

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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12th June 1970

Dear Member,

The newsletter dated 3rd April gave some details about the forthcoming ANNUAL COMMEMORATION SERVICE---this year at CLYRO in Radnorshire---on SUNDAY the 28th JUNE at 3 o'clock. Here is the full programme.

The SERVICE will be conducted by the Rev. T.J. LEWIS B.A. the VICAR OF CLYRO, he is a Vice-President of the Society; and the ADDRESS will be given by THE DEAN OF HEREFORD---the VERY REV. N.S. RATHBONE, M.A. - also a Vice-President. The LESSONS will be read by our member Mr. John Sparrow, O.B.E., D.Litt., Warden of All Souls College, Oxford, and by Dr. WILLIAM PLOMER, our President. This will be the 21st Anniversary of the Kilvert Society's first service at Clyro (1949) and to mark this an ALMS BOX WALL SAFE and HYMN BOOK SHELVES have been given to the church; these will be DEDICATED during the service. Some of Francis Kilvert's favourite hymns will be sung.

Afterwards there will be TEA for all who wish to partake of it....in the nearby Village Hall, at a charge of 3/6 per person. Catering by Mr. W. Ratcliffe, who has recently taken over the Swan Hotel in Hay-on-Wye.

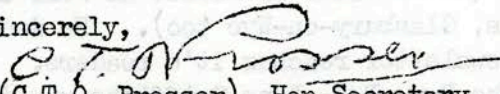
Then comes what will undoubtedly be a very pleasant ending to the afternoon, for our members Mr. and Mrs. A. Dworski of the Clyro Pottery have very kindly invited us up to their home---Cae Mawr, where we are to have the use of the lawns for a social hour, probably some Diary readings of Francis Kilvert's frequent visits to Cae Mawr, etc; whilst we enjoy the wonderful views of the Black Mountains etc., from the lawns and terraces. It is a very short walk from the Hall to Cae Mawr, the drive gate is just around the corner, past the Pottery; about opposite Clyro Primary School.

Below and overleaf are some more notes about events etc., linked up with this Commemoration Service at Clyro; and also about the AUTUMN SERVICE, this year at WOOTTON in Oxfordshire on September 27th.

There will be a MOTOR-COACH from Hereford to Clyro on the 28th of June; leaving the Town Hall in St. Owen Street at 1-30 p.m. (PROMPT)---the fare will be 6/- per person and seats can be booked with Wyeval Ltd., Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street, Hereford or with the Hon. Secretary. It will be a YEOMANS coach.

Finally, a reminder to those who have not yet paid their subscriptions---our Hon. Treasurer - Mr. J.D. Worsey - would be pleased to receive them.

Yours sincerely,


(C.T.O. Prosser) Hon. Secretary.

A proportion of these newsletters will have one or more POSTERS re the CLYRO SERVICE enclosed with them. Those members receiving POSTERS are asked to do their best to get them displayed prominently in their town or village. Some POSTERS will be sent to members living so far away that it is not likely that anyone will come such a distance to Clyro on June 28th. But these POSTERS not only advertise this SERVICE, they also let people know that there is a Kilvert Society. Many long-standing readers of the Diary are still unaware that a Society has existed since 1948; last June just such a person wrote to me and joined the Society after seeing one of our POSTERS in Weston-super-Mare!!! In June visitors are widespread.

NOTES and NEWS...by the Hon.Secretary, plus contributions from members

The original intention was to give Clyro Church two ALMS BOX WALL SAFES to mark this 21st Anniversary Service—as at Bredwardine last October; but Clyro asked if they could have just one wall safe (a little bigger than either of those as at Bredwardine) and some hymn book shelves in lieu of the other safe. We, of course, instantly agreed to this; the total cost will be about the same, and that is an important point. It is interesting to note that two Anthony brothers of Clyro are making the bookshelves, they are grandsons (or is it great-grandsons?) of the Henry Anthony who Kilvert writes of in the Diary — where there are many mentions of various members of the Anthony family.

A number of members have sent in donations towards the cost of the above items, if any more wish to contribute they can send to either of the three officials whose address appears on our letterheads; marking envelopes "Clyro Fund", please.

OUR PRESIDENT

It is so nice to think that Dr. Plomer will be with us again at Clyro on the 28th of June, how he manages to get around to so many things is sometimes more than I can understand. He comes to us from the Aldeburgh Festival, where on the 5th June the Queen & Prince Philip are to be present when "Music for a Royal Occasion" is performed at the reopened Maltings. Besides pieces by Byrd, Purcell and Mendelssohn, there are to be some passages from Britten's "Gloriana", including the beautiful Lute Song. By the time this note is being read it will be over, and perhaps many will have heard it on Radio or T/V. To have Mr. John Sparrow at Clyro too will make it an even more memorable occasion, for he is surely one of our most eminent members.

Clyro has a Baptist Church (at Bronydd) and a Congregational Church (just off the Painscastle road, quite near to the Parish Church) and the Committee decided that it would be a nice idea to offer both something to the value of £5 in this 21st Anniversary year of ours——for we have many members who belong to the Congregational Church, the Baptist Church—and to a number of other Free Churches too. The Clyro Baptists have chosen to spend their £5 towards installing a light in the pulpit and the Congregationalists are going to use it to buy a new music book for the organ, so the cheques have been passed on to the respective Secretaries, and a nice note of thanks received from each.

Several different members have suggested that the Society might offer to have the BIBLE in Bettws Church renovated, it bears the signature "R.Lister Venables" and the date-1865. This is being done by a professional bookbinder and repairer and there is every hope that it will be ready before the end of June, when we can perhaps have it on view in Clyro before going back to Bettws Clyro Church.

Following our practice of giving a Visitors Book to any church in which we have held a Commemoration Service—when requested to do so—such a book is being prepared for LLOWES CHURCH, for the Rev. T.J. Lewis informed us that the old one was full and asked us for a new one (he is Vicar of Llowes as well as being Vicar of Clyro with Bettws—and of All Saints, Glasbury-on-Wye too). No doubt it will be in use at Llowes by the time that this newsletter reaches it's readers. Many members will remember the services at Llowes when the Rev. D.J. Lane Griffiths was there.

CHILDREN'S COMPETITION

The children of Clyro Primary School are competing this year again—as in 1965; (in between, the children of the schools at Langley Burrell, Rhosgoch, and Newbridge-on-Wye have similarly competed, but last year there was no such event as the Commemoration Service was at Hereford Cathedral). Mr. H.R. Evans (Headmaster) tells me that the senior children have written about "Kilvert and the village" with added drawings—and Miss M. Mantle (Assistant Mistress) has had the juniors doing something about their own homes. All will be judged by the Headmaster of a Breconshire School who is also a K.S. member, and we all hope that it will be possible for the children to be given their prizes (book tokens) on the day of the SERVICE: perhaps by Dr. Plomer as in 1965. All will surely agree that it is good to foster the children's interest in this way.

