

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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MARCH 1978.

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Friday, April 7th. at the Shire Hall, Hereford, at 7.00 p.m. This building is in the centre of the city, in St. Peter's Square, and there are car parks both in the forecourt and at the rear.

The programme will be as in former years. The business of the meeting over, our Deputy President will speak of recent discoveries in Kilvert studies. A break of one hour will follow for refreshments, for the payment of subscriptions and for the inspection - and it is hoped - patronising of the book stall. Then will come the main event, an illustrated lecture "Walking with Kilvert" given by two of our Radnorshire members, Mr. J. Southwood and Mrs. J. Oldham.

On the following day, Saturday, April 8th. there is to take place at Clyro Church at 11.30 a.m. a special Service of Thanksgiving for Oswin and Joyce Prosser, devoted and deeply missed servants of the Society. The vicar of Clyro, the Rev. D. Rees, will conduct the service - and we are very grateful to him for this as well as for consenting to allow his church to be used. The preacher will be the Rev. T.W.D. Price of St. David's College, Lampeter, a Vice-President of the Society.

We have been able to obtain the use of Clyro Parish Hall for a picnic lunch, following the service, and our afternoon programme will depend on the weather. If fine, our Committee Members Mr. and Mrs. R.I. Morgan will lead us on a walk over Bryngwyn Hill; we would proceed to the village of Bryngwyn by either coach or car. If it is wet, Mr. Godfrey Davies will give a film show.

It is intended to mark the occasion by donating a gift to Clyro Church in memory of Mr. and Mrs. C.T.O. Prosser, but at the time of writing nothing definite can be reported. It may be that members would like to send a subscription towards the gift.

A coach has been booked for April 8th. It will leave Hereford Town Hall at 10 a.m. As usual, seats may be booked through Wyeval Limited, Photographic Dealers, Bridge Street, Hereford, or through the Hon. Secretary. The fare will be 75p.

One of the late Mr. Prosser's dearest wishes for 1978 was to hold a summer service at Condover (Shropshire). This has been arranged for July 2nd. Full details will appear in the next Newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

E.J.C. West.

AUTUMN SERVICE AT LLYSWEN. There was a poignancy in that this service was held very shortly after the death of our devoted and dedicated secretary. Many tributes were paid to him during the afternoon, and it was a reflection on his organising abilities that the whole afternoon was planned and the programme carried out as smoothly and as efficiently as though he had been there in person. The Society is most grateful to the Rector of Llyswen, his wife and to the Rev. Hugh Lewis for their part in the service, as well as to the Rev. G.P. Davenport for his fine sermon, in which he placed Kilvert firmly among the great Victorians, such as Gerard Manley Hopkins and Thomas Hardy, in his attitudes towards Nature and the poor. Nor must we omit to thank the ladies of Llyswen who so admirably catered for the members of the Society after the service.

Our member, Mrs. Ursula Cooper, opened specially for the occasion her "Kilvert Country Exhibition of Paintings and Mosaics" at Treble Hill, Glasbury, and many members broke their return journey to visit and to enjoy this most interesting exhibition.

A VISIT TO LANGLEY BURRELL:

Last June a small party of Kilvert Society members enjoyed, thanks to the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Payne, a most interesting walk around Langley Burrell. We met at the Old Brewery, the home of Mr. and Mrs. Payne, and from there walked out of the village to the edge of Chippenham, then by woodland and field paths across Bird's Marsh to Kington Langley to look at The Ridge, the home of Ettie Meredith Brown's brother, the site of the old Mausoleum of which Mrs. Tanner has written so intriguing an account, and the Poet's Gate, with the plaque that Mr. and Mrs. Tanner put up to the memory of Francis Kilvert. After a visit to the church of St. Peter, we returned to have tea in the garden of our kind hosts and guides, Mr. and Mrs. Payne - a truly Kilvertian scene if ever there was one. To end the day we were allowed to look at the outside of Langley Lodge, where Kilvert's friends the Dallins used to live, and to visit the house from which Karen Wood was married on New Year's Day, 1873. The house is now the home of Mr. Jones of The Guardian, who wrote that remarkable article on the destruction of the Diary when he was reviewing the new illustrated edition of the three-volume Diary.

