

# The Link.

The Official Journal of the Humberstone Garden Suburb.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 36

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Published Monthly.

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THE EDITOR,

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### SOME FORMER VICARS OF HUMBERSTONE.

The list of Vicars of Humberstone that has come down to us is little more than a mere list of names, some of them supplemented with a few remarks, and most, but not all, with the dates of their coming and going; still an ecclesiastical history of the realm may be read in it with very little difficulty.

The first name on the list is Richard of Gloucester (1228), but whether that was the beginning or the end of his ministry we have no knowledge. The church for many years previous to the dissolution of the monasteries belonged to the Abbey at Leicester, and the second name is Thomas Male (1534). It was about that time that Leicester Abbey was closed, and the list is fairly continuous from then. The fifth on the list is Thomas Wariner, who died in 1618, and concerning his occupation of the office just one incident is recorded, rescued from the oblivion that covers most of the village life of the past. In the Chamberlain's accounts for the Borough of Leicester for the year 1610 occurs the following entry:—"The 22nd daie of februarie paid for a pottel of wine given to Mr. Warner vicar of Humberstone who that daie preached at Leicester 2od." Strange, that of eighteen years ministrations to the spiritual needs of the parish, that should be the only incident of which we have any record!

But stirring times were ahead, and the names cover very short periods during the next century. Cavalier and Roundhead, Presbyterian and Episcopalian, were struggling for supremacy, and that quiet retreat from the bustle and turmoil of life, a country parsonage, felt the full force of the storm. Thomas Bosse (1639) is described as a presbyter; his successor, John Musson (1648) as a minister. Francis Hanmer (1649) has no particulars regarding himself except

that he died about 1670. But he was not vicar until the end of his life, for there is another name, Richard Adams, ejected 1661. This, of course, was just after the restoration of Charles II., when the Royalists "took it out" of their enemies to their heart's content. And he gets the longest entry of all the list:—

"After his ejection he got married at Mountsorrel and set up a meeting house there. At first people were afraid to go, but afterwards increased and continued for about 14 years. Justice Babington, a very sober man, but jealous against dissenters, was very severe against him, fined him 12d. a day; sent officers to make distress for fine, who seized his pewter, and sent it to the pewterers, who would not buy it. Mr. Adams afterwards went to London, to the Baptist Church in Devonshire Square, and lived to a great age."

Half-a-dozen vicars appear on the list during the next half-century, and in 1714 Paul Dudley came to the place; then for nearly a century and a half the three names, Paul, John, and John Dudley, junr.—apparently grandfather, father, and son—bring us to the middle of the nineteenth century. The school was erected during the incumbency of the Rev. H. Adcock in 1857, and in 1886 the then vicar, the Rev. Mr. Waller, was drowned during a visit to America.

PENDA.

CRICKET CLUB SOCIAL.—"Oh! it was fine, I wish there was one like it every week," was the comment of one lady, as—very tired, but very happy—she reluctantly turned homewards, just before midnight on Saturday, February 6th. The occasion was, of course, the annual social and dance, arranged by the members of the Cricket Club, to provide funds to carry on "as usual" during the coming season. There was a large attendance of residents, and friends from town, who soon settled down to an evening of keen enjoyment. Those to whom dancing did not appeal, found full compensation in the fine singing of Miss Lettie Nourish, and the humorous items by Mr. Sidney Cross. Mr. A. Golland was accompanist, and Mr. Winterton officiated as M.C. for the dancing. The committee tender their thanks to all who helped to make this effort such a social and financial success.—C.H.G.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST.

We regret to learn that Private J. A. Parker is now in hospital at Belfast, suffering from a flesh wound, which, happily, is not considered to be of a serious nature. A further long and interesting letter dealing with his experiences in France is unavoidably held over.

\* \* \*

Congratulations to "The Rustics" on their successful reappearance a few weeks ago, and on the way in which residents rallied to their support. Our friends since then, we understand, have been rendering useful service at the Sanatorium and the Base Hospital in providing amusement for our wounded soldiers.

\* \* \*

From Marlborough, Mass., U.S.A., a long letter, intended for publication, comes to hand from Mr. and Mrs. Harry Folwell. This also we are unable to produce this month; but are glad to convey to our readers the good wishes contained therein. Mr. and Mrs. Folwell state they will be pleased at all times to hear from old friends.

\* \* \*

Apropos of the Estate Band, it is said that in one cheerful household, where father puts in a lot of time practising and frequently disturbs the members of the *enfant terrible*, the latter has become so used to the phenomenon that he quietly sits up in his cot and soberly begins to beat time! When he reaches mature years that juvenile should be a strong candidate for the conductorship.

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## ESTATE COUNCIL REPORT.

On February 6th a very good concert arranged by Mr. Suttiffe, took place in the Assembly Room, but unfortunately the attendance was small. The Saturday following a dance took place, while on the 20th the Belgrave Road Tabernacle male voice choir and party provided a very enjoyable evening, the attendance again being much below par.

