

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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

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FEBRUARY 1985.

Dear Member,

Welcome to another year of Kilvert Society activities - but first of all brief reports on the last events of 1984!

WALK (Sept. 22nd) Owing to the invasion of Hay Bluff for the "Magic Mushroom" Festival, our leader, Mr. Bentley-Taylor arranged for a walk in the Whitney area. The church and the remains of the railway line were inspected; we walked through fields (plentiful with mushrooms) to the site of the Court, and Mr. Bentley-Taylor had obtained for us permission to enter the grounds of the Vicarage and "The Stowe" - all accomplished and enjoyed in fine weather, until we were having tea at the Burnt House and torrential showers ensued! Once more we are most grateful to our leader for the day, Mr. Bentley-Taylor.

SERVICE AT BRYNGWYN (Sept. 23rd) Yet again the service drew a full congregation. Our Cumbrian member, Rev. K. Partington, was the preacher. As a country priest himself, he spoke of his empathy with Kilvert, but envied the pastoral devotion and piety, the dedication to worship and Christian action that Kilvert and Rev. Robert Walker (a Cumbrian priest immortalised by Wordsworth) displayed. A modern priest lacked the time that these men had for spiritual withdrawal, for "waiting on God". But the example of these men was there, and Christian discipleship meant that the effort had to be made. The readers of the lessons were Rev. E.F. Jelfs and Rev. D. Tipper; The Act of Remembrance was performed by Rev. B. Price, and the service conducted by Rev. P. Ralph-Bowman, priest-in-charge. To him we are greatly indebted for the memorable day, and to Mrs. Ralph-Bowman and her helpers for laying on a sumptuous tea at Painscastle Village Hall.

COMMITTEE: I am very pleased to report that Rev. B. Price has agreed to serve, following the resignation of Mrs. D.M. Davies, and that Mr. Hugh Dearlove, our Subscriptions Treasurer, has been co-opted.

THE KNAPP (Bredwardine): The Committee has donated £30 to the cost of replanting the site.

VICE-PRESIDENCY: Mrs. G. Grice has accepted the Committee's invitation to become a Vice-President of the Society.

FREDERICK GRICE BOOKLET: Preparations for issuing this memorial booklet are under way.

AUNT MARIA'S PRINTS (in Clyro Church): These are to be repaired and cleaned of fungus.

PROGRAMME FOR 1985:

FRIDAY, MAY 3rd. A.G.M. at the Shire Hall, Hereford at 7 p.m. (The Great Hall of the Bishop's Palace is not available, owing to repairs to the Diocesan Offices). Refreshments will be served after the A.G.M. and there will follow "Aerial photographs of the Kilvert Country" shown by Mr. Howard Dudley.

SUNDAY, JULY 7th. Service at Llowes (Radnorshire) at 3 p.m., by kind permission of Rev. Martin Reed, priest-in-charge.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22nd. Service at Kington St. Michael (Wilts) by kind permission of Rev. Derek Copeland, priest-in-charge.

WALKS. On the day following the A.G.M. and the days prior to the services. That on May 4th. will be again led by Mr. Bentley-Taylor, and will include Brobury, the Scar Rocks and the Old Weston. Meet at 12.30 p.m. in the avenue leading to Bredwardine Church. Picnic lunch.

The Committee would favour an outing in August, but have reservations, since the August event seems to have become unpopular. The matter will be raised at the A.G.M.

TAPES: Our Hon. Archivist, Mr. Godfrey Davies, holds tapes of all the commemorative services. Members who would wish to hire or buy any should contact him.

BATTLE FESTIVAL: Our member, Mr. Colin Davies, informs me that he and his brother David - both are well-known radio personalities - are presenting "A Kilvert Calendar" at Battle Festival on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 21st. Tickets and information from Mrs. G. Malins, Old Farm Place, Catsfield, Battle, Sussex. TN33 9BN.

I am always most grateful to members who contribute articles for the newsletters. There is, though, in the issue, one article which I must make special reference to - "Francis Kilvert, Schoolmaster", which opens up one of the "unknown" years of the diarist. I am sure members will be most interested in it, and though Mr. Ball gives me some credit, the real thanks are due to him and to Mr. Sharp!

Yours sincerely,

E.J.C. West

Hon. Secretary.

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O B I T U A R Y

We regret to announce the death of the following members:-

Mr. David Prosser, the younger son of our late Secretary, Mr. C.T.O. Prosser, who died tragically in a road accident.

Mr. Louis Savage (Leeds) a life member of the Society.

Miss Dorothy Foukes (Shrewsbury) a member since 1968.

Mr. D. St. G. Dodds (Moreton-on-Lugg) a member since 1980.

Mrs. Lilian West (Moorhampton) a life member since 1964, and for nearly 20 years with her husband, a member of the Committee. She will be remembered by many members with affection for her gracious and friendly ways, and by the Committee for her loyalty and readiness to help at events. The funeral at Norton Canon (Herefordshire) was attended by many of the Committee and other members. We offer our deep sympathy to Mr. Mervyn West.

