

SALOPIAN ANNALS, IV, 1826-27

Henry Pidgeon

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2 January 1826-18 March 1827

HENRY PIDGEON

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[IMG_7690]

Salopian Annals Vol. IV A. D. 1826 Henry Pidgeon, Shrewsbury

[fo. 1r] [IMG 7691]

1826 Henry Pidgeon. Salopian Annals.

Mechanics Institution. Monday January 2nd 1826.

Mr Ogg from London gave the first of a series of lectures to the subscribers of the 'Shropshire Mechanic's Institution' in the large room at the Town Hall, on chemistry. Non subscribers and ladies were admitted by tickets from the committee.

Concerts. Mr Arnott's concerts at the theatre on the 4th and 6th January were much better attended than last year.

Mechanic's Institution.

Mr Ogg illustrated very perspicuously to the members of the Mechanic's Institution, the radiation of heat, which concluded the subject of his last lecture. This was followed by a series of scientific and beautiful experiments demonstrating the various extraordinary and astonishing powers of attraction.

The weather.

For the last fortnight the frost has been extremely severe, so much so, that the Severn admitted of a passage in a few days, on which (especially on Sunday last) were many skaiters &c. A gradual thaw commenced this evening. Tuesday 17th January. It has been the severest frost since January 1823.

Coins.

A description of early English coins said to have been found near Aberdovey and the Moat Hall, was printed in the Salopian Journal of January. H. Pidgeon.

[fo. 2r] [IMG_7692]

Memorandum. Sunday 29th January.

This being the anniversary of the day on which His Majesty George the Fourth ascended the throne of England, was observed at our different churches and by short peals on St. Julian's and St. Alkmund's bells in the afternoon.

St. Mary's.

Five new pinnacles were placed this month on Trinity Chapel, St. Mary's Church, but not much to the credit of the mason whose name is Ellis.

Accidents.

The following accidents which occurred on the *ninth* of this month ought not to be passed over unnoticed. A boy names Jones was rescued from drowning in a pool, on which he had been sliding, behind the walls south of the town, by Alderman Perry. What aggravates this case is that none of the bystanders would render assistance, his cries for help were heard by Mr Perry from the walls.

Also a *stranger* who came by the Chester coach to the Talbot Hotel was drowned by falling from the steps leading from Harwoods Wharf to the river, in rather a mysterious manner. His body was soon found, but the means used to restore animation were fruitless. From the letters found in his pocket he appears to be the Rev. Evan Jones, late curate of Nerquis [Nercwys] and Tryddyn [Treuddyn] in Flintshire, & a native of south Wales, and that he was going to publish a volume of sermons. From the evidence at the inquest it appears he was greatly in liquor, and that he had been at the Circus where his restless behaviour excited attention. He left that place and was seen with a prostitute, first on the Bridge and then near the place where the accident occurred. His remains were respectably interred in old St. Chad's cemetery on the 16th, diligent enquiry having previously been made after his friends, which appears as under*. (The statement of the accident in our newspapers is incorrect.) *The Rev. William Jones formerly assistant curate to the Rev. Howell Jones, of Nerquis, near Mold, and who had recently left that place. It appears from a letter written by the Bishop of St. Asaph and dated January 12 that he had the week before called upon him and the Bishop gave him £5 as a subscription to a small work he proposed to publish. His father David Jones [fo. 2v] [IMG_7693] resides at Penrhiwfach [Pengelli-fach], near Newcastle Emlyn, South Wales, from whom a letter 19th January, states that he officiates as minister of Troyddyn [sic] near Mold & lives with the incumbent of Troyddyn. I have seen another communication in which it states that he had been suspended by the Bishop from preaching on account of irregularity.

[fo. 3r] [IMG_7694]

High Sheriff.

John Cotes, esquire, of Woodcote is elected High Sheriff of the County of Salop for the ensuing year.

Sunday February 3rd 1826.

Rev. Joshua Marsden preached two sermons at St. John's Chapel for the benefit of the 'Good Samaritan Society.' The collections were about £16 0s. 0d.

St. Chad's.

H. Pidgeon suggested to the trustees of Saint Chad's Church, through the medium of the 'Salopian Journal' of February 15th, the propriety of enlarging the campanile windows of St. Chad's steeple, by removing the stone panels and interior brickwork at the bottom of them, to the base of the Corinthian pilasters &c see note over.

House of Industry. Tuesday February 14th.

A meeting of the Guardians of the Poor of the United Parishes took place at the House of Industry, to take into consideration a petition which was then presented, and addressed to

the Honourable the Commons in Parliament for the purpose of repealing the present Act of Incorporation of the said Guardians and of obtaining a new Act of Incorporation with other powers for a limited time; proposed by Lord Clive and the rest of the committee, which was then adopted &c.

Mechanic's Institution. Friday February.

A course of 12 lectures on the following subjects delivered to the members etc. of the Mechanic's Institution in the Town Hall, by Mr Ogg, was completed this evening:- Heat (two on), chemical attraction, electricity, galvanism, oxygen (two on), simple combustibles, geology (two on), mechanics, the steam engine.

Abbey Church. Saturday February 18th.

A light of painted glass in the lower compartment of the great window in the Abbey tower was blown out by the violence of the wind.

[fo. 3v] [IMG_7695]

St. Chad's.

In a conversation with the Rev. James Matthews he expressed his approbation of the suggestion respecting the campanile windows in the steeple of St. Chad's church, and said that the alteration proposed would be productive of the effect desired without disfiguring the structure. He further remarked that the architect of St. Chad's thought he ought to put panels under *those* windows, as had been done to the others but which he said was unnecessary to their uniformity, especially as there are no panels under the vestry windows. The suggestion also met with the approbation of the Reverends Owen and Blakeway, whose taste and judgement in architecture is unquestionable, at the same time I feel gratified by the very pleasing manner in which their sentiments were communicated to me. H. Pidgeon.

[fo. 4r] [IMG_7696]

New Chapel. Sunday February 26th.

A small building erected last summer at 'Spring Gardens' (near Marshall's Factory in the parish of Saint Mary) by Mr Thomas Brocas, the proprietor of the land and several surrounding houses, was opened for the public worship of God, when two sermons were preached on the occasion by Mr Marsden, minister of the Methodist Society in this town, to which body the founder is attached; although in a handbill put forth and addressed to the inhabitants of 'Spring Gardens' &c &c it is announced 'that such doctrines will be taught as shall be consonant with the Articles and Homilies of the Church of England.'

The building is of plain brick, *decorated* with a large wooden cross on the outside, and calculated to accommodate 120 hearers; there are a few pews, and a number of free benches for any persons who may choose to attend. As the handbill stated there were 'no collections', the chapel on the occasion was filled, and its capability thereby shewn. It is likewise to be used at certain hours as a school, on Sundays, and being situated in a populous and increasing neighbourhood at a distance of a mile from St. Mary's, the nearest church, or other place of worship, will, it is hoped, be productive of good in a part of our suburbs very dimly illuminated with Christian light.

Infirmary. Tuesday February 28th.

At a special meeting of the trustees of the Salop Infirmary, Mrs Bennett was elected matron of that institution, in the room of Mrs Williamson deceased: there were four candidates.

Miscellanea. February 3rd. Parliament opened this day by Royal Commission, being the seveneth session of the first Parliament of George Fourth.

February 8th. Mr C. A. Hulbert's Elergy at Battlefield (originally published in the 'Museum European') was printed in the Sal[opian] Journal.

February 20th. Messieurs Burd and Prichard were elected to the office of surgeons and apothecaries to the United Parishes on the resignation of Clements & Co. Mr Clement has held the situation since 1802.

[fo. 5r] [IMG_7698]

Theatre. Monday 6th March 1826.

The Theatre opened under Mr De Camp.

[fo. 5v]

Memorandum.

The theatre closed March 31st.

Slavery.

A petition for abolishing slavery in our West Indian colonies was forwarded from this town on the 9th instant, signed by 1800 signatures.

[fo. 5v]

Memorandum.

The petition against slavery was presented by P. Corbett, Esqr. on the 15th.

Rev. J. B. Blakeway. Friday March 10th 1826.

It is with the deepest sorrow that I have to record the death of the Reverend John Brickdale Blakeway, M.A., F.A.S. [sic] which took place at his residence the Council House about ½ past 5 o'clock this evening in the 61st year of his age, almost without a sigh, and nearly without losing that smile which was so peculiar to him.

Thus after a few days illness we have lost a townsman who was endued with the best qualities of our nature, whose pleasing adaptation of manners and amiable deportment, made him universally respected and rendered the honour of his acquaintance desirable. Neither the Church, nor the State, had a more faithful defender of its *rights*, or supporter of its *dignity*, nor the true *interests* of our town, a more watchful guardian.

Mr. Blakeway was the son of Joshua Blakeway, Esquire. of our town, and originally intended for the legal profession and practiced at the Bar for a short time, but in 1794, on the resignation of the Royal Peculiar of Saint Mary's by his uncle, the late Rev. Edward Blakeway, M.A. then mayor of Shrewsbury, he was presented by him in conjunction with the Head Schoolmaster to that benefice. He also succeeded on the death of his uncle in 1795 to the vicarage of Neen Savage, co. Salop and rectory of Felton in Somersetshire, and was presented in 1800 to the living of Kinlet; he resigned the two latter in 1816.

As a *scholar* and a gentleman, united with the character of a true Christian, it will be difficult to find his equal in Shrewsbury.

As a *preacher* he was admired for his forcible illustration and the valuable admonitions, clothed in the language of affection, which his discourses generally contained, whilst [fo. 6r] [IMG_7700] his devoutness in the performance of the sacred duties of the sanctuary must have impressed their importance on all who heard them. [fo. 4v] [IMG_7697] I can with truth bear testimony to his preaching, having attended his

ministry for the last 9 months.)

[fo. 6r cont.]

In his person, he was tall and stout, his face bore the line of thought, and his ample forehead bespoke the mind that dwelt within.

As an author he had written much and published little, and was known only to the world prior to 1821 by a sermon preached at St. Mary's in 1799 before two Friendly Societies and entitled 'A Warning against schism', also another in 1805 on 'The Victory at Trafalgar' entitled 'National benefits a call for national repentance'. In 1804 a few notes of his were published in Malone's edition of Boswell's Life of Johnson, under the signature of J.B.B. In 1813 he published 'An attempt to ascertain the author of the letters of Junius' which he stated to be Horne Tooke. In 1815 he published a supplement to this 'Attempt'. 1816 A sermon preached at St. Julian's at the anniversary meeting of the Salop district committee of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge entitled 'Attachment to the Church the duties of its members'. Also in the same year he published a small tract on 'Regeneration'. His name however as an author will be immortalized in the valuable 'History of Shrewsbury' which he commenced in 1820 with the Reverend Hugh Owen, and just lived to complete in two volumes.

I need not here pass any eulogy upon (as I once observed to him) *such an arduous undertaking*, it is better to be read in its own pages, but this I must state, that I am persuaded it will be highly prized by every *true* Salopian, and lover of our domestic history, for the minute detail, and great depth of research, and learning, which is manifested throughout, and which cannot fail to obtain for him and his worthy friend and colleague, the honour and gratitude of subsequent generations.

The attention and devotedness which he shewed to the antiquities of his native *county* must not be passed over un-noticed, and the valuable mass of manuscripts which he has left behind for a *History of Shropshire*, will remain a monument of his industry. [p. 6v] [IMG_7701] The literature and interests in general of Shrewsbury in the death of Mr Blakeway have sustained a loss indeed, and the writer of these remarks, an attentive friend, a friend whose name will ever be remembered with feelings of respect. There is truly a 'vacuum left in the town which will not soon be filled'. He is gone, and the place that knew him once shall know him no more for ever. But there is a melancholy pleasure in the reflection that Shrewsbury *has had such an ornament*, even though 'its glory be departed'. Yet I am proud to say, none may yet write 'Ichabod' on our Gates, for there are stars yet unset. Mr Blakeway married October 1797 Mary Elizabeth daughter of Thomas Wilkieson, Esq. of Amsterdam, by whom he had no issue. He preached his last sermon at St. Mary's with much energy on Sunday morning February 26th from 3 chapter Matthew 8th & 9th verses 'Bring forth fruits meet for repentance and think not to say within yourselves we have Abraham for our Father' and which I heard. At my suggestion Mr C. A. Hulbert has offered a few tributary lines to his memory in the Salopian Journal of March 22nd, but space will not permit me here to introduce them.

[fo. 7r] [IMG_7702]

Circus. March 11th.

The circus closed after a very successful season.

Shropshire Lent Assize. Wednesday March 15th.

The High Sheriff John Cotes, Esquire, of Woodcote accompanied by a respectable assemblage of his tenantry and friends proceeded as usual to Emstrey to meet the Judges of Assize, who arrived in town soon after 4 o'clock. On Thursday morning the Reverend W. H. Molineux, vicar of Sheriff Hales and Woodcote preached the assize sermon at Saint

Chad's church from 3 chapter Isaiah 10 and 11 verses, after which, Sir James Allan Park took his seat at the Crown and Sir William Garrown in the Nisi Prius Courts. The calendar contained the names of 46 prisoners, which were disposed of by Saturday evening, when *one* had *sentence of death* passed upon him, 12 *judgement of death* recorded against them, 2 received sentence of transportation, 12 were ordered to be imprisoned for various periods, 10 not guilty and 9 were discharged. There were 22 *causes* on the list, but none of them excited peculiar attention.

[fo. 7v] [IMG_7703]

Lent Assize.

Memorandum. Justice Park in his address to the grand jury stated 'that Shropshire is the only county in England where the practice prevails of having the depositions of the prisoners sent to the judge prior to his leaving London' and I perfectly concur with him in adding that it is on that account 'the more worthy of *notice* and commendation.'

Memorandum. A reprieve came for Rd. Greenfield who had *sentence* of death passed upon him.

[fo 7r continued]

Mr B[*lakewa*ly. Friday 17th March.

The mortal remains of Mr Blakeway were interred this morning on the site of the old almshouses, adjoining the new west entrance into St. Mary's churchyard, amidst a sorrowful assemblage of spectators, and the high esteem in which he was held by his parishioners was further manifested in closing their houses and shops and by *seventy* of them attending his remains to the 'house appointed for all living.' The service was read by the Reverend James Watkins, M.A. Curate of Saint Mary's.

A fine muffled peal was rung on St. Mary's bells at night.

Funeral Sermon, Rev. J. B. Blakeway. Sunday March 19th.

Saint Mary's Church was filled by a crowded and respectable congregation from the different parishes in the town, out of respect to the deceased, respected minister of that parish. The effect was striking, [fo. 8r] [IMG_7704] increased as it was by the attendance of the staff of the Shropshire Militia. The band on approaching the church playing the 'Dead March in Saul'. The Amateurs and Choral Society of the town also attended to perform 'Handel's Funeral Anthem', which was sung with tolerable effect, especially the last chorus 'But his name liveth evermore'. The service was read by the Reverend Edward Burton, M.A., and the Reverend John Watkins, curate of St. Mary's, preached a sermon illustrative of the life and death of Mr Blakeway, from 37 Psalm 37 verse. 'Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace', of which the following is the substance. Since I last addressed you my beloved brethren from this place, it has pleased Almighty God, in whose hands are the issues of life and death, to take to himself the life of that good, pious, and truly Christian Pastor, who for more than thirty years administered to the religious instruction of this parish, to the spiritual welfare and temporal wants of those over whom he presided, visiting the sick and relieving by his benevolence, the needy, and while he exhorted all to come unto the fountains of salvation, he warned the believer not to rest satisfied with the outward habiliments of faith, but to add to faith, virtue and to virtue knowledge and to knowledge temperance and to temperance patience and to patience Godliness. Many were the talents which he possessed, but he employed them all to the honour of God and the good of his flock. He searched the Scriptures, he looked into these Scriptures and found a perfect model of the

grace of God in the life of his son on earth; conscious of his own weakness, he supplicated the assistance of Almighty Grace. Constant in prayer, he besought his continual support. In his *closet*, he was constant and devoted; in his *family*, the sweet savour of his piety was witnessed by all. He lived in the world unspotted, avoiding its vices and vanities. Yet not removing himself from the presence of his neighbour, for he conceived himself [fo. 9r] [IMG_7705] bound by his duty to God, his neighbour and himself to exhibit an example of holiness and piety to all men. To God and himself he conceived he owed an open avowal of his faith and to exhort his neighbours to the same faith and the practice of the same piety which shewed to the world, although this was not to his own honour, but that he might encourage others to righteousness. In all things he beautifully exempli[f]ed the exhortation he recently used from this pulpit. 'Look to the end'. On all occasions he remembered that death will soon terminate the career of all men below, that the end of all things is at hand. Happy is that man who having passed the fear of death, can say with good Simeon 'Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace for mine eyes have seen thy salvation. Yes, my brethren, he who liveth the life of the righteous shall die the death of the righteous, and while his body is about to return to the earth and his spirit to God who gave it, he feels no fears, he trusts not in his own strength, but he rests on Him who is able and willing to save to the uttermost all that come to him through Christ. Conscious of his own sinfulness, he has not neglected his application of the means of salvation until nature warns him of his approaching end, nor has he to look for it when the powers of body begin to fail. He is conscious of his own weakness, but feels strong in the Lord. He has made peace with his God, he believes that the crucified Jesus is his saviour, he has partaken of that blood which was spilt for him, and has aspired to the holiness of him who shed it. He has looked to the promise of the life everlasting, sealed with the blood of Christ, and feeling the fruits of the spirit that he is born to righteousness. On the approach of the prospect of judgement and the God he has to meet, he can look upon him as a reconciled friend, conscious that he has secured his favour through the mediation of the Saviour. The veil and darkness of death is burst to him, he sees the great High Priest of his Salvation. To the good man, therefore, the approach [fo. 10r] [IMG_7706] of his immortality is a joyful anticipation; in short, the piety of the upright makes every situation easy, and all the troubles of life vanish, for the darkness of the valley is turned to light.

