

MELDRETH.

On Tuesday evening last a most enjoyable Concert took place in the Parish Room, in aid of the Building Fund of the Meldreth Conservative Club. Amongst the ladies who took part Miss L. Ellis and Miss Sandys deserve special notice. Mr. Sandys' company enlivened the evening with two very fine waltzes, "Idyllen" and "Lovers' Dreamland," which were well appreciated by the audience. Mr. Gibbs, with the "Out-post" and "Homeward Bound," was as usual enthusiastically received and brought down the House with applause. Amongst those who received encores were Mr. J. Medlock with "The Bloom is on the Rye," and Mr. James with two very good comic songs. Mr. Ulleridge, of Trumpington, gave two very fine cornet solos, and Mr. Middlemiss must not be forgotten with his opening "Marche." The attendance was fair considering the coldness of the night. Everything was very well managed and great praise is due to all those who kindly assisted and helped to get up the entertainment.

Fundraising for
Meldreth Conservative
Club

28th Oct 1887

- Herts and Cambs
Reporter

MELDRETH.

A Concert will take place at Meldreth on Thursday, April the 14th next, when Mr. Gilbert Ainslie and party from Cambridge, will assist. The proceeds will be devoted to the building of a Conservative Reading Room in the parish. Full particulars will be advertised in due course.

MELDRETH.

THE CONSERVATIVE CLUB AND
READING-ROOM

WILL be OPENED on JULY 2nd, at
4.30 p.m., with a

BAZAAR,

BY THE
RIGHT HON. EARL OF HARDWICKE,
AND

MR. CHAS. HALL, Q.C., M.P.,
Who, with others, will Address the Electors at
7.30 p.m.

A BAND will be in Attendance during the After-
noon.

Admission to the Bazaar. 3d.

MELDRETH. SIR CHARLES HALL AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.

On Friday evening last, Sir Charles Hall, Q.C., M.P. for West Cambs., addressed a very successful and enthusiastic meeting of his constituents in the Conservative Club Room, Meldreth. Mr. Charles Ellis, the president of the Meldreth Conservative Club, presided, and was supported by the Rev. R. Hines (vicar of Shepreth), and Messrs. H. O. S. Ellis, A. Jarman, F. Balls, and others.

The CHAIRMAN said he was very pleased to be amongst them again, a pleasure which he had not expected, but though he had not the strength he could wish, he had the pluck and was glad to be able to introduce their worthy member Sir Charles Hall once more. (Cheers.) He referred in complimentary terms to Sir Charles' appointment to the Recordership of London, and spoke of the present leaders of the Government, Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour, as men of whom any country might be proud, and he contrasted the state of Ireland and the little wars under the previous Government with the present state of Ireland and the six years of peace we had enjoyed. The reduction of the National Debt and remission of local taxation were also reasons why he hoped the present Government would be returned, and that Sir Charles Hall would be returned again as member for West Cambs. Incidentally he mentioned in connection with what Government had done for the working classes, that he could tell them what the other party had done, and one thing was the building of the ugly Workhouses of which he hated the very name. (Hear, hear.) He remembered their being built and under what administration, and he hoped the Conservative Government would do away with them. (Applause.)

Sir CHARLES HALL said he was an advocate of a policy of social and domestic legislation for England, Scotland, and Wales, in preference to going in for that terrible leap in the dark, Home Rule for Ireland. Ireland had already had more than her fair share of time in the past, and if Mr. Gladstone was returned to power the time of Parliament would again be taken up for years over the eternal Irish question. Mr. Gladstone talked in a very light and airy way of Home Rule, but he could not get away from this fact—that it would take years to settle and the time of Parliament would be taken up when it might be more profitably employed in going in for social and domestic legislation for the people. Comparing the policy of the present Government with that of the opposite party, and what had been done during the past six years, he pointed to Liberals having voted for increasing the taxes upon land, and how Professor Stuart at a meeting of the Liberal and Radical Union the other day proposed that land should be re-valued and that a land tax of 4s. in the £ should be imposed. Sir Charles asked—how

An example of a Conservative
Club meeting

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the £ should be imposed. Sir Charles asked—how would they like that? Would that be a good thing for the land? He then proceeded, by figures, to show how the proposed taxation would affect the poor more than it would the rich. The speaker said that if the present Government was returned again to power it would finish its scheme of Local Government for the country by giving district councils. He said in that matter the only difference between them and the other side was that their opponents thought there was some magic in having "parish" councils. In a parish where there were about 10 inhabitants, who was going to manage it, and where was the money coming from for the purpose? He did not think the cottagers would care for a rate being levied upon them for that object. Let them have district councils and then they would be able to get sufficient people together to administer the local business. Concluding, he said it would not do to speak of their chickens before they were hatched, but he had a pretty shrewd suspicion that if he stuck to the principles he held in 1886, they would do him the honour of again sending him to Parliament. (Cheers.)

Mr. H. O. S. ELLIS proposed the following resolution—"That this meeting of electors pledges itself to use its best endeavours to return Sir Charles Hall at the coming election for this division." He had carefully gone through Sir Charles Hall's election address of 1886, and he found that everything he there said, he had fulfilled, and therefore he asked—Why should they throw him out for a man they knew nothing about?

