

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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JUNE 1985.

Dear Member,

First of all, I report on our A.G.M. held on May 3rd. when about 80 members were present - fewer in number, but on the other hand apologies increased to over 30; and a telegram of greetings from our New Zealand members, Miss Madigan and Miss Hancock, was a delightful gesture, much appreciated.

Our Chairman (Rev. D.T.W. Price) welcomed members, and spoke of the loss to the Society of Miss Lilian West and Mr. David Prosser. Members stood in tribute. He told of the hymn tune "Kilvert" composed by Mr. Howard Dudley (who was to play a major part in the second half of the evening's programme) for Kilvert's version of the 23rd. Psalm. Mr. Dudley had very kindly duplicated copies of the tune for the meeting. Attention had been drawn at last year's A.G.M. to the state of the graves of Maria Kilvert and the Llanthomas sisters. The former was found to be satisfactory, and the Chairman thanked Rev. D.N. Lockwood and the Hon. Secretary for their attentions to the latter.

In presenting his report, the Treasurer, Mr. Harley Dance, spoke of the growing discrepancy between income and expenditure. Costs of postage, duplicating, etc., arose, and this year's income was £740 less than expenditure. It was proposed, seconded and approved that subscriptions for this year be increased to a minimum of £3 per annual membership and £30 for life membership. Mr. Dance was warmly thanked for his report, as was Mr. Gordon Rogers for auditing the statement.

Officers were re-elected en bloc. (A full list is to be found elsewhere in this number).

Mr. Bentley-Taylor spoke of the desirability of including into one volume the five different sets of selections and extracts, and deplored the many waste pages and margins in the 3 volume edition. Mr. Clew reported on the sale of his mini guides, many of which had been reprinted; his latest, due to appear soon, would be on Brobury. He spoke of "The Missing Years of Kilvert's Diary" which he was writing in co-operation with Mrs. Teresa Williams, and for which Jonathan Cape had first option. Rev. E.F. Jelfs asked that some attention be paid to the state of the gate to Bredwardine churchyard.

After the usual excellent refreshments supplied by Cafe Ascari, the company returned to the foyer to enjoy Mr. Howard Dudley's "Aerial Photographs of Herefordshire and the Welsh Border". There was the pleasure of seeing the familiar from unfamiliar angles, of Mr. Dudley's evident appreciation of Kilvert, and above all of a lively and witty personality revealing itself in his comments on the photographs. All passed too quickly! We are most grateful to Mr. Dudley for his display of photographs and verbal skills!

Mr. Hockin had brought up from Dorset a most interesting set of photographs of his ancestors and of Tullimaar and "The Ferns". The display attracted much interest and we much appreciate Mr. Hockin's act.

THE WALK the following day was led by Mr. Bentley-Taylor, and 38 members assembled in the avenue to Bredwardine church. The day was lacking in sun, but the light was nevertheless good and the winds, so prevalent this year, had dropped. Cars were left at New Court, Brobury, by kind permission of Mr. Blandford, and the party crossed fields to Brobury Lane. At Old Court Dr. Bulmer allowed us to view the house from the farmyard, and next door we surveyed from the lawn what had been Brobury church, thanks to the kindness of Mr. Jerome Lynch. The chancel is all that remains;

the architecture is mediaeval. The gravestones that remain are of late 18th. and 19th. c. in date. Time did not permit to locate any bearing the names of Brobury people mentioned in the diary. We now proceeded up the lane to Brobury Scar, so often used by Kilvert on his way to and from Monnington. Hedges were not very green, save for hawthorn and honeysuckle, but the verges were such as would have delighted Kilvert - clumps of primroses, stitchwort, Jack-in-the hedge, Lady's smock, some early bluebells, wild forget-me-nots. The Scar itself "beetling over the winds of the Wye" afforded delightful views of Moccas Court and the deer park.

The next stop was at the Old Weston, "Little Davie's" home where we were met by Mr. & Mrs. Barraclough in the most friendly and welcoming way. It was obvious that the exterior was more or less as Kilvert would have known it, and the interior had changed but little. We were allowed to wander anywhere, inside and out, and we were all most appreciative of Mr. & Mrs. Barraclough's reception. The majority of the party then proceeded to the Burnt House where Mr. & Mrs. Stutz had laid on an excellent tea, and after this refreshment and a very warm vote of thanks to Mr. Bentley-Taylor we went our several ways.