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KILVERT ON CASSETTE

Many of the people who bought the second cassette of Kilvert readings from me, entitled 'More from Kilvert's Diary', have subsequently enquired about the availability of the original 1979 cassette - 'Kilvert's Diary - He being dead yet speaketh', also read by Timothy Davies. Until now this has only been obtainable directly from Saydisc Records. However, I am pleased to say that from Jan. 1st. I will also be able to supply copies of this double play length tape at £6. 95. plus 35p. for postage and packing. (Overseas p/p £1. 00 please).

I also have a limited quantity of 'More from Kilvert's Diary' tapes still for sale at £3. 00 plus 35p. p/p.

Orders to Dubbin Productions, Bradley Hill Farm, Blakeney, Glos. GL15 4AW.

Jerry Friar.

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PUBLICATIONS NOTICES

NEW PUBLICATION: A new booklet, commemorating our late Deputy President, Frederick Grice, is in course of preparation, and it is hoped that it will be on sale at the forthcoming A.G.M. Apart from an appreciation by our present Chairman it will contain hitherto unpublished articles written by Fred and an article by Mr. Laurence Le Quesne, author of "After Kilvert". Fuller details of this publication will appear in our next Newsletter.

KILVERT'S DIARY: The publishers of the three-volume (unabridged) edition of the 'Diary' have increased the price by £5. Sets ordered from the Society will now cost £32. 00. postage paid.

K.S. Publications, Heulwen, Castle Gardens, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford.

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FRANCIS KILVERT, SCHOOLMASTER
By Sidney Ball (Swindon)

For want of certain evidence, I delayed for a long time committing to writing my belief that Francis Kilvert spent a year as a teacher. But how glad I am that I broached this idea for this newsletter! For, thanks to our Hon. Secretary's zeal, and his wide knowledge of the K.S. members, I have the vital proof.

While awaiting publication of this newsletter, Edward West wrote to Michael Sharp of Sussex as the member most likely to help with my query, "was there a prep. school at St. Leonards-on-Sea known as Thatch Cottage?". Michael Sharp has gone to much trouble inspecting old street plans and researching in his local library. He has come up with the exciting evidence that there was in Kilvert's time, a private school at St. Leonards called "Thatch Cottage".

This school where Kilvert was an assistant master must have had a good reputation to attract such a pupil as Henry de Bohua Devereux, younger brother of Viscount Hereford (Vol. 2. p. 83). Michael Sharp has discovered that the school was run by the Rev. Charles Anthony Oak, M.A., a graduate of St. John's, Cambridge, who became Rector of St. Matthews, a new parish of St. Leonards, in 1870.

Mr. Sharp has sent me pictures of old St. Leonards - scenes which Kilvert would have known well. Mr. Oak's house, "Thatch Cottage" later was known as "Park House". It was in Quarry Hill. We are not likely to find where Francis Kilvert lived in St. Leonards, as he would have lodged in the school with Mr. Oak and his family, or in some house near by.

From seven words in Kilvert's Diary I think I have determined a year in Kilvert's life. In this I have been much helped by our Chairman, our Hon. Secretary and Michael Sharp. Thank you all!

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A LETTER

(This was sent by our member, Mr. H. Butcher of Bournemouth, a sometime Chairman of the Society. "Mr. G.H. Butcher" was his father).

Letter to Mr. G.H. Butcher, Bodenham Road, Hereford, from Alfred H. Savournin, who, with his brother Lucien, was at Bredwardine School during Francis Kilvert's time at that Village.

29, Park Road, Wembley, Middlesex.

1st. June, 1942.

Dear Mr. Butcher,

Many thanks for your letter and photo...and please excuse delay in replying -- you certainly brought back to me some very vivid memories of my boyhood days spent in Bredwardine. I am now 71 years old and must have been about 9 or 10 when at school with my eldest brother Lucien. I was very surprised when I heard that we had been mentioned in the book of "Kilvert's Diary". I remember quite well visiting the Vicarage several times during my stay at the school and also going through Moccas Park on many occasions with Mr. Bates who was the head school master in those days: and when back in London after two years or more at the school at Bredwardine. My brother and I used to go for our holidays from London to a farm at Preston-on-Wye, called Middle Belamore, and spent happy days fishing and bathing in the Wye. Yes, I have very fond regard for Herefordshire. I have been down the Wye Valley and remember visiting Tintern Abbey.

I think my nephew told you how we came to go to Bredwardine school. Mr. Bates the school master married a very dear friend of my mother, and he was allowed to take a few paying boarders, and I believe the school was built and kept through the Jarvis Charity fund of which I know very little. I have read a few books from the Public London Libraries but cannot find any mention of this in any of the Herefordshire records. You mention a James Arrowsmith there about my time and about my age, I don't remember him, but I think he was a boarder, I may be wrong.

The farm I mentioned was run by one of Mr. Bates' sons, Algy, who later went on to New Zealand cattle farming. It was there that my eldest brother first got the

idea of becoming a vet. surgeon whilst staying at the farm in Herefordshire. As regards Savournin Hotel at Cagnes-sur-Mer whilst out in the south of France I made inquiries - but he had been dead some time, and he was related to the family who years ago came from Frejus (Var). My father was from Frejus also. I am pleased to write that I am now fairly well again after a three months illness, but I must be very fortunate to be as well as I am at my age.