### PROGRAMME FOR MARCH.

- 6th—Miss Squires and Pupils.
- 13th—Mrs. Beale and Party, including sketch artists and two Belgian friends.
- 20th—Dance.
- 27th—Mr. Riley's Party.

MONTHLY MEETING.—On February 18th, Mr. A. H. Hibbett presided (in the absence of Mr. Groome through illness). In the committee's report Mr. J. S. Wilford referred to the closing of the Society's financial year, and the auditing of the accounts, and requested nominations for committee to be in the office by March 4th. The retiring members are Messrs. Taylor, Beamish, Hibbett and Mann. In the report of the Estate Council, Mr. Scott announced all the organisations were progressing steadily and that the band required several more players. Mr. Beamish was elected to represent the Society at a District Conference at Nuneaton on February 20th. An application from the International Co-operative Alliance for a subscription to their fund for the relief of innocent aliens, was discussed, the meeting deciding to make a collection for a month on the Estate, three-fourths to be devoted to the relief of needy cases at home and one-fourth to the international fund. A resolution was passed *re* school, urging the importance of getting a new one in hand as soon as possible, a copy to be sent to the national and local educational authorities. The meeting was then made special to alter Rule 86, Clause 1, dealing with the Property Reserve Fund.

CHURCH OF CHRIST LORD'S DAY SCHOOL.—The annual tea and prize distribution took place on January 23rd. Tea was arranged for 4.30, but the eager children presented themselves long before the appointed hour. A concert followed, the entire programme being carried out by the children; songs, pianoforte selections, recitations, and readings were rendered with a charm that only children can express. When at last the prizes came you could almost pick out the winners by their expectant faces, and even those who were less fortunate, were ready to applaud their companion. The teachers were pleased to see so many parents present, their only regret being the absence of the superintendent, Mr. Taylor, whose disappointment, no doubt, was as keenly felt as theirs. The number of scholars in the school is 106, and a scholar must make not less than 80 attendances out of a possible 104 to gain a prize.

"PECTO" CHEST AND LUNG SYRUP. Try it—only 2d. per ounce, from "Willowdene," Laburnum Road.

### Impressions of the French Soldier.

When an English youth enlists, whether the ungainly plough-boy or city out-of-work, a few weeks with a drill sergeant completely transforms him. Head erect, his tunic fits like a glove, and his upright military carriage makes the most of what inches nature has endowed him with.

The French Infantryman is just the reverse. With an æsthetic reputation as a civilian, on entering the Army he becomes positively slovenly in appearance. The unlovely uniform is inconsistent with the dapper Frenchman. The nether garment is usually too long and too loose, of a washed-out crushed-strawberry tint, and a slit pocket gaping open down each seam. He is taught to march with a peculiar bent-kneed gait, which tends to make him slouch along when off duty, but also enables him to march an immense distance with full kit on.

There is nothing domineering or aggressive about the "peou-peou." His careless get-up seems analogous with his disposition; always merry and bright, he appears to be perfectly happy and contented on his pay of 1/2d. per day with an allowance of tobacco. At twenty years old he commences his two years' military training, and is not finished with the Army until he is forty-five. Whatever his opinion ament conscription he certainly makes the most of it, and the annual meeting with his old comrades is quite an event.

To some extent the conscript may choose his own regiment; of course a 5 ft. man could not join the Cuirassiers or a crack artillery regiment. On October 1st every year something like a quarter of a million youths are compelled by law to report for military service, and the tumult at the large Paris stations as they leave is worth witnessing.

The picturesque Zouave is a different type of man. Of a most austere mien, with a brick-red complexion, he looks a real fighting man. To a scanty collarless tunic, displaying his bare throat, he wears red trousers that are weird and wonderful. Innumerable pleats at the waist fall loose round the legs and are gathered up again at the ankles and finished off with white spats.

The Dragoon is a most unwieldy person on foot. For some unknown reason he carries an exact facsimile

of a horse's tail fastened to the back of his helmet and reaching down almost to the waist. His wide trousers, and equally wide black leather leggings, are in marked contrast to the extreme tightness of our own cavalryman's, which seem expressly designed to prevent him sitting down in comfort.

The Republican Guard one meets everywhere in Paris, a superior order of policemen, whose duty is to guard public places.

The tall, bearded Colonial; the swarthy Turco (a native of Algeria); the Alpine Chasseur, trained to perform part of his duties on skis, and many others were all to be met promenading at the great military museum, the Invalides, on Sunday afternoons; but are now proving themselves most worthy allies.

T. E. JOHNSON.

**WOMEN'S SOCIAL GUILD.**—On February 4th, Mr. W. M. Scott, of Leicester gave a useful address on "Food in War Time," which created much interest and discussion. On the 18th Mrs. T. R. Ryder, of Leicester, spoke on the "Sanatorium Benefits of the Insurance Act" to a good and appreciative audience. The "cup that cheers" was, of course, again a contributory factor to the enjoyment on each occasion.

