

A neat poster, with details of the above service - and a picture of Hereford Cathedral - is enclosed with each newsletter going to members living within reasonable distance of Hereford. PLEASE DISPLAY THIS AS WELL AS YOU CAN, MORE THAN ONE POSTER MAY BE SENT TO THOSE LIVING VERY NEAR TO HEREFORD.



First of all - a brief message from Dr. Plomer; he writes to say that "at least one of the directors of Jonathan Cape Ltd., will be present at the 'get-together' at Hereford Town Hall on Saturday evening, the 21st of June".

This should prove a nice evening; nothing elaborate. Not the DINNER that was at one time thought of, just a simple little BUFFET, a general circulation of members and friends, a few words from Dr. Plomer and from others who will be there, some songs from the members of the Radnorshire singing family who are coming from St. Harmon to entertain us, lots of chatter (no doubt) and a real friendly evening. There might be a little surprise, hardly thought of at the moment; but on the whole a simple little evening. Just what most members will enjoy. We hope so anyway.

Please get your tickets for it (7/6 each, including buffet) EARLY. Why not send for them now? By post from me (Hon. Sec.) or by personal application (only) from Mr. Worsey and from Mrs. Peters; also from Wyeval Ltd., Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street Hereford and from the Wyeval Branch Shop in Commercial Road Hereford. Messrs. H.R. Grant & Son of Hay-on-Wye will also have tickets to sell and Mr. E.F. Jelfs will have a supply for Birmingham & District members.

Several of the Hereford hotels have members booked in for the June weekend. London members, Birmingham members, Bristol members, Swansea members, and our new member from near Dublin - the first from Ireland.

The new City of Hereford accommodation booklet can be sent to anyone writing to me for same; also street plans with car parks marked can be sent on request. Advice on the nearest car park to both Town Hall and Cathedral gladly sent to anyone sending a stamped envelope.

#### NAME DISCS

This idea was tried out for TEA at CHIPPENHAM GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL last October. Little white discs on safety pins for the lapel, write your own name on them (or better still print it in block letters. Name and town or county. Almost everyone thought it an excellent idea. IF EVERYONE WOULD DO IT FOR THE SATURDAY EVENING IN JUNE AT HEREFORD TOWN HALL IT WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER TO CONTACT ONE ANOTHER. They can only be bought in bulk ... the K.S. has a supply. PLEASE SEND A S.A.E. to the Hon. Secretary for one, ready for June 21st. Or ask for one with your ticket.

#### THE CATHEDRAL SERVICE

Members will be pleased to note that the new Dean of Hereford is taking part in the Commemoration Service, along with Canon Irvine. The Dean came to Hereford from Lincoln and was installed as recently as the 1st of May (my wife and I noticed quite a good sprinkling of K.S. members among the very large congregation at the Installation). Canon Irvine has been a K.S. member for some little time and we must hope that the Dean will also become a member in due course - and thus make the third Dean of Hereford in succession to do so!!!

The LESSONS are being read by two who are very much in keeping with the occasion; the Revd. T.J. Lewis of Clyro, the place most closely associated with Francis Kilvert; and the Revd. T. Wigley of Eignbrook Congregational Church in Hereford, a place closely linked with the Society and a number of its members, and as President of the Herefordshire Free Church Council he represents the numerous members who belong to Free Churches of many denominations. Both are K.S. members - the Vicar of Clyro a Vice-President.

#### TEA AFTER THE SERVICE

This will be in the CLOISTERS, adjoining the Cathedral - and will be at a cost of 3/-d a head. There will be accommodation for 100 in College Hall (in the Cloisters) and up to 100 more can be served, BUT WILL HAVE TO FETCH IT THEMSELVES FROM COLLEGE HALL and make use of the chairs in the Cloisters.

PLEASE PARTICULARLY NOTE THESE ARRANGEMENTS.

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#### Dr. WILLIAM PLOMER

All those who intend coming to the CATHEDRAL service of 22nd June will be looking forward to Dr. Plomer's address; we have heard him many times reading after tea on the occasion of various Commemoration Services and he has delighted many by doing so... but this is the first time that most of us will have heard him from a pulpit and I am sure that he will delight us all once again.

The March Newsletter told of his May engagement in Westminster Abbey, when he would unveil the memorial to Byron ... On May 8th.

