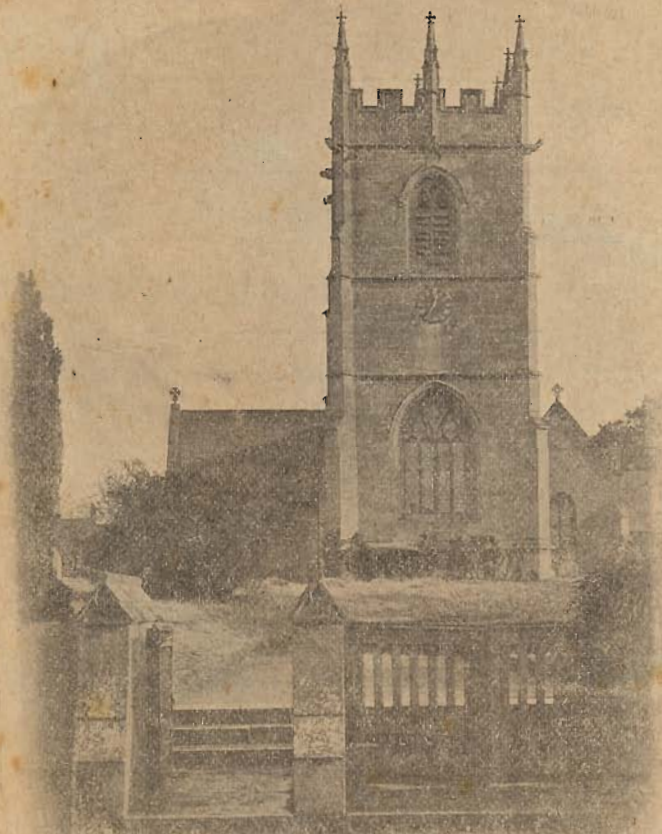


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THE BILL.

The protest meeting held in the Old School on Tuesday, June 19th, passed off most satisfactorily. We cannot boast that the room was crowded, but we may say, without exaggeration, that it was filled. A worse time of the year for a meeting of any kind could hardly have been selected, as Badsey people are now, for the most part, very busy, and, to attend a meeting even as late as 8 o'clock means, in many cases, the sacrifice of valuable time.

We were fortunate in securing the services of so excellent a speaker as Mr. E. T. Bennett whose remarks derived weight from the fact that he was able to speak both as 'scholar' and 'parent.' Mr. Bennett received his education at a Church School and now has children of his own attending such a school. He was accorded a most attentive hearing, his 'points' being received with applause. Mr. Bennett proposed the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Hooper-Ingledeu and carried without a single dissident:

(1) "That this meeting of Churchmen and Churchwomen condemns the Education Bill now before Parliament as being unfair and unjust, contrary to the principles of religious equality, and providing no real security for religious teaching."

In view of our peculiar position at Badsey in having only a Council School, on the proposition of Mr. Sladden, seconded by Mr. Mustoe, it was agreed *nem. con.*,

"That this meeting asserts the right of Church parents to demand facilities for having their children instructed in their own faith during school hours by duly qualified teachers."

A vote of thanks to Mr. Bennett was proposed by Mr. Newman and seconded by Mr. R. R. Smith, and one to the Chairman (the Vicar) was proposed by Mr. Bennett and seconded by Mr. Sladden.

We have not thought it necessary to give a detailed account of the meeting as the speeches have all been reported at length in the local papers, but we may just add that the singing of the hymns "Fight the good fight" and "Onward Christian Soldiers") was as hearty as anything we have ever heard in Badsey.

Copies of the resolutions have been forwarded to the Bishop of Worcester, the Prime Minister, Mr. Birrell, Mr. Balfour, and Col. Long.

As readers of the daily papers know, the flood of protest still continues to rise, and there seems to be no lack of speakers in defence of Church Schools. One of the most forcible condemnations of the Bill has come from Mr. Birrell himself who, in 1896, had the misfortune to write as follows in a book on "The Duties and Liabilities of Trustees:"—"The first duty of a Trustee is to make himself acquainted with the terms of his trust; . . . not only must the Trustee acquire this knowledge, but he must never forget it, this is second duty. The third duty of a Trustee is to adhere to the terms of his trust in all things great and small. . . . *Non possumus* ('it can't be done') must be your only answer when pressed. *Non possumus* will carry you through. This is not to be cantankerous, but to be honest; not to be pig-headed, but to be wise." The Church of England cannot complain as did poor Job 'Oh that mine adversary had written a book!' or, as the Revised Version puts it, 'Oh that I had the indictment which mine adversary hath written!' for here is Mr. Birrell's own indictment of his own policy as *dishonesty* and *folly*. Let us hope that all trustees of Church Schools will realize Mr. Birrell's idea of trusteeship before he became the catspaw of Political Nonconformity, and unhesitatingly refuse to surrender a single school. As the Dean of Canterbury says, 'If we compromise we are lost for ever, but if we are beaten, we can fight again.'