Again thanking you for all the interest you have taken in the Herefordshire records, etc.

Yours very sincerely,

Alfred H. Savournin.

P.S. I will try if any of the Public Libraries have the Kilvert Diary on hand.

Dan Albone, Ivel Hotel, Biggleswade.

Among the remarkable men who came into prominence at the end of last century was Dan Albone. A most enterprising, versatile fellow and a most charming personality.

I have a short hymn of praise by a young Frenchman named Lucien Savournin which describes Dan's many activities in rhymed verses. But he doesn't mention Dan's agricultural tractor, designed for ploughing and the general work of the farm. The first in England and perhaps in the World, 1903. Always a pioneer was Dan. He and A.J. Wilson made the first practical tandem bicycle 1885/6.

That doyen of all cyclists who was racing on cycles before 1880, Wilson was still a regular cyclist up to the Hitler war, and could write a most interesting account of Dan Albone.

The minor poet Lucien Savournin was mentioned in the recently (1940) published Kilvert's diary. He was very popular among cyclists of the 1890's and after his death the Stanley Club published a small volume of his selected poems, of which I have a copy.*

G.H. Butcher.

* NOTE: This is the copy of poems which I lent to Prosser years ago, and which he deposited in the Hay Museum of Kilvert.

Harold W. Butcher.

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ANOTHER K.S. FORAY

by Mrs. Constance Boake (Carlow, Ireland)

It was a great thrill for us two Irish K.S. members to be with the Society once again, for the June weekend.

"Hounds meet outside the Baskerville Arms again?" queried my husband irreverently as we made our plans for June 23rd!

It was a smaller gathering than we remembered on our two previous visits (June 1976 and September 1980) but none the less friendly and welcoming. And we have at last sorted out which Mr. Dearlove it is to whom we send our subscription!

Mr. Gordon Rogers led us for the day with one tentative blast on a whistle... which probably reminded some of those gathered of the redoubtable and much-venerated Mr. Prosser. We only know of his prowess on that instrument from a passage in Mr. Le Quesne's book which I have always loved....."Ahead the secretary led the march... distant and prolonged blasts of the whistle betrayed where he was trying to keep his straggling flock together". Those were evidently the days!

We proceeded by car up Clyro Hill, past Crossway Farm, to park opposite Cefn-y-Blaen, where the cooler weather of that day made us mostly lunch inside the cars. Then Mr. Rogers, who is related to the present owners of the farm, led us across the lane to the neat buildings tucked in under the hillside, where Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd and their son and daughter greeted us. After Mr. Rogers had read to us some of the Cefn-y-Blaen passages from the Diary, the Lloyd menfolk led the walk to Llanshiver. We, who for various reasons, are never now 'in good marching order' turned back before the hill began to descend (if you go down a hill, you have to walk up it to return!) and were most hospitably entertained by Mrs. Lloyd, with conversation and tea and

currant bun... and also by the untiring flow of reminiscence and story from the inimitable Mr. Jelfs. All had tea and currant bun before we set out for Rhosgoch and the Mill where the fairies once danced, and the nearby chapel, still very well kept....for one remembers that on the day of Kilvert's visit to it a woman was even then sweeping and cleaning.

Thoughts of the fairies remind me of another of my links of experience with the Diary times.....for we had a middle-aged male parishioner in Co Wicklow in the 'fifties who solemnly swore that he had seen them dancing in his bog on several occasions. We also for some reason mentioned the frog woman as we talked near the Mill, and some expressed disbelief in that story....but I was able to say that I had actually seen such a person, a tiny woman with such short arms and legs that she proceeded on all fours, very close to the ground, and no doubt at times with a hopping motion. There may have been some exaggeration in the Diary description of the unfortunate lady (it appears to me to be hearsay) probably her face was reasonably ordinary, just as my poor person's was.

Mr. Rogers had a much more interesting Diary link....years ago he met an old man who proved to be the young handsome one "with a fine open face, fresh complexion, and dressed as a miller...having a romp with a little girl before the door" whom Kilvert talked to on that delicious day upon Clyro Hill.....the 26th. March 1870.

After this we drove down Painscastle Hill, and by ourselves had the obligatory ramble around Clyro and the Church once again, and drove up the steep lane to Paradise Cottage, which we had seen was for sale. Paradise indeed, if a little overgrown....but with herbs and roses and a Clematis Tangutica and other delights. How we would love it! We wonder if this was one of the original houses on Paradise, or the site of one....perhaps someone can enlighten us.

The Commemoration Service at Hardwick on a warm but blowy Mid-summer's Day opened with one of our very favourite hymns, with its Kilvertian chorus..."Lord thy glory fills the heavens, earth is with thy fullness stored". It went from one good thing to another, with Lessons beautifully read; an Act of Remembrance incorporating the General Thanksgiving; and the great pleasure and interest of listening to yet another brilliant sermon from the Reverend D.T.W. Price.

