

All good wishes
Edw.

THE KILVERT SOCIETY

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

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AUGUST 1992

Dear Member,

This letter must begin with some account of the Kilvert Festival held at Clyro, July 3rd – 6th. Sadly, it was not possible for me to participate in all the many events but I was able to visit Clyro on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons. The church was beautifully decorated, and again the large Victorian banner festival text "Enter His Gates With Praise" was hung over the doorway, festooned with ivy and other greenery. Again too, the village hall was both tearoom and museum, the refreshments delightful and the exhibits most interesting – records of 200 years of the church, with particular prominence given to Revd. Venables and Kilvert, photographs of people and places mentioned in the Diary and items of Victorian dress and leisure.

The Commemoration Service the following day took the form of Evensong as Kilvert would have celebrated it, and was conducted by the Revd. G.M. Reed, vicar of Clyro. The preacher was the Very Revd. M.C. Mayne, Dean of Westminster. He said that the Diary would be his "Desert Island" book. (I recalled that Miss Imogen Holst, daughter of the composer, had actually made it her choice). The face seen on the photograph revealed extremely little, but the Diary told all. Beyond the portrayal of village life in the 1870's, there was the revelation of a young man who found life so interesting that he wrote about it daily for nine years; of a devout Christian who made the love of God more real to men; of a warm heart which had not only compassion for the poor but also a lively sense of humour. These points were made with apt questions from the Diary. The Dean had begun his sermon by saying he had travelled nearly 400 miles in order to be at the service, not from any love of motorways, but from a deep desire to honour the memory of Kilvert. We are indeed grateful that he endured the former in order to perform the latter so ably! The Lessons were read by our President, the Lady Delia Venables-Llewelyn, and Mrs. Sheila Hooper, great granddaughter of Kilvert's sister Thersie. Tea, the usual enjoyable affair, was served by ladies of the parish in the playground of the primary school affording views which had delighted the diarist. In the unavoidable absence of our Chairman, Mrs. Lockwood read an extract from the Diary, an oblique reference to the standing of our preacher (the visit to Westminster Abbey – 25th January 1870).

As for other events during the Festival weekend, I had a glowing report of the Vicar's minibus tour of the Parish, of "Kilvert by candlelight" in the church, of a visit to Wyeclyff in a drizzle of rain and of the Pageant presented by the children of Rhosgoch Primary School, some of whom, according to their teacher, were descended from the "Mayor of Painscastle" and the Gore family. The Vicar's booklet on the church was admired including the "tour" of the graves of people mentioned in the Diary – to my shame, I had not known that the grave of the "Old Soldier" was still identifiable! And the visit to Caemawr for a Victorian tea was for some the true highlight. The efforts of the Vicar and his helpers earn warm thanks and congratulations from all those members who were able to be present during the weekend. And now to what remains of 1992.

SEPT 4th – 6th inclusive. Whitney on Wye Festival in the church and village hall. An exhibition, "from Roman times to the present", which will include Wordsworth, his relatives the Dews and their friend Kilvert, the history of the church, railway and toll bridge, among many other interesting items.

SUNDAY, SEPT 27th. Commemoration Service at 3.00p.m. at Langley Burrell church (Wilts) by kind permission of Revd. J.A. Smith. I am delighted that the invitation to preach has been accepted by the Revd. Ralph-Bowman (late of Llanbedr). A coach will leave Hereford (opposite the Town Hall) at 12.15p.m. picking up at Ross and Monmouth. Bookings to me, please.

Yours Sincerely,
E.J.C. West (Hon. Sec.)

OBITUARY

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

Mr. H.W. Burton (Congleton) a member since 1988.

Mrs J. Williams (Oxford) a member since 1990.

A WALK TO BRITFORD

by Barry Smith, Truro

Kilvert tells us of three visits to Britford, near Salisbury, all of which are recorded in Volume 3 of the published Diary. These took place on 11th July, 1874 (pp. 49-51), 26th May, 1875 (pp. 192-193) and 25/26th August, 1875 (pp. 220-222).