THANKS TO MRS. TURNER:

The Society owes a debt of gratitude to Mrs. Nansi Turner, who, after the sudden and unexpected death of Mr. Prosser, took over the Secretaryship, and spent not hours but days sorting out the Society's correspondence, answering unanswered letters and tidying up loose ends.

AND TO THE COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Turner would have been faced with an impossible task if she had not had the fullest assistance from the K.S. committee who rallied round magnificently, and kept the Society afloat when the water was decidedly choppy. Mr. and Mrs. Morgan have taken over the care of Society Publications, Mrs. Peters membership and subscription, Mr. Worsey and Mr. M. West and Mr. Davies have done excellent work in the formation of a Kilvert Archive in Hereford Public Library - in fact I was deeply impressed by the devotion of every committee member. The best news of all is, perhaps, that we have a new Secretary, Mr. Edward West of Ross-on-Wye. We are all very grateful to him for consenting to keep an eye on our affairs.

THE KILVERT ARCHIVE:

Members - and Kilvert students everywhere - will be pleased to know that the greater bulk of Kilvert material - publications, the correspondence between William Plomer and the officers of the Society, newsletters, correspondence from members on the Diary and those who figure in it, research material from Society members, etc. has now been deposited in the Hereford Public Library and is available for consultation by all bona fide scholars.

F. Grice.

A NOTE ON ONE OF KILVERT'S NIECES:

In a letter to the Hon. Secretary, Mr. R.E. Jeffery says that he came across recently in Aunt Judy's Magazine for December, 1878, a reference to Florence Smith, elder daughter of Thersie Smith, Kilvert's sister. The mention is in the form of an advertisement.

'Flopsy' will be glad to receive orders for crocheted pin-cushion covers, 1/6 each. Miss Florence Smith, Monninton Rectory, Hereford.

Mr. Jeffery says that he has kept a diary since 1938, and it eclipses in size even Kilvert's voluminous journal, filling no less than 220 notebooks and exercise books.

AN APOLOGY:

We regret that the poem printed in the last newsletter was incorrectly attributed to Gwendoline Calderbank. The real author was Mrs. Pamela Murray.

KILVERT IN GERMANY:

In a special display of British Books organised in Munich by the British Council, pride of place was given to a special collection of British Diarists. In this collection Kilvert's Diary had a prominent place. The Society was pleased to have been able to supply the photographs that went with the exhibition.

PUBLICATIONS ANNOUNCEMENTS:

All members should have received the latest (blue) price-list, dated October, 1977, with their last news-letter. Any member who failed to receive one or would like another copy should write to the Hon. Publications Secretary, address as below.

Will members kindly note the following amendments and additions to the list of publications at present available:-

KILVERT'S DIARY (PAPER-BACK EDITION). The Cape paper-back edition is no longer available, the rights in this having been sub-leased to Penguin Books in connection with the BBC TV series, "Kilvert's Diary". We do, however, have a stock of this new Penguin edition, price £1. 40 post-free, or £1. 25 at meetings. This edition, identical in contents with the superseded Cape's edition, is in the usual Penguin format and has a picture on the cover of Timothy Davies, the actor who plays the role of Kilvert in the TV series. It may be of interest to members to know that in December last, this publication was "number three" in the paper-back best-sellers list.

KILVERT'S CORNISH HOLIDAY. It will not be possible to supply any more copies of this publication in the previously available photostat holograph edition. This is now superseded by a typewritten cyclostyled transcription, price 70 pence post-free, or 60 pence per copy at meetings. It is hoped that the substantial reduction in price (from £2. 30 to 70 pence per copy) will enable a much wider readership to enjoy, in conjunction with the three-volume edition of the Diary, what is at present the only opportunity of reading, in extenso, a long and most interesting portion of the original diary.

GREETINGS CARDS. A range of eight different greetings cards is still available, corresponding in pictorial subject to the Christmas Cards numbered 1 - 8 in the October 1977 price-list. They differ from the Christmas cards only in the form of greeting, which reads, "Best Wishes". Price 8 pence each (any selection), including envelopes, post-free (minimum order accepted by post = 5 cards). Price at meetings 7 pence per card. Will members ordering by post please stipulate one or two alternative choices, as stocks of some of the range are now low.