### Humberstone and District Supply Association Limited.

The quarterly meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms on Friday, February 12th, Mr. S. B. Beamish in the chair. The Secretary, in moving the report and balance sheet, stated that the results were very satisfactory. On a trade of £382 2s. 8d. they had made a good profit, and after depreciating stock, &c., had a balance profit on the quarter of £23 18s. 3½d.; this, with £14 5s. 8½d. brought forward, making a balance for disposal of £38 4s. 2d. After a good discussion on the very much improved prospects of the society, in which it was pointed out that, had the members remained as loyal as their vote of twelve months ago led the committee to believe they would, this amount would have been considerably increased, and instead of the 1s. in the £ dividend agreed upon, the society would have been in a position to have paid considerably more. An appeal made to the members for more loyal support brought a good and well attended meeting to a close.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## DAMAGE CAUSED BY DOGS.

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,—When your next issue appears Spring will be almost within hail, and our gardeners will soon be committing their seeds to the soil and getting their plots into trim generally. For that reason it may be well to draw attention to the damage inflicted by dogs. In the off season most tenants are not greatly perturbed by the presence of the canine trespasser in their gardens and the unsightly dog tracks which result; but in the springtime there is a very justifiable resentment when seed-beds are found to have been seriously damaged and other havoc wrought by other people's household pets.

In matters of this kind harmony can only prevail by the exercise of a spirit of mutual consideration; and I would appeal to dog-owners to use every endeavour to train their charges in habits of propriety and good breeding; and, where that is found impossible, to see that their power for evil is kept in check during seedtime at least. This step is now perhaps more necessary than ever before in the history of our Estate, owing to the greater number of dogowners resident amongst us. And some of the newcomers (dogs) appear to be the most unruly. Of a truth, "Evil communications corrupt good manners" in dogs as in men, and, as a result of the company they have been keeping, some of our one-time well-behaved canine friends appear to be rapidly falling from grace, and a "Mission to Dogs" will soon be necessary to reclaim them from their bad habits. Seriously, though, it is "up to" the owners of dogs to curb the unruly members, and I feel it is only necessary to draw attention to the evil to have it modified.—Yours, &c.,

## SUBSOIL.

On Easter Monday, as usual, the Billiard Club Championship is to be contested. The present holder is Mr. A. Aston. Any member wishing to compete should signify the same at "Willowdene" on or before March 27th, and new members will also be welcomed.

## CHILDREN'S CORNER.

## TOMMY'S LESSON.

Puss, puss, where have you gone to?  
She has runned away again.  
What a very tiresome pussy!  
For I'm sure I called quite plain.

And Muvver says it's naughty  
Not to come straight away  
When she and daddy call me  
Whatever the time of day.

Yesterday I was busy  
Playing at soldiers you know.  
I was a Beljun captain  
Who had just been told to go

To fight for King and Country  
And let all those Germans see  
How brave and full of courage  
A true-born Beljun could be.

While in the thick of fighting,  
When bullets were falling fast,  
And my men most determind  
That they'd hold out to the last.

Just then I heard my Muvver,  
"Oh! Tommy, Tommy," says she  
"Come quick and play wiv sister  
While I gits yir daddy's tea."

I telled her I was busy,  
That the fighting had begun,  
I couldn't leave the trenches  
When my men had nearly won.

It didn't make no difference,  
"Just you come along," says she,  
"Firing can cease a minit,  
Yir daddy must have his tea."

I didn't go direckly,  
So Muvver took down the cane,  
"You'll know what this is, Sonnie,  
If I have to speak again.

You'll never make a soldier  
When you grow to be a man,  
Unless you are obedient,  
And help Mother all you can."

I'm trying to remember,  
Though it's easy to forget,  
And Muvver says, my lesson  
Is not nearly perfect yet.

C. STEER.

MR. A. GOLLAND, Professor of Music (Organist and Choirmaster, St. Anne's Church, Western Park), receives pupils for Piano and Organ. Special terms for Estate residents. Residence: "Ingleside," Fern Rise.

## GARDENING.

The present high prices of foodstuffs make it essential that one should obtain the very best out of one's garden during the coming season. Deep cultivation and the early sowing of seeds will do much towards this end.

*Onions* should be taken first this month. The bed should be dug as deeply as possible and plenty of well-decayed manure worked into the sub-soil, very little being needed in the top spit. Tread firm, when soil is dry, before sowing the seeds; give a sprinkle of lime over the surface; then every alternate week after the plants have appeared give a dressing of old soot.

*Parsnips and Carrots.*—These require deep cultivation; a little superphosphate of lime or basic slag is the only manure needed—say, two handfuls to the square yard, to be worked in as the digging proceeds. After the plants appear they should be thinned out to four inches apart and given a dusting of soot same as onions.

Sow "All the Year Round" or "Tom Thumb" Lettuce in a cold frame to be planted out in April. Finish pruning fruit trees, leaving those planted this season till last. Cut back side shoots to two or three eyes, allowing all leaders to remain two-thirds their own length. Winter spraying of fruit trees must be finished this month.

T. R.

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