Britford is a small and attractive village, apparently sequestered but almost within sight and sound of bustling Salisbury. Kilvert's interest there was his friendship with "the two Morres brothers, soldier and priest, who married the two sisters, Miss Hills of Britford Vicarage."

On Saturday, 16th May, 1992, a small but enthusiastic group of Kilvertians gathered outside Salisbury Cathedral to follow in Kilvert's footsteps – or almost. The group was led by Rev. John Day of Dorset, who conducted the walk and gave the readings, and Kenneth Clew of Surrey, who had researched the people and places. As on all three of Kilvert's recorded visits to Britford, the weather was sunny and hot and Salisbury no longer seemed the "wretched and dismal" town it had to Kilvert!

Leaving the Cathedral Close, we surveyed the Cathedral spire to check Kilvert's perception that it "seems to me to lean slightly but perceptibly". We struck out for Britford along a field path – no longer through the water-meadows, as in Kilvert's day but certainly alongside them, so that their beauty could be seen in their spring hues. At Britford bridge, the Dearlove family were waiting to welcome us!

Progressing through the village, we saw the places associated with Kilvert – the 18th century vicarage where he was entertained, Britford Moat – a charming moathouse and the striking 17th century building which Kilvert called "the picturesque old lay Rectory farm house," still attractive in its riverside location. Our end-point was the church of St. Peter.

Kilvert declared this to be "beautifully restored", referring to its restoration by the architect G.E. Street in 1873, just before his visit. We could well believe Kilvert's contention that "it is the finest church in the neighbourhood. The "two very ancient round arches opposite each other on either side of the nave," with Roman elements, which had attracted Kilvert's attention also drew ours, as well as the various memorials to the Morres family.

How had Kilvert come to know the Morres brothers? We surmised a link with the school which Kilvert's father had kept at Langley Burrell. In addition, a newspaper notice of 1862, cleverly discovered previously by Teresa Williams, told of the marriage of "the Reverend Arthur Phillip Morres, Incumbent of East Harnham, to Mary Anne, 2nd daughter of the Rev. R.H. Hill, Vicar of Britford."

Leaving the church, we surveyed the mausoleum of the Earls of Radnor, a reminder of Lord Radnor's Longford Castle which Kilvert had visited from Britford. We then headed back towards Salisbury and its ancient Cathedral. In our last reading from the Diary, Kilvert told us how "the marvellous aerial spire rose against the yellow glare like Ithuriel's spear." We saw the same! Tea in the pleasant ambience of the Cathedral tea-room rounded off a splendid trip for us.

A Note on "Ithuriel's Spear". In Milton's "Paradise Lost", Book IV, 788 et seq., Ithuriel is "one of the Cherubim, 'a strong and subtle spirit', charged by Gabriel to search for Satan in Paradise. Touched by Ithuriel's spear, which 'no falsehood can endure', the Fiend starts up in his own shape." (The Oxford Companion to English Literature). Readers of "Kilvert's Cornish Diary" (p. 113), will remember how Kilvert earlier quoted from this same book of "Paradise Lost" – "aside the Devil turned", etc!

**THE REVEREND W. JONES THOMAS of LLANTHOMAS
VICAR of LLANIGON**

by Mrs. Teresa Williams, North Wembley, Middlesex

Readers of the published Diary will know of the rather pathetic love-story of Kilvert and 'Daisy' (Fanny) Thomas, one of the daughters of the Reverend William Jones Thomas of Llanthomas. The Diary gives the impression that Kilvert thought he was too sternly treated by Fanny's father, but Kilvert had no money, and no immediate prospects of a living, and he was more than ten years older than the nineteen year old Fanny.

The Rev. Mr. Thomas seems a rather austere man simply because the published Diary gives us no personal detail. Research in contemporary newspapers report on his magisterial duties, and his name appears in numerous attendance or visitors' lists at many local church and secular functions. His obituary, (a copy of which follows later), tells us that ten minutes before his sudden death on 6th February 1886, at the age of 74, "he was in his garden."

