

KINGHAM HILL MAGAZINE

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CHRONICLE OF EVENTS.

The opening game in the House Competition for the Football Cup took place on Saturday, December 19th. The two teams, Bradford and Sheffield, put up a very fine game, and though Bradford were easily the better side, Sheffield contested every point right up to the finish of the game. The score was, Bradford 11, Sheffield 0.

On Friday, December 25th, the usual Services were held in the Chapel at 11 a.m. and at 3 p.m. The Rev. W. Mitchell-Carruthers officiated at the morning service. His subject was, "No room in the inn," Luke 2.

In the afternoon the Carol-singing took place as usual. The old familiar tunes were well rendered by the boys. Once again Mr. Cave very ably rendered the Carols "There came a little Child to Earth" and "Hail, sweet Babe, so pure and holy." Mr. Carruthers, in the much felt absence of Mr. Young, gave the address.

Owing to a deep fall of snow, which rendered the roads somewhat impossible, we regret to say that Mr. Young was unable to pay his usual cheery visit to each House.

On January 2nd, 1926, we had the Prize Giving, an event looked forward to with great interest by the boys. We were pleased to have with us Mr. Arthur Young, Mrs. and Miss Carruthers and the Rev. E. Dibben. Mr. Young distributed the prizes and gave his report on the work of the Vth and VIth Forms—praising the work which had been done satisfactorily, especially mentioning the Scripture, and urging the need of better spelling. J. Topcott (Durham) came out "Top" of the School, while J. Anderson (Sheffield) took the Scripture Prize for the VIth Form. The Vth Form prize was won by R. Abbott (Durham) and Scripture Prize by H. Jones (Durham). The "Tidy" Prizes were won by C. Hooper (Durham), W. Fraser (Sheffield), and M. Turner (Bradford). The "Conduct" Prizes went to R. Hughes (Durham), J. Anderson (Sheffield) and J. Robins (Bradford). The Rev. E. Dibben next addressed the boys, giving them words of encouragement to make the best use of their time and opportunities, and in his customary way illustrating his various points by anecdote. The Rev. W. Mitchell Carruthers spoke of the work done by the Upper and Lower IV. and praised the way in which the Writing Test and Scripture were done. As usual, he gave the boys something to think of—choosing the well-known lines by Rudyard Kipling:—

" I keep six honest serving men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When,
And How and Where and Who."

On Sunday afternoon, January 3rd, in the Chapel, Mr. Young gave the address and chose for his text Revelation xxi. 7: "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God and he shall be My son," and showed that this would be a suitable motto for the New Year.

School re-opened on Monday, January 4th.

On the evening of January 11th, the Chipping Norton Town Band came to the Hill and gave a concert in the School Hall.

There was quite a large audience, and by the way the various items were applauded, the excellent programme was much enjoyed.

The Mayor of Chipping Norton (Mr. J. Hartwell) rendered several songs in his usual effective manner. "When the King goes by" and "The Admiral's Broom" being warmly applauded. Mrs. Heath's songs were much appreciated, especially "Break of Day," and her descriptive piece was specially enjoyed by the younger boys.

The various instrumental solos were much appreciated—Euphonium "Simple Avun," by Mr. Lionel Smith; Saxophone solo, Mr. A. Reed; Cornet solo "The Rosary," Mr. E. Margetts.

The bandmaster, Mr. A. Swann, gave two songs, "The Floral Dance" and the "Yeomen of England," that evoked much applause. Mr. Rowell gave a recitation from Kipling entitled "If."

The various band items: March, "The Contemptibles," Serenade "O Sole Mio," "Les Cloches de St. Malo," with solo bells, "Heartsease," "After Sunset" and "The Toy Drum-Major," were rendered in good style. The accompanist was Miss Kathleen Newman. Mr. Young, on behalf of all, thanked the soloists and band, and acknowledged the hard work which Bandmaster Swann had had to bring about this state of almost perfection in such a short time. The proceedings closed with the National Anthem.

The visitors then adjourned to Durham House, where they much enjoyed the ample supper which had been prepared by Mrs. Davies.