Just as this newsletter is in its final stages of preparation (on May 9th) this morning's "Times" and "Telegraph" arrive - with good descriptions and photographs of



the event. I like the "Times" description of our President... "silver-haired and gentle"... and in speaking on this Abbey memorial to Byron 145 years after his death (and after several defeated previous attempts to have him commemorated in the Abbey) Dr. Plomer said "of all the people buried in the Abbey only one was a saint"... "you need not look far for the catholicity of the Church of England". After the large congregation, which included many literary people and many widely different public figures, had seen Dr. Plomer pull the abbey flag off the plaque Mr. C. Day Lewis, the Poet Laureate, laid a laurel wreath studded with red roses on it.

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#### BERKSHIRE MEMORIAL TO ANOTHER POET

Accompanying a recent letter from Dr. Plomer were details of an engraved window by Laurence Whistler which is proposed as a memorial to Edward Thomas - who is described as "one of the finest English poets of this century", he died at Arras in 1917. His wife Helen lived on until 1967 and is buried in the graveyard of G.E. Street's little Church at Eastbury, Berks; and there this window is to be their memorial. This project is evidently something very near to our Presidents heart and Mr. Worsey and I decided that the Society might make a small donation towards it. Accordingly a cheque for 2 guineas has been sent to the Treasurer of the Appeal Fund (Mrs. Myfanwy Thomas) of Bridge Cottage, Eastbury, Newbury, Berks.

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#### THE VICTORIAN SOCIETY

The Kilvert Society is now a member of the Victorian Society and the Victorian Society is a member of the Kilvert Society!!! A reciprocal arrangement by which we both receive each others literature; and we shall surely both benefit by this arrangement.

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#### THE FIRST EDITION OF VOLUME ONE OF THE DIARY

This volume, one of the first 500 ever printed - and therefore with Francis Kilverts photograph as a frontispiece, AUTOGRAPHED BY DR. WILLIAM PLOMER; was offered (in the March newsletter) to the highest bidder, proceeds for the Society's funds. The offers were so few and so disappointingly low that it is being put aside for the time being. Offers are still invited, but if there are none or if still too low it will be kept - for, like antiques and silver, the price will rise as each year goes by.

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#### AN INDEX FOR THE ORIGINAL THREE VOLUMES

The original three volumes of the Diary (and the first re-issue) had no INDEX. The second re-issue had one, at the end of the third volume. Separate INDEXES were also then made available by Jonathan Cape Ltd., and very many have been sold. They are now no longer generally available; but the Society has managed to get some of the last few and these can be obtained (from the Hon. Sec.) at 7/6d each (post free). SOMETHING INVALUABLE TO THOSE WITH EARLY VOLUMES.

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#### A MEMBER'S BOOK OF POEMS

A member of the Kilvert Society, the Revd. David Lockwood, has published a small book of thirteen poems called "Private View". This has been very well received in and around Worcester, but as one reviewer says "Should be known to a far wider public".

The poem which gives the title to the collection tells of a mystical experience. A number of others refer to the Victorian age with sensitive nostalgia, two are topographical dealing with Wales. Another with an amusing twist at the close relates to the Three Choirs Festival.

The book has been beautifully produced by the Benedictine nuns of the Community of Stanbrook Abbey, so in an oecumenical age it is a happy alliance of Anglican poetry and Roman Catholic printing. The copies are being sold at 7/6d each and all profits are going to Christian Aid. They can be obtained from the Priory Bookshop, Great Malvern, and from the S.P.C.K. Bookshop, Worcester; or from the Vicarage, Hanley Swan, Worcester.

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#### CHRISTMAS CARDS

The Society's first venture - for Christmas 1968 - with the photographs of Kilvert's Vicarage at Bredwardine as its theme sold so well that we are now having 2 more cards



produced for Christmas 1969.

One will be of Clyro Church as Kilvert knew it, for it is a reproduction of the drawing done by his sister Thermuthis (Thersie) in 1865. The other will be the two churches of the Wiltshire "Kilvert Country" - Hardenhuish and Langley Burrell - in the two halves of an open Victorian locket; beautifully drawn by our good Kington Langley member, Mr. Robin Tanner.

Despite higher production costs this year we are keeping to last years prices ... 9d each; 8/6 per dozen, plus 6d if posted. As there are still a number of the Bredwardine cards on hand there will be packets of 1 dozen assorted, packets of six each of the two 1969 cards, or packets of one type only. All complete with envelopes. They will be ready for sale by mid-June and we shall have some on show at Hereford Town Hall on the evening of June 21st.

