

Festivities at BUTLEIGH COURT.— When Ralph Neville, Esquire M.P. for Windsor, the eldest son of the Honourable and Rev. George Neville Grenville brought home his bride, Miss Julia Frankland, one of the daughters of Sir Robert Frankland Russell Bart., Thirkleby, and niece to the Earl of Ilchester, a countless number of respectable tradesmen, tenants and others met the carriage at Moor Wood Hill, about two miles from Butleigh Court and drew it to the future home of the happy pair. Opposite the Court house, wagon loads of firewood were heaped together and the immense blaze lighted up the procession. Five hogsheads of beer were rolled out upon the grass to gladden the hearts of all. On Thursday the Hon. and Rev. George Neville Grenville and family invited a company of their tenantry, friends, and neighbours to a ball and supper and the following evening upwards of 2000 persons once more hastened to the green smooth sward opposite Butleigh Court to witness the fireworks.

Gladstone Visit

Glastonbury

The Rt Hon. W. E. Gladstone paid a visit to this little town on Saturday last. He was accompanied by Mr. Ralph Neville Grenville, M.P. for the Eastern Division of the County. The right hon. gentleman visited the celebrated ruins which are now attended to in the most admirable manner by Mr. Chamberlain, under the direction of the worthy proprietor. Mr. Austin. Mr. Gladstone subsequently visited St. John's Church, the bells of which rang out a merry peal during his short stay. Considerable anxiety was evinced by the inhabitants to see a man whose name has now become a household word in this country and when it became known that he was in the town, several persons lined the streets to have an opportunity of seeing him. He remained about an hour and returned to Butleigh Court, where we understand he intends to remain for a few days.

[Note: W. E. Gladstone was an enthusiastic player of the English Concertina, the only musical instrument invented by an Englishman (Sir Charles Wheatstone, in 1827) and he almost certainly brought it with him to play at the Court as part of the Victorian entertainments popular then. RCS - a fellow enthusiast!]

Butleigh

The village of Butleigh was, last week the scene of great festivity and rejoicing, owing to the coming of age of Mr. R. Neville, oldest son and heir of Mr. Ralph Neville-Grenville, Esq., M.P. for East Somerset, and the representative of one of the oldest English families, their names appearing in the records, of Battle Abbey. The young squire attained his majority on 16th instant, the morning of which was ushered in with the firing of cannons and the ringing of bells from the Church of St. Leonard's. On the previous Friday, on its being known that he was on his way to Butleigh Court from Cambridge, the tenantry and villagers turned out en masse to welcome him, meeting him at Butleigh Hill, where, the horses being taken from the carriage, he was drawn in triumph, preceded by a long procession of persons with torches. On Tuesday evening the tenantry dined with R. Neville-Grenville, Esq., and his heir, Mr. Robert, when nearly 100 sat down to an excellent and abundant spread. Thursday night the festivities were brought to a close by a ball at which nearly 300 of the elite of the country were present.