

HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S VISIT TO EARL HOWE.

SERVICE AT PENN STREET CHURCH.

HIS MAJESTY PRESENT.

As we chronicled in our last issue, H.M. King Edward VII. left London on Thursday in last week, after the opening of Parliament, and paid a visit to Earl and Countess Howe, at their Bucks seat, Penn House, near High Wycombe. The King, who was attended by Major-General Sir Stanley Clarke and the Hon. Sidney Greville, travelled from the Baker-street Station of the Metropolitan Railway, where he was received by the Chairman of the Company, Colonel J. J. Mellor, and the General Manager, who accompanied the special train. Among the distinguished house party invited in honour of the Royal visit were the Marquis de Soveral (Portuguese Minister), Earl and Countess de Grey, Lord Herbert Vane-Tempest, the Hon. H. Stonor, Lady Sarah Wilson, the Hon. George and Mrs. Keppel, Mr. and Mrs. A. Sassoon, Admiral the Hon. Asabaton Curzon-Howe, and Viscount Curzon. It is worthy of note that this is the first visit paid by the King to the county of Bucks since his accession. Happily the visit has been favoured with fine weather, which enabled the arrangements made by Earl and Countess Howe to be carried out without interruption of any sort. A big shoot over the extensive game preserves was arranged for Friday, and some excellent sport was had, the coverts being among the best stocked in England. A party of eight guns commenced operations at 11 o'clock on the Grove and Church Park portion of the estate. Game was plentiful, and his Majesty was continually fortunate in choice of position, securing many fine birds. Luncheon was served early in the afternoon in a tent close by Penn Farm, where most of the ladies of the party joined the shooters. A very successful first day's sport ended in the record bag for the Penn coverts of 1,203 pheasants, 20 partridges, 10 hares, and 20 rabbits. Another very successful day's sport was had on Saturday, when the Mayor of Wycombe (Alderman W. Birch), the Rev. Arthur Browning (Vicar of Penn Street Church) and Mrs. Browning had the honour of being introduced, with others, to his Majesty. The total bag was 1,350, which was made up to 1,400 after a second search.

An unusual scene was witnessed along the main road and the quiet country lanes morning, for the rumour had got abroad that the King would attend divine service at the Church of Holy Trinity, Penn Street, and there was from an early hour a steady stream of traffic in that direction. The beautifully fine weather that prevailed no doubt induced many to set out in the hope of catching a glimpse of his Majesty. The villages of Misenden, Holmer Green, Hazlemere, Penn, etc., contributed their quota, but the visitors belonged, for the most part, to Amersham and Wycombe. Parties in traps were numerous; there were even a few wagonette loads; cyclists were well represented; but the most popular form of travelling was by the aid of "Shanks' pony." Early as some of the visitors were—several reaching the church at 10 o'clock—a posse of the Wycombe County Police, under Supt. Summers, were earlier still, and guarded the approaches into the churchyard, through which only a privileged number were allowed to pass before the arrival of the King. As the morning wore on the crowd in the vicinity of the church increased in size, and at 11 o'clock it numbered about 1,000 persons. It was impossible for all to obtain seats in the little church, and the Churchwardens (Messrs. J. Widdowson, jun., and A. Hearn) who had charge of the seating arrangements, gave the preference to parishioners when, at about 11 o'clock, the doors were thrown open. Subsequently extra seats were brought in and many of the visitors were able to gain admission, but several hundreds found the attempt to enter the church a vain one, and had perforce to remain outside. While awaiting the arrival of his Majesty, one could not but note the very great improvement in the interior of the sacred edifice which the new Vicar (the Rev. Arthur Browning) has effected. The altar arrangement is particularly tasteful, the new revolving lectern, with its fine pedestal (designed by Mr. Hooley, A.R.A.), is a conspicuous feature, and the appearance of the whole building suggests great care and good taste in its maintenance.