Mr. Birrell's utter insincerity in professing anxiety that at least a modicum of justice should be meted out to Church Schools becomes daily more apparent. The wishes of parents of children attending transferred Church Schools are to be ascertained by ballot, a majority of 4 to 1 being required to secure the partial continuance of Church teaching. In order to make such a majority as far as possible unattainable Mr. Birrell now insists that all who do not vote shall be reckoned as objecting to Church teaching. He says that all who cared for such teaching would take the trouble to vote. But surely all who con-

scientifically objected would also take the trouble to vote. We may expect that before the next General Election the return of a Radical majority will be made as safe as possible by a law to the effect that everyone who has a vote and does not exercise it is to be deemed a Liberal. The *Standard* very properly stigmatises Mr. Birrell's shameless contention as 'a paltry and dishonest dodge,' which shows that 'the whole of Clause IV., whether amended or unamended, was contrived to hold out expectations which it was never meant to fulfil.'

At a large meeting of protest held at Finsbury Town Hall, Mr. Enos Howes, J.P., a former mayor of Finsbury and a Nonconformist, denounced the Bill as bad from beginning to end. He said that it was one of the worst constructed measures ever submitted to Parliament by a responsible Government, and an unjust attempt to satisfy a certain number of people at the expense of others.

A NEW BIER.

Since the old bier disappeared from Badsey Church, it has been quite impossible, in conducting funerals, to conform to the apostolic rule of doing all things 'decently.' However, what has long been a reproach to the Church and Parish is soon to be removed, as the Vicar and Churchwardens have commissioned Mr. Wathen to make a bier. The new bier will be of oak, and, in view of the distance of many houses from the Church, will be as light as is consistent with strength. So long as seven or eight years ago Mr. Mustoe gave £2 towards a bier, but the money somehow disappeared into the miscellaneous fund known as 'Church Expenses,' and the Vicar and Churchwardens must now contrive to raise the necessary five guineas for the new bier out of this fund. To enable them to do so they appeal to parishioners to contribute as liberally as possible to the Sunday collections during the month of July.

CHOIR FESTIVAL.

There is to be a Festival of Parish Choirs at All Saints', Evesham, on Wednesday, July 11th, at 6.30 p.m., when the preacher will be the Rev. G. Arbuthnot, M.A. Vicar of Stratford-on-Avon. Books of Words and Music may be obtained at Badsey Post Office, price 8d. each. As this is not an ordinary parochial service, the Churchwardens of All Saints' will reserve seats for the purchasers of books.

NOTES AND NEWS.

The sale of Badsey Picture Post-cards has now reached the profit-earning stage, and the Vicar hopes to add Wickhamford Church to the series before the end of the month.

Mr. Pendlebury has sent the Vicar five guineas by way of starting a fund for the provision of a thoroughly efficient heating apparatus. As soon as plans and particulars of the cost of such an apparatus are to hand a meeting of the vestry will be called to discuss the matter. Our readers will learn with regret that Mr. Pendlebury is still very far from well, and will join with us in expressing a hope that he may soon be permitted to be about again.

Mr. and Mrs. King desire to thank all who showed sympathy with them in the loss of their little son, and sent flowers on the occasion of the funeral.

The Sunday School will re-open on July 15th.

There will be no daily services from July 16th to 21st inclusive.

On S. James's Day the services at Badsey will be as follows:—5 Holy Communion, 10 Morning Prayer, 10.30 Holy Communion, 6.45 Evening Prayer. The Children's Tea Party is postponed until September.

The 'trip' season has now commenced, and the Vicar and Churchwardens will be glad to receive contributions towards the Annual Choir Outing.

OFFERINGS FOR THE MONTH.

		BADSEY.		WICKHAMFORD.	
		£ s. d.		£ s. d.	
June 3.—	Sick and Needy	...	0 7 3		
"	"—Sunday School	...	1 6 5	0 13 7	
"	8.—Sick and Needy	...	0 1 0		
"	10.—Sick and Needy	...	0 0 11		
"	"—Church Expenses	...	0 12 4½	0 4 9½	
"	17.—Sick and Needy	...	0 4 1	0 5 0	
"	"—Church Expenses	...	0 12 6		
"	24.—Sick and Needy	...	0 0 9	0 2 0	
"	"—Church Expenses	...	0 9 6	0 3 5	
"	28.—Sick and Needy	...	0 0 9		
			<u>3 15 6½</u>	<u>1 8 2½</u>	

THE REGISTERS.

BADSEY.—BAPTISMS.

June 10th.—William Henry Knight.
 " 17th.—Walter William Hartwell.
 " " —Florence Mary Barnard.
 " " —Gertrude Evelyn Bennett.

BADSEY.—MARRIAGE.

June 27th.—Henry Keen to Clara Goode.

BADSEY.—BURIALS.

June 20th.—Frederick Thomas King, aged 6 years.
 " 27th.—Mary Mosley Marshall, aged 87 years.