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Balls and carried with acclamation. A vote of thanks to the Chairman concluded a very successful meeting.

Friday, July 13th 1888

FANCY FAIR AND SPORTS AT MELDRETH.

As we briefly announced last week, a series of out-door attractions were provided at Meldreth on Thursday afternoon and evening in last week. A fancy fair and some novel features in the way of sports, took place in Mr. G. Peters' Mill Close near the Railway Station. The spot is a very pretty one for a summer holiday, lying next the river from which a surplus of water from the mill feeds a circular channel, forming a pretty island in the midst of the field. For the purposes of a pic-nic no better spot could be desired but in some respects it was not so well adapted for the sports provided. The affair had been mainly organized by Mr. H. O. S. Ellis, and the proceeds, it was understood, were to be devoted to the clearing off of the debt remaining upon the Conservative Club Room. The general attractions included Thurston's elaborate and handsomely finished steam circus, which proved a great attraction to many of the young people. Other caterers to suit all tastes were also admitted, including rifle saloons (with glass globes, &c., suspended on fountain jets to aim at), cocoa nut throwing, and even a boxing saloon, but none of these seemed to afford any attraction compared with Thurston's roundabouts. There was a tent in which fancy stalls were presided over, for the sale of fancy articles, by Mrs. H. O. S. Ellis, Mrs. Medlock, Miss Tonson, Miss Goodwin and Miss Beck. The refreshments included tea at which between 150 and 200 sat down at the tables. These were presided over by Mrs. Ellis, Mrs. Worland, Mrs. Medlock, Mrs. Farnham, Miss Warren, Mrs. E. Hale and Miss Hale. In a separate tent other refreshments were supplied by Messrs. Findley and Parish (of Meldreth and Shepreth, respectively). Towards the evening there was a very large attendance, including a good number of visitors from Royston and other places. The programme of sports as announced included flat races, high and long jump, sack race, mounted combat, steeplechase with water jump, donkey, pony and horse and bicycle races. For several of the events, however, no one came forward, and the sack race, mounted combat, and water jump steeple chase consequently did not come off. Over the races for ponies and horses a good deal of excitement was naturally aroused, but unfortunately the nature of the ground did not admit of a very fair trial of the respective merits either of horses or horsemanship,

for in addition to numerous inequalities of surface (hollows and mounds, &c.) the course was of necessity an intricate one, around the short turns of which more than one *contretemps* occurred. It was extremely difficult for the riders to keep their steeds in the course and consequently the contest could not be decided exactly on its merits. One of the best races throughout was that of the open pony race between Mr. Wedd's pony and Mr. Jude's "Black Jinny," the latter winning in good style. In the second pony race for Melbourn and Meldreth, Mr. Negus' "Polly" lost a capital chance by getting out of the course; and the same thing happened in the sweepstakes for horses, to Mr. Hornsby's "Buffalo Bill," the rider being injured on the head by being struck against a tree, and in a similar mishap at the sharp turning for home Mr. Jarman's horse got out of the running by getting a leg over the rope and throwing its rider. In a subsequent scratch race, however, "Buffalo Bill" made matters equal by coming first past the post. Mr. Jarman's horse also came off victorious in a scratch race. It was not an easy matter on such a ground for the large company present to gratify their interest in the races and at the same time occupy a position of safety; and to this cause was due a number of very narrow escapes from accidents, and two or three cases of actual injury to persons; the most serious of which was that to a boy (Winters) who was knocked down by one of the horses and was for some time unconscious. On such an uneven ground there was not a sufficient number of officials to keep the race, and this draw-back was increased by the rather reckless riding about the grounds by one or two of the travelling horse dealers who entered their animals for the races. In the various competitions Mr. H. Coningsby acted as judge; the starters being Mr. Charles Ellis for the sports, and Mr. Wedd for the races. The bicycle race came off on the road in the village. It was estimated that close upon a thousand persons were admitted to the grounds during the afternoon and evening, and the proceeds, we understand, will amount to about £20. The Great Northern Railway conveyed passengers to Royston by a late train leaving Meldreth a few minutes past nine. The following were the winners at the

SPORTS AND RACES.

- 100 yards Flat Handicap.—1, A. Goode; 2, Abrey; 3, Tonson.
- High Jump.—1, Abrey. Height, 4 feet, 5 inches.
- Long Jump.—1, Goode; 2, Abrey.
- Consolation Race (200 yards).—1, Abrey; 2, Ball.
- Donkey Race.—1, Mr. Jude's; 2, Mr. Jude's.
- Pony Race (open to all comers).—1, Mr. Jude's "Black Jinny"; 2, Mr. Wedd's pony.
- Pony Race (Meldreth and Melbourn).—1, Mr. Medlock's grey; 2, Mr. Disbrey's "Moggey"; 3, Mr. Negus' "Polly."
- Horse Race.—1, Mr. Jude's grey horse; 2, Mr. Palmer's horse.
- Horse Sweepstakes.—1, Mr. Palmer's horse; 2, Mr. Jude's; 3, Mr. Jarman's.
- Bicycle Race.—1, Mr. Wedd; 2, Mr. A. Hale.