Now to the future:-

JULY 6TH. WALK. Meet at Llowes Church. Picnic Lunch. Mr. Gordon Rogers, our Hon. Auditor, will lead a walk on Brynrhyd Common. (We shall hope for a day very different from that recorded for the afternoon of 29th. April 1876!).

JULY 7TH. SERVICE AT LLOWES CHURCH 3 p.m. The preacher will be Rev. J.C. Day, Rector of Pewsey (Wilts). The parishioners will provide tea for visitors at the Gaer Farm. (This farm must have been known to Kilvert on his walks - as the diary entry mentioned above indicates). A coach will leave Hereford Town Hall at 1.20 p.m. Bookings to me, please.

Llowes church would seem to be Victorian, but inside there are a mediaeval font and a tall monolith incised with a cross, which denote an old foundation. The tower is in urgent need of repair, and it is hoped that the congregation will be generous. The Society is donating £50 to the church.

SEPT. 21ST. WALK - details in next newsletter.

SEPT. 22ND. SERVICE AT KINGTON ST. MICHAEL (WILTS) at 3 p.m. Full details in the next newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

E.J.C. West

Honorary Secretary

OBITUARY

Mr. W. Charlton Edwards (Clent) who had been a member since 1977.

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NEW EDITION OF THE ONE VOLUME SELECTION

Miss Veronica Babington Smith, Executive Editor of Isis Large Print Books, has written to tell me of the new edition of the one-volume selection (published by both Cape and Penguin). The small, fussy maps of the previous editions are to be redrawn, to be suitable for the special market. She informs me that the edition will be available in July, the cost will be £9. 85. and available from Isis Large Print Books, 55, St. Thomas' Street, Oxford, OX11JG, telephone number (0865) 250333.

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KILVERT'S SUNDAYS by David Bentley-Taylor

In the introduction to volume iii of his "Selections" from Kilvert's Diary, William Plomer admits that he has not given "a just impression of his constant devotion to parochial duties". To some extent this is also true of Kilvert's years at Clyro and Langley Burrell. In volume i, for example, after the entry for Sunday, June 5, 1870, eighty-one pages pass before Dr. Plomer selects another Sunday paragraph four months later.

We can therefore be thankful that the three volumes do contain passages written on as many as 158 Sundays, even though nearly half of them omit all reference to parochial duties. Happily a further 8 Sunday entries have been preserved elsewhere. There is one in the National Library of Wales Notebook (May 8, 1870), three among

the Bevan-Dew Extracts, two in the Langley House Fragments printed in Grice's "Francis Kilvert and his world" (p.154-158), and two more in the full manuscript of Kilvert's Cornish holiday. So at least something of what he wrote on 166 Sundays has been preserved.

The most important are the six in the National Library of Wales notebook, where we have the full Diary entries (parts of five of which we have in Plomer). Beginning with May Day 1870 these reveal the following pattern of Sunday work while Kilvert was curate to Mr. Venables at Clyro:-

(1) 9. 30 a.m. Sunday School. Kilvert was in charge, assisted by Evans the schoolmaster.

(2) 11. 00 a.m. Morning Service. Kilvert often "read prayers", that is, he conducted the service from the Prayer Book. At times he preached the sermon. When the Vicar was absent, he did both. Holy Communion followed only on the first Sunday of each month.

(3) 3. 00 p.m. Service at Bettws Chapel. The uphill walk took him an hour, so he liked to leave Clyro before 2 p.m. He was on his own, leading the service, preaching, visiting Chapel Farm, and calling at other houses on his way back. If Venables was away or himself went to Bettws, Kilvert led and preached at the afternoon service in Clyro instead.

(4) 6. 30 p.m. Now and again he would preach at the evening service in Hay, as he did on June 5, 1870, after preaching morning and afternoon at Clyro. In the days when he lived there, no evening service was held at Clyro. On May 8, 1870, Kilvert preached twice at Hay in the morning, walked to Bettws to preach, returned to Hay Castle for tea and attended the evening service, finding it "a pleasure to go to church privately as one of the congregation" (NLW Notebook p.34).

The pattern of Sunday duty was similar when he was his father's curate at Langley Burrell. He was in charge of the Sunday School at 9. 30 a.m. followed by morning and afternoon services. At one of these Kilvert would "read prayers" before his father preached, at the other they often reversed their roles. Communion was held once a month at the close of the morning service. If he was on his own, as happened on September 7, 1873, duties could be heavy. "Twice at the Sunday School, two full services and sermon and churching service at Langley, and a sermon at Kington St. Micheal in the evening" (ii 367). In the summer he also had a Sunday night Bible Class for young people.

