

CELEBRATION OF THE OPENING OF VISCOUNT BEAUMONT'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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BY SAMUEL T STEWART - OCTOBER 2021

On Tuesday, an event of some importance took place at Coleorton, in the celebration of the new school, erected by the worthy rector. Rev. W. B. Beaumont, combined with a harvest thanksgiving festival.

The school, is built in the Swiss style by Mr. Lilley, of Ashby, from a design Mr. Cockerill. architect. The day was ushered in by a merry peal from the musical bells, (at [St. Mary's Church](#)) put up by the late Sir George [Howland Willoughby](#) Beaumont ([8th Baronet of Staunton](#)). At eleven o'clock a service was held at the parish church, which was attended by a crowded congregation. There was full choral service, and eloquent sermon preached by Rev. Speke, brother to the celebrated African traveller, from Kabbakuk iii, 17 and 18. "Although the fig tree shall not blossom." &c. The church was decorated for the occasion with corn, intermingled with laurel leaves and dowers, placed on the capitals of the pillars of the arches.

At one o'clock a substantial dinner was provided in the Schoolroom for the labourers, of whom 250 sat down. At three o'clock, a tea was provided for the women, and at four o'clock the room was filled with a large party of children enjoying a similar treat. The schoolroom was decorated with wreaths of leaves, and at the front of the orchestra was the inscription, "God is the King of all the earth, sing praises with understanding."

During the afternoon games of various kinds, jumping, barrow and bag and other races were carried on, and were productive of considerable amusement.

Between six and seven o'clock there was a display of fireworks, superintended by Mr. Ison, of Ashby, the more elaborate portions of which were hailed with shouts of delight by the juveniles.

The day throughout was extremely favourable, the sun shining brightly, and bringing out to perfection the autumnal tints of the fine trees which adorn the undulating landscape of the neighbourhood, and the temperature being mild and pleasant. About half past seven in the evening, the tenantry and friends sat down to an excellent dinner provided by Mr. S. Love, of the Queen's Head Hotel, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The party numbered about 120. Sir [George Howland](#) Beaumont ([9th Baronet of Stoughton](#)) presided, and at the principal table were various members of his family, Rev. W. B. Beaumont, Rev. Speke, Rev. J. T. Alderson (Ravenstone), Mr. Somes, Mr. Lilley, Mr. Morris. (Ashby). Among the company were Mr. B. Everard (Bardon), Mr. W. Everard, Mr. and Mrs. Newland (Dartford), Mr. and Mrs. P. Reward, Miss Pruen, Miss Ruth. Mr. J. W. Faux, Mr. T. Howard, Rev. J. O. Brooke (Huggleseote), Mr. J. Wardle, Mr. J. Sharpe, Mr. K. Wardle, Mr. J. Hatchett, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lewis. Misses Walker, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bennett, Mr. and Miss Radford, Mr. Henderson. Messrs. C. Matthews, F. Davenport, and Emery, of Ashby, &c. The Ashby Rifle Corps band, which had added much to the enjoyment of the festivities of the day, was also the dinner, and performed during the evening a selection of appropriate music.

TEXT ANNOTATED IN [BLUE](#) BY SAMUEL T STEWART