CLYRO CHURCH

Surely very few visitors to Clyro fail to see the MEMORIAL TABLET to Francis Kilvert (unveiled in 1949 by his great-nephew the Rev. R.W. Kilvert and dedicated by the Bishop of Swansea & Brecon)—but far less obvious are the framed pictures in the curtained-off vestry quite near the TABLET. These are Miss Maria Kilverts "beautiful prints" from Worcester, given to the Society a few years ago by the Bishop of Worcester at the time of the alterations to Hartlebury Castle.....for some details about these prints see page 266 in Volume 1.

THE AUTUMN SERVICE

The venue for this was given out at the A.G.M. and it has been already mentioned in this newsletter. A few more details are now given, and full details will be in the September newsletter, circulated about a fortnight before hand. It is to be at WOOTTON-BY-WOODSTOCK in Oxfordshire, where on August 20th 1879 Francis Kilvert and Elizabeth Rowland (of Holly Bank, Wootton) were married. This has arisen out of a kind invitation from the Rector of Wootton, the Rev. Leslie Perfect, that we may sometime like to have a pilgrimage to his church. I happened to mention this to a little gathering of members over the weekend of last June's Anniversary Celebrations in Hereford and one of our London members suggested that we ought to see about a tablet somewhere there to record that marriage. The Committee has approved of the whole idea, so has the Rector of Wootton. The date is fixed for the 27th of September (a little earlier than usual, lighter evenings for what will no doubt be a nice run by coach across the Cotswolds) and the preacher is to be our member the Rev. John Elphinstone-Fyffe, whose wife is of the Rowland family of Wootton.....there is mention of Mr. Elphinstone-Fyffe elsewhere in this newsletter. The form of tablet or the like is not yet quite settled, but it is likely that it will be a simple little plaque in the porch of Wootton Church and also a flower-stand for beside the altar, bearing a small shield with a suitable inscription. The cost of these items will be around £50 or so, we do not propose opening an appeal fund towards this, for we feel sure that there are quite a number of our members who will wish to participate and will send a donation to one or other of the Society's three officials (clearly marked for Wootton, please); the remainder will be made up from funds.

THE POETS GATE

The item under this heading in the April newsletter has caused a lot of interest, much favourable comment, and much praise for our Kington Langley members whose idea it was and who had it carried out. I have since seen a report of the Parish Meeting, attended by 45 parishioners (from the Wiltshire Times & News) when Mr. and Mrs. Tanner were publicly thanked for their action in providing the gate in memory of Francis Kilvert and as their contribution to the appearance of the village in Conservation Year 1970. I also know that the Poets Gate and the inscription on it has caused a much greater realisation of the close connections between the Diarist and Kington Langley than ever before.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SOCIAL EVENING

Held on Wednesday evening, the 29th April—at Eignbrook as usual, and as popular and successful as ever. About the usual number attended, perhaps a few more even than a year ago, and once again many from far away. Amongst these were a number from Birmingham; our regulars from Swansea brought a new member with them; several Worcester members and several from Shropshire too; Radnorshire was well represented; and there were, of course many from Hereford and the county. The Chair was taken by Mr. F.R.C. Hermon (Committee Chairman) and after welcoming all present he spoke of the several members whose deaths had occurred since the last meeting, particularly mentioning Mrs. Lane Griffiths, widow of our former President; all stood for a brief period in their memory. After apologies, minutes, etc., and a few words from first the Hon. Secretary and then the Hon. Treasurer there came the election of officers. The Vice-Presidents were all re-elected and the three additional names recommended by the Committee were confirmed, these were—the Dean of Hereford (the Very Rev. N.S. Rathbone), Mr. Robin Tanner of Kington Langley, Wiltshire; and the Rev. D.N. Lockwood of Hanley Swan, Worcs. As there were no resignations or new nominations for Committee etc., all those now serving were re-elected. This concluded the business part of the meeting. Mr. L. Le Quesne, the new owner-occupier of Ashbrook (Kilvert's "lodgings" in Clyro) then told us of his introduction to the Diary, through a copy that he picked up in a second hand bookshop whilst teaching in Australia; following on from this came the desire (after returning to the British Isles) to live in Clyro, but the house he came there to see was already sold by the time he got to Clyro, he looked around—found that Ashbrook was empty and for sale, and promptly bought it!! This was the essence of his most interesting talk—and he was followed by Mr. J.D. Worsey, who read the pages of the Diary which tell of Kilverts visit to Brecon and Penoyre as well as an extract from the unpublished portion of the Diary which tells of Kilverts attendance (with other local clergy) at an Archdeacons Visitation at what is now Brecon Cathedral. Following this Mrs. E.G. Peters took bookings for the Annual Spring Coach tour, this time to Brecon and Penoyre. The company then moved over to the smaller room (adjoining) for refreshments, which a little band of lady members had worked hard to prepare and serve. Upon returning to the room with platform the Rev. D.N. Lockwood spoke on the many references that can be found in the Diary to the Wordsworths and went on to many matters linked with this, in a most interesting and entertaining talk. Then came the main item of the evening, our Shrewsbury members Mr. William Price and Mrs. Marion Halford giving us a most illuminating talk (illustrated with slides) on

THE SHROPSHIRE KILVERT COUNTRY AND KILVERT'S SHROPSHIRE ANCESTORS, much work had so obviously gone into the preparation of this and in the September newsletter there will be an item giving at least the most important portions of it. The projection was (as in many previous years) in the able hands of Mr. Godfrey Davies. The evening ended with the Chairman proposing a hearty vote of thanks to all who had contributed to another very happy evening—this brought many seconders and hearty applause.

AFTER THE A.G.M.

It is quite usual for some of the more distant members who come to the A.G.M. to stay on for a day or two in or near Hereford in order to explore some part of the "Kilvert Country".. it was therefore announced at this year's meeting that the Hon. Secretary and Mrs. Prosser would be available on the day following to pilot any such members around a few "odd corners" that they might not very easily find for themselves. But this time only one—a keen member from the Birmingham area—was staying on. Despite this the few hours spent with her are counted as being well spent, for it is so very rewarding to find such enthusiasm and knowledge of the Diary in a member as we did that day—as the following account (written at our request) so well illustrates.