These consolations, so important to all, were never more forcibly exemplified than in your beloved Minister whose remains we have so lately interred. He was the upright man and the end of him was peace. He continued steadfast in the faith, the truth of which he so lately declared and so manfully avowed, as some of you will recollect. 'This is my faith, gainsay it who may'. This *faith* enabled him to pass through the Valley of the Shadow of death. Such was the end of *him* whose life was so *beloved* and whose death is so *universally regretted*, and over whose bier so many tears of affection were shed; nor ought we to be ashamed of *such grief*, since we are nowhere commanded to repress our sorrow at the departure of our Christian brethren. The dear redeemer himself wept at the grave of Lazarus, and seemed almost surprised that one whom he so dearly loved should be subject to the common lot of humanity. Thus at first we can scarcely believe the fact of death, and after the interment of our friend, we only suppose that he is gone a short journey, and will after a while return. This feeling rather strengthens than alleviates our sorrow, since we are instantly convinced of the solemn truth. That Godly sorrow however is allowed by Christianity, for although we are exhorted not to mourn, 'as those who have no hope' yet since our blessed Lord indulged the kindness of regret for *his* friend, we also are not to become insensible nor to consider the keenness of affliction, as incompatible with a Christian profession. *Abraham* we are told mourned over Sarah, and they were

pious men who wept over the body of Stephen. But while we mourn, we ought to *pray* that the Lord may *sanctify* these afflictions to our souls; whilst we look upon both sides of God's Providence as the children of [fo. 11r] [IMG_7707] Israel did on the pillar of fire by night, and the pillar of cloud by day, equally blessing him when he takes away as when he gives, and let us unite with the Apostle in saying, 'blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, even so saith the spirit for they rest from their labours.' These are words of consolation to us who lament for *one* who is gone, but it is cheering to recollect that he who raised Jesus Christ, shall also raise *him* in that great day, when all shall be changed in the twinkling of an eye 'when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality'. It therefore becomes us *all*, his relatives, friends, and former hearers 'to set out house in order' ever remembering that we must die. Let us prepare by a devout and holy life, that when we come to die, we may rejoice in the hope of the life everlasting. Had our late deceased Pastor thought that his own prophetic words were so soon to be accomplished, 'that this church should soon hear his voice no more' he would have exhorted you to lay faster hold of the mercies of the Lord, while they were at hand (at the present season) and the next Sunday being the time when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. I now exhort you, as I believe he would have done had he been alive, to the use of the divine ordinance of the Lord's supper, to be then administered and to draw near with the same *faith* and *seriousness*, as if you were to receive it no more. You will *thus* be prepared for the day of your appearing in the presence of the Lord, and should you be permitted to continue in this World, you may be more able to withstand its temptations. Go therefore to the altar of his Grace and may your portion be peace in this world, that when you are gone and are no longer seen, and to the friends that you will leave behind, as your lamented Pastor has, a wife widowed and a house desolate, you may leave a legacy of more value [fo. 12r] [IMG_7708] than the treasures of this world. The example of the upright man and that you departed in the peace of God which passeth all understanding, are gone to the presence of God, and of just men made perfect, which may God grant to be the happy lot of each of us. And to the God Father &c. &c. Amen.

Church Wardens. Tuesday March 28th.

The following gentlemen are elected church wardens for the ensuing year:

Saint Chad, Alderman Samuel Harley, Messrs. James Watkins, William Alltree and William Baker.

Saint Mary, Messrs D. Parkes, Oakley maltster, Robert Legh, Leaton and William Morris, coach maker.

St. Alkmund, Alderman Perry, Mr N. Hughes, butcher.

St. Julian, Alderman Peele, Mr John White, uphol[stere]r.

Holy Cross and St. Giles, John Linton & John Evans, gent.

Quarry.

During this month the whole of the Quarry trees were lopped.

Coleham.

A new line of road formed from Coleham Bridge towards Meole, whereby a most disagreeable turn is avoided.

Hunting.

A gentleman (and constant writer) in the 'Sporting Magazine' under the signature of 'Nimrod' has this month given an account of 'Hunting in Shropshire'. Also at a meeting held at the Lion Inn 17th March, it appears that Sir Bellingham Graham, Bart., is going to

resign the management of the Shropshire Fox Hounds, having hunted the County for three years, and that Sir Edward Smythe, William Lloyd and W. Smythe Owen, Esquires, have offered to take the management of them. W. Smythe Owen, Esqr. is appointed for the ensuing year.

Banking.

It was with much pleasure that I stated at the close of last year, the confidence placed in our town and county banking houses, and it is with as much regret that I now record the stoppage of the Ludlow and Bishop's Castle Banks, on the 27th of this month, resulting, no doubt, from the panic which the stoppage of the three Hereford banks occasioned in that neighbourhood.

[fo. 12v] [IMG_7709]

Memorandum

The stoppage of Messrs. Coleman and Wellings Banking House at Ludlow &c occasioned a sharp run on the banks in our town for eleven days.

1826, 13th March. Died at Chargot Lodge, near Dunster, co[unty] Somerset, aged 28 Harriett Rebekah Lethbridge, wife of John Hasketh Lethbridge, Esqr. eldest son of Sir Thos. Buckler Lethbridge, Bart., M.P. and only daughter of the late John Mytton, Esqr. of Halston, co. Salop.

[fo. 13r] [IMG_7710]

St. Chad's. April 2nd 1826.

Whilst ringing St. Chad's tenor bell for ch[urch] this morning the clapper broke, fortunately no accident or damage occurred.

St. Mary's. Monday April 10th.

The Reverend Hugh Owen, M.A., F.A.S., Archdeacon of Salop, Minister of St. Julian's in our town, Portionary of Bampton, co. Oxford, Prebendary of Lichfield and of Sarum, was appointed Minister & Official of the Royal Peculiar of Saint Mary's, being in the gift of the Corporation. There were three other candidates, the Reverends James Wilding, Dr John Stedman and William Vaughan. On a poll being demanded there were for Archdeacon Owen 33 and Mr Vaughan 8. The former was proposed by the Rev. Dr Butler and the latter by Alderman Kynnersley. The other candidates were out of form, proposed by John Bather, Esquire, but had no votes. It may be proper here to observe that this is the first election under the Act of 1798, when the presentation to the living was vested in the Corporation at large, having previously been in that of the Mayor and Chief Schoolmaster.

Sermons. Sunday April 16th.

Two sermons were preached at St. Chad's Church for the benefit of the Girls School and Boys Sunday School in that parish. In the morning by the Reverend William Clive, vicar of Welsh Pool and in the evening by the Rev. Henry Gwyther, M.A., vicar of Yardley. The latter gentleman preached one hour and half. The collections were £51 8s. 9d.

Roman coins.

Mr George Morris published in the Salopian Journal of the 19th instant additional accounts of Roman coins found at Wroxeter in the possession of T. F. Dukes, Esquire, H. Pidgeon and Mrs Drinkwater.

History of Shrewsbury. Friday 21st April.

Parts 10 and 11 which complete the second volume of the History of Shrewsbury were published by Messrs. W. & J. Eddowes this morning. These 2 parts had been in Salop since last December but were delayed in consequence of some repair being wanted to the plate of the 'Ottely Family'.

[fo. 14r] [IMG_7711]

St. Marys. April 21st.

The Venerable Archdeacon Owen MA was inducted to the living at St. Mary's this morning, when he held his primary visitation.

Sunday April 23rd. Mr Owen performed the whole of the morning service, and read the 39 Articles; at the conclusion of the second lesson he read his induction to the living, which was signed by William Brayne Esq. Mayor and the Rev. Dr. Butler. He preached a short but appropriate sermon from 2 chapter Titus 1 verse 'Speak thou the things which become sound doctrine'. In the course of which he thanked the parishioners for the expressions of esteem shown towards him and passed a brief and affecting eulogy in memory of their late pastor and that it should be his zealous endeavour to persevere in sound doctrine and to preach the faith as it is in Jesus with [unreadable].

Baptist Chapel.

Same day two sermons were preached at the Baptist chapel by the Rev. James Lyster of Liverpool for the benefit of the Sunday schools connected with that place. The collections amounted to £20.14s.3d. A few donations were received afterwards which will make it about £22.

St. Marys.

The cast iron palisading westward of St. Mary's church finished. Workmen have also commenced enlarging the North side of the church yard, by extending it for 7 or 8 ft. into the opposite area, the ground of which appears originally to have formed part of the cemetery, for in laying the water pipes a few years ago a considerable quantity of bones were dug up.

[fo. 14v]

St Mary's. It should have been stated on the other side that the gates leading towards the Infirmary were put up last month at the expense of the 'Committee of management' and are to afford a thoroughfare for cattle etc during fairs. The west entrance into St Mary's church opened as a thoroughfare to public worship. May 1826. H. P.

St. Julian's. The red stone basement of Saint Julian's tower repaired, by dressing and pointing the lowest portion, and covering the upper with Roman cement, and the whole afterwards coloured down; heavy mouldings have also been placed around the windows. The stone in the lowest part of this tower proved unusually hard, and appears a different quality to the soft, friable red stone, so common in most of our ancient edifices. April 24th.

Election. Friday 28th. April.

In consequence of an expected early dissolution of Parliament, Robert Aglionby Slaney Esq. of Hatton Grange commenced canvassing [fo.15r] [IMG_7713] our borough this morning. He is the son of Robert Slaney Esq. of Hatton Grange, and a nephew, by

marriage, to Joseph Mucklestone, Esquire of Prescot near Baschurch.

Mr Slaney is the author of an essay on the beneficial direction of rural expenditure. And on the employment of the poor.

[fo. 14v]

Mr Slaney published in *February 1827* a tract entitled 'Some thoughts on the wages of labour and the welfare of the working classes', price 6d. It was much ridiculed. H. P.

May 1826.

Lord Hill.

The Right Hon. Lord Hill has presented to our corporation a full length portrait of himself, painted by Sir William Beechy, and which has been hung up in the Grand Jury Room, beside that of our gallant townsman Admiral Benbow. The picture possesses life and spirit in its execution and is esteemed an excellent likeness of the illustrious Hero of Almaraz etc.

Corporation.

A meeting of the corporation on business relating to the House of Industry and to the apprenticing of poor children etc.

Wesleyan Missions.

The Shrewsbury anniversary in aid of the Wesleyan Methodist Missions was held in St. John's chapel, when two sermons were preached on Sunday May 7th., and one on the Wednesday and Thursday following, on which latter day the public meeting was held. The collections after the different services amounted to about £34.

J. T. Lloyd Esq. Friday May 12th.

The remains of John Thomas Lloyd Esquire of the Stone House, who died in London on the 4th May aged 35 years were interred in a vault on the left of the West entrance into Saint Mary's church yard.

Saint Mary's.

The body corporate attended divine service at Saint Mary's church this morning, where a sermon was preached by the Venerable Archdeacon Owen.

The annual anthem was sung at St. Chad's church in the afternoon in a very superior manner by Messrs William Hay and [fo. 16r] [IMG_7715] Richard Wisley and another, the two former are members of our 'Philharmonic Society.'

Same day. Francis Baldwin Leighton Esquire only son of General Sir Baldwin Leighton Bart of Loton Park attained his majority. The rejoicings on the occasion took place on the following day, at Alberbury and the surrounding neighbourhood, but not in the manner as was expected – hear an eye witness!

A party of friends and tradesmen to the house of Loton dined at the Raven Inn, Salop.

United Parishes.

It was determined in the early part of this month in London that the present Act for incorporating the several parishes in our town passed in the 24 George III ch. 15 be repealed, and a new Act was granted to continue the present establishment at the House of Industry at a certain rate per annum, at the same time the incorporated parishes to

contribute in the usual proportion as they have hitherto done towards the repairs and expenses of the establishment etc. etc.

Mem[orandum]. Saturday May 20th.

At a special assembly of the guardians of the poor this morning, the new Bill of incorporation (now before the House of Lords) was read and approved of, subject to such alterations as the Parliament in its wisdom might think proper to make, and the seal of the corporation was affixed thereto.

Rev. John Mayor.

Died 22nd May. The Reverend John Mayor M.A. 40 years vicar of Shawbury aged 70 years; and truly in the words of his obituary he exhibited in social and domestic life an amiable pattern of Christian virtue. He had adorned the clerical profession by the extent of his biblical learning, the soundness of his doctrine and the holiness of his life. His remains were interred at Shawbury and his pall supported by clergymen. He was presented to the living in 1781, by R. Hill Esq.

[fo. 15v] IMG_7714]

Rev. John Mayor. Two Sermons have been published on the death of Mr. Mayor, as under: May 28th 1826

‘A sermon preached in the parish church of Shawbury on the lamented death of the Rev. John Mayor, vicar of that place, who departed on the 22nd of the same month aged 71.’ By the Rev. Brian Hill, A. M. Watton. p 23. Price 1s. Romans 1 chapter 9 verse.

The sermon states, he was a man of much prayer and warm affections (p. 3) devoted to God in his youth and consistency has ever marked his conduct. He loved to search the scriptures, he explored them as a mine of wisdom and knowledge discovering therein such treasures as he deemed more valuable than all the riches of the world. He had long been indisposed and his departure was at last sudden.

‘A sermon preached in the parish church of Shawbury, June 4th 1826. On occasion of the funeral of the Rev. John Mayor vicar of that place’ by the Rev. Edward Bather M. A., vicar of Meole Brace.

The author states that the sermon was ‘not written with any view of publication, neither is it published’, but in compliance with the wishes of the surviving relatives of the deceased ‘he has printed a small impression which he puts into their hands for distribution’. 12 Hebrews 7 verse. In the course of the sermon the preacher stated that ‘five and forty years he was your minister, seeking not yours but you’ (p.4). He was a rational believer, and though naturally of a sanguine temper, no ignorant [fo. 16v] [IMG_7716] or hasty enthusiast. He was well stored in general literature, and gave attention to general science, he knew the province and the bounds of both.

He lived the gospel as well as preached it, both in his general calling as a member of society and in his special calling as a Christian minister. He had his peculiarities and no doubt his particular misconceptions and eccentricities.

This sermon from the very excellent precepts and admonitions, which it inculcates demands a more extensive circulation. Space will not allow me to make further extracts relative to the life and virtues of this Christian pastor, whose death it improves, and whose memory I doubt not will be long venerated by the parishioners of Shawbury.

[fo. 17r] [IMG_7717]

Shropshire Gazetteer. May 24th.

The Shropshire Gazetteer, completed in 30 numbers. The first number was published in Sept. 1824. Small paper 9d. large paper 1s. per copy.

Theatre.

The celebrated actress Miss Foote performed at our theatre on the evenings of May 25, 26 and 27 to the satisfaction of very crowded audiences.

Cavalry. May 25th.

The Shrewsbury Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Colonel Dallas, completed their usual term of eight days training. They were reviewed yesterday by a *Major Rogers*.

Mr. Wilding.

Died May 23rd. aged 75. Mr. James Wilding many years a schoolmaster in this town, he was the father, or *senior member* of our society of change ringers and wrote the inscriptions for St. Chad's and St. Alkmund's bells. He was interred at St. Chad's church on the 27th and a fine muffled peal was rung at St. Mary's in the evening, as a mark of respect to his memory.

Shrewsbury Show. May 29th.

The ancient pageantry of our show was conducted with the same spirit this year, as it has been for the three proceeding years. The following companies went to Kingsland in the usual order of procession, which as I detailed at length last year need not be repeated:

- The master and apprentices shoemakers
- The master and apprentices tailors
- The master and apprentices butchers
- The master and apprentices smiths
- The master and apprentices builders

and the masters of the Combrethren of saddlers, painters etc. The mayor, supported by J.C. Pelham and R. Corbett Esqs. M.P.s and several members of the body corporate with their friends, followed about an hour afterwards, and in the course of the evening visited the several companies in their respective arbours, and returned with the trades from Kingsland at ½ past 8 o'clock, and the town which is seldom the case on a show night [fo.18r] [IMG_7718] was soon quiet. It may be observed that the day was fine until 5 o'clock, when a few slight showers fell.

Primitive Methodists. Sunday June 4th.

The chapel originally built for the Sandemanian Baptists, in Castle Court, Castle Street, was opened for public worship by the Primitive Methodists, when three sermons were preached on the occasion in the course of the day; and on the following day, two more, that at night by the Rev. M. Kent, Baptist minister. The collections made after services amounted to £25. 1s. 4d.

This sect, better known by the name of '*Ranters*' first *introduced* themselves into our town in 1822, by preaching in the streets, suburbs etc. and soon afterwards hired a *malthouse* in Barker Street, which they continued to occupy until the present edifice was purchased by them.

Election. Wednesday June 7th.

Not the least idea was entertained that a *third* candidate would offer for the representation

of our borough and the following advertisement, which appeared in the Salopian Journal of this morning, seemed to hint, that the nomination, election, chairing and the *dinner*, would be comfortably settled in *one day!!!*

The friends of Mr. Slaney and Mr. Corbett intend dining at the Talbot Hotel on Friday next, to celebrate their return to Parliament; the mayor in the chair. Persons who intend to dine are requested to leave their names at the bar.

However, about eleven o'clock this morning, a considerable interest was excited, on its being rumoured that a *third candidate* had arrived, and had actually commenced, with several other gentlemen, to canvass the town; this rumour was shortly afterwards confirmed by the circulation of the following address.

To the worthy electors etc. etc.

Having been requested by a number of respectable gentlemen of the town of *Shrewsbury* to offer myself as a candidate to represent this ancient borough in [fo.19r] [IMG_7720] the ensuing parliament, I hope I shall not be thought too presumptuous when I say, that I am now here waiting the decision of your wishes, I trust I shall not be objected to for being a *thorough friend* to our *protestant constitutional* as by law established. Signed, Thomas Boycott.

Mr. Boycott is of an ancient Shropshire family, and whose ancestors once held considerable property in this borough, as well as the estate which he now possesses at Boycott, in the parish of Pontesbury: he resides at Rudge on the borders of Staffordshire, and is but little known to the generality of the inhabitants in Shrewsbury.

[fo. 18v] [IMG_7719]

The armorial bearings of Mr. Boycott are Gules, on a chief embattled argent, three hand grenades, enflamed, proper *crest* out of a mural crown gules, an armed arm, holding in the hand a grenade, enflamed, proper. *motto* Pro Rege et Religione

The original grant of these arms was made to Mr. Boycott's ancestor, Colonel Boycott of Boycott, in this county, for the very valuable services he had rendered to King Charles 1st and particularly for the large supplies of ammunition and military stores he had procured for that unfortunate monarch. (By favour of Mr. James Morris)

[fo. 19r cont.]

Thursday 8th About seven o'clock this evening the workmen and children at the factories, with a vast concourse of persons of Mr. Slaney's party, commenced parading the streets with music and a large green flag, with his armorial bearings beautifully emblazoned. This soon gathered a numerous body of Mr. Boycott's party, who having got possession of a flag, proceeded to the Talbot Hotel, and from thence began to make *their* perambulations through the town; at ½ past 9 they again assembled in front of the Talbot, when Mr. Boycott and friends appeared at the windows, and he (with the aid of a prompter) briefly addressed the multitude, and concluded by saying 'that upon his word and honour, he was so tired from going about today that he could scarcely stir from his chair, and should retire and go to bed, but they might depend upon his appearance at the hustings in the morning'.

Borough Nomination. Friday 9th.

The account of the nomination for the borough with all further particulars relative to the election I have thought advisable to postpone until the close of it.

St. Alkmund's. Sunday June 11th.

A sermon was preached this evening at Saint Alkmund's church, for the benefit of the

Moravian missions, by the Rev. H. Owen D.C.L., rector of Beccles and Endgate, and vicar of Great Reddisham, Suffolk. Collection £18 13s. 6d.