Good things of a more material kind were in lavish supply for tea afterwards, and mixed with the 'friendly bowl' the feast of reason and the flow of soul (somebody must have quoted this before) with friendly people was in no way wanting. We are even beginning to recognise more faces. Then Hardwick being Hardwick, many of us paid our respects to the dignified grey-bearded portrait of Prebendary Webb in the vestry.. much as he must have been when Kilvert knew him. It has been a further pleasure since coming home to read Mr. Ball's account of the Webbs in the June Newsletter which was awaiting us, and also to re-read Mr. Morgan's account in the March number 1978.

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Our stay in Kilvert country lasted ten days in all, spent in no less a 'paradise' than The Cottage in Bredwardine....now Bredwardine Hall Guest House, and most delightfully restored by Mr. and Mrs. Jancey. Outside they have rescued many of the trees and shrubs, once overgrown. There are fine specimens of cedar, and redwood and birch, and while we were there several Robinias were scattering scented petals like confetti in all directions. There were splend paeonies too, both pale and dark, for further perfume, and a magnificent trained pyracantha gave promise of a profusion of berries. They have wisely left a fine elder in the hedge and it also was in profuse blossom, and there is a hazel where later in the year a squirrel can be seen gathering his winter supplies.

Inside all is comfort, and in delightful taste. We enjoyed our breakfasts and dinners...good home cooking...and could make tea or coffee or fill our picnic flask in our own room. We recommend Bredwardine Hall highly. Only one complaint to make...no tall bearded clerical ghost walked up the avenue to visit! But I suppose one one can't have everything in this life!

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THE FIELD FOREVER FULL
By Sidney Ball (Swindon)

I have likened the host of people in Kilvert's Diary to the "Fair Field Full of Folk" seen long ago by the allegorical Piers Plowman. Our Kilvertian Field of Folk will always teem with interest. The people we meet frequently seem like old friends, but those mentioned briefly are also fascinating. The following notes refer mostly to lesser known folk.

The small man with strong arms.

In the long history of the University Boat Race, the lightest weight man ever to row for Oxford was Francis Thomas McDougall bow for victorious Oxford in 1842. At 9½ stone he was lighter than the Oxford cox.

F.T. McDougall, having graduated in medicine, was at Magdalene Hall preparing for Holy Orders. He became a missionary in Sarawak, where, aided by his wife, he worked tirelessly for his scattered flock. Made Bishop of Labuan in 1855, he was later forced to return to England for his health. He was Archdeacon of the I.O.W. when Francis Kilvert wrote that "Bishop McDougall, late of Labuan, came to stay at Hay Castle" (Vol.3. p.415).

So brief a mention, so many links.

As "Morgan" was going into lodgings in his Glasbury Curacy, Kilvert engaged Morgan's housekeeper, Mrs. Price, for Bredwardine Vicarage (Vol.3. p.392). This is all we know of Morgan from the published diary, but research brings him to the lime-light.

William Edward Thomas Morgan studied at St. David's College, Lampeter (where our Chairman is now a lecturer). When curate of Llanfihangel-Helygen-Llanyre, Morgan attended Kilvert's induction to St. Harmon. Later Morgan was Vicar of Llanigon (where Daisy Thomas's father had been Vicar) and Rural Dean of Hay. Then Chaplain to the Bishop of Swansea (Kilvert's Teddy Bevan). William Morgan became Canon Morgan, retired, and lived to a great age. He saw the publication of Kilvert's Diaries 60 years after Kilvert had mentioned him in 1878!

Our Hon. Secretary met Canon Morgan in the latter's old age. And Edward West gave me the interesting information that Morgan as a young man had - like Kilvert - loved one of the Thomas sisters and was refused!

Lord Radnor's Cousinship to Kilvert.

Francis Kilvert made much of his crazily imagined descent from the de Fresnes of Moccas. If Francis had researched his ancestry factually he would have found kinship with several families of distinction, including titled folk.

The rich Earl of Radnor is mentioned once by Kilvert, when he walked through Lord Radnor's great park (Vol.3. p.221). Francis would surely have told us - had he known it - that he and Lord Radnor had kinship. My researches show that Francis Kilvert and Lord Radnor were sixth cousins.

Something to Sing about!

Mr. Arkwright, who sang at the concert for Bredwardine Church Tower Fund (Vol.3. p.401) certainly had cause to sing. John Hungerford Arkwright was the biggest land-owner in Herefordshire with 10,559 acres. Happily married to Charlotte Lucy Davenport, of Foxley, and blessed with children, Mr. Arkwright and his family lived at grand Hampton Court, near Hope-under-Dinmore. He was descended from Sir Richard Arkwright the inventor and cotton magnate.

Mr. Arkwright's only son, John Stanhope Arkwright, was a boy of six at the time of the Bredwardine concert. During the Great War he wrote patriotic poems, including the Soldiers' hymn beginning "O valiant hearts, who to your glory came". After a brilliant career in public service, he was knighted in 1934.

Not so poor!

In "Francis Kilvert and his World", Mr. Grice had some keen observations on the poor (pages 181-183). But the three musical families Mr. Grice listed among the poor were really well-to-do. The Hills were substantial farmers; Bengoughs prosperous artisans owning ten acres in Clyro; the Vulliamys were actually landed gentry - Lewis Vulliamy owned 232 acres in Herefordshire (and the Papendieks, kin to the Vulliamys, had land in Radnorshire).

Teddy Kilvert's Doctor.