At Bredwardine he was himself the Vicar, had no curate, and was also responsible for Brobury Church across the river. Plomer's "Selections" do not reveal whether he took responsibility for the Sunday School. An allusion at iii 422 would suggest he did, but at iii 365 he was out visiting parishioners on Sunday at 9. 30. His regular duties certainly included:-

(1) 11. 00 a.m. Bredwardine Morning Service, with Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

(2) 3. 00 p.m. Bredwardine Afternoon Service.

(3) 6. 00 p.m. Brobury Evening Service.

There is no mention of Sunday School or Communion at Brobury or Bettws, nor is there any allusion in the whole Diary to early morning Communion, except in the Isle of Wight (iii 38).

Two unusual and revealing Sunday incidents not included in the three volumes have happily been preserved for us. On the evening of Sunday, August 15, 1875, after the two services at Langley Burrell, Kilvert strolled over to Kington St. Michael. "I found the good vicar hot and lonely, walking disconsolately in his garden and wishing someone would come and help him with his duty. Seeing me, he started and came forward joyfully. 'Your're the very man I wanted to see', he exclaimed, 'I want you to preach for me'. He read prayers and I preached to a most attentive audience". (Langley House Fragments).

The second incident is remarkably similar. He was off duty, staying with the Dews at Whitney Vicarage on Sunday, March 22, 1874. "What a happy Sunday this has been", he wrote, "one of the happiest Sundays I have ever spent. I took the whole of the two services to save Henry Dew's throat and preached in the morning on Jacob's dream and in the afternoon on the Father's business" -- in other words on Genesis 28 and Luke 2:49. (Bevan-Dew Extracts).

He did not shirk work and he thoroughly enjoyed his Sundays.

PUTTING ON THE YEARS
by John Hodkin, (Cumbria)

To knock a year or two off one's age is a harmless little vanity, and one by no means uncommon, especially among people approaching the watershed age of 40.

An amusing example of this is the young man in the short story by Saki (or to give him his proper name Hector Munro) who says he is not going to arrive at 19 as long as his mother remains at 37!

To find someone who goes to the other extreme and puts years on his age is rare indeed, but this is what Kilvert does.

Kilvert was born on December 3rd, 1840, and in his entry for December 3rd, 1870, he correctly notes that it was his 30th birthday. The following year he mentions his birthday, but does not say what age he is.

The next year, 1872, is when he starts to go adrift. He records on December 3rd that it was his 33rd. birthday, when it was in fact his 32nd. He does the same thing in 1873 and 1874, adding a year on in each case.

The December months for 1875 and 1876 are missing, of course, thanks to whoever it was who removed the two big chunks of the diary, and in 1877 we only have the entry for December 31st. For the last complete year, 1878, Kilvert does not mention his birthday.

It is possible to understand someone getting their age wrong for one birthday, but to do it three years in succession is very puzzling, just one of the many riddles in the diary which makes it so fascinating.

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ABC - Awdry, Bond and Cowper-Coles
By Sidney Ball (Swindon)

Sir John Awdry

Francis Kilvert enjoyed dancing at Notton House and at Notton Lodge (Vol.2. pages 305 + 402). Notton is in the parish of Lacock, Wiltshire. The several entries for NOTTON in the Diary and Index are printed NORTON, which is confusing for those who do not know Wiltshire well. Norton is another place in Wiltshire, with its own manor house.

Kilvert's hosts at Notton House were Sir John and Lady Awdry. Sir John was the most eminent and the most prolific of the Awdrys. He had 16 children, 3 by his first wife, and 13 by the Lady Awdry of the Diary. She was Frances Ellen (Carr), daughter of the Rt. Rev. Thomas Carr, Bishop of Bombay.

Sir John Awdry was born at Swindon on the 21st. October, 1795, at the mansion of the Goddards. Sir John's paternal grandmother, Priscilla, was a Goddard, daughter of Ambrose Goddard, the chief landowner and Lord of the Manor of Swindon.

I feel sure that the birth of this boy John Awdry at Swindon would have been talked about in the family of Jane Austen in Hampshire. Among the very best friends of the novelist and her sister Cassandra were the Biggs, including John Awdry's mother, Jane Biggs. These Biggs became Bigg-Wither after inheriting Manydown Park, near Jane Austen's house.

When John Awdry was seven, in 1802, Jane Austen could have become his aunt. John's uncle, Harris Bigg-Wither, tried hard to persuade Jane to become his wife.