Grants of Hay-on-Wye will have stocks and so will the Selborne Bookshop in Hampshire and we hope that arrangements can be made for stockists in other towns (Hereford, Worcester, Shrewsbury, Malvern etc., etc., and of course, Chippenham).

PLEASE ORDER EARLY - THIS WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

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### "LOOKING BACKWARDS"

This, the 1969 booklet, will be "out" by mid-June and will be on a little stand (with the Christmas cards) at the Town Hall on June 21st. It will have 48 pages and will have a few photographs. Mrs. Kilvert - and some from 1948 showing Mr. Sid. Wright cutting the inscription on the Memorial Seat at Bredwardine and Dean Hedley Burrows stood by it just after dedicating it. The items on Mrs. Kilvert, on Kilvert at St. Harmon, the accounts of the homecoming to Bredwardine, the sad one of the funeral so soon afterwards, Mr. Plomers lecture at the inaugural meeting of the Society, and several of the outstanding addresses from some of the Commemoration Services, with a number of other items - all go to make what will surely be termed a most interesting Kilvert Miscellanea - which not only every member, but very many readers of the Diary who are not members, will want. The price will be 7/6, by post 8/- from the Hon. Secretary or from shops as above.

"COLLECTED VERSE" - although the rush is over, this is still selling steadily. Have you had yours yet? This collection of Kilverts poems has been very well received, particularly now that we know that we shall never have any more of the Diary. They are 8/6 each, plus 1/- for postage and packing. From the Hon. Sec. or from shops as above.

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### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND SOCIAL EVENING

This was on Wednesday the 23rd April at Eignbrook (Hereford) as usual. The fear that the change from the usual Friday evening to a Wednesday evening would adversely affect the attendance was groundless, for there were more members present than for several years past. A number came long distances - as usual. From Birmingham came a number, and members from Swansea, from Buckinghamshire and from Surrey were present; in addition to the many from Herefordshire, Radnorshire, Breconshire and Worcestershire. Mr. F.R.C. Hermon (Committee Chairman) took the Chair and welcomed the members, and after the usual apologies, minutes, etc., the election of officers was arrived at. It was decided that there was no need for the President to be re-elected each year, and that Dr. Plomer was now President henceforth. Vice-Presidents were all re-elected as were the Committee and Officials. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts was adopted and the Hon. Treasurer (Mr. J.D. Worsey) spoke on the accounts and answered questions. He was congratulated on the very satisfactory state of the Society's finances. The Chairman and Hon. Sec. having spoken on the forthcoming "June Weekend" with the Town Hall function and the Cathedral service - mention was made of the death of Mr. D.P. Bennett of Wootton Waven, Warwickshire and of Clyro and it was decided to send a message of sympathy to Mrs. Bennett and the family. This ended the business part of the evening. The Annual Coach Tour was then discussed and it was decided to have a half-day tour through parts of the Radnorshire "Kilvert Country" with tea at Builth Wells - on Saturday May 10th. Fare to be 7/6 and Mrs. Peters to take bookings and fares after the refreshment break. Mr. J.D. Worsey then read relevant extracts from the Diary, mainly about Kilverts visits to Glaschw. This was followed by our Vice-President - Canon J.S. Leatherbarrow of Martley (Worcs.) talking about Augustus Hares schooldays at Harnish Rectory with the Rev. Robert Kilvert, and reading from his book "Years with Mother"; a most interesting interlude.

After the refreshment break (when once again Lady members served tea and light refreshments) Mrs. M. Mathers (Birmingham) read a most interesting paper on her visit to Wylden Dingle and the churches at \*Leycesters and Bockleton - visited by Kilvert on October 22nd 1871; and in Wylden Dingle found the 'Poets Stone' still

\* Kilverts spelling; locally it is Laysters or Leysters. It and Bockleton are both not far from Tenbury Wells, one each side the Hfds-Worcs border.



there and with the initials W.W. and M.W. still visible, just as Kilvert describes it on page 74 of Volume 2. Mrs. Mathers paper brought in not only William and Dorothy Wordsworth and Kilvert's references to them but also touched on Brinsop Court, Whitney-on-Wye, Mr. Monkhouse and The Stow, Ambleside and Grasmere, but also speculated on the inspiration that Dorothy's Grasmere Journal might have been to Kilvert. A very relevant paper, yet something quite "different".