We have a single mention of "Royston" as Teddy Kilvert's doctor when Francis stayed with his brother at 68 Westbourne Park Villas (Vol.3. p.184). The physician was Dr. Charles Royston, M.D., of 1, St. Stephen's Crescent, Westbourne Park, at the same address was a surgeon, Mr. Herbert E. Friend.

Wiltshire the Home of Cricket.

Our member who gave some interesting information about the Rev. H.K. Boldero as a cricketing student stated that "opportunities for more senior cricket would have been limited" when H.K. Boldero became a parson in Wiltshire. The reverse is true!

There were thriving cricket clubs in Wiltshire before W.C. Grace was born, including at Chippenham, Corsham and Swindon. And about the time that H.K. Boldero became rector of Yatton Keynel in Wilts. Some Wiltshire clubs were formidable enough to play "all England" teams.

Mrs. Martyn revealed.

In our published diary, Mrs. Martyn of Kennett (Kilvert's great-great-grand-mother) is twice met (Vol.2. p.385 + Vol.3. p.115). We are not told her Christian name, nor her husband's name. She was Hannah Martyn (nee Smith) wife of Samuel Martyn (Kilvert's great-great-grandfather). Samuel had the manor of West Kennett. I think he got it from Hannah's family, the Smiths. Samuel died in 1780 - Hannah outlived him.

The "Old Squire" (Robert Ashe, Kilvert's great-grandfather) should not have been so scathing about his mother-in-law, Hannah Martyn (Vol.2. p.385). He got the West Kennett estate when she died. This descended in the Ashe family until sold in 1921 by Thermutis Mary Ashe.

Hannah Martyn gave £20 to Avebury School in 1805, to augment the existing Holford Charity (Lady Holford had left money in 1722 to provide a school for the poor there). When a National School was built at Avebury, this State school still benefited from the "Holford-Martyn" bequest. In 1962 the school was still getting a little interest from the £20 given by Kilvert's great-great-grandmother 157 years earlier.

Powell the Miller, handsome and polite.

Mentioned once, the miller of Rhos Goch could have been but sixteen when Kilvert wrote (Vol.1. p.68). The late Mr. Prosser wrote that Powell, a cousin of Mrs. Prosser's father, married a Gore of Whitty's Mill. Mr. Prosser did not state which Gore sister. It was Caroline - "good natured Carrie" (Vol.1. p.255).

The young miller, William Powell, and Carrie enjoyed but a few years of married life before Carrie died - probably from consumption, which carried off three other sisters (Vol.3. p.279). After a score of years as a widower, William Powell married again (1898) to Wen Jones, a daughter of Evan Jones, of Portway, Bryngwyn. Powell was a preacher in that chapel Kilvert thought plain and ugly (Vol.1. p.69). Aged 56 in 1910, William Powell was made a Justice of the Peace.

More about Westthorp

Mr. and Mrs. Westthorp gave Kilvert some grand holidays in the Gower, but little has been known about them. Father Luff wrote some useful information in August 1982 newsletter, including notes gleaned from the late Miss Colville-Mansel, a granddaughter of the Westthorps. I can add to this information.

The Rev. S.B. Westthorp was born in 1830 and graduated B.A. at Christ's College, Cambridge, in 1854. In the latter year he was ordained Deacon, and in 1855 Priest (by the Rt. Rev. Samuel Hinds, Bishop of Norwich). Westthorp's first curacy was at Sternfield, in Suffolk (not in Norfolk, as Miss Colville-Mansel had said). In 1857 he became curate of the newly-built church of St. Philip, Kensington. He had four more curacies - Sibton (Suffolk), Brompton, Oby (Norfolk) and Reydon (Suffolk). When aged 40 he became Rector of Ilston in the Gower through Mr. Penrice, the patron.

Thomas Penrice inherited the Kilvrough estates, with patronage of three livings, in 1846. But Thomas Penrice, like Sterling Westthorp, came from Norfolk - they would have known each other there. But MORE! Mr. Penrice's wife, Louisa, was a sister of Mr. Knightley Howman (he chose the travelling clock, Vol.1. p.254). In an earlier newsletter I showed that Mr. Howman's wife was a Pearson (Augusta, not in our diary). Augusta was a sister of Mrs. Westthorp (and of Mrs. Venables). Such family ties brought Westthorp to the Gower!

By George Venables's special desire.

Our diarist, in Wiltshire, heard from Mrs. Venables, in London, about her second baby to be named Caroline Emily, after two godmothers (Vol.2. p.305). One godmother was Emily Lushington, "by George Venables' special desire". The Venables brothers knew Emily through her brother. One, Edmund, married Tennyson's sister Cecilia. Another brother was Franklin Lushington whom Kilvert saw in London (Vol.2. p.327). Emily never married. She lived at the family home, Park House, Maidstone. She died in 1893.

Not really so old.

Members may be surprised that Mrs. Giles, of Staunton-on-Wye, whom Kilvert called "a white haired old lady" was only in her fifties. (Vol.2. p.175). Our

diarist did not know Mr. and Mrs. Giles properly until later, when Peter Giles became Kilvert's physician at Bredwardine. Mrs. Giles was Caroline Bennett, daughter of an Admiral at Hereford. Two sons of Mr. and Mrs. Giles are buried in Bredwardine churchyard, one a Colonel in the Army Medical Service.