On Saturday, February 6th, the final match in the House Competition for the Football Cup took place. The rival teams were Bradford and Durham. To the surprise of the onlookers, very early in the game Durham put on the first goal. Bradford then equalised, and gradually showed that they were the stronger team. Great credit is due to the Durham team for the excellent fight they made and the splendid work of J. Thompson in the field; and the fine saves of H. Jones, who kept goal during the second half of the game, are to be highly commended, also mention must be made of R. Jenner, J. Pearce, M. Turner and others of the Bradford team, who gave such a fine display. The score was, Bradford 7, Durham 1. Mr. Young, in presenting the Cup, congratulated the winners. Cheers were given to the victors and to their opponents, and thus ended a very interesting and well-fought game. Mr. F. Harwood, as usual, acted as referee.

Confirmation Classes have been held during the last few weeks by our Chaplain. The Confirmation takes place at Chipping Norton Parish Church at 6 p.m. on March 12th.

Our good wishes to the Canadians, E. Robins, G. Whitwell, F. Overton and A. Ward, to whom we wish a safe voyage and a happy and prosperous time in Canada.

Mr. F. Rose, the Honorary Secretary of the Kingham Hill Football Club, gives the following summary of their doings:—

1st XI. : Played 13 ; Won 3, Lost 5, Drawn 5. Goals for, 32 ; Goals against, 39. Points gained, 11.

A very keen and exciting struggle took place when we drew with Kingham Village team on their own ground.

Junior XI. : Played 11 ; Won 10, Lost 1, Drawn 0 ; Goals for, 53 ; Goals against, 18 ; Points gained, 20.

Best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Michie, who take up their duties at Severn House at the beginning of March.

T. W. SCARFE.

GIBRALTAR PAST AND PRESENT

(continued)

The Galleries are the great sight of Gibraltar, but at the present time are closed to the public. There is no excavation in the world, for military purposes, at all approaching them in conception or execution. The long line of galleries is pierced at intervals with embrasures blasted out of the rock. They are divided into two ranges, the upper and lower (Windsor or Union Galleries), the latter being partly under cover and partly open, the upper range containing two magnificent halls, St. George's and Cornwallis. Below this upper line of galleries are others far more vast and wonderful in construction ; these too, have been hewn and blasted out of the tough limestone, and are of marvellous size and strength. These magnificent works are not surpassed by any others of a similar nature in the world. Their excavation out of the solid rock was commenced during the siege, to bring a flanking fire to bear on the approaches of the Rock, by convict labour under Lieutenant Ewoleth, R.E., assisted by Sergeant Ince. Both were afterwards amply rewarded. It is said that Sergeant Ince was the originator of the idea of the galleries, as when on one occasion in public General Elliott exclaimed : " I would give a thousand dollars to any one who would tell me how to bring a flanking fire on these works " (pointing out some very troublesome batteries of the enemy), the Sergeant stepped forward and made his suggestion.

Like all compact limestone, the Rock abounds in caves and fissures, the most celebrated are St. Michael's, Genista (3), Leonora's, and the Mediterranean cave, a magnificent stalactite, discovered in 1902, and Martins, Fig-Tree, Monkey's and Poca Roca. Great labour has been expended on the exploration of these caves and Captain Brome, a late Governor of the Military Prison, rendered great service to science by his reports on the subject. The largest of these caves is St. Michael's, 1,000 feet above sea level, so called from the similarity of its

appearance to that in the mountain Gargano del Apulla, where St. Michael is said to have appeared. The entrance is small, but within is a species of lofty hall, about 220 feet long, 90 feet wide and 70 feet high, supported by stalactite pillars which when lighted up, present a most beautiful effect, for some of these pillars are thirty, forty and fifty feet in height, and on the top of them arches are formed, so that the whole resembles the interior of a Gothic cathedral. The natural beauty of this part of the cave is, therefore, very great, but from the absolute darkness and from its immense height it is difficult to appreciate its full beauty. The cave is described by Pomponius Mela, a geographer of the Augustine age, who says, "The mountain with wonderful concavities, has its western side almost opened by a large cave, which may be penetrated far into the interior."

Explorers have penetrated many hundreds of feet into this cave and have discovered a long series of small caves, but their actual extent is unknown. In many of the caves great quantities of fossil remains (including human skulls and bones) have been discovered, among them bones of goat, ox, ibex, and indeed all kinds of mammals, remains of birds, fish and reptiles, also earthenware articles. In one cave the remains found were those of thirty-six persons. A perfect skeleton was also discovered when excavating above Moorish Castle, but the miners blew it to pieces. The only metal articles found were a bronze fish hook used by the ancient cave-dwellers, a plaque of limoges work, probably part of some military equipment, and two swords, with globular pommels, mounted with silver. These caves were evidently used for different purposes, some as habitations, some as places of refuge from danger, and others as sepulchres. At the present day, caves or hollows similar to those on Windmill Hill Flats are still utilised, for in the neighbourhood of Tetuan, where the rocky district very much resembles Europa Flats, there are numerous small caves used as workshops by tile-makers. Having said so much for Gibraltar in general, we will now go into its history briefly.

