



**“ DISSOLUTION OF GLASTONBURY ABBEY.”**

Scenes: The Arrest of Abbot Whyting; the trial at Wells; and the Procession to Tor Hill,

Characters: Abbot Whyting, the Rev. H. Dawes (Vicar of Baltonsborough); Prior, the Rev. E. S. C. Lock (curate of St. John's, Glastonbury);

Sub-Prior, Mr. T. Talbot; Thomas Horne (the Abbot's adopted son), Master H. Ebbsworth; Commissioners Layton, Pollard, and Moyle, Messrs. E. Hodges, C. Dyer, and G. Burrough; Bro. Stephen, Mr. H. V. Davis; Lord Russell (the judge), Mr. W. Brymer of Charlton Mackrell; Clerk, Mr. H. J. Brooks; Crier, Mr. N. Haddock; Foreman of Jury, Mr. Butler; first gentleman, Mr. H. Dunkerton; second gentleman, Mr. C. Dunkerton; first woman, Miss Maidment; second woman, Miss Haddock; first man, Mr. Hill; second man, Mr. F. J. Gilbert; first monk, Mr. Little; second monk, Mr. Rawlings. Soldiers, jurymen, townfolk, etc. - Date, A.D. 1539



BUTLEIGH REVEL.—The trial of Abbot Whyting before Lord Russell

In the secluded retreat afforded by the grounds at Sharpham Park, the Abbot rests in his chair. The boy Horne is seated on a low stool at his knee, and the prior and sub-prior stand on either side. An affecting conversation takes place, the Abbot, when asked, announcing his intention of holding out against King Henry VIII. in his wish to divorce Queen Katherine, and also in refusing to surrender the Abbey plate, demanded by the King. He will resist, even to the death; and, fired by his words, the Prior and Sub-Prior vow to follow his example. An agitated brother enters, with the news

that the King's Commissioners demand admittance.

The three commissioners, dressed in official garb with huge ruffs and a guard of soldiers are allowed to enter. Thereupon, Horne wildly accuses himself of having betrayed his master. The Abbot is plied with questions by the Commissioners, but refuses to renew

the Oath of Supremacy or to reveal the names of those who took Part in the Pilgrimage of Grace. The guard then closes round, and he is taken away.



The next scene represents the Bishop's Palace at Wells, where Abbot Whyting is tried by Lord Russell, who is seated in the centre. He wears magnificent scarlet robes and a feathered hat, and has a severe judicial air. On one side are the jury, attired in scarlet, and on the other stand the three prisoners, the Abbot, the Prior, and Sub-Prior, guarded by the three portly commissioners and soldiers. Behind is a large crowd of townspeople, who whisper against the persecution of the good Abbot until called to silence by the Court Usher. A black-robed Clerk reads the charge. Whyting refuses to plead, asking how he can plead " guilty where no guilt is." The mock trial proceeds, the Commissioners inventing charges against the Abbot. The Jury reluctantly return a verdict of "guilty," and the people groan as the Judge, in ominous tones, pronounces the sentence of death, and directs that each of the three shall be taken to the summit of Glastonbury Tor, and there hanged by the neck, beheaded, and quartered.

Following this comes the procession to Tor Hill, the three doomed prisoners lying extended on hurdles drawn by a pony, and are taken through the crowded streets. The people cry out and denounce the King, who has robbed them of their benefactors and protectors, those who "instructed the children and comforted the sick and dying." A few, suborned by the Commissioners, attempt to revile the Abbot, but repent and turn to blessing them and calling on Heaven for mercy. Among the crowd are many monks. These are seen by Abbot Whyting, and on his calling them they rush forward and, bending by the hurdle, receive his blessing while the procession stays. It is restarted, and all fall on their knees and pray until it is out of sight. The people depart, "bearing the monks still