"AFTER KILVERT". Mr. Le Quesne informs us that his book is now due for publication in September, 1978, approximate price £5 per copy. It is hoped that it will be possible to supply members through the Publications Department, and an announcement to this effect, together with the exact price, will probably be made in a future news-letter.

MISCELLANY TWO. An "omnibus" booklet with the foregoing title has been prepared by Mr. Grice and dedicated to the memory of our late and much-missed Hon. Secretary, C.T.O. Prosser, and it is hoped that this will be on sale at the forthcoming A.G.M. and by post from about the end of April.

The contents are:

1. Memories of the Monk.
2. The Solitary of Llanbedr.
3. Radnorshire Legends and Superstitions.
4. Dora Pitcairn's Honeymoon Journal.
5. The Venables Diaries by L. Le Quesne.

Items 1 - 3 were previously published by the K.S. but have been out of print for some time. Items 4 - 5 are based on material arising out of recent research and published for the first time,

The price of this publication is £2. 25 per copy post-free, or £2. 00 at meetings.

R.I. Morgan, Hon. Publications Secretary, Heulwen, Castle Gardens, Hay-on-Wye, Powys, Via Hereford.

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With reference of Mr. Le Quesne's book mentioned above, members might like to know that it is based on the 3 years Mr. Le Quesne lived at Ashbrook House, Clyro, (Kilvert's residence) from 1970 - 2. In particular it is based on a series of passages from Kilvert's Diary and from Mr. Le Quesne's a hundred years later; and it shows how much has changed, as well as how much is still the same. But there are several other elements in the book as well - Kilvert's personality and his background and the qualities of his writing.

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THOUGHTS OF DAISY:

A neighbour of mine in Mountain Ash, Mr. Clifford Murrell, would be of interest to members of the Kilvert Society for reasons which I shall explain. Although Mountain Ash has always been his home, his father, coming of generations of agricultural stock, moved here from Clifford in Herefordshire in a period of farming depression in the earlier years of this century; but his son, my acquaintance, has returned spasmodically to his ancestral heath very often throughout his life; he is now an elderly widower. What should interest us particularly are the facts that his wife, who died fairly recently, was the house-keeper at Llanthomas during the last part of Fanny ('Daisy') Thomas's life and that he himself knew the house and its occupants well.

I very much regret that I failed to get to know Mrs. Murrell before her final illness, so as to converse with her, especially as I understand that a number of photographs and other souvenirs of earlier days were destroyed some time before her death. However, Mr. Murrell still survives and can clearly recall the three spinster sisters, Edith, Fanny and Charlotte; and also Mrs. Sandys Thomas, the widow of a brother of theirs, who also lived there and seemed to him to be the mistress of the house. He was, in fact, summoned into their presence at the time of his engagement to his future wife, presumably to see if he met with their approval as a suitable 'follower', although I believe that that word and practice was more usually confined to the admirers of maid-servants. Despite this daunting or, as some might think nowadays, officious introduction, he retains nothing but admiration for the three ladies, for their piety, good works, and general kindness. A practical Christianity seemed to be the moving force in their lives.

Mr. Murrell remembers the house at Llanthomas as a brilliant landmark from the uplands of the Black Mountains and its interior as extremely elegant. Meals were always of high quality, the staff was numerous, and occasions when a large party was assembled were notably sumptuous. And yet this more than substantial style of living was accompanied by a plainness amounting to austerity in the outdoor dress of the sisters, suggesting more a Quaker-like simplicity than a wealthy Anglicanism.

Fanny was an old lady in the days when Mr. Murrell knew her, but when I mentioned to him the theory which I have heard mooted among members of the Society, that it was not so much money which impeded Kilvert's engagement as Mr. Thomas's fears that Fanny might be not wholly stable mentally, Mr. Murrell was astonished at the suggestion and could think of nothing to lend support to such a notion.

He believes that there may well be some old people in and around Llanigon with memories of Fanny Thomas, but in my view the misfortune is that her father's generation appears to have gone beyond recall, leaving few if any traces. (Fanny's father died at the age of 74 in 1886). He is the real mystery, although guesses are possible. Fanny was probably fairly submissive and rather conventional - except in Kilvert's eyes.

