



Church News

Upton Lovell

PRESENTATION

By the lamented death of the late esteemed Rector, the Rev. W. Gray, it has become necessary for his bereaved family to leave the Rectory, after residing there for the long period of 32 years. Before doing so, however, several of the parishioners suggested that some suitable testimonial should be given to his two daughters, the Misses Gray, as a slight acknowledgment of their past service to the parish. It can truthfully be said that the welfare of the parishioners was ever uppermost in their thoughts. In the church they worked with unflinching zeal to make the services hearty and joyful, and the manner in which they were attended by large congregations shows that their efforts have not been in vain. The cause of education always received their utmost attention, and particularly the Sunday School; for it they labored hard in an unselfish and self-denying spirit, and how many must look back with grateful hearts to the days they spent in the school and choir. The subscription list was opened by Mrs Hewitt and Mr G. W. Richards, both of whom were indefatigable in their exertions to raise what they could, they were kindly assisted by Mr H. S. Hewitt, who did his best to help them in every possible way, as also did Mr and Mrs Raxworthy. They soon succeeded in raising a good sum of money, as many friends as well as parishioners subscribed most liberally. The presentation took place at the Rectory on Thursday evening, the 1st inst., where many friends had assembled to witness it, and also to say the heart-rending word "farewell." The testimonial consisted of two purses containing nearly £45, besides a handsome time-piece, on which was engraved a suitable inscription. It was presented by Mr H. S. Hewitt, who, then addressing the Misses Gray, briefly, but feelingly, alluded to their past work in the parish; he asked them to accept this small present as a tribute of affectionate esteem, and finally he bid them "God speed." One of the members of the choir then rose, and, on behalf of his colleagues, expressed the deep sorrow they all felt at parting with them, and begged them to accept their heart-felt thanks for all the benefits they had ever derived from them. Then came the parting, which was indeed an affecting scene, each heart being touched with feelings of emotion. We feel certain that the desire and prayer of many must be that God's blessing and peace may rest upon them as long as they live, and that they may at last receive their full reward in that day when God shall dispose of His jewels; when for each act of love done for Him, He will give a just and full reward.- The Rectory of Upton Lovell, void by the death of the Rev. William Gray, has been presented by the Lord Chancellor to the Rev. H. F. Crockett, curate of Poulshot, Wilts. The Rectory is of the value of £323 a year, with parsonage and grounds.

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