

PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL 1860

Mr William Wigmore



On Monday last a most interesting event occurred in the village of East Knoyle, when a service of plate, an arm chair, and a bible, were presented to Mr William Wigmore, of Knoyle, by his fellow parishioners and others, in gratitude for his valuable services, and as a token of regard for him personally, after his having served for the parish of East Knoyle in the offices of Trustee of the Charities, 35 years; Churchwarden 33 years; and Guardian of the Poor, 22 years.

The presentation took place at the Black Horse Inn, where a party of about 40 sat down to a very excellent dinner, which was served up in excellent style by Mr Barnard, the much respected host. Previously to the dinner taking place the articles about to be presented to Mr Wigmore were exhibited in a room upstairs. The plate consisted of a silver tankard, and a silver tea pot, sugar basin, and cream ewer; the bible was chastely bound and gilt, with brass clasps; and the arm chair was a comfortable looking article of furniture. On the tankard was the following inscription:



*To Mr William Wigmore
35 years Trustee of the Charities
33 years Churchwarden
22 years Guardian of the Poor of the Parish of East Knoyle
This tankard, with a tea service, is presented by his fellow
parishioners as a token of their sincere respect and gratitude*

There was also a list of subscribers, engrossed on vellum by Mr Highman of Salisbury which was executed in a very beautifully illuminated style, and which reflected great credit on that gentleman's abilities and taste. This list was framed and glazed, and was also presented to Mr Wigmore with the other articles before enumerated. The subscriptions for the testimonial amounted, we believe to nearly 56/-.

About five o'clock the party sat down to dinner, the chair being taken by the Rev Crosbie Morgell, the rector of the parish, who was supported on his right by Mr Wigmore, the guest of the evening, and on his left by H D Seymour Esq, MP. The vice chair was filled by Alfred Seymour Esq and amongst the company we noticed ? Hammond, Esq., Fellow of Exeter College, Oxford; and Messrs Stoddart, Godwin, Gray, Snook, Stacey, Buckland jun (of Shaftesbury), Brothers Henry Snook, Uphill, Targett, Haslam, Tanswell, Scammell, Rickets, Perry, Bracher, Ball, Bailey, Aplin, John Perry, Bristol, W Corbin, J Corbin, Perrott, Henry Ball, G Jupe jun., &c. Grace having been said before and after meat by the Rev C Morgell.

The chairman said that before he entered on the happy business of the evening, he would propose the first loyal toast, which was that of Her Majesty the Queen and he observed that no monarch every ruled over her subjects with more honour to herself and with more satisfaction to her subjects. Many great and important events had occurred during her reign; but he might truly observe that in every department of life, she set an example to us all. The toast was received with loyal feeling.

The chairman said that the next toast which he should give them was that of Mrs Seymour and the family at Knoyle House, and with it he would couple the name of Mr Henry Danby Seymour, the member for Poole (loud cheers). Mr H D Seymour said that on behalf of his mother, his sisters, and all the family, more especially his mother, he begged to return them his best thanks for the manner in which the toast had been received. He could assure them that his mother would have felt much pleasure in being present at this interesting meeting, but that was impossible. She however felt most strongly on the matter which had brought them together on that occasion, an occasion which happened so seldom, when they were met together to testify their gratitude and esteem to one of the most respected parishioners in East Knoyle, for the manner in which he had, for a long series of years, discharged the business of the parish, and had thereby won the esteem and affection of all who had had to deal with him. He begged to repeat that Mr Wigmore was truly deserving of the esteem in which he was held, and he approached the subject with all that respect and affection to which he felt Mr Wigmore was entitled for the long services which he had rendered to the parish for so many years.

Mr Wigmore, who was received in the most enthusiastic manner, briefly returned thanks for the kind presents which had been made to him by his friends and neighbours and for the manner in which they had drunk the toast. He expressed a wish that for the present, the plate may be allowed to remain at Mrs Seymour's at Knoyle House (cheers). This request was acceded to.

During the presentation of the testimonial, a party of ladies from Knoyle House, the Rectory, and other parts of the parish were present, who appeared to take the deepest interest in the proceedings.

Mr Alfred Seymour, after expressing his hearty concurrence in all that had been said respecting the merits of the worthy man in whose honour they were assembled on that occasion, proposed in a lengthened speech, the health of The Rector and chairman with that of Mrs Morgell and family.

The party did not separate until a late hour, conviviality and harmony being the order of the evening.