

Henry Pidgeon

SALOPIAN ANNALS, V

19 March 1827-19 September 1828

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Salopian Annals Vol V

AD 1827

Henry Pidgeon, Shrewsbury

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[fo. 1r] [IMG 7841]

Salopian Annals 1827 by Henry Pidgeon

Storm Monday March 19 1827

A few minutes before nine o'clock this morning we experienced a violent storm of hail accompanied by a vivid flash of lightening [sic] and loud thunder, the weather at the time being cold.

Choral Society Tuesday March 20

The gentlemen of a new society entitled '*St Alkmund's Choral Society of Amateurs*' held their first rehearsal in St Alkmund's Church this evening.

St Alkmund's Wednesday March 21

A lecture was commenced in St Alkmund's Church this evening. Rev. J. Langley read prayers and Rev. J. Richards, Curate, preached.

Lent Assizes. Thursday March 22

The High Sheriff, William Tayleur Esquire, of Buntingsdale and a numerous body of his tenantry and friends escorted Mr Baron Vaughan into town about half past six this evening when he immediately proceeded to open the Commission of Assize.

Friday 23. He attended divine service at St Chads this morning when the Rev Pearson (brother to the counsellor) preached a sermon from Prov. 15 22v. 'Folly is joy is to him who is destitute of wisdom.' After a descant on the utility of the Book of Proverbs he proceeded to show very distinctly and appropriately the progression of human intellect.
[fo. 2r] [IMG_7842]

The Judge afterwards took his seat in the Nisi Prius Court, Mr Baron Garrow presiding in the Crown Court. The Calendar is heavy, containing the names of 73 prisoners.

St Chad's. Sunday March 25

Baron Vaughan attended divine service at St Chad's Church where the Rev. James E. Compson preached from [blank]. I have mislaid my notes otherwise I should have presented a specimen of his sermon in the course of which he remarked that, whilst some may have dwelt upon predestination as being necessary to salvation, he should consider it his duty as minster of this church to present us with a rule that may prevent a relapse into many errors not unknown within these walls! Hear! Hear!

St Alkmund's. Evening

The Rev. John Langley preached a sermon in St Alkmund's Church for the benefit of the Sunday Schools in that Parish. The collection amounted to £16. 6s. 6d.

These Sunday Schools were commenced in 1820 chiefly through the exertions of Mr Richard France and his son and other residents in the Parish. The number of scholars at present in the school is 75: boys 32, girls 43.

[fo. 3v] [IMG_7844]

With much difficulty I have been enabled to obtain the following account of the Baptist Sunday School in our town.

The Baptist Sunday School (connected solely with the Chapel in Doglane, now Claremont Street) appears to have been established in 1802, was conducted in the chapel and had at its commencement about 100 scholars. It was, I believe, given up for a season until 1823 but is now in active operation in a room adjoining the chapel with 57 scholars.

In March 1811 a Sunday School connected with the above *Chapel* was established at the Hookagate chiefly through the exertions of the Pastor of the Chapel (Rev. J. Palmer). It commenced with 40 scholars and soon increased to upwards of 180. The present number is 135.

The *Castle Ward* Sunday School in Castle Foregate was established by the Shropshire Sunday School Union Society in July 1815 and commenced with 290 scholars. It was taken under the care of the Baptist Society (to which place of worship the children were always taken) in November 1823 as will be seen by referring to Vol. 1, both of which are now under the same government. There are at present 190 scholars in the school. The annual expenditure of the three schools is from £25 to £30 which is chiefly defrayed by an annual sermon at Claremont Street Chapel. 1827-

[fo. 2r continued]

Lent Assizes. Thursday March 29th

The business in the Crown Court was disposed of this evening when 20 prisoners had judgement of death recorded against them; 13 received sentence of transportation, 22 were ordered to be imprisoned for various periods, 13 Not Guilty, 4 were discharged by proclamation.

Mr Baron Garrow has been seriously indisposed throughout the Assize and was so unwell on Tuesday that he could not preside. Sergeant Peake officiated in his absence. His Lordship left Salop for London this evening.

St Chad's. Friday March 30th

The monthly sermon at [fo. 3r] [IMG_7843] St Chads' Church was commenced again by the Vicar, it was discontinued I believe when Mr Nunn was Curate here.

Assizes. Saturday March 31st.

The Nisi Prius business which has been heavier beyond any former precedent was finished this evening. The trials of Morris versus Davies and the Chester Corporation excited intense interest. This assize has been the longest known here.

St Chad's

In the course of this month a Tablet with the following inscription was erected in St Chad's Church

Sacred to the memory
of Frances Jane,

the wife of William Wyburgh Howe
and eldest daughter of
Thomas Maynard Esquire of Workingham [sic] in the County of Berks
who departed this life 24th May 1826 in the 29th year of her age.
Blessed are the pure in heart for they shall see God Matthew v 8

A Grecian Tablet of white marble inserted within a border of black inscribed in Roman capitals

Died March 1st at Derby, Mrs Henrietta Pearson, last surviving child of the Rev. James Pearson M.A. who held the living of St Julian's in our town from 1720 to 1756. Her grandfather was born in the reign of Charles the First and held the Vicarage of Holy Cross etc with 'reputation' and esteem during 56 years [Pencil addition: I corresponded with a descendant of the in 1831.]

[fo. 4r] [IMG_7845]

Baptist Schools. Sunday April 8th

Two sermons were preached in the Baptist Chapel by the Rev. Manoah Kent, Minister, in aid of the Sunday Schools connected with that place. The collections amounted to upwards of £20.

Infirmary. Monday April 9th

Workmen commenced taking down the house adjoining to the Infirmary: the patients will be removed to the temporary Infirmary at the House of Industry tomorrow; the admission of patients will take place at Allatts School every Saturday.

Psalmody

The defective state of our Parochial Psalmody and the indifference manifested towards so delightful a portion of Christian worship, having long been a subject of regret as well as surprise, I took the opportunity of suggesting a few observations on the subject through the medium of the Shrewsbury Chronicle and whilst I notice it here as a matter of record, it is but just to acknowledge that some of our clergymen have not been unmindful of its aid in divine worship. The anxiety manifested by the late, ever to be revered, Minister of St Mary's, must have impressed its importance upon all who witnessed his praiseworthy endeavors to promote it in his own church but unfortunately the *choirs* formed by his exertions and that of other well disposed individuals of the Parish had no permanency [sic] – there seems to be a want of harmony amongst those who constituted them. The labours however of the Rev. W.G. Rowland have succeeded much better. I allude to the singing at the Abbey Church.

I noticed in August last year (page [blank] Vol. [blank]) the kind manner in which five or six gentlemen came forward to assist the singing at St Chad's, but who only continued their valuable services for five Sundays.

A petty misunderstanding worthy of no notice occasioned their abrupt departure much against the wish of the congregation. Another choir lately formed at St Alkmund's not only promises greater permanency, but bids fair to stand preeminent. April 15th.

St Chad's

A few members of our Body Corporate (consisting of 5 or 6 Alderman and double that number of Common Council men) attended by their officers and the Shropshire Band proceeded to St Chads Church where the Rev. J. E. Compson, Vicar, preached a sermon

from 24 c of St Luke and part of the 5 and 6 verses, ‘Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen.’

He introduced his discourse by alluding to the narrative of Our Lord’s Resurrection as recorded by St Luke and proceeded to state that we are this day assembled to celebrate that event – he having arisen and become the first fruits of them that slept. He then pointed out Man’s original guilt and the means of his restoration to favour through Jesus Christ by remarking, *First* “What we ought to believe concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ” and “in *what sense* we are to believe that Christ has risen from the dead” and showing how he lived in this life, how he was crucified, and rose from the dead to die no more – death having no more dominion over him. He particularly urged a due observance [fo. 6r] [IMG_7847] *This event, for by his resurrection, his Gospel is established and our faith is secure, the blessings which it hath brought being inestimable. By his resurrection Christ is become the first fruits of them that slept – so shall we also who die in him be raised up in the likeness of his resurrection. How happy is that man who can say with holy Job, ‘I know that my Redeemer liveth etc’ being assured that this consolation is afforded us by our Divine Father for our comfort. But it is a day of darkness to those who are alienated from their Saviour and are yet in their sins.*

He concentrated under a variety of examples, that enjoying as we do all the blessings of the resurrection, ‘What manner of men ought we to be in all godliness’ not in rioting and drunkenness etc for it will not be enough to be *called by his name and to adore him with our lips* if our hearts are far from him. He truly knows who are conformed to the spirit of the Gospel and those who are not; he knows who are his disciples indeed and *those who would follow him to the Highest Heavens, must also follow him on earth* and in order to fit us for him we must follow the examples which he left us whilst on earth.

Is Christ then risen from the dead? He arose not for private individuals but as ‘the first fruits etc’ and those who believe on him may consider the grave as a sleep, though the body may be doomed through sin to earth and corruption for a season, yet, ‘This corruptible shall put on incorruption and this mortal shall put on immortality.’

Is Christ then risen from the dead? Let us then arise from the death of sin and live in holiness of life and whilst we see in the death and resurrection of Christ our Saviour *the way to Heaven* we are assured that if we look to Him as the *life and resurrection* happiness and joy will await us and we shall be crowned with glory. He then particularly urged an approach to the altar as the most suitable manner of offering up thanks for all mercies, blessings and benefits of this resurrection and that we should now put off the garb of mourning [fo. 7r] [IMG_7848] *for Christ our Head* arose as on this day from the dead, “And became the first fruits of them that slept”. Let us awake then unto righteousness and sin not whilst upon earth that we put on his Glory and sit down at the marriage feast exclaiming, “O Death where is thy sting? O Grave where is thy victory?” Thanks be to God etc.

[fo. 5r] [IMG_7846]

St Chads Wardens. Tuesday April 17th

The chief topic of conversation in our parish during yesterday and this morning was ‘who are to be the new wardens?’. Various rumours were consequently afloat and much opposition expected should Mr R. Drinkwater have been proposed. At the appointed hour (3 o’clock) a very respectable and numerous body of the parishioners assembled in the vestry of the church purposely to oppose him. Mr Harley in a very few words stated the business of the meeting and concluded by proposing (amid the greatest silence) John Eaton Esq., Mr Morris Morris, Mr John Driver, and Mr John C. Nightingale, which resolution was seconded and carried unanimously, giving the greatest satisfaction. The

May the Lord therefore be with you all and if he is with you *his* cause will be dear to you.

If the Lord is with you, you will exercise great compassion to your brethren How pleasant it is to see brethren dwell together in unity and peace.

Lastly, if the Lord etc. you will not neglect to pray for your Ministers and may the Lord be with you, and bless you and keep you for ever. Above is the substance of the respected curate of St Alkmund's parting lecture, which was delivered extempore in the most unassuming, yet feeling manner. The Rev. John Langley, late at St Chad's, undertakes the whole of the duty in the absence of Mr. Richards

Town sessions

There were no felons for trial at our Town Sessions held this day. Friday April 27th

[fo. 9r] [IMG 7850]

Earl of Shrewsbury

Died April 8th at his house in Stanhope Street, London in the 75th year of his age, the Right Hon. Charles Talbot, 16th Earl of Shrewsbury, Premier Earl of England, and Earl of Waterford and Wexford in Ireland. He is said to have been "a man of retired habits and most unassuming manners". He succeeded to the titles on the death of his uncle in 1787 and married in 1792 Elizabeth, daughter of James Hoey, gentleman of Dublin by whom he had no issue and is consequently succeeded in his titles and estates by his nephew John Talbot Esquire. The late Earl was a member of the Roman Catholick [sic] Church and his remains it is said were interred with great funeral pomp.

Miscellanea

Died April 27th James Mason Esquire of St Johns Hill. He was the author of a Drama, a tale and several pamphlets. He was the son of James Mason Esquire, Draper, and Sarah, daughter of Arthur Heywood Esquire, Banker of Liverpool.

April 5th. Also the Rev. Thomas Rocke in his 74th year, for nearly 50 years Vicar of Tenbury, County of Worcester and Rector of Silvington, County Salop.

[fo. 10r] [IMG_7851]

St. Giles's Church. May 7th 1827

Workmen commenced last week to repair the roof of Saint Giles Church (which was before in a wretched state) in doing this the capital of a pillar in high preservation was found on the wall near the eave of the roof.

The Rev. W. G. Rowland has given a new vane which was this day placed on the turrett.

Mem. May 8th. Last night, or early this morning, a *neat stone cross* which had for generations, served as a finish to the East end, was (maliciously we fear), thrown down.

Test Acts.

A petition, which had been for several days lying in the vestry of Swan Hill chapel, and at the house of a tradesman for signature, was this day forwarded to London, having been signed by nearly 200 persons; the following is a copy of it,

To the Hon. The Commons etc. etc.

The humble petition of the undersigned Protestant Dissenters of the Independent denomination assembling at Swan Hill chapel Shrewsbury and of other friends of religious liberty.

Sheweth that in the opinion of your petitioners it is the natural and unalienable right of every man to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience and that those laws which subject persons to civil disabilities on religious grounds violate that right and so are unjust and oppressive.

That of this description are the Corporation and the Test Acts severally passed in the reign of King Charles the Second, in as much as they are under conformity to the Church of England, necessary to magisterial appointments - to the governments of corporations and to offices of trust under His Majesty and thereby excluding all persons who conscientiously dissent from the established church or disapprove the imposition of the Lord's Supper as a test in such cases. [fo. 11r] [IMG_7852] That while any measure founded on the same principle would be impolitic and intolerant, the sacramental test is peculiarly objectionable as tending to secularize and profane an institution of the Christian church for purposes solely of a religious nature.

Your petitioners therefore earnestly pray that those acts may be repealed, or that such other relief in the premises may be afforded as to your honourable house shall seem meet.

And your petitioners etc. etc.

May 11th 1827

St. Chads Schools. Sunday May 13th

Two sermons were preached in Saint Chad's church in aid of the subscription school for girls, on Dr. Bell's system and the boys Sunday school in that parish; that in the morning by the Rev. J. E. Compson M.A. vicar; and in the afternoon by the Reverend E. Bather M.A. Vicar of Meole Brace.

Morning. 25 Chapter Matt 40 Verse.

The vicar after noticing the excellency of the Christian religion and the benevolence and charity contained in the text, proceeded to point out the advantages derived from school discipline in training children for usefulness here and happiness hereafter, and especially the instruction which they derive from a perusal of the writings contained in the Old and New Testament, which furnish them with the purest precepts to a virtuous life, as well as their duty towards God and man and the way to life eternal: and as a desire for the future welfare of mankind was implanted in us, he hoped it would lead to benevolence, which was a delight far superior to any self gratification, and whilst the gospel lays us under many obligations for the due performance of acts of piety etc., it also says 'love one another'. In conclusion the preacher, cautioned his hearers in a very animated manner, against being guilty of ingratitude, and whilst he hoped better things from *them*, he congratulated them upon having such an opportunity of contributing towards the instruction of these [fo. 12r] [IMG_7853] children in that religion which teaches humility and every other virtue, that when we meet at the Judgement Day we may be received with 'well done good and faithful servant' etc.

Afternoon. Reverend Edward Bather M.A.

11 Chap. Ecclesiastes 6 Verse

A discourse full of the *soundest reasoning*, and the warmest exhortations, to the performance of the duty as laid down in the text 'to sow the seed', leaving the result in the hands of a wise and faithful Creator and as Paul may plant etc and Apollos water it must be God who giveth the increase and although some of the seed may not arrive at that height of perfection which the conductors may desire still we must sow etc and withhold not our hands for whatever has been contributed, faithfully applied and husbanded in the most economical manner, must be successful: therefore let the duties suggested by our text be our rule.

The collections amounted to £44 7s. 2d.

It was my intention to have published an account of the formation and general proceedings of these schools, but the difficulty I have experienced, in obtaining the necessary information has for the present defeated my purpose: this remark will also apply to several other Sunday schools in the town, the time of whose establishment (strange as it may appear) cannot from the want of documentary evidence be now exactly ascertained.

The report of the girls school ending 2 Feb 1827 and which was last week circulated among the subscribers represents the school as being in a very flourishing state, and containing 193 scholars. The general disbursements of which amount to £129. 1s. 3 ½d. and the receipts to £133. 9s. 9 ½d. leaving a balance of £4. 8s. 6d. in the hands of the treasurer.

The *boys Sunday school* seems to be but little noticed by the parishioners, no report is shewn of its proceedings and the economy manifested in conducting it is truly astonishing, for which it is greatly indebted to Mr. R. B. Blakemore of Mardol, whose [fo. 13r] [IMG_7854] unwearied diligence in the superintendence [sic] of it during fifteen years is worthy of imitation and respect. There are 200 boys on the books and the average attendance is 160, and I must not omit to state that much good has resulted from the instruction received at this school, in fact the present teachers with two exceptions have been scholars.