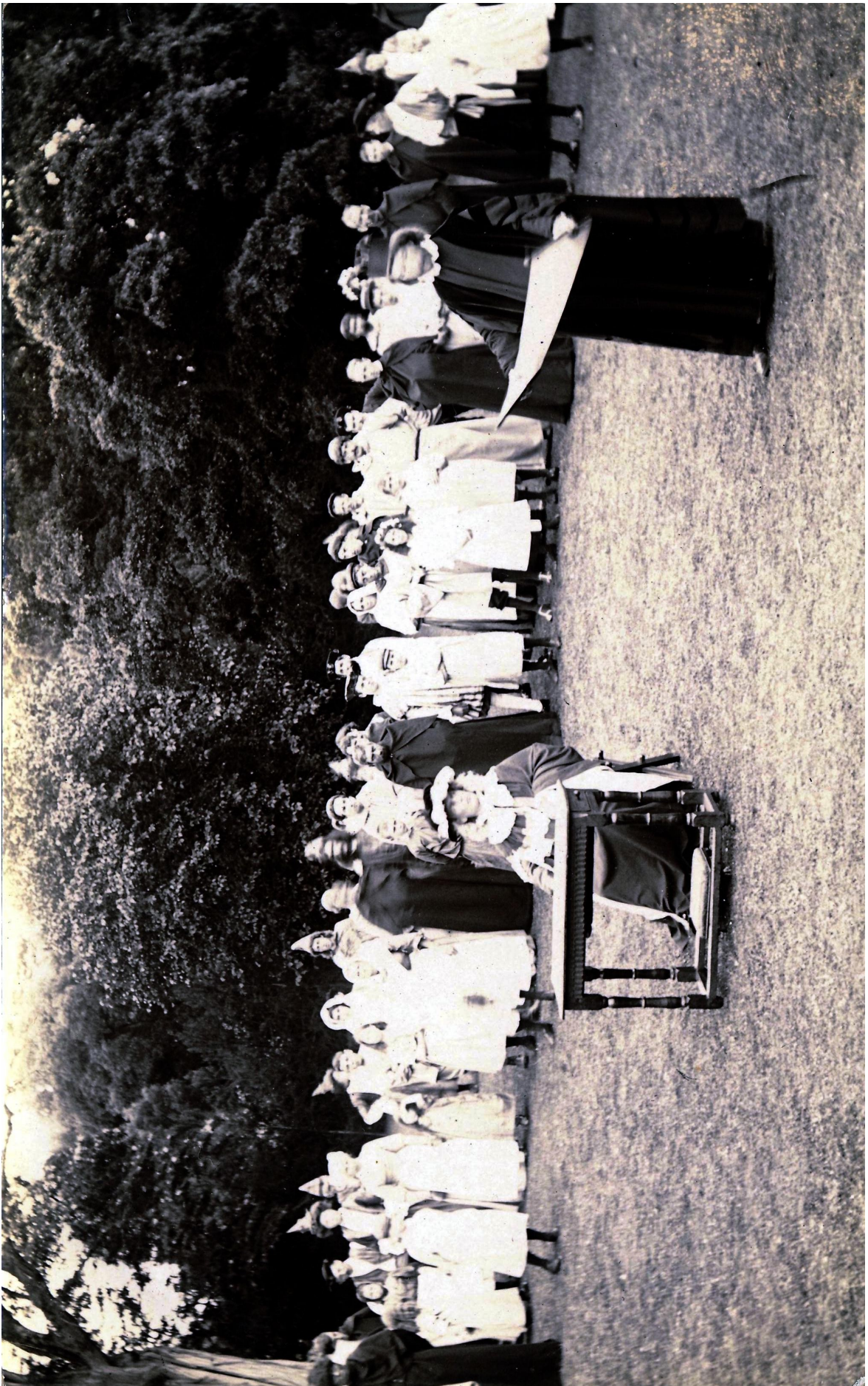


BUTLEIGH REVEL.—The Abbot, Prior, and Sub-Prior, being dragged to Tor Hill for execution.