After this came the film "THIS ENGLAND" (the prize-winning film for 1968 - of Hereford Cine Society) a beautiful colour film with sound accompaniment shown by our new member Mr. D.A. Apperley of Hereford (on his own projector). This was much appreciated by all present. The evening ended with a showing of some slides - taken at Homme House, Hardenhuish, Newbridge-on-Wye etc., and on walks in the Radnorshire hills - shown by Mr. Godfrey Davies on his projector. The Hon. Sec. supplied the necessary commentary. Thus ended another very successful A.G.M. and Social Evening.

#### DOLDOWLODD STATION - FIFTY YEARS AGO

An article in the TRANSACTIONS of the RADNORSHIRE SOCIETY with the above heading interested me greatly and I felt that it would interest many members too, for Doldowlodd Station is mentioned a number of times in Kilvert's Diary and fifty years ago it was all no doubt still just as Kilvert knew it. This article was contributed by Mr. J.A. Stratton of Wellington, Shropshire; it is reproduced by his permission and that of the Radnorshire Society too - and as a result of the correspondence about it Mr. Stratton is now a member of the Kilvert Society.

Shortly after the closure of the Mid-Wales Railway (on 30th December 1962) - a section of the old Cambrian Railway which ran from Llanidloes to Brecon, I came across a large batch of old papers among the ruins of Doldowlodd Station from which one can glean quite a lot about the life of the neighbourhood fifty years ago.

A certain Mr. Williams was Stationmaster from at least as far back as 1888 until 1922 during which long tenure of office he carefully stored his old records in the loft above the Booking Office. After some years it would probably have been difficult in the restricted space to have sorted out the older papers for destruction so that the lot survived until the building was demolished by a local farmer. Unfortunately the papers had been thrown in a heap in an adjoining yard and were badly damaged by the weather before I found them, but such as I have been able to salvage have provided me with a lot of interest. Doldowlodd Station is about three miles south of Rhayader and ten miles north of Builth, these being the local market towns. It served Doldowlodd itself, with its Hall still occupied by descendants of James Watt (a significant name to a Railway enthusiast), who bought the estate towards the end of his life, and Llanwrthwl, a village across the River Wye with a population of about 500. A private siding ("Watts Siding") a mile south of the station served the estate, and was used extensively for loading timber. From a "Spike" of labels taken from loaded wagons arriving at the station during 1917, and a file of inward goods invoices (over two thousand of them) for the years 1911-1913, one can reconstruct a pretty good picture of the traffic handled. The file comprises a wonderful collection of documents with items from many of the old companies whose names disappeared with the groupings of 1922/23. It is possible to trace the names of the Private Owner Wagons then in use - memories of the multi-coloured assortment of variously owned vehicles which once made up our goods trains are very rapidly fading. Over 300 tons of coal annually, mostly from Hanwood (Salop) and Abernant in the Sirhowy Valley, with odd consignments from Cannock Chase (L.N.W.R.), Highley (G.W.R.), Ystradgynlais (Neath and Brecon), Gurnos (Midland Railway), and Lydney (Severn & Wye Joint Railways). Most wagons held about 8 tons in contrast to the standard 16 tons of today. A little coke came from Brecon gasworks. Lime came regularly from Llandebie and from Dolyhir, the latter via the branch from Titley Junction to Eardisley - in fact the whole route from Dolyhir to Three Cocks Junction is part of the tramway route from the canal at Brecon and considerably pre-dates the railways of Herefordshire and Breconshire. It is interesting to note that the town of Hay-on-Wye, situated on this tramway, was lit by gas in 1840 - over twenty years before it was reached by a steam railway.

Very considerable quantities of animal feeding stuffs came in from Swansea, Liverpool and Avonmouth Docks. The pattern of farming in this, as in other areas, would have altered very materially towards the end of the 19th century with the importation of cheap foreign grain. The shops at Argoed Mill (Doldowlodd) and at Llanwrthwl regularly received large consignments of groceries from Liverpool and London via the L.N.W.R. being transhipped to the Cambrian at Whitchurch or Builth Road. The number of L.N.W.R. invoices and the number of places from which these



goods were sent by this company (often through depots quite remote from its lines) testifies to the enterprise of an undertaking which, albeit sometimes unscrupulously, always sought to live up to its nickname of the "Premier Line". The types of goods as described make strange reading today - lots of candles, starch, jam in casks, flour and sugar in sacks, etc. In fact most lines would have required weighing out and packaging by the village shopkeepers.