Mendicity Society. Tuesday May 15th.

Pursuant to advertisement a meeting was held in the Town Hall this morning for the purpose of devising some means of clearing the town of the number of itinerant beggars and prostitutes by which it is infested. The reverend and worshipful the Mayor being called to the Chair, he opened the business of the meeting and after a discussion as to its intent it was deemed advisable to establish a *Mendicity Society*, and among other resolutions it was therefore resolved ‘that a committee [sic] be appointed for drawing up *rules* for the *guidance* of such a society and to collect subscriptions for conducting it and that the committee be requested to report the same to a town meeting to be held on the 17th July next.’

A committee consisting of the clergy and the senior officers of the several parishes, within the town, the Hon. T. Kenyon and Col. Leighton was then appointed with power to add to their numbers.

The attendance of the inhabitants was but small, there seems to be a division on the subject, but if the society will confine itself to the relief of itinerant beggars, the finding of work for such as are capable of it, the punishment of impostors, and the cleaning of our streets of the numbers of prostitutes which infest them, no doubt may be entertained, but that *it will prove conducive to the good of the town.*

Mechanic’s Society. May 15th.

Mr. James Whitney of our town druggist delivered a lecture on the interesting sciences of [fo. 14r] [IMG_7856] *Pneumatics*, in the rooms of the Mechanic’s Institution to the members and friends of that society.

He proposes to resume it this day week.

Baptist Society. Thursday May 24th.

The Baptist Society in our town have now in course of signature, a petition similar to that present from the congregation of Swan Hill Chapel.

According to the present state of the nation and public affairs these petitions are ill timed.

[fo. 13v] [IMG_7855]

Mem. The petitions from Salop against the Corporation and Test acts were presented by Mr. Slaney in the House of Commons June 6th.

[fo. 14r cont.]

St. Mary's Spire. Friday May 25 ½ past 7p.m.

A man for a trifling wager undertook to throw direct over the vane of St. Mary's spire, twice, successively, he stood on the site of the old Infirmary.

St. Chad's. Sunday May 27th.

The vicar of St. Chad's finding the duty of the parish too much for him has appointed the Reverend Charles Bury B.A. his curate Mr. B. preached his introductory sermon this evening, from 24 Chap. Matt. 44, in which he shewed the *necessity* of obeying the important precept contained in the text.

Wesleyan Missions. Sunday May 27.

Two sermons were preached in Saint John's Chapel by the Reverends Marsden of Salop and Highfield of Liverpool, in aid of the 'Shrewsbury Auxiliary Wesleyan Missionary Society'

Monday 28th. The anniversary meeting was held in St. John's Chapel this afternoon James Montgomery Esq. (the celebrated poet as the handbills style him) in the Chair, and who addressed the meeting in a speech which occupied three quarters of an hour and in which he advocated with much earnestness, the importance of missionary exertions – and stated with equal perspicuity the immense number of immortal beings who were destitute of its blessed effects. He adverted particularly to Ireland, the population of which [fo. 15r [IMG_7857] he shewed to be particularly attached to the traditions and customs of their country. After the report had been read which stated that £569 9s. 6d. had been received during the past year several ministers of the Wesleyan connexion [sic] addressed the meeting the speeches of the Revs. G. Highfield of Liverpool and John Hughes of Brecon excited particular attention; the meeting was afterwards adjourned until ½ past 6 o'clock.

According to adjournment, the meeting was again opened by a luminous speech from Mr. Montgomery who was followed by several other ministers and friends, our townsman Mr. Hicks addressed the meeting in a speech which did neither himself – the House of God – or the cause of missions credit. The meeting did not terminate until 20 minutes to 10, but before which time the greater portion of the audience (particularly the respectable part) departed.

The collections amounted to about £44, including those after the sermons on Sunday.

The meetings were respectably attended, though not so crowded as was expected.

Humane Society. May 29th.

A meeting of the friends to the Humane Society pursuant to advertisement, was held in the Town Hall this morning. The meeting consisted only of seven individuals, after a statement of the Society's funds had been read by the secretary Mr. James Whitney, a committee appointed for the ensuing year and the report ordered to be printed etc. etc. a good deal of desultory conversation occurred in which some useful hints were given by Mr. Watton for the future management of the society.

Infirmary.

The old infirmary, with the exception of a portion of the kitchen having now been completely levelled; a most beautiful view of St. Mary's Church is exhibited from the

East and South East entrances of the town, - in fact it is the general subject of conversation, and a matter of universal regret, that some other site is not selected and adopted so as to leave that noble and venerable structure open, and appropriate the present [fo.16r] [IMG_7859] site of the Infirmary as an additional place of sepulture [sic] for the parish of Saint Mary or the parishes of the town generally.

Whit Sunday St. Chads. June 3rd (Sunday)

A few members of the body corporate preceded by the Shropshire Band and attended divine service at St. Chads Church - where the vicar preached a sermon 2 Chap Acts 1 and 3 following Verses.

The preacher endeavoured to shew that the practice of the primitive Christians when they met together was to pray, to preach, to sing Psalms and to receive the Holy Sacrament, and that they lived together in the greatest fellowship, and as regards the great miracle which our church this day celebrates he observed, 'that had it not been wrought we as Britons should have been ignorant of the glorious truths of the Gospel'! He concluded with a few practical exhortations.

Afternoon. In accordance with the will of Mrs Anne Crosse which I have before had occasion to notice the annual anthem was sung with tolerable credit to the singers, it was taken from 2.3.4 and 9th verses of the 29th Psalm: after which the vicar preached from the usual text 20 Chap Acts 24 Verse.

Under which he noticed 'that the words which he had just read were those of St. Paul and he had taken them for the subject of his discourse in accordance with the desire of a benevolent lady' (thus much as to the legacy.)

He then proceeded upon the character and education of St. Paul (whom he stated was well acquainted with the literature of his country) embracing the chief characteristics [sic] of his life, his great persecution and wonderful conversion, his 'trials by land and by sea', his death etc. etc.

Free School. Wednesday June 13th.

The speeches by *Dr. Butler's pupils* were delivered in our 'Royal Free Grammar School' before a respectable company.

The rehearsal took place the preceding day.

[fo. 15v] [IMG_7858]

Mem The papers have of late furnished many accounts of the prizes gained by the gentlemen educated under Dr. Butler at this seminary. June 1827.

[fo. 17r] [IMG_7860]

St. Chad's. Sunday June 17th.

The vicar of Saint Chad's addressed a sermon to the young persons of his parish on the subject of confirmation from the 16 chap. of 1st Epistle to the Corinthians and 13 verse.

Battle of Waterloo.

Shrewsbury Show. Monday June 18th.

The anniversary of this day is rendered memorable on the Annals of England by the celebrated Battle of Waterloo, and

'Shall ne'er go by
from this day to the ending of the world
but we in it shall be remembered',

for the valour and intrepidity displayed by our soldiers in that mementous cause which involved the issues of a lasting peace, or the horrors of a protracted war. It was a day in which England was particularly interested, especially as regarded the fate of many of her sons, who were risking their lives in her defence, and truly we are not unmindful of it, for

When Gallant Hill in battle bled,
Salopia's sons looked anxious on,
Wept when the wounding bullet sped,
And smiled when victory's wreath he won.

And when the Gallic foe subdued,
On Honour's laurels sought he rest,
She bid him welcome to her arms,
By glory and by virtue blest. H.P.

From the direful reflection of war and bloodshed we gladly return to senses of peace and plenty, which under the blessing of Divine Providence it is to be desired may long spread their benign influences over our highly favoured country, and from this I revert to the ancient pageantry of **Shrewsbury Show** which was this day celebrated in *the spirit* of those times when men enjoyed life vigourously and heartily, and as *Salopians*, I trust we shall never again degenerate from the mirth and festivity provided and displayed by our ancestors in the celebration of this annual custom of merriment and festivity, so as to leave it to be 'more [fo. 18r] [IMG_7861] honoured in the breach than the observance', but that each succeeding year may outvie the past one (as it has hitherto done) in rendering it more attractive and interesting.

The following companies having assembled in Castle Street about ½ past one o'clock proceeded in the usual order to Kingsland, the different tradesmen as the[y] passed along exhibiting the utmost harmony and good fellowship.

Shoemakers, masters, apprentices
Taylors, masters, apprentices
Butchers, masters, apprentices

Blacksmith apprentices
Bricklayers, masters, apprentices
Hairdressers, apprentices
Sadlers etc masters.

About ½ past 2 o'clock the Rev. and Right Worshipfull the Mayor (Richard Corfield) accompanied by several members of the body corporate and their friends, preceded by the town crier, sergeants at mace &c, followed the companies to Kingsland on horseback where they were entertained in the several arbours with the delicacies of the season, amid the greatest conviviality. Toasts suitable to the occasion were given with due honours.

The day proving *unusually* fine, great numbers of respectable persons visited Kingsland and participated in the recreation of the day.

At 9 o'clock the companies returned into town through Coleham, as usual, much invigorated with the essence of barley corn, and not in that regularity as at their exit from it. The apprentices generally continue dancing at some of the inns until the *bright* shades of morning warns them of the *duties* of the forthcoming day.

The blunderbuss which is usually fired before the Smiths Company, having been overcharged by a person to whom it had been entrusted after the trades had gone to Kingsland, was fired off in Mardol and from the loudness of its report shattered 22 panes of glass, which will cost about £3 10s. 0d.

[fo. 19r] [IMG_7862]

Mercer's Company. Tuesday June 19th.

The United Company of Mercers &c partook of their annual dinner at the [blank], Robert Morris, gentleman in the chair, supported by the Revd. and Right Worshipful the Mayor and William Brayne, Esquire.

Confirmation. Thursday June 21st.

The Hon. and Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of this Diocese held a confirmation at Saint Chad's church when 391 persons received that ordinance.

Mrs Owen. June 27.

Died aged 37 years, Eliza wife of Mr Owen Davies Owen, steward of our House of Industry. Having had the pleasure of noticing Mrs Owen's election as matron of the House of Industry, April 6th 1824, I should consider myself wanting in friendship and respect if I did not pay a just eulogium to the intelligence, assiduity and attention which she sustained in the duties of her situation, as regards the directors of and rate payers to that institution, as well as the humanity and integrity she manifested towards the poor, the objects of her charge.

Mr James Wilding.

Having had occasion to notice the obituary of Mr James Wilding page [blank] vol. [blank]. The erection of a tablet to his memory in St. Chad's church with the following inscription.

Near this place
are deposited the remains of
Mr James Wilding
who died May 23rd 1826 aged 75
Also of Mary his wife
who died May 29th 1824 aged 68
Near them rests the body
of Charles Hovell Wilding
the beloved son of the Rev. James Wilding
and Mary his wife of Cheam, Surrey
He died July 10th 1822, aged nine years.

A Grecian tablet of white marble, inserted within a border of black.

[fo. 19v] [IMG_7863]

Memorandum. June 28th

Rev. Edward J. Wingfield (of this town) student of Christ Church proceeded M.A.

[fo. 20r] [IMG_7864]

1827

St. Giles's Church. Sunday July 1st.

Being one of the evenings on which divine service is annually performed in the little church of Saint Giles, a respectable auditory of between 5 and six hundred individuals assembled on the occasion when the Rev. W. Gorsuch Rowland illustrated from Psalm 26 and 8v the duty and importance of public worship. The respect which is due to it and the benefit which may be derived from it.

Of the improvements which have progressively taken place on the exterior and in the interior, I have already had occasion to notice. In addition to these however the parish much to their credit have new roofed, *ceiled*, coloured and otherwise repaired the body of the church and the Reverend W. G. Rowland to his immortal honour, has presented a fine east window of stained glass which was put up last week and executed by our townsman Mr Evans, whose successful imitation in this ancient art stands perhaps unrivalled in the kingdom.

The four compartments of the lower division of the window contains full length figures of the *Evangelists*, standing upon hexagonal pedestals. Through the external circular arches of which is very strikingly exhibited the groined roof of a crypt supported by slender pillars, underneath which are their names in black letter and over each figure is a beautiful canopy of architectural work, above which in the smaller compartments of the upper portion of the window are the several symbols of the Evangelists, each supporting a tablet on which is respectively inscribed in small characters:

Mattheus Christi Stirpem et genus ordine narrat
 Marcus Baptistam clamantem inducit eremo
 Virgine prognatum Lucas describit Jesum
 Prodit Joannes verbi impenetrabile lumen.

The three principal compartments are filled with fine representations from ancient designs of *The Wise Men's Offering*, *The Visitation* and the *Presentation in the Temple*. [fo. 21r] [IMG_7865] Beneath each of which is an inscription in Roman letters. Under the Visitation is

Ave gratia plena: Dominus tecum benedicta tu in mulieribus. Luke 1.28.

Wise Men's offering.

Ei tharsis insularum que reges munera pensitabant: Ei Arabes Sabaique stipendium afferent.

The Presentation. Psalm Lxxii, 10

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine, secundum verbum tuum, in pace, quia viderunt oculi mei salutem tuam. Luke ii, 29, 30.

The bottom of the window bears the name of the munificent donor thus:

Gulielmus Gorsuch Rowland dono dedit. MDCCCXXVII

The small lancet window on the north side of the chancel has been filled with a small figure of Saint Giles the patron saint of the church and is an exquisite imitation of *ancient* stained glass.

In fact whoever has visited this church since these improvements and seen it in its former state exhibiting a melancholy picture of damp, neglect and decay, will truly be

astonished. Whilst it is to be hoped that its sacred walls will no more echo with the twittering of birds, the sparrow find a place of security over the altar, or the swallow be permitted to 'build her brooding nest' above its antique pulpit, although these may be striking resemblances of the tranquility and peace which 'the means of Grace' are to a Christian, and which seem to inhabit the *House of the Deity*.

But the sentiments which this venerable place impresses is in some measure checked by its disuse and since it hath now been put into a complete state of repair, through the exertions of the Rev. W. G. Rowland, whose example in this particular should be held up for praise and imitation, it is to be desired that some means will be effected to introduce a regular service within its venerable walls that may be instrumental to the happiest purposes of the heart and a religious life. H. P.

[fo. 22r] [IMG_7866]

Visitation. Monday July 2.

The Venerable Archdeacon Owen held his visitation in the parish of Saint Chad this morning. The Rev. H. C. Cotton, rector of Ness, preached the usual sermon.

Bible Society. Wednesday July 3rd.

The 16th anniversary meeting of the friends and subscribers to the Shropshire Auxiliary Bible Society was held in the Town Hall this morning under the patronage and presidency of the Lord Bishop of the Diocese and the Ven. Archdeacon Corbett. The report was read at the request of the president by the Rev. John Langley (one of the secretaries) from which it appears that the contributions of the Society during the past year amounted to £500 and that £426 19s. 9d. had been remitted for Bibles and Testaments to the Parent Society in London. It also noticed that several Bibles had been sent to different inns within the town for the use of visitors &c.

The speeches were *highly interesting* and listened to with the greatest attention by one of the largest and most respectable meetings ever assembled on any former anniversary.

The Bishop alluded in the course of his address to the burning of a Bible at a public house in our town, which I noticed, page [blank] last vol. He also recommended the propriety of sending Bibles to the different inns.

The business of the meeting occupied upwards of 3 hours.

Ancient Seal. St. Mary's. Friday July 6th.

In preparing the site of the new Infirmary on which the College of Saint Mary once doubtless stood the *secretum* or private seal of that establishment made of brass and bearing a representation of the Virgin and Child was dug up. The inscription *Ave Regina Celorum* is in characters that appear to be of the era of Edward 3rd. or perhaps and Mr Bowen suggests, of a date anterior to that period.

The seal is now in the possession of Mr Bowen.

Since writing the above Archdeacon Owen has purchased the seal from Mr B. for 10s. and purposes to restore it to its proper situation, as an instrument of the Royal Peculiar after it is remounted. (See note in *Salopian Journal*.)

[fo. 23r] [IMG_7868]

National Schools. Sunday July 8th.

John Wingfield, Esquire, the president of the National Schools, accompanied by several members of the body corporate and friends of the charity, proceeded from the Town Hall to Saint Mary's church, where a sermon was preached by the Reverend E. P. Owen, M.A.

vicar of Wellington &c in aid of the charity. He also preached in the afternoon at St. Julian's.

The collections amounted to £49 9s. 0d. being a less sum than I ever remember.

The report notices that the receipts ending Lady Day 1826 amount to the sum of £404 19s. 2d. and the disbursements to £325 1s. 1d. leaving a balance of £79 18s. 1d. in the hands of the treasurer. (John Eaton, jun., Esquire.)

Baptists. Thursday July 12.