Kilvert mentions the gardens at Llanthomas on several occasions. On 8th September 1871 (vol. 2/27-29), the grapes which Fanny gave to the diarist for a sick child, Alice Davies of Cwm Sir Hugh, were grown at Llanthomas. On page 39 of volume 2, we read of Fanny's "own little garden which she had when she was a child and has still", and on Monday 6th November (vol. 2/82) Kilvert says, "I never saw such a place as Llan Thomas for roses. They are blooming now red and white as if it were summer. There is no last rose of summer at Llan Thomas."

Research in contemporary newspapers shows Fanny's father exhibited flowers, fruit and vegetables at local horticultural events. Obviously, he employed gardeners, but his exhibits from Llanthomas gardens and glasshouses did win prizes. At the Hay Horticultural Show of 1872 (fully reported in **The Hereford Times**, for Saturday the 31st August), he won three First and Second prizes, in the class for Amateurs for bunches of white grapes, black grapes, a dish of six outdoor fruits, and peaches. In the Open class for gentlemen "employing the occasional gardener", he won a First for twelve Tripoli onions, whilst his gardener won a Second prize for six foliage and six flowering plants.

The Show took place in fine weather in a field near the Oxford Road, Hay, on Tuesday 27th August, during the last week of Kilvert's curacy at Clyro. The published Diary makes no mention of the Show, but Kilvert's name is listed amongst those attending.

The Reverend W. Jones Thomas also seems to have been interested enough in nature to write to the newspapers whenever he thought his observations would also be of interest to the public. On Sistering Tuesday, 21st March 1871, Kilvert records that he "was tired and went to bed early. At a quarter to ten it seemed to me that there was an earthquake. A low earthy roar ran along the ground, and the room bed and window shook and rattled audibly, though slightly. I wonder if any one else noticed it." Fanny's father obviously did and wrote to **The Times** about the happening. A cutting of his comment was included in the Diary manuscript.

On the 16th April 1866, the Rev. W. Jones Thomas wrote to **The Hereford Times**, as follows:-
(Edition of Saturday, 21st April 1866.)-

"Appearance of the Swallows" - Sir,

Some of your readers may feel interest in the fact that I am about to relate, and I send to you for insertion in the next edition of your paper, that on Thursday last, the 12th instant, I saw in this immediate neighbourhood two swallows (*hirundo rustica*) sporting themselves in midair with an apparent sense of enjoyment. I apprehend this is an early time for the appearance of those interested in vernal visitors, at any rate in our locality, notwithstanding the assertion of Garrell, who says: 'The average of many records and many seasons seem to give the 10th of April as the mean period of its arrival.' I imagine he took an average from the warmest portions of England, and not from a locality which is situated immediately beneath the Black Mountains.

Anyway, your readers who are observers of such matters can take notice, and will, perhaps, give us the result of their observations.

W. Jones Thomas
Llanthomas, Hay."

Two weeks later, **The Hereford Times**, of 5th May, 1866, reported that, "May has brought us a return of Winter."; and how the weather was affecting wild-life. It is worth quoting these details as we know from the Clyro Parish Registers that Kilvert was present during this period. (My thanks to Mr. Kenneth Clew of Tadworth, Surrey, for this information). The diarist had conducted two burials during April 1866, on the 17th and 30th, and we can be sure that he would have been interested in the Rev. Mr. Jones's letter. We also know from the published Diary (volume 1/76) that Kilvert visited Capel-y-Ffin during the month of April

1866, and it would appear from Kilvert's comparison that his visit in April 1870, on pages 80-81 of volume 1, that the weather on his first visit was very unpleasant.

The text of the newspaper weather item is as follows:-

From: THE HEREFORD TIMES, Saturday, 5th May, 1866, p.5.