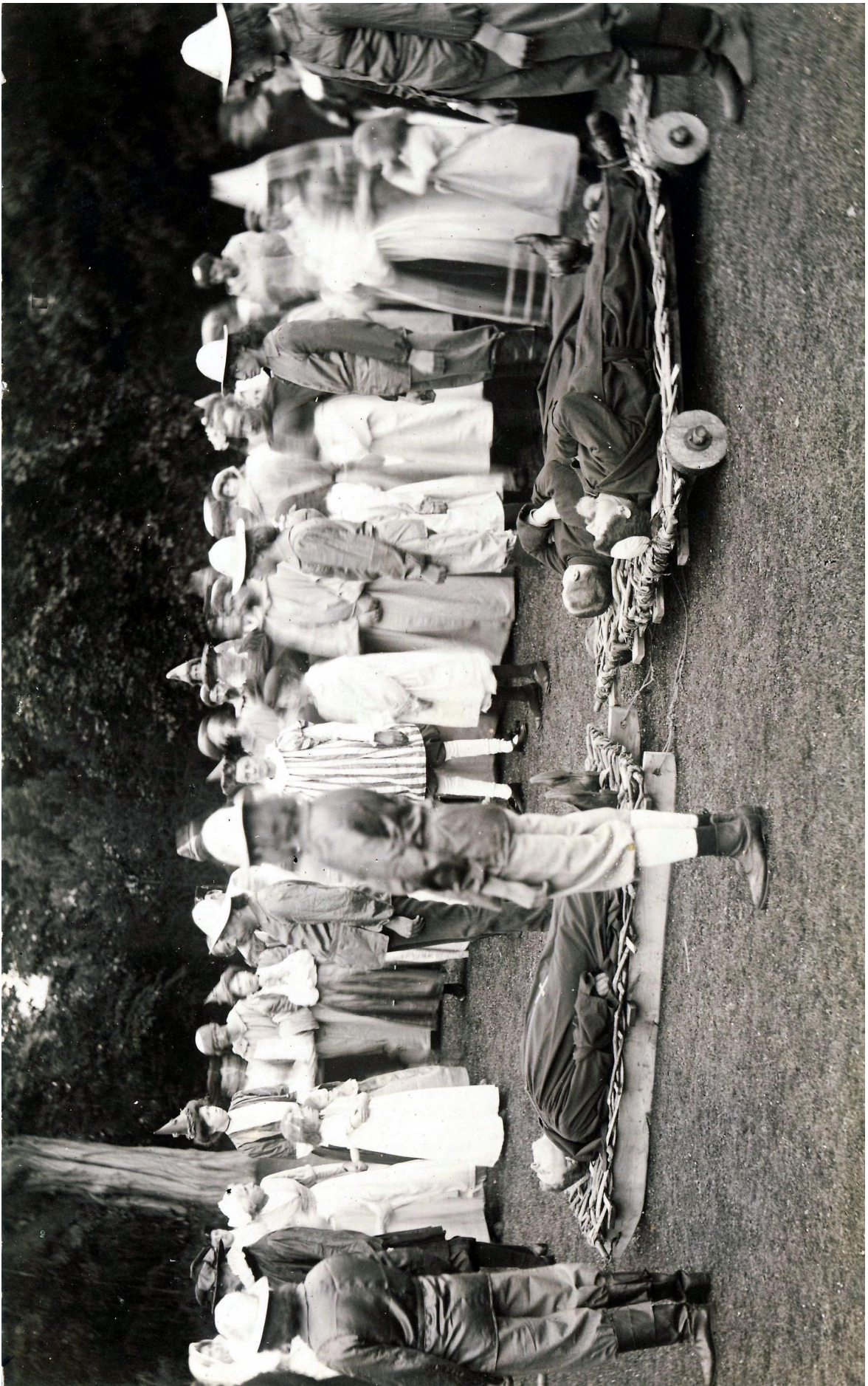
praying. One speaks, saying "It is over, brethren," and then all rise, and, with hands uplifted to heaven, depart, to become homeless wanderers, for, "Glastonbury Abbey is no more." The general production of these three scenes was excellent, while the figures of Abbot Whyting and the Judge were realistic indeed. Their lines were spoken with true feeling and due appreciation of the characters they were fulfilling, and the delivery of the Sub-Prior must be noted as being particularly good. As for the two last scenes, a great deal of work had to be done by the crowd, there being many speaking parts, and these were all given with proper accent and a consciousness of what was demanded.

