Two sermons were preached in the Baptist Chapel by 2 missionaries named Statham and Carey when upwards of £15 was collected. These gentlemen I have been informed collected in Birmingham after four or five sermons upwards of £800.

Salmon. Friday July 13th.

A salmon was caught in our river this morning of the weight of ten pounds, near the Cann Office below the Quarry.

Town Sessions. Same Day.

Our town Sessions were held before the Mayor, Deputy Recorder &c there were 4 prisoners for trial, two prisoners were found guilty of robbing an unfortunate female of the town on the Show Monday of 7s. 6d., one being an old offender was sentenced to 7 *years transportation* and the other to 6 months imprisonment, another prisoner was brought up (a notorious blackguard) for stealing notes value £20 from the pocket of a person in a state of inebriation, and being fortunate enough to obtain a good character received the mitigated sentence of 3 months imprisonment, this latter trial excited a *considerable sensation* in the town during the remainder of the day.

[fo. 22v] [IMG_7867]

At our county sessions on Tuesday 10th July the formality imposed on prisoners of kneeling on the floor of the court to claim the benefit of the statute was dispensed with under Mr Peel's Act.

[fo. 24r] [IMG_7869]

A church in Frankwell. Monday July 16.

I had the pleasure of attending a most respectable meeting of about 30 gentlemen parishioners of Saint Chad, which was held in the vestry room of their church, according to the following 'notice' which was given out in the church on the two preceding Sundays.

The parishioners of St. Chad & other person who are desirous of facilitating the erection of an additional church in Frankwell, are requested to meet the gentlemen who have kindly undertaken the management thereof (with the approbation of the Bishop) in the vestry of this church, at the tolling of the bell, on Monday, the 16th instant at two o'clock in the afternoon.

The vicar having taken the chair suggested the propriety of reading the proceedings of the meetings held in August 1825 for a similar purpose, but after a fruitless enquiry and search had been made for the same, it was proposed that the above Notice should be read as an introduction, after which he stated that applications had been made for pews in St. Chad's church which shewed a want of 150 sittings by persons who were willing to pay for that accommodation, and mentioned that Mr Richard Drinkwater offered to give the land requisite for the erection of a chapel of ease that would contain 700 persons, *on condition that he had a freehold pew attached to his house* and that the presentation of a

clergyman was vested in the vicar of St. Chad's for the time being. A long desultory conversation then ensued, as to the preliminary arrangements &c in which the chairman and Revs. Archdeacon Owen and E. Bather, John Wingfield, Esquire &c took a considerable part, and it being the unanimous opinion of those present that an additional chapel of ease was necessary, it was resolved that immediate proceedings be taken for effecting that purpose. A committee of 6 gentlemen (as under) was accordingly formed for carrying the aforesaid measure into effect and of soliciting subscriptions.

The Vicar, Col. K. Leighton, Mr. J. Eaton, senior, Col. Wingfield, Mr Drinkwater, Rev. Edward Bather, Robert Burton, Esquire, W. Harley, Mr Hazledine (with power to add to their numbers).

[fo. 25r] [IMG_7870]

A list was consequently handed round the table and the sum of £540 was collected in a few minutes, including a sum of £50 from the Bishop.

In this place and as a matter of record I think it right to mention that the erection of an additional chapel of ease in Frankwell does not at present commence under very auspicious circumstances, chiefly arising from a slight division in the parish, occasioned probably by a petition in the early part of the year having been addressed to the Bishop of the diocese by Mr Langley (our late curate) numerously signed by his friends expressive of their desire that should a chapel of ease be erected (which they will endeavour to facilitate) the right of presentation might be vested in the parishioners, under (I believe) certain conditions.

Upon this Mr Samuel Harley and other leading characters in the parish obtained a few signatures to a petition which signified that the presentation ought to be vested in the vicar for the time being whereby many evils would be avoided which generally ensue in popular elections of clergymen. This was presented to the Bishop by a deputation consisting of the vicar, Mr. S. Harley and Joseph Loxdale, Esquire.

The Bishop accordingly agreed to meet the gentlemen interested in the subject in the vestry room of Saint Chad's church on the 3rd July at 3 o'clock (and left the meeting of the Bible Society before it was finished for that purpose) when it was determined that the presentation should be vested in the vicar for the time being and his Lordship recommended a general meeting of the parishioners to be speedily called, of which I have endeavoured to furnish a statement in the foregoing account.

There does not however exist a cordial co-operation among the parishioners. In fact there seems something (if I may be allowed the expression) incongruous in the conduct of both parties, *Mr Harley* and some of his petitioners maintaining when Mr Langley's petition was in the course of signature that '*No church was wanted*', though they *now* see the [fo. 26r] [IMG_7871] necessity of one! Whilst Mr Langley and most of his friends, now that one is in contemplation, *withhold their assistance altogether*!

It is but just to mention that the Bishop has acted with the utmost impartiality throughout the whole proceeding and *if he has attempted* at mediation between the parties, I heartily wish it may prove successful, feeling persuaded that where a parish is divided, nothing permanent can be attained.

Late Mrs Owen. July 16th.

At a board of directors held this morning at the House of Industry, it was resolved (inter alia) on the motion of Mr Vaughan seconded by Mr Harris: 'That this Board being fully sensible of the merits of the late Mrs Owen (matron) present the sum of ten guineas to each of her children'.

St. Mary's Church.

The east window of Saint Mary's church having long exhibited appearances of decay and a large stone near the centre of the arch having recently sunk a few inches from its situation, considerable danger on the part [fo. 26 cont] [IMG_7872] of the church warden's &c was apprehended and an entire new window it was thought would be necessary.

Mr Smirke the surveyor was however directed to examine it, and make a report thereof to a meeting of the impropiators of the tithes which took place this morning. He accordingly advised an *immediate repair* of the present window with stone and Roman cement, but by no means to take it down, for in such an attempt he said no one knew *where the danger might end*. July 16 1827.

New Infirmary. Thursday July 19th.

Being the anniversary of his Majesty's coronation, the ceremony of laying the first stone of the foundation of our new Infirmary took place this morning at 20 minutes before 12 o'clock. The proceedings were [fo. 27r] [IMG_7873] of the most private description possible, and to that circumstance may be attributed the comparatively small number of persons (about 300) who attended to witness that interesting formality, scarcely the slightest intimation having been given thereof previous to the event, in fact the Rev. W. G. R[owland] informed me that so secret was it kept that the Right Hon. Lord Hill who was appointed to take a chief part in it, did not anticipate such an honour when he arrived in town this morning.

At the time however above specified, his Lordship accompanied by the Venerable Archdeacon Owen and three or four other members of the committee with Messrs Haycock's the contractors and Mr Smirke the surveyor, preceeded to the angle fronting the English Bridge, where the stone was to be laid, his Lordship in a neat speech addressed the assemblage, as to the *utility* of the undertaking, the great *zeal* and *liberality* displayed by the inhabitants of our county in furthering its accomplishment. *The assiduity* of the committee appointed to superintend the work and the estimation they had of the talents of the architects and contractors and which had been confirmed by Mr Smirke the surveyor.

He trusted therefore that all present would join the Venerable Archdeacon in offering up a prayer to the Governor of all, for a blessing on the work commenced.

The Rev. Arch. Owen then offered up a prayer that embodied several passages of our excellent liturgy suitable to the occasion.

The stone was then raised and several coins of his present Majesty's reign having been inserted within a cavity at the bottom of it, His Lordship then spread the mortar, the stone was lowered to its intended position, three blows from the *mallet* and hearty cheers from the spectators with a cheerful peal from Saint Mary's bells concluded the interesting ceremony.

[fo. 28r] [IMG_7874]

Pedestrianism. Tuesday evening July 24.

A man of colour undertook to walk 7 miles in one hour on our Quarry Walk, he accomplished his task within two minutes of the given time.

Attingham Hall has been the general place of rendezvous and attraction during the last 4 weeks. The admissions to view the furniture &c was by catalogues [sic] (containing 204 quarto pages) price 10/6 which admitted four persons.

The sale will commence on Monday by Mr Robins of Warwick House, London and will occupy 15 days. July 28th 1827.

Swan Hill.

The Independant [sic] Chapel on Swan Hill is under repair, the expense will be about £60 and is proposed to be defrayed by 'a contribution from each subscriber to the amount of his or her half year's subscription,' 'to the support of the ministry in that place.' July 28th.

St. Chad's. Sunday July 29th.

St. Chad's church was much crowded this morning in consequence of their being no service at St. Julian's church and Swan Hill Chapel.

The Rev. T. Weaver preached at the Baptist Chapel in the afternoon and to a full congregation at St. John's in the evening having never preached at the latter place before.

Storm.

The day throughout was intensely hot, the thermometer in the evening was at 86 degrees in the shade. At midnight our town was visited by a most terrific thunderstorm of full 2 hours continuance. The flashes of lightening [sic] (which commenced about nine o'clock) succeeded each other in rapid succession and the thunder was truly awful.

We heard this morning that the electric fluid set fire to three cottages at Uppington and totally destroyed them. The inmates however fortunately escaped unhurt. It is said the child who was so miraculously [fo. 29r] [IMG_7875] preserved when a part of our Theatre fell a few years ago, was among the number who have thus been deprived of all they possessed. Monday July 30th.

Memorandum.

A truly benevolent subscription has been opened for the sufferers in the foregoing calamity. August 1st.

County Map. Thursday August 2nd.

A map of the county of Salop was delivered to subscribers in Shrewsbury price in sheets 3 guineas. It is said to be made from an actual survey in the years 1826 and 27 by C. & G. Greenwood of London.

Richard Jenkins, Esquire. Friday August 3rd 1827.

Richard Jenkins, Esquire, after a residence of 27 years in India during which time he is said greatly to have contributed to its well government, by the flourishing state in which it now appears, was met at Emstrey and escorted through town at 3 o'clock amid the ringing of bells, firing of cannon &c to his patrimonial estate at Bicton near this town in the following order:

Col. Leighton on horseback

Band of music

Carriage of Mr Jenkins, drawn by 4 grey horses (in which were himself and family)
and followed by 80 of his friends on horseback &c.

Samaritan Society. Sunday August 5th.

The anniversary of the Good Samaritan Society was held at St. John's Chapel this afternoon, Mr Thomas Currier in the chair.

[fo. 30r] [IMG_7876]

Primitive Methodists. Sunday August 5.

The Primitive Methodists or Ranters held their annual camp meeting in Silkes Meadow (near Harwood's Boat House) where the enthusiasm so peculiar to the sect was exhibited *with vengeance!*

Richard Jenkin, Esquire. Monday ½ past eight a.m.

A fine ox and three sheep decorated with colours and preceded by a band of music, flags &c was carried through the streets in procession to Bicton and Montford Bridge where they were distributed to the poor persons, in commemoration of the happy return of Mr Jenkins.

A respectable body of his friends dined together at the Raven Hotel in our town on the same occasion. August 6th.

Wool Fair. Wednesday August 8th.

The prices of wool at this and our last fair were extremely low, and which will undoubtedly depress many of the Welsh farmers whose chief dependence is upon that commodity.

The produce of the earth however in North Wales promises an abundant recompense and I was informed during a recent tour through a considerable portion of that part of the Principality, that the crops in general were never so abundant, indeed there appeared in many places *much better* crops of hay than I have witnessed in our own vicinity.

Relief Fund, St. Chad's.

I should have stated above that the teachers of Saint Chad's Boy's Sunday School assembled in old St. Chad's Church on Monday evening August 6th for the purpose of establishing a society for the temporary relief of the scholars when in a state of indisposition, under the title of St. Chad's Boy's Sunday School *Relief Fund*. The Rev. Charles Bury was requested to take the chair and opened the business of the meeting by reading the rules which I had been previously requested to draw up for the [fo. 31r] [IMG_7877] same, after which a treasurer, secretary and committee were chosen, for the further particulars see the rules.

A neat tablet with the following inscription has recently been erected in Saint *Chad's church*.

Sacred to the Memory
of
Richard Drinkwater
of this Parish
whose placid and amiable disposition, liberal and
benevolent mind, patience and resignation under
trying and severe afflictions, added to a correct
estimation of the duties and promises of religion
whilst they procured him through life the genuine
affection and respect of a numerous circle of
relatives and friends, rendered the moments in
which he resigned it
Tranquil and Serene.

HENRY PIDGEON

animated as they were with the cheering hope of a
Blessed Immortality
He was descended from the ancient family of Durnmwater
otherwise Derwentewater of Bent, Warburton, Cheshire,
and Died March 4th 1825 aged 70 years.

Sacred also
To the Memory of
Jane his beloved Wife
who died July 29th 1799 aged 41 years
To commemorate their virtues, and exemplify
his own filial affection, this Monument was
erected by their son Richard Drinkwater
the only survivor of a family of eleven children
who with their pious and exemplary Parents
are interred in the adjoining *Cemetery* [sic]

[fo. 32r] [IMG_7878]

Baptists.

Whether a spirit of dissatisfaction be peculiar to Baptist churches in general or confined to this county in particular is not for me to determine, but should *facts* be called into question it is rather probable they would prove '*stubborn*' in assigning no little portion of that grievous failing to the latter. As a proof of this assertion we have only to refer to the history of the Baptist Church in this town, whose ministers with one or two exceptions have been removed, or to prevent greater feuds, modestly *resigned*. Mr Smith who preceded Mr Palmer was dismissed on one ground, as a contemporary *MS* assures us '*for being of a cheerful social disposition*'. In regard however to the ministry of Mr P[alme]r perhaps that was the only instance in which mutual love subsisted between the *pastor*, *church* and *congregation*.

It is therefore with feelings of regret that I find a slight schism in the present Baptist *congregation*. What are its causes and motives I am at a loss to discover further, than that it originates with a few dissatisfied individuals, who among other trifles consider that Mr Kent the respected pastor '*cannot tell them more that they really know.*' And in allusion to his preaching which is generally acknowledged to be mild, forcible and elegant, a cant phrase has been created (void of *sense* or *judgement* in its import) '*Do you know the Rule of Three.*' August 9th.

Shropshire Summer Assize. Friday August 10th.

W. Tayleur, Esquire, the High Sheriff of the County and a respectable body of his friends and tenantry proceeded as usual to meet the judges of Assize, Mr Justice Littledale and Mr Baron Vaughan who arrived in town about 5 o'clock and proceeded to read the commission for holding the Assizes. The calendar contains the names of 36 prisoners. The cause list 32 cases. On Saturday morning at 10 o'clock Mr Justice Littledale took his seat in the Crown Court and Mr Baron Vaughan at the Nisi Prius having omitted attending divine service prior thereto, a circumstance unknown in Salop within the memory of any person.

[fo. 32v] [IMG_7879]

1827 August 11th. At a meeting of the grand jury held this day in the Shire Hall, it was resolved to petition Parliament relative to some means being adopted to afford a greater protection to the breed of salmon and to ensure a more general participation in the

benefits of its fishery to all parts of the river, than the present laws appear calculated to effect.

[fo. 33r] [IMG 7880]

St. Chad's. Sunday August 12th.

The judges of Assize accompanied by the High Sheriff and William Brayne, Esquire, in the absence of the Mayor, attended St. Chad's church where the Rev. Mr Pearson the High Sheriff's chaplain preached a sermon 2 Timothy 3 chap. 16 & 17 verses.

He introduced his discourse by stating that there were many interesting cases in the subject of the text which he should feel it his duty to bring forward on the present occasion and proceeded to shew that the language of the Apostle was *plain, intelligible* and *useful*, and the text full and explicit in what it implies. After observing that laws were enjoined for the well governance of man he took a passing survey of the natural world and the chief support by which it is sustained. The order and regularity of the heavenly bodies, 'the wisdom of the Creator in placing his creatures and the whole animal and vegetable kingdom under such rules and restraint as are conducive to the whole, and though we cannot discern the immutable system which governs the whole, we should be content to know that it is *God*, such being the conclusion which observation offers, for it will require greater depths than philosophy to see through the whole'! But (continued he) 'how strikingly are these appearances seen through the revealed will of God'!

He next adverted to Abraham who was favoured by the Almighty not for his faith alone but because he obeyed the law of God and that the same design is displayed throughout the new covenant, 'can the sinner then persuade himself that faith will transport him to Heaven when he has neglected the improvement of time. How contrary is it to the example of our Saviour who says I must do the work of him that sent me whilst it is day.' The promises of the Gospel are not the conditions of faith alone. Holiness of life belong to them and such are the practical inferences of the Gospel and were I to detain you longer we should only arrive at these words of the text (lat part ver). We can only hope to please God by employing our faculties in his service. Is it possible that Heaven can have charms for the evil man? Can he who has never looked beyond the confines of this world look [fo. 34r] [IMG_7882] for eternal life? Can he who has neglected religion enjoy the blessings of immortality? As well may we talk of a man who has been blind from his birth beholding the sun, as to talk of the delights of heaven to him who has ever lived in the neglect of them.