I see that a news-letter of June, 1965, refers to the recollections of the (now late) Hon. Mrs. Talbot Rice, who, as a child, also knew Fanny quite well. These largely confirm what I have argued, in stating as she does that the sisters were "intelligent and clever". They also mention Fanny's interest in painting. The Murrell family in Mountain Ash have one or two landscape specimens of the sisters' work, although whether they are by Fanny's own hand is less certain. I notice too that this note speaks of four sisters; altogether there had in fact been five, but the eldest, Mary, died in 1886 and for that reason probably was left out of Mrs. Rice's count, while the second, Grace Catherine, died in 1909, doubtless before Mr. Murrell's appearance on the scene.

Ivor Lewis

KILVERT'S PREMONITION OF DEATH:

Notes on the poem 'Nydd Eos'

After the death of Francis Kilvert a poem was found in his blotter entitled Nydd Eos. This poem is not included in his 'Collected Verse' (K.S.1968). It appears in print only in the booklet Kilvert and the Wordsworth Circle. It is of great interest as providing us with the only indication we have that Kilvert had a strong premonition of his own death four months before it took place. This seems strange and pathetic, considering that he was by this time engaged to be married (or at least on the verge of becoming so), and that his death, when it came, appears to have been sudden and unexpected.

The poem is as follows:

Who but knows the Royal Walk that broadens to the Chieftains Hall,
Reddened fir stems, breadth of green sward, where the barred shadows fall.
Down the solemn avenue, the green ride stately passeth on
To the gray and ancient Court and Owen's grave at Monnington.

Thro' the fair stems, looking southward, stands a house with garden fair,
Lawns and orchards, where the birch weeps clouded by her dusky hair,
And the rising wind that passes, sighing on from tree to tree,
Makes a solemn murmur like the roaring of the distant sea.

Here within this Temple stately let us muse and walk awhile
Up the range of columns vast that guard this grand Cathedral aisle,
Till amid the woodland gleaming there below us deep and far,
We may see Moccas meads and winds of Wye from Brobury Scar,
And beyond the river reaches pleasant uplands, sloping green
Firry clumps and nestled homesteads mark the hills of Bredwardine.

Low beneath the ivied tower, and deep within that cedar shade -
By the rippling of the stream a nightingale his nest has made;
And the people stand and listen to the voice so sweet and clear,
As he sits within the sunset, singing by the broad water;
Singing to the wandering river of the way which he has come;
Singing of the love still faithful in his dear Avonian home,
Singing, as the wind breathes softly from the West sweet mem'ries still,
Of the green vale of Saint Harmon and the slopes of Clyro Hill.

Let him sing a little while in peace, his songs will soon be o'er,
And the singer spread his wings with joy to find a happier shore,
When the nest is found forsaken, some will smile, and some will sigh
For the voice which now no longer mingles with the murmuring Wye.

May 27th. 1879.

Eos Gwy.

The Editor's notes include the following observations: 'No doubt he intended it (Nydd Eos) to be Welsh for 'Nest of the Nightingale', but a Welsh-speaking member of the Kilvert Society says it should have been 'Nyth yr Eos'. William Plomer refers to this poem in his introduction to the first volume of the Diary, says that it is metrically suggestive of Tennyson's Locksley Hall and that it contains references to the grave of Owen Glendower, to a weeping birch and a nightingale.

We should first note that the poem is signed 'Eos Gwy' (the nightingale of the Wye). This gently romantic pseudonym was frequently used by Kilvert in signing his poems, as may be seen from the Collected Verse. So the poem is not really about a nightingale; it is about Kilvert himself.

The poem has a date later than that on which the Diary ends. By this time Kilvert must have known his future wife; probably he was already engaged. It has been assumed that she destroyed this part of the Diary because it contained intimate references to herself.

The fourth verse of the poem introduces the nightingale (Kilvert) who has made his nest in what, if we read the poem with attention, is clearly the village of Bredwardine.