The boy, John, was given the Christian names John and Wither - this latter because he, like the Bigg-Withers, was descended from the Withers of Manydown; he in the female line from a Dorothy Wither several generations back.

In "Kilvert's Who's Who" it is stated that Sir John Awdry "was knighted in 1830 for his services as Lord Chief Justice of Bombay". Actually, he was knighted in 1830 when made a Judge. And there never was an office of Lord Chief Justice of Bombay - Sir John was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court there from 1839 to 1841. Also in Kilvert's Who's Who, Sir John's son, William, is called Bishop of Tokyo. He was really a Bishop in Tokyo, which is rather different - there could be no see of Tokyo.

Most of Sir John Awdry's huge family were living at the time of the Diary. One of his six daughters became Mrs. Cremer and lived to the great age of 103.

The Bonds

The brothers Nathaniel and Denis Bond were pupils at the school at Hardenhuish Rectory. In "Random Recollections" Kilvert's sister, Emily, said that the mother of the brothers was Lady Sophia Bond. This error is repeated in "Francis Kilvert and his World" (page 13). The mother of the Bond brothers was Mary Hawkesworth, daughter of John Hawkesworth of Forest in Queen's County, Ireland. Mary was married to the boys' father, the Rev. Nathaniel Bond at Stoke sub Hamdon, Somerset, on 31st. October, 1835.

Emily Wyndowe was right in remembering that the Bond boys were delicate. Denis only lived to 21; born in January 1842, he died in January 1863. Three other brothers died young, but Nathaniel lived on - until 1910. Born on 18th. September 1840, he was thus just a few weeks older than Francis Kilvert.

In "Francis Kilvert and his World" - page 14 - it is stated that Nathaniel became a Canon of Sarum. But he was never in "Orders". Father and Son have been confused. The father, the Rev. Nathaniel Bond, born in 1804, became Rector of Steeple with Tyneham, Dorset, in 1852 and was a Prebendary of Sarum.

The son Nathaniel inherited the Bond family estate in Dorset fulfilling his duties as Squire and magistrate. In 1864 he married Lady Selina Scott and had a dozen children. Their home was Creech Grange, Dorset, (between Wareham and the coast). Pictures I have seen of Creech Grange show it to be a grand house in a delightful setting. It had been the home of generations of Bonds from 1686.

The Bond brothers came from an illustrious family. An earlier Denis Bond was a foremost Parliamentarian and a friend of Oliver Cromwell. A kinsman, Thomas Bond, was a fervent Royalist, and was made a Baronet at the Restoration of Charles II. Bond Street in London is named after this Sir Thomas Bond. Strangely, the line of the Bond baronets ended in obscurity in the eighteenth century, but the line of the Dorset Bonds continued. It still continues, thanks to Nathaniel Bond who was a pupil at the Kilvert School at Hardenhuish.

The Cowper-Coles Ancestry

In the church of St. Thomas, Lymington, Hants, is a memorial to a little-known sea captain, Josias Rogers. He spent much of his life in acts of gallantry at sea, and died of yellow fever in 1795, aged only 40. Captain Josias Rogers is not in Kilvert's Diary, nor has anyone else mentioned him in connection with Kilvert. But I bring him to the notice of members because he is so important in his descendants. There are about a dozen of them in the Diary.

If Captain Josias Rogers had not fathered a daughter, Marianne, there would be no Cowper Coles family in Kilvert's Diary - or since. And without Josias's younger daughter, Augusta, we should not have Lord Lyons nor that Duchess of Norfolk who gave Mrs. Cowper Coles a wheelchair. For Augusta Rogers was the wife of Admiral Sir Edmund Lyons - among their children were Lord Lyons and the Duchess of Norfolk.

But let us go back for a moment to the reign of Henry the Eighth. In 1545 John Cowper acquired the estates of Ditcham and Sunworth, on the borders of Hants and Sussex. These estates remained in the Cowper family until 1767, when Richard Cowper, the last male, died. The estates went to his cousin, John Coles, son of Walter Coles of Pulborough, Sussex, and his wife Catherine Cowper. Thus the families of Cowper and Coles were united in John Coles and his descendants. His grandson, the Rev. John Coles, Rector of Silchester, Hants, took to wife Marianne Rogers, elder daughter of Captain Josias Rogers. The Rev. John and Marianne had several children, including Captain Cowper Phipps Coles, who lost his life in HMS Captain.