Strong Stuff.

Travelling by train in Wales, Kilvert and his father met Mr. Strong, given in the Index as 'of Barmouth' (Vol.1. p.352). This is actually the Rev. Augustus Strong, Rector of St. Paul's, Chippenham. Mr. Strong, 'Forester' in the Index is also the same Rector (Vol.2. p.199). And in the text, and index, Mr. and Mrs. STRANG at luncheon with the Kilverts (Vol.2. p.288) are really Mr. and Mrs. STRONG, the same parson of St. Paul's and his wife. So the Rev. Augustus Strong has three erroneous index entries, as well as his proper place therein.

The Hessey Cousinship.

In a brief note of James Hessey, Archdeacon of Middlesex, Kilvert called him "our cousin" (Vol.3. p.248). The relationship is not explained, but I found the answer in James Hessey's mother, Catherine Falkner. She would have been a cousin of Kilvert's father. Thus James Hessey was a cousin, twice removed, of Francis Kilvert.

A graduate and fellow of St. John's College, Oxford, and a Doctor of Civil Law, James Augustus Hessey had a prominent career in the church and in scholarship. Archdeacon of Middlesex in 1875, he was a prolific writer.

The Dr. F. Hessey who assisted Kilvert senior at the wedding of Teddy and Nellie Pitcairn (Vol.3. p.395) was a younger brother of Archdeacon James, and like him, a fellow of St. John's and a D.C.L. Before becoming Perpetual Curate of St. Barnabas, Kensington in 1853, Dr. Francis Hessey had been Head Master of Kensington School. He also wrote much.

A still younger brother - not in Kilvert, but also a "cousin" was the Rev. Robert Falkner Hessey, for many years Vicar of Basing. Lewis Carroll's brother, the Rev. Skeffington Dodgson, was curate to Mr. R.F. Hessey in 1875.

Amusing, Eccentric, Hospitable, Mr. Chatfield.

Our member, the Rev. Nigel Rowe, has shown that the Rev. A.W. Chatfield (Vol.3. p.77) was a noted hymn writer, and was Vicar of Stotfold (Beds) before becoming Vicar of Much Marcle in 1848.

Mr. Chatfield's mother was Susannah Money, whose brother, the Rev. William Money, inherited Much Marcle and Whetham in 1843 (his father and elder brother had these estates before him). The Rev. William Money had licence in 1844 to change his family name to Money-Kyrle. Previously Vicar of Yatesbury, he became Vicar of Much Marcle in 1846. He died in 1848, when the Money-Kyrles brought cousin Chatfield to the living of Much Marcle. Vicar there 48 years, the Rev. A.W. Chatfield died aged 87 in 1896. His memorial is with those of his Money-Kyrle relatives in Much Marcle church. One of his great-nephews was created Baron Chatfield in 1937.

At Hanborough Rectory.

One of the most amusingly written episodes was when Kilvert wrote of his visit to Hanborough (Vol. 3. pages 313 and 314). Mrs. Stone was "a stout elderly lady with fierce eyes and teeth". Mrs. Higgs reminds one of Trollope's Mrs. Proudie.

In the diary Mrs. Stone is Anne, but her name was Emily. Born 1811, daughter of James Morrell of Headington, she married her cousin, William Henry Stone in 1830. They lived at Streatley House. Their only child, Jane, died aged 15 in 1847. W.H. Stone died in 1863, so Mrs. Stone had been a widow several years when Kilvert met her.

Mrs. Stone advised pulling down the Rood Screen in Hanborough church. It is still there! In Streatley Church is a Reredos to her memory - she died in 1891. She and her husband, and the niece Emily Morrell mentioned by Kilvert, were all kin of Morrell of Cae Mawr.

The Broadwoods.

In the mid-eighteenth century John Broadwood walked from Scotland to London to seek his fortune. He did well. In partnership with Burkhardt Tschudi, Broadwood perfected the making of pianofortes. He married Tschudi's daughter, Barbara.

On a return visit to the Clyro area, Kilvert "had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of the Broadwoods of Cabalva" (Vol. 3. page 82). Walter Stewart Broadwood was a grandson of John Broadwood above. W.S. Broadwood's wife was Mary (Turner). They had two daughters, Alice and Annie.

Nobby the Pony.

The late Lord Dalton - better known as Dr. Hugh Dalton - was a minister in Churchill's war-time Government and in post-war Labour cabinets. As a boy Hugh Dalton often enjoyed holidays at The Gnoll, home of his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Evan Thomas. There Hugh Dalton learned to ride on a pony called Nobby. Could this be the pony "Nobby" Kilvert wrote about years before when the Thomas family were at Mitcham? "Owen rode bravely on Nobby" (Vol. 1. p.24). I have worked out the dates and ponies have lived that long - and longer.

Dr. Dalton was called Hugh after his uncle, whom we know as Kilvert's little friend Hugh, (Vol.1. pages 24 + 25; Vol.2. p.157). (Little Hugh became Admiral Sir Hugh Evan Thomas and lived his last years at Chorlton House, near Shaftesbury, where he died 30 Aug. 1928). Dr. Dalton's mother was Hugh's sister, Katie Evan Thomas, who married Canon Dalton of Windsor.