The people stand and listen to the voice so sweet and clear 'Stand and listen' suggests a sermon; however, we need not suppose that Kilvert is praising his own voice. He was a very fine prose writer but not a good poet, and his metaphors are often mixed. The nightingale sings 'of the way he has come'. The last three lines of the verse detailing that way (from his 'dear Avonian home' via Clyro and St. Harmon to Bredwardine) so obviously refer to Kilvert that we can no longer be in doubt. How moving then are the last four lines, written by a young man who had only four months to live, but could not have known this by any rational inference. Had a doctor warned him that he had some serious condition he would surely not have become engaged and married so soon.

There is some evidence in the Diary that Kilvert was what we might loosely call 'psychic'. His senses were abnormally acute. He was occasionally overwhelmed by psychic invasions (see the entry for November 24 1878). Evidently he suffered from a severe form of migraine, a common accompaniment of psychic sensitivity. Whatever the explanation, there can be no doubt that he had a momentary premonition of his own death.

Lois Lang-Sims.

THE REVEREND T.W. WEBB OF HARDWICK:

One of the minor personalia in Kilvert's Diary is the Reverend T.W. Webb of Hardwick, Herefordshire, to whom and whose family there are several references. On one occasion he walked over to Clyro, a distance of four miles - and presumably back again - to hear Kilvert preach. On another occasion Kilvert dined at Hardwick Vicarage and met a Mr. Napleton, whom he describes as "an astronomer". It is somewhat surprising, in view of this meeting, that our diarist does not mention that Mr. Webb, himself, was a notable amateur astronomer. In fact he was the author of a work, still sought after to-day, called, Celestial Objects for Common Telescopes, first published in 1859 and which ran into several editions.

The following biographical notes, extracted from the preambles to the fifth (1911) edition of his book, will, I am sure, be of interest to keen students of the Diary.

T.W. WEBB - A REMINISCENCE

Thomas William Webb was born December 14, 1807, and was the only son of a clergyman, the Rev. John Webb. His mother died when he was still a child, and he was educated by his father. From very early years he showed a remarkable taste for experimental science. In 1826 he entered at Magdalen Hall, Oxford, and in 1829 he took a second class in Mathematics. In the same year he was ordained in Hereford Cathedral, and in 1843 he married Henrietta Montague, daughter of Mr. Arthur Wyatt of Troy House, Monmouth. In 1852 he was appointed to the living of Hardwick. In 1882 he was made one of the prebendaries of Hereford Cathedral. On September 7, 1884, Mrs. Webb died from apoplexy, a terrible blow to him, but borne with that patient resignation and perfect faith which was one of the marked features of his character. From this time his health gradually failed, and he died on May 19, 1885.....

His first telescope was placed in a little observatory made of wood and canvas, and stood a few yards S.E. of the vicarage front door Mr. Webb was a father to all amateur astronomers, and the post brought an appalling amount of correspondence from them to Hardwick. All were carefully, kindly and encouragingly answered in letters charming alike for their elegant writing, and the extraordinary amount of learning and originality, and witticism. Mr. Webb's versatility was one of the features that struck every one who knew him intimately. Not only did he conduct researches into each branch of Astronomy with untiring patience, but he painted and sketched admirably, as did also Mrs. Webb He was fond of music, and the talents he displayed in completing his father's work, "The Civil War in Herefordshire", showed an antiquarian of no mean order. Everything, too, in nature, had a charm for him, and the amount of knowledge and powers of observation in this respect were well known to any one who had the privilege of a country walk with him. Setting out early in the afternoon with a knapsack laden with all kinds of little comforts for the sick, he would walk with vigorous strides up the hills to see some distant parishioner, and converse all the way, handling the most difficult topics with keen logical ability, at the same time with the most unassuming humility, and deference to the thoughts of others. And then, when the cottage was reached, there was no mistaking the warmth and welcome and the smile of pleasure with which he was received. And there he would sit, the children gathering round him, and talk to his people of their everyday life, the local matters, making himself one of themselves and imparting the sunshine of his life to theirs

A frontispiece portrait of Mr. Webb included in the fifth edition of Celestial Objects depicts him in advanced years, bald and bearded, very much as Kilvert must have known him.

R.I. Morgan.

