

Marriage Festivities at Wardour Castle 1861



Wednesday last was a day of rejoicing and festivity at Wardour Castle, on the occasion of the marriage of the Hon Teresa Mary, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Arundell, to Alfred Joseph Tichborne, Esq, only son of Sir James Francis Doughty-Tichborne, Bart., of Tichborne Park, Alresford, Hants.

The ceremony was performed in the Chapel of Wardour House by the Hon and Right Rev W Clifford, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Clifton. Wednesday being a very fine day, shortly before the hour of ten, numbers of persons from Tisbury and the surrounding neighbourhood were seen wending their way to Wardour Castle, while many vehicles of all classes proceeded in the same direction.

The time fixed for the performance of the nuptial ceremony was half past ten o'clock and shortly before that hour, the beautiful chapel was crowded by persons who had been admitted by tickets. Shortly before the commencement of the service, the organ began playing and the bridal party entered the chapel, the bride being led by her noble father.

She was attired in a robe of rich white satin with flounces of magnificent Brussels lace, the body and sleeves being trimmed with the same material and her head adorned with a wreath of orange flower and myrtle blossoms, from which fell gracefully around her youthful form a deep veil of rich Brussels lace. She wore a magnificent pearl necklace and bracelets. The combined effect of her bridal costume was exceedingly chaste and elegant.

The dresses of the six bridesmaids attracted scarcely less attention than that of the bride, as they were in the height of the prevailing fashion. They were, together with that of the bride, furnished by Mrs Murray, 26 Portman-street, London. The following ladies composed the bridal train: The Hon Miss C Arundell, Hon Miss G Arundell, Hon Miss Dormer, Miss Weld, Miss Stourton and Miss C Radcliffe. Their dresses were of white bouffant tarlatan, with bows and sashes of rose roi taffetas, wreaths of frosted flowers, with white tulle veils



The bride and bridegroom having taken their places within the altar rails, the Hon and Right Rev the Bishop of Clifton, in pontifical costume, wearing a magnificent cope and mitre, and bearing in his hand a splendid silver crosier, entered the church, accompanied by the Rev Henry Walmsley, formerly chaplain to Lord Arundell, and now of Farm-street Chapel, Berkeley-square, and the Rev J J Clarke, of St Osmund's Church, Salisbury, the acolytes, and sacristan.

His Lordship took his seat in a chair which had been provided for his use in front of the altar, and the marriage ceremony was proceeded with according to the rites of the Roman Catholic Church. At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Bishop having been divested of his cope, put on the chasuble, and began the Mass, assisted by the Rev H Walmsley and the Rev J J Clarke. Towards the conclusion of the Mass the nuptial blessing was pronounced by the Bishop on the newly married couple and immediately before the last blessing, a short exhortation to the bride and bridegroom was delivered by the Rev H Walmsley.

The Bishop then pronounced the Benediction and leaving the altar, accompanied by the priests and attendants, returned to the sacristy, where he afterwards joined by the nuptial party, and the ceremony of signing the register took place, in the presence of the families and friends of the bride and bridegroom. Mr John P Barrett, professor of music, Wardour Castle, presided at the organ, which is a truly magnificent instrument, the tone being of excellent and pure quality.

After the signing of the register, the bridal cortege left the chapel and proceeded to the house on a carpet which had been laid down in front of the building. The Bishop of Clifton, attended by his assistants, led the procession and was followed by the bride and bridegroom, the respective families and a very numerous party of friends.

As the procession entered the vestibule, the organ in the rotunda staircase commenced playing. Targett's splendid quadrille band from Southampton was stationed outside the house, in front of which they played for a considerable time. Shortly before two o'clock these excellent musicians took their places in the basement floor of the rotunda, beneath the dome, and commenced playing some choice and appropriate classical music. The effect of their performance was ravishing in the extreme.

The wedding breakfast, which was provided under the direction of Mr Bridgeman, of Wigmore-street, London, was laid out in the grand saloon and was of the most tasteful and recherche description.

There were three wedding cakes, one in the centre table, and the other two at the side tables. The largest of these weighed more the 100lbs. At two o'clock the company, which included about 70 persons, sat down to this most delicious repast.

After breakfast, the health of the bride and bridegroom and the customary toasts were given and responded to, not forgetting a tribute to the bridesmaids fair. At four o'clock the happy couple left Wardour Castle amidst the cheers of the numerous spectators, in a carriage and four, for Ranston House, near Blandford, the seat of Sir Edward B Baker, Bart, where they intend spending the honeymoon.



There was a large dinner party at the Castle in the evening and the festivities terminated with a grand ball at which Targett's quadrille band performed.

Several arches of evergreen were erected along the route on which the carriage containing the bride and bridegroom proceeded; one of these, opposite the house of Mr John Jeffery, of Donhead, attracted much attention. Flags were hoisted at some of the villages through which the happy couple passed and they were loudly cheered during their progress. On their arrival at Ranston House they were greeted by the strains of a band of music, which had been specially provided for their entertainment.

We cannot conclude this report of these interesting proceedings without observing that everything connected with the happy occasion passed off in the most delightful manner, and our record would be incomplete indeed, if we did not notice the truly gorgeous appearance of the altar, in the chapel, when lighted up with the lofty tapers. Besides the usual furniture, it was tastefully and beautifully decorated with flowers and evergreens. Altogether, the scene was one of the most imposing we have very beheld and will, no doubt, linger in the recollection of those who were present on this occasion.

(part article only)
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