"THE WEATHER - May has brought us a return of Winter. Yesterday (Friday) week was an exceptionally warm day for the season, but was followed on Saturday by a cold rain and on Sunday by biting North-east winds. On Sunday morning the Black Mountains had resumed their Winter garb of snow, the white summit of the Table Mountain showing out conspicuously in the brief bursts of sunshine. Night brought a sharp frost, which did a great deal of damage in the gardens and the nurseries. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday continued almost as cold as Sunday, the wind still keeping in the N-E, and the slight occasional showers being mainly snow. Wednesday night, however, brought a welcome change and on Thursday and yesterday the wind blew from the westward, the sun shone brightly and Spring appears to have returned. Of course, this sudden return to Winter - Tuesday being more like a day in November than the May-day of poetry - has to be a sudden check on all gardening operations which last week were universal. One of our reporters, Mr. J. STEPHENS, Fishmonger, has notified us of the effect this severe weather has had on some birds - whilst fishing in the River Wye at Holm Lacey on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, Mr. Stephens and his men observed scores of swallows lying dead along the banks of the river. So hardly pushed had the little creatures been for a place of refuge from the cold blasts, or for a milder region where the insects, their chief article of diet were more likely to be found, that they have been discovered in large numbers crouched in niches and corners of many cottages in the neighbourhood."

In August 1874, the Reverend W. Jones Thomas sent an oddly shaped cucumber to the offices of The Hereford Times. In the edition published on Saturday, 15th August 1874, the following item appeared:

"A SIAMESE TWIN CUCUMBER. A curious twin cucumber has been forwarded to us, having been grown at Llanthomas near Hay, the seat of the Reverend W. Jones Thomas. At first sight it greatly resembles the coiled serpent which forms part of the Cavendish family crest, one of the ends fairly representing the head, reared to strike, and the other, the tail of the serpent. When more closely examined the remains of a flower is seen on each extremity and two stalks can traced throughout. It is in fact two cucumbers, originally distinct, but which have been united by the process of occulation or union of the membranes which formed the skin of each. On the internal edge the membranes unite in a fold, which works the skin of the serpent, and this helps to increase the resemblance. The twin fruits seem perfectly sound and good, although a little small."

In July 1878, the Reverend W. Jones Thomas again had a letter published in The Hereford Times. The subject was of a more serious nature, an increase in Income Tax.

From: THE HEREFORD TIMES, Saturday, 20th July, 1878, p.8.

"INCOME TAX - To The Editor, Sir:- As there seems some doubt when the additional 2d. in the £. Income-tax becomes due, I send you a copy of a letter from the Solicitor of the Inland Revenue, by which it appears that the 2d. must be calculated as regards all private securities from the 5th of April, month by month, week by week; but on Government Stocks and Guaranteed Railways, a deduction of 5d. in the £. is made for the whole half-year on any payment after the said 5th April.

W JONES THOMAS

Llan Thomas, Hay. 18th July 1878."

The letter which the Reverend W. Jones Thomas received from the Inland Revenue, read as follows:-

"Solicitor's Department,
Somerset House,
LONDON, W.C.

16th July 1878

Sir: In reply to your letter of yesterday's date, I have to inform you that you appear to fall within the classes of persons mentioned in Section 15 of the Act 27 and 28, Vict., cap.18, and consequently under the provisions of that Section, the deduction at the

rate of 3d. [in the £.] up to 6th April last, and at the rate of 5d. since that date, will apply.

Yours faithfully,
D. H. MELVILLE
Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

To: The Reverend W. JONES THOMAS."

As mentioned at the beginning of this article, the Reverend William Jones Thomas died suddenly on 6th February, 1886 and his obituary read as follows:-

THE HEREFORD TIMES, Saturday, 13th February, 1886
"DEATH OF THE REVEREND W. JONES THOMAS"

We record with much regret the death of the Rev. William JONES-THOMAS, vicar of Llanigon, near Hay, and of Llanthomas, which occurred very suddenly on Saturday. Mr. Jones-Thomas had always appeared to be in robust health, and within ten minutes of his demise he was in his garden. The cause of death was 'angina pectoris.' Throughout Breconshire, Herefordshire and Radnorshire, the news of the sad event will, we are sure, occasion much sorrow, for in each of these counties, Mr. Thomas was very popular. His was a genial and hearty nature, and he will be greatly missed from the county meetings, which he attended with such regularity.