PROPOSED OUTING TO WESTON-SUPER-MARE AND CHEDDAR:

Mr. Hugh Dearlove has arranged for us a coach tour from Hereford to Cheddar and Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, 6th. May, during the course of which we shall see many of the places mentioned in the Diary on the occasion of Kilvert's two visits to this part of the world. Details of cost, etc., will be given at the A.G.M. and for those who cannot get to the A.G.M. from Mr. F. Grice, 91, Hallow Road, Worcester.

AN IMPORTANT DISCOVERY:

Three letters written by Francis Kilvert to Marion Vaughan, one of the daughters of Rev. David Vaughan, Rector of Newchurch between 1873 and 1876, were left by the recipient to her daughter, Gwen Hinksman, who gave them, before her death, to her executor, Mrs. W. White, wife of the Rector of Ombersley, Near Worcester.

Marion Vaughan was twice married, first to a Mr. Davies, and then to a Mr. Hinksman who died around the year 1910. On his death she came with her daughter to live in Ombersley. She died in 1943 and is buried in Ombersley churchyard. Gwen Hinksman, who never married, was in her later years something of a recluse, eccentric and a little secretive.

Mrs. White, who is giving the letters to her daughter, feels that she is not in a position to allow the letters to be transcribed, but she has very kindly allowed me to read them and communicate the contents to the Society.

LETTER 1.

8 February 1873. Written from Langley Burrell.

It is a brief letter, expressing Kilvert's thanks to Marion for her photograph and sending his best wishes for her birthday and his own 'carte' and photograph. Mrs. White thinks that the photograph is the well-known official photograph, the original of which is in Clyro Church. Kilvert tells Marion of a New Year's party he attended at the home of Sir John Awdry (presumably Notton House), at which there were no fewer than 150 guests. He also describes a Christmas party with a Christmas tree given for the children of Langley Burrell. It was attended by 60 children who each got 7/8 presents. He wonders if there was a similar Christmas Tree party at Clyro or Newchurch.

(These events are also described in the Diary Vol. 2. p 305-7).

LETTER 2.

4 February 1873 - also written from Langley Burrell.

This is a longer letter, and deals principally with the running down of the Northfleet by the Spanish steamer, Murillo. Kilvert is very indignant about the cowardly action of the Spanish captain in abandoning the wrecked vessel, and says, in most unchristian terms, that it is his dearest wish to see the rascally Spaniard hanged from his own yard arm! He is equally indignant about the current Miner's Strike, mentioning the hardships of the poor who are left without winter fuel and the sufferings of children in unheated houses, and inveighing strongly against the iniquity of the Miners' Union in fomenting the strike and intimidating their fellow workers who wished to remain at work. He mentions with evident approval a proposal to import Chinese coolies to work in British mines. The letter is very illiberal in tone and almost vindictive in its condemnation of the strikers.

(The Diary account of these events is to be found in Vol. 2 p 316 and 320).

Mention is made in this letter of a brother of Marion's whose family pet-name is Sellie, who has matriculated and is about to go to Oxford.

LETTER 3.

26 May 1876. Written from Oxford.

Kilvert mentions that he is staying with an old college friend (Anthony Lawson Mayhew). It is a long letter describing some of the events recorded in the Diary (See Vol. 3. p 315 - 320) - the beating of the bounds, and the ritualistic Oxford Movement service at St. Barnabas, Oxford. The accounts given in the letter and the Diary are not identical. One does not get the impression that Kilvert was merely transcribing for Marion something he had already entered in his Diary. The letter supplements in some details the account given in the Diary, which may of course have been edited by William Plomer.

Perhaps it would be true to say that the final impression one received from the letters is of a man whose nature is more conservative and whose prejudices (especially against Trades Unions, foreigners and the Oxford Movement) were stronger than the Diary implies.

The thanks of the Society are due to Mrs. W. White for allowing me access to these letters.

Frederick Grice.

KILVERT'S TRAVELLING CLOCK:

On 24 October, 1870, Kilvert made the following entry in his diary:-

'Last night, when I went to the Vicarage for dinner, just as I entered the drawing room a small strange clock struck seven. Mr. V. said it was a clock he was taking charge of for Mrs. H. Venables. After dinner he showed it me. It was a beautiful little travelling clock in its leather case, brass and glass, showing the works and striking the hours on a sweet soft bell. "There is an inscription on it", he said, "if you can read it". On the foot of the clock I saw inscribed as I held it up to the candle ' R.F. Kilvert from J.C. Venables '. How kind. What a beautiful and unexpected present'.