The Diary was one of my favourite bedside books, long before I thought of visiting any of the places mentioned in it. It was quite by chance, on a visit to friends in Wiltshire some years ago, that I found myself in the Church at Kington St. Michael, and I well remember thinking with astonishment "That must be Mrs. Prodders in the East window!" From that moment The Diary really came alive, and I began to explore Kilvert Country. But, apart from Bredwardine Church itself, I had rather neglected the Herefordshire side, and so I was glad to avail myself of Mr. and Mrs. Prosser's very kind offer at the A.G.M. of a conducted tour there next morning for any members staying in the neighbourhood.

We met at Bredwardine, outside the Red Lion, little changed outwardly since Kilvert's day, and walked in the lane around "The Cottage", which is just beside the Inn. This must be very different; the Drive where Kilvert paced up and down with Mrs. William Newton, while she gave him some good advice on how to run his parish, is now so overgrown as to be hardly discernible, and the gate is barred to any attempt at entry. Little can be seen of the house either, and it is difficult to catch any echoes of the time when "the organ was sounding in the hall and Miss Newton and Mrs. W. Newton were standing round singing.." We drove to the Church for a brief visit; in the churchyard the primroses and violets would have delighted the Diarist. We went to see his wife's grave in the far part of the Churchyard, and also the rather imposing monument to the Founder of the Jarvis Charity, of which Kilvert became a trustee. Then we crossed the bridge over the Wye, past the Gate house from which the Jenkins family had to be rescued in the great flood of November 10th 1878, and so along winding lanes to Brobury Church, of which Kilvert was also Rector, now unused, and fenced in with wire and brambles.

From the red rocks of Brobury Scar and its beautiful beeches, we had a view of the winding river, and across to Bredwardine Hill. The "three widows who live on the Scar" have long left it, but we found the trees that used to droop over their cottages, and the remains of two of them. One is only rubble, but the second still has part of its roof, and the range and bread oven. Instead of following Kilvert's path, on his way to visit his sister at Monnington, we retraced our steps, and drove on towards Clifford, pausing en route to glance first at the imposing Weston Farm and then across to the Old Weston—home of "Little Davie" whose burial on Christmas Day 1878 makes a sad page in the Diary. Then to Clifford Church, beautifully kept, with its interesting wooden pillars. When we returned the key to the Vicarage we were invited in for a very welcome cup of tea, and I enjoyed a visit to a house that Kilvert found so hospitable too. We had hoped for a view of the Brecon Beacons from the churchyard, but it was by now drizzling and misty, and little could be seen. The next stop was at the site of Clifford Priory, a large house built in 1860 near the site of the original Priory, and in Kilverts time the home of his friends the Haigh Allens. Here on 12th July 1870 Kilvert and "The usual set that one meets and knows so well" had "great fun on the lawn, 6 cross games of croquet, and balls flying in all directions", and after High Tea watched the eclipse of the moon from the high terrace on the hillside. There is nothing left of the house but a grassy mound, for it was burned down around 1930. But the long croquet lawn levelled out on the side of the hill can still be seen, and one can trace the outline of the drive at the front of the house, and the high terrace, and imagine the ghostly white dresses of the ladies among the laurels. Behind and higher up the hill, there is part of the ruined garden wall, near where grew the famous Rifleman strawberries, and where tethered by a collar and light chain, "the most dear delightful pussy" kept watch against the birds. Then on to Mouse Castle. The pathway that Kilvert followed up the hill to the stile through the wire fence starts opposite the attractive farmhouse Lydiart-y-Wain, but as we had much to see, the approach was made from the top of the hill, walking the last stage to the old fort. It is now

very much overgrown, but we climbed the steep banks, trying to decide just where the merry family party was playing in April 1870. On this, the last day of April 1970 it may have looked much the same, except for the lamentable twentieth century litter of old tin cans and other rubbish dumped even here. We heard the green woodpecker calling (how appropriate is the local name that Kilvert uses "the Yappingale"), and caught the flash of his bright wings as he flew off down the hill. Near a bank of primroses we had our lunch, glad to see that the sky had brightened, with the promise of better views in the afternoon.

Time was getting on, and I had to be in Clyro by 4 o'clock, but there were still more places to be seen on this well planned tour. We followed the lanes along which that gay picnic party drove on June 21st 1870 to the ruins of Snodhill Castle, beyond Dorstone in the Golden Valley, and parked the car just beyond the lovely old Court Farm, then climbed the steep slopes up to the Castle, glad that we weren't also carrying up the large amount of food thought suitable for a Victorian picnic! It all looked much as described in the Diary, the hollow where the potatoes suffered such indignities, the ledge where the gentlemen sat and smoked and talked politics; but we could not find the Oak under which the cloth was spread; there was a suitable wide spreading Ash. Back to Dorstone, passing slowly by the Rectory, where the party came to dance (some in nailed boots!) in the drawing-room; then up the hill to Arthurs Stone where the sky cleared at last, and there was the long clear line of the Black Mountains, and the beautiful Skyrnid, the holy mountain, which legend says was rent asunder at The Crucifixion - "a very striking and picturesque peak", as the Diary comments. Then on round Bredwardine Hill to pause at Crafta Webb, where we saw the few cottages remaining of what was a thriving hamlet, and the ruins of many that Kilvert knew. On down the hill to Bredwardine, passing first the turn to Dolvach and Fine Street, and on the other side to the Knap where "the games and sports, the fights and merriments went on in old times" and then down the very steep hill up which Kilvert toiled so faithfully in the dreadful winter of 1878-9, when already his health was failing. "There's many as is in quite a way about him" they said. No wonder!

OBITUARY

The death of several members that have occurred since the last newsletter have to be reported with regret. The Vicar of Bredwardine, the Rev. William Lloyd of Moccas Rectory, who was too unwell to take part in the October service at Bredwardine, though he was present. He had resigned, but died whilst still at Moccas where he was buried on April 23rd. The Society sent a donation to his churches in lieu of flowers.

Then on May 1st the Rev. J. Victor (husband of our V.P. Mrs. E.M. Victor) died very suddenly. The funeral service at Hereford Cathedral was largely attended and included several representatives of the Society. He was 80. All those who were at the Hardenhuish service of October 1968 will remember Mr. Victor reading one of the lessons and Mrs. Victor unveiling the tablet in memory of Francis Kilvert.

Just as this newsletter "goes to press" comes news of the sudden death of Mrs. J. Edwards of Moorhampton, near Hereford. Mr. and Mrs. Edwards have been members for a number of years and have been at many of the Society's functions.