Kilvert, the Mayhews and Lewis Carroll.

In the introduction to Volume One, Mr. Plomer wrote that Francis Kilvert met Lewis Carroll at Oxford. Never have I found any proof of this - I wish someone would tell me how and when the two writers met - if they did meet! It has been suggested that Kilvert met Carroll later at the house of the Mayhews - again no proof.

The quarrel between Lewis Carroll and the Mayhews has been very garbled in books, and hence in our newsletters. Lewis Carroll did photograph the (then) youngest Mayhew girl in the nude - Janet, aged 7 - in 1879. Mrs. Mayhew did not object to this. It was quite the vogue at that time to sketch or photograph little girls in the nude. It was when Lewis Carroll too boldly asked to photograph the eldest Mayhew girl, Ruth, without clothes, that Mrs. Mayhew objected. Ruth was twelve, too near the age of puberty. Lewis Carroll had difficulty with other mothers, and soon gave up his hobby of photography altogether. His photographs were numbered. He instructed his brothers that, after his death, they should destroy certain numbers - these were his nude studies.

Lewis Carroll & A.L. Mayhew were not, as stated in a newsletter, "clearly friends". There was an acquaintanceship. But some of Carroll's closest friends are in Kilvert, including George MacDonald, Sir Gore Ouseley and Canon Rich of Chippenham. To the last named Lewis Carroll gave an album of photographs. I wonder if Kilvert saw it at Chippenham? This album was not so long ago in the possession of one of Canon Rich's daughters (whom Kilvert knew at Chippenham). She became Mrs. Henry Prince, wife of the Rector of Farthing, Stone, Northants. Mrs. Prince lent the album to the National Portrait Gallery; I think that the N.P.G. later bought this album - it includes a fine study of Canon Rich.

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MORE ON PARSON BUTTON (contributed by Hon. Secretary)

"Allusion might be made here to the late Vicar of Llanbedr Painscastle, the Rev. John Price, whom I knew well but I am reminded here of a prior memorable vicar of Painscastle, Parson Button as he was called. For years he was vicar and school-master combined. The school was held in the church, as it so often was in those days. He was a bachelor, and spent much of his time in the village alehouse. Often he set the children a task while he adjourned for refreshments. The consequence was that frequently the children got tired of waiting, and despairing of the return of the master deserted the school and made tracks for their respective homes. Sometimes it happened that they were confronted by the returning pedagogue, and sternly ordered to come back. Bidding one of their number to cut him a hazel twig, he would drive them back to the church, and soundly trounce them for their disobedience.

"Once he was discovered by the children removing his possessions from one lodging to another, and carrying his bed on his back. This was too great a temptation, and so one of the more daring of the boys approached from the rear, gave the bed a good tug - and down goes the bed, Parson Button and all!

"On another occasion, having partaken of his favourite beverage a little more freely than usual, he was discovered asleep on the roadside, not far from the castle, wholly oblivious to all things mundane. This put it into the head of one of the more ingenious and venturesome of the lads to summon his companions together, tie the hapless victim to the axle-tree of a pair of old cart wheels, bowl him to

the top of the ramparts and then send him careering madly down the steep descent of the mound, amid the cheers of interested spectators, but to the imminent peril of the life of poor Parson Button".

"Another celebrity of the village demands a short reference, namely our ignorant schoolmistress who possessed a strong partiality for the gin bottle. Too illiterate to write the copybook headlines, she invariably awaited the arrival of the itinerant Nonconformist minister, who very kindly performed this part of her duty for her. Afraid of venturing upon the orthography of the difficult place-names in the neighbourhood, she used to send her pupils to copy the spelling on the signboards of the carts and waggons around, and this was transferred to those marvellously ingenious pieces of workmanship generally called 'samplers'".

(From a talk given by Rev. W.E.T. Morgan ("Morgan of Glasbury") to members of the Woolhope Club in 1911).

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THE REVD. PREBENDARY THOMAS WILLIAMS
by Mrs. Ursula Cooper, (Glasbury-on-Wye)

The Revd. Thomas Williams, one of Kilvert's closest clerical friends, was the second surviving son of the Very Revd. Dean Williams of Llandaff. Born in 1834 - and thus 6 years older than Kilvert - he was educated at Sherborne and Oriel College Oxford. Graduating in 1856, and ordained the following year, he became a curate in Monmouth for 2 years and was appointed Vicar of Llowes in 1859. The living had been held for the previous 6 years by his elder brother, the Revd. Garnons Williams, who in 1861 inherited the Abercamlais estate. (This brother had 7 sons and 3 daughters, who were all christened "Garnons" after their grandmother, Annabella Garnons, a Herefordshire heiress; all this branch of the family became known as Garnons Williams). During this elder brother's incumbency, the nave and the chancel of Llowes church were entirely rebuilt.