All who are interested in the Diary will be pleased to know that the clock, still as handsome as it appeared to Kilvert, and still bearing its inscription, has been preserved, and is now in the possession of Mrs. P.E.D. Earle of Brecon. Mrs. Earle is the granddaughter of Dora Pitcairn, Kilvert's sister. But who was the Mrs. H. Venables who gave the clock to Mr. Venables to take care of? And who was the J.C. Venables who was the donor? Is there any member of the K.S. who can throw any light on this little puzzle?

KILVERT IN GERMANY:

In a recent exhibition of British Books mounted by the British Council in Frankfurt, among the displays of English Diaries, Kilvert's Diary was given a prominent place. Photographs of the diarist, and of places associated with him, and facsimiles of specimen pages of the Diary (all provided by the K.S) were prominently displayed and aroused considerable interest.

KILVERT AND TOURISTS:

As everyone who has read the diaries of Francis Kilvert will know, he was a man full of the milk of human kindness who loved his fellow men.

But his diaries would not be half so fascinating as they are if he had loved everyone indiscriminately and had no pet hatred or quirks. Nothing would be more colourless and insipid than three volumes of non-stop sweetness and light in which no class of people ever came under attack.

I find one of Kilvert's most amusing characteristics to be his intense dislike of tourists, amusing because he was in fact an indefatigable tourist himself. Unlike the other famous parson diarist, Parson Woodforde, Kilvert visited all sorts of places and took a keen interest in all he saw.

It is interesting that all the opprobrious references to tourists come in the first volume covering January 1st. 1870 to August 19th. 1871. Does this mean that Kilvert became more tolerant of tourists as he got older or did the deepening economic depression of the 1870's mean there were fewer of them? Who knows?

The first and most scathing reference to tourists comes on page 79 of the first volume. It was Tuesday, April 5th. 1870, when after watching the monks building their house Kilvert and his companions saw the Abbey ruins about a mile above Llanthony.

"What was our horror on entering the enclosure to see two tourists with staves and shoulder belts all complete postured among the ruins in an attitude of admiration, one of them of course discoursing learnedly to his gaping companion and pointing out objects of interest with his stick. If there is one thing more hateful than another it is being told what to admire and having the object pointed out to one with a stick", Kilvert wrote indignantly.

"Of all noxious animals too the most noxious is a tourist. And of all tourists the most vulgar, illbred, offensive and loathsome is the British tourist. No wonder dogs fly at them and consider them vermin to be exterminated".

Swift himself could not have put it so violently!

Kilvert rounds off his condemnation by adding: "The most offensive part of their conduct however was that they had arrived before us and already ordered their dinner, so we had to wait till they had done, solacing ourselves with the Hereford Times and the Visitors' Book from which to the great and just indignation of the landlord some of the British tourists had cut out and stolen half a year of entries

from October 1865 to May 1866, including my last entry".

Later that same year Kilvert visited Cornwall as a - dare one say it - tourist. For Wednesday, July 27th. he writes: "As we returned to the wild granite village along the field paths a rude vulgar crew of tourists (real British) passed us going down to the cliffs, grinning like dogs, and one of the male beasts said in a loud insolent voice evidently meant for us to hear, 'I hope they haven't upset the Logan Rock'. For a moment I devoutly wished we had".

Finally on Whitsun Monday, May 29th. 1871, picturesquely called Oakapple Day, Kilvert recorded that he received a letter the day before from Mr. Webb of Hardwick describing the opening of the tumulus Twyn y beddau on the Black Mountain the previous Friday and urging Kilvert to go and see it before it was filled up. So he made a pilgrimage to it.

"Imagine my delight to find the place perfectly silent and solitary except for the sheep", Kilvert wrote. "It was so much grander to visit the old-world resting place of the wild warriors alone in the silence of the summer afternoon with no-one to look on but the great mountains than to be stunned by the prattle of the Woolhope Club or to be disgusted by the sight of a herd of Hay holiday-makers and sight-seers cutting bad jokes and playing the fool or straddling and dancing upon the grave".