The King, who was driven from Penn House in a closed carriage, acknowledged the respectful greeting of the people around the church gates, and, entering the church by the chancel door, took his seat in one of the Howe family's pews, which are situated on either side of the chancel. His Majesty sat at that end of the pew which is nearest the nave of the church, and his features would have been almost indistinguishable but for the soft glamour of light which penetrated through the semi-opacity of the stained-glass window at his back, depicting the figure of St. Paul the Apostle. In the same pew with the King were Lady Howe and Mrs. George Keppel, while Earl Howe and Earl de Grey, with Lady Sarah Wilson, sat in the pew opposite. Lord Curzon sat in the front seat of the nave, and several other members of the house party attended the service, which took the form of ordinary Matins. The choir was augmented by a number of choristers from Amersham, and was conducted by Mr. W. Garton, Miss Holoran presiding at the organ. The service was conducted entirely by the Vicar, and its simple character enabled all present to participate in it, and his Majesty himself, who was perhaps the most unconcerned of all present, though naturally the cynosure of all eyes, entered very heartily into the service. The Psalms were those for the 19th day, the first lesson was read from the 55th chapter of Isaiah, and the second from the 11th chapter of St. Matthew. The hymns sung were: "Earth has many a noble city" (76), before the sermon, and "O God, our help in ages past" (135), before the Benediction.

The sermon was preached by the Vicar from the 1st Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians, 1st chapter, 1st verse—"Through the will of God." It was a plain, practical, well-thought-out, and earnestly delivered discourse, and was listened to with deep attention. St. Paul, said the preacher, was stating in these words the conviction to which was mainly due his indomitable courage, perseverance, and energy—the conviction that his work came to him from God, that he was called to be an Apostle through the will of God. No man could live a satisfactory life without some similar conviction. Whether they were mechanics, manufacturers, labourers, workers with brain, or workers with muscle, they must all be certain that whatever work they were doing it was the will of God that they should do it. The distinction that was often drawn between religious work on the one hand and secular work on the other must not for a moment be supposed to imply that in religious work they were doing God's will and that in secular work they were not doing it. God Himself had done and was always doing a great deal of work which might be called secular. He made the earth, and made it broad enough to build towns and villages upon it, and to grow corn and grass upon it. He made a great part of it for what were called common uses, and in so doing He consecrated for ever the commonest work of man. They might surely with all reverence say that it was as much secular work to create a tree as it was to make a chair out of it, which was the life-work of so many of those present. So their secular work was part of God's work, and whatever their occupation might be, they might all appropriate the Apostle's high claim to be fellow-labourers with God. He had given them work to do which, however humble, or barren in opportunities for good it might seem to them, was work which He wished them to do, which could be done by no-one else, and which was in a real sense God's work. Take the case, for instance, of a man engaged in agriculture. He might well say that he was a farmer through the will of God, for he grew the wheat by which the body God had made was kept strong and healthy. Another man took up the work which the farmer left off, and ground the corn into flour, and a third man made the flour into bread. All might say that they were engaged in God's work. And so all through the varied occupations which made up the complex scheme of their modern life, they were all serving God together, and if they were to grip this conviction and hold it fast its powerful effect upon life, conduct, general character, and conscience would be sufficiently obvious. But there must be industry and interest in the discharge of their duty. Their work was given to them by divine appointment, and everything must be done as in the eye of God, for of the work which God had given them an account must one day be rendered to Him. Their work, to use a good old English word, though perhaps old-fashioned, their work was indeed their calling. They might use the same language alike to master and man. If they were employers of others, they ought to care for the interests of their employees whether the latter cared for those of their masters or not, and vice-versa. The passionate, reckless pursuit on either side of immediate personal advantage was a clear violation of the golden rules of their

one great master, Jesus Christ. If those rules were obeyed, how greatly life would be sweetened! They would look upon other men as brethren, and not merely call them such; they would think of them as comrades in a great army, fighting side by side under God's eye against want, ignorance, disorder, and sin; and so the whole round earth was in everything bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

The collection, which was for church expenses, realised the sum of £6 15s.