The Coles family sold their Ditcham Park estates in the mid 19th. century, but continued to use the nearby church of South Harting for family memorials.

The surname Cowper was used as a christian name for Captain Cowper Coles (no hyphen). His children hyphenated the names and became Cowper-Coles. I understand that the present K.S. members, Sherard and John Cowper-Coles, are great grandsons of Captain Cowper Coles. Then Sherard and John are five-times-great grandsons of Walter Coles and Catherine Cowper and also three-times-great grandsons of Captain Josias Rogers.

Having mentioned the Duchess of Norfolk of the Diary, I would add that among her cousins were Mrs. Cowper Coles and Mrs. Venables. The Duchess of Norfolk's son and grandson became Dukes of Norfolk. But when the grandson, the late Duke of Norfolk, died, he left four daughters, but no son. The historic Dukedom of Norfolk went to a cousin, Miles, the present Duke of Norfolk. We can connect him with Kilvert's Diary,

for he is the great grandson of that Lord Howard of Glossop mentioned by the diarist (Vol. 2, page 328).

AN HISTORICAL GUIDE TO HAY
(1877. Re-issued with Addenda and Notes to 1890). By an Old Inhabitant
by C.W. Newman (Llandrindod)

The Radnorshire Society possesses a copy of the 1890 printing of this interesting little publication, bearing the inscription 'Louisa Bevan 1892' on the front paper cover. It belonged to Mrs. Bevan of Hay Castle and was presented to the R.S. by her daughter, Mrs. M.L. Dawson. Although re-issued in 1890 it carries the original title-page, which reads: An historical guide to the town and castle of Hay, and the neighbourhood. By an Old Inhabitant. Hay, published by G. Horden, Castle Street, and J.L. Davies, High Town. 1877. Price Ninepence. The cover repeats the title with the addition of the words "with Addenda and Notes to 1890" after "neighbourhood". The booklet apparently consists of the original printing, plus thirteen pages of additional material, with a new cover. The 'Preface' is initialled 'D' and dated 'Hay, Nov. 1876'. In the preface the writer thanks "those gentlemen who have favoured him with information and with suggestions". Surely the Rev. W.L. Bevan would have been one of these, and might he not have mentioned this little publishing venture to FK? The 'Guide' was published in FK's lifetime and he may well have known of it. The original 'Guide' contained fifty pages of text, numbered (5) - 54; the section of 'Addenda and Notes' is separately paged (1) - 13, and introduced by a note initialled 'J.L.D' and dated 'October, 1890'. The last page is an advertisement, reading: Davies' photographic views of Hay, the River Wye, and Welsh Border. A great variety mounted, unmounted, and opalines. Also permanent reproductions of local views. One shilling packet. Sold by J.L. Davies, High Town, and by G. Horden, Castle Street, Hay. Finally, there is a frontispiece, a view of Hay Castle - a small pen and ink drawing, presumably done from a photograph. It measures 93 x 70 mm.

George Horden is, of course, a name known to KS members. Apparently he set up in business in Castle Street about 1851 and remained there for forty years. The re-issue of the 'Guide' came therefore when he was on the point of retiring, his successor in the business being Henry Richard Grant. Horden's associate in the production of the 'Guide', and its author, in fact, appears to be J.L. Davies. The latter does not appear in the Diary, nor is he mentioned in Mr. Fair's History of Hay, but he must have been well-known in Hay in his day. He was probably somewhat younger than G. Horden.

The section of the 'Guide' devoted to the 'Neighbourhood of Hay' covers Clifford Parish, Cusop Parish, Walk to Mouse Castle, Clyro Parish, Llanigon Parish, Glasbury Parish, Maesllwch Castle, Llowes, Excursion to Llanthony Abbey and Capel-y-ffin (church and new monastery), Excursion to Aberedw, etc., Craig-pwl-du, Talgarth, Llyn Safaddan, or Llangorse Lake, and Arthur's Stone. The author also records the following:

The pleasing custom observed in many parishes, in this and the adjoining counties, of dressing the graves of departed friends with flowers on Palm Sunday is practised at Hay on Easter Day.