The deceased gentleman was the third son of Mr. David Thomas, J.P. and D.L. for the counties of Brecon and Radnor. He was J.P. for the counties of Hereford, Brecon, and Radnor; Chairman of Hay and Clyro Petty Sessional Divisions; Vice-Chairman of the Hay Board of Guardians. He was Gisborne Scholar of St. Peter's College, Cambridge, B.A. in 1835, and took his degree of M.A. in 1838. In 1837 he was ordained priest by the Bishop of Exeter, and was instituted Vicar of Llanigon, Breconshire in 1859. He was curate of Kilminster, Devon from 1836 to 1838; of Titley, Herefordshire from 1838 to 1843; perpetual curate of Llanelwedd, Radnorshire, from 1838 to 1846; curate of Kington from 1843 to 1847; of Presteign from 1847 to 1849; of Forden, Montgomery from 1849 to 1853; and rector of Gladestry from 1855 to 1859.

The deceased was born on the 4th December 1811, and married on the 22nd January 1839, Anne Elizabeth, the only surviving child of the Rev. John Jones, M.A. of Hereford, by Anne, his wife, daughter of Mr. Edmund Pateshall, of Allensmore Court, by whom he had eleven children. The deceased only survived his wife a year and eight months, and was buried in the same grave in Llanigon Churchyard. The deceased gentleman was the brother of Mr. Thomas, of Welfield; of the late Mr. Evan Pateshall, of Allensmore; and of the late Mr. David Thomas, of the Watton, Brecon.

The funeral took place at noon on Wednesday, and the service was performed by Rev. Canon Bevan, Vicar of Hay. The bearers were twelve in number, viz., Messrs. Davies (2), Prothero (2), Whittall, Weale, and Harley, tenants on the estates near Builth; and Messrs. Worthing, Lloyd, Thomas, Lewis and Bruntnell, tenants and woodsmen at Llanthomas. Colonel Thomas, Captain Thomas, the Misses Thomas composed the family at Llanthomas, who were present with the following relatives:- Mr. E.D. Thomas and Mrs. Thomas, Welfield; Mr. E.D. Thomas, Monmouth House, Watford, and Mr. Frank Thomas; Mr. J. Cave Jones, Locksley, Warwickshire; Mr. D.W.J. Thomas, Ely Cottage, Brecon; Mr. H.P. Powel, Castle Madoc; Mr. H. Penry, Holcombe, Essex, and Captain Longcroft of Lone, Llanarth. Dr. Williams of Talgarth, and E.A. Applebe of Hay accompanied the cortege from the house.

The following clergy were present at the churchyard:-
Revs. Thomas Williams, Jackson Taylor, T. Macfarlane, Walwyn Trumper, H.H. Gibbon, H. Griffith, A.H. Leacome, C.R. Pollock, Pollard Lewis, and J. Thomas. There were also present, among the numerous friends and acquaintances, Viscount Hereford, Mr. E.H. Greenly, Mr. Edmund Gwynne, (Chief Constable of Breconshire), Mr. F.R. Trumper, Mr. A. Battiscombe, Capt. Oldham, 4th Dragoon Guards, Mr. Elystan Lloyd, Mr. Robert Griffiths, Mr. Hamar, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Cyrus Morgan and Mr. Caleb Lloyd. Had it not been market day in Hay, it was the intention of all the tradesmen, we believe, to have been present. The funeral arrangements were under the charge of Mr. Webb, builder and Mr. Stephens, draper, Hay. The coffin was of solid oak, from a tree grown on the Llanthomas estate, and was very handsome.

It bore the inscription:

'WILLIAM JONES-THOMAS, vicar of Llanigon,
Feb. 6th, 1886. Aged 74.'

The beautiful violet pall used at the funeral was lent for the occasion by the Sisters of St. Peter's House, Kilburn.