[fo. 20r] [IMG_7721]

Visitation. Monday June 12th

The Venerable Archdeacon Owen, M.A. held his visitation in the Parish Church of St. Chad, this morning; the Rev. George Burd, Curate of Middle, preached the sermon.

County Nomination. Tuesday June 14th

The nomination of two members to represent our County in Parliament took place this morning in the Shire Hall. John Cotes Esquire, High Sheriff in the Chair. The late members Sir Rowland Hill Bart, and John Cressett Pelham Esq., were again proposed, the former by Sir Andrew Corbet and seconded by E. W. S. Owen Esq., the latter by William Owen Esq (Woodhouse) seconded by the Rev. Edward Burton M.A.

General Election Shrewsbury 1826

Friday June 9th

The nomination of two members to represent our Borough in the ensuing Parliament took place in the Town Hall this morning which was crowded to excess, the usual preliminary forms having been gone through. Alderman William Cludde rose and proposed our late member, Mr Panton Corbett, which was seconded by Alderman Edward Burton. Mr Corbett returned thanks in an appropriate speech, chiefly alluding to his late Parliamentary conduct. John Mytton Esquire then proposed Robert Aglionby Slaney, Esq., which was seconded by Mr Joseph Wilson Draper. Mr Slaney then rose and in an energetic speech fully explained his sentiments. — Francis Knyvett Leighton Esq. then proposed Thomas Boycott Esq., which was seconded by Mr John Vaughan Draper, Mr B. briefly replied. The Venerable Archdeacon Corbett in a fine speech explained the Catholic Question and adverted to the favours his son had received from this Town after which the Rev. John Wilde addressed the meeting. A show of hands was then taken when the Mayor declared the greatest member to be in favour of Mr Slaney and the next greatest for Mr Corbett, on which Col Leighton on behalf of Mr Boycott, demanded a poll which was adjourned to ten o'clock the next day.

[fo. 21r] [IMG_7722]

Saturday June 10th.

The poll opened soon after 10 o'clock this morning, and continued until near 6 this evening, when the numbers stood for Mr Corbett 129, Slaney 69, Boycott 68. Mr Slaney and Mr Boycott were conveyed from the hall in chairs, the former to the Lion Inn and the latter to the Talbot, preceded by their flags, music &c. Mr Slaney from the windows of the Lion made a fine energetic speech in which he stated 'that if he were to be styled by any name it should be that of the *Tradesman's stay and the Poor Man's Friend*.' Vast quantities of people continued parading the streets until midnight vociferating the names of their favourite candidates.

Sunday appeared to be but little regarded by either party and no doubt both were anxious for Monday morning which presented a scene of activity at an early hour, several battles took place near the Market Hall in the afternoon, and about 6 o'clock owing to a flag that had been taken from Boycott's party and demolished (they having previously insulted Mr

Slaney's party whilst conveying him from the Hall) an immense concourse of persons assembled near the Market Place, when a general scuffle ensued from the Fox Inn to below the Talbot, and serious consequences were apprehended, after several broken heads, black eyes and bloody noses, had been given and received by the combatants of each party, the multitude dispersed.

Tuesday evening. Mr Slaney according to a notice issued, met a company of his friends on the Square about 8 o'clock and walked with them through some of the principal streets, preceded by a band of music, flags &c. and arrived at the Lion Inn by 10 o'clock when he and John Mytton Esquire addressed the spectators who after three hearty cheers quietly dispersed.

Wednesday evening. Several slight skirmishes took place, and it must be observed that although this election has been carried on with the greatest good humour by the respectable burgesses, more animosity scarcely ever prevailed amongst the scum of the lower orders.

[fo. 22r] [IMG_7723]

Thursday Morning. About 9 o'clock a considerable stir was created among Mr Slaney's party on its being stated that Mr Boycott had resigned, although he possessed the majority of 1. At the usual time for polling F. K. Leighton Esquire appeared on the hustings and said 'that Mr Boycott's friends in consideration of his personal interest had advised him not to prolong the contest'. The poll, however, was afterwards kept open nearly two hours for those who chose to record their votes, and after an hour had elapsed from that time, the Mayor declared Panton Corbett and Robert Aglionby Slaney, Esquires, duly elected, when they returned thanks &c &c. On coming out of the Hall they were placed in two chairs and carried to their respective inns.

State of the poll each day.

		Corbett	Slaney	Boycott
Saturday		129	69	68
Monday		257	142	144
Tuesday		432	235	239
Wednesday		505	275	275
Thursday		627	387	283

[*cancelled Majority for Mr Slaney 104*].

Friday June 16th. A circumstance will take place in our Borough this day which probably has never occurred before, viz. The chairing of the Town and County members on the same day. The town consequently at an early hour manifested an appearance of bustle, and though it was not expected that there would be much company from the country, owing to the shortness of the notice, yet by 12 o'clock, the hour appointed for the election of the county members, a vast quantity had arrived and the groups of respectable people passing towards the Castle, gave Pride Hill and Castle Street a lively appearance, whilst the scene in the foreground was considerably heightened by 'an Union Jack' floating above the trees from the summit of the watch tower on the Castle Mount.

'Where Pulteney's had flourished before.'

The two candidates who had been proposed on the 13th inst. having assembled with a respectable body of gentlemen and freeholders in the Shire Hall, proceeded, as is customary [fo. 23r] [IMG_7724] from thence to the *Castle Court*, where William Owen Esquire of Woodhouse proposed them as fit and proper persons to represent our county in the ensuing Parliament, which was seconded by Francis Blythe Harries, Esquire, on which the High Sheriff declared them duly elected, and girded on their swords. The procession returned again to the hall where the chairing immediately commenced, from thence up Pride Hill to the Castle, along St. Mary's Street, Dogpole, down High Street, Mardol, Barker Street, with Mr Pelham to Mr Cooper's, St. John's Hill, and Mr Hill along Princess Street to the Lion Inn.

The chairing of the members of our Borough commenced about 4 o'clock and was conducted in a very respectable and orderly manner, to give a full detail of the procession would very far exceed my limits, suffice it, that the arrangements of the music, banners, mottos, flags &c. was highly creditable. The banners of the incorporated companies demands a place for their briefness.

Shoe makers	True to the last
Tailors	True as a needle to the pole
Butchers	Roast beef of Old England
Smiths	Success to the Iron Trade. Rev[erse] What's truer than steel
Builders	Hearts of oak and good foundation
Sadlers	Hold fast, sit sure. Rev[erse]. What's tougher than leather.

A large assembly of respectable burgesses and friends followed, the chairs bearing favours of purple and orange, and primrose and green, the colours of the two members. The procession went the usual circuit and delivered the members at their respective inns, precisely at 7 o'clock, when about 130 friends of Mr Slaney dined with him at the Lion, to which Mr Corbett was invited.

[fo. 24r] [IMG_7726]

Holy Cross St. Giles. Saturday June 17th.

The Reverend Robert Lingen Burton, son of Edward Burton, Esquire, banker, was inducted by the Rev. W. Gorsuch Rowland to the vicarage of the Holy Cross and Saint Giles, on the resignation of his uncle, the Rev. Henry Burton, M.A. Vicar of Atcham &c.

Hay Harvest.

The hay harvest is commenced in our vicinity. The crops owing to the long continued drought, were probably never lighter, in some places it will little better than pay for the getting in. June 20th 1826.

St. Chad's Bells. Monday June 26th.

At 20 minutes past 7 a.m. Saint Chad's bells struck up a merry peal for the first time since September 1824, and which had been only rung thrice during the preceding 9 months, owing to the indisposition of Miss Pemberton who resided near the church. I should be wanting if I did not here bear witness to the great patience and forbearance of the parishioners in allowing their fine bells to remain mute for so long a period, and whose conduct on the occasion demands the warmest eulogy and though, indeed, we have much regretted their silence, we cannot but have sympathised in the protracted indisposition of the estimable lady who was the occasion thereof, but whom we have now every reason to believe is not only beyond the reach of all noise and suffering, but is enjoying the

presence of God her Saviour, having departed this life on Friday last aged 57 years. [fo. 23v] [IMG_7725] Miss Pemberton was the daughter of the late [blank] Pemberton of Wrockwardine, to which place her remains were conveyed for interment.

[fo. 24r cont]

Publick Dinner. Monday 26th.

According to an invitation given to Thomas Boycott Esquire (the unsuccessful candidate at our late election) to a public dinner at the Talbot Hotel, a respectable company of burgesses and friends on horseback and afoot assembled at Lord Hill's Column to escort him into town. He arrived there about ½ past 12 o'clock, when the horses were taken from his [fo. 25r] [IMG_7727] carriage and he was drawn through some of the principal streets preceded by several flags and a band of music. The burgesses and friends walked two and two before the carriage, whilst those on horseback followed it. The procession arrived at the Talbot about 2 o'clock, when Mr Boycott very briefly addressed his friends from the window, and at five o'clock nearly 200 sat down to an elegant dinner, consisting of every delicacy. Colonel F. Knyvett Leighton, President.

Abbey Church.

Workmen have commenced replacing the brickwork floor of the north aisle and porch in the Abbey church with flag stones. The recumbent figure within an arch at the upper end of the south aisle, *said* to represent *Earl Roger* de Montgomery has lately been elevated on a basement, whose sides are adorned with pointed arches.

Publick Dinner. Friday June 31st.

About one hundred gentlemen and tradesmen principally burgesses sat down to an excellent dinner at the Raven Inn to celebrate Mr Slaney's return to Parliament. John Mytton, Esquire, in the chair, supported by Mr Slaney and Joseph Mucklestone, Esquire, after the cloth had been removed, toast and song went merrily round, amid the greatest hilarity and in the absence of a band of music Saint Mary's bells continued sending forth their delightful melodies throughout the evening.

Coleham.

The forming of a new line of road towards Meole, having occasioned a necessary rise of the street, workmen commenced this week raising the road leading towards the Brewery, commonly called Longden Coleham, to the height of more than 4 feet, which will be a considerable improvement, not only as tending to keep it free from inundation by moderate floods, to which it was before liable, but as a preventative of many accidents in dark nights in consequence of [fo. 25r (sic)] [IMG_7729] the footpath being the aforementioned height above the carriage way

[fo. 25v] [IMG_7728]

Miscellanea. June 14th

Died at Oxon aged 58, Rev. R. Spearman, M.A. Rector of Preston, Co. Salop and of Haddenham, Co. Cambridge.

[fo. 25r bis] [IMG_7729]

St. Giles. Sunday evening July 2nd.

Divine service was (as is customary on the Sunday before July 3rd and August 12th) performed in the little church of Saint Giles, which was filled by an attentive audience. The Reverend William Gorsuch Rowland late officiating minister at the Abbey read the

prayers and illustrated very perspicuously the 6th verse of the 14 chapter of Saint John. This is the first time Mr Rowland has preached since he left the Abbey.

Pedestrianism. Monday July 3rd.

A pedestrian named Thomas Skipper walked 50 miles in 10 minutes less than 10 hours on the Quarry lower walk.

Bible Society. Wednesday July 5.

The annual meeting of the Shropshire Auxiliary Bible Society was held in the Town Hall, the Venerable Archdeacon Corbett, President. The report was read by the Reverend Thomas Weaver, one of the secretaries and stated that this Society had in the past year distributed 2376 Bibles and Testaments at an expense of £550, and also had transmitted to the parent society £500. The meeting was addressed by several clergymen, gentlemen and dissenting ministers. The address of our townsman, the Rev. William Urwick of Sligo in Ireland excited particular attention.

Good Samaritan Society. Sunday July 9th.

The annual meeting of the subscribers and friends to the 'Good Samaritan Society' was held this afternoon in St. John's chapel when the report was ordered to be printed. £1 3s. 9d was collected after the meeting at the door.

Convocation. Tuesday July 11th.

A meeting of the beneficed clergy in the archdeaconry of Salop was held in [fo. 26r] [IMG_7731] Saint Chad's church to choose two delegates to represent the whole of the clergy in the Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry in the ensuing convocation. When the Venerable Archdeacon Buckeridge D.D. Minister of Newport and the Rev. John Vane, vicar of Wroxeter were appointed.

[fo. 25v. bis] [IMG_7730]

Diocese of Lichfield and Coventry. John Mott, Esquire has resigned the office of secretary and general steward to the Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry. Philip Seckerson, Esquire of Stafford is appointed his successor. August 1826.

[fo. 26r] [IMG_7731]

Wool Fair. Wednesday July 12th.

I noticed last year that the July Wool Fair was the smallest I had ever witnessed, and have now to state that the present one was considerably less than that, presenting but little wool and that at unprecedented low prices.

Saint Julian's. Thursday July 13th.

The Venerable Archdeacon Owen, the much beloved minister of Saint Julian's parish for more than 35 years, having resigned the living in consequence of his presentation to Saint Mary's, The Rev. Frederick Iliff, M.A. Assistant master at our Royal Free Grammar School, has been on the petition of the parishioners and the recommendations of the Venerable Archdeacons Owen and Butler, appointed by the Earl of Tankerville as his successor. He was inducted this morning by his venerable predecessor after which he visited many of his parishioners and dined with a respectable company of them at the Raven and Bell Inn.

Sunday morning 16th. The Reverend Frederick Iliff, M.A. read his institution to the living

of St. Julian's and declared his assent to the Articles of the Church of England as by law established, but did not read them, after which he preached from the 34th verse of the 4 chapter of Saint John

'My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.'

From which passage he very briefly shewed the object of our blessed Saviour's coming upon earth, and that it was his meat and his drink in going from city to city to inculcate the word, though no one can come up to our Saviour in doing the good which he did, though the Christian minister cannot compel men by signs and wonders to believe, yet he may humbly *imitate* him, this [fo. 27r] [IMG_7733] so far as may be done, and is indispensable in the character of a Christian minister, it teaches him that he has an arduous part to perform. He stated that in our passage through the world we cannot avoid its ordinary pursuits (its little recreations) such a denouncement of the world would be impracticable, it may indeed be practicable in a state of paradise. It is only when the world becomes the paramount object of the affections that it is sinful, that the result does not correspond with the means of employment that man can become the better by deadening the energies of *our* nature. Alluding to ministers, he observed that more should be expected from us than from others, is but *just*, but it must be remembered that we are but men, and that we should be measured by the same standard. In confining himself to general remarks, he would rather have left truth and time to have spoken for him hereafter. He noticed the course he should pursue, craved every indulgence for his inexperience, that resolutions at the best are but vain, that the performance often falls far short of what might be expected and that among the diversity of opinions it is impossible all will be satisfied, but one thing he had *determined, how he should best satisfy his own conscience*. He thanked them for the kindness which had always been manifested towards him, and for the high station which he held amongst them, that he had prayed earnestly to God for wisdom, to guide himself in the duty of *Him* in whose service he professed to be, and that a continuance of the *Union*, which now prevailed amongst you, may always continue, so that we may finally become one fold under one shepherd Jesus Christ. It may be observed that his sermon on the present occasion (as they seldom hitherto have done) did not exceed 15 minutes.

[fo. 26v]

Memorandum. Mr Iliff married December 19th 1825 Miss Sarah Cheyne. He resigned St Julians.

[fo.27r contd]

Infirmary. Tuesday July 18th.

A numerous and very respectable meeting of the subscribers to the Salop Infirmary was held in the board room this morning to receive the report of the committee appointed on the 17th November last, to consider the necessity of giving additional means of [fo. 28r] [IMG_7734] accommodation to the Institution. William Lacon Childe, Esquire, the treasurer for the present year in the chair. The report which was read by the Viscount Clive stated that Mr Haycock had been requested to prepare plans, *First*, for the erection of a new infirmary on the present site. *Secondly*, of repairing the present edifice and adding one wing. *Thirdly*, of repairing and adding two wings thereto. *Fourthly*, for repairing the present building and offices. The expense of the *first* plan for the erection of a new Infirmary to receive 150 inpatients (being double the number to what the present one can accommodate) was estimated at £14,000, for the *second* £5,000, *third* £8,000, *fourth* £2000. After much important consultation it was resolved that another meeting should take place in the Hunt Week, and that in the mean time the report of the committee

should be circulated among the subscribers.

Shropshire Summer Assize

Wednesday July 19th.

In consequence of Mr Justice Burrough and Mr Barron Garrow being detained at Stafford, Mr Serjeant Peake arrived in town accompanied with the usual formalities, about ½ post 2 o'clock, and opened the Commission of Assize, after which he immediately proceeded to St. Chad's church, the Reverend W. H Molineux, M.A. the sheriff's chaplain, preached a sermon from 1 Samuel 2 chapter 25 verse.

Thursday morning Mr Justice Burroughs took his seat in the Crown Court and Mr Baron Garrow in the Nisi Prius. The calendar contains the names of 14 prisoners which were disposed of by Thursday evening, when *one* was left for execution, *four* had judgement of death recorded against them, *three* received sentence of transportation, *two* to be imprisoned, *three not guilty*, against *one* was no bill.

The Nisi Prius business was never heavier, these are special jury causes.

The Assizes owing to the pressure of law business did not terminate until 9 o'clock on Tuesday evening, being the longest law assize remembered, three important law cases were postponed.

[fo. 28v] [IMG_7735]

Memorandum.

Baron Garrow is particularly fond of *Shropshire Ale*, and when he comes this circuit generally stops a short time to partake of his favourite beverage at Mr Taylors of the *Hay Gate*.

[fo. 29r] [IMG_7736]

National School. Sunday morning July 23rd.

A very respectable body of the supporters of our National School on Dr Bell's System met Robert Burton, Esquire, the president at the Town Hall and proceeded from thence with the Mayor and a few members of the body corporate to the Abbey church, where an excellent sermon was preached by the Reverend Edward Burton, M.A., from [blank]. He also preached again in the afternoon at St. Julian's. The collections amounted to [blank]. The report states that the receipts ending Lady Day 1826 amounted to the sum of £440 16s. 10d. And the disbursements to £367 5s. 1d. leaving a balance of £73 11s. 9d. in the treasurer's hands. There are 120 boys and 105 girls in the school. This institution has for many years and still continues to derive incalculable benefit from the daily superintendence of its indefatigable secretary, the Reverend William Gorsuch Rowland, M.A.

Samaritan Society. July 29th.

The report of the 'Good Samaritan Society' published, from which it appears that £39 8s. 0d. was expended on 98 poor objects in the course of the year ending Lady Day last, 138 visits were made. The disbursements including a balance of £7 5s. 9d. due to the treasurer from last year amount to £50 16s. 3d., the receipts to £47 6s. 0½d. leaving a balance of £3 10s. 2½d. again due to him.

Miscellanea.

Married 4th July at Grinshill Rev. John Wood, M.A., head master of Shiffnal School, to Elizabeth, second daughter of the late Francis Pitt, Esquire.