MORE ON JOEL OR JAEL ? -
(See Newsletter June 1984)
by Rev. B. Richards (Worcester)

It is possible that William Plomer sometimes had difficulty in deciphering Kilvert's handwriting but in this instance I submit that the name written is almost certainly JOEL. If that is so then we need not change 'him' to 'her' where presumably the handwriting was clear. My reason for believing that the printed Joel makes more sense than Jael is this:-

On the 3rd. December 1871 (Kilvert's birthday) he wrote '.....when I came down I found a beautiful present from Minna, a church service with the new Lessons.....' (ii,p.92). Those new lessons were the new Church Lectionary (Table of Lessons) that became available for use from 1st. January 1872, replacing the old readings at Morning and Evening Prayer daily throughout the year.

On 17th. June 1872 Kilvert and his clergymen friends had the discussion that forms the basis of this present problem. In the aforementioned New Lectionary the

second Lesson appointed for Morning Prayer on that very day was the passage in Acts chap. 2. where St. Peter in a long sermon quotes from the prophet JOEL. It is therefore reasonable to assume that the three friends were discussing someone about whom some or all of them had read earlier that day in their Daily Office.

The Rev. D.T.W. Price has truly written that '...it is not easy to discover whether Kilvert read the Daily Offices'. The Diarist's pleasure at receiving the New Lessons as a birthday present leads me to think that he at least regularly read the appointed Lessons, sometimes the second one from the Greek New Testament (iii.p.72). It therefore seems very possible that these friends were indeed discussing the prophet JOEL.

However, the problem is complicated by the fact that eight days prior to Kilvert's discussion (Sunday, 9th. June 1872 - 2nd. Sunday after Trinity) the appointed readings for the First Lessons at Morning and Evening Prayer were chapters 4 and 5 of Judges. In those chapters we have the story of JAEL killing Sisera. Were our friends having a discussion about the readings of eight days prior to their meeting?

JOEL or JAEL? For the present I am assuming that Kilvert and his friends were discussing the man about whom they had read that day 17th. June 1872 - JOEL.

It is a strange coincidence that the published entries for June 9th. and June 17th. referred to above, are consecutive ones. (ii.pp.207/8).

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ARCHENFIELD by David Bentley-Taylor

Something is wrong with the opening sentence on page i 279 of the Diary, the entry for December 8, 1870. It reads, "I went to Pope's and walked with him across the field to Archenfield in Broad Meadow who is ill". The 77-year-old man they visited was a shoemaker, so the reference to this passage in the Index states, "Archenfield, shoemaker, i 279".

There are two problems about this. In the first place, at i 280 and again at i 302 -- where a further visit on February 6, 1871, is described -- the shoemaker's name is clearly given as "David Price", which is also in the Index. In the second place, "Archenfield" is not a person at all but the name of a hamlet two miles east of Hay-on-Wye. Upper Broad Meadow Farm lies north-east of it and Lower Broad Meadow Farm south-east of it, which explains the expression "Archenfield in Broad Meadow", following which Kilvert himself or a later typist has omitted some such words as "to call on David Price" before "who is ill".

It is tempting to guess that the old man's "little hovel by the roadside" was Pentre Howell, the renovated cottage on the road to Dorstone, but the 1871 census reveals that a certain William Boucher and his family lived there. It gives David Price's address simply as "Archenfield". His cottage has probably disappeared now. The census also reveals that his "young, good-humoured-looking slatternly wife" was only 23.

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MARY BEVAN'S DIARY FOR 1870
by the Honorary Secretary

Mr. Philip Dawson has kindly loaned me his grandmother Mary Bevan's diary. It is a small printed volume which permits of only about one and a half inches per entry, and Mary's handwriting was fairly large! There are gaps in mid-January, June, early July and early September; and on October 6th, she left Hay to spend the rest of the year at Weymouth. Following is a list of her references to Kilvert, and I am very much indebted to Mr. Dawson for allowing it to be published.

- Jan. 1st. "Mr. Kilvert, Charlie and Walter Thomas called"
(The first entry in Plomer is dated Jan. 18th. at Mitcham.
FK returned to Clyro on February 5th).
- Feb. 11th. "Father and I went to dine at Oakfield. Mr. & Mrs. Crichton came with us...Mrs. and Miss Thomas of Llwyn Madoc, Mr. & Mrs. Welfield Thomas, Mr. & Capt. Thomas, Mr. Baskerville, Mr. Kilvert were there".
(Plomer records this dinner party and refers to Mrs. Bevan being present. The entry for the following day includes:
"Heard Mary Bevan's misadventures in going to the Hereford Hunt Ball". Her diary contains no reference whatever to the Ball).