A large number of magnificent wreaths and crosses had been sent by numerous relatives and friends, including Miss Thomas, Welfield, Builth; Miss Faltin, Welfield; Mr. Thomas, Welfield; Mr. Frank Thomas, Welfield; Miss Thomas, Ely-place, Brecon; Mr. David Thomas, Ely-cottage, Brecon; Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Thomas, Sunny Bank, Brecon; Mrs. Pateshall; Mrs. Holcombe, Miss Holcombe, Mr. Holcombe; Mrs. Bray, Allensmore Court, Hereford; Mr. and Mrs. Powel, Castle Madoc; Mrs. Budworth, Greensted Hall, Essex; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thomas, Monmouth House, Watford; Mrs. and Miss Wakefield, and Miss Kennedy, 17, Llansdowne Court, Cheltenham; Mr. and Mrs. Greenly, Titley Court; Mr. and Mrs. Frewen, Culverley Park, Tunbridge Wells; Mrs. Clarke, Puttenham Rectory, Guildford; Mrs. Ward, Folkestone; Capt. and Mrs. Longcroft, Lone, Llanarth; Mrs. Oldham, Tupsley, Hereford; Mrs. Kennedy Erskine, Albemarle St. London; Mrs. Roger Dansey, London; Capt. and Mrs. Morgan, The Byletts; Mr. and Mrs. Haigh Allen, The Priory; Canon and Mrs. Bevan, Hay Castle; Mrs. George Browne and Miss Greatorex, Cumberland Place, Regent's Park; Captain Greatorex, Hanley Court, Tenbury; the Misses Watkins, Post Office, Hay; Master Reginald Gibbon; Glanyrafon; Mr. and Mrs. Knowles, Darnhall Hall, Winsford; Mrs. Penry Lloyd, Glanhenwye, Glasbury; Miss Lewis, Celyn; and the servants at Llanthomas."

BEVAN AT THE CREASE

by John Hodkin, Cumbria

In the February 1980 Newsletter it was stated that the Revd. Henry Kearney Boldero, Rector of Grittleton from 1964 to 1900 was almost certainly the only person mentioned in both the Wisden Cricketers Almanack and Kilvert.

There is, however, one other man who is mentioned in both, none other than William Latham Bevan, Vicar of Hay for more than 50 years. I came across his entry recently while browsing through "The Wisden Book of Cricketing Lives" compiled by Benny Green, an inexhaustible feast for the cricket lover.

Wisden says of him: "The Ven. William Latham Bevan, who died at Hay on 25th August 1908, in his 87th year, was a useful player in his Rugby and Oxford days, although he did not obtain a place in either XI. In 1838 and 1839 he occasionally represented the Sixth against the School at Rugby. He was Vicar of Hay for 56 years, 1845-1900."

Wisden, incidentally, is wrong with the last date. It should have read 1901.

Bevan mentioned sport to Kilvert on Thursday, 7th April 1870 though not cricket. He told Kilvert that Cambridge won the boat race the day before.

"I am very glad, and I think most people will be, Oxford or not," wrote the magnanimous Kilvert, like Bevan an Oxford man.

It was Cambridge's first victory for many years, and they were to win four more years in a row,

KILVERT AND HEREFORD

by the Hon. Secretary

"Galopped through Hereford in a fly with a white horse and just caught the Hay train at Moorfields" (28 May 1870). This entry is one of several which suggest that Hereford was merely an essential and sometimes inconvenient junction in Kilvert's railway journeys to and from Clyro. There were then three separate stations in the town, Barton and Moorfields to the west and Barr's Court to the north-east; and it was the last of these that he would use to travel north, east and south. Moorfields was the terminus of the Midland Railway which connected Hereford with stations to Hay and Brecon. It would seem that Kilvert's journey on foot would be along Eign Street, the High Town – he records seeing "three women carrying a Jack in the Green there" – and Commercial Road, the busiest parts of the town. If the amusing account of old Mrs. Dew's adventures in the town is typical (14 May 1872), then his progress from one station to another cannot have been easy or speedy.