Shawbury. The Rev. W. S. Marvin, M.A. was instituted to the vicarage of Shawbury on the presentation of W. Marvin Esquire of Frowlesworth, co. Leicester (by purchase from Sir Andrew Corbett, Bart.).

Died July 27th aged 52 Mr John Straphun, the Column in honour of Lord Hill was built under his superintendence.

[fo. 30r] [IMG_7737]

July.

About the middle of this month a neat tablet was placed against the east wall of the chancel of Saint Chad's church to the memory of our late worthy and esteemed vicar The following is the inscription in text capitals.

Sacred to the memory of
The Revd. Thomas Stedman, M.A.
Forty two years vicar of this parish during which period
his mind, his writings and his discourse
were with deep humility devoted
to the glory of God the happiness of mankind
and the temporal and spiritual interests of his flock
for the acceptance of his ministerial labours
he trusted alone to the all sufficient merits
and prevailing intercession of
the Great Head of the Church
who in that day when he shall give his labourers their hire
shall welcome him with
well done thou good and faithful servant. Matt. xxv, xxi

He was born December 14th 1745 and died December 5th 1825 in the 80th year of his age.

Animated with a deep sense of duty, love and gratitude, his children have erected this memorial for the best of parents.
It is placed above that of his first wife's.

[fo. 31r] [IMG_7738]

Corn Harvest. August 3rd 1826.

The extreme hot weather has considerably forwarded the ripening of the corn &c and rendered the harvest this year the *earliest* and *shortest* ever, remembered by the oldest people, indeed, the grain was frequently cut and carried on the same day, the gathering in will be *generally completed this week*. The crops of wheat, both in produce and quality are *good*, those of *barley* and *oats* are extremely light and the straw very short, peas etc are considerably worse, being parched by the heat before they came to perfection.

Execution. Saturday August 5th.

Henry Moss, aged 52, who was convicted at our late assizes of stealing two horses, the property of Mr Dicken of Waters Upton, was executed in front of our county gaol.

Ireland

I noticed last year the formation of an association at Wem in aid of the Sunday School Society in Ireland, their first anniversary meeting was held on the 2nd instant, when much

to the honour of that small place, the report stated that £71 7s. 6d. had been added to the funds of the parent society.

Saint Giles. Sunday evening August 6th.

Divine service was according to custom performed in St. Giles's church. The Reverend William Gorsuch Rowland, M.A. preached an interesting sermon from the 2 chapter of Acts 42 and 43 verses, illustrative of the piety of the Primitive Christians (see notes).

St. Mary's

The Reverend John Watkins preached his farewell sermon to the parishioners of St. Mary's, of which parish he had been curate six years.

The Ranters held their annual meeting of preaching out of doors in the timber yard on the site of the Dominican Friars.

Wool Fair. Wednesday August 9th.

Our Wool Fair was less than either of those I have before noticed, which may be attributed to the extremely low price of the commodity and to a practice which is becoming general with the dealers of going round and purchasing from the farmers at their residences and to this may be added the depressed state of the *woollen manufactory*.

[fo. 32r] [IMG_7739]

Bible Society. Sunday morning August 13th.

The Reverend David Hughes, M.A. rector of Llanffyllin, preached a sermon in Saint Chad's church, for the benefit of the Shropshire Auxiliary Bible Society, from 8 chapter Isaiah 20 verse, of which the following is an abridgement.

He commenced his discourse by shewing in what manner true religion has flourished in the world, and noticed its state from the Jewish Church, to the birth of our Saviour, that the infidelity and enthusiasm which has arisen in modern times, may be attributed to *inattention* to the sacred volume and that sceptics &c are often found to have only a slight knowledge of its contents, beside the passages which they have picked out to suit their own ideas.

The divisions of the Christian world have justly been denominated a shame to its friends and a triumph to its enemies, had the Scriptures *been more read and better understood* by all denominations of Christians from the days of the Apostles, to the present time, greater peace would have prevailed in the Christian Church in the present day. How often do we behold people led away by popular preachers, who promulgate their own favourite creeds, and when the creed is once admitted, is seldom examined by 'the law and the testimony.' The conduct of Christians among heathen and Mahometan nations has frequently had a tendency to lower true religion in their eyes. Christians have been too apt to forget the precept of their divine master. 'Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you &c' and 'to let their light so shine before men that they seeing their good works may glorify their father which is in heaven.' These heathens knowing nothing of Christianity but what they learn from its professors, see not unfrequently that the religion of Christ must be a mere delusion.

Now, the British and Foreign Bible Society professes to give sanction to that sacred volume which Protestants allow to be theirs, without note or comment. This sacred volume tells us that there is but one Book, and wherever human beings dwell, our noblest efforts should be to press upon the minds of men, that 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom'. The few millions of copies of the Scriptures which have been

circulated are nothing to the wants of the people. The *operations* and *effects* of the Bible Society may be [fo. 33r] [IMG_7740] considered.

First We shall have a better informed, a better behaved community amongst ourselves, more justice, more humanity, uprightness and benevolence reigning throughout the land, there will not be that I was going to say, jangling among the higher and lower orders of society. We shall learn to be more humble before God, more contented in our station in life, more grateful for mercies and favours, better prepared for death and more sure of immortal glory in the other world.

Secondly, we shall have more peace and harmony and good will among the various denominations which inhabit this country. It will teach us what are the essentials and the non-essentials of the Kingdom of God, and that they are not to be obtained by this, or by that preacher. *Thirdly*. We shall find (and we now begin to see it) that our sailors, soldiers and merchant seamen, by perusing their Bibles, learn to conduct themselves in their intercourse with other nations worthy the character of British soldiers, their inconsistent lives will not tempt the ignorant natives to ask whether there are two Gods and two Bibles?

The efforts of the British and Foreign Bible Society in translating the Holy Scriptures, will be used under the influence of the Holy Spirit to bring all men unto God. The Bible has already wrought wonders, and he further urged that as the Bible and the circulation of the Scriptures, had *wrought such wonders* in this kingdom, by turning many in the *dark ages* and in the *present time*, from the error of their ways, it was not improbable that by continuing to contribute *soberly*, according to your means, *similar effects might be wrought abroad*, so that 'the knowledge of the Lord might cover the earth.'

He said he should not now give a statement of the Society's funds, operations, &c that was more proper at a public meeting than from the pulpit, and which would be seen in the report, but will 'leave the cause in your hands, urging you to bear in mind that he who giveth on this day giveth *unto* the Lord and he that with-holdeth, giveth *not* unto the Lord'.

Five respectable gentlemen (three of whom are members of our 'Philharmonic Society') very handsomely volunteered [fo. 34r] [IMG_7742] their services to assist in the singing on the present occasion. They accordingly took their places in the seat in front of the organ which was first appropriated by the Trustees for the use of the singers in February last year. The congregation was unusually small as will be evident from the amount of the collection which was only £22 7s. 7½d. He preached again in the evening at Saint Alkumnd's when £11 2s. 4d. was collected, making a total of £33 9s. 11½d.

[fo. 33v.] [IMG_7741]

Memorandum. The gentlemen who have so handsomely volunteered their services to assist the singing at Saint Chad's church, severally received the following letter, which was signed by the church wardens.

We the undersigned church wardens of Saint Chad's and members of the committee for improving the choral department of the church beg to offer our thanks for your attendance and exertions during the last two Sundays and to express a wish that you will continue your services in the same good cause.

Received August 22nd 1826.

[fo. 34r contd] [IMG_7742]

Lord Liverpool. Sunday morning August 19th [corrected to 20th in pencil above]

Lord Liverpool attended divine service at Saint Chad's church. The Rev. Preston Nunn preached from [blank] chapter of St. John [blank] verse. After service the Mayor walked with him to the Talbot Hotel. The Lord Bishop of Chester who is on a visit to the Rev. Dr. Butler attended service at Saint Mary's.

Thursday August 23. The Reverend William G. Rowland was waited upon at his residence by a deputation of the parishioners of the parish of Holy Cross and St. Giles, who presented to him a splendid *silver tureen* weighing 155 ounces, which had been purchased by a subscription among the parishioners, it is inscribed as follows:

Presented
to
The Reverend William Gorsuch Rowland, M.A.
Prebendary of Lichfield
as a tribute of sincere respect
for the faithful & conscientious performance
of his ministerial duties
in the parish of Holy Cross and St. Giles in Shrewsbury
during thirty two years
and
for his unremitted and enlightened attention
to the stability and appropriate decoration
of that sacred fabric.

Such is the inscription on the tureen but it wants the addition of The Abbey Church. See note. [fo. 34v.] [IMG_7743] Memorandum. The inscription for Mr Rowland's tureen was written by the late Reverend J. B. Blakeway, the original is in the possession of Mr Rowland. HP.

[fo. 35r] [IMG_7744]

River water. August 23rd.

A requisition signed by 159 respectable inhabitants having been sent to the Mayor requesting him to convene a meeting of the inhabitants for the purpose of taking into consideration the propriety and expediency of endeavouring to obtain a more certain supply of river and spring water, which the residents in the town have been so long in want of. He appointed this morning, when a numerous body of them assembled in the Guild Hall, the Mayor in the chair, after a short discussion of the subject, the following gentlemen were appointed a committee to enquire into and ascertain 'the best mode of obtaining and providing a regular supply of conduit and river water to the inhabitants.'

The Mayor
The members for the Borough

Mr J. C. Pelham	Mr Eaton, senior
Dr. Butler	Mr S. Harley
Mr E. Burton	Mr Birch, builder
Mr F. K. Leighton	Mr Carline
Mr Pery	Mr Clement

Dr. Sacheverall

Whilst ploughing a piece of stubble at Horton Lane near this town in the spring of the year, a small brass medal was found, to which is appended a handle an inch and quarter in length. It appears to have been struck in commemoration of Dr. Sacheverall's passage through the kingdom and to have served the purpose of a 'tobacco stopper.' Around a fine head of the Doctor are the letters: H:SACH: D:D: *The reverse* has a mitre with the inscription IS: FIRM: TO: THEE: See a description of it in the *Salopian Journal* of August 23rd by H. Pidgeon.

New Mayor. August 25th.

Being the Friday after the feast of St. Bartholomy the Rev. Richard Corfield, M.A. Rector of Pitchford and of Waters Upton was elected Mayor of our Borough.

[fo. 36r] [IMG_7745]

Miscellanea

Presentations.

The Reverend Benjamin Howell assistant minister at St. James's, Ashted, was instituted by the Bishop of Hereford to the rectory of Hughely [sic], Patron the Earl of Bradford. Aug 2.

August 16. Reverend Robert Ridsdale, M.A. Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge and domestick chaplain to the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Cork and Orrery, was instituted by the Bishop of St. Asaph to the rectory of Knockin. Patron the Earl of Bradford.

August [blank] The Reverend R. Bickerstaff surrogate curate of Chirk was instituted by the Bishop of St. Asaph to the vicarage of St. Martin's, on the resignation of the Rev. J. Luxmore.

Married on the 10th August at Chetwynd, William Owen Jackson, Esquire, of the Inner Temple, London, and of Long Ashton, co. Somerset, barrister at law, to Catherine Elizabeth Bishton, eldest daughter of William Phillips, Esquire, of Chetwynd House. Aug. 22nd. At Longnor, Lieut. Col. William Hull of the 1st or Grenadier Regt. Bombay married to Mildred daughter of the Venerable Archdeacon Corbett, of Longnor Hall. At St. Chad's Reverend John Langley to Mary Emma relict of the late Henry Andrews, Esquire, College Hill, Shrewsbury.

[fo. 37r] [IMG_7746]

St. Giles.

Workmen a few days since commenced lowering the ground on the north, east and west sides of Saint Giles's church to the depth of about five feet, under the superintendence of the Reverend William Gorsuch Rowland, who informs me that he intends ceiling and repairing the interior of the chancel at his own expense. Sept. 1st 1826.

Bell Stone.

The ancient mansion called Bellstone long the residence of the family of Owen was in consequence of the death of Mrs Moyston Owen, widow of the late [blank] advertised for sale by publick auction on the 27th of last month, but was not then sold, £1840 being only offered and the reserve bidding was £3000, it having been previously valued at that sum by Mr Haycock. About eight days afterwards Mr Hazledine the last bidder at the sale purchased it by private treaty for £2500 – in the general opinion much above its value.

Church Missionary Society. Sunday morning September 10th.

The Reverend T. Thomason, senior, chaplain of the East India Company at Calcutta, preached a sermon in Saint Chad's church for the benefit of the Shropshire Church Missionary Society, from 2 chap. Joel part 28 verse 'I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh'. He commenced his discourse by observing that when we labour for the cause of missions, our great comfort is derived from the assurance that God will eventually pour out his spirit, and under all circumstances we are to take courage in compliance with the design of prophecy whilst we are assured that no hindrance can prevail against the word of God. He then affectionately noticed the recent bereavement which the Society and the Church in general had sustained in India by the loss of that zealous labourer Bishop Heber, an event which would sadden the hearts of many and he found it necessary to go to the word of prophecy for relief, but it was not his wish to begin his appeal this morning with accents of sorrow but to put him as [fo. 38r] [IMG_7747] well as ourselves in mind that God is still faithful unto us. He then proceeded to show how *this scripture* was accomplished viz. at the day of Pentecost, in the short space of thirty years the Gospel which began at Jerusalem pervaded the whole nation; thus we ought to contemplate it with a lively hope, the disciples were the beginning of that great work which was to be carried on to the end of time, and a surprising change through their efforts took place in the world. In order to see the extent of the promise in the text we must look beyond the compass of Jerusalem and view the *whole Christian world*.

In advocating the cause of the Church Missionary Society I would call your attention first to this *great promise* and shew its nature and promises. First, as to the *nature* and *operations* of this great promise (text) the spirit of God has always been poured out, but it was reserved for a greater effusion in the time of the Apostles. *The Measure* in which this great spirit was to be poured out (text) spiritual believers possess a spring of peace which is very fertilizing and refreshing. *Contemplate its effects upon the Christian churches* and here I was going to say we have entered upon an unknown field, but we have seen and felt it at home and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ has been with many of us. It may be profitable to contemplate in *what manner* we may suppose this gift will operate. First there will be a great awakening amongst us, there will be a revival of the work no doubt amongst Christians, we are dull and want a *great revival*. This revival will appear in your closets, in your social parties and in the church, many doubtless will be revived and greatly rejoice in God their Saviour, whilst the fruits of the spirit will be abundant before God. The happy effects of this outpouring of the spirit will be manifest in the ordinances of the sanctuary, we shall see the power and beauty of the Lord in the ordinances of his house, we shall then truly say 'This is the House of God and the very gate of heaven, and this leads us to advert. To the nations who know not God, on the heathen nations will this spirit be poured out, we stand amazed when we contemplate a renewed world, when it will take place is not [fo. 39r] [IMG_7748] easy to determine, but the great outpouring &c will at last take place in a way and manner not easy to determine, inconceivable at present to man. Never was there such exertions made in the world, nor such prayer for the outpouring of the spirit, and these are auspicious beginnings.

What I would intreat you to do is to compare what is now going on the world and what God has promised. Again consider the largeness of the promise, with what is going on in the world, it is he that is doing it. The Church Missionary Society is a branch of that great effort for promoting the knowledge of the Lord, and he further shewed its objects and its extents, and named the principal places where considerable good had been done, that sending out missionaries, establishing schools, erecting churches and other unavoidable outlays, required large funds, and liberal contributions. And in soliciting your aid, you will bear in mind that it is connected with the promises of Scripture, we need the outpouring of scripture, and this out pouring is promised. We know that no vegetation can

grow without the sun or the rain, and that for a crop the field must be ploughed before the seed is sown. Therefore we cannot expect great results without using the means, and can we neglect the cultivation of knowledge? He stated that he had resided in India for the last 17 years and prior to 1808 the labourers were few and the nature of the cause but little understood, but we have now every encouragement to proceed in these our labours.

It may be asked after all what has been the results? How many conversions &c have taken place? First The strong prejudices which formerly subsisted between the Europeans and natives and have now subsided, and it is difficult here to form an idea how the natives are approaching Europeans in liberality (he gave an instance of one individual giving as much as £2000). The schools exhibit great proficiency and far exceed any thing of the kind I have ever witnessed in England, though accustomed to catechise children before I left. It has often been a feast to my heart to hear the native children's answers. Prejudices ran so high ten years ago that we dare not introduce a *Gospel* into the school. [fo. 40r] [IMG_7749] Several *churches* have now been erected, and our late excellent bishop when he passed through the country confirmed more than 150 natives in one place. The *sound* of his *voice* and the *earnestness* of *his look* when he pronounced the blessing to them in their native tongue, quite astonished them and they fell to the earth in amazement. Such churches may be considered as the first fruits of a glorious harvest, but these great labours cannot be continued without your contributions and we look to you for support. I find many encouraging indications in my return to England that God is about his great work in the number of excellent institutions among all denominations of Christians, nothing then is wanting but the spirit to be poured out, let us look for this, let us pray for it and expect it and contribute towards this cause in which we are all interested, and may we all finally meet around the throne of the Lamb.

He also preached in the afternoon at Meole Church.

Tuesday 12th September. The anniversary meeting was held in the Town Hall this morning. William Cludde, Esquire, president. The report was read by the secretary the Rev. John Langley and stated that the funds of the Society were in a prosperous condition being larger than in any former year, amounting to the sum of £905 3s. 3d. of which £850 had been remitted to the parent society in London. It also noticed that this increase in the receipts arose principally from a legacy of £100 and £135 8s. in congregational collections.

The meeting was very respectably attended and highly interesting and addressed by several clergymen and our Member Mr Slaney. The collections at St. Chad's and after the meeting amounted to upwards of £43 and at Meole to £18 4s. 3d.

Market Hall. Saturday September 16th

The canopied niche and figure of an angel bearing a shield with the arms of England and France quarterly which originally stood within the chamber above the Castle Gate [fo. 41r] [IMG_7750] and subsequently on the exterior portion of the southern tower, having been removed from thence on its demolition last year, was this morning placed in the centre compartment of the window on the south east side of the Market Hall, at the suggestion of Archdeacon Owen.

St. Chad's. Sunday September 17th.

The Reverend John Langley, officiating minister at St. Chad's, generally on what is called the 'Race Sunday' (or the Sunday afterwards) sets forth to his hearers the evils which he considers attendant on the races. He did so this morning by illustrating the Christians

Race from 12 chapter of Romans [crossed out & Hebrews written in pencil above] 1 & 2 verses. Under which he observed that the apostle here alludes to the Grecian Games of which the *foot race* was the most honourable and then gave us a representation of the Christians life and duty, which is compared by the Apostle to a *race*, for which the competitors underwent the severest discipline, and so must the Christian, he must like his master, be a man of sorrows, and though he finds difficulties in his way, which are common to every believing man, yet if he desires his heavenly prize he must make his calling and election sure.