**"THE MONMOUTH REBELLION"**

Scenes: Seven Men join Monmouth from Butleigh; the Maids of Taunton.

Characters; Duke of Monmouth, Mr. R. Bath; Parson John Radford, Mr. R. Neville Grenville; Seven Men from Butleigh, Messrs. Mundy, F. Talbot, Willcox, Moore, Penfold and Davis; Schoolmistress, Miss Baker; Head Girl, Miss Staley; Second Girl, Miss Stirling; Twenty Schoolgirls, Heralds, Officers, Soldiers, etc. Date, A.D. 1685



This scene opens with spirited music. The crowd of townfolk stream in, and then Monmouth, with retinue and officers, advance from) side, the crowd meanwhile loudly cheering throwing their caps in the air as Monmouth passes and takes off his plumed hat in acknowledgement. Monmouth is a resplendent and kingly figure of handsome exterior, and he appears wearing a splendid coat of blue velvet with light blue sash thrown round his shoulders and knotted as a sword belt at the waist. His dashing cavalier hat is adorned with a big white plume. He and his followers halt in front of the crowd, and presently there is a disturbance at the rear. A quaint figure of an old-world country parson wearing a rusty black gown and shovel hat endeavours to force an aged pony, on which



he is mounted, through the crowd, but is finally obliged to dismount, when he manages to struggle, through to the Duke after a considerable amount of good-humoured altercation with the crowd. Behind him come seven yokel-looking followers, who are armed with a motley selection of farm implements, and have bunches of greenery stuck in their hats. Their clerical leader bows to the Duke, who asks his business, and then, in broad dialect, he says that he is Parson John Radford, from Butleigh, up handy Glastonbury, and, pointing to his followers adds that he has brought "seven stout lads from Higher Rock Farm up to Butleigh, to fight for 'ee, sir ! - all of 'em strong men and brave and sturdy Protestants!" The Duke expresses his appreciation of their devotion, and Parson Radford proceeds to introduce his ' awkward squad " one by one, roars of laughter being elicited by the comical salutes they offer to the Duke. The latter, with the Parson, then proceeds to review his new recruits, who stand at attention in the most unsoldierly manner that could be imagined. The Duke asks if Parson John will also follow him, but the latter begs to be excused, remarking: "I be a Passon and a wold man; I must go home to my vlock over to Butleigh and keep them true to the Church and free from heresies, and teach them the Catechism !" The last few sentences were ' Passon John's " own addition, and not strictly in accordance with the "book." They made a great hit; and were received with loud applause. Monmouth thanks him for the seven sturdy troopers, and says that when " he comes into his own " Butleigh and her seven men shall not be forgotten. The Butleigh men and their "fighting parson" retire, and then enter the Maids of Taunton, a dainty bevy of fair young girls, preceded by their mistress, a diminutive little lady but of dignified bearing.



BUTLEIGH REVELS.—Monmouth accepts the gift of a sword from the Fair Maids of Taunton.