Earlier this year there occurred the death of one, who though not a member of the Society was of great interest to us all. I refer to Mrs. K. Powell of Winforton, Herefordshire, for she was a Crichton of Wye Cliffe, Clyro—a tiny baby when Kilvert was so often a visitor to Wye Cliffe, a wonderful lady in her 97th year. She was the widow of the Rev. George Powell of Dorstone (Hfds.) another family we read of in the Diary. It was through her kindness that we were able on two occasions to borrow the family album of photographs in order to "copy" the many Crichtons that are in our collection.

ANOTHER SELF

This is the title of a book by our member Mr. James Lees-Milne. A few notes from the review of it in "The Times Literary Supplement" of 16-4-70 may be of interest..especially to those who do not see this supplement regularly. The relevant cutting was sent in by Dr. Plomer.

This highly enjoyable book might be subtitled "the portrait of a non-believer". But before rationalists or humanists stretch out eager hands to secure a copy, it should be explained that Mr. Lees-Milne's non-belief is confined to the gods of the twentieth century and that, we may fairly argue, takes a good deal more originality and courage than to disbelieve in ancient faiths. Mr. Lees-Milne is a founder-member of the Georgian group, and his love for architecture has caused him to devote his energies to the preservation of the English country house, and he questions the contemporary belief that the architectural treasures of our countryside must be sacrificed to "this day and age" and to the relentless march of businessmen and to that golden calf of the present day - "balance of payments". "Another Self" is published by Hamish Hamilton at 30/-.

A JULY WALK IN THE RADNORSHIRE HILLS

Radnorshire Rural Community Council has asked the Kilvert Society to organise a walk as part of the projects towards getting people to think about and then care for their environment, this is part of European Conservation Year, the co-ordinating body for which in Wales is "The Countryside in 1970 Committee for Wales" under the chairmanship of H.R.H. Prince Charles, Prince of Wales.

This walk is to be on Sunday the 12th July, and an area of wide open spaces has been chosen for it so that if a really large number of people turn up at the start it will not matter, for there is ample space to park many cars and then for folk to spread out so that what would appear a big crowd in a small space will hardly be noticed in moorland country. It will be a walk that some of us have done many times before, but we never tire of it; we think of it as "Across the moors to the Rocks of Aberedw". The details which have been sent to Llandrindod Wells and which will be published in their Programme of Events are as follows.

Cars meet at the Baskerville Arms, Clyro at 11 a.m. Bring picnic lunch and tea. Proceed by car through Painscastle and then towards Erwood, turning right at the first crossroads (for Llanbwchllyn) but in a mile turning sharp left and taking the hill road that leads to Llandeilo-Graban church. Halt when at the gateway for Pen-y-Graig farm. This is the parking place, high up on the hillside. G.R. is 109458 (Map 141 O.S. 1"). It will now be noon, and after the picnic lunch will be near 1 p.m. before we are ready to start walking; so that latecomers could join in then. It is 3 miles each way, the objective being Aberedw Rocks. All this is "Kilvert Country" (see the Diary, we pass under the "Cone of Penpicca"), with very nice views if fine. We hope to have a botanist with us (maybe two) and perhaps a geologist also; and maybe some ornithologists too!! There is scope for each. We should get back to the lunch spot in time for tea, and we shall hope that there will be some non-walkers of the party who will have the kettle boiling!! Come and join us.

A RADNORSHIRE ARTIST

With my copy of the TRANSACTIONS of the Radnorshire Society (just arrived) is a note about the first Exhibition to be devoted to Radnorshire's most notable artist, Thomas Jones of Pencerrig (1742-1803)—to be held at Marble Hill House, Twickenham from 2nd June to 16th August 1970; and then at the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff from 24th August to 30th September. Kilvert Society members may be all the more interested in these Exhibitions when they realise that there are strong connections between the Jones family of Pencerrig and the Thomas family of Llanthomas. Miss Clara Thomas (who Kilvert met at a dinner party in February 1870—p.33 in Vol.1.) owned Pencerrig as well as Llwyn-Madoc and (as Mr. Geoffrey Bright tells us in his "West of the Malverns") lived part of the year at each. "Mr. Thomas" of Llanthomas—the father of "Daisy", was the Rev. William Jones Thomas. Pencerrig is now a Hotel and Country Club, it is on the Bulth to Llandrindod main road.

PENYOIRE & BRECON

The April newsletter told of the "Annual Spring Coach Tour" - to these two places, in the week following the A.G.M.—with Mrs. Peters taking bookings at that meeting; the 41 seater coach that had been booked was soon filled and in the end a 45 seater substituted for it. Saturday May 9th was fine and dry - but misty, so that when we got to Clyro it was decided to abandon the idea of going via Llangorse Lake with its backing of the Brecon Beacons and travel via Hay and Talgarth to rejoin the main road at Bronllys, thus passing the site of Llanthomas, where we paused to show newcomers the drive gate etc. A number of members joined the coach en route and others in their cars at Clyro and in Brecon, so that by the time we got to Penoyre it was a party of 50; of these there were 7 from the Birmingham area and 2 from Glamorganshire. It was an interesting experience to be at Penoyre and compare it now with as Kilvert saw it on the 25th of August 1870, actually it is very much as in the Diary, both outside and inside, except that now it is a Country Club all is smart and in good order. It was a pity that mist obscured what must be a marvellous prospect of the Brecon Beacons and surrounding hills from the grounds of Penoyre, set high on the hillside with the valley of the Usk between; nevertheless our party enjoyed strolling around until it was time to go in for tea. After an excellent tea and a look into some of the other main rooms the coach was boarded again and we were soon back in Brecon....for a visit to the Cathedral. There was much to interest us, in particular the tomb of Bishop Bevan, the first Bishop of the new Diocese - for this was Kilvert's "Teddy Bevan" of Hay Castle. It was good to have our Vice-President Mrs. S. Mumford (and her two daughters) with us, for Bishop Bevan was her uncle and Brecon Cathedral very familiar ground to her. We were told which chapel was restored as a memorial to Cousie(Ellen)Bevan, and the organ which stood in the hall at Hay Castle when Kilvert was so often a visitor there, now in a corner of the Cathedral, was discussed.

Other objects of interest were the memorials to families who once lived at Penoyre; and the memorial to Bishop Williamson - who preached at the 1946 Kilvert Service at Clyro (his fine address is in "Looking Backwards"). The return to Hereford was made in good time, and all seemed to have thoroughly enjoyed our fifth such Spring tour.