There is hope however for the true penitent. Salvation being promised to those who bring forth fruits meet for repentance. The Bible shews the punishments prepared for the wicked and the enjoyments for the righteous. Let conscience perform its work and as we believe in the *Gospel* of our Saviour he urged that a due dependence should be placed upon its truths considering that they are plain, simple and intelligible and being assured that our sins will find us out, yet if we resolve with firm determination to sin no more, we shall amid the convulsions of the wicked receive everlasting joy in the mansions of bliss.

Millington's Charity. Afternoon.

Mr James Millington, founder of the Hospital in Frankwell having directed by his will that a sermon should be annually preached on his birthday (the 12 August) in pursuance thereof one was preached this afternoon at St. Chad's by the Rev. J. E. Compson, from 107 Ps[alms] 8 ver. in the course of which he noticed 'that all good flowed from God and that it was he who actuated men to all good works, such as the building of schools &c consequently the hearts of the hospitallers of their bounty should be filled with gratitude to God for disposing their minds and particularly that of the venerable founder of the

charity which we are desired this day to notice and the benefits of which many around me enjoy.'

St. Giles' Church. Afternoon (same day).

Divine service was as is customary performed in the venerable church of Saint Giles, where the Reverend W. G. Rowland preached an excellent sermon from Galatians.

A part of the choir from the Abbey attended and chanted the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, the effect was *highly striking* and those feelings which heard it unmoved are not to be envied. The church was crowded to *excess* and many went away not being able to gain admittance.

[fo. 33v] [IMG_7881]

1827 Sunday August 12th.

The Rev. Joshua Marsden, minister of the Wesleyan Chapel preached according to previous announcement a funeral sermon or what he called 'an improvement upon the death of Mr Tibnam' a respectable member of the Wesleyan Society. It would have been a tolerable sermon divested of some intolerant political invectives. In fact it was a funeral sermon upon all the prime ministers of state, from the 'Pilot who weathered the storm' to the Right Honourable George Canning of whom his *liberality* prompted him to say 'that he (Mr Canning) was *now gone*, the man who was raised only a few months ago to the highest pinnacle of worldly glory, but by how many sacrifices of honour, conscience and so on, *God* only knows, this is a specimen of Christian charity certainly, from a man who doubtless *never* saw those passages of Holy Writ 'speak not evil one of another' 'Judge not lest ye be judged.'

The Reverend gent. is known to have abused Mr Canning first, then to candidly renounce those opinions and become reasonable, and subsequently to turn as above 'like a dog to his vomit and as a sow wallowing in the mire'!!!

I might adduce many instances of the above gent. Christian charity, similar to the foregoing, but considering it would be a waste of time and paper in noticing such illiberality. I forbear.

[fo. 35r] [IMG_7883]

St. Alkmunds. Sunday evening August 12th.

A sermon was preached at Saint Alkmund's church by the Reverend John Richards, curate, in aid of the funds for rebuilding the Salop Infirmary. The congregation was unusually small as will be evident from the collection which amounted to only £10 6s. 0d.

Assizes continued.

The business in the Crown Court was finished this morning, judgement of death was recorded against 11 prisoners, 7 received sentence of transportation, 3 were imprisoned for various periods, 5 were not guilty and 7 discharged. 1 was referred until next assizes, 1 was ill, and another broke out of prison in June last and has not been retaken.

Two other prisoners were arraigned at the Bar for breaking out of prison on the 3rd of Aug. & sentenced to 1 year's imprisonment. They were retaken near Rodington the same evening they made their escape. Tuesday Aug. 14th.

Bellstone House.

The house in Barker Street called Bellstone, late the residence of Mrs Moysten Owen being under repair, the Grecian porch in front of the hall door was taken down. It had in the pediment the arms of the family of Owen, a lion rampant and a canton. August 16th.

Assizes continued. Saturday August 18th.

The business at Nisi Prius which has been very important, finished this evening when the judges immediately left town for Hereford.

Frankwell.

A culvert has been formed to carry off the wet which continually lay in the disagreeable hollow between the bridge and the Compasses Inn, Frankwell, and the space raised to the height of 3½ feet thereby completing a good passage, for which purpose upwards of £60 has been received from the surplus fund for improving and macadamising the Wyle Cop. See page [blank] vol. [blank]

[fo. 36r] [IMG_7884]

Corn Harvest.

The weather far the last eight days has been very unpropitious for gathering the produce of the earth. Our neighbourhood has experienced some heavy thunderstorms and the town this day was visited by a heavier storm of *rain* accompanied with hail and thunder, than has been known for some time. In fact, the harvest in our vicinity is but partially got in and the grain where is has been long cut is beginning to sprit. August 18th.

Baptists.

On the 11th of this month a printed circular addressed '*To the Religious Public*' was circulated amount the dissenters in our town, it commenced by stating

At a meeting held on the 10th of July at Enon Cottage for promoting the cause of religion in Shrewsbury and its vicinity, special prayer having been offered up to Almighty God for his continual guidance and direction in all things, and for His blessing to rest upon the humble exertions of those assembled. A committee was formed and after mature deliberation it was resolved that a short statement be printed, explanatory of the objects in view, addressed to the professors of Christianity generally but more particularly to their brethren of the Baptist denomination.

It proceeds to state that *this committee* 'have to regret the unfriendly feelings manifested by a few individuals' which they consider to have originated 'in misconception'. They further *profess* 'to harbour no spirit of hostility towards their brethren the Baptists, or any other denomination' desiring 'the co-operation of *all*', at the same time asserting 'that this town presents a sphere for enlarging the Redeemer's Kingdom, when the disproportion of places for divine worship and the vast population are taken into consideration and that the Castle Foregate has a strong claim upon the friends of religion in this particular' no one will I am persuaded doubt.

It then goes on to state that they wish 'to establish a *second* Baptist interest in some part of the Castle Foregate [fo. 37r] [IMG_7885] to effect which a Mr Hassall of Haverfordwest was invited to Salop 'to form his own judgement of its practability, the good likely to result therefrom, and to act accordingly'. But should 'Mr Hassall not be at liberty to engage, some other active zealous minister will be invited to do so, and when sufficient funds are raised some one of the neighbouring ministers be invited to preach in a temporary place in this neighbourhood.'

Thus they profess '*openly and candidly*' to have laid before the public '*the motives by which they are influenced*'! As a friend and wellwisher to the best interests of mankind and the religion of the heart, I sincerely hope *it may* prove as stated aforesaid.

But the fact is the *present motives* do *not* appear as having for their design an extension of the ‘*Redeemer’s Kingdom*’ or cause, for I have satisfactory reasons to believe that they are only as a cloak to obtain by some means if possible, another minister in the room of Mr Kent, if it be *in fact* as is represented above, why was not their intentions laid before Mr Kent *first*, in a fair and candid manner? Such a proceeding would have been upright and honourable, and gained themselves and their undertaking great credit from the friends of religion in general. Instead thereof these seceders forced the aforementioned Mr Hassall into Mr Kent’s pulpit, when the latter was labouring under indisposition! And for what?

The general conduct of these seceders brings to my recollection an anecdote of which the following is the substance.

A complaint was made to a dissenting preacher by a deacon of his chapel that the congregation could not benefit under his discourses, the preacher replied that he was sorry for that, but it might be accounted for by his having lost his ‘*Prayer Book*’ to which the deacon with astonishment said, we did not know that [fo. 37v] [IMG_7886] *you used a ‘Prayer Book’!* The minister emphatically answered ‘*I have lost the prayers of my people!*’ The deacon sensible of the rebuke instantly withdrew.

[fo. 38r] [IMG_7887]

Old St. Chad’s Church.

The interior of old Saint Chad’s church beautified, and iron palisading placed on the wall surrounding the burial ground. The vane and cardinal points were placed on the summit of the east end of the building in the early part of the year at the expense of Thomas Pemberton, Esquire. August 24th.

St. Julian’s.

A sermon was preached this morning in Saint Julian’s church by the Reverend Frederick Iliff, minister, in aid of the funds for the erection of a new Infirmary, the sum of £20 1s. 10d. was collected. August 26th.

Rev. Joshua Marsden. Same evening.

The Reverend Joshua Marsden, preacher at the Wesleyan Meeting House, St. John’s Hill, delivered his farewell sermon. ‘*He is gone*’ to Worcester.

As this person in some degree rendered himself a public character by his imitative *Irving harangues*, I record a few remarks relative to him from my own observations, and that of a friend who was a regular attendant on his preaching. [fo. 38r cont] [IMG_7888]

Mr Marsden’s appearance in the pulpit was rather respectable and prepossessing at first sight, although not handsome even after a more strict investigation. His prayers were very long, not altogether addresses to the Deity, but frequently teeming with digressive remarks entirely opposed to what his hearers on such an occasion could either expect or approve. Some of his prayers were deep, eloquent and powerful, others puerile and feeble.

His reading of the scriptures was not pre-eminent, and his delivery of the hymn really disgraceful.

Nature had bestowed on him a tolerable voice which he spoiled by ineffectual attempts to make [fo. 39r] [IMG_7889] it better. Mr M’s. sermons were a sort of theological ‘Fitchet Pie’ or Salmagundi. There was nothing like a theme or regular discourse in them. They generally contained the five constituent parts or divisions, but the cart was often placed before the horse, and we had narrative, appeal, and half a conclusion, all jumbled together to form what he considered his introduction, and which

generally occupied about half or three quarters of an hour, when he would implore the '*Divine blessing*' upon the remarks he *was going* to make and which usually filled up fifteen or twenty minutes, leaving the former preamble to take its chance.

Mr. M. often introduced scraps of poetry into his sermons, chiefly from *Young*, but so metamorphosed that few could recognise it, being reduced to the level of his own bad prose. He also sometimes favoured his audience with 'Poetry' of his own manufacture, which he recited so badly that it was often fancied worse than it really was.

Mr Marsden was occasionally more learned and incomprehensible than his hearers wished, still, many thought it must be grand, because they could not understand it. Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and [fo. 39r cont] [IMG_7890] French have at sundry times been dealt out to the public with more liberality than judgment. Had this gentleman conveyed Dr Adam Clarke's commentary from the study to the pulpit, he would have saved his reputation from being many times associated with a contemptible union of ignorance and pedantry.

Mr Marsden's *temper* was not even the most placid, even in the pulpit, some little bulwark or stumbling block obstructed the gratification of a little ambition. Some poor unfortunate wight gets a lecture for coming too late, some gentle 'current of fresh air' constantly annoys [fo. 40r] [IMG_7891] him by rushing to fill up the vacuum created by his warmth and animation.

As a speaker Mr M. was occasionally forcible and eloquent, and although his remarks unconnected they were generally sensible. He was always what he called '*Faithful*' to his flock, never sparing their failings, or their feelings. He was extremely illiberal to those from whom he differed in sentiment, particularly the Roman Catholics, respecting whom he once said 'if they were to gain the ascendancy he would cross the Atlantic'. But the 'Romans' were not the only sect against whom his anathemas were directed, the 'Calvinists' had their share whose doctrines he has in the multitude of his charity called 'damnable', other Christians have been treated in like manner.

For some months after Mr Marsden came to our town, he appeared to be possessed of the spirit of his Divine Master, preaching and practising that humility and brotherly love which winneth souls. He increased the congregation and the society in so much that it was deemed necessary to enlarge the meeting house. After this was done Mr M. seemed much [fo. 40r cont] [IMG_7892] altered, indeed almost intoxicated with the honour of preaching in his new and elegant place of worship. He became proud and irritable and in the remainder of his time, more left the society than he had been previously the instrument of adding.

He often appealed forcibly to the passions of the people.

As a pulpit tradesman Mr Marsden was always steady and attentive. In December. 1824 he preached a Philippic on that Methuselah of almanac '*Vox stellarum*' by Francis Moore, physician, and most pathetically concluded by recommending a substitute published by the company of Methodists, and sold by himself. [fo.. 41r] [IMG_7893]

However enough has been said on the dark side of Mr M's character, it were to be wished the brighter one afforded equal scope for observation, indeed the few favourable remarks already made appear to embrace all that we can advance.

That Mr Marsden was notorious, few will deny, that he was popular, equally few will admit. He was a man who could oftener excite curiosity than gratify it, of some talent, but no taste. One who was occasionally eloquent and impressive, frequently low and declamatory, sometimes soaring aloft upon the sublimity of Holy Writ, at other times grovelling in the very dregs of human thought and expression. Thus he has managed to leave behind him a name that will not soon be forgotten by many who heard him.

Mr Marsden is succeeded by the Rev. William Moulton, a grave old gentleman, from Congleton.

Irish Society Schools. Thursday August 31st.

The anniversary meeting of the friends and subscribers to the 'Shropshire Society in aid of the Sunday School Society for Ireland', [fo. 41r cont.] [IMG_7894] was held in our Town Hall, and was very numerously attended, especially by the fair sex of our county who appear to take a lively interest in its concerns.

Our little townsman Mr Urwick (a dissenting minister at Sligo) spoke at considerable length, and excited much attention.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Roden, patron of the parent society, presided. The proceedings of the meeting occupied full four hours and the collection at the doors amounted to £19 7s. 6d.

This Society was formed in Salop at a meeting held in the Town Hall on the 1st June 1825, its purpose seems to be implied in its title, viz. to promote [fo. 42r] [IMG_7895] the establishment and facilitate the conducting of Sunday schools in Ireland by disseminating the most approved plans for the management of such schools, and to provide them with books or copies of the Scriptures gratuitously or at reduced prices.

Our truly Christian diocesan has accepted the office of patron of the Society then formed.

I also noticed in Dec. 1825 a meeting convened by Miss Pigott and held at the residence of Richard Phayre, Esquire, for the purpose of forming a Ladies Association in connection with the above, of which Society Miss P. is patroness. It is entitled the Ladies Shropshire and Shrewsbury Auxiliary Society.

Mayor. Thomas Dugard, M.D.

Being the Friday after the Feast of Saint Bartholomew, Thomas Dugard M.D. was elected Mayor of this town and Liberties for the year ensuing.

Fruit Market. Saturday September 15.

Our market of today and the two preceding weeks has been *overstocked* with *fruit* of every description, apples and pears were sold at one penny and nuts at three pence per quarter! [fo. 42r cont.] [IMG_7896]

Duke of St. Albans.

The Duke and Duchess of Saint Albans visited our town in their passage from Worcester Musical Festival, they reminded us of the distich: 'He looked when a courting he went, Like a *shrimp* making love to a *lobster*.'

Races. September 18, 19 & 20.

Our annual 'Horse Races' took place on these days, the attendance of company was not so numerous or [fo. 43r] [IMG_7897] respectable as we have witnessed on preceding occasions. The provincial declaration being quite general 'We never knew such *flat* races'. Feeling but little interest in the 'sporting' department and considering it a matter of as little importance, I as usual pass over its detail.

There was however an unusual sensation excited on the 'turf' in consequence of several young men having been cheated on the first day by some gamblers, the tables of whom were eventually upset. On Wednesday one of the 'sharper' was ducked in a pond, others had their booths demolished and burnt, which so dispersed the vagabonds that on Thursday not one was to be seen on the course.

Infirmary Meeting. Friday September 21.

The Infirmary meeting was as usual most numerous and respectably attended; whilst the display of gentlemen of rank and honour in the procession and ladies the pride of Shropshire in the church was truly [fo. 43r cont] [IMG_7898] creditable and honourable to our *county*.

The Reverend H. C. Cotton of Great Ness preached the annual sermon in St. Chad's church from 9 chap. John, 3 verse.

Miss Williams Wynne and Miss Childe were the ladies who held the plates supported by Charles Kynaston Mainwaring, Esquire, of Ottely Park, and Richard Jenkins, Esquire, of Bicton.

The Reverend Sir Edward Kynaston, Bart, *Treasurer*.

Church Missionary Society. Tuesday September 25.

The annual meeting of the friends to the Shropshire Church Missionary Society was held in the Town Hall. Alderman William Cludde in the chair. The [fo. 44r] [IMG_7900] attendance was particularly large. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese and many other clergymen were present and addressed the meeting.

The report was read by the secretary, the Reverend John Langley, and stated that the contributions received from the branch societies in our county 'with subscriptions and congregational collections amounted to the sum of £804 4s. 2d. of which £750 has been remitted to the parent society in London.'

The Rev. C. Bickersteth, secretary of the parent society stated that the 'Church Missionary. Society had nine missions containing 56 stations in which there were 497 teachers employed, numerous congregations formed, schools established and 14,000 children in course of instruction, the gross receipts amounting in the 25th year of its duration to upwards of £45,000.