Some agricultural machinery came in from Lincoln and from Grantham. Three inns regularly received beer in casks from Burton (one free house continued to do so until the line closed). Wines and spirits came from many scattered dealers at places such as Worcester, Kington and even from Narberth (Pem.) - where there is still a bonded warehouse. Very different from the pattern today with most licensed premises tied to members of large combines. The local gentry regularly received cases of wine and jars of spirits from sources between Plymouth and Muird of Ord (Ross-shire). The recipient of the largest quantities of liquor also received Spa water from Cheltenham.

Some of the larger houses regularly received bulk supplies of household necessities; cases of tea from London and preserves from Kelvedon (Tiptree). Although this was no doubt economical for the persons concerned, the practice of landowners spending money received as rent outside the locality was an old bone of contention in the country.

Certain nationally known firms' names were appearing at this time. Cocoa from Cadburys (who were unusual in having their own prints of the railway invoice forms) and biscuits from Edinburgh. Milk churns came from Listers at Dursley and ironwork from the Coalbrookdale Company. Culture and the need to make amusements locally were illustrated by the receipt of four pianos in 1911. The parson received several cases of books. Although primarily stock-raising country it is noticeable that very little livestock came or went by rail. The record of livestock sent out from Doldowlodd runs from 1870 in an old Mid Wales Railway Book although this company had been worked by the Cambrian for many years. Farming fifty years ago would have been in a pretty depressed state and presumably could not afford the rail transport costs so that almost all animals travelled to and from Builth and Rhayader markets on the hoof. In concluding this brief review one cannot help remarking on the efficiency of our railway system prior to World War 1. To some extent modern aids were used as available (e.g. typewriters were coming in and being regularly used in the goods offices at Paddington) but much of the credit must go to a loyal staff working long hours for smallish pay packets. Goods regularly arrived from all over the British Isles (after being transhipped two or three times) in seldom more than three days - including such awkward items as bundles of trees from Elgin. Breakages and losses in transit were not frequent, and were the subject of searching enquiry and voluminous correspondence. Probably never again will it be as easy (or relatively cheap) to send "small" to any part of the country. Mr. Williams (£60 a year plus house) and his staff served the community well.

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#### "THE DORSET POET"

In each of the three volumes of Kilvert's Diary there is mention of William Barnes - the Dorset poet - but we must look in Volume Two, and on pages 436 onwards for the account of Kilvert's journey to Dorchester and his visit to the Poet. At Dorchester Kilvert was met by Mr. Henry Moule, the Vicar of Fordington and driven by him past Maiden Castle and out to Fordington, and from there they walked together the mile to Winterbourne Came - where William Barnes was the Rector. He is one of the numerous personalities that Kilvert brings to us through his Diary, and one of our Buckinghamshire members has contributed the following item to this newsletter, under the heading "The Dorset Poet".

In his "The Gentleman in the Parlour" the late W. Somerset Maugham wrote: "I hazard the suggestion that Richard Wagner would never have written the Ring if he had been able to compose as neat a tune as Verdi and that Cézanne would never have painted his exquisite pictures if he had been able to draw as well as the academic Ingres." There is doubtless some truth in this, and it may not be too idle to speculate, on a less exalted level, whether Kilvert, compulsive writer that he was, might never have found it necessary to fulfill himself by writing such an absorbing journal if he had been able to write verses like Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

At all events, like most people who aspire to this most difficult branch of literature, he revered those who had succeeded in it; so that it must have been with a light heart and pleasurable anticipation that on the last day of April, 1874, he found himself jogging along in a railway carriage on his way to meet William Barnes, "the great idyllic poet of England."

Alas, no-one would think of honouring him with that title today; he is little remembered, even in his native Dorset, and it is merely as "The Dorset Poet" that he is known today by those who still remember him.



He was born in Dorset, near Sturminster Newton, in February, 1801, the son of a small-holder. His mother was Grace Scott of Fifehead Neville, a woman, as Dr. Plomer points out in his footnote, of some sensibility. She died when William was five years old. He left school at thirteen to become a solicitor's clerk, and in 1818 found employment in Dorchester, where he first met his wife-to-be, Julia, daughter of an Excise officer. He was debarred by her parents from marrying her through lack of prospects, and it was not until 1827, when, with the help of a clergyman named Richman, he became headmaster of a prosperous school near Dorchester, that he was able to marry her. She lived only twelve years or so after they were married and her death affected him deeply for very many years. He never re-married.

In 1862 he became Rector of Winterbourne Came, where Kilvert visited him, and he died in 1886.