HEREFORDSHIRE MUSICAL FESTIVALS

Several times in past years there has been a notice in our newsletters about Abbeydore Festival, and a programme sent out with every one too. There is not to be an Abbeydore Festival this year, for it would be too near the time of the Three Choirs Festival, this year at Hereford; and since that decision was made both the founder (our member Mr. Donald Gowing) and his colleague Mr. Michael Kelly have both died very suddenly. But MADLEY FESTIVAL goes on, for it is in July. Last year it was in June and clashed with our "Anniversary Weekend", this time we have avoided each other!! The Vicar of Madley (and Mrs. Paterson) are members of the K.S. and I am therefore all the more pleased to be able to enclose a MADLEY FESTIVAL folder with about half of the newsletters now being sent out. It is on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July and if any member not getting a folder feels that they would like to have one please write to the Festival Secretary, Mr. T.W. Lloyd, Tyberton, near Madley, Hereford. This festival is in its fifth year and draws audiences from far and near to hear artists of national and international repute.

THE BRYANTS OF LANGLEY BURRELL

After the Ashes and the Awdrys the name that appears most frequently in the Wiltshire portions of the Diary is Bryant, and John Bryant, the village patriarch ranks with Hannah Whitney and John Morgan (the old soldier) of Clyro. We therefore very much welcome a new member living in Hertfordshire who is one of the family--Mr. E.W. Bryant; and we hope that some of our members of the Chippenham area will be able to get together and make a record of the Bryant family as a contribution to the archives of the Kilvert Society and at the same time provide Mr. Bryant with a copy of their findings about his ancestors. The outcome of a study of the Census returns, Church Registers, old tithe maps etc., would give a clear picture of Langley Burrell and its inhabitants 100 and more years ago. Mr. Bryant has given me notes of what to do and how to go about it and I will gladly pass these on to any of our Wiltshire members who will undertake to organise a search. Although far away in Hertfordshire Mr. Bryant will help with the handwriting of the earlier documents and will get the results indexed and typed without cost. I shall hope to hear from anyone interested in helping and will then put them in touch with Mr. Bryant. Meanwhile here is a very interesting item contributed by him for this newsletter. It is headed LANGLEY BURRELL BRYANTS.

Kilvert several times refers to John (young John) and George Bryant. John (1806-1881) and George (1810-1863) were the third and fourth sons of Richard Wayte Bryant (1757-1835) a yeoman of Langley Burrell who married Anne Allen of Corsham on 3 April 1799. John farmed Barrow Farm, a holding of about 150 acres and married Martha Duckett, his dairymaid, in May 1854. He had five sons and a daughter. Martha was the daughter of "my old friend Master Joseph Duckett", as Kilvert called him, who used to preach in a smock frock. Kilvert refers to John as Rector's churchwarden, and mentions a seizure (a stroke) which he had on 16 May 1876. John's eldest son Tom (died 1937) is mentioned in connection with the collection for the Langley Burrell harmonium in 1874. It was no doubt John's second son John (born 1856) who was the member of the victorious cricket team against Langley Fitzurse in 1872. This son emigrated to the United States after his marriage. His third son (Joseph Wayte, born 1857) must have been the Wayte referred to on p.134 of Vol.3. This Wayte, incidentally, married Fanny Cecilia Knight, daughter of Thomas Knight the carpenter & Anne Bryant, John Bryants senior's sister. Thomas Knight was the uncle of Jacob Knight, the other Langley Burrell churchwarden. George Bryant farmed mainly at Manor Farm. He married Mary Catherine Gale, daughter of William Gale, a farmer of Biddestone St. Nicholas, in 1854. He had one child - George Allen Wayte Bryant (1856-1940) who incidentally married Louisa Collett, who is also mentioned in the Diary.

Mary Lucy (1814-1899) a daughter of Richard Wayte Bryant, lived with her brother George and is mentioned as being very incensed about the cricket club which took their men away from their work. She also related the anecdote about her grandmother asking her grandfather (George Bryant senior) to marry her and repenting it afterwards. Kilvert is I think in error in referring to this grandmother as Miss Buy - she was in fact a Miss Wayte (hence the unusual Christian name in the family) - but her sister became Mrs. Buy, and this is no doubt the source of the confusion.

There are many references to old John Bryant, the village patriarch. As Kilvert records, his real name was Jefferies, but when his parents died in his youth, he was brought up by his Bryant grandparents, and was known by their family name. He was the son of Mary Bryant, sister of Richard Wayte Bryant and daughter of George Bryant senior, who married

Samuel Jefferies, a soldier in the 25th Regt., at Langley Burrell on 28 Nov. 1776. Old John was baptised in 1780 and died in 1875, aged 95. He married Betty Saunders on 3 Nov. 1800, Wayte Bryant being the witness. Ann Cecilia (Celia or Cissy) was a daughter of John & Martha Bryant of the Barrow. She was born in 1860 and is several times mentioned admiringly by Kilvert.

MORE INTERESTING PHOTOGRAPHS

Something further from Col. E. Awdry of Chippenham since the last newsletter. This time a photograph of his great uncle the Rev. Edward Charles Awdry, for many years Vicar of Kington St. Michael, a great friend of the Diarist and frequently mentioned in the Diary - usually referred to as "the Vicar". He died in 1902 aged 93. Another kind thought of our V.P. Col. Awdry.

Then from Bristol there came one day a big envelope with many photographs and some papers of great interest—all relating to the Dew family of Whitney; from a member who is a daughter of the Rev. Roderick Dew, one who gave Dr. Plomer some valuable assistance when he was editing the Diary. One of the most interesting of the photographs is that of the very Mrs. Dew of whom we read (somewhat amusingly) in the Diary of leaving behind in the train from Whitney gifts she had brought for her relatives on Aylestone Hill, Hereford and then being nearly bowled over by a horse omnibus in the streets of Hereford. Passages from the Diary which Dr. Plomer has read to more than one gathering in Hereford. How splendid it is to have these links with the characters of the Diary.