The collection at the door amounted to £28 2s. 10d. besides subscriptions and donations received amounting to upwards of £50.

Wesleyan Schools. Sunday September 31.

A meeting of the Sunday school connected with the Wesleyan Society was held this evening for the purpose of electing a new committee and the general management of the school for the ensuing year, when a paper was sent in containing the names of nine ladies to serve as a committee, which was read by the chairman to the amusement of all present.

A motion having been made to the committee respecting the impropriety or impropriety of continuing the present custom of teaching some of the elder children to write on the Sabbath day.

After 'an arduous discussion', it was decided in the positive 'believing (as they say) that it is lawful to do good on this sacred day.

[p. 43v] [IMG_7899]

Wesleyan School.

This is the only school in Shrewsbury where writing is taught on the Sunday, and is (I think) *justly* considered by many as a misemployment of the sacred hours of the Sabbath.

[fo. 45r] [IMG_7901]

Royal Arms. St. Mary's.

The escutcheon bearing the Royal Arms originally placed in the centre light of the south transept window, has been removed to the north transept, and embedded in blue stained glass, instead of dark brown as before. The present situation is considered to be more appropriate than the former one on account of its proximity to the monument now in course of preparation to the memory of its lamented donor.

Chancel. The modern mosaic glass in the upper compartments of the east window has been removed and fragments of old Winchester glass placed in its stead, which harmonizes much better than the former *fiery yellow*.

South Porch. The curious and early pointed window on the west side of the south porch has been opened and glazed. It does not appear to have been originally so, from their not being the least trace of any grooves in the stone for the reception of glass, which of course were now made.

The mural monument which nearly covered the window inside the porch has been removed into the church.

September 30 1829.

St. Alkmund's.

The lower part of St. Alkmund's spire new pointed and repaired, and the broken parts of the beautiful tabernacled windows restored. The tower was repaired 1825.

September 30th.

[fo. 46r] [IMG_7902]

Thomas Dugard, M.D. Friday October 5th 1827.

Thomas Dugard M.D. was sworn into the office of Mayor of our town and liberties for the ensuing year, after which he entertained the body corporate at his residence the Council House with a cold collation, and on the following Sunday with a breakfast, after which they proceeded to Saint May's church, where the Venerable Archdeacon Owen preached a suitable discourse.

Cavalry.

The Shrewsbury Yeomanry Cavalry having been on 'permanent duty' during the past week, under the command of Colonel Dallas, had their 'Grand field Day' as it is termed this morning. Some of the troops look quite *a la militaire*, whilst others being formed of anything besides 'yeomanry' or 'gentry' are more like Falstaff's Regiment, excepting their clothing with which they have nothing to do, as I fancy it would soil with their figures, nevertheless the whole corps is creditable to our town and neighbourhood and I believe performed their evolutions to the entire satisfaction of their commanding officer. Tuesday October 9th.

Free Masonry. Tuesday October 9th.

The landlord of the Fox Inn having lately erected an additional room adjoining his house, towards which the Salopian Lodge of Free Masons have allowed him a *certain* sum. The Brethren assembled this evening 'to celebrate the opening of their *'Masonic Hall'* and to consecrate it to the objects and purposes on which free and accepted Masonry is founded, on which occasion a suitable address was delivered.

[fo. 47r] [IMG_7903]

Infirmary.

A truly magnificent legacy of £10,000 has been left for the support of our County Infirmary by William Francis, Esquire, of Buildwas, who died in Pembrokeshire in

August last, after the demise of four individuals, the respective ages of whom are about 80, 74, 60 and 45.

Dinner at the Castle. Tuesday October 16th.

John Cressett Pelham, Esquire, M.P. entertained the body corporate and a select party of friends with a magnificent dinner at his residence, the Castle.

Sick Man's Friend. October 16th.

The seventeenth anniversary of the 'Sick Man's Friend and Lying in Charity' was held this evening in the school room of Swan Hill meeting house.

The report for the past year ending Michaelmas states that 'the advantages of the institution have been extended in the past year to 301 cases, 228 of them connected with the former part of it and the other 73 with the latter.

Relief in money to the amount of £119 8s. 6d. was afforded to the sick, and £29 16s. 8d. to the poor women recommended, to whom not less than 1449 visits were made accompanied as usual with Christian council and prayer.'

The disbursements appear this year to have exceeded the receipts and have left a balance of £27 19s. 5d. due to the treasurer. The former amounting to £177 13s. 11d. and the latter to £149 14s. 6d. a resolution was consequently passed at this meeting expressive of the intention of the individuals present, as they may have opportunity to render their prompt assistance in replenishing its funds.

[fo. 48r] [IMG_7904]

Sailors. Sunday October 21

A Mr. Smith, late of Penzance, preached at the Wesleyan and Baptist Meeting Houses and in the open air in aid of the 'Bethel Union Society.' He drew from the liberality of Salopians upwards of £22.

Roman Catholics

A new organ by Parsons of London was opened this day in the Catholic Chapel when High Mass was celebrated and two sermons preached on the occasion by the Rev. J. Abbott of Oscott College. A selection of sacred music from masses was performed with great taste, whilst the vocallists [sic] sustained their part much to the satisfaction of the numerous auditory. The collection amounted to upwards of £23 which will be appropriated towards defraying the expense of the instrument which is very fine toned.
Wednesday Oct 24th

Admiral Owen

A full length portrait of our Townsman, Admiral Owen, has been placed in the large room of our Town Hall; it was purchased by a subscription commenced at the public dinner given to the Admiral in 1825 and finely executed by Mr. Richard Evans of London, a native of this town.

Colonel Dallas

At a recent Court of Directors of the Hon. East India Company, Commandant of the Shrewsbury Cavalry, was appointed Governor of St. Helena.

Accidental Drowning

A Corporal of the 3rd Foot Guards was drowned in the Severn whilst angling near the House Boat.

November 8th 1827

[fo. 49r] IMG 7905

Shrewsbury Hunt. Bazaar for the Infirmary

My general record relative to our long established *Hunt* having been confined to three or four lines; I have the gratification this year of extending them by the notice of a circumstance of such a pleasing, though novel nature, that will not only be memorable in the minds of many of the multitude of spectators in years to come, but form a subject worthy of record and notice in the annals of our town and county.

The foregoing has reference to the Bazaar for the sale of ladies fancy work under the patronage of the Countess of Powis and the direction of a committee of ladies in aid of the funds for rebuilding the Salop Infirmary.

Our good old town, distinguished as it is for its display of youth and beauty, did indeed this week exhibit in rich variety - more Grace and Beauty - Love and Benevolence, Wit and Fashion - than was perhaps ever displayed within its ancient boundaries. The sight was most inspiring, originating as it did from the best motives of heartfelt charity - a virtue which renders the female character at all times interesting, doubly attractive,

Nor vain their praise, Religion's worth they show
Who find their pleasure in relieving woe.

But as my purpose in this book is to record historical facts, I proceed to observe that the Bazaar, or scene of business, opened on Wednesday November 14th in the large room at the Town Hall, which was most tastefully fitted up for the occasion, the walls being decorated with elegant festoons of coloured drapery. To enumerate the perfection or variety of the articles which formed part of the [fo. 50r] [IMG_7907] 'stock in trade' would be an almost endless task when I mention that they were furnished by upwards of *three hundred* fair contributors, it may suffice therefore by stating that the whole business was most admirably conducted and reflects the greatest credit on the assiduity of the undersigned distinguished ladies who formed the committee [blank] as well as to those who acted in the capacity of *Assistants* in the disposal of the produce and to whose united exertions may be attributed the large sum which has been realized for the purpose aforestated.

The Bazaar was open on Wednesday and Thursday from half past eleven until four o'clock and on Friday evening, on the latter evening no ladies were admitted except in an Evening Dress without bonnetts [sic].

The Band of the Shrewsbury Yeomanry was stationed in the Grand Jury Room and continued playing beautiful airs throughout the sale.

The receipts on the occasion were as follows:

Wednesday 1st day	Produce	£349 15s. 9d
	Admittance	£37 19s. 0d.
Thursday 2nd day	Produce	£468 6s 6d.
	Admittance	£59 10s. 0d.
Friday 3rd [day]	Produce etc	£190 10s. 9d.
Total produce of sales and admission		£967 15s. 0d.
		£138 7s. 0d.
[Total]		£1106 2s. 0d.

The expenses attending the Bazaar amounted to £52 8s. 10½d leaving the magnificent sum of £1053 12s. 1½d to be applied for re-building the Infirmary.

As a matter of record and showing the crowded state of our town there were no less than *two hundred armed carriages* enumerated, a most astonishing number, since our lynx-eyed herald, Mr. Bowen, [fo. 51r] [IMG_7908] says he never before recollected more than *eighty* being in Shrewsbury at one time.

The gentlemen of the Hunt it is said enjoyed excellent sport and, although the weather throughout the week was unfavourable, the number in the field was great.

The assemblage in the Ball Room on Thursday evening was unusually numerous - in fact the whole week was one of endless variety - there are times for all things, and verily all things were with us and what stoic is there who spent this week in Shrewsbury and cannot say relative to it,

Oh, the day when Beauty bright,
My hearts chain wove!

for it never before presented such a scene of attraction, nor was the *Shrewsbury Hunt* ever so well attended.

Saturday 17th November

[fo. 49v] [IMG_7906]

Bazaar

The accounts of the Ladies Bazaar are now closed in consequence of the few articles left unsold having been disposed of for the sum of £24. 9s. 10½d, leaving a total balance of £1078 6s 0d. The Calico used for decorations has been appropriated to the use of the Infirmary.

£1078 6s. 0d.	
£52 8s. 10 ½ d.	Expenses
£1130 14s. 10 ½ d.	Total produce

December 31 1827 H.P.

[fo. 51r continued]

Wesleyan Schools. Sunday November 18th

Two sermons were preached in the Wesleyan Meeting House, St. John's Hill, in aid of the Sunday School connected with that place by the Rev. George Highfield of Liverpool. The collections amounted to £21. 3s. 7d. from which about £2 must be deducted for travelling expenses.

The report of the school shows a balance of £13. 6s. 8d. as being due to the Treasurer, 'notwithstanding scrupulous economy'. The receipts amount to £54. 11s. 2d. and the disbursements £67. 17s. 10d. There is no mention of the number of scholars in this report, which from some cause or other I fear are getting less.

Chemistry. Friday November 23rd

Mr. J. Murray, F.S.A., F.L.S. has commenced a course of twelve lectures to the members of the Shropshire Mechanic's Institution [fo. 52r] [IMG_7908] on Chemistry to be continued on three evenings in each week at the large room, Fox Inn, the public are admitted for 10s 6d the course.

Missionary Society. Sunday November 25

Two sermons were preached at Swan Hill Meeting House by the Rev. Thomas Weaver, Minister, in aid of the funds of the London Missionary Society. The collections amounted to £ [blank].

Juvenile Missionary Society Tuesday November 27th

The quarterly meeting of the Juvenile Missionary Association was held in the Vestry of the above Meeting House when it was proposed that a separate fund be formed for the support of the schools connected with the Missions, it being considered that many persons would contribute towards education who would not vouchsafe a farthing to preaching.

The proposition was duly carried and £1. 4s. 6d. instantly collected.

This association was formed in August 1816 and has from that period continued steady, the average amount received being £50 per annum.

Thomas Butler Esq. November 28

Thomas Butler Esq., son of the Rev. Archdeacon Butler, having attained his 21st year this day, a party of gentlemen dined at the Raven Inn to celebrate the event.

Salop Association

The number of horses which have been lately stolen from the vicinity of our town has induced several gentlemen to form a Society to recover horses stolen within five miles of our town, by an advance of £5 from each member. The following are its particular objects:

- 1st To form a large fund to be invested [fo. 53r] [IMG_7910] in government securities to meet the necessary expenses.
- 2nd To register the marks etc of every horse belonging to the members.
- 3rd To form such communications with the Police and all similar associations in other towns, as in case of depredation notice will be given to them by expresses, by coaches or by posts.
- 4th To afford a large reward to the detector of the felon,

A meeting of the subscribers to the above was held in the Town Hall on 10th December when a committee was formed, Joseph Sutton in the chair, John Eaton junior Esq., was appointed Treasurer and Mr. S. T. Harding, secretary; the meeting was adjourned to 17th December and the society to be named 'The Salop Association for the Detection of Horse Stealers.'

Frankwell Church. Friday November 30th

A respectable meeting of the subscribers to the erection of a Chapel of Ease in the suburb of Frankwell was held in the Vestry of St. Chad's Church, the Vicar in the chair.

The report of the committee appointed to solicit subscriptions was read by the Rev. Edward Bather and 'received' (as I am informed by the Rev. W. G. Rowland) 'without [fo. 53r cont] [IMG_7911] a single word of disapprobation'.

The report in substance states that it being the unanimous opinion of the Parish Meeting held on the 16th July, that an additional Chapel of Ease for our Parish was wanting; it was resolved that means should be taken for effecting the same and of appointing a committee to solicit subscriptions; the result of which has been 210 subscribers whose donations amount to £1965.

It then proceeds to notice Mr. Drinkwater's offer of a scite [sic] for the church with a footway around the same and an approach 24 feet in width [fo. 54r] [IMG_7912] from the

street of Frankwell, which offer has been accepted by the Committee. Mr. D. has also proposed to sell the Parish as much of the adjoining land as may be necessary for an additional place of sepulture.

Also that the Rt. Hon. the Earl of Tankerville has presented an old house which now stands in the way of the present intended approach and the land on which the same is built, provided that the next houses shall be properly bricked up.

The report further states that the committee have made application to His Majesty's Commissioners under the Act for building additional churches to enquire whether any aid might be looked for from them; the reply, in short, states that upon having all the sums collected, or hereafter to be collected paid to them, the Commissioners will themselves be willing to erect a suitable church, and to be at all additional charge, except the scite [sic], the enclosing of the same and what they term the fitting up of the building for divine worship, as therefore the committee were only appointed to solicit contributions they have not taken upon themselves to assent or dissent from this proposal. They would leave it to the subscribers to adopt what means they might think proper.

It was then moved and seconded that the thanks of this meeting [fo. 54r cont.] [IMG_7913] be voted to the committee for soliciting subscriptions and to the Church Wardens who lent their assistance and that they be re-appointed a committee for treating with the Commissioners etc and for completing the undertaking, either in conjunction with them, or in any other manner that shall appear to them most advisable or advantageous.

It was also resolved that it be an instruction to the committee not to sanction any measure that may by possibility lead to a taxation of the Parish.

[fo. 58r] [IMG_7914]

St Mary's. Sunday December 30th

The Rev. Charles Thomas Lutener B.A., Curate of St. Mary's, preached an affecting discourse illustrative of the death of the Ven. Archdeacon Owen, Minister of the Parish, from 1 Thessalonians, 4 Chapter 14v. Few persons who had experienced the friendship and kindness of the deceased had tearless eyes.

St. Alkmund's. Sunday December 30

Two sermons were preached in St. Alkmund's Church by the Rev. J.C. Williams, of High Wycombe, in aid of the funds of the Shropshire Auxiliary Bible Society, when £25 0s. 6½d was collected.

Irish School Society. Monday December 31

The annual meeting of the Shropshire and Ladies Association in aid of the School Society in Ireland was held as usual at the residence of Richard Phayre Esq.. The sum of £42 12s. 0d. was handed to the secretaries by the ladies then present.

Salopian Annals 1828. by Henry Pidgeon

[fo. 62r] [IMG_7915]

Frankwell Church. Much conversation has been excited in the parish of St Chad and in our town generally during the last six months respecting the propriety of erecting an additional Chapel of Ease in the populous suburb of Frankwell.

I have already noticed the various meetings which have taken place on this subject, as well as other circumstances bearing more immediately on the point.

The party however who now oppose the erection and only nine months ago petitioned in its favour manifest no little inconsistency, their chief plea urged in opposition, is that no additional church is required, whilst it must be evident to every impartial observer, that there is a great necessity for another in a population of nearly eight thousand inhabitants of which Frankwell contains little short of two thousand, and which suburb was actually declared by these self same oppositionists in a resolution at the first meeting, held on the subject in July 1825; '*to be the most eligible situation for the proposed new structure*', besides noticing the high price at which the pews in the church, were let in the same year.

[fo. 63r] [IMG_7916]

Thursday, January 3rd. A meeting was this day held in the Vestry Room of St Chad's church pursuant to a requisition addressed to the Church Wardens by the opposers of the measure for erecting a new church. The requisition was in substance this, To take into consideration the expediency of erecting a new church in Frankwell, and of confirming altering or rescinding the Vestry resolutions of July 16th; also to afford an opportunity to those proprietors who think proper to dissent from the erecting such chapel.