Feb. 12th. "Mr. Kilvert called"

Feb. 14th. "Mr. Kilvert called"
(Plomer records this equally briefly)

Mar. 27th. "Mr. Kilvert did the morning duty and came to lunch, Mr. Pope the evening and came to supper"
(No record in Plomer)

Apr. 1st. "Mr. Kilvert did the duty and came to lunch"
(Again no record in Plomer)

Apr. 3rd. "I heard from Dora Kilvert"

Apr. 7th. "Mr. Kilvert called"
(Recorded in Plomer)

Apr. 10th. "Mr. Kilvert preached and came to lunch"
(No record in Plomer)

Apr. 14th. "Mr. Kilvert and Mr. Allen came to lunch"
(No record in Plomer)

Apr. 15th. (Good Friday) "Mr. Kilvert did the morning duty and came to lunch"
(Plomer records solely a call at the Castle)

Apr. 19th. "Mr. Kilvert called"
(No record in Plomer)

Apr. 25th. "Mr. Kilvert and Mr. Pope came to dinner"
(No record in Plomer)

May 5th. "Mr. Kilvert came to lunch"
(Sandford notebook records his meal as "fried liver and pancakes")

May 8th. "Mr. Kilvert did the morning service and came to lunch"
(Sandford note records F.K. "in full canonicals striding down the church to the strains of 'See the Conquering Hero comes', and Mary's inextinguishable laughter".)

May 16th. "I sent a doll to Thersie's little girl by Mr. Kilvert"
(Sandford notebook records for May 12th. "Mary is dressing a doll for Florence")

(May 16th. - 28th. Kilvert was at Langley Burrell)

June 5th. "In the afternoon Mr. Kilvert preached and came to tea and supper"
(Recorded in Plomer:- the occasion where Mrs. Crichton heard the same sermon at Clyro and Hay)

(June 11th. - 19th. a gap in Mary's diary)

June 21st. (The Snodhill picnic) "The hottest day I ever felt". Among the names "Mr. & Mrs. E. Kilvert"

June 27th. "We had a croquet party.....Mr. Kilvert and Mr. & Mrs. Kilvert came to it"

July 2nd. "Mr. & Mrs. Miss and Mr. L. Lyne called and played croquet"
(Plomer records this on July 4th)

(A gap in Mary's diary from July 3rd. - 16th. and on the 19th. F.K. left for a 3 weeks' holiday in Cornwall)

Aug. 22nd. "Mr. Kilvert called"
(No record in Plomer)

Aug. 24th. "Papa and Mr. Kilvert went to the Music Meeting in Hereford. Mr. Kilvert dined here"
(No record in Plomer. "The Music Meeting" was the 3 Choirs Festival - Mary records hearing "Elijah" the day previous. Mr. Clew ascertained that the work performed was "The Prodigal Son" conducted by its composer, Arthur Sullivan)

Aug. 28th. "Mr. Kilvert preached and came to lunch"
(No record in Plomer)

Aug. 29th. "I went with the Venables to a Bazaar at Hardwick"
(Plomer records that "The Venables took Mr. and Miss C. Baskerville and Mary Bevan and her father")

- Aug. 30th. Hay Flower Show - a blank in Mary's diary, but Plomer records,
"A row or pretty girls, Bevans and Thomases"
- Aug. 31st. "We had a Missionary Meeting. Mr. & Mrs. Crichton and Mr. Kilvert
came to tea"
(Plomer records merely the meeting)
- (Sept. 5th. - 9th. With her father a guest of the Bishop of St. Davids)
- Sept. 10th. "I met the Venables at Llechryd...Mr. Kilvert and Mr. T. Williams.
Heard of the foundering of 'H.M.S. Captain' with 500 men. Capt.
Cowper Coles on board"
(Plomer records this, and Mary's sensible silence, not willing
to tell Mr. Venables until the news could be broken to him
alone)
- Sept. 16th. "Mr. Kilvert called"
(No record in Plomer)
- Sept. 22nd. "Mr. Kilvert came to lunch"
(No record in Plomer)
- Sept. 23rd. "Mrs. Venables and Mrs. Howman called"
- Sept. 24th. "Mrs. Howman called"
(Naturally, no record in Plomer. I have included these entries
because of the name "Mrs. Howman", established, thanks to Mr.
Sidney Ball, as another of Mrs. Venables's sisters. With the
other sisters, Mrs. Cowper Coles, Mrs. Westhorp and Mrs. Charles
Evan Thomas, Kilvert established very cordial relations - did
he stay in Warwickshire with Mrs. Howman and her husband
Knightley (who obtained the travelling clock)?

