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(THE GUILD HALL - No. 4
ON MAP)

OPENING OF THE NEW TOWN HALL. LISKEARD

The erection of a new Town Hall at Liskeard has been productive of festivities unrivalled in that ancient municipal Borough. Before proceeding to recount the manner in which the Burgesses celebrated this gratifying occasion it would be as well to furnish our readers with some description of the Hall itself.

The building is in the Italian style, and stands on the site of the old Hall, part of which was of ancient date. The exterior is well proportioned and nicely grouped. The principal piers, walls and arches of the ground floor are built of granite, from the Cheesewring quarries, having rustic points throughout. The upper walls are of local slate, in tooled ashlar with cement vermiculated main quoins, and cement window dressings and eaved cornices.

The whole of the mouldings are bold and effective. There is a clock tower at the north-west corner, the basement of which forms a private entrance to the reading room and hall. The principal entrance being at the south end of the building.

The whole of the ground floor, appropriated to the meat market, is conveniently fitted up with stalls, having slate benches on brick piers, and iron rails, &c. over the same.

On the upper floor is the Hall, 53 feet by 23 feet 6 inches, and 23 feet high, it has a good panelled ceiling and an orchestra. At the south end is a reading room, 27 feet by 17 feet, and 22 feet high. There are also the requisite offices for the County Court business, retiring rooms &c.

X The plans were supplied by Charles Reeves, Esq., of London, Surveyor of County Courts. The contractors were Messrs. Sargent, Bone, and Firks, of Liskeard, who have executed the works in a highly satisfactory manner, under the direction of Mr. H. Rice, of Liskeard, Architect, to whose care the same was entrusted.

Although the really exciting transactions were postponed by the corporate body until the following day, the afternoon of Wednesday was signalized

by a very pleasant and gratifying event, when, through the individual exertions of Bernard Anstis, Esq., about two hundred aged women of the town were regaled with a public tea, served up in the body of the Hall.

Amongst the ladies who efficiently assisted the above named gentleman, and whose kindness and urbanity to their poorer sisterhood is entitled to much praise, we observed—Mrs. Peter Clymo, Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Jago, Mrs. Keast, Mrs. Caunter, Mrs. Fookes, Mrs. Medland, the Misses Glubb, Miss Adams, Miss Spry, Miss Moon, Miss Channon.

After tea a dance was called to the enlivening strains of Phillip's Quadrille Band, the same being led off by Miss C. M. Glubb and Miss Spry, who had for their partners Mrs. Nancy Vian and Mrs. Mary Johns aged 71 and 70 years respectively.

THE OPENING

This event took place on Thursday morning. The proceedings commenced by some appropriate observations on the part of his worshipful the Mayor, and were concluded by a declaration that the new building was opened for the public business of the Borough.

Mr. Anstis then rose, and proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for his exertions during the years in which he had filled that high and honourable position (1858-1859), referring also to the accommodation afforded by the new building, to the requirements of the Borough.

~~He (Mr. Anstis) vindicated the choice of site. The Corporation would have been happy to have obtained another on which a more capacious structure might have been erected; but, being in possession of little means, they were obliged to consult economy.~~

The walls of the Hall in which they were assembled, would, he trusted, soon be decorated with busts and pictures of celebrities connected with the Borough, and he hoped, in conclusion, that the building, whose career of usefulness had now commenced, would prove a blessing to the town.

Mr. Abraham seconded the vote of thanks to the Mayor, and in the course of his observations expressed his hope that every exertion would be made

by the Corporate body, to render the Hall generally useful. He expressed a wish that every advantage might be rendered to the literary society, and that their meetings would take place more often than those of the County Court.

After a few more observations by Mr. Anstis, in which he referred humorously to the remarks of Mr. Abraham, the Mayor returned thanks, and the proceedings closed with hearty cheers in honour of his worship and the gratifying occasion upon which they were all assembled.

THE PUBLIC DINNER

A large and most respectable party, composed of members of every section of the community dined, dined together at the Market House, under the able presidency of the Mayor, Samuel Bone, Esq. Grace was said and thanks returned by the Rev. James Glencross,, of Luxtowe.