The vicar having taken the chair, and after much desultory conversation, five resolutions were proposed expressive that as the debt of the present parish church is £12,300, its charges for repairs, interest &c, some incidental expenses of old St Chad's church (rather cemetery [sic]) and Bickton Chapel with a present church rate of one shilling in the pound, the proposed erection appears to this meeting not only premature but improvident.

That the Church Room in the parish is more than adequate to the congregation which another erection would thin and diminish the revenues from the pews.

That the resolutions entered in the Vestry Book of July 16th 1827 should be rescinded.

That any mode proposed by the subscribers for guaranteeing the parish from the repairs &c of the intended chapel unless by act of Parliament, or a security on real property appears to this meeting inadequate in law – and lastly in thanking the subscribers, urges their bounty to the rebuilding of Bickton chapel in some convenient site, and proposing an additional sermon in Saint Chad's church on Sundays.

On the first resolution being announced a show of hands was demanded on which the chair declined deciding; a *poll* was consequently desired: Col. Leighton observing that he considered the present proceedings as a scheme to stop [fo. 64r] [IMG_7917] the design of erecting the chapel – he should therefore move as an amendment, 'That the further consideration of the points before us be adjourned until the Committee shall have made their promised communication from the Commissioners', this was seconded by John Eaton Junr Esqr.

Polling immediately commenced, - further particulars I shall postpone until the final close of the contest, which has commenced very warm.

Colonel Dallas Tuesday January 8th, I have already noticed the appointment of Col. Dallas to the Governorship of Saint Helena, a deputation of the officers &c of the corps assembled at their orderly room, to present him with a handsome *candelabra*, the produce of a subscription of 'the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the regiment as a memento of sincere gratitude for his services during twenty four years, and of unaffected regret for his resignation. January 1828'.

The candelabra cost about £180, weighing 292 ounces, and is 2½ feet in height. It has four branches, the base is formed of dolphins and shells alternately & is divided into three

compartments on one of which is the armorial bearings of the Colonel, and on the others, a Latin and English inscription.

Frankwell Church. The poll for the intended new church I am sorry to record, has been conducted with the greatest rancour and party spirit, - certainly not creditable to the cause, I forbear entering into particulars, it is sufficient to know the evil.

On the next page is a statement of the poll [fo. 65r] [IMG_7918] each day up January 10th when it closed.

Col Leighton's Amendment		Mr Clement's Resolution	
1st day Thursday 3rd	25	First day	24
2nd day Friday 4th	43	Second day	20
3rd day Saturday 5th	37	Third day	32
4th day Monday 6th [sic]	68	Fourth day	19
5th day Tuesday 8th	47	Fifth day	7
6th day Wednesday 9th	27	Sixth day	2
7th day Thursday 10th	9	Seventh day	none
	256		105

St Mary's election of minister *Friday January 25th.* The Reverend William Gorsuch Rowland, M.A was this day presented by the Corporation to the officialty & perpetual curacy of the Kings Free Royal Chapel of Saint Mary vacant by the demise of our lamented historian the Venerable Archdeacon Owen.

There were three candidates the Reverends Rowland, Wilding & Vaughan. The ceremony took place in the Crown Court County Hall; Lord Clive proposed Mr Wilding & John Bather Esqr spoke on his behalf; Alderman Kinnersley proposed Mr Vaughan. The Revd W. G. Rowland's claim was quite unsolicited on his part, there was at first a proposition which was negatived by a show of hands that Mr Rowland should have the *peculiar rights only*.

The Reverend T. B. Lutener the present officiating minister of Saint Mary was also put in nomination but his claim was ineligible. The following is a statement of the numbers voted Revd W. G. Rowland 17, Revd James Wilding 14, Mr Vaughan 16, T B Lutener 1.

Revd W. G. Rowland. Mr Rowland's appointment was announced by a peal on Saint Mary's & the Abbey bells. And it is singular that this antiquarian trio [fo. 66r] [IMG_7919] of firm friends when living, should thus succeed each other in the occupation of the venerable structure of Saint Mary.

Sessions. Our town and county Sessions occupied attention this week – the prisoners were so numerous on Friday, and the petty business of the town so great, that the court was obliged to adjourn until Monday next – Saturday 26th.

The weather. It has rained every day more or less since the first of last November. January 26.

Archdeacon of Salop Reverend Edward Bather. The Reverend Edward Bather M.A. vicar of Meole Brace has been appointed to succeed the late Venerable Hugh Owen in the Archdeaconry of Salop, Diocese of Lichfield.

Mr Bather is undoubtedly one of the first preachers in our county. He published in the early part of last year a volume of sermons chiefly practical, which are justly admired. He has also printed several occasional discourses.

Parliament. January 29th. Parliament opened by Commission.

Inquests. Coroners inquests have been held this month on the following accidents, 12th inst. on view of the body of George Harris, found drowned in the Severne [sic] below the New Factory, having it is supposed accidentally fallen in. 20th. On view of the body of John Hughes, found in the river, near Coleham bridge the same morning. He had been missing since Xmas last.

[fo. 68r] [IMG_7921]

St Mary's. Rev. W.G. Rowland. Sunday February 10 1828. The Reverend W G Rowland M.A. preached his introductory sermon at St Mary's this morning from 2 Peter 1 ch 12 verse. In the afternoon he read the Articles instead of a sermon.

Lord Hill. Our gallant countryman *Lord Hill* appointed *Commander in Chief* of the British Army.

High Sheriff. William Lacon Childe Esqr of Kinlet Hall is appointed High Sheriff of our county for the ensuing year.

St Chad's Archdeacon Bather. Sunday February 17th. The newly elected Archdeacon of Salop, Revd Edward Bather performed the whole of the duty this day at Saint Chad's church. He preached in the morning a most powerful sermon from the 18 19 & 20th verses of the 33 chap of Exodus. In the course of which he remarked that the ministers of the Gospel have a great work to perform, in subduing the evil passions of men; *Christ* being our great captain and leader our duty is not to stand still but to fight manfully the good fight of faith, and not to tread under foot the Son of God, lest we become like the *Jews*, a monument to this day of the Almighty's hatred of sin. In the *afternoon*, after he had gone through the prayers, he read his declaration to the Articles of the Church of England, made before the Revd Dr Butler, after which he delivered another excellent sermon from [fo. 69r] [IMG_7922] the 6 & 7 verses of the 4 chap of Phillipians, which was chiefly occupied in setting forth the precept contained in the text, and in illustrating by quotations from the Prophets & the Apostles the plan or groundwork relative to it. He summed up his discourse by a solemn declaration & prayer 'that if by God's blessing any were brought to acknowledge of the truth, and thereby led to forsake sin, my work is done; for I preach not myself but Christ Jesus, whose servant I am and *yours* for his sake'.

Samaritan Society. Two sermons were preached on the same day at the Wesleyan meeting house, by Mr Edward Loxdale, in aid of the funds of the Good Samaritan Society. The sum of £21.0.0. was collected.

St Giles's church. The Reverend W G Rowland has caused the windows in the north aisle [sic] of Saint Giles's church to be filled with fragments of the ancient Winchester glass;

the various pieces are ingeniously disposed so as to represent the outline of figures, and has a pleasing effect.

Salop Directory. A book entitled the *Salop Directory* has just been published by Mr William Alsop a printer of this town, he has described himself in his advertisement as ‘*author of Bangor and its neighbourhood*’ – this has excited some amusement, since it is a fact that he never was at Bangor!

The Salop Directory however is a compilation and contains several blunders which an actual survey might have prevented. It is embellished with views of Lord Hill’s Column & the intended new Infirmary – contains [blank] pages price 3/-

This book has completely failed in the sale Aug 1829 H.P.

[fo.70r] [IMG_7923]

Lent Assizes. Thursday March 14th 1828. The Commission of Assize for this county was opened in our town, after which the judges Parke and Vaughan accompanied by William Lacon Childe Esqr the High Sheriff proceeded to Saint Chad’s church where the Reverend Spencer Wilde delivered a sermon from 13 Romans 5 ver.

The calendar contains the names of about 28 prisoners.

Archdeacon Bather March 27 Married at Saint Mary’s by the Reverend William Hopkins the Reverend Archdeacon Bather to Mary eldest daughter of Archdeacon Butler. This event was the cause of some rejoicing in our town – more benevolence – and most incessant ringing of the church bells.

The pupils of Dr Butler presented Miss Butler the day previous to her marriage with a splendid silver epergne of seventy five guineas value, weighing 105 ounces.

Lancasterian School. Sunday March 30. A sermon was preached in the High Street meeting house, by the Reverend Brook Aspland, in aid of the funds of the Lancasterian School in this town; the sum of £25.0.0. was collected.

[fo. 71r] [IMG_7924]

Fairs in the streets. *April 7th 1828.* A requisition having been sent to the Mayor complaining of the inconvenience arising from the obstructions of cattle, standings, &c in the principal streets on market and fair days, whereby the thoroughfare is impeded. He appointed a meeting, held this day in the Town Hall to take the same into consideration; it was very thinly attended & the matter was transferred to the Common Council of the town.

Justice Smith. *April 11th* William Smith Esqr senior member of our body corporate, has at last loosed the grasp of his gold and yielded his tough sinews to the bandage of the grave, in his 92nd year. He served the office of mayor for our borough in the year 1770, and has left property behind him estimated at £150,000 which is chiefly divided among his grandchildren,

His remains were interred in Saint Chad’s cemetery [sic].

St Julian’s. Sunday April 20th. An evening service at 6 o’clock was commenced at St Julians church for the ‘*free accommodation of the town at large*’, the parishioners having given up their pews for the purpose.

The service was read by the Reverend George Moultrie, after which the Reverend Archdeacon Bather preached a sermon highly appropriate to the occasion from the latter part of the 33rd verse 10 ch of Acts.

The reverend preacher in alluding in the course of his sermon to the anxiety generally manifested to hear *different preachers* remarked that although some might be more learned, or better informed than others, *all aimed to do good*, it became therefore *a duty* to pray for a right judgement in hearing, whilst we set before you 'life and death', the Lord being *one judge*, so that whether 'Paul Plants', or 'Apollos Waters', [fo. 72r] [IMG_7925] it matters but little since it is God that giveth the increase, and truly *he* has said 'Lo I am with you always' come then and *hear* with *simplicity*.

The church was crowded to excess.

The following clergymen have undertaken to preach alternately, the one reading the prayers on the previous Sunday to which he preaches.

Reverend Archdeacon Bather	Reverends Charles Bury
Reverend George Moultrie	Reverend J. E. Compson
Reverend T. B. Lutener	Reverend Francis Thompson & Fred Iliff

St Chad's Schools Sunday April 27th, Two sermons were preached in Saint Chad's church by the Reverend Daniel Nihill minister of Clunbury, in aid of the funds of Saint Chad's Girls School of Industry & Boys Sunday School.

The preacher discoursed in the morning from the 4.5.6 & 7 verses of the 78 Psalm, and in setting forth the benefits resulting from education said, he did not mean to deny that crime had in some instances proceeded from education, yet, by no means was it the sole cause, for it was scarcely credible that *religious* education could qualify for crime, he appealed to the most scrupulous to observe and *prove*, whether the *increase* was amongst the *educated*, or *uneducated*, let the higher classes in life who believe the former doctrine prove their belief, of the blessings of ignorance, by refusing all education to their own children, and since the practability [sic] of this has never been decided by any of the cavillers, and whilst we admit abuses on the one side, it is but fair that we should take credit on the other.

In the afternoon he discoursed from the 3rd verse of the 4 chap of St Mark shewing how the beauty of the World was 'marr'd' the ground cursed [fo. 73r] [IMG_7927] and our first parents driven from Paradise, and doomed to toil, and to eat by the sweat of the brow, which was certainly a sad and striking instance of God's displeasure at sin and disobedience but a way of escape has been opened to transgressors – *mercy* interceded for us, and the *Sabbath* has been given as a day of rest from labour, and if I may be allowed the expression, '*this day still remains uncursed, thus preserving a link between Heaven & Earth*'; 'The Sabbath was made for Man' truly exhibiting amidst the wreck of mankind the hallowed lustre which was set forth on this day by the Saviour of the World proclaiming himself Lord of the Sabbath – and dispersing some of the ancient prejudices by doing *good* on this day himself – from which we may indeed learn *our* duty, whilst we consider that the *chief object* of the Sabbath is the *Glory of God*.

In noticing the institution for which he was pleading, he remarked that he knew what would be the efforts of his hearers, if an *enemy* were about to invade any of their rights & liberties; how much then is required when a most powerful one is going about as 'a *roaring lion* seeking whom he may devour'; strive then to keep a strong defence against him and this defence is the means of instruction on the Sabbath day to *four hundred children* now before you and claiming your bounty for that purpose.

Though the congregations were but small, the collections amounted to the sum of £52.16.0 – see note.

[fo. 72v] [IMG_7926]

Mr Nihill was solicited to publish these sermons but he very modestly declined, stating as a reason 'that having already published two sermons for a similar charity, were he to follow them up by the sermons in question, it would look as if I were *making a practice*, of pushing my occasional discourses into public notice'. June 1829

[fo. 74r] [IMG_7928]

Mrs. Compson. May 9th 1828

Died in her 34th year, Elizabeth, wife of the Rev. James Edward Compson, Vicar of Saint Chad's, and daughter of Richard Baxter Esq., Town Clerk of Ludlow. Her remains were interred in a vault in Bicton Chapel.

Salop Association

I have hitherto refrained from noticing a Society established in the year 1796 in connection with the Independent denomination of Dissenters and entitled the 'Salop Association for Promoting Itinerant Preaching' throughout the County; my reason for so doing was because I could never obtain a satisfactory statement of its funds although the Anniversary is held in the month of January at Swan Hill Meeting House. At this Anniversary the various Ministers of the denomination within the County assemble. Three sermons are preached and a collection made for promoting the design of the Society.

Within the last few days a circular letter from the Ministers of this Association with a statement of finances has been printed and distributed among the members and friends of the several churches they represent.

It commences by stating that five years had elapsed since one had been issued – a delay which has been induced by a regard to economy and congratulates the 'Christian Bretheren [sic] of the Society on the continued enjoyment of their evangelical privileges!' [fo. 74r cont.] [IMG_7929] and touches upon the death of the Rev. John Whitridge of Oswestry, the Secretary of the Society from its commencement until the time of his decease October 1826 – see Annals Vol IV.

In reference to the *finances* of the Association the Report says that the Trustees appointed by the Will of the late Mr. James Parry to obviate all difficulties as to survivorship have transferred to the Association [fo. 75r] [IMG_7931] the amount of the legacy which he bequeathed to them for promoting itinerant preaching in this County – the amount so transferred is £1800.

The Report further notices a reduction of late in the contributions, a Statement of Accounts (which I shall annexe) a progress of the Society's operations which appear to have been extended to between forty and fifty places, most of which it asserts 'would be in a state of entire destitution without the aid thus afforded.'

[fo. 74v]

The following is a Statement of the Accounts of the 'Salop Association' from January 1 1823 to January 1 1828.

Receipts		Payments	
Subscriptions, donations and collections	£296 16s. 3½d.	Balance due to the Treasurer	£82 3s. 9d.
Grants from the fund of Mr Parry	£52 0s. 0d.	Stipends to sundry ministers	£489 4s. 0d.

HENRY PIDGEON

Interest from the same fund since its transfer to the Association.	£215 0s. 0d.	Travelling expenses of several ministers of the Association	£110 17s. 9d.
Legacy of the late James Craig Esq. less by Legacy Duty	£180 0s. 0d.	Rent and charges at several village stations	£14 10s. 7d.
Interest upon ditto	£32 9s. 10d.	Ditto at Prees Lower Heath	£14 7s. 3d.
Principal money secured by note	£100 0s. 0d.	Law Expenses	£5 11s. 2d.
Interest upon ditto	£4 19s. 0d.	Postage, parcels and printing	£7 19s. 8d.
Balance due to Treasurer	£6 4s. 3½d.		£887 10s. 2d
	887 10 2		
Audited Apr 29 1828		Balance due to the Treasurer	6 4 3½

[fo. 75r cont]

Wesleyan Missions. Sunday May 11th

The annual sermons in aid of the Wesleyan Missions were preached in Saint John's Meeting House by the Rev. Manoah Kent and Mr. Edward Loxdale.

Friday 16 May

The Annual Meeting connected with the above was held as aforesaid. The sum of £45 was received after the several collections.

Lord Forester. May 22nd

Died, Lord Forester. For a memoir of this nobleman see Gent[leman's] Mag[azine] Vol. [blank] p. 1. page for July by H. Pidgeon.

St. Chad's

The annual sermon on Whitsunday at St. Chad's was preached by the Rev. C. Bury, Curate.