Penn Street Church is the first Parish Church his Majesty has attended since his accession, with the exception, of course, of Sandringham.

The people seated in the south transept of the church were unfortunate in not being able to catch even a glimpse of the King.

Our Penn correspondent sends the following particulars:—"Friday morning opened favourably and the small army of beaters were in position ready for operations soon after 9 o'clock. Penn House Grove Wood, Round Wood, Brainches, Hampden Grove, and Downhams were driven before lunch. A private bus was in readiness after the interval to convey his Majesty to Witherage-lane for the next shoot. In getting out of it his Majesty's foot slipped on the top step and he narrowly escaped falling to the ground. "Jack," however, was on the alert and so prevented an accident. Church-path and Strawberry-platt were taken together, finishing in semi-darkness by driving Corkers. Earl Howe (who was not shooting) also had an accident, a pheasant in falling striking him in the eye and discolouring it. Saturday was a lovely day, with splendid sport. The upper part of Penn Wood was taken first, then Scraggs and Little Inkerman Firs (two drives), and the upper part of Common Wood. After lunch, the lower part of Penn Wood was driven, then followed two drives from Common Wood. A large number of people witnessed the shooting after lunch, and were highly pleased with all they saw, especially when his Majesty walked through them when going to take up his position for the last drive. On Sunday morning another large crowd assembled near Penn Street Church to see the King and party go to attend divine service. In the afternoon his Majesty had a run with his motor car, going along Penn Bottom, through Hazlemere, to High Wycombe, by the Abbey, through the Park, to the Marsh Green by the Back-lane to the Marsh, then up Rayner's drive, by Tylers Green Church and Penn Church to Penn House. Monday's shoot was at Holmer Green and Penn Wood. On Tuesday the King went away on his motor to Windsor, thus bringing his visit to a close. Some of the house party remained and had partridge drives on Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday in various parts of the estate. Luncheon has been served in a special marquee, which was moved to various parts of the estate as needed. The army of beaters (120 of them) had lunch each day, Mr. Hearne, of Penn Street, providing it on Friday, Saturday, and Monday, and Mrs. Garland, Penn Church, on the other days. The bag each day was as follows:—

	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.	Wael.
Pheasants	1249	1339	551	241	33
Partridges	19	28	29	165	190
Hares	6	3	9	3	8
Rabbits	12	10	6	6	2
Woodcock	—	1	—	—	—
Pigeon	1	—	—	—	—
Total	1278	1381	595	415	233

Grand total, 3,902, which will be made considerably more when all birds have been picked up.

THE KING IN HIGH WYCOMBE.

On Sunday afternoon, after luncheon, his Majesty the King, accompanied by Earl Howe and others, entered the town of High Wycombe on his motor car, which he took with him to Penn House. The route taken was via Amersham-hill, High-street, and St. Mary-street to Daws Hill House, whereat a short visit was paid to Lady Carrington. Afterwards, through a misconception as to the route, the car proceeded along the new road on the Daws Hill estate, and instead of being brought out into the London-road from Bassotbury-lane, it was driven along the Back-lane at Wycombs Marsh, and through the water into the main road, afterwards proceeding to Penn House through Tylers Green. The ride was an impromptu one, and many who encountered the car were unaware that it contained so distinguished a passenger.

THE KING'S DEPARTURE.

His Majesty left Penn House at about 10 o'clock on Tuesday morning and proceeded on his motor car to Windsor, where he joined the Queen, who had arrived at the Castle on Monday afternoon. His route was via Beaconsfield, Farnham, Slough, and Eton to Windsor Castle. All along the route the King received a most respectful greeting, and there were large crowds at Slough and Windsor to witness his progress through the streets. His Majesty, it is stated, thoroughly enjoyed his visit to this district.