She informs the gallant Duke that, with her scholars, she has come to do him honour. A girl hands her a bible, bound in leather with gold clasps, and, kneeling, she offers it to the Duke " as a guide to his Majesty's footsteps." He thanks her and vows to defend the truths in the book with "his blood, if need be." The head-girl then steps forward, holding a sword on a crimson cushion, which is also presented to Monmouth, and with it he vows to win back his kingdom. Another girl presents a banner; "the work of our hands and with the truest wishes of our hearts". It is graciously received, and the Duke exclaims that "blessed with the wishes of such loyal hearts, the banner must lead to victory". The girls, in their enthusiasm, shout " God save the King, "; the cry is taken up by the people, and Monmouth retires, followed by the

cheering crowd. These well-known incidents in West country history were exceedingly realistic, and acted with spirit and faithfulness to their roles by those taking part. All went to convey a splendid idea of the love and adoration that was bestowed on the same and gallant Duke by the people.



King Monmouth.—Parson Radford's Recruits, "The seven men of Butleigh."

**Schoolmistress Sarah Ann Baker**  
who played  
*The schoolmistress of Taunton*









**“CHANGE OF STYLE IN 1752 AT GLASTONBURY.”**

Characters: Master Richards (keeper of the Abbey Ruins), Mr. R. Knight; Sally Peters, Miss Brown; Sammy Ford, Mr. Clapp; Second Woman, Mrs. Pike; third Woman, Miss Millard; Man, Mr. Taylor; Crowd of Townsfolk, etc.



This was a most interesting scene, descriptive as it was of the change in the calendar made in the year 1752. The "old style" ended on September 2, 1752, and the new style commenced on the following day, that day being called Sept. 14, 1752. Thus in that year the dates from September 3 to September 13 were obliterated from the calendar. This naturally shifted the date of Christmas Day; and the scene depicted is supposed to have occurred on the new Christmas Eve. A crowd of townspeople are collected near the Abbey Ruins and there steps to the front Master Richards, the keeper of the Ruins. He is a great, burly figure, a fine specimen of a Somerset yeoman with a jovial and bluff countenance. In stentorian tones and broad Somerset dialect he asks if the people are going to stand "thikey change in the Calendar"? The crowd say;" No! The wold style is good enough for we! 'and one woman inquires "an' how's the Holy Thorn to blow when the day be changed?" An interesting discussion follows, all in dialect, the vigorous and natural way in which it was carried on calling forth a great deal of applause, Master Richards and an old lady in the crowd being specially marked out for praise. Finally, at the invitation of Master Richards, all adjourn at midnight to see if the Holy Thorn will blossom, and to hear the buds "haffer", as it is quaintly put. The thorn, of course, refuses to blossom, and the crowd exclaim that Richards must write to King "Jarge" and acquaint him of this. He says: "Why, zo I wull! I'll warn't we can lam 'un Zummerat from Zummerzet." The music strikes up merrily and the townsfolk depart, talking and laughing together. Somerset people are essentially loyal to their county, their "language," and their customs; and the scene was received throughout with marked appreciation, and the applause was loud and continuous at the finish.





#### MAYPOLE DANCE.

Performers : Girls - J. Carter (Rose Queen), V Bradden, L. Higgins, B. Higgins, O. Trask, E. Higgins, A. Bowditch, A. Hodges, M. Tucker, and F. Rayes. Boys - A. Talbot, V. Killen, V. Carter, J. Bowditch, J. Hallett, R. Cornish, W. Talbot, W. Trask, and E. Higgins.

This was a pretty and picturesque scene, although practically in the nature of an extra number. The Maypole being erected in the centre of the lawn, a number of prettily-attired girls and boys performed graceful evolutions around it to the strains of merry music, meanwhile weaving intricate patterns about the pole with the coloured ribbons which they held in their hands. The cleverness shown by the children, who went through the difficult dances with great precision, was greatly admired, and they thoroughly deserved the approval of the spectators. After this came the:-

#### GRAND PROCESSION AND FINAL TABLEAU

From all sides of the ground, in separate order, came walking in slow procession those who had taken part in the different scenes. These took up their proper stations and poses, and presently there was formed a grand tableau, which, in effect, was a perfect retrospective dream in colour of the history of the centuries. Then came the epilogue spoken by "Avalon" who was mounted on a pedestal at the rear.