Royal Academy

Our native artist, Mr. Philip Browne has in the [fo. 75r cont] [IMG_7932] exhibition this year 'Views of *Shrewsbury* from the bed of the river at Coton Hill', '*Shrewsbury* from the banks of the Severn opposite Underdale', 'Scene at *Llanberis*, N. Wales, Dolbadarn Castle in the distance'.

These are highly creditable to the abilities of our townsman and indicate much future excellence in his profession.

[fo. 76r] [IMG_7933]

Shrewsbury Show Monday June 9th

Our ancient festival of the "Show" was this year celebrated with increased splendour and pageantry. The different incorporated companies assembled as usual and proceeded in the following order to Kingsland:

Shoemakers (Masters) preceded by *Crispin* in his scarlet coat and wig, and *Crispianus* clad in a leathern surtout bearing a gilded mace. The *Apprentices* were preceded by a 'King,' highly decorated with paste jewelry and other loose gaudy trappings with a headdress of feathers of some feet in altitude. These were followed by the *Master Tailors* preceded by two *Knights* bearing swords and shields. The Apprentices were headed by a 'Cupid' and bore favours on their breasts.

The Butchers, Masters and Apprentices had their 'Monarch,' the clean appearance and florid countenances of the latter being wholly clad in white frocks, was highly attractive.

The Master and Apprentice *Smiths*, preceded by a man on horseback in a complete suit of black armour, with his attendants who occasionally fired blunderbusses.

Master *Builders* were headed by their 'King', who being puffed, raddled and whiskered to the eyes, personated with tolerable effect that most potent Monarch *Henry VIII*, exciting much merriment amongst the spectators. The Apprentices had their 'King' too.

The Apprentice *Hatters* had for their leader an Indian Chief or *Black Prince* drest [sic] in the correct Eastern costume and mounted on horseback, personating the character to great advantage.

The Apprentice *Flaxdressers* were preceded by a *Venus*, certainly not the fairest of the fair, though she was dressed in finery not easily to be described.

The Master and Apprentice *Sadlers* brought up the rear with their caparisoned horse and trumpeter, sounding his 'bugle horn.'

In this order accompanied by music of all sorts [fo. 77r] [IMG 7935] flags and streamers of all sizes, banners and mottos of appropriate import did the 'Trades move towards Kingsland, accompanied by a goodly number of the different tradesmen.

The Mayor and a respectable attendance of the Body Corporate with their friends soon followed and in the course of the evening visited the respective 'arbours' where they were hospitably entertained and the day throughout was spent by all classes of whom there were a great number on the ground with the greatest harmony and enjoyment.

Poetical Recreations

In a previous volume I had the pleasure to notice the publication of a little book entitled, the 'Wreath of Ivy', a Xmas present by Mr. C.A. Hulbert to his friends.

In 1826 he published a poem entitled 'Celestial Musings, *A Poetical Sketch of the Heavens*', with notes, as a conclusion to the 'Museum of the World', a work published by his father. Consequently, the introductory stanzas hold a communication with the work in question. However, about sixty copies were published separately with the addition of seven stanzas and further illustrative notes. This poem consists of fifty two Spenserian stanzas, many of which are forcible and eloquent, but too great a portion are weak and obscure. [fo. 76v] [IMG 7934] See a private Review of 'Celestial Musings'. H. P. [fo. 77r cont]

Theological discussions certainly suits ill with poetry, and the sentiments broached by Mr. C. A. Hulbert in the seven concluding stanzas he has appended are so contrary to generally received belief, viz the opinions of what are called the Universalists, as to the Eternity of future punishment, that they have not failed to bring down a sweeping sentence of condemnation on his whole book. pp. 28

On June 9th he published a neat volume entitled '*Poetical Recreations and Thoughts in Rhyme, on Sacred and* [fo. 78r] [IMG_7937] *Miscellaneous Subjects*' 12mo pp 140 price 5s. This book contains forty-nine pieces on Religious as well as fanciful subjects, twelve of which have previously been printed through the medium of our weekly Press.

The '*Address to Lucifer*', one of our author's latest productions, contains some good poetry and is a bold attempt at the 'Miltonic' style. '*The Tumulus*' is likewise recent and a pretty piece but shows that our friend admired *Ossian*, he truly did to enthusiasm.

But it is not my intention to review the book, merely to notice its publication, the contents of which are creditable to the head and the heart of the author, a native of our town, and as the '*Religious Pieces*' of the volume bear a greater proportion to the '*Fanciful*'; it may be proper to mention that Mr. C. Augustus Hulbert is a zealous member of the Wesleyan Methodist Society and a regular attendant on the ministration of the Word as dispensed in their Communion.

[fo. 77v] [IMG_7936]

"Poetical Recreations" was reviewed in *Gentleman's Magazine* page 534, part 2, Vol 98. *H.P.*

[fo. 78r cont.]

St. Alkmund's Sunday School. Sunday June 15th

Two sermons were preached at Saint Alkmund's Church in aid of the Sunday Schools in that parish. The collections amounted to £25. 0s. 5d.

Swan Hill Schools. Sunday June 22nd.

A sermon was preached in Swan Hill Meeting House by the Rev. Thomas Weaver, Pastor, in aid of the Sunday Schools connected with that place. The sum collected was £ [blank].

St. Giles' Church. Sunday June 29th.

Divine Service was performed according to custom this evening in Saint Giles Church. The Rev. W. G. Rowland M.A. preached. The church was filled to excess.

[fo. 77v] [IMG_7937] Sunday August 10 Service was performed in St. Giles' Church; the Rev. R.L. Burton, Vicar, preached.

[p. 79r] [IMG 7938]

Lancasterian Schools

The fifteenth Report of the Royal Lancasterian School in our town published; which states, 'That the annual subscriptions have fallen off considerably in the past year, not being sufficient to pay the salaries of the teachers, while the expenditure has unavoidably increased'.

In the school there are 220 boys and 146 girls who appear to be educated during the past year at an expense of £220. 11s. 6d., the receipts amounting to £194. 1s. 3d., leaving a balance of £41. 19s. 11 ½d as due to the Treasurer - with £22 of unpaid annuities on shares. June 1829

Provident Society

A meeting was called to be holden at the Guildhall on the 29th of last month, of such persons as should be desirous of aiding the "*Shrewsbury General Provident Society*, established about 25 years ago. From the Statement of Accounts up to the 25th of March last it appears that the present Capital is £900 in the 4 per cent stock is now worth £918. 0s. 0d

Annual contributions by Honorary Members	£15 8s. 0d
Annual contributions by Receiving Members	£25 2s. 8d
Annual dividends on the present Stock	<u>£36 0s. 0d</u>

£76 10s. 8d

Nine Annuitants above 63 years of age at £13 per year	£117. 0s. 0d
Sick members last year	£60 2s. 0d
Secretary's salary	<u>£1. 0s. 0d</u>
	£188 2s. 0d

Of this Society I have heard but little account; its design however is, with the assistance of annual subscribers or Honorary Members, to encourage persons in the humbler classes of life to contribute a portion out of their weekly earnings towards a fund for their support when age or infirmity may render them incapable of work.

The Society seems to have known better days, since it is to be regretted that the Honorary Members of late years have decreased and that unless an increase takes place, the Capital sum seems likely to be expended in the lifetime of the present annuitants.

June 30th 1829

[fo. 79v] [IMG_7939]

Accident *June 5th*

An Inquest was held on the body of William Thomas, which was found floating in the Severne [sic]. The deceased had been missing for some days.

[fo. 80v] [IMG_7940]

Bible Society. Wednesday July 2nd

The seventeenth Anniversary of the Shropshire Auxiliary Bible Society was held in the County Hall, The Venerable Archdeacon Corbett as usual presiding.

The Report was read by the Secretary, Rev. John Langley, which shewed that £500 had been received in the course of the year's contribution. This meeting was not so numerously attended as on former occasions and the dulllest remembered here.

St. Mary's Church

The venerable church of Saint Mary has been closed for Divine Service during the past six weeks, having undergone a thorough and highly judicious cleansing by order of the Minister, the Rev. W. G. Rowland.

The walls have been appropriately coloured and the foliage etc on the capitals of the pillars where injured, restored; the circular arches which divide the side aisles from the transepts, have been scraped and relieved from the mass of mortar which had for years disfigured them; the other Norman marches in the transept have also been scraped and repaired and their beautiful appearance increased. In the removal of the plaster etc from the back of the arch in the east wall of the *South* transept two small round headed windows have been made visible, which it is supposed served for the distribution of the dole.

The lancet window in the north transept, which was opened some time ago under the direction of the late Venerable Archdeacon Owen, has been filled with an ancient and fine figure in stained glass of Saint John the Evangelist, which originally formed a portion of the representation of the Crucifixion in the Conventual Church of Leige in Germany and from whence it was brought by Sir Brooke Boothby for Lichfield Cathedral.

[fo. 81r] [IMG_7941]

The altar tomb of the Leybournes, which was repaired and placed in a more conspicuous place in the Chancel has been removed to its original situation in the Trinity chapel.

In removing of the plaster from the arches of the transepts, the *distinguishing* marks of several of the *operative masons* who were employed in working the stones of which the arches are composed were discovered, it probably need scarce be said that these marks are similar to those employed by the masons of the present day.

July 16 1828

Seceding Baptists. Sunday July 20th

There was a great 'Baptism' at Enon Cottage on the part of the 'Second Baptist Church' recently formed. Seven persons were immersed in the "*Sabrine Stream*" near that place, previous to which a sermon was delivered accompanied by singing and prayer and a great crowd of persons assembled to witness the novel ceremony. The preacher and singers with a large body of the more devout part of the company, whether Baptists, Methodists or other denominations were in a barge.

House of Industry. Monday July 21

The Annual Meeting of the Guardians of the Poor was held at the House of Industry, Col. Leighton in the chair. Nothing worthy of record or interest was determined on.

National School. Sunday July 27th

Two sermons were preached in aid of the funds for the support of the National School by the Rev. Waites Corbett, Rector of Corley, in the morning at St. Chad's and in the evening (6 o'clock) at St. Julian's. The collection amounted to £53 16s. 2d.

The Report states that the receipts amount to £364 18s. 1d. and the disbursements to £290 7s. 0d., leaving a balance of £74 11s. 1d in the Treasurer's hands. Number of scholars 231.

[fo. 82r] [IMG_7943]

Summer Assize. Wednesday July 30th

The Commission of Assize was opened this evening before Mr. Justice Gaslee and Mr. Baron Vaughan. On Thursday their Lordships attended Divine Service at St. Chad's where the Rev. Spencer Wilde delivered a sermon from 20 ch Exodus pt 17v: 'Thou shalt not covet.'

The Calendar happily contains but few prisoners but the offences charged are of greater enormity. *Six* prisoners for murder, one for manslaughter, one for horse stealing, one for rape and 11 others for different offences.

The law business is heavy, 34 cases are entered.

Battlefield Fair. Saturday August 2nd

A small annual fair for sheep continues to be held at Battlefield, being the anniversary, according to the new style, of the celebrated battle fought on the spot in 1403.

Executions. Monday August 4th

At twelve o'clock this morning William Steventon, aged 31 years, convicted at our Assizes of the wilful murder of John Horton in March last at Hales Owen, Joseph Pugh, aged 19, John Cox junior, aged 26, likewise convicted of the murder of James Harrison at Market Drayton, underwent the awful sentence of the Law in front of the County Gaol. After hanging the usual time the bodies of Pugh and Steventon were conveyed to the temporary infirmary and that of Cox to Drayton for the purpose of dissection.

Steventon was very penitent and the other culprits confessed their crimes, detailing the part each took in the murder.

John Cox senior, aged 60, Robert [fo. 83r] [IMG_7945] Cox, aged 19 and Anne Harris, aged 50, were also convicted of being accessories to the murder, A reprieve arrived for Robert Cox about 9 o'clock on the morning of execution, the latter are not to suffer until the 16th.

[fo. 82v] [IMG_7944]

Old Cox and his son had a reprieve and are to be transported for life.

[fo. 83r cont.]

The trials of these prisoners excited intense interest from the circumstances of all of them being connected by relationship. The principal witness was a man named Ellson. He was the son of Anne Harris and step-son of old Cox and the brother-in-law of the two young Cox's; and a brother of Joseph Pugh had married a sister of Ellson's wife!!! A daughter of old Cox, and a sister and daughter of Harris; the father, brother and step-mother of Pugh, also gave evidence in this horrid affair!

Saturday August 16th. It was with an interest of dismal feeling that I contemplated the necessary preliminaries inside the prison for the execution of Anne Harris, one of the accessories to the atrocious murder I have already noticed. The execution took place at the usual time and place in sight of at least 5000 spectators. Truly to see a human being on the verge of quitting this world for an unknown and untried state is at any time most appalling, but under circumstances such as the present in the very 'midst of life' the inward feeling on the more immediate spectators of the scene is easier to be imagined than described.

It is somewhat satisfactory to know that she confessed her guilt as inciting to the crime for which she suffered.

No *female* had been executed in our county for twenty five years previous to the present one.

[fo. 81v]

The plan adopted at the Old Bailey on the recommendation of Sir Peter Laurie was used in Salop at the execution detailed on next page for the first time.

The *organ of destruction* was according to the rule of Spurzheim protuberant in Steventon.

[fo. 83r cont.] [IMG_7945]

Visitation. Wednesday August 13th

The Lord Bishop of Lichfield and Coventry held his Visitation in Saint Chad's Church this morning. The Rev. Archdeacon Bather preached from [blank].

[fo. 82v] [IMG_7944]

The Bishop's Charge to his clergy has been published.

[fo. 84r] [IMG_7946]

New Church, Castle Foregate. Tuesday August 26.

At a meeting of several gentlemen parishioners of Saint Mary's held in the vestry of that church, it was resolved unanimously [1] 'that it appears to this meeting that there is in the district of Castle Foregate and its vicinity the Old Heath and Coton Hill a population of at least 3,500 souls who have no accomodation [sic] in their parish churches'. 2 'That it is

highly desirable to build a church on a site to be procured in the neighbourhood of Castle Foregate, with free sittings for at least two thirds of the numbers if may contain and that a subscription be entered into for that purpose.'

A committee of twelve gentlemen with the church wardens for the time being was appointed and nearly six hundred pounds immediately subscribed by the gentlemen present.

Thanks were given to John Arthur Lloyd, Esquire, and the Revs. Archdeacon Butler and W. G. Rowland, for promoting the object of the meeting, which on seperation [sic] was greeted by a peal from their beautiful bells.

Royal Visit, Duke of Sussex. August 26.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex visited Archdeacon Butler in the course of his passage through this town to Kinmel Park, (Co. Denbigh) the seat of Colonel Hughes. The Duke's stay at Dr Butler's was nearly two hours. He slept at Ellesmere.

Admiral Benbow.

It having been a matter of surprise to many that no memorial should have been erected in this town to transmit to posterity the bravery of our townsman Admiral Benbow, several gentlemen parishioners of St. Mary in which parish [fo. 85r] [IMG_7948] he was born, have come forward with their contributions to further the erection of a monument that shall exemplify his courage and bravery to subsequent generations. The writer of these remarks appealed to his fellow townsmen through the medium of the Salopian Journal of the 27 instant to come forward generally in aid of this patriotic undertaking.

[fo. 84v] [IMG_7947]

See also Journal of June 1828 and a letter page 592, part 2, vol. 98 of Gentleman's Magazine. For a memoir of Admiral Benbow vide page [blank] vol. 2 of History of Shrewsbury.

[fo. 85r cont] [IMG_7948]

Mayor William Cooper. Friday August 29th.

William Cooper, gent., attorney, was elected Mayor of our town and liberties for the ensuing year. Mr Richard Lloyd, ironmonger, would have taken precedence of Mr Cooper but he withdrew himself from the Corporation.

Accident.

On the 7th of this month Richard Williams aged 7 years whilst playing near the Welsh Bridge fell into the Severne [sic] and was drowned. The body was found one hour after.

Samaritan Society.

The committee of the Good Samaritan Society have published their report for the year ending Lady Day 1828 from which it appears that 157 poor sick objects have been relieved with the sum of £57 2s. 0d. The total receipts amount to £63 10s 3½d. The overplus has been incurred in incidental expences.

[fo. 86r] [IMG_7949]

Irish Schools. Wednesday September 3rd 1828.

The anniversary meeting of the Shrewsbury and Shropshire Auxiliary to the Sunday School Society for Ireland was held in the Town Hall and was most numerous and respectably attended. Earl Roden presided. The addresses delivered on the occasion were

highly interesting and the president remarked at the close of the meeting with much energy 'that although he had received many honours and favours from his Sovereign, and for which he was ever grateful, he begged to state that he considered the honour of presiding over this Institution to be of a higher description than any of them.'