KILVERT ON TELEVISION

By the time this newsletter gets to its readers the T/V feature centred around Hardenhuish and Langley Burrell will have been seen by many. For it was to be on June 9th and although everything does not always go according to plan this probably did. I am at a disadvantage in writing about it, for it will have no doubt taken place during the time that these newsletters are being produced. I first knew of it at Christmastime when the Rev. J. Elphinstone-Fyffe came to see me (he is Director of Religious Programmes B.B.C.T/V) and went away with some information and some photographs. I shall hope to have an item from Mr. Elphinstone-Fyffe for a later newsletter, concerning the production of this T/V feature. Meanwhile a few things that I have induced Dr. Plomer to tell me (for he took part in it) will be of interest....particularly so as our preacher at Wootton-by-Woodstock in September is to be the Rev. J. Elphinstone-Fyffe. Some T/V (and Radio) features concerning Kilvert in past years have given displeasure, and I am always pleased to think that my efforts a few years ago were largely instrumental in halting what would (I feel convinced) have been a dreadful travesty of Francis Kilvert. But I have no qualms about anything that Mr. Elphinstone-Fyffe is concerned with, neither has Dr. Plomer - as will be gathered from the following remarks, extracted from a letter to me. "I was greatly impressed with the great trouble he took, and the expertness he showed in planning this Kilvert "feature"; with his skill as a producer, especially in directing the cameramen; and with his patience, kindness, and devoted attention to detail. All this made the proceedings very pleasant for me, we were fortunate in the warm May weather and sunshine; and we had the most helpful co-operation from, among others, Mr. David Vickary at Kilvert's Parsonage, from the Rector and his wife at Hardenhuish, and Mrs. Burnard at Langley Burrell School". Now about Mr. Elphinstone-Fyffe; Dr. Plomer points out that he has won very good opinions for some of the previous films he has planned, directed, and produced, notably the one about John Knox. He has been particularly qualified to make a film in Kilvert's part of Wiltshire, because he has served the Church there (Melksham) - and he has a strong interest in, and knowledge of, local history. He has a very sympathetic understanding and appreciation of Kilvert and the Diary; and then there is the link through his wife being of the Rowland family of Wootton in Oxfordshire. We must hope that later on the B.B.C. and the Rev. John Elphinstone-Fyffe will come to the Kilvert Country of Clyro and Bredwardine etc., and make another such film there—to the further delight of our members and friends. It has been noticeable in the earlier years of the Kilvert Society that there was, in general, much less awareness of Kilvert and the Diary in his native North Wiltshire than in the Herefordshire-Radnorshire border country. But local knowledge and appreciation of Kilvert has steadily increased and it is hoped that this T.V. film will quicken it.

MR. VENABLES GOES TO RUSSIA

A previous newsletter (dated 1st October 1969) had an item with the above heading, it referred to a book written by the Rev. R.L. Venables of Clyro and titled "Domestic Scenes in Russia"; it was published in 1839, and described a year's residence in that country, visiting the relatives of Mrs. Venables, his first wife - for she was the daughter of General Poltoratzky and (we assume) a Scottish mother, for her names were Mary Dalrymple.....as on a tablet in the church at Newbridge-on-Wye, (her tomb is in Clyro churchyard). This book was loaned to me by a London member, only the preface was quoted in the October newsletter, but I suggested that perhaps more could be quoted in a subsequent number.

Here then, is my attempt at a sort of review of this fascinating book.

They sailed from London on Wednesday morning, the 14th June, 1837 in the "Countess of Lonsdale", for Hamburg, which they reached on Friday; and proceeded by land to Traavemunde, the Baltic port near Lubeck and sailed in the steamer "Naslednik" for Petersburg, at three o'clock on the Saturday afternoon. By nine o'clock on Monday night they were in the Gulf of Finland, the following morning off Revel, and by midnight they were anchored off Cronstadt. "The paddles were stopped and we were boarded by a boat from the Russian guard-ship". After customs delays and examinations they at length proceeded, but in crossing the bar of the Neva they ran aground, though the ship only drew about seven feet of water, but they were soon warped off, by means of two anchors, into deep water again, soon reached Petersburg and came to their moorings at the English quay at about twelve o'clock. They stayed here but a few days "as the town, though very beautiful, is very empty, and we wish to lose as little time as possible of the short Russian summer before we proceed into the interior, reserving the sights of Petersburg to be visited as we pass through on our return journey". During those few days they saw a little of St. Petersburg, for one reads of the river, the roads, the churches, the canals, the people and the carriages, the palaces and the picture galleries. One particularly interesting visit is that to the Winter Palace; for this - with all its treasures - was completely destroyed by fire only a few months after the Venables were there. Just before they left the steamer arrived with the English post, and brought the expected news of the death of King William the Fourth, and of the proclamation of Victoria as Queen in less than a month after reaching her majority. Some difficulty was experienced in hiring a carriage to take them the 400 miles to Krasnoe, where Mrs. Venables family lived, eventually a diligence for four was engaged, but they had to pay for a journey all the way to Moscow, although their destination was but about three quarters of that journey. The cost was three hundred and eighty roubles, somewhat more than sixteen pounds. The carriage was pulled by four horses, abreast, the road was macadamised (all the way to Moscow) and they travelled at eight to ten miles an hour—journeying by night as well as by day for, although there were inns at intervals where both food and drink could be obtained, they found that there was little accommodation for sleeping and that on long journeys most Russians took their own beds with them. Bridges over the rivers were good, many of them stone built, whilst those that were not yet built of stone were either good wooden bridges or bridges of boats. At Torjok they had to leave the Moscow road, and here was waiting for them a coach and six, with another vehicle drawn by three horses, and called a tarantass, for the luggage; these had been there several days, awaiting their arrival. It was but thirty-eight miles from here to Krasnoe, but progress was slow, in spite of the six horses, for they had left the macadamised road and this was now an "old-fashioned Russian road, not improved by incessant rain" and it was late at night when they arrived, to be most kindly welcomed by Mrs. Venables father and all the family and they enjoyed a good night's sleep in most comfortable apartments—after travelling for three days and nights. The following six weeks were spent in exploring the estate and the neighbouring countryside and visiting friends of the Poltoratzkys. There are excellent descriptions of the peasants, the villages, the houses and the methods used in constructing them—comments on the unbearable heat from the central stoves, above which the peasants sleep when it is so bitterly cold outside. Many will be surprised to read of the hospital maintained for the peasants (who were serfs) when sick, superintended by a German doctor, who lives in the house with the family. The Russian bath is described in detail, a sauna bath with stove, benches, hot stones, full of steam, bundles of birch twigs with which the bathers flapped themselves before running outside to plunge into cold water or to roll in snow - and then return to the steamy heat.