In this heavenly course every wait is to be laid a side. The idol which most easily delights us must be spared. Christians are not only to run, but to run with patience and to be followers of them who by faith and patience inherit the promise, if he wishes to obtain the crown he must endure to the end.

Have you ever entered upon your heavenly course? Have you turned your back from every desire of the world? Examine yourselves upon these points, an idol may exist in your hearts and you be ignorant of it.

This *race* admits of no half religion, it must be every thing or it will be nothing. Will a man be allured by baubles while he is striving for a crown? Choose you this day whom ye will save, if God &c &c, if Bael &c &c.

Secondly The encouragements which are offered to Christians in the performance of this duty, strength and grace are laid up for those who have faith, The Apostle says I have strength &c. The first encouragement held out is that we are compassed about says the Apostle with a cloud of witnesses. The place where the Olympic Games were celebrated is said to have contained 20,000 spectators, and would not every competitor [fo. 42r] [IMG_7751] before such an august assembly strain every nerve. What would they think of a man who would not manfully strive forward. Your beloved *Christians on earth* watch over you. *The angels* too behold you lest by any means you should dash your foot against a stone. *God* himself beholds you, he promises to make your strength perfect in your weakness. Those whom you loved here below compose this cloud of witnesses, and are perhaps now looking down to see how we conduct ourselves.

The power of faith is our second encouragement; faith is the substance of things hoped for, looking unto Jesus is to encourage us in running this race, and in looking up to our Saviour we must do so by faith. Are you complaining that you can never reach the end of your race? In this place he showed how several individuals recorded in the Old Testament overcame by faith, and that we must resign all things for the glory of God having the same application at the throne of grace.

Consider how great our encouragements are, he can and will enable us to begin and if he will enable us to begin we may cast our cares upon the wind.

Enter this race in the spirit of prayer. Life and immortality are yours if you continue to the end in well doing. The strength of Christ shall be perfect in your weakness. The conquerors in this race are not crowned with wreaths of *laurel* and of *oak* which are transient, but with a crown of Glory that fadeth not away. When you enter upon this race do it with diligence for the way to Heaven is a way of self denial, 'and he who would be a friend to the world is an enemy to God, for the friendship of the world is enmity to God.'

This last quotation is a very favourite one with Mr Langley. I have heard him make use of it many times.

Theatre. Monday September 18th.

The Theatre opened this evening under the management of Mr De Camp when Shakespeare's celebrated play of Henry 4th or 'The Battle of Shrewsbury' was performed. The handbills announce that the *interior* 'has been most tastefully decorated'. The

exterior is certainly a disgrace to the town.

[fo. 42v] [IMG_7752]

Memorandum. The Theatre closed on October 27th with a benefit for Miss Foote, she having performed the two preceding nights. The season has I believe been rather an unsuccessful one, the company was not a good one.

[fo. 43r] [IMG_7753]

Shrewsbury Races 1826

September 19th, 20th and 21st being in the third week of September were the days appointed for our annual horse races. H. Bulkely Owen, Esquire, Sir Bellingham Graham, Esquire, Stewards.

The company on the race course owing [sic] on Tuesday owing to the dampness of the ground (from the rain of the preceding day) and gloominess of the morning was not large, but on *Wednesday* and *Thursday*, particularly on the latter day, the concourse of persons was immense. The 'sport' in consequence of the strong competition excited great interest and in the general opinion of the sporting gentlemen was never better. St. John Charlton and Kynaston Mainwaring, Esquires are appointed stewards for next year.

[fo. 42v]

Memorandum. During the Race Week I observed several placards stuck upon the walls in different parts of the town of which the following may be taken as a specimen. 'The wages of sin is death.' 'For all these things God will bring thee into judgement' &c. Various reasons and cautions for not attending races &c were also privately circulated.

[fo. 43r contd]

Infirmary Meeting. Friday September 22nd.

A numerous company of subscribers and friends to the Infirmary attended William Lacon Childe, Esquire, the treasurer, to St. Chad's church, where the Reverend W. Otter, M.A., rector of Chetwynd and of Kinlet, preached a sermon from the 1 verse of the 12 Psalm.

The plates at the door were held by Lady Harriet Ashley Cooper, supported by B. F. Leighton, Esquire and Mrs St. John Charlton by Thos. Whitmore, junior, Esquire. The collection amounted to £2.

Sir C. Oakley, Bt.

Died 7th September at the Palace, Lichfield in his 76 year. Sir Charles Oakley, Bart, D.C.L. formerly governor of Madras and resident at the Abbey in our town. He was born at Forton, co. Stafford, February 16, 1751, and was the 2nd son of the Rev. W. Oakley, M.A. of Balliol College, Oxford, rector of Forton and vicar of the Holy Cross and St. Giles in Salop, by Christian, daughter of Sir Patrick Straham. He married in 1777 Helena only daughter of Robert Beatson of Killerie, Fifeshire by whom had issue 14 children, 10 of whom with his widow, survive him. Since the above was written we have heard that Henry Oakley, Esquire, second son of Sir C. O. & judge in the district of Moorshedbad, Bengal, died in the month of May last.

[fo. 42v] [from ms]

The Hon. and Rev. James Somers Cocks has been presented through the Lord Chancellor to the endowed vicarage of Neen Savage (co. Salop) in the diocese of Hereford vacant by the death of the Reverend J. B. Blakeway M. A. Sept. 1827.

[fo. 44r] [IMG_7755]

Bishop Heber. September 1826.

By advices from India at the commencement of this month we were informed that the Reverend Reginald Heber, Lord Bishop of Calcutta, departed this life at Trichinopoly on Monday April 3rd in the 43rd year of his age. Since the above time I have gleaned the following particulars relative to this truly Apostolical Bishop, whose loss to India is great indeed. Mr Heber was the second son of the Reverend Reginald Heber of Marton Hall, Yorkshire (who died January 1804 in his 76th year). He was born April 21st 1783 at Malpas and sent at the usual age to Oxford. He was first at Brazenose College, whence he was elected a fellow of All Souls. Previous to this he paid a visit to Russia. The journal of his travels in that country from copious extracts are given in Dr Clarke's great work with a compliment from that traveller. In 1801 he gained the Chancellor's prize at the university by his 'Carmen Seculare' in Latin verse. In 1805 his celebrated poem of 'Palestine' gained him the prize for English verse, and secured to him a place in the list of those who bear the proud title of English Poets. It was, as is customary, recited in the Theatre. In 1805 he produced an English essay 'The Sense of Honour' and in 1808 he took his degree of M.A. and published in 1809 a poem entitled 'Europe lines on the present war'. Also in the same year he published 'Palestine' to which he added 'The passage of the Red Sea, a fragment'. Soon after this he relinquished his fellowship and married Amelia daughter of Dr Shipley, his patrimonial preferment the rectory of Hodnet in our county, to which he had lately been presented, being of sufficient value to render a dependence upon college preferment unnecessary. In 1812 he published a small volume of poems and translations, and in 1818 he was chosen to deliver the Bampton Lecture before the University; an office which he is said to have discharged with great ability. The lectures in conformity to the directions of the founder were published the ensuing year under the title of 'The personality and office of the Christian comforter asserted and explained in a course of sermons on 16 John 7 verse.' This was his first appearance in the character of a theological writer. They are spoken of as being highly creditable to his talents and learning. In 1822 he edited the works of Jeremy Taylor, to which he prefixed a life of the bishop, which was soon afterwards published separately. In May of the same year he was chosen preacher at Lincoln's Inn.

Upon the death of Dr Middleton, the Bishopric of Calcutta was offered to Mr Heber, after much serious deliberation he accepted of the [fo. 44v] [IMG_7756] vacant see, not indeed as having a regard to its revenue, but that he might be an useful in the propagation of spiritual knowledge in a foreign land, for which he was eminently qualified. He was appointed 14 May 1823 having preached his farewell sermon to his parishioners at Hodnet on the 20th April, which was soon afterwards published. The University of Oxford conferred upon him the degree of D.D. by diploma in June. He arrived at Calcutta on the 11 of October following, and delivered his first charge on the 27th May 1824 which abundantly shewed the right spirit in which he entered upon his office. I must not conclude this brief sketch without noticing the circumstances attending the death of Bishop Heber, whose long connection with *Shropshire* has rendered him an ornament to our county. It appears that his Lordship had recommenced his journeys into the distant parts of his diocese. He arrived at Tangore on the 25th of March. Each day till that of his departure was devoted to some public office connected with his ecclesiastical functions. On the 26th of March he gratified the native congregation at the mission chapel of Tangore (as noticed in St. Chad's at the missions sermon) by pronouncing the Benediction in the Tamul language. On the 31st March he left Tangore, and arrived at Trichinopoly the 1st of April, and on the next day (Sunday) he preached twice. On Monday April 3rd he

visited a congregation of native Christians. This day & the day previous, he complained of headache, and was unusually drowsy, but no serious apprehensions by himself or his friends. On his return from his visit, he entered a bath, as he had been accustomed, he was soon after seized with apoplexy and expired in the water. The examination of the head after death showed that the vessels were turgid. Thus indeed was he prematurely cut off in the prime of life and in the midst of his usefulness. His mental character is set forth as 'combining qualities not often found in unison. He possessed liveliness and solidity, imagination and judgement'.

September 30th 1826.

Since writing the above I have been informed that his remains were interred with every demonstration of respect on the north side of the altar of Saint John's Church at Trichinopoly.

[fo. 43v] [IMG_7754]

Oxford December 30 1827

Two theological scholarships to be called '*Bishop Heber's Church Missionary Scholarships*' are to be founded in Bishop's College, Calcutta, at the request of the committee of the Church Missionary Society; the expense of such foundation to be defrayed by that Society.

[fo. 45r] [IMG_7757]

Tailors.

Seven of the principal master tailors in our town have refused to employ those of their journeymen who belong to the 'Society of Tailors'. The journeymen have stated in a handbill published this day that 'the society is formed for the free assistance of those who are sick and who do not belong to benefit societies, and the relief of men travelling to seek employ, and that they are willing to return again to their work if they shall to meet together as formerly and not without.'

The following advert was also published in this day's Journal by the masters. *Tailors*. Journeymen tailors may meet with constant employment by applying to the undermentioned. Signed by 7 October 4th 1826.

[fo. 45v] [IMG_7758]

Memorandum.

The following advertisement appeared in the Shrewsbury Chronicle on October 6th.

To Tailors

Several good master tailors are wanting in Shrewsbury, there are *ninety* good journeyman waiting to enter on the employ of any master who will allow them the liberty of attending their club room.

Shrewsbury October 5th 1826.

Memorandum.

The Rev. J. Abbot of St. Mary's College, Oscott, preached at the opening of the Catholic chapel, Chadwell Street, Birmingham, August 4th 1823. H.P.

[fo. 45r] [IMG_7757]

Roman Catholic Chapel. Wednesday October 4th 1826.

This day was reopened the Roman Catholic Chapel near the Town Walls having been much enlarged and beautified and a spacious gallery erected by reducing the priest's

house and bringing the front (formerly obscure) to nearly the level of the street, with a porch in front and whose exterior being of stone and stucco presents a very neat appearance.

The service commenced at ten o'clock in the morning and was conducted by the Bishop (The Right Rev. Dr Walsh, v.a.) and several other priests in their full robes. After the dedication and litany and some other prayers were said in English, High Pontifical Mass to the honour of St. Francis, whose festival is kept on this day, was performed and other prayers in Latin and ceremonies with which as a Protestant I am not acquainted. A sermon was then preached by the Rev. J. Abbott from Chronicles 5 chapter.

And after expatiating on the piety of the ancient Jews in offerings and gifts to the ancient temple and the acceptability of the same to God, he urged the necessity and propriety of imitating their example. He then spoke generally of the consecration of a temple to the Most High and afterwards entered into an eloquent and learned defence of his church, endeavouring to prove that it was the *True Catholic Church* in communion with the See of Rome. He rebutted the common charges of uncharitableness, illiberality, bigotry, superstition, [fo. 46r] [IMG_7759] and idolatry. Nevertheless insisting on the infallibility of that Church which he contended could prove its descent in an unbroken series of pontiffs and fathers to Christ and that by clear and unadulterated history. Also contending that none could be saved without its communion, and appealing to miracles which 'have been and ever will continue in the church' as the evidence of its being the true Catholic and Apostolic Church, against which as Christ said the powers of Earth and Hell should not prevail and which he fearlessly asserted would not be the case and that all attempts to overthrow it would not be like the beating of the rude surges against a rock immovably fixed in the breast of the ocean.

He concluded with an exhortation to beneficence and benediction and prayer. After which a collection was made for the benefit of the Chapel and at the conclusion thereof, the mass was resumed and the Holy Host presented to the crucifix and partaken by the Bishop. The mass continued until near one o'clock supported by most excellent music and singing, and after which the parting blessing of the Bishop.

The congregation was respectable, but did not fill the chapel.

The evening service commenced soon after three o'clock when the chapel was quite full. The service was conducted by the Bishop who afterwards delivered an extempore discourse 'seated on his throne' holding all the time a large gilt crosier in his left hand. After reading the words of his text or 'motto' he said they would be found in the 2 chapter of 1 Epistles of St. Peter 12 verse.

After a brief exhortation as to the import of the words of the text, he noticed the importance of refuting the calumnies of their enemies with patience, and that it was the edifying conduct and the purity of the morals of the first Christians that made so many converts among them, and that this portion of scripture (the text) is applicable to you (the Catholics) circumstanced as you are amid the *tracts* that are circulated against you; many amiable characters doubtless oppose you from the prejudices they have imbibed against you [fo. 47r] [IMG_7760] from reading books and warnings from the pulpit. How important then is it that you should behave yourselves in persecution with all charity, seeing there are some that speak against you as evil doers. And it is to exhort you my Catholic brethren in *all charity* that I have been requested to address you, even our Lord who came from heaven was put down as one of the worst of men. The Apostles were threatened and scourged and Saint Stephen was stoned for having, as it is said, uttered blasphemies. The first Christians those *moving examples* were persecuted for their holy lives, and the great St. Austin mentions in his writings many other examples.

If you are unhappily suffering and reproached for believing, let all the Apostles

animate you, pray for your persecutors &c.

The Catholic religion forbids you to worship false idols, though every Catholic child prays in his catechism against the worshipping of relics &c yet we are often accused of worshipping Gods of wood and stone. At the name of Jesus says the Apostle, every knee shall bow, now *the crucifix presents an idea to the mind through the channel of the eye*. You may observe as it was explained to you this morning every one admires the picture of his heroic brother or sister or friend, so God being every where present is to be honoured and loved.

The Catholic religion teaches that every sin. though as clear to you as the candle of the eye, neither priest nor bishop nor Pope could absolve you from. A Catholic duly instructed in his religion allows that neither of the aforesaid, nor any power upon earth, even for millions of money, could pardon your telling an untruth.

The conditions bestowed upon you are, that you should *give alms to the poor, not money to the Pope*, that you should be in a temper of mind to visit the sick, which will eventually pour blessings upon all around you.

Though the Catholic religion recommends you to be strictly just in all your dealings, yet it is from the sacredness of an oath that prevents you from sitting in Parliament.

You are commanded by your holy religion to *exercise* the works of charity, bearing continually in mind the suffering of your redeemer, who when he was reviled, reviled not again &c. with the true Christian never seek of advancing your religion [fo. 48r] [IMG_7762] by reviling that of your enemies. When any neighbour is in distress, seek not to enquire of what is his religion, but immediately fly to his relief.

Let no threats nor allurements incline you to part with your religion, be ready to sacrifice every thing that is dear to you, be firm and steadfast. *The charity which that crucifix* (pointing to it) *preaches to you far exceeds all the tongues of eloquence*.

I am aware that many of you are forced to labour hard to get a little for yourselves and for your children, whilst many are clothed in purple and fine linen and fare sumptuously. I feel for you from the bottom of my heart and when I turn my eyes to that Kingdom, I see the way which leads it to is through the way of the Cross, blessed are the poor &c. The poorest persons chapel is equal to the richest. All earthly grandeur is passing away from you. The time will soon arrive when the veil shall be drawn aside and what is hid shall be made manifest. The difficulties of your pilgrimage, faithful disciples of the meek, charity of the beloved Jesus, will soon be over, and see that as each day brings you nearer to your grave, so it may bring you nearer unto God and to heaven, but above all cultivate Charity, it is the blessing I wish you.

The chapel is calculated to contain 300 persons, and is very elegant in its interior decorations, and the taste displayed more particularly in the decoration of the ceiling does great credit to Mr J. Carline. On the front panel of the altar (which is approached by steps) is a painting copied from *Leonardo da Vinci's* representation of the last supper, by Mr Corbett, a Salopian artist, but is not yet finished. *The altar* is surmounted by a representation of a temple with gilt pilasters &c above on a cross is suspended a bas relief figure of the crucified Saviour in compos executed by Mr J. Carline over which in a semi-circular line is inscribed 'Thus God loved the World'.

The collection in the morning amounted to £ [blank] and in the evening to £ [blank], making a total of £44 13s. 9d.

[fo. 47v] [IMG_7761]

The former altar piece in the Roman Catholic chapel was a large square of indented leather, gilt and chequered with flaming cherubs at each angle, and a 'blazing' star with the crucifix and a heart pierced with three nails in the centre.

[fo. 49r] [IMG_7764]

New Mayor. October 6th

Being the Friday after Michaelmas Day, Reverend Richard Corfield, M.A., was sworn into the office of mayor of this town and liberties for the year ensuing, on which occasion he entertained the body corporate with a cold collation. I will just mention that as it is customary in this borough for the mayor to have the privilege of presenting *one* person to the freedom of the town, Mr Corfield nominated the Hon. Thos. Kenyon as his burgess. The vicar of St. Chad's being always the mayor's chaplain, the Reverend J. E. Compson, B.A. having lately been presented by the Lord Chancellor to the living (vacant by the death of the Rev. T. Stedman, M.A.) was formally requested to accept of that office. For the further proceedings of the House, see other side.

[fo. 49v] [IMG_7765]

Memorandum.

There were 12 aldermen in their scarlet gowns which is considered a large number. HP.

St. Chad's. Saturday October 7th (3 o'clock)

The Reverend James Edward Compson B.A. curate of Shifnal was inducted by the Venerable Archdeacon Owen to the vicarage of St. Chad's in the presence of the churchwardens and parish clerk.

Sunday 8th. Mr Corfield having given an elegant breakfast to the body corporate in the Town Hall was accompanied by a numerous assembly of them, preceded by the Shropshire Band &c to St. Chad's church where the new vicar preached his introductory sermon to a crowded audience, from 1 Peter 26 chapter 13 and 14 verses.