On Kilvert's visit he wore "a dark grey loose gown girt round the waist with a back cord and tassel, black knee breeches and gold buckled shoes". The Diarist's observation was as usual deadly accurate, for there is a statuette of the Poet extant showing him, with the addition of a wide-brimmed felt hat, wearing just such a costume and shoes; except that elsewhere his dress has been described as "a long, light-blue, rough-faced, flannel-textured dressing gown". This, it seems, was his habitual dress, except when attending church. His last photograph, taken near the end of his long life, depicts him in the same wide-brimmed hat, but wearing a frock-coat, one hand clutching the lapel. We can see his weather-beaten face, his longish nose, "long white beard", side-whiskers and moustache. But he is fifteen years older than when Kilvert saw him and there is a far-away look in his eyes, as if he sees through the wall of the room in which the picture is being taken to some far-off land into which he will soon set foot.

He deserves not to be altogether forgotten. There is nothing profound, lofty or immortal in his lines, but there is philosophy of a homely kind, as in "Our Father's Works", one of his many dialect poems, which reminds us of the debt of gratitude we all owe to those generations long since dead who made our roads and fields, who planted our hedges and built our churches:

Ah! I do think, as I do tread  
Thease paths, wi' elems overhead,  
A-climen slowly up vrom Bridge,  
By easy steps, to Broadwoak Ridge,  
That all these roads that we do bruise  
Wi' hosses' shoes, or heavy loads;  
An' hedges' bands, where trees in row  
Do rise an' grow aroun' the lands,  
Be works that we've a-vound a-wrought  
By our vorefathers' ceare an' thought.

They clear'd the groun' vor grass to teake  
The plect that bore the bremble break,  
An' drained the fen, where water spread,  
A-lyen dead, a beane (bane) to men;  
An' built the mill, where still the wheel  
Do grind our meal, below the hill;  
An' turned the bridge, wi' arch a-spread,  
Below a road, vor us to tread.

They vound a plect that we mid (might) seek  
The gift o' greace vrom week to week;  
An' built wi' stwone, upon the hill,  
A tow'r we still do call our own;  
Wi' bells to use, an' meake rejaice,  
Wi' giant vaice, at our good news:  
An' lifted stwones an' beams to keep  
The rains and cworld vrom us asleep.

Zoo now mid nwone ov us vorget  
The pattern our vorefathers zet,  
But each be fain to undertake  
Some work to meake vor others' gain,  
That we mid leave mwore good to share,  
Less ills to bear, less souls to grieve,  
An' when our hands do vall to rest,  
It mid be vrom a work a-blest.

No wonder that Kilvert was pleased with his meeting, for he and the Poet had much in common. They both loved nature and both wrote about simple people and a



rustic way of life that both no doubt thought eternal, but which in fact was already on the road to disintegration. Nowhere is it better preserved than in their respective writings.

In conclusion here is one of Barnes' poems in ordinary English. It is called "Rustic Childhood".

No city primness train'd my feet  
To strut in childhood through the street,  
But freedom let them loose to tread  
The yellow cowslips' downcast head;  
Or climb, above the twining hop  
And ivy, to the elm-tree's top;  
Where southern airs of blue-sky'd day  
Breathed o'er the daisy and the may.  
I knew you young, and love you now,  
O shining grass, and shady bough.

Far off from town, where splendour tries  
To draw the looks of gather'd eyes,  
And clocks, unheeded, fail to warn  
The loud-tongued party of the morn,  
I spent in woodland shades my day  
In cheerful work or happy play.  
And slept at night where rustling leaves  
Threw moonlight shadows o'er my eaves.  
I knew you young, and love you now,  
O shining grass, and shady bough.

Or in the grassy grove by ranks  
Of white-stemm'd ashes, or by banks  
Of narrow lanes, in-winding round  
The hedgy sides of shelving ground;  
Where low-shot light struck in to end  
Again at some cool-shaded bend,  
Where we might see through dark leav'd boughs  
The evening light on green hill-brows.  
I knew you young, and love you now,  
O shining grass, and shady bough.

Or on the hillock where I lay  
At rest on some bright holyday;  
When short noon-shadows lay below  
The thorn in blossom white as snow;  
And warm air bent the glistening tops  
Of bushes in the lowland copse,  
Before the blue hills swelling high  
And far against the southern sky.  
I knew you young, and love you now,  
O shining grass, and shady bough.

R.I. Morgan, Chalfont-St.-Peter, Bucks.