An excellent and substantial dinner was provided on the occasion by Mr. Littleton, "mine host" of the "Bell", to which ample justice was done by 173 guests. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and appropriate toasts, including the Queen, the Prince Consort and the rest of the Royal Family, the Ministers of Religion, &c., were given and responded to.

The Rev. James Glencross returned thanks on behalf of "the Ministers of Religion," remarking on the beneficial influence exerted by these, especially in their pastoral visits, on all classes of the community, -and expressed a hope that the union effected by this intercourse would be found also to exist among the social body, and that the strength which this union is calculated to give would result therefrom.

Mr. Glanville returned thanks on behalf of the Army.

The health of "the Member for the Borough" was then given, and Mr. Childs was called on to respond. He adverted to the celebrity which Mr. Bernal Osborne had attained, and thought it only a fair and legitimate object of ambition; if he expressed a hope one day to fill the place now so ably occupied by him.

He had also great pleasure in announcing that he was instructed by Lady Molesworth to present the Mayor and Corporation with an excellent portrait

of their former and much honoured and highly respected representative, Mr. Charles Buller.

Mr. Glubb proposed "the Magistracy," of County and Borough, -remarking on the excellencies of the men, and the advantage resulting to the community from their valuable and gratuitous services. Mr. Carew, of Antony, returned thanks on behalf of the County Magistrates, and expressed the pleasure he felt in being found by "a happy accident" again amongst his friends at Liskeard, from whom he had recently experienced so much kindness and consideration.

Mr. Anstis and Mr. Pearce, of Tremedden, returned thanks on behalf of the Borough Magistrates, the former dwelling on the arduous nature of the duties imposed upon them, and good humouredly adverting to their beneficial influence on the body politic, and the latter expiating on the advantage which would result to themselves and the community at large, from the new Town Hall, which provided what they had so long wanted, -a place well adapted to the administration of justice.

Mr. Anstis proposed the health of the "strangers," with especial reference to two gentlemen who had honoured them with their presence, and who by their resources and spirit of enterprise had contributed to the welfare of the neighbourhood.

These gentlemen having left the room at the moment when this toast was proposed, Mr. Pryor, the manager of West Caradon, returned thanks on their behalf, and stated that he had received full instructions from them to use their capital in developing the resources of the neighbourhood, -and that for himself, he was no stranger at present, and for the future he intended to be less a stranger than he had been hitherto.

Mr. Childs proposed success to the "Agricultural and Mining interest." Capt. Trevellyn responded to the latter, and expressed his belief that but for the mines, no new Town Hall would ever have been thought of, nor Liskeard in its appearance and prosperity be anything like the place it was at present.

Mr. Anstis as the owner of "an acre of ground" rented by his mining friend, Mr. Loam, humourously replied on behalf of Agriculture, and dilated on the

advantages of a union of the two interests such as they had the happiness of enjoying.

Mr. Childs proposed the health of the Architect, Contractors, and Clerk of the works of the new Building awarding much praise to them for the manner in which they had performed their respective parts. This was replied to by Mr. Rice and Mr. Firks, who spoke of the harmony that had subsisted among all the parties concerned in the erection, and in the pleasure they felt in finding their work so highly appreciated, -Mr. Jago, the Town clerk acknowledged the compliment paid to him in proposing and drinking his health.

Success to the Trade and Commerce of Liskeard called up Mr. Keast, who duly acknowledged the toast. "The ladies" was gallantly proposed by Mr. Bishop, of Fowey, who all but exhausted our vocabulary of laudatory superlatives whilst speaking of them. Mr. Hood replied, and regarded himself as the most envied man in the room in being selected to fill so honourable a post.

The health of the working man was drunk with great enthusiasm, and suitably responded to.

THE CONCERT AND BALL

The evening was signalized by a concert, principally given by the ladies and gentlemen amateurs of the Borough, and surrounding neighbourhood. The hall was densely crowded by a fashionable audience; the proceedings were ably conducted by Mr. Pearson. As much credit was due to all, for the manner in which they acquitted themselves, we should deem it an invidious duty to particularize, and we forbear, consequently, to mention names.

A ball closed the proceedings of this eventful day, -a day which will long be remembered as a red-letter day in the history of the Borough of Liskeard.