Gibraltar, the Mons Calpe of the ancients, one of the Pillars of Hercules, of which the other was Mount Abyla (Ceuta), was first known to the Phœnicians, but there is little doubt that it was not inhabited until the Mohammedan Invasion of Spain, which established an infidel dynasty in that country for upwards of 800 years. On April 30th, 711, the Moorish chief, Tarik-Ibn-Zeyad, landed on the Rock, and from him it took its original name, Gebal-Tarik, or the Mountain of Tarik.

In 1086, Gibraltar was in the possession of the Caliph Yusef ben Taxfin, and at this time the Spanish Moors, unable to contend with the forces brought against them by Alfonso of Castille, had implored aid from Africa. This was granted, and a powerful Moslem army was sent into Spain and soon wrested the country from their weaker brethren. During these strifes, Gibraltar was alternately in the possession of both parties. In 1161, the primitive fortifications constructed by Tarik were largely increased by Abd-el-Mumen Ibn Ali. They were rendered most formidable, and afforded great facilities for succouring the neighbouring

towns. In 1309, the Rock was exposed for the first time to a regular siege, and taken by Ferdinand IV. of Spain, after it had been in the power of the Moors for 598 years. It was retaken by the Moors in 1333, but reverted to the dominion of the Christians in 1462, when the Duke of Medina Sidonia wrested it from the Moslem dynasty, which was drifting rapidly to its final dissolution. The Moors held Gibraltar altogether 726 years, and it may be described as their first landing place, and their last point of departure from Europe. Up to this time Gibraltar had sustained eight sieges, and was to sustain many more before it remained finally in the hands of the English nation. The sieges up to this time were :—

1309. Taken from the Moors by Alonzo de Guzman.

1315. Ismail-ben-Feras, of Granada besieged Gibraltar, but was unsuccessful.

1333. Besieged by Abul-Hasar, Sultan of Fez, and after being besieged for four-and-a-half months, the defenders were brought to the verge of starvation, which caused them to surrender.

1333. Besieged unsuccessfully by Alphonso XI. of Castille; during this siege, battering machines of various kinds were used.

1349. Was again besieged by Alphonso, whose death during the plague of 1350 caused operations to cease. In 1410, the inhabitants of Gibraltar rose against the Granadian Moors, drove them out of the fortress, and placed themselves under the protection of the Emperor of Morocco, who sent over an army to garrison the Rock.

1411. Besieged by Yusef, King of Granada, but the garrison were again forced to surrender through starvation.

1435. Besieged unsuccessfully from the sea by Henry de Guzman, who was accidentally drowned in the retreat, his body being placed in a coffin and suspended from one of the turrets of the Castle. During this siege, artillery was used against Gibraltar for the first time.

1462. Besieged, and taken by the Spaniards. The surrender took place on August 20th, 1462, Saint Bernard's Day, thus St. Bernard became the patron saint of Gibraltar.

In 1465, anarchy prevailed in Spain, and the Infante Don Alonzo, nominated King by his party, conferred on the Duke of Medina Sidonia the city and territory of Gibraltar, for him and his successors for ever. The Duke immediately laid siege to Gibraltar, which was taken after a desperate resistance of fourteen months.

In 1598, the last relics of the Moorish race were expelled from Spain, and Gibraltar was under Spanish rule until 1704, not, however, without witnessing some obstinate struggles, once owing to an attack by Corsairs, and at other times due to internal dissensions. During the war of the Spanish Succession, which