"This weekly purification" says Mr. Venables "must tend greatly to the health of the Russian peasant, whose long hair and beard, and sheepskin coat, are not favourable to cleanliness". Many of the visits to distant friends of the family entailed long drives over dreadful roads. On one such occasion they crossed the Volga at about ninety miles from its source by a bridge of boats, here it was some two hundred yards wide, with a rapid current, clear and deep. Such visits were almost always surprises, for there were no cross-posts by which advance warnings could be sent. Sometimes several parties arrived

from different directions and on one occasion three parties came on one day, bringing with them ten servants and sixteen carriage horses!! In August they had a spell of terrific heat, when it was impossible to stir outside until evening, after a day spent gasping for breath and trying in vain to find a cool spot; the grass was scorched and the forests set on fire from the dryness of the trees. Mr. Venables made some pithy observations about the peasants and concluded that their singing and dancing was not due to happiness but rather to their childish minds being so easily amused. "These people undoubtedly were not oppressed" he writes "for they were under a kind and considerate master, and they wanted for none of the necessities of life and were probably contented with their lot, but the chain of slavery was on their minds, as it is on the minds of the Russian peasantry at large. They can do nothing to improve their lot, and are in fact grown up children to rise is out of the question and to sink impossible" after some further comments Mr. Venables ends his observations on the peasants with these prophetic words...."While the vast extent of Russia, and her thinly populated scattered population continues to render food, shelter, and clothing cheap and abundant, the peasant may continue to dance in his fetters, careless or unconscious of his degraded position; but should the pressing evils of want or scarcity arise to disturb his thoughtless gaiety and empty merriment, he will become a morose and discontented slave; his eyes will be opened to a sense of his condition, and woe to that generation, both of lord and serf, in which the light shall break forth; for unless the country is far more generally civilized and enlightened than at present, a revolution must commence in bloodshed and end in anarchy: the elements of true liberty are not to be found as yet in Russia".

There are descriptions of many more visits to relatives and friends, sometimes travelling as much as fifty miles and sometimes staying several days or even weeks. One of these visits was to Grouzine where General Constantine Poltoratzky (Mrs. V's uncle) lived, here everything was on a grand scale and they promised to visit him at Yaroslav, of which province the general was military governor. There are details of the grounds and the gardens, of greyhounds and hunts, hares and wolves, methods of harvesting, the crops and the prices—and much else. They left Krasnoe on September 13th, with many regrets, for it had been their home for three months and proceeded to Tver, crossing the Volga by a bridge of boats to enter the town; then onward for three days, crossing and recrossing the Volga on floating bridges - stopping to eat but apparently not to sleep - arriving at Yaroslav at two o'clock in the morning of September 16th. They found Yaroslav to be a town of 28,000 inhabitants with forty-four churches and many fine houses, public gardens and boulevards. It was a military station and on the Sunday they attended mass at the garrison church. October 1st brought a sharp frost and a reminder of the approach of winter. Then follows an account of Russian methods of fire fighting, a visit to a monastery and visits to distant family estates, and a most interesting description of trains of barges on the Volga, making a slow progress upstream as they were pulled by a tow-boat warped along by cable and anchor worked by a capstan below deck, turned by 22 horses with fifty more on board as relays. It is interesting to read that in the house in which they stayed were many books and among them a number of modern English books, and copies of "Blackwoods Magazine" which was regularly taken in by their hostess, who understood and spoke English exceedingly well. Next the travellers went to Moscow, 180 miles away, having first made a bargain with an istvostchik to get them there, paying him £5-10-0 for the journey—in a carriage with six horses, frequently changed en route, often over terrible roads. Moscow was reached just after midnight..where the Poltoratzkys had a town house and Mrs. V. a married sister; to visit her they had to cross Moscow and pass the Kremlin, of which there is an excellent description and references to the "great bell of Moscow, fourteen feet high and weighing upwards of 180 tons". They stayed in Moscow until October 11th travelling day and night for three days until they arrived at the house of Mrs. V's brother and his wife; en route they had a narrow escape from what might have been a very serious accident, another carriage with a drunken driver ran into them and put their own six horses on the ground in a heap, some upside down. Damage was slight and the journey soon resumed, fortunately by bright moonlight for the lamps had been damaged in the accident; part of the journey was by a road so bad that no less than 9 horses were attached to their coach, but were by no means too many. Eventually they got to Tamboff and their relatives house and here they stayed until the following March, visiting, attending weddings, balls and sledging parties, observing ceremonies, army life, carnivals, festivals and the day to day life of the inhabitants. From Tamboff they returned to Moscow, travelling by sledge over the snow but only staying there for ten days and then proceeding to St. Petersburg, again by sledge for the 500 miles, arriving there in early April.....to find the ground frozen six feet deep, ice on the Neva forty-four inches thick and tremendous frosts still prevailing, such a winter as few remembered. After descriptions of Good Friday and Easter in church and in homes and news of a thaw and the disappearance of the snow there are promenades and processions and by May 9th dust is beginning to fly in the streets and the ice on the Neva has broken up and boats begin to ply again—and by May 22nd the Gulf of Finland was open and steam-boats departed for Lubeck again.

An immense military review brought the Petersburg season to an end; the Court was dispersed; the Empress went to Germany, with the Emperor soon to follow her; and the Grand Duchesses to spend the summer at Peterhof. Here Mr. Venables inserts a note that in Easter-week Mrs. V. had a private interview with the Empress, who received her at the palace with great kindness and affability; and a few days later Mr. V. had the honour of a short conversation with Her Majesty, who met them when she was walking with the Grand Duchess Mary in the Public Gardens, and recognizing Mrs. V. stopped to talk to them for a few minutes. The Venables visit to Russia is coming towards its end....and they leave in June....first visiting the Public Library in Petersburg and the Academy of Fine Arts, of which Mrs. V's uncle is president. "He is one of the most distinguished literary men in Russia, was private secretary to the late Emperor, and has been for many years high in Office. His house is well known to most foreigners who have visited St. Petersburg; and we at least have spent in it many of our most agreeable hours". In the library was a missal which formerly belonged to Mary Queen of Scots, with much of her handwriting and poetry in it. Letters too from her at Fotheringay Castle; from Henry the Eighth, Elizabeth, Charles the First and many others—with one from Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex to the King of France, expressing gratitude and devotion. The account of their stay in Russia ends with references to a railway journey to Tzarsko Celo, in a most luxurious saloon, jewel encrusted and inlaid with parquet ornamented with mother-of-pearl "steaming rapidly for sixteen miles". The concluding paragraph reads "Much as we have had reason to enjoy our visit to Russia, we are not sorry to feel ourselves on the eve of our return; and we shall not appreciate the merits of England the less, by comparing it with the scenes we are now about to quit".

There will be a third (and final) item from the Rev. R.L. Venables book on his journeyings in Russia—in the September newsletter. This will give an entirely different picture to anything already quoted, and should not be missed.