"The dream is dreamed, the ancient tale is done;  
The magic tapestry of history spun."

Thus commenced the words of the epilogue, which ended with a prophecy which all who live in the ancient isle, and who love their dwelling-place and its glorious past, will surely hope may be realized :-

"In future years shall more green laurels grow  
'Where falls not hail, nor rain, nor any snow."

The end of the epilogue was the signal for the final procession, then came "God save the King," and the Butleigh Revel was over. The audience, on Tuesday, which numbered about 1800, and was a very fashionable and representative gathering of county folk, showed their appreciation of the clever acting and staging by continual applause, and a call was given for the author, Miss M. Berkeley, who bowed her acknowledgements.

Such a scene of activity as that occasioned by the Revel has not hitherto been witnessed at Butleigh. The roads absolutely swarmed with motor-cars, and vehicles of every description from the giant motor-omnibus down to the humble wagonette were utilized to convey visitors from Glastonbury and Charlton Mackerel stations while numbers also came by road from the surrounding towns and villages. Noticeable too were the number of amateur and professional photographers present; the clicking of cameras was to be heard on all sides, and it was evident that in every variety of pictorial form views of the Revel will be distributed all over the country. A grand rehearsal of the Revel was held on Monday, which was attended by some thousands of school-children from Glastonbury, Street, and the immediate district, with their teachers and officers, together with members of various religious societies. The children were also given a tea.

It added much to the success of the Revel that brilliant weather prevailed throughout, although once on Tuesday afternoon it appeared to be threatening for rain. After a while, however, the clouds passed over, and the day closed in an ideal summer evening

