

WILLOUGHBY.

THE FESTIVITIES at Willoughby began early on Tuesday morning with a merry peal of bells from the church tower at 5.30 a.m. All the preparations for the Jubilee fete, which was held by the kind permission of Mr. Owen Hall in his orchard, were duly completed in good time, and the committee-men and lady waitresses all assigned their several duties, the latter, with the arrangements for the dinner and tea, being under the able direction of Mrs. Johnson, of the Manor House. The committeemen were distinguished by a handsome Jubilee medal, and the lady waitresses by an elegant gilt star, with the royal arms in the centre, the gift.

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of Mrs. Johnson. At 10.30 a.m. the school children assembled at the school, when each of them received a Jubilee medal and blue ribbon. A little later, the Vicar, in academical cap and gown, arrived, accompanied by Mrs. Deane, and one of their daughters. The Rev. G. H. Deane having read out the High Sheriff's letter announcing the result of the Jubilee prize competition, which he had so thoughtfully and generously set on foot for the rural schools, Mrs. Deane presented the senior prize Jubilee medal to Ellen Seckington, and the junior to Ellen Packer. At 11.15 a.m. the school children marched to church, headed by the two prize winners, each carrying a flag. The village was decked right loyally for the festive occasion, numerous wreaths and festoons of green leaves and flowers being hung across the street at various points, with loyal mottoes, flags, and Chinese lanterns. The entrance to Mr. Owen Hall's rickyard was spanned by the loyal motto "God save the Queen," with a portrait of her most Gracious Majesty in the centre on a white ground, bordered with green leaves, beautifully executed by the Misses Cowley. Mr. Malins, the postmaster, had also bestowed great pains in adorning the approach to the post office worthy of the great occasion. The old church, tastefully decorated with flowers by the Misses Deane and Miss Johnson, was filled with a goodly congregation for the Jubilee thanksgiving service, which commenced at 11.30 a.m. Special Jubilee hymns were sung, and an appropriate sermon was preached by the vicar, the service concluding with the National Anthem, enriched by two additional verses in honour of the Jubilee, which was sung most heartily by the whole congregation. An excellent cold dinner was provided at one p.m., for about 130 adults, male and female, which was laid out on two long tables, adorned with flowers, under rick cloth awnings—an admirable substitute for tents. There were fillets and shoulders of veal, with two fine hams, gigantic rounds of boiled and joints of roast beef, legs of mutton, new potatoes (hot), and abundance of salads and pickles. Plum puddings, boiled and baked; and cheese, made up a most substantial repast, whilst for drinkables an ample supply of beer and porter, lemonade, nectar, &c., was provided. After the appetites of all had been well satisfied, and grace said, the Vicar proposed the health of Her Gracious Majesty the Queen, which was drunk with the greatest enthusiasm, and thrice-repeated cheers, after which the musicians played the

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National Anthem. The company then dispersed over Mr. Owen Hall's pleasant orchard, enjoying a friendly chat, the fragrant weed, and the strains of music, whilst the committee-men who had served out the beer, &c., and the waitresses sat down to their well-earned dinner. At 2.30 p.m. the sports commenced, when not only the young men of Willoughby, but the middle-aged ones, and the women and children showed they were by no means deficient in pluck and activity. The obstacle and pond races afforded great amusement, especially the latter, in which the competitors had to run twice through a pond, where the water was quite up to their waists in the deepest part, but for which, though there were many entries, only two came up to the scratch. The hurdle race, and the one mile race were both easily won by Mr. H. Batchelor, who covered the latter in five minutes, a very good performance. There was a pause in the sports about 4.15 p.m. for tea, which was provided nominally for 150 women and children, but practically all who chose were allowed to partake of it. There was an abundant supply of meat for those who liked it, and there were few who didn't, as well as plum cake, plum pudding, bread and butter, and any quantity of excellent tea. Later on again all were able to have as much as they could eat for supper, about 8.30 p.m., and even then there was still more of the eatables left to be distributed the next morning. The musicians played at intervals during the sports, and, when they were over, struck up some lively dance music, to which many a youth and maiden " tripped the light fantastic toe." A pretty sight it was to see the numerous couples disporting themselves on the green grass in the cool summer evening, whilst their elders sat- or stood around, recalling the days when they were young. Two aged dames, one of whom confessed she had never put on bonnet and cloak for ten long years, whose united ages were far into two centuries, were wheeled down in the parish chair to see the Jubilee sports and festivities, the like of which they had never seen before, and could never hope to see again, About 10 p.m. numerous bonfires could be seen on the hills around, but Willoughby, lying low, was obliged to be contented with a more humble display of fireworks, which, commencing somewhat later, lasted on till near 12 o'clock, when the Jubilee commemoration came to an appropriate end with the National Anthem. All agreed that they had spent a most happy and enjoyable day,

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favoured as it was by " Queen's weather:!--a day to be remembered throughout their lifetimes. The greatest credit was due to the members of the several sub-committees :—Messrs. T. J. Johnson, H. Ivens T. Quinney, W. Ellard, A. Cowley, W. Hall, J. Hall, W. Fowke, and Owen Hall, and to the ladies, especially Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Cowley and her two daughters, Mrs. Owen Hall, and Miss Thompson, for the excellent arrangements made for the entertainment and amusement of the inhabitants of Willoughby.