It might be thought that these entries add little to our knowledge of F.K. but in so far as many of them are not in Plomer or Sandford, they do establish fresh dates and events. As for Mary, herself, she was only 19 years old, and even had space allowed, she would not have written with a mature eye for observation or mind for reflection. She recorded the weather regularly (as did F.K), refers to her sketching and music practice (she played the organ at the church) and to the summer pursuits of croquet, archery and long walks, generally to the houses of friends. Only once does she record attending a Ball, the 3 Choirs Ball at Hereford, when she stayed overnight with "the Masters at 7, St. Owen Street". Her daily entries of callers, visitors, guests to lunch, tea, dinner and supper at the Castle are impressive in their number, and to a Kilvertian warmly familiar - the uncle, aunt and cousins at Whitney, the Allens, Crichtons, Oswalds, Llanthomas sons and daughters, the Baskervilles, Pope, Rev. and Mrs. Venables, Lady Hereford and the rest. What emerges very strongly is the great hospitality shown by Rev. and Mrs. Bevan, shown not only to these but to F.K. himself, his parents, and by reference, to Dora and Thersie.

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"CAPTAIN" PARKER by Barry Smith (Truro)

In an article entitled "Rosewarne, The Parkers and The Lewises", which appeared in the Kilvert Society Newsletter for September, 1984, I outlined what was currently known about the jovial and rumbustious "Captain" Parker, whom Kilvert met in Cornwall in July, 1870, and who emerges as a memorable character in the Cornish section of "Kilvert's Diary".

Several people subsequently asked what manner of "Captain" Parker had been, since so little seemed known of his actual career. The fact, however, was that at the time the article was written, it had proved impossible to resolve the problem of Parker's career, before his appearance on the scene at Rosewarne House, in Camborne, Cornwall, around 1864. A little new information has now emerged and whilst it throws no new light on Kilvert himself, it may be of interest to those who seek, through the Diary, light on the world in which Kilvert lived.

Readers of the original article may remember that the "infant Clare", whom Kilvert met in the Parker household, was identified as Clare Europa Townley Parker, only daughter of Parker, whom the Census showed to have been born in "Gibraltar, Spain". A search at the General Register Office in London, has now led to the "Register of Births from Chaplains to the Forces at Stations abroad 1796 - 1880" and subsequently

to the certificate itself of the birth and baptism of the "infant Clare". Born on 12th. August, 1855, she had been baptised by the "Chaplain to the Forces at Gibraltar for Her Majesty's 3rd. Regiment of Royal Lancashire Militia", in which her father was clearly a captain.

But what, it might be asked, was the 3rd. Royal Lancashire Militia doing in Gibraltar, since the militia are often thought of as a purely local force? The Lancashire County Record Office has provided the answer and, in passing, some clues to Parker's career:-

"The militia was a force raised under the County Lieutenancy for home service in case of emergency; each district had to provide certain numbers of men by ballot. The regiments assembled yearly for training and were officered by Gentlemen of Business and Landed Gentry.

In times of national emergency the militia were embodied, i.e. to serve full time, and moved from their home districts to replace the regular regiments ordered overseas. Six regiments of Lancashire militia were embodied in 1854 - 55 during which years Britain was engaged in the Crimean War with Russia. As the war progressed more troops were used from garrisons in the Mediterranean and for the first time militia regiments from home were sent out to replace them.

The 3rd. Royal Lancashire Militia was based at Preston and was embodied there on the 27th. December 1854; embarked at Liverpool for Gibraltar on the 29th. June 1855, it returned to Liverpool on the 16th. June 1856 and was disembodied on the 8th. July, following.

Captain Frederick Townley Parker was commissioned in the 3rd. R.L.M. 10th. March 1853, promoted to Captain 16th. April, 1855. He was still in the regiment in March 1862 but is not shown in the Army List for September 1869 and from the few militia lists we have in this Office I am not able to ascertain his date of leaving".

Readers of the original article may also recall that Parker was married on 9th. November, 1854, to Louisa Elizabeth Katherine Little in the church of Llanvair Kilgeddin, County Monmouth. Since this was only a few weeks before his militia was "embodied", it may well be that Parker arranged the timing of the wedding in the knowledge that he might shortly thereafter be posted overseas. Certainly, his disappearance from the service lists coincides with his appearance in Cornwall around 1864, where as manager of the estate of the "insane" Hartleys (by appointment of the Court of Chancery), he was to meet Kilvert but a few years later.

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