LIBRARY LIST

From time to time members ask for suggestions regarding books to read which will add to, or supplement, the Diary itself. Such a list was published in a newsletter several years ago, perhaps it is not too soon to give it again? Here it is—augmented since last time.

THE SOUTHERN MARCHES by MASSINGHAM

WELSH BORDER COUNTRY by THORSBY JONES
(but not a first edition)

COMING DOWN THE WYE by R. GIBBINS

THE FACE OF WALES by TUDOR EDWARDS

RIVER DIARY by DOROTHEA EASTWOOD
(read this first)

JOURNEY THROUGH BRITAIN
by JOHN HILLARY

MONK OF LLANTHONY (IGNATIUS)
by BARONESS BERTOUCH

UP THE CLAEWEN by SID WRIGHT

AT HOME by WILLIAM PLOMER

THE ENTHUSIAST by A. CALDER-MARSHALL
(on Father Ignatius; Kilvert too).

ROAMING DOWN THE WYE by POTTS

RADNORSHIRE by W.H. HOWSE

VALLEYS OF SPRINGS
by DOROTHEA EASTWOOD

GOWER by OLIVE PHILLIPS—this has details
of places Kilvert visited from Ilston, etc. etc.

PEACOCKS in PARADISE by
ELIZABETH INGLIS JONES

SUMMER ROAD TO WALES....by "B.B."

All the above mentioned books have some bearing on Kilvert, the Diary, some character of the Diary, or the countryside of the Diary. Some of them are out of print and difficult to obtain. Ask your library.

PUBLICATIONS & CHRISTMAS CARDS

There is a delay in the publication of the 1970 booklet, it was to be out by or before the end of June but will now be about a month late. It will be titled MORE CHAPTERS OF THE KILVERT SAGA and will be in three parts.

The MEMOIRS (not JOURNAL) of the Rev. Robert Kilvert; extracts from the account of Augustus Hares schooldays with Mr. Kilvert at Hardenhuish Rectory; and the "Rambling Recollections" of the Diarist's sister Emily—and will be 10/- plus postage. A second (and smaller) booklet was to follow it, but now may be out first, this is by our Buckinghamshire member Mr. R.I. Morgan and deals with the many references to Wordsworth in Kilvert's Diary and follows this up with what must have

been much research and much work for Mr. Morgan; it is likely to be around 5/-. Although almost ready to go forward for production we have not yet got a satisfactory title for it, someone suggested "Kilverts Wordsworthian References"; this is apt and quite describes the booklet, but a bit too unwieldy. I hesitate to ask for any suggestions, for we may find a good title and commence production before this newsletter is circulated; but one never knows.

THE 1967 BOOKLET—titled THE "SOLITARY" of LLANBEDR-PAINSCASTLE plus RADNORSHIRE LEGENDS & SUPERSTITIONS has now been reprinted, with extra notes to bring it up to date. Price of the reprint is 5/- per copy, plus 6d if posted. Please order quickly—before they sell out again!!

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This year there will be 5 different types, and they will be in packets of 5 and of 10, all one type or assorted just as members and friends desire. Prices will be 4/6 and 8/6; plus 6d postage in each case. They are about to go forward for production now and will be ready in less than a month. The two new designs will be Bredwardine Church and Clyro village. The list of stockists (in six towns) was in the April newsletter and by September this list will most likely be enlarged. The new Clyro design is a drawing of Clyro as it was last century, done on the spot by a Herefordshire artist, working with a photograph taken many years ago, it has Asbrook on the left and the Baskerville Arms on the right, between them a group of children of the period and the church in the background. The Bredwardine card is the work of our good Wiltshire member Robin Tanner of Kington Langley, and shows Bredwardine Church as you approach it up the lane, done in the same style as the twin card of the two Wiltshire churches that Mr. Tanner has already so exquisitely produced for us. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner spent two days in the area in April whilst this was so painstakingly done. We are extremely fortunate in having a member so talented and who will do such a labour of love for the Society. It took me a long time to get him to tell me that he is an Associate of the Royal Society of Painter-Etchers & Engravers and also an Artist-Member of the Royal West of England Academy. Mr. & Mrs. Tanner managed to find an odd hour or so to explore a little of our Herefordshire "Kilvert Country" whilst here and I am glad that I was able to persuade Heather Tanner to write me their impressions of what they saw. She wrote a most interesting and very detailed article, but to my intense regret it has been crowded out of this newsletter and will appear in the next one—September.

KILVERT COUNTRY—by Geoffrey Bright

In Winter, as I watch the setting sun	who left their Homeland for the cities
sink down the other side of Hay	their future to destine
in Summer, far beyond the hills of Clun	where they have gathered much success
so peacefully ends another day	in works they undertook
for those of us who live in Western Marches	but I have sensed their longing
in sight of those dear Radnor Hills	for the land that they forsook
on which the heather, gorse and sometimes	and like all Welsh and Border folk
larches	they reverence a myth
lend colour as the day's work stills	that Englishmen call longing
and lapsing into eve's serenities	but Welsh call "hiraeth".
I recall those friends of mine	

Hon. Sec's note....I had almost forgotten that I once asked Mr. Geoffrey Bright if he would contribute some of his poetry or his prose (he is good at both) for a newsletter; then one day, to my delight, the above came with the morning's post—not long after Mr. Bright had taken part in the October service at Bredwardine. Over a period of years we have delighted in his contributions to local newspapers, and we know of his knowledge and love of this borderland and the land of Wales that lies beyond it. Many of us treasure his book of poems "Herefordshire is Heaven" and the booklet titled "West of the Malverns" (both out of print, but there are a few of the latter here and available to members for a few shillings—there is much in it that links up with what we read in parts of Kilverts Diary). We are glad to have Mr. Bright as a Vice-President, he is very nearly a founder-member, for he joined us in 1949.

CHRISTOPHER DAWSON

There was to be a note in this newsletter apologising for a "slip" which substituted HARROW for HARVARD in the item on page 8 of the April number. Mr. Dawson was, of course, the first occupant of the chair of Roman Catholic Studies at HARVARD—but just as this note is being penned there comes the sad news of his death. Our Vice-President Mrs. S. Mumford of Sugwas Court near Hereford (his cousin) tells me that he had been ill for a long time and that he died in Devonshire, the funeral was on May 30th at Burnsall in Wharfedale and he was buried next his father and mother (Mary Bevan). Their old home was Hartlington Hall, now let. Our Yorkshire members will be interested to know that Mary Bevan of Hay Castle, of whom we read much in Kilverts Diary, lies in the churchyard of one of the beautiful villages of the West Riding.