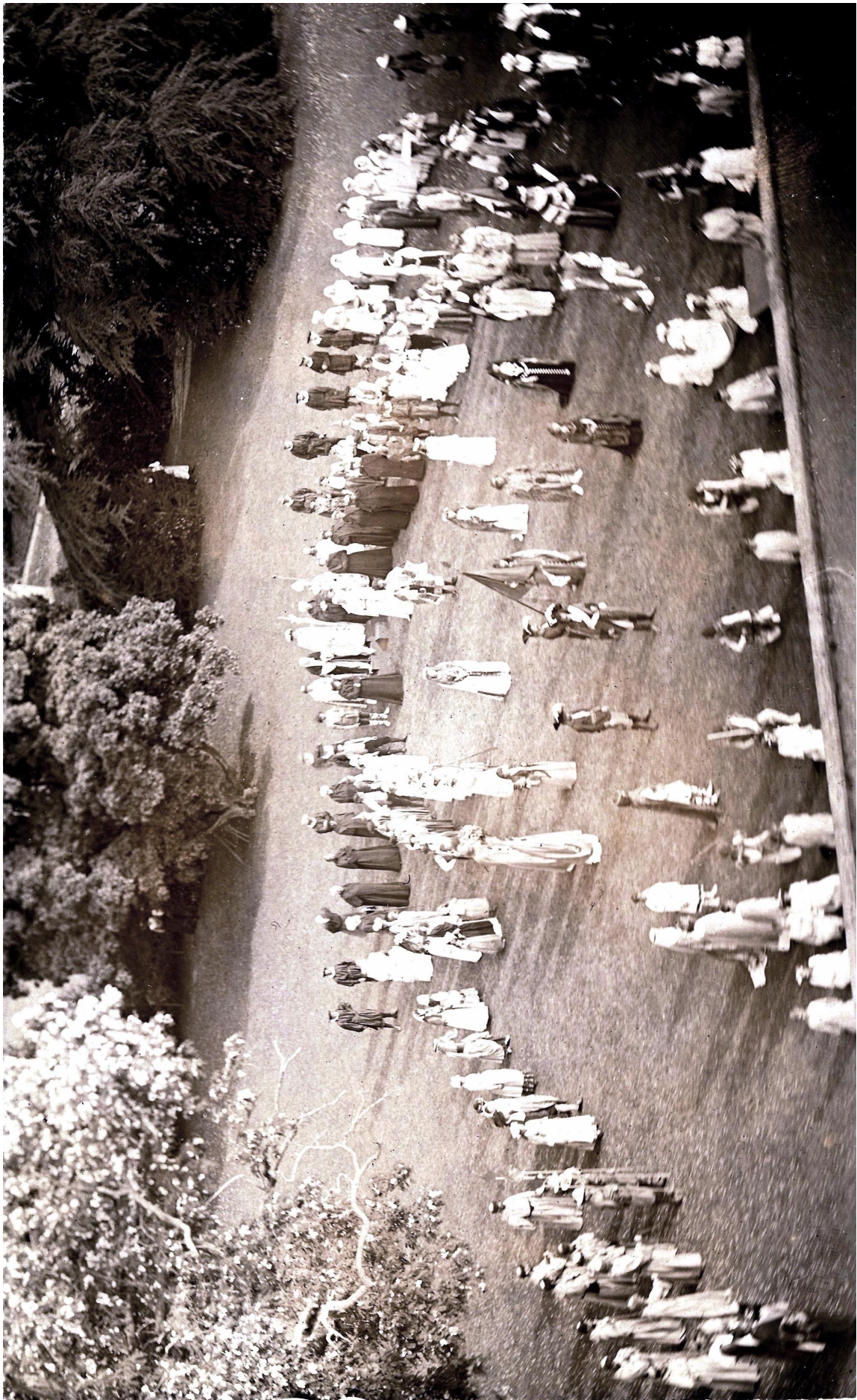






June 2, 1906

Bulleigh Reed



## THE SECOND DAY.

The second performance of the Revel, which was given on Wednesday afternoon, was another exceedingly successful affair, the attendance being over 2,000 - an advance on that of the previous day. Mr. R. Neville Grenville again received an ovation for his personation of ' Parson John Radford ' and by his allusions to "Church teaching" - most appropriate at the present time with the Education Bill so much under discussion. At the end of the performance the authoress was called for and applauded. A loud call was also given for Mr. D. Mildred, the popular and hardworking director and general manager, and, amid great enthusiasm, he was carried shoulder high by a crowd of the performers in order to receive the plaudits of the audience.

## THE PERFORMANCES EXTENDED ANOTHER DAY,

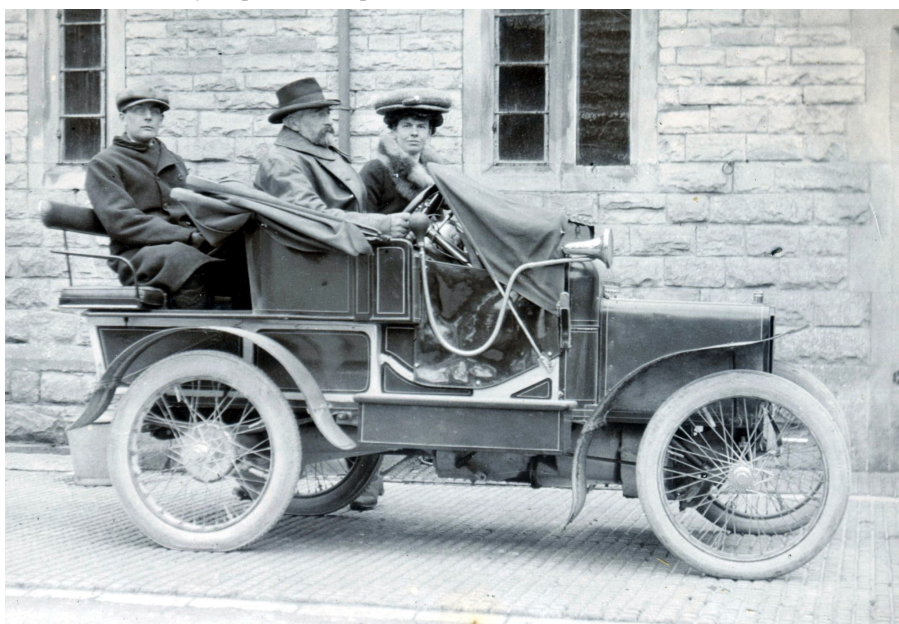
Encouraged by the great success, it was decided to continue the Revel on Thursday, and a public announcement was made to that effect, and also that the prices of admission would be reduced.