"Tom" Williams never married. He settled down at Llowes, and stayed for 55 years, until his retirement in 1914, a much loved and respected man. He was deeply interested in education, and daily visited the school, situated close to the church and just behind the vicarage, which still stands right by the Lych Gate. In 1895 he built a larger vicarage (now called Vicarage House) since the original one was very small. He was a well-known historian and lectured on Church history. A very hospitable man, he entertained most of the clergy of the diocese, relations and friends. Among these last, Kilvert featured largely; the Diary mentions several instances of Kilvert as the guest of Tom Williams - "the health of Mrs. Thomas Williams in embryo" being probably the best-known (13th. May, 1870). The two men often walked together, and it was Tom Williams who accompanied Kilvert on the memorable visit to the Solitary. There is also on record one verdict on Tom Williams's character - "Called on Esther Rogers. Speaking of Tom Williams, Vicar of Llowes, she said he was 'as mild as a dove and as humble as the grave'". (12th. March, 1872).

In 1885 he became Rural Dean of Hay, and in 1902 he was offered the Prebendal Stall in St. David's Cathedral.

On his retirement he moved to Glasbury where he had many good friends..... the Vulliamys of Glasbury House, the Penry Lloyds at Glanhenwye and the Baylises of Park Gwyn, among many others. He bought Wye View, then a fairly new house built on the edge of Coed y Bolyn Common, which was once a part of the Lordship of Talgarth presented to his ancestor Sir Thomas Bolyn, or Bullen, the Norman Knight, in the 12th. Century. He was 81, and sadly he died the following year in 1915.

His great nephew, Basil Garnons Williams, remembers being taken to see him at Wye View. Basil was 7 at the time. A great discussion was going on about disestablishment. This was shelved when war broke out in 1914, and was not finally brought about until 1930 or so. I wrote to Basil, and I cannot do better than to quote direct from his letter as follows.....

1984 Uncle Tom was the most eccentric of our family, or so my Uncles and Aunts would have us all believe, and I would guess a more interesting person than his elder brother, Garnons, (my grandfather), and his younger brother, Herbert, though to their contemporaries they were of much more importance. I doubt if anyone ever laughed at them, but I get the impression that Uncle Tom was a bit of a joke. My grandfather, Garnons, had been Vicar of Llowes and Brecon in turn (both family livings) and when he inherited Abercamlais he became Vicar (strictly speaking perpetual Curate) of Penpont, Tom went to Llowes and Herbert to Brecon. The reason

Uncle Tom retired when he did is a bit complicated. The Welsh Dis-establishment Act was passed in 1914, but with the proviso that it should not come into operation until after the war. Under it, all Church property acquired before Queen Anne's Bounty was confiscated, but "vested interests" were exempt, that is, a sitting incumbent remained in possession, and the confiscation only happened when his successor was appointed.

Uncle Tom, an old man by then, very decently decided to retire so that his successor could be appointed before the act came into force. Ironically, the said successor died very soon after, and Uncle Tom's sacrifice was in vain.

There is quite a bit about him in Kilvert's Diary; evidently Kilvert liked him a lot.

The series about Kilvert on T.V. a few years back got Uncle Tom all wrong, representing him as a "mountain sheep" type of clergyman with a broad Welsh accent. Actually he was a very cultured man of considerable scholarship, judging from the contents of his library, a good deal of which has come to me.

He had a curious habit, much imitated by his younger relations, of attaching the suffix 'er' to the more important words in a sentence. For example, my only conversation with him went as follows.....

Basil (aged 6 or 7) "Uncle Tom, What is dis-establishment?" (I had been taught to be indignant about it, but nobody had told me why)

Uncle Tom "Disestablishment? - er- my boy-er? If we get this we shall be just like the French- er".

Basil "What are the French like, Uncle Tom?"

Uncle Tom "The French-er- have no God-er".

I was informed by this to my satisfaction, and I suppose also to Uncle Tom's.

Less agreeable was his method of punishing a parlourmaid who had broken a butter dish. She was compelled to continue its use for a week, and the following conversation took place at every meal.....

Uncle Tom "Who broke that butter dish - er?"

Maid "I did, Sir, Please Sir"

Uncle Tom "You careless-er- girl -er"

Yet his servants are said to have adored him, and they all got on well together. He had to sack a gardener who was selling vegetables surreptitiously in the village, but the man left with a valuable testimonial which ran....

"This man has got more out of my garden than any gardener I have had before".

I don't know the context on the occasion of his wistful remark.....

"I don't know why I became a clergyman - er-. I might have been a jockey - er -"

Somehow it rings true.

.....

ever yrs.

Basil.

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GIFT TO THE SOCIETY

Miss Cicely Cholmeley has presented to the Society two handsome commonplace books belonging to her great-grandfather, Francis Kilvert, the antiquary; also a number of photographs belonging to her family. The commonplace books clearly indicate the "Latinist" in the Antiquary, in translations into that language, memorials, verses. In one volume there is a poem signed "Robt. Kilvert", surely the diarist's father. In ballad metre, and rather slowly, it tells the well known episode of British slaves in Rome, "Angels, not Angles". A short letter from Charles Dickens to the antiquary is pasted in at another place. We are very grateful to Miss Cholmeley - and to her sister, Mrs. E.M. Victor - for not only these gifts but also their loyal and unstinting support of the Society.

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