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#### THE REMINISCENCES OF PRISCILLA PRICE

One of the many interesting characters of Kilverts Diary is Priscilla Price of Bredwardine. On Friday 6th September 1879 Kilvert visited her "and was much interested by her account of her reminiscences of the days when George the Fourth was King". At the time of his Coronation she was living in London, at 31 Russell Square and she told Kilvert a vivid story of those troublous times when the King would not allow the Queen to be crowned and when rival factions roamed the streets all night smashing windows that were lit up in honour of either King or Queen. Priscilla Price also recalled the scenes at the funeral of Queen Caroline (for she died only 9 days after the King was crowned) and remembered seeing Princess Charlotte just after she had escaped from the King and was calling to a hackney coach "Drive me to Buckingham House" - to see her mother. Priscilla Price must have been a good age at the time for she was talking of events of about 60 years previously. All this can be read in Vol.3 of the Diary - pages 416 to 419. Those who read it (or read it again) will no doubt be interested in the following article which appeared in a periodical some years ago under the heading "The Injured Queen of England", and which now follows on...



November was an ill-starred month in the sad life of a now all but forgotten Consort, Caroline of Brunswick.. It was in November 1817 that her only child the Princess Charlotte died in childbirth, so opening the way for Victoria to occupy the throne of England. Three years later Caroline's private life was shamefully aired in public, from August to November 1820 with the object of dissolving the marriage with George IV, who, King at last, had no intention of allowing Caroline to be crowned Queen.

In 1794 a marriage was arranged between Princess Caroline and the English Prince of Wales (her cousin). It seemed an escape for both of them. The Prince had been persuaded into the match by the promise that his debts, amounting to some £630,000 would be cancelled, and for Caroline (brought up in the stifling atmosphere of a small German court and barred from all youthful activities lest she should pick up undesirable ideas) it meant not only romance but contact with the outside world. On Easter Day 1795 she landed in England, but owing to the machinations of the jealous Countess of Jersey, who had been appointed her lady-in-waiting, there was no one to meet her and she was obliged to seek refuge in Greenwich Hospital until the carriage arrived; after which Lady Jersey dressed her in some ill-fitting clothes and plastered her face with rouge to ensure that she made a bad impression on the Prince. When they met the Prince was repelled by her lack of charm, while she saw a fat florid buffoon instead of the fairy-tale prince she expected. His behaviour horrified Caroline still more, and she found the Queen, his mother, cold and most un-welcoming.

Three days later this ill-matched couple were married, and on that day more than twenty-five years of misery dawned for Caroline.

After the birth of her daughter Charlotte in 1796 the Prince declared he would no longer share a house with her and took himself off to Windsor. She longed to return to Brunswick, but since this was impossible she set up her own establishment at Blackheath, where she mothered homeless waifs and trained them to be worthy citizens. One of these she grew very fond of and the Prince tried to divorce her, claiming that he was her son and to this end assembled a mass of false evidence against her. But in the end this proved so flimsy that no charge could be made, and Caroline triumphantly demanded proper recognition, or she would publish the facts of the whole affair. This brought her a few invitations to Court, and rooms at Kensington Palace, but she was kept apart from Charlotte. When George became Regent, Caroline again found herself barred from royal functions, and this led her to publish some of the acrimonious correspondence that had passed between the Queen and herself. The immediate effect was to enlist the sympathies of the British people so firmly that the Prince was booed every time he appeared in public. The climax came in 1814 when Princess Charlotte ran away to join her mother, but was forced back to Carlton House and kept there practically under lock and key. For Caroline this was the last straw, and she sailed for the Continent, never to see her daughter again, for she had married a German prince and was allowed to die in childbirth in November 1817. Three years later her husband became King of England and Caroline determined to take her rightful place as Queen. George offered her a life annuity of £50,000 if she would renounce the title and live permanently abroad, but she elected to return to England and fight for her rights. She was rapturously received by the people, but these demonstrations availed her nothing, for the King was determined to destroy her. Her enemies tried to get a Bill through Parliament to enable the King to divorce her. Witnesses proved so unreliable, however, that the case collapsed, much to the delight of the populace. The banks of the Thames were lined daily with cheering crowds as Caroline sailed to Westminster in a State barge. But although her supporters hailed the abandonment of the Bill as a triumph for Caroline, the King still refused to acknowledge her as his wife or provide her with a house. The final humiliation came at the Coronation in 1821, when Caroline was barred from the Abbey as she tried to go in, demanding to be crowned Queen. Her spirit was at last broken; nine days later (7th August 1821) news reached her husband that his wife was dead; she had put up no sort of fight against an internal inflammation. At her own request she was taken back to Brunswick for burial. On her coffin were the words "Caroline of Brunswick, the Injured Queen of England".