One trembles to think what Kilvert would have written about some present day tourists who do far worse things than pointing out objects of interest with a stick or "grinning like dogs". Words would probably have failed him, for once!

John Hodkin.

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WHO'S WHO IN KILVERT'S DIARY - Corrections and additions.

1. For Jane Badeni (passim) read June Badeni.
2. p.4. Col. Awdry suggests that the two nicknames 'Pagan' and 'Christian' probably reflected differences of temperament rather than locality.
3. p.5. Col. Awdry's father's name was not Edward but Edmund.
4. p.6. Mr. H. Butcher thinks that the name of the lieutenant whom Mr. Beavan's daughter married was Herwin. Kilvert probably never saw the name written down. Mr. Beavan's christian name may have been Samuel not James.
5. p.9. For Cotterel read Cotterell.
6. p.14. Mr. Le Quesne wishes me to point out that the question mark before the word 'daughter' in the census entry relating to Gypsy Lizzie is not in the original document. It was inserted while the census was being studied, and repeated in subsequent photocopies.
7. p.19. An entry in the Diary (Vol. 5. p.442) suggests that Kilvert had a fifth sister who died in childhood. Her name does not appear on the family tree.
8. p.23. Ettie Meredith Brown had only two Christian names. Faulty punctuation in her father's will led me to add to hers the two christian names of her sister. And the statement that she died childless may not be strictly true. (Col. E.P. Awdry).
9. p.33. Hannah Whitney may have been a pauper but she came of a distinguished family and was rightly proud of her ancestry.

ADDITIONS:

Mr. Chatfield, who married Andrew Pope and Miss Harriet Mary Money-Kyrle, was vicar of Much Marcle. There is a funeral tablet to him in Much Marcle Church.

p.26. Andrew Pope came of a Bristol family of some standing. His great-grandfather was Sheriff of Bristol in 1763 and 1773. (G. Dearlove).

ADDITIONS (continued):

p.12. The young wife whose early death Kilvert mentions was Rosette Dewing, wife of William Reg. Dewing of the Stow. She died in 1869 aged 23. (H. Butcher).

p.13. Mr. Evans was at Oxford with Charles Longman the publisher. This may be why Kilvert sent his poems to Longmans (see Newsletter Oct. 1977).

Thirlwall. The Revd. Thomas Thirlwall who made such a hash of the arrangements at Hysfa was a nephew of Connop Thirlwall, the eminent Bishop of St. David's. (see D.N.B.).

Warnell. Henry Warnell, the troublesome gypsy, was probably the Henry Warner charged in 1866 for assulting Ann Swinney (Hereford Times, 11 August, 1866).

The Bryant Family. John Bryant the village 'patriarch' of Langley Burrell was christened John Jefferies, but when his parents died in his youth he was brought up by his grandparents and took their name. 'Young' John Bryant farmed Barrow Farm. His wife was the daughter of Kilvert's old friend, Joseph Duckett, who used to preach in a smock frock. His second son was a member of the victorious cricket team against Langley Fitzures in 1872. George Bryant farmed the Manor Farm. His son George married Louisa Collett. Mary Lucy Bryant was George's sister. It was she who told the anecdote about her grandmother asking her grandfather (George Bryant senior) to marry her, and repenting afterwards.

p.3. Miss Lucy Ashe went to London at the turn of the century to work among the poor in Southwark and remained there for more than forty years, devoting her health, her resources and her time to caring for the homeless and sick and destitute. She is still remembered in Southwark as 'the lady with the satchel'.

S T O P P R E S S

COACH TOUR TO CHEDDAR AND WESTON-SUPER-MARE - SATURDAY, 6TH. MAY 1978.

The cost of this tour will be £3. 30, to include coach fare, high tea in Weston, entrance to Cox's Caves, gratuities, etc. Bookings to be taken at the A.G.M. Coach to leave Hereford Town Hall at 9. 30 a.m. Members who cannot attend the A.G.M. should write to Mr. F. Grice, 91, Hallow Road, Worcester (Telephone: 422310). For members who do not wish to go into the caves the cost will be £3. 00.