Under which he noticed the incumbent duties of men according to their several stations, and that the *first Christians* were anxious to obey magistrates, the laws and society in general and which Scripture more particularly requires by enjoining a quiet submission to the laws of the land, at the same time, it commands us to observe that civil government is not only useful in itself, but is ordered by the Lord. He then alluded to the irreligion and profaneness which prevailed in this highly favoured land by lamenting that there are so many who know not the Lord.

Now we are assembled together according to custom to celebrate the election of a chief magistrate, whose office it is to cherish righteousness and peace, and to pray to the Lord to prosper his labours that vice and immorality [fo. 50r] [IMG_7766] may be checked. He then stated that magistrates and governors the higher their rank and authority the more their utility and that inferior officers are also useful in restraining the excesses of vice, as well as those in private stations by doing what they can to alleviate the distresses of the unfortunate.

It has been commonly said that virtue is better evinced by example than by precept. Thus Nehemiah loved his country because it was the seat of true religion; and he shewed that we have the same reason to love our country; *he* set the people a good example and his character therefore is applicable to us all and more particularly to the respectable individual who has lately been chosen as the chief magistrate of this town, and who, following the example of the Jewish ruler, will fill the 'important' office with benefit to the community and in the employment of *doing good*. He then set forth that *to do good* is the great law of nature, and for which we were sent into the world, it is the most acceptable service that we can render unto God and is a duty which he has preferred before all sacrifices, and in which we manifest our love to him and a thankfulness for his blessings whilst it shews an example of Jesus Christ and which he made the peculiar characteristic of his disciples.

To do good is a never failing source of satisfaction. It will carry us through the changing scenes of life and will support us even unto death and render us happy in the life to come.

Now we *do good* in the relative duties of life, viz. as masters of families, being kind, patient and forbidding, as husbands and wives, as parents, children, and servants. (He illustrated briefly the duty of each by a quotation from the *Ephesians*). We *do good* when we set a *good example*, let your light so shine &c. and the higher a man's light is placed, the more useful it is, for the lower order of men generally take the cast and colour of their lives from their superiors. What an opportunity then it is of *doing good* for those who are placed in important situations? And how pleasing it is to see the people growing better every day! I am persuaded none who hear me can want the ability of *doing good* in his life, *it is the aggregate of happiness and the passport to Heaven*. HP.

[fo. 50v] [IMG_7767]

October 8 Sunday afternoon, St. Chad's.

Rev. John Langley 25 Job 4 verse 'How then can man be justified with God' which he shewed to be a question for every man's consideration, to be ignorant of which was an awful ignorance, the enquiry being momentous and important.

1st. The *nature* of this enquiry, there are two parties, man and his maker, which he followed with a caution to take heed what you hear and how you hear, for it is not in man's power to justify himself, miserable and wretched are those who think doing good a passport to heaven!

2nd. He proceeded to point out the plan, how man may be justified or esteemed righteous and instances Zecharias, Elizabeth &c did not they carry about them their own justification? Is it not all that *believe* and not all that work, in casting these reflections, they understand not the word justification, who suppose that a belief will not stimulate him to all good works, then made some remarks on the 9th chapter Romans & 2nd Ephesians, and concluded by entreating his hearers to rely on the Saviour for justification and on the spirit for sanctification.

[fo. 51r] [IMG_7768]

Philharmonic Society. Tuesday October 10th.

The members composing our Philharmonic Society gave their friends a *third* treat of vocal and instrumental music in the large room at the Town Hall this evening, and which was inferior to neither of the preceding ones in point of execution and selection, if we except a little deficiency in the singing, probably owing to the resignation of Mr Onions, but this little defect was more than compensated by the great musical science displayed in the instrumental part of the performance which was certainly superior to the former concerts given by this society. The overture was played precisely at eight o'clock, and proceeded in the following order of the scheme to which I have appended a few brief remarks.

Part 1st. *Overture*. (Anacreon) Cherubini. Finely done.

Glee, three voices. 'Life's a bumper' Wainwright. Sung with life and spirit by Messrs William Hay, T. Birch, R. Wigley.

Duet. 'The Kiss of affection', *Bishop*. Mr T. Birch with Mr Davies on the piano, Mr Birch's voice owing to a cold was soft and weak, piano forte too loud.

Solo. Piano forte. *Gelinek*, played by Master G. Hay with great ease, taste and correctness.

Song. 'Friend of the brave'. *Calcott*. The accompanist was fine, adding beauty even to the words, the line 'Halt ere the close and form the dreadful line' was particularly touching,

and the conclusion of the air 'The stormy music in the drum' was grand. The whole was greatly applauded and encored. It must be observed that the trumpet by Mr. G. Hay owing to his extreme youth, was not properly filled which gave it rather a squeaking sound.

Quartet. Violins, viola and violoncello. *Pleyel.* Played as well as *dull* music could be.

Song. 'All that's bright must fade'. *Moore.* Sung by Mr. T. Birch gave little room for his best notes, music relieved monotony finely.

Glee and Chorus. 'The Owl' (from the drama of Kenilworth), *C.E. Horn.* Sung by Messrs Wm. Hay, Birch and R. Wigley, Mr. W[igley]'s voice out of tune.

Finale. (20th Sinfonia) Haydn. A *Chaos* of Melody, flute fine. Part 2

[fo. 52r] [IMG_7769]

Overture. ('Il Barbiere'). Rossini. Very elegant.

Glee. 'Forresters sound' &c. Bishop. Sung by Messrs W. Hay, Birch, Sayer and Wigley. Cheerful, quite a treat.

Ballad. 'Thou spot of earth'. Danish melody sung by Mr. Thomas Birch with real feeling, it suited his voice well, whilst every lover of the place of his nativity must have felt the force of its words, which could not fail of *raising* the flame that sparkles for his *native land*, and of bringing forward *recollections* that will doubtless continue to shine through the dimmest of revolving years bright as at their first rising.

A Divertissimo, on the piano forte (though not noticed in the scheme) was performed by Master G. Hay and excited general approbation.

Fantasia. Flute. *Nicholson*, Mr Wm. Hay. The melody of the 'Ploughboy' as a finish was the finest performance on the flute I have ever heard. The whole was deservedly applauded and encored.

Trio. 'O weep for the hour'. Irish air. Harmond Stevenson. Messrs W. Hay, Wigley and Master G. Hay. Piano forte Mr. J. Hay. In no way remarkable.

Sinfonia. Cambini (sic) Grand.

Ballad. 'Fly forward my boat'. Sir J. Stevenson. Sung by Mr W. Hay very well, but inexpressive.

Glee. Three voices 'When shall we three' from Macbeth King. Messrs Hay. Birch and Wigley. Mr W. Hay's voice here showed to much advantage.

Finale. 'Overture to Figaro'. Mozart. Which was a great exertion to the fiddle strings. The whole concluded with God save the King which was sung by the performers, doubtless with heart and voice. The evening's entertainment did not conclude until 20 minutes past 11.

[fo. 53r] [IMG_7770]

Mechanic's Institution. Tuesday October 10th.

The first general annual meeting of the Shropshire Mechanic's Institution was held in their lecture room, Castle Court at ½ past 6 this evening. Mr Slaney, M.P. for our Borough was called to the chair and opened the proceedings of the meeting by an appropriate speech. A new committee of the gentlemen was then elected on a plan suggested by Mr Hulbert. The meeting was in no way interesting. No report was read.

Water. October 10th.

At a meeting of the *committee* of the Corporation for obtaining a more certain supply of river water, &c it was represented that the proprietors of the present water works were disposed to enter into a treaty with a company for disposing of their interest in the present concern upon fair and liberal terms, provided a competent company be formed, as they can treat with, and a fund be established. It was also amongst other resolutions resolved that a company be immediately formed for supplying the inhabitants of Shrewsbury with

river water. That the capital be not above £16000 and divided into shares of £50 each. No person to be allowed to subscribe for more than 10 shares except that the proprietors of the present water works shall have the option of taking each if they think proper to the extent of 20 shares, and also the Salop Fire Office. A general meeting is appointed for Monday next.

Monday 16th. A general meeting of the *subscribers* was held in the Guild Hall this morning for forming a company for supplying the inhabitants of our town and suburbs with river water, when it was resolved (among other resolutions) that 333 shares amounting to £16,659 having been subscribed for the subscriptions be closed. At meetings the votes to be taken by shares and not by voices, that the committee treat with the proprietors of the present water works for their interest therein, and to take such other steps as shall be thought advisable to carry the proposed measure into complete effect.

Mr John Wicksteed is appointed managing clerk to the committee and to the Company. That the town clerk prepare the heads of a bill under the directions of the committee of subscribers.

This Bill passed the House of Commons with amendments at the close of May 1827 and received the royal assent on the 14th June. H.P.

[fo. 54r] [IMG_7771]

Castle. Tuesday October 17th.

The Body Corporate having received an invitation from John Cressett Pelham, Esquire, to a dinner at his residence, the Castle, about 38 of them went in procession from the Town Hall at 4 o'clock (preceded by their officers, music &c) where they sat down to a most sumptuous entertainment.

Sick Man's Friend. October 17th.

The sixteenth anniversary of the 'Sick Man's Friend and Lying in Charity' was held in the school room at Swan Hill Chapel. Rev. Thos. Weaver, president, who with the Rev. M. Kent, addressed the meeting which was numerously attended.

The report states that the cases relieved in the past year have been more numerous and the expenditure upon them larger than in any former one. In consequence of this, the balance which remained in hand at the close of last year has been absorbed, and not only so, but the charity is indebted to its treasurer in the sum of £17 2s. 4d.

Of this excessive outlay the disbursements show that beside the charge of printing the report, and an article or two of stationary (£2 9s. 6d.) not a single farthing has been spent in any other way than that which the Society contemplates. 217 cases were relieved under the care of the Sick Man's Friend at an expense of £122 12s. 6d. The Ladies who have the management of the Lying in Charity state that they have visited 87 poor married women and afforded assistance to the amount of £36 3s. 6d. besides the loan of linen &c.

The report also notices the obligations the society is under to several medical gentlemen who have employed their skill in its service. It does not however terminate its efforts in ministering to the bodily distresses of its objects, but is the means of conveying to the destitute persons visited copies of God's word, through the liberality of the Shropshire Bible Society, as well as instruction addresses &c. from the Shrewsbury Religious Tract Society, whilst every attempt at proselytism is studiously avoided, the visitors aiming to lead them to a practical improvement of their trials by 'repentance towards God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ'.

Mechanic's Institution.

The first annual report of the committee of the Mechanic's Institution published, containing remarks on the nature and prospects of the society. [fo. 55r] [IMG_7773] It further notices that 'its object is to afford to tradesmen, mechanics and workmen the means of self instruction and improvement in the arts and occupations upon which their own livelihood and much of the comfort of others depends; and also of innocent amusement when the hours of labour are over. For these purposes a collection of books is forming, consisting of the works which seem best adapted to the capacities and wants of those for whom they are destined; it now consists of 236 volumes. 18 October 1826

[fo. 54v] [IMG_7772]

Mechanic's Institution.

The report states: Donations as £231 2s. 0d. Subscriptions £111 10s. 0d. Disbursements £342 12s. 0d. Leaving a balance in the treasurer's hands of £135 19s. 7d. The *stock in hand* comprising books, apparatus and furniture is estimated at £138 3s. 10d. The expense of lectures (noticed page [blank]) and carriage of apparatus is £55 3s. 8d.

Memorandum.

At a concert of the pupils of the Royal Academy of Music in London, a ballad was introduced composed by Mr Thomas Tomlins, junior, of our town, the melody of which is said to be remarkably sweet and chaste and as a first attempt highly creditable to the composer. He also with Mudie performed on the piano forte to the satisfaction of a numerous audience. October 1826.

Memorandum.

Mr Thomas. Tomlins was in March 1827 elected organist of the High Church in Bridgnorth.

[fo. 55r contd] [IMG_7773]

Town Sessions.

On entering the Town Hall I was surprised to find it presenting more the appearance of an assize than a town sessions. Joseph Loxdale, Esquire, the deputy Recorder stated in his charge to the Grand Jury that it was the heaviest he had known during the 40 years that he had held the office.

The calendar contained the names of 17 prisoners, many of whom were for serious charges. Friday October 20th.

Bages Factory. Saturday October 21st.

The linen factory near Kingsland which belonged to the late Alderman Bage closed this evening, whereby 60 or 70 hands are deprived of employment. A Commission of Bankruptcy will be issued against his widow.

Saint Chad's. Sunday October 22nd.

The Reverend E. J. Compson, B.A. Vicar of St. Chad's went through the ceremony of reading the 39 Articles this morning. Before the sermon he offered up a short original prayer in which he implored a blessing on the congregation now assembled, and then took his text from the 2 Timothy 2 chapter, part 15 verse. 'Study to show thyself approved unto God.' Under which he noticed that these words and certain other passages in this Epistle comprised an exhortation by Paul to Timothy.

He then stated that he should explain with as much perspicuity as he was able (& verily he did do it) the office of a minister of Christ, and then alluded to the *responsibility*, the *importance* and the *difficulty* of the charge lately committed to him, and though he could [fo. 56r] [IMG_7775] not expect all in this populous and extensive parish to unite with him in doctrine, he would intreat all to consider with candour the points submitted to their consideration.

He then proceeded to show 'The office of a Christian minister.' Our divine master's commands to his disciples were 'Go preach &c.' and we as their successors are commanded to do so under certain restrictions, we are to preach the principles of faith as they were once delivered to the people, and as they now stand in the sacred scriptures, we are to rebuke vice. We are not to have men's persons in consideration but to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are not to utter no preconceived doctrines of our own, but those only which the Lord hath spoken. We are to exhort the drunkard to be sober, the Sabbath breaker to worship the Lord in his Holy Temple &c. to do which effectually we must of course be intimately acquainted with our hearers and administer according to their capacities. We are to give the most earnest heed to approve ourselves before our Master in Heaven, to promote his honour and glory and the salvation of souls and there are other important services which we must daily practice to render ourselves acceptable before him; like a husbandman our duty is to prepare the soil and labour with indefatigable zeal for the welfare of the people, we are also frequently called watchmen whose duty it is to warn the people and sound an alarm. The Holy God has thought fit to give us the title of shepherds from our Lord and Master who is the *Great Shepherd* of our souls. We lament with heartfelt concern the stumbling blocks that are in our way in the performance of our duties from the scoffs of the multitude or the slander of the enthusiasts, if then in attempting to stop this infidelity with all earnestness we are to set the danger before your eyes. We have solemnly sworn in our ordination that whether you will hear or whether you will forbear we must declare the solemn counsels of God, and may God grant that our ministry may be to the *Salvation of Souls*. [fo. 55v] [IMG_7774] Besides preaching the word of God a minister is to visit his parishioners according to the 76th canon. To visit the sick is the most arduous part of a clergyman's duty and he very feelingly set it forth as such.

[fo. 56r contd] [IMG_7776]

2. What is required of the people to give power to his word and efficacy to his ministry. They are to receive with impartiality the word delivered and to judge whether it be of God or not. Their salvation is the end of preaching the Gospel, it is not for the display of eloquence, but for the salvation of souls. It would be well if all people would recollect that God requires them to meet him in his house as one household, and may [fo. 57r] [IMG_7777] we enter his courts with praise and after having heard the word may we meditate upon it. In preaching the word offences must come, many have itching ears, many say to their minister prophecy unto us smooth things rather than terrible, others say they only give us husks instead of the pure milk of the word &c.

Let no man take offence when he hears the Gospel with plainness, it is better for men to hear the Gospel now though it makes their ears to tingle rather than to be cast into hell fire which will never be quenched. Happy is that minister when he can say in the words of his redeemer 'Not one of these which thou gavest me is lost'. On the contrary how will the negligent watchman appear? Imagination cannot conceive! It will then be published before men and angels whether we have been diligent in the performance of our duty or not.

When the people of our charge shall be called to account for the use of their talents it will be justly asked whether the blame can be laid on the minister or on yourselves. How

will the drunkard wish that he had attended to the words of sobriety and truth. If human courts of judicature impress us with solemnity what will be the feelings when we shall stand before his awful throne &c.

Memorandum. The foregoing remarks are but a *brief outline* of our ‘new vicar’s sermon.’ I am obliged to omit much through a delay in transcribing my notes which [fo. 57r] contd] [IMG_7778] would have rendered them more full and interesting. The discourse was evidently delivered with real feeling and earnestness, giving the greatest satisfaction to the congregation and has in a great measure dispersed the many doubts and prejudices which vague reports had gathered. In short, he has promised well, and we his parishioners and hearers must pray that he may receive strength from on High to aid and guide him in the arduous spiritual duties of the large and populous parish which he has to superintend and that he may be the happy instrument under the blessing of God of ‘turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,’ and of seeing in a good old age like his venerable predecessor, the blessed effects of his ministry.

[fo. 57v] [IMG_7779]

The late John Whitridge was descended on the maternal side from the illustrious Anne Askew who suffered martyrdom in the 16th century for the sake of the Protestant religion. He was the first stated minister at the Marsh Chapel, Newcastle under Lyme and founded a Sunday School in connection with that place of worship which was the first in the county of Stafford; and that soon after the introduction of those invaluable institutions by the late Robt. Raikes, Esquire, of Gloucester. In the year 1792 he was removed to Oswestry where he continued to labour as a successful minister until his decease.

[fo. 58r] [IMG_7780]

Saint Giles’s Church.

I have before had occasion to notice that workmen had commenced lowering the soil round Saint Giles’s church, which from frequent interments &c had accumulated nearly to the basement of the windows on the north side. The south side has also been further lowered, and the entrance to the church, which had for many years been by a descent of five or six steps, is now restored to its original level. The north entrance no doubt used by the lepers of the adjoining hospital, and which had probably been stopped up soon after the demolition of that building with the exception of its arched head, which has since served the purpose of a window, has been re-opened and a new door placed therein.

The general appearance of this ancient and interesting little edifice having long exhibited a most deplorable picture of damp, neglect and decay, bids fair of being restored probably beyond its present interior beauty.

In addition to the above exterior improvements which are done at the expense of the parish, the Reverend W. G. Rowland, to whose indefatigable exertions we are indebted for the appropriate and much admired decoration of our venerable Abbey church, has undertaken to repair and beautify the chancel at his own expense, and to superintend whatever repairs may be necessary to the fabric. His first measure was thoroughly to repair and ceil the roof of the chancel, which was heretofore unceiled, to re-open a small lancet window in the *north* side and a large pointed one which had long been plastered over on the south side, the latter of which he has filled with fragments of painted glass. [fo. 58r contd] [IMG_7781] The floor in front of the communion has also been lowered and more appropriate rails placed in front of the altar.