Again favoured with fine weather, there was an attendance of perhaps a little over 1,000 at this extra performance. The programme was again successfully carried out, and met with much appreciation. At its close Mr. D. Mildred was called for and cheered. The proceedings wound up with a dance in the evening on the Court lawn.

## SCENES IN THE VILLAGE.

Butleigh went crazy with excitement on Wednesday evening. After tea a dance was held in the Court grounds, music being furnished by the Butleigh Band. About 9 o'clock a waggonette drawn by ropes and pulled by many willing hands of the performers in the Revel, who still wore their costumes, was drawn up at the Court entrance, and afterwards entered by the Squire (Mr. Neville Grenville), Miss Somerville, Miss Berkeley, Mr. D. Mildred, the Rev. G. W. Berkeley, the Rev. G. W. Saunders, and several other performers. A procession was formed, with the Butleigh Band leading and the remainder of the performers on foot behind, and the village was then paraded. It was rather more of a cheering crowd than a regular procession, and cheers were continuously given for Mr. Neville Grenville and Mr. D. Mildred, the latter being greeted with the singing of " He's a jolly good fellow." Miss Berkeley also came in for her share of the ovation. On returning to the Court there was more cheering for the organizers of the Revel, and Mr. Neville Grenville addressed a few words to the crowd. He said that he congratulated them all on the success of the Revel. He could do so because he had been told by those who had seen the Revel, and knew how things should be, that it was all right. But they had a hard day to follow, and so he advised them not to over-exert themselves, but to have a couple of dances on the lawn and then go home and have a good rest. (Loud cheers.) The Squire's advice was taken, there was a little more dancing on the lawn, and then "God save the King" brought to a close a notable day in the village.

The financial success of the Revel is practically assured, and any profits accruing will probably be devoted to several parochial objects. The tenor bell of the church will be recast and the hospital will benefit, and there is no doubt that plenty of excellent usages will be found for any surplus after expenses are cleared.



**Wilfred Brymer   Robert Neville-Grenville   Marjorie Somerville**

That the Revel attracted widespread attention was evidenced by the publicity which most of the London and provincial papers gave to it, many of them sending down special representatives, whilst the illustrated papers reproduced photographs of some of the scenes. Perhaps one of the best of these accounts was that of the " Daily Chronicle," which we reproduce.

*[Here, word for word, was reproduced the article printed in the Daily Chronicle (previous), then :-]*

A few enthusiastic citizens regret (says the "Bath Herald") that the little village of Butleigh should have been allowed to take a "rise" out of Bath by carrying through the first pageant, on the Sherborne lines, in the county of Somerset. If Sherborne, Butleigh, and Warwick draw on their local history so effectively, how much more could Bath attract thousands with its historical facts and fancies !

## " COVERED WITH DISTINCTION."

The Sherborne Pageant, which last year created a sensation, has (says the "Bristol Daily Press") certainly borne fruit, for at various places this season similar displays have been organised, to the great diversion of the inhabitants, of the districts, and of the numerous visitors attracted to the centres of activity. The usually placid little Somerset village of Butleigh has been palpitating with pleasurable excitement as the result of a pageant held in the grounds of Butleigh Court. The work of preparation for the display has been long and arduous, but it has brought high and humble into close and friendly contact, and it has given a stimulus to local industries. The