

S. Oswald's Parish Magazine.

JULY, 1895.

For a while again we go on with the "daily round" of Church life, the great Festivals of the Church being over; we have already begun the Sundays which are called "after Trinity." Grasmere is in the full tide of business, and the prophecies of the weather-wise have been fulfilled. The weather has been indeed glorious, but our fields and gardens are parched, and the drought has been as stubborn as the winter frost.

We are somewhat afraid that the attendance upon visitors is allowed to interfere sadly with the attendance of many of our own people at Church, and that others cannot resist, especially on summer evenings, the pleasant walks in the pastures and on the hills. There surely must be time for these, however, as a rule, before or after the *one hour* spent in Church, and more especially for those who can only get to Church once on Sunday, and that in the evening. And there is one quiet hour in the morning, the freshest in the day, before breakfast, which to many must be available,—the "sweet morning hour" when we may be "fed with Food divine." To take pleasure, or to be engaged in duties, at the expense of a higher claim, cannot in the long run bring satisfaction, for it involves a loss which none can afford, and leaves undone a duty which may not be made up.

We were afraid that our usual Sunday quiet was about to be disturbed by excursionists, and horses and men deprived of their Sunday rest. But we are glad to hear that this is to be the exception and not the rule, and probably even may not occur again. It is a question whether the boats on Windermere will be allowed to run.

THE OLD RECTORY.

Amongst the timbers taken out of the walls is an interesting thick beam with the following inscription:—

THIS HOVSE WAS BVILT 1687 HENRY FLEMING PAR*

The Rev. Henry Fleming was one of the numerous family of Sir Daniel Fleming, of Rydal Hall. Sir Daniel had 14 children. Henry left Oxford University in the summer of the year that the Rectory House was built, and seems to have come straight to the family living. He took his D.D. degree at Oxford on the 16th August, 1696. He was Rector of Grasmere 41 years; several illuminated scrolls and texts were by his direction made upon the inner walls of the Church, and lie embedded under the plaster. Who were the Vandals who put them out of sight? And when are we to see them again? The following extracts from the Commissioners' Report of the Rydal Hall Manuscripts will be interesting—we have not room for more:—

"March 14, 1686-7. Oxford.—Henry Fleming to Sir D. F. Approving of the model of the proposed parsonage house at Grasmere, if the money is sufficient to finish it and adorn the Church."

"Dec. 11, 1687." [Sir D. F. writes in an Account Book], "This day my son Henry Fleming preached his first sermon—upon Rom. xiii, 10—in Gresmere Church, where I would have been, had I had notice of his preaching."

THE SCHOOLS.

The following is the summary of H.M. Inspector's Report.

Mixed School. "During a great part of the year the attendance has been very irregular. Severe weather and sickness, together with the fact that the school was carried on for a time without an assistant, will account no doubt for some falling off in attainments. Arithmetic is now only barely fair in respect of accuracy and moderately

*The beam seems to have been cut off at these last letters, and we may find a continuation of the inscription. If not, "Par" may be an abbreviation of Pastor, Parish Priest, or Parson.

fair in intelligence. Spelling continues weak, particularly in the Second Standard. The remainder of the elementary work is fairly good. Grammar on the whole is fairly well known, and in the upper standards the answers are intelligent, but not sufficiently general. Geography, though not perfectly good, is very creditable, maps again deserving praise. The order is fairly good, but in the lower standards a want of attention is noticeable."

Infants' School.—"The work of the infants has been much interfered with by sickness and severe weather, and considering this the results are creditable. The order is good."

With reference to the above report, Mr. Fuller writes to us asking for room for a special appeal to parents respecting the very irregular attendance of children. Mr. Fuller says:—"I feel sure that many parents do not realise the injury done to the progress of their children by this irregular attendance. All their progress depends upon each step being made good. Little, too, do they realise the loss to the managers. Last year 8105 attendances were lost in my department, causing a money loss of £26 13s., and more still in the Infants' Department. Now that the schools are free, and the annual income so much reduced by accepting the Fee Grant in lieu of school pence, parents should feel bound to make a special effort to secure as regular attendance as possible. I may add that the extra requirements laid on us by the New Code will make success impossible unless parents will take this matter of attendance seriously to heart and conscience."

We are glad to find that there is appended to the report an intimation that our schools are excused the usual examination next year,—a provision "applied to schools which have reached upon the whole a good educational standard" (*Revised Instructions to Inspectors*). This, we understand, is a distinction gained by very few schools in this neighbourhood.

For the Universities' Mission to Central Africa, on the 16th ult., the sum of £7 1s. 4½d. was given by the evening congregation, and the children at their afternoon service contributed 6s. 6d., mostly in coppers.

For the Seamen's Mission in Calcutta, Father Hopkins will preach on the 7th inst., at Matins. Grasmere people will remember his visit in 1893.

CELEBRATIONS OF HOLY COMMUNION IN JULY.

Sunday, July 7, at 8.
Sunday, July 14, at 11-45.
Sunday, July 21, at 8.

Thursday, July 25 (S. James A. and M.) at 8.
Sunday, July 28, at 11-45.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

July 7. Morn.: 241, 595, 587; Even.: 229, 164, 477.
July 14. Morn.: 290, 550, 315; Even.: 307, 225, 38.
July 21. Morn.: 37, 199, 168; Even.: 18, 170, 31.
July 28. Morn.: 1, 272, 177; Even.: 218, 223, 24.

Baptism.

June 16. John, son of Richard James and Annie Elizabeth Major.

Death.

June 26. Elizabeth Hodgson, Knott Houses, aged 82.

RAINFALL AT GRASMERE.

Total for May, 0·62 inches. Total for June, 1·96 inches.—T. A. GREEN.