



## The Annual Festivities

The delightful weather of Tuesday last attracted a large company of pleasure-seekers to take part in the annual festivities at the village of Holt. In the morning the village club met at the New Inn, and walked to church, headed by the Bradford Amateur Brass Band. When it came to the sermon, a slight delay took place in the services, in consequence of the preacher having left the manuscript at home, and he accordingly descended from the pulpit, and sent the clerk for it. As the congregation manifested some unease at being kept in suspense, the preacher ascended the pulpit and said "The sermon will be here in a minute or two", and disappeared again. At last it was forthcoming, and the service completed. The procession returned to the New Inn, where a capital dinner was served by the Host Law. Mr. J. Hunt presided. The usual loyal and patriotic toasts were drunk with enthusiasm. During the afternoon and evening the band performed a selection of music in an admirable manner, amongst which were "The 2nd Wilts Volunteer March", "The Heavens are telling" and a selection from "Il Travatore". Quadrilles, polkas, etc. varied the programme, and afforded much gratification to the village lads and lasses who danced about in high glee.

### The Cricket Match

Between the Holt and Bradford players, afforded sport to another class of pleasure-seekers, in the beautiful grounds adjoining the residence of T. B. W. Forster Esq. This gentleman, we believe, organized the match, and placed his grounds at the disposal of the cricketers that afternoon; and not only so, but was himself the life and soul of the game. To his superior and excellent playing must be attributed the success that the Holt gents obtained, notwithstanding that Bradford manifested excellent play in the first innings. We believe that "Nil desperandum" is inscribed on the Bradford bats so that at the next game they will doubtless retrieve their laurels. The following is the score:

### Bradford

1st innings				2nd innings			
Player	Bowler	Out	Score	Player	Bowler	Out	Score
Neale	Vokes	Bowled	8	Neale	Vokes	Bowled	0
A. Wilkins	Vokes	Caught Vokes	0	A. Wilkins	Vokes	Caught E. Beaven	10
Mazey	Vokes	Bowled	0	Mazey	Vokes	Bowled	0
W. Wilkins		Not out	24	W. Wilkins	Vokes	Bowled	0
Mitchell	Vokes	Bowled	1	Mitchell	Vokes	Caught Forster	2
Newton	E. Bailey	Caught E. Bailey	5	Newton	Vokes	Caught Davis	0
Bryant	E. Bailey	Caught Forster	3	Bryant	F. Beaven	Caught Forster	0

Earle	E. Bailey	Bowled	0	Earle	Vokes	Bowled	1
Sheppard	Vokes	Hit wicket	4	Sheppard		Run out	0
Barshop	E. Bailey	Bowled	5	Barshop	F. Beaven	Bowled	1
Taylor	Vokes	Bowled	0	Taylor		Not out	1
Bye			1	Bye			1
			51				16

### Holt

1st innings				2nd innings			
Player	Bowler	Out	Score	Player	Bowler	Out	Score
Forster		Not out	21	Forster		Not out	18
E. Bailey	Mazey	Bowled	6	E. Bailey	Mazey	Bowled	0
F. Beaven	Mazey	Caught Barshop	1	F. Beaven	Neale	Caught Mazey	1
E. Beaven	Neale	Bowled	1	E. Beaven	Mazey	Bowled	2
W. Bailey	Mazey	Caught Barshop	0	W. Bailey			
Vokes	Neale	Bowled	3	Vokes			
Davis	Mazey	Bowled	1	Davis			
Blake	Neale	Bowled	0	Blake		Not out	2
Deverell	Neale	Caught Wilkins	1	Deverell			
T. Taylor	Mazey	Bowled	1	T. Taylor			
Hookey	Neale	Hit wicket	1	Hookey			
Byes			6				1
			42				27

A tent furnished with an abundance of refreshments supplied the cricketers with sustenance for the inner man.

### The Tea Meeting

Took place at the Independent Chapel, which was decorated with flags and flowers. After tea the Rev. W. Smith, the minister, expressed the pleasure he felt at meeting them once more on an occasion like the present. These meeting, if properly managed, tended to call out their social feelings, without which, they as Dissenters could not expect to be very prosperous. Anything that tended to promote social feelings, under God's blessing, was calculated to do good. A motto that he saw before him, "Train up a child in the way it should go", brought him to the object of the present meeting – the Sunday School, for the purpose of carrying on the work of which, the proceeds of the present meeting would be applied. And not only that, but they had met to cheer and stimulate the teachers in their work; and if the speakers succeeded in increasing the teachers' love for soils, and earnestness in the work, the meeting would not have been in vain. The Sabbath School system had become one of the institutions of our country. Some of those present remembered its commencement; but to what extent had it reached now! When they considered that there were now two millions of children attending the Sabbath-schools, and they were taught by 250,000 teachers, they must say, "It is the Lord's doing"; he has put it into the hearts of these teachers to do the work. At the same time, his hearers were aware that there were many discouragements to the teachers. Some of them knew the danger of growing weary in well doing, therefore anything that could be said tonight to sustain the hands that were hanging down, or confirm the feeble knees, that would be a benefit to their Sabbath-school. According to the measure of devotedness of the teachers, could they tell the amount of good the Sabbath-school was doing. But the Sabbath-school was only one department of the great field of Christian labour; there were other fields; and whatever tended to the prosperity of one, would and must necessarily tend to the prosperity of the other. With these observations he introduced the speakers.

The Rev. Thomas Hind of Westbury, in an able and earnest address, said when our churches cease to take an interest in the Sabbath-schools, then will they cease to be prosperous, and spiritual declension will commence. The work of the church was manifold, but on all the operations which devolved upon Christians in these days they must not neglect the young. But while they were anxious about the young, and while they were anxious to gather together a band of devoted teachers, there was another work in which the Church of Christ should be pre-eminently solicitous, and that was religion in the family. Their amount of usefulness depended to a great extent upon the degree of spirit in which religion was manifested in the midst of the family circle. Domestic religion was manifested chiefly at the fireside of our forefathers. It was the spirit in which the truth was maintained and exemplified at the fireside that made those men so eminent as they were. If we have religion at all it will appear in the family, and there the child will take its first impressions; for before the child can comprehend the existence of God, the parents will stand in the relation of God to that child. If our religion is real, it will appear everywhere, and it was most important it should appear in the family, for the child would contrast what he was taught in the class, with what he saw at home. He rejoiced to think there were many godly families in our churches, and many children being brought up in the fear of the Lord. He trusted the teachers of that school would go on with their work, and encouraged them to be anxious to possess the spirit of Christ themselves, and then there would be no want of spiritual energy, and they would reap a rich reward, for they would see their children coming forward to uphold the cause of God in their day and generation.

The Rev. Mr. Woods of Melksham, next addressed the assembly. Sunday-school work was a work which required much perseverance and patience in Christians, which he knew from experience. Those who were in it should be anxious to bring others to the work, for it was great thing to be "well doing". These two simple words represented true religion, and he went on to show the need there was in these days especially, of true practical religion, instancing the dangerous and insidious forms of infidelity there were abroad. He referred to the discouragements Sunday-school teachers had to contend with in their work, and said that if parents but did their duty to their children in their work there would be no need for Sunday-schools at all. He looked upon Sunday-schools as a most necessary evil in the world. The fact was parents were not Christian parents. Fathers and mothers did not bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; and therefore, if it were not for Sunday-schools, their children would be ruined. The Rev. Mr. Woodlake of Heytesbury, also addressed the meeting, which closed with singing and prayer.

**Trowbridge and North West Advertiser, 6 June 1863**