These improvements having occasioned the removal of a monumental stone in the south wall of the chancel, erected to the memory of *Walter Niccols*, brought to view a large pointed arched recess, beneath the base of which appeared a stone grave bricked

inside and on further search being made, it was found to contain the bones of two individuals which were immediately consigned again to the [fo. 58v] [IMG 7782] place from whence they were taken, and the stones placed *upon* the grave, leaving the arched recess open. The most probable conjecture is that this grave and recess from the style of its arch, was formed in the 15th century to contain the remains either of some master of the adjoining hospital, or person of distinction in the neighbourhood, but the lapse of time having destroyed all trace of its possessor, Master Niccols had interest enough to secure it as a burial place for himself and family and caused the brick work to be placed inside. The recess was probably blocked up when the stone was fixed in the wall at the close of the 17th century.

The alterations in the nave consist in levelling and repairing the floor and removing the pulpit which originally stood at the *south corner* of the arch leading into the chancel, to the south east corner of the nave, to which an elevated *reading desk*, procured from a neighbouring church has been attached. The officiating clergyman at the former one being obliged to stand on the floor, two large *pews* opposite the pulpit with one adjoining to it have been removed, further repairs and improvements will be postponed until the spring when the Reverend Gentleman under whose superintendence they are, intends embellishing the east window with stained glass and of placing the legend of Saint Giles in the lancet window on the north side, prior to which time it is to be hoped that the parishioners will come to the determination of repairing and ceiling the roof of the nave.

[fo. 59r] [IMG_7783]

Powder Plot. Sunday November 5th.

The morning was ushered in by several lively peals from Saint Mary's bells, and the service appointed for the day was observed in our several churches. Mr Marsden, the Wesleyan preacher, gave a 'flaming' sermon against the Pope and the absurdities of the Roman Catholic religion from [blank]

T. Boycott Esq. Thursday November 16th

Thomas Boycott, Esquire, was waited upon this morning at the Talbot Hotel by a deputation of his principal supporters in his late unsuccessful attempt contest for the representation of our Borough and presented by Col. F. K. Leighton with a beautiful silver epergne purchased by a subscription amongst his friends and inscribed as follows: [fo. 59r contd] [IMG_7784]

This piece of plate was presented to *Thomas Boycott* of Rudge Hall, Esquire, by his Supporters in the Town and Neighbourhood of Shrewsbury who respect the Principles of Loyalty to the King, Attachment to the Constitution of the Country and Adherence to the Protestant Ascendancy, upon which He offered himself a Candidate For the Representation of the Borough of Shrewsbury At the general Election in 1826. As a Memorial of the high Sense they entertain of that Union of Friendship, Courtesy, and Moderation which distinguished his conduct during that arduous struggle.

[fo. 60r] [IMG_7785]

Salop Infirmary

Salopian Generosity

November 16th. It was an improvement on the Epithet of 'Proud Salopians' which was given by a late contemporary writer that they are 'Proud to do good', and we need only to appeal to the number and extent of our various charitable and other institutions, schools &c so uniformly and often nobly supported for a proof that we are not undeserving the

distinction, whether it be applied to the inhabitants of the county generally, or the town in particular, but a striking instance was exhibited this day which I think puts the matter beyond doubt.

At a meeting of the subscribers to the Salop Infirmary which took place at the said infirmary this morning 'To take into consideration the report of the general committee appointed at the said general meeting in November 1825, to consider the necessity of giving additional means to accommodation to this infirmary.'

It was resolved that the present building being found confined, inconvenient and ruinous be immediately rebuilt on the site of the present edifice. Estimated cost £16,000; as there was however much disinclination on the part of the subscribers to take so large a sum from the funds of the institution, a considerable portion of which having been bequeathed for its *support*, was deemed sacred, a subscription was resolved on and commenced immediately [fo. 60r contd] [IMG_7786] when no less than £4,666 0s. 0d. was subscribed by the noblemen and gentlemen present.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese said as one means of increasing the fund for the erection of a new infirmary, he would suggest that a sermon might be preached in each of the churches throughout which the Infirmary extended its benefits.

Shrewsbury Hunt.

The members of the Shrewsbury Hunt spent the week with John Arthur Lloyd, Esquire, the president. The Theatre opened for 4 days, the ball as usual on Thursday at the Lion. The company in town until Thursday was but small. Saturday November 18th 1826.

[fo. 61r] [IMG_7787]

Coleham School. Sunday November 26th.

The sixteenth anniversary of the Shrewsbury General Sunday School was held this day, when two sermons were preached in Saint John's chapel by Mr Edward Loxdale in aid of its funds.

The report which was circulated during the past week shows that an expense of £69 12s. 2½d. has been incurred in the year ending Michaelmas 1826 of which £61 3s. 5½d. has been raised by subscriptions, collections &c leaving a balance of £8 8s. 9d due to the treasurer. It also notices that a branch Sunday school was established at the chapel in Spring Gardens in the early part of the present year.

The scholars of both the schools according to previous arrangement met in the morning in Coleham and walked from thence in procession to the above chapel. In the afternoon they were entertained at the school with 'cake' at the expense of the teachers, a warm mixture wisely called 'wine' was formerly an accompaniment, but these benevolent gentlemen in their wisdom, considering such a beverage as 'unsuitable to the day' have for the last three years dispensed with it.

The *collections* after the sermons amounted to £26 7s. 7d. [fo. 61r contd] [IMG_7788]

It may be remarked that the oldest Sunday School in Shrewsbury is that connected with Swan Hill Chapel, established early in the year 1799. About the year 1807 although there were some schools connected with the churches and governed not by gratuitous teachers, but by a master paid for his service, this was the only Sunday School. Messrs. C. & S. Hulbert then carrying on an extensive cotton factory in Coleham, commenced a Sunday School on their premises which they supported at their own expense until 1810 when its extent became troublesome and they were relieved from the weight of the burden by a subscription being opened and a committee formed and with such support and

direction, it has continued until the present day and is now (as afore stated) connected with a [fo. 62r] [IMG_7789] branch school at Spring Gardens beyond the Old Factory, Castle Foregate.

Meole Brace. Sunday 26th

A sermon was preached in the parish church of Meole Brace by the Rev. Edward Bather, M.A. vicar, in aid of the funds for rebuilding the Salop Infirmary when £28 was collected. Much credit is due to Mr. B. for the pains which he took in the preceding week of sending notices round his extensive parish.

Solar Eclipse. Wednesday November 29th.

A beautiful visible eclipse of the sun took place this morning which was particularly fine and clear for observation at this season of the year. The eastern portion of the moon's disc passed on the sun's western limb, which made the appearance of the latter similar to the moon when near her first quarter. This most remarkable phenomena in our celestial hemisphere commenced about 10 o'clock and ceased soon after twelve, when several sharp showers of rain immediately fell and continued occasionally throughout the day.

See note on the next page.

[fo. 62v] [IMG_7791]

Memorandum. It is said there will not be another eclipse of the *sun visible* in this country for another ten years. It rained *more or less* after the present one for *26 successive days*. H.P. December 31 1826.

[fo. 62r contd] [IMG_7790]

Natural History.

W. Harwood, M.D. of London gave an introductory course of lectures on the *natural history* of the animal kingdom, comprehending a survey of quadrupeds, birds and reptiles with their most remarkable extinct fossil species in the Town Hall on the mornings of November 27, 29th and 1st December. In the evenings of which days he delivered the same course to the members of our Mechanic's Institution. The lectures were attended full as well as Mr Harwood expected.

St. Mary's Church.

Workmen commenced in this month to repair and new point the north side of St. Mary's church.

[paragraph on a slip of paper in pencil, probably a bookmark, apparently lines of verse beginning 'If worth departed claims the Christian's sighs', difficult to read as very faint, not transcribed]

[fo. 63r] [IMG_7792]

November 1826.

An attempt was made at the commencement of this month to re-establish our Choral Society, but did not succeed. There seemed to be a *want of spirit* in some of the former members, otherwise the design is feasible.

Memorandum.

The landlady of a public house called the 'Thrashers' in Castle Foregate was summoned a few days ago before the magistrates for permitting some deistical wretches who occasionally met there to *roast the Bible*. The charge was very satisfactorily made by a

person in the secret, but for want of further corroboration was dismissed. It was argued that she was ignorant of the transaction having as she said purchased the Bible for her customers. H. Pigeon.

November 8.

Rev. W. T. Birds, B.A, was instituted by the Lord Bishop of Lichfield to the rectory of Preston on the Wild Moors, Co. Salop, upon the presentation of the Earl of Bradford and the other trustees of Preston Hospital.

[fo. 64r] [IMG_7793]

St. Mary's. Sunday December 10 1827 [sic]

The Venerable Archdeacon Owen, minister of Saint Mary's preached a sermon in that church in aid of the funds for rebuilding the Salop Infirmary, when £37 1s. 5d. was collected.

Sunday December 17. A sermon was preached in the Abbey Church this morning by the Rev. Robert Lingen Burton, vicar, in aid of the funds for rebuilding the Infirmary, when £19 was collected.

Catholic Chapel. Same day.

A sermon was preached in the Catholic Chapel by the Rev. Samuel Jones for the above purpose from 4 Matthew 23 verse, the collection amounted to £7 0s. 0d. The congregation did not exceed 70 individuals who paid much attention to the excellent discourse which was delivered extempore.

Mr Jones (the R. Catholic priest) is a mild, unassuming and charitable gentleman and is an ornament to the religion which he professes.

St. Julian's. St. Thomas's Day.

The annual sermon was preached at Saint Julian's church by the minister, in accordance to the legacies, after which the usual donations were given to the poor of the parish by the church wardens.

[fo. 64r contd] [IMG_7794]

St. Chad's. Sunday December 24th.

A sermon was preached in Saint Chad's church by the Rev. J. E. Compson, M.A. vicar, in aid of the funds for rebuilding our Infirmary, from 22nd Matthew 37 and following verses, under which he principally noticed charity as a Christian virtue (see notes). The collection to £44 2s. 2d. but was afterwards made up £50 8s. 7d.

Calvinistick [sic] **Methodists.** December 24.

The new chapel lately erected in Hills Lane by the Society of Calvinistick [sic] Methodists was opened for public worship when *two sermons* were preached in the Welsh language by the Reverends [fo. 65r] [IMG_7796] Elias and Griffiths. The collections amounted to upwards of £27 0s. 0d. Also on Christmas Day two sermons were preached in English, that in the morning by the Rev. M. Kent, Baptist minister. Collection upwards of £12 0s. 0d. And in the evening by the Reverend T. Weaver, Independent minister from Haggai [blank]. Collection upwards of £17 0s. 0d. making a total with the collections of yesterday of £52 17s. 0d.

The former building was erected in the year 1774 for the use of the Wesleyan Methodists, but being found ruinous and inadequate to accommodate their increasing

congregation, they removed in 1805 to a much more convenient and larger chapel erected for the purpose on St. John's Hill, when it was taken by the Welsh Calvinistick [sic] Methodists at a rent of £10 per annum.

The exterior had certainly not the appearance of a place of worship, being entered by a passage through the centre of the houses in front of the present erection and to the back of which it was attached.

The interior was low and gloomy and much disfigured by large props which had long been used as a support to the roof. There was a gallery over the entrance fitted up with benches.

The present building which is erected on a portion of its site, is very neatly fitted up and calculated to contain about 500 hearers.

The right side of the chapel is to be appropriated for the accommodation of a Sunday School, which is connected with the society and contains *seventy* adults and children. The school is supported solely at the expense of the congregation.

[fo. 64v] [IMG_7795]

Christian Liberality!

The Rev. J. Marsden in the course of his sermon this evening at St. John's chapel alluded to Mr Kent's discourse at the Welsh chapel this morning & in reference to which said 'that with the help of a good *concordance* we may be able to find out the parallel passages bearing upon this important point, (the divinity of Christ) from the beginning of the Bible to the end of it, *without much trouble or learning!*' December 25th 1826.

[fo. 66r] [IMG_7798]

Christmas Day.

The morning of Christmas Day was unusually mild and fine, and ushered in by some most beautiful and spirited peals on Saint Chad's bells by our Society of Change Ringers. A few members of the Body Corporate attended divine service in Saint Chad's church, where a sermon was preached by Mr Compson.

Primitive Methodists. Sunday December 24th.

I must not omit to state that two sermons were preached in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, Castle Court 'in aid of the fund established to support missionaries', that in the morning by a *female* named 'Hannah Farr' and in the evening by a 'W. Leigh' from Oaken Gates.

The missionary meeting was held in the same place in the evening of Christmas, a person named 'Jones' took the chair.

The collections amounted to upwards of £6 0s. 0d.

Ireland. Thursday December 29th.

The second annual meeting of the Shropshire and Shrewsbury Ladies Association Auxiliary to the Sunday School Society in Ireland, was held at the house of Richard Phayre, Esquire. See note. [fo. 65v] [IMG_7797] The patroness presided.

[fo. 66v] [IMG_7800]

1827.

Died December 1st at the rectory, Hodnet, aged 67 the Rev. Geo. Allanson, rector of Hodnet and prebendary of Ripon. He was of Brazen Nose College, Oxford, a Grand Compounder for the degree of M.A. in 1785. He became a prebendary of Ripon 1808 and succeeded his sister's son to the rectory of Hodnet in 1823.

[fo. 66r contd] [IMG_7799]

Help Society.

The second report of the '*Poor Woman's Help Society*' (St. John's Chapel) was this week *circulated*, and states 'that in consequence of several additional subscriptions and donations in the last year, they have been enabled to extend their charity to many afflicted and very needy objects. In many instances they had have the satisfaction of affording seasonable relief to distressed widows and fatherless children whose very abject and wretched condition called loudly on the feelings of humanity, for help in time of extremity and bodily affliction, when it was impossible for [fo. 67r] [IMG_7801] them to procure garments to cover them from the cold, or to keep themselves wholesomely clean.' The following is abstract of the account for the year ending November 1826.

Receipts			Disbursements	
Balance in hand	18s. 0d.		Expended for flannels, calico, gingham &c	£14 12s. 5d.
Subscriptions	£10 15s. 4d		For printing reports &c	£1 14s. 6d
Donations	£2 0s. 0d.			
	£13 13s. 4d			£15 6s. 11d.
Due to Treasurer	£1 13s. 7d			
	£15 6s. 11d.			

Unitarian Chapel. Sunday December 31st.

Service commenced at the Unitarian Chapel, High Street at ½ past 6 o'clock, instead of 3 in the afternoon. The congregation is very small.

Memorandum.

Our old town long celebrated for '*good men and true*' in the commercial phrase has experienced a considerable flatness of trade throughout the past year, but as it does not depend for its support so particularly on the fluctuating circumstances of commerce or manufacture, it was not until the last 4 months that any particular *distress* was felt, but during that period [fo. 67r contd] [IMG_7802] more bankruptcies of various descriptions occurred than have been known for some years. Unfortunately speculations seem to the been the chief cause of embarrassment.

But not withstanding this great distress, the liberality of the town and neighbourhood have been particularly distinguished during the last 6 weeks of the year by the munificent subscriptions in aid of the funds for rebuilding the Salop Infirmary and for other charitable purposes. January 1st 1827. HP.

[fo. 67v] [IMG_7803]

Memorandum

Many persons in the county suffered considerably from large speculations in the article of hops, as in the early part of the summer, owing to the general drought, it was considered that a total failure of the crops would have been the consequence but the produce proving unusually abundant, all persons holding large stocks felt the fluctuation of the market.

[fo. 73r] [IMG_7804]

Salopian Annals,
1827
by Henry Pidgeon.

Duke of York.

His Royal Highness Frederick Duke of York and Albany, heir presumptive to the throne of these Realms, departed this life at 20 minutes past 9 o'clock yesterday evening, after a painful and lingering illness which he is said to have borne with the most Christian fortitude, in the 64th year of his age, being born August 16th 1763. He was created Duke of York and Albany and Earl of Ulster, and Bishop of Osnaburgh in 1784. Saturday evening January 5th 1827.

Fire. Friday January 12th.

A fire owing to neglect broke out in a small house situated down a passage opposite to the Butter Market about 10 o'clock this morning, by the prompt exertions of the neighbours it was speedily got under without much damage.

[fo. 73r] [IMG_7805]

Memorandum. Saturday January 13th.

The Town Crier proclaimed several times in the Markets that owing to the funeral of his late Royal Highness the Duke of York being appointed for Saturday 20th instant, next week's market will be held on Friday 19th.

St. Alkmund's. Sunday January 14th.

A sermon was preached this evening in St. Alkmund's church by the Rev. J. Richards, curate in aid of the fund for the relief of the distressed manufacturers. The collection was upwards of £11 0s. 0d. The sermon was delivered with great feeling, and excited much attention.

[fo. 74r] [IMG_7806]

Unitarian Chapel. January 14th.

A sermon was preached in the High Street Chapel by the Rev. G. Case, minister, in aid of the fund for rebuilding the Salop Infirmary, the collection amounted to £22 16s.

The Weather.

Thus far in the present month has been very changeable. It commenced with a mild and beautiful morning, but as the day advanced gradually became colder and ere it closed, we had a violent storm of hail and rain which was followed the next day by a sharp frost, and on Thursday by a heavy snow. The succeeding week was mild and showery with occasional squalls. Yesterday a high wind commenced very early in the morning and continued with much violence throughout the day. Providentially no serious accidents occurred, and the greatest *damage* sustained was the destruction of a few chimneys &c one in particular in Milk Street fell upon a portion of the roof of the Wheat Sheaf public house with such a crash that it so alarmed or rather electrified a soldier who had been confined to his bed for some days previous through indisposition, that he immediately got up, dressed himself and has continued about since. Monday evening January 15th.

[fo. 74r contd] [IMG_7807]

Corporation. Tuesday January 16th.

At a chamber of our corporation held this morning at 12 o'clock the Rev. W. Vaughan of St. John's College, Cambridge, was unanimously nominated to the perpetual curacy of Astley in St. Mary's parish, vacant by the resignation of the Reverend James Matthews, M.A. He is a son of Mr Vaughan, draper, High Street.

[fo. 74v] [IMG_7808]

Weather.

The present week was showery, until Friday when a sharp frost commenced which was followed by a fall of snow. The frost lasted 8 days. January 27th 1827.

[fo. 75r] [IMG_7809]

Rev. J. B. Blakeway.

A lithographic portrait of our historian, the late Reverend J. B. Blakeway, M.A. from the original painting for which he sat to Mr P. Corbet, the year previous to his decease, has this week been published, price 10/6d. I have before had occasion to notice that the original painting is in the possession of the Reverend W. G. Rowland.

The print is not considered a good likeness.

Duke of York. Friday January 19th.

Pursuant to notice our market was held this day for the reason before assigned. At 10 o'clock at night the sextons of our several churches caused a muffled knell to be rung for half an hour and which truly 'Flung to the hollow gale their mournful sounds.'