The report was read by the secretary Richard Phayre, Esquire, and showed that the subscriptions and donations of the past year amounted to £104 5s. 3d. of which £97 had been transmitted to the parent society and the remainder to defray incidental expenses.

This Society it appears has in its connection 173,000 scholars with the assistance of about 16,000 teachers, the expense of educating is about £3,000.

In the evening at 7 o'clock a sermon was preached in aid of the funds of the above Institution by the Rev. Robert Daly, rector of Powers Court, Ireland at St. Chad's church from the 10 chap of Hebrews 5 verse. This discourse was highly applicable to the cause of the Institution and was listened to with a deep attention, by a most respectable though not very numerous audience. The preacher in prefacing his discourse remarked that 'All *nominal* Christians profess an interest in the coming of Christ, but the question was, did their *joy* arise for the object he came into the world'. He then proceeded to show that the words of his text had reference to the coming of Christ, which he fully unfolded, observing that 'it speaks to us in solemn and important truths and not only to us but to the whole creation, to every creature, even to angels, it is therefore interesting language to all. He then [fo. 87r] [IMG_7950] proceeded to shew that 'all sacrifices and burnt offerings' were not acceptable to God nor profitable to man, except that one sacrifice in Christ Jesus. Therefore the *religion* we want is the religion suited to a sinner, because *all* have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The religion we want is that which can bring an enemy to reconciliation and peace, this is what we should all have and endeavour to make known to others. The religion we should possess is to make us acceptable to God, and Christ's coming into the world has put an end to all reconciliation arising from burnt offerings and sacrifices, for if any human reconciliation could have sufficed, his sacrifice is in vain, and we should have had to seek it from an inferior source.

The sacrifices under the law, were introduced looking forward to Jesus, they had no value in themselves for the blood of bulls &c could not take away sin. They were only types having reference to that sacrifice which was to come. But now Christ having appeared, every thing else is to be removed, that He might be '*all in all*' just as when the morning comes, the moon and stars give place to the brightness of the sun, and truly when Christ the sun of righteousness appeared, the *shadows* disappeared. Well therefore might he say when he came into the world *sacrifices* &c I would not, but a *body* &c.

He shewed the different purposes for which God prepared this body, viz. *First* that as man he might live, the first Adam sinned but when the second Adam came he might truly say to his enemies, which of you accuseth me of sin? *Secondly*, A body was prepared for him not only that *He* might live as man, but die like man, bearing our sins in his own precious blood on the tree. *Thirdly* A body was prepared for him that he might *submit* himself unto death. Now when Christ came into the world he annihilated every other way of access to the Father [fo. 87v] [IMG_7951] but through him. The preacher therefore enquired if his hearers had drawn their hopes from every other source and were looking only to the man Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners? This view of the subject does indeed inspire security, the Almighty Father having prepared the sacrifice, his beloved son, in whom he was well pleased, and whose blood cleanseth from all sin. To the *love* thus manifested, well considered, since the language of *His* gospel is 'believe only and you shall be saved.'! Surely the knowledge of such qualities ought to accompany us in our retirement and excite our gratitude to God for providing such a Saviour.

Under the *second division* of his discourse the preacher noticed 'what was acceptable to God, and profitable to man'. In doing this he principally founded his argument upon the necessity and advantages of religious instruction, for Christ has said 'suffer little children &c' and the importance of training up a child in the way in which he should go, is highly necessary, since the *vice* of the adult population in *Ireland* may in a great degree be attributed to their not having received an education in their early years. He enumerated the progress and present state of education in that kingdom and in conclusion impressed upon his hearers that as they lived in a land of religion, as they knew the value of a Saviour to have pity upon the poor children of Ireland who may prove the *stay* of the *country* and the *church's hope*. And if they are to be instructed in the education of the Scriptures, *England* must come forward and assist in the undertaking for they truly are not able to effect it of themselves.

The collection after the sermon amounted to £19 18s.7½d. After the meeting £25 12s. 5½d. making a total at this anniversary of £45 11s. 1d.

[fo. 88r] [IMG_7952]

Mechanics Institution.

Mr Brown of Amesbury delivered a course of lectures on the 'History of the world' to the members of the 'Shropshire Mechanics Institution' at their library room near the Castle Gates.

Corn Harvest.

The corn harvest in Shropshire was completed about the 1st of September, the crops by no means yield well.

Monument. Rev. J. B. Blakeway. September 9th 1828.

A most beautiful monument the result of a subscription among the parishioners of St. Mary was completed and opened this day in memory of the late Reverend John Brickdale Blakeway, M.A. whose memory is truly endeared to us, and who in his life time advocated with becoming energy the interests of our town with a fidelity and eloquence seldom surpassed. He was truly the promoter of every thing that was useful and the patron of all that was good, who by his life and conduct held a consistent place in the esteem of his fellow townsmen and '*by his preaching and living set forth*', the doctrines of God his Saviour. [fo. 88r cont] [IMG_7953]

The monument is erected against the west wall of the north transept and which for elegance of design, beauty of execution and general effect has perhaps rarely been equalled, and reflects the highest credit on the abilities of Mr John Carline, junr., to whose kindness I am indebted for the following architectural description thereof. It is divided into three compartments by clustered buttresses, each of which is formed of three divisions or stories in height, out of which springs the shaft of a pinnacle two stories high, panelled, canopied and having its pinnacle richly crocketed. The centre compartment comprises a large pointed arch, cusped, canopied and crocketed having its internal mouldings resting on moulded brackets. The back of the arch is deeply recessed and contains the inscription, between which and the mouldings are two sunk panels with [fo. 88v] [IMG_7954] cinque foil heads, which are continued round the arch so as to form its ceiling. On each side of this compartment is an elegant niche, with cinquefoil head, octagonal back and richly groined ceiling, the division of the ceiling resting on slender cylinders with caps and bases. These niches are surmounted by acute angled crocketed canopies, formed of deep mouldings and resting on the head of each niche, but within the canopy is a cinquefoil within a circle whilst in the same situation in the centre

compartment is a shield, containing the arms: argent, on a bend engrailed, sable, three bezants, impaling, argent, a fess vair between three unicorns passant, gules.

The above compartments rest on an altar tomb, which stands upon a step. The front of the tomb is divided into twelve small niches with trefoil heads, crocketed, canopied (each canopy containing in the centre a quatrefoil within a circle) and having their finials terminating on the mouldings of the ledger. These niches are separated by small buttresses with crocketed canopies and pinnacles.

The following inscription from the pen of the Venerable Archdeacon Butler, is placed at the back of the arch and is cut in ornamental Roman capitals.

To the Memory of the Reverend
John Brickdale Blakeway, M.A. F.S.A.
Thirty One years Ordinary and Official
And Thirty Two years Minister of this Parish
This Monument is Erected
By the Voluntary Subscription of His Parishioners
As a Tribute of Respect for His Talents
Esteem for his Virtues
And Gratitude for His Long and Faithful Services
As their Friend and Pastor
He died the Tenth day of March MDCCCXXVI
Aged Sixty Years

[fo. 89r] [IMG_7955]

The space between the end buttress of the monument and the wall of the transept are panelled and finished upwards with a cornice and battlement, and the wall on this side of the transept up to the string course is covered with articulated divisions, each containing a flower in slight relief. This splendid memorial to our departed historian is twelve feet six inches in length and sixteen feet seven inches and a half to the top of the centre finial.

Fairs. Sale of Cattle in Streets. Wednesday September 10th.

At this fair an attempt was made to change the situation of the place of sale for cattle &c to some of the less public thoroughfares and street of the town. The plan totally failed.

Sunday 14th. St. Julian's church lighted with gas.

[fo. 89v] [IMG_7956]

The sermon on other side was published Oct. 8 1829. Had the writer had an idea of its publication he would have spared his notes. HP.

[fo. 90r] [IMG_7957]

Races. Tuesday September 16th.

Our town at an early hour this morning assumed an appearance of unusual bustle, an enlivening peal from the bells, added to a most beautiful day, gave an interest to the scene. The company in town and at the races was less than I ever remember.

Wednesday and Thursday brought greater numbers but still comparatively small as witnessed on former occasions. This was in a great measure owing to the Grand Eisteddfod at Denbigh which commenced on the first race day and attracted most of the gentry. The sport on the race ground was in general spoken of in terms of commendation.

[fo. 89v] [IMG_7956]

The stewards of the races were the Hon Lloyd Kenyon and Baldwin Leighton, Esquires.

[fo. 90r cont]

Infirmary Meeting. Friday September 19th.

John Coles, Esquire, the treasurer of the Salop Infirmity was escorted from the County Hall by the Mayor and a highly respectable attendance of gentlemen to St. Chad's church, where a most excellent sermon was delivered by the Rev. Richard Corfield, M.A., rector of Pitchford &c from 6 Galations 2nd verse 'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.'

The Reverend preacher in prefacing his discourse observed that the history of man as collected from the unerring page of Scripture was a subject well deserving of our attention whether viewed under the natural body trembling under the displeasure of an offended God, or seen in the spiritual man renewed by the Law of Christ, looking forward in *hope* that God in judgement would remember mercy, and this happy prospect is unfolded to us thro' the Gospel. But in order to inherit the promises we are bound to be faithful to *Him* who hath promised and who hath enjoined a state of probation as preparatory to bliss hereafter.

In viewing man in a state of probation we find that he has existed under three several laws, the law of nature, the law of Moses and the law of Christ. [fo. 90v] [IMG_7959] The law of nature was unsatisfactory, so that man might well be said to walk in darkness. The law of Moses exacted obedience and became impracticable, they who walked in it did so anxiously looking forward to the law of Christ, for in the fullness of time the sun of righteousness beamed upon a benighted world, and it came to pass that they who walked in darkness saw a great light. Whilst *the law of Christ* removed the imperfections of all former laws, and the burden which it imposed was not more than men were able to bear, on the contrary the yoke was easy and the burden light, affording a lantern to the feet and a light to the paths. Called therefore as we are at all times to fulfill the law of Christ, I would especially call upon you on this occasion to bear one another's burdens &c and may God so dispose our hearts that we may be inclined to keep this law. The preacher then proceeded to shew *First* the several ways in which we are to fulfil this law of Christ, quoting the words of Saint Peter 'add to your faith virtue and to &c' whilst by adding charity to brotherly kindness we shall comply with the words of the text, and we do this by supplying the wants of others, instructing the young, helping the infirm and by furthering the welfare of our fellow creatures as far as we can, and to this may be added the providing of hospitals for the sick. And although one highly favoured country is distinguished for its numerous charitable asylums, yet certainly no institution has better claims on our attention than that whose anniversary we are this day assembled to celebrate, seeing that it has for its object the restoration of ease and health under the Divine blessing, to them who may perhaps have been deprived of them in our service, and when I reflect on the liberal aid on former occasions, I am encouraged to hope that however feeble the advocate the interests of the Salop Infirmity will never be pleaded in vain.

[fo. 91r] [IMG_7960]

The history of the Salop Infirmity from its commencement to the present period affords a gratifying retrospect. It is (said the excellent preacher with much emphasis) like the 'grain of mustard seed' which when watered by the dew of heaven became a great tree, so this Institution under the Divine blessing has risen from small beginnings until it has become a splendid monument of Christian beneficence. He then very briefly adverted

to the *nature*, origin and *object* of the charity, with the *means* by which it is carried on, adding that in taking a review of its proceedings through *eighty one years* it appears that 70,000 have been either cured or relieved and whilst their *temporal* wants have been thus attended to, their *spiritual* state was not neglected.

He next alluded to the printed report which is on this occasion placed in the hands of contributors, remarking that feeling persuaded every subscriber in its language wishes the *real and permanent* welfare of the Salop Infirmary and as an *active, steady and zealous* support was necessary to maintain it in credit, he trusted that the collection this day would manifest the approbation of his hearers to the unrivalled Institution for which he had to plead.

A few motives to perseverance in this work of charity were then urged, with an exhortation to all Christians to follow the good example of the text, stating the reasons which should actuate them to fulfill it on the present occasion. And in conclusion briefly addressed those who had experienced the relief which the Infirmary bestows urging them to praise the Lord for all his benefits and to be grateful not only to *Him* but to those also who have been kindly disposed to you. And as the life of our Saviour exemplified what He taught, so the preacher considered that as acts of mercy are Christian duties, they are also the best evidences of our Christian faith, and would bring down the blessing of the Almighty upon *ourselves*, our *families* and our *country*.

The congregation was unusually small as [fo. 92r] [IMG_7962] will be evident from the collection which amounted only to £165 14s. 10d. notwithstanding the powerful appeal of the Reverend preacher. The plates were held by Mrs Edward. Cludde supported by the Hon. Mr Feilding and Miss Wrottesly (daughter of Sir John) supported by R A. Slaney, Esquire, M.P.

Theatre. September 19th.

Our theatre having undergone a very tastefull embellishment in its interior, was to have been opened on Monday last, under the management of a Mr Bennett from Worcester, but a doubt having arisen in the minds of many inhabitants of our town, as to its security, an architect from Lichfield was employed to make a survey 'whose report (the handbills assert) is so unfavourable that the manager cannot with a *proper regard for the public safety*, open the theatre. Therefore in compliance with the wishes of his patrons who are desirous to secure him against further loss, he has at their suggestion taken the *Circus*.' This building therefore having undergone many hasty alterations was opened on Tuesday last.

The performance this evening was the *new* petite comedy entitled '*The Recontre, or Love will find out the way*. A new interlude of '*Love among the roses*' and a comic farce called the '*Portrait of Cervantes*'. This was said to be under the patronage of the stewards of the races, but they did not attend. Those however who had the opportunity of witnessing this evening's 'entertainment', if indeed it deserves that title, and have the least taste to admire the productions of our *original* comic writers, could not but feel disgust at the exhibition of such *trash* in an enlightened age. The Company appears to be of a *third rate* in their profession, and it may not be too much to assert in this place, that the refined taste of Salopians aspires to comedians of higher talents.

[fo. 91v] [IMG_7961]

Theatre.

Miss Foote performed at our theatre (or rather Circus) on the 3rd of November and 4 following nights with great eclat. HP.

[fo. 93r] [IMG_7963]

St. Mary's. Sunday evening 6 o'clock

The Reverend R. Simpson of Derby preached a sermon at Saint Mary's in reference to missionary exertions from [blank] Acts [blank]. During the last 6 weeks whilst St. Alkmund's church has been cleaning, this spacious sanctuary of our holy religion has been well filled at the evening service, the effect was highly imposing as the shades of twilight approached. Whilst the glimmering light of eight or nine candles served but to increase the lengthened shadows of the clustered columns and lofty arches, and as the solemn pealing of the noble organ dwelt upon the ear with mellowed harmony, could not fail of impressing upon the contemplative mind, the sublimest associations of inspiring devotion. Whilst the admonitory voice of *regret* at the wanton demolition (for such it was) of the fine old church of *Saint Alkmund* must have been felt by not a few of those parishioners who witnessed and perhaps abetted its downfall, and who were now worshipping in a venerable temple proposed in the same year to be sacrificed by a similar caprice.

Church Missions. Tuesday September 23rd.

The annual meeting of the Shropshire Church Missionary Association was held in the County Hall. The chair was taken by the vice president Thomas Whitmore, Esquire, in the absence of Alderman Cludde. After the business of the meeting had been adverted to by the chairman, the Rev. John Langley, the secretary, proceeded to read the report &c of this Society's proceedings in this county from which it appeared that the subscriptions and donations amounted to £883 7s. 4d. and that the funds of the parent society had decreased £2,000 during the past year, its income being £43,260.

The meeting was not numerously attended, £22 was collected after it at the doors, which sum was increased by subsequent donations to £40.

[fo. 94r] [IMG_7965]

Church Missions. Sunday Morning September 28.

A sermon was preached in Bicton Chapel by the Rev. Joseph Ditcher, minister of Brislington, Co. Somerset, in aid of the funds of the Shropshire Church Missionary Association. The collection was about £7.

He preached in the evening for the same object at St. Alkmund's when £23 7s. 6d. was collected.

This church was reopened this morning after having received a thorough cleaning and been fitted up with gas which was lighted this evening.

Phenomenon. Monday September 29

A beautiful bright arch appeared in the heavens and was witnessed by many persons about eight o'clock this evening. It is considered by some to be a reflection from the Aurora Borealis, perhaps the Borelian Arch?

[fo. 93v] [IMG_7964]

The phenomenon in the heavens was witnessed in many parts of the Kingdom.

[fo. 94r cont] [IMG_7965]

Accidents. Friday September 19.

James Hill, a hairdresser, was drowned at Coton Hill whilst bathing in a state of intoxication.

September 27. Mary Bright, a child, drowned in the Rea Brook near Coleham Bridge.