commenced in 1701, Gibraltar was taken after a siege of only three days by a squadron under the command of Sir George Rooke on July 24th, 1704, and from that time the English flag has flown triumphantly, although not unmolested, over Gibraltar. During the same year an attempt was made by the French and Spanish to capture Gibraltar, but the attempt, after a six months' siege, was unsuccessful, and this, the twelfth siege the fortress had sustained, cost the besiegers 10,000 men. It was during this siege that a party of 500 volunteers, under Colonel Figueroa (who had ascended the east side of the Rock by a path called Senda del Pastor, which was shown them by a Gibraltar goatherd, and had hidden themselves in St. Michael's Cave) passed over Charles V. Wall the next morning, surprised and put to the sword the Middle Hill guard, but were quickly overthrown, and nearly all killed by the Grenadiers of the garrison. The losses of the garrison during this siege were 400 men. On February 19th, 1706, Gibraltar was made a free port, and in 1713 it was finally ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Utrecht. During 1727, the Spaniards once more endeavoured to gain possession of Gibraltar. The attack on this occasion was conducted entirely by land, and having lasted for five months, was put to an end by the two countries signing peace. This peace lasted until 1779, when Spain again declared war, and on July 11th of that year, the fourteenth siege, or what is best known as the "Great Siege of Gibraltar," commenced and continued until March 12th, 1783, when the news of the signature of the preliminaries of a general peace reached the garrison. This was the last siege of Gibraltar, and despite the most strenuous efforts of soldiers in the field and of wily diplomatists in the Cabinet, the Rock has remained ever since in possession of the British nation. On the termination of the siege, reciprocal visits were paid to the Spanish works of Gibraltar by General Elliott and the Duc de Crillon. On the Duke exploring the gallery above Farringdon's Battery, which then was over 500 feet in extent, he turned to his suite and exclaimed: "These works are worthy of the Romans." On the occasion of the Duke's visit to the garrison, the officers were introduced to him at the Convent, now Government House, and on the officers of the Artillery being mentioned, he said to them: "Gentlemen! I would rather see you here as friends than on your batteries as enemies, where," he added, "you never spared me." For his services during this remarkable defence, General Elliott was rewarded with a pension of £1,500 a year, the Order of the Bath and the thanks of Parliament. The investiture took place on the King's Bastion, where the Governor had stood on the day of the final bombardment, but it was not till four years after that he was raised to the peerage with the title of Baron Heathfield of Gibraltar. In 1830, the first Chapter of Justice was given to the City. A magistracy was established, and the advantages of civil liberty accorded to the inhabitants. Of late, much has been said in the Press as regards Gibraltar being an obsolete fortress, and that Tangier is more suited to be the key of the Mediterranean owing to its position at the Atlantic entrance to the Straits of Gibraltar. Tangier may be admirably situated, but has not been favoured by nature to the same extent as Gibraltar. To be the key to the Mediterranean it is also essential to have a harbour capable of taking a large fleet, but Tangier has no harbour capable of doing this. True, there is Tangier Bay, but not being

sheltered from the sea and winds, affords no safe anchorage for ships. During rough weather, it is necessary for shipping to leave Tangier Bay and seek refuge elsewhere, whilst it is impossible during rough weather for passengers to disembark, and even in calm weather, a heavy swell mostly prevails. Whereas if we come to the same thing as regards Gibraltar, we find a spacious bay, well sheltered by the Spanish shores and the Rock. Furthermore, the harbour lies at the foot of the Rock, and being sheltered from most winds, affords excellent protection for shipping or a large fleet. Tangier is built on the mainland, and in the event of war, an attacking army could be thrown round practically the whole of the town, the only part being free would be that which faces the sea. Whereas Gibraltar is built on a peninsula, and at the point where it joins the peninsula is only half-a-mile wide, the ground for some miles back being level, could easily be dominated by the guns on the Rock. For an army to attack Gibraltar by land would, I think, be sheer suicide; a small force on the Rock could easily keep an attacking army of large dimensions at a distance. An attack by sea on Tangier would probably be successful, as the North African coast would give the attacking fleet protection from the shore batteries around the town; but for a fleet to attack Gibraltar, no protection is available from the land, as the Rock stands out from the mainland, and commands an open view for over thirty miles through the Straits, and to the eastward the open sea presents itself. As an example of Gibraltar being the finest naval base around, let us look at the map, and we see that Cartagena is the nearest base to the Straits, other than Gibraltar. At the present moment, a large combined French and Spanish fleet is operating off the African coast, but there is no harbour in the vicinity for them to anchor in, with the result that Cartagena and Oran being too far from the scene of their operations, and Tangier offering no protection, the combined fleets are forced to anchor in Gibraltar Bay, close to the Spanish shores. No doubt there are people who think Gibraltar to be now an obsolete fortress and no longer deserves the name of the "Key to the Mediterranean," but I fail to see how Tangier could take its place. Whether we are retaining an obsolete fortress is impossible to say; the only way to settle the argument would be for some other nation to declare war and attack the Rock, and see if they can wrest the fortress from the British nation.

NORMAN WHITWORTH.

(To be continued.)