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#### MR. PRICKARD ... a contribution by Mrs. Ruth Bidgood

Mr. Prickard, Mr. Venables successor as Vicar of Clyro, of whom we read occasionally in Volume 3 of the Diary, is mentioned in Canon W.E.T. Morgan's "Reminiscences of Llandrindod & Neighbourhood" (Radnorshire Society Transactions 1937). Apparently, after some time at Clyro, Mr. Prickard exchanged livings with the Rev. T. Macfarlane of Disserth. Kilvert is critical of Mr. Prickard's methods at Clyro, blaming him for rash innovations and deploring the shrunken congregations; though of course, outgoing clergy are frequently unhappy about changes in their last parish! Kilvert seems to have been on friendly enough terms with Mr. Prickard - he went for walks with him, and was appreciative of the changes for the better which had been made in Mr. Venables study.



### OUR FIRST MEMBER FROM IRELAND

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a reference to a new member, from near Dublin (who intends being with us for the "June Weekend"). What he says in the letter bringing his first subscription will interest many members. It reads ...

"I have long wanted to see the Kilvert Country and its churches; and I think his diary is the greatest literary event of the English-Welsh countryside in the last 100 years - anyhow for one for ever going back to them, especially now that the urban spread of Dublin is fast reaching out its tentacles towards this area, which is on the Dublin-Kildare border".

Our new member is staying a few days in Clyro after his weekend in Hereford, and there he hopes to meet other Kilvert enthusiasts.

I know that our new member from Ireland would very much like to get up to Clyro on Sunday evening, after the Cathedral service. But there are no buses. If any member going that way on that Sunday evening would care to take Mr. Tuthill with them (via Bredwardine if possible) he would be very grateful, for he is obviously one of our enthusiasts. Any offers direct to him please, the address is Athgoe Park, Straffan, Co. Kildare, Ireland. Before June 14th please.

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### SHROPSHIRE MEMBERS

Since the death of our two founder-members Mr. and Mrs. Newman of Bishops Castle and the removal of several other members out of the county we have been a couple of years without a single Salopian member. But that state of affairs has been remedied within the last few weeks with three new members from Shropshire ... Mr. Stratton, whose item on Doldowlodd Station appears in this newsletter, and two others from near Shrewsbury - both of whom are connected with the archives and history of the county. We shall therefore be getting some information on the Kilvert family of long ago. We know a little of Francis Kilvert's Shropshire ancestors but want to know more. These new members' contributions to future newsletters are therefore eagerly anticipated.

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### TEA AT HARDENHUISH - OCTOBER 1968 - FURTHER DETAILS AND THANKS

Details of the disposal of the cash paid by members and friends for the splendid TEA so kindly put on by Mr. and Mrs. Harding of Chippenham and their friends - at the Girls High School after the SERVICE on October 20th were omitted from the March newsletter. It is only right that these details should be made known, for our Wiltshire friends worked so hard to provide this TEA and then gave all the proceeds from it to the two churches (Hardenhuish and Langley Burrell).

The total sum (which included some donations, and cash from sale of cakes etc.) was £16.16.0d. and of this TEN GUINEAS was given to Langley Burrell Church for their BELL FUND and SIX GUINEAS to the Hardenhuish Tablet & Plaque Fund. This was shown on the current STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS of the SOCIETY as a donation to offset the 6 guineas paid to the High School authorities, but it was actually intended for the Tablet etc., Fund, for which we are most grateful ... if one thinks it out it comes to the same thing in the end, anyway.

### LANGLEY BURRELL BELLS FUND

At least another £200 is needed before the bells of the lovely old church of Langley Burrell can be made to ring again. This is mentioned so that anyone who feels they would like to subscribe can do so... the Hon. Treasurer is Mr. A.L. Scott, of Langley House, Chippenham.

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### FAMOUS LAST WORDS

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKET FOR SATURDAY EVENING JUNE 21st AT HEREFORD TOWN HALL?

IF NOT THEN PLEASE GET IT NOW. YOU MUST COME ... WE ONLY HAVE ONE 21st BIRTHDAY IN A LIFETIME ..... REMEMBER THAT PLEASE.