Saturday 20th. Being the day appointed for the funeral of his late Royal Highness the Duke of York, as a mark of respect, the generality of business was suspended and the windows of the shops and houses closed, minute bells were tolled at night from 9 till [blank] o'clock, and the Union Society of Ringers, who have suspended their weekly meetings since the death of his Royal Highness, rang a muffled peal on Saint Chad's bells.

[fo. 76r contd] [IMG_7810]

Sunday 21st. The pulpits &c of our churches have been hung with black and several of our clergymen took the opportunity of preaching sermons in reference to the great national bereavement in the course of which they introduced well merited encomiums to the *memory* and *virtues* of the deceased, illustrious and patriotic Prince the Champion of the Protestant Religion.

Night. Several young men parishioners of St. Alkmund's who have recently volunteered their services to assist in the singing at their church, performed with tolerable effect Pope's 'Dying Christian to his soul' after which the Reverend John Richards (curate) preached an appropriate sermon from [blank] Peter.

[p. 75v] [IMG_7811]

Similar tributes of respect were observed at some of our Dissenting meeting houses.

The gentlemen alluded to on the other side have styled themselves 'Saint Alkmund's Company of Gratuitous Choristers' and have framed a set of regulations to that effect.

[fo. 76r] [IMG_7812]

Rev. J. E. Compson.

We had information from Shiffnal this evening, stating that the parishioners of that place had presented to the Revd. J. E. Compson, M.A. vicar of Saint Chad's in our town, an

elegant piece of plate of the value of 100 guineas, with an appropriate inscription, as a testimony of their esteem for the manner in which he had discharged his ministerial duties &c during his residence of ten years amongst them. 23rd January.

St. Chad's. Sunday January 28.

A sermon was preached in the parish church of St. Chad's by the Reverend John Langley, officiating minister, in aid of the distressed manufactories when upwards of £28 0s. 0d. was collected. Also £6 14s. 7d. was collected at Bicton Chapel after a sermon by the Rev. Humphrey Sandford, minister. Upwards of £35 was collected by the parish officers in the course of the week.

[fo. 76r contd] [IMG_7813]

Duke of York. Wednesday January 31st.

The Reverend and Right Worshipful Richard Corfield, the Mayor, having convened a meeting of the 'aldermen, assistants, burgesses and inhabitants' for the purpose of voting an address of condolence to his Majesty, on the lamented death of his late Royal Highness the Duke of York a most respectable though not very numerous meeting assembled in the Crown Court of the Guild Hall, and the chair having been taken by the Mayor, he proceeded to state that he had convened the present meeting without waiting for the formality of a requisition, believing that although custom alone would have pointed out the propriety of an address of condolence to his Majesty on the loss of an endeared brother, the next heir to the throne, he was well convinced that his sentiments would be responded by the feelings of all the inhabitants, who have at all times given proof of their loyalty and attachment to the Crown. Col. John Wingfield of Onslow, then [fo. 77r] [IMG_7814] proceeded in a short speech to propose the address. He alluded to General Lord Hill who said he was unavoidably prevented from attending.

Major Edward Burton seconded the address in an affecting speech.

The address having been read by Mr Thomas Loxdale, town clerk, Captain Mucklestone remarked that he thought some especial notice of the respect of the gentlemen attached to his Majesty's army to the late Duke should be included in the address.

The Major replied that he thought the expression *Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood* embraced all classes.

Major General Lethbridge expressed his personal testimony to the Duke's public services, particularly in the management of the recruiting department of the district, he (Genl. Lethbridge) had a peculiar opportunity to judging.

The address having been voted unanimously, the Mayor proposed that the Right Honourable the Recorder (Earl Powis) and the members for the Borough (Mr Corbett and Mr Slaney) present the same to his Majesty, seconded by Col. K. Leighton.

The thanks of the meeting to the mover and seconder of the address were then voted unanimously, as also to the Mayor for convening the meeting and for his conduct in the chair. Wednesday evening.

[fo. 77r contd] [IMG_7815]

The following is a copy of The Address.

To His Most Excellent Majesty George Fourth &c &c.

We your Majesty's dutiful and loyal subjects the Mayor, Aldermen, Burgesses and other Inhabitants of the Town and Neighbourhood of Shrewsbury by leave to approach your Majesty and to offer our sincere condolence for the great and heavy loss sustained by this

country upon the lamentable death of your Majesty's brother, His Royal Highness the Duke of York and Albany and we by leave at the same time to assure your Majesty of our sincere and unalterable attachment to your Majesty's Person and Family. Richard Corfield, Mayor.

[p. 77v] [IMG_7816]

Memorandum

The address was written by Mr. Corfield. H.P.

Married January 1st 1827. The partiality of friendship induces me to record the marriage of Mr. W. A. Leighton to Catharine third and youngest daughter of Mr. D. Parkes, Castle Street.

Died 5 January, aged 75, Rev. Thos. Lloyd, M.A. vicar of Albrighton.

1827. February 2. The annual sermon preached at St. Julian's according to the will of the Rev. Philemon Hayes and John Bryan, gent.

[fo. 78r] [IMG_7817]

High Sheriff.

William Tayleur, Esquire of Buntingsdale has been appointed High Sheriff of Shropshire for the year ensuing.

St. Mary's.

In the course of the repairs now taking place on the north side of Saint Mary's church, the small chamber over the porch of the north transept, and the newel staircase leading thereto have been reopened and the windows before blocked up, repaired and glazed under the direction of the minister and senior church warden (Mr D. Parkes). It is said that the archives &c of the church will be kept here when the place has been properly cleaned and repaired. February 2nd. 1827.

St. Mary's. Sunday February 4th.

A sermon was preached in St. Mary's church by the Venerable Archdeacon Owen in aid of the distressed manufactories when the sum of £17 16s. 0½d. was collected and in the course of the week £14 12s. 10½d. in that portion of the parish within the town.

The amount collected in the Abbey parish 2 or 3 weeks ago after a sermon by the Rev. R. L. Burton was £35 18s. 0d.

[fo. 78r contd] [IMG_7818]

Fire. Wednesday February 7th.

About ½ past 6 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the Rag Warehouse of Mr. Wildig [sic], Pride Hill, and which would have been attended with serious consequences had not active exertion and a speedy arrival of the engines prevented its progress, fortunately no considerable damage was sustained.

Swan Hill Chapel. Sunday February 11th.

A most excellent sermon was preached in Swan Hill Chapel by the Rev. Thomas Weaver minister, in aid of the funds for rebuilding the Salop Infirmary, from the 14 Chapter Proverbs and latter part 31 verse. Collection £18 11s. 9d.

[fo. 81r] [IMG_7819]

Samaritan Society. Sunday February 18th

The funds of the Good Samaritan Society having become in considerable arrear with its treasurer, it was resolved by the committee that 2 sermon[s] should be preached in its behalf by Mr Marsden, Wesleyan minister, and to that effect they were advertised. Mr Marsden who had been previously indisposed for some time, found himself so unwell on the Saturday as to be unable to fulfill his pledge. Mr Kent, Baptist minister, was therefore waited upon and with much liberality consented to preach the sermons, could a supply be obtained for his own place, but there being none nearer than Wellington, a messenger was dispatched to that place about 9 o'clock to get one. The Baptist minister there consented after sending to *Shiffnal* to get an officiate for himself. It was not therefore until 8 o'clock on Sunday morning that Mr Kent could give a final answer to the committee, he however is said to have preached two excellent sermons, the collections amounting to £17 2s. 6d., being larger than on any former occasion.

[fo. 81r contd] [IMG_7820]

Accident. February 21st.

The severity of the frost having completely frozen our river, a little boy named Weston ventured on the ice near the Union Wharf when it unfortunately gave way and he was drowned.

Charity Ball. Friday 23rd.

There was a charity ball at the Lion rooms this evening in aid of the fund for the relief of the distressed manufactories. The receipt amounted to £21 14s. 0d. and the expences to £12 7s. 0d. leaving a balance to the fund of £9 7s. 0d.

St. Julian's.

The sum of £32 2s. 6d. was collected in the parish of St. Julian after a sermon by the Reverend F. Iliff, minister, in aid of the fund for the relief of the distressed manufactories.

[p. 82r] [IMG_7822]

1827

Circus. Monday March 5th.

The circus opened this evening for one month under the management of Mr Ryan.

Roman Catholics. Saturday March 3rd.

A petition (which had been lying at our County Hall during the last eight days for signature) *against granting any further concessions* to the Roman Catholics, was forwarded to London this evening, that to the House of Lords had 1526 signatures, to the Commons 1583.

Had a public meeting been called, the above petition would doubtless have had a much better effect upon the inhabitants – children were allowed to sign the present one and *many* names were put down without the attendance of the parties themselves.

[fo. 81v] [IMG_7821]

Mr P. Corbett voted against the Catholics. Mr Slaney said (in presenting the petition) that 'if he did not go the whole length of the petitioners, it is from no indifference towards the interests of the Protestant Church to which they are so justly attached, but from a conscientious doubt in his own breast, how those interests may best be served and the permanent welfare of the United Empire promoted.'

[fo. 82r cont.]

Memorandum.

We heard this evening that the Catholic question was lost in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening March 6th. There were 272 members for the motion and 276 against at which time it is said that there were 552 members in the House being the greatest number ever known. Thursday March 8th.

Rev. J. Langley. Thursday 15th March.

Mr Langley preached his farewell lecture at Saint Chad's this evening from [blank].

The hearers who attended the weekly lecture at St. Chad's (which I believe will now be discontinued) *very few*, considering the population of the parish and which induced a clergyman some time ago to assert from the pulpit of that church 'were a stranger to come into this church at your weekday service, he would be led to say "are these the *few* out of so large a parish who are seeking the way to Zion with their faces thitherward."'

The Reverend J. B. Blakeway in a sermon on the 1st Sunday of Lent last year impressed on his hearers the duty of attending the weekdays services of the church, especially in the holy season of Lent.

[fo. 83r] [IMG_7824]

Sunday March 18th.

The Reverend John Langley the truly zealous and persevering minister of this church preached his farewell sermons this day to full and respectable congregations, in the morning from 20 Acts 26 verse 'I take you to record this day that I am pure from the blood of all men'.

He introduced his discourse by stating that the words of the text are taken from St. Paul's address to the church of Ephesus, among whom he had been ministering and being at the close of his labours, he embraced the opportunity of bidding them a farewell, the words of which he read.

After which he noticed the *suitability* of this *address* (the words he had just read) and particularly the solemn appeal in the text with which the Apostle closed *his* labours, and that in addressing us on this occasion he considered he was only acting up to the high and holy office which he had sustained among us and although he was sensible of his infirmities he could without ostentation take us to record that *he* was 'pure from the blood of all men,' and in which words or address every minister when taking a farewell of his flock may find matter useful to himself and them, and happy is that minister who can thus in sincerity appeal to his flock independent of all circumstances the *ground of which* is between a man's conscience and his God. [IMG_7825]

He then referred to the *grounds* on which the approving testimony was founded and which he shewed to be the method of the Apostle who referred first to his preaching and 2ndly to his practice. As regards his preaching we find it to be *repentance* and *faith*. Mr. L. then clearly pointed out, in what *repentance* towards God consisted of, and what *faith in Christ* implied and which *he* thought would be granted, were the chief topics of his ministry having sought rather to convince them to please, although some have complained that these subjects have been too much the theme of my discourses, urging upon you almost in every sermon the necessity of repentance. Mr L. allowed (and with truth too) that if [fo. 84r] [IMG_7826] any two subjects have had a greater place in his discourses these are they, and with much emphasis he asserted *if these have been the grand outlines of his discourses in a ministry of nearly thirteen years*, who can be *ignorant of the truths of them?* (text)

In taking a more general view of the Apostles preaching, he shewed that he preach publicly not being ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. He preached in season and as some would say out of season. He was no respecter of persons and kept back nothing that was profitable and in reference to *his* (Mr L's.) own ministerial faithfulness, he with much truth said (in many respects gainsay it who may) whatever may have been the objections none can charge me with *unfaithfulness or neglect*, having courted no man's applause or shrunk from the faithful delivery of the Gospel truths, some have however insinuated that my expostulations have been too urgent, too pointed and plain (and with real feeling he asserted). *But if your soul had been in my soul's stead you would certainly acquit me*, and instead of censuring me would 'highly esteem me &c.' What object could I have had in view in risking my ministerial labours contrary to the approbation of some of my hearers. I might have cried *Peace. Peace when there was no peace with much more personal advantage to myself*. Had I thus done, I could not have stood up and have told you this day in the solemn words of the text (quote he it) if you perish the fault is yours, not mine. I have kept back nothing &c. [fo. 86r contd] [IMG_7827] For the space of almost thirteen years I have not ceased to warn you, other foundation hath no man laid than that which is laid in Christ, and greatly shall I rejoice should I have been the honoured instrument of contributing to the spiritual welfare of any of you. This indeed fills my soul with present comfort and this satisfaction will accompany me in my retirement from my arduous scene of labour.

The Apostle in the 2nd place refers to his *practice* and truly ministers must be living epistles known and read of all men, for without holiness of life the most [fo. 85r] [IMG_7828] eloquent preacher is but a sounding brass or tinkling cymbal. The Apostle Paul appeals to his conduct, he was not one man in the pulpit and another out, his conduct was not only exemplary but adorned the Gospel which he preached, to the dignity of the Apostleship he claimed the rank of the servant of the Lord, for he solemnly appeals to them that from the first day he came among them he had proved himself the servant of the Lord, and on that ground said Mr. L. I now appeal to you and in this retrospect of my conduct, no man dare accuse me of inconsistency of character, for my public ministrations have only been the echo of my private life and my private life the silent illustration of my ministerial labours. We have pointed to other worlds, and I think also we have led the way publicly and privately have I exerted myself to promote your welfare to the utmost of my power and sometimes even beyond my power. You owe me no thanks for this, the love of Christ constrained me, to warn you and to bring you to Christ, having preached him to you as your only refuge and all sufficient saviour, and this word which I have preached must be the savour of life unto life or of death unto death, for 'I am pure of your blood' having kept back nothing that was calculated to profit you and if 'I am pure of your blood' [fo.85r contd] [IMG_7829] what must be the guilt of the unholy, the lovers of pleasure, the haters of Godliness and the persecutors of God's people. Let me therefore exhort you as with my dying lips, to repent and to 'work out your own salvation with fear and trembling and to make your peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. How shall you escape if you neglect so great salvation, receive then with meekness the engrafted word, that both minister and people may be received with 'Well done, good and faithful servant. &c.

Afternoon. 20 chapter Acts 32 verse.

The Apostle Paul when about to leave his flock [fo. 86r] [IMG_7831] at Ephesus addressed them in the words of the text, having laboured with fidelity he commended them to God in prayer. Separations generally involve serious considerations, especially the separation of a minister and his flock. Under the providence of God I have laboured

among you for nearly thirteen years, a period full of mercy and profit to myself and I would hope of some benefit to the flock under my care, and as my official connexion with you is about to be dissolved, let us not look at second causes but to God, who can order all things to our advantage, and I feel persuaded that God's Glory will be promoted at some future time by this change, thus much I consider it right to say (at this period there was the profoundest silence) for the encouragement of God's people and no words are more descriptive of my present feelings than those of my text (quote). Of the former part of the Apostles address I discoursed upon their morning calling God and you to witness that 'I am pure &c'; and whilst I would wish to retire unobserved, I consider it my duty to magnify mine office, and whilst I feel for those who know and love the truth I should ill requite the kindness which I have received at your hands if I did not solemnly commend you to God and to the word of his Grace, and thus he said (with much emphasis) will I continue to pray. [fo. 86r contd] [IMG_7832]

And oh what a blessing is a throne of Grace especially in seasons of separation &c.

The Apostle commended his flock to God and thus I would commend you instead of looking at human instruments let us cast our care upon God.

The Apostle directed *his* flock at once to the great first cause and shepherd of his sheep and to *this same source* would I now in prayer commend you, for God is the same yesterday, today and for ever. We cannot be in better hands, he will lead us in the paths of righteousness.

I commend you to God, as the all sufficient good, *ministers* are instruments in his hands he uses them as he pleases and lays them aside when he pleases, that God might display his glorious power, and may not this be his intention now, to constrain us to cease from man and perishable means. Be still then and now that he his God. Let us learn a salutary lesson rather than to repine and rebel, as if God had forgotten [fo. 86v contd] [IMG_7833] to be gracious. He is able to build us up, let us therefore commend ourselves to him.

The Apostle commended them to the word of God's grace, and to this word would I commend you. *It is able to build you up*, and to be the charter of your hopes and the source of your consolation. In the absence of friends, ministers and ordinances this word with the Holy Ghost will revive and comfort the soul, and if you have a gracious God in heaven and his word on earth, why should you fear? When an inheritance has been purchased, but which it must be remembered can only be enjoyed by the pure in heart and through *repentance* towards God and faith &c. which was the main subject of the Apostle's preaching.

What a value does this passage of scripture set upon Christian affection. The friendship of the world is deceitful, but that of the true Christian is sincere and it is delightful to see above subsisting between ministers and their people.

Having directed you to the resources of God and his word, I must hasten to bid you a farewell and *first* 'To those who have heard the Gospel and received the engrafted word with meekness' he addressed himself, expressive of his gratitude for their liberality to himself and family, but especially for their prayers, and desiring a continuance of these prayers and we shall be secure under all circumstances.

But am I not addressing some, who have unhappily rejected all the messages of God and slighted all our endeavours. Happy should I be if I could in this perhaps to them my last address prevail upon them to give me an unprejudiced hearing. The loss is not mine but yours. I predict a time may come when your rejection of my ministry may fill you with regret (here was an awful silence, and with much emphasis he said) may the labours of my successor be more effectual to this end. In the hands of God would I leave you may he judge between us. Endeavour now to secure an interest in Christ, present appearances

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may be discouraging [fo. 86v contd] [IMG_7834] but the Holy Spirit can renew. To God and the word of his Grace I commend you and God forbid that I should cease to pray for you.

The period of my ministry among you has added nearly thirteen years to your lives, grey hairs are now upon many heads that I remembered different and age has considerably advanced.

He then offered a few warning observations to the aged, and an encouraging address to the young persons of the parish, many of whom he said had been admitted by him to Baptism and in whom his fondest hopes were bound up, he trusted that some of them had experienced the blessed effects of true religion, to such he would say as his last advice, seek Jesus, seek to know his love and may God be your portion and reward. He then appealed to his flock to witness against him whom he had [fo. 85v] [IMG_7830] defrauded or oppressed and he would restore, and that his prayer for his late flock should be that they may abound more and more in knowledge &c and that grace, mercy and peace may be with them for ever. The church was much crowded in the evening. H. Pidgeon.

[fo. 87r] [IMG_7835]

Above the fire place of the String of Horses public house in Frankwell

IWE--IW--EW--ANO--DNI-1576.

IW.