Hereford was, and is, the one large town in a predominantly rural area, the chief centre not only for the county but also for the eastern parts of what is now called Powys. Directories of the time indicate a great number of trades, professions and institutions there. The Diary itself reveals some of the range. Mrs. Wall buys furniture and considers sending her daughters to school there; old Mrs. Dew spends "one and a half hours at Gethin's the upholsterers"; the piano for the penny readings is hired there; Fleetwood, the veterinary surgeon, is called to advise on the dying mare; ice has to be fetched from there; felons are lodged in the County Gaol and the sick in the County Infirmary.

Kilvert records (14 July 1871) a visit to the dentist McAdam whose practice was on the south side of King Street, a stones throw from the Cathedral. (His premises now a tailor's shop). On the same day he has his hair cut by a "political barber" and then walks in the meadows at Moorfields – these, like the station itself, long gone! Elsewhere we read of Dora and her niece Florence visiting the dentist and shopping in the town.

Strangely, the Cathedral, Hereford's most famous building, gets very little mention in Plomer. Holidaying at Monnington (7 April 1875), Kilvert accompanies his brother-in-law there, for the Visitation by the Archdeacon, Lord Saye and Sele. He admires the anthem but is critical of the sermon.

"The Bevan-Dew Extracts" record that Kilvert attended two concerts at the Three Choirs Festival at the Cathedral in 1870; on the first occasion to hear a performance of Mendelssohn's "Elijah", and on the second Sullivan's "The Prodigal Son" conducted by the composer. "After the oratorios," we read, "We had four hours till the 8 o'clock train. Mrs. Frederick Dew, Miss Dew, Willy Bevan and I went to tea at Mrs. Amphlett's, Sir George Cornewall came in, and the room was overflowing with visitors, among them Mrs. Kevill-Davies and her two daughters all dressed alike in pink to look like three sisters. Mrs. Master called them 'the three Jezebels'. The mother was highly painted". (The clash of clerical black and shocking pink conjures up a colourful contrast!) "Later Captain and Mrs. Frederick Dew, Willy and I walked to Tupsley a mile or so out of the town, a pretty little country place, where they have a nice cottage." (Tupsley is now a suburb of Hereford). Kilvert walks back alone, calls at the Amphlett's, where he is given "a capital veal cutlet" and accompanies Miss Dew to Moorfields station "calling at Mrs Cheese's on the way".

(Mrs. Amphlett was a sister of Mrs. Bevan and aunt of Willy. Capt. Frederick, the youngest brother of Revd. Henry Dew, was the adjutant of the Herefordshire Volunteers, had served in the Crimea and Indian Mutiny and had, at this time, three small daughters, who, as might be expected, had found their way into Kilvert's heart. Such was the standing of the Three Choirs Festival until the second world war that parties of the wealthier would rent houses for its duration. Where Mrs Cheese, the wife of the Hay solicitor, stayed I have not been able to find out, but it seems that Mrs. Amphlett occupied one of a tall pair of narrow Georgian houses almost opposite the Town Hall).

On 28th January 1871 Kilvert returned from Langley Burrell to Clyro. "I went across Hereford from Barr's Court and deposited my luggage at Moorfields station, ate my sandwiches and then walked up to Tupsley and called on the Fredrick Dews... Waiting for a cup of coffee nearly lost my train, and I had to run a good part of the way back to the station, arriving just in time". (A distance of about a mile and a half!)

Later in the year he returns from a visit to Bockleton. "At Wooferton I got into a carriage in which was Frederick Dew... at Hereford I went up to the Poplars to see the Millers. After luncheon I left, as I had promised Frederick to run up and see them in their large handsome new house, The Crescent, above the Poplars, standing in its own grounds and fields where they can now keep cows. The house looked so grand as I approached it I thought I must have come wrong." (It still stands). The entry ends typically – he had to rush away to Barr's Court, get his luggage and take a cab to Moorfields! It would seem that though much physical energy was spent when he travelled across Hereford, nevertheless there were the pleasures of social visits.

(My thanks for various pieces of information to Mr. Philip Dawson, Mr. Basil Butcher and Mr. Kenneth Clew.)