

of Hilton; and as in the
expensive work of repairing
the roof of Melcombe Horsey
Church, subscriptions would
have to be solicited from
many persons, who had
contributed to the restoration
of Hilton Church, it would be
better to postpone, for a
time, this more expensive
work, and undertake
only the work of repairing
the Belfry - a work which
could not be at all
postponed.

Another difficulty presented
itself. If subscriptions

Melcombe Horsey Rectory ^{LB 56}
Hall
Amos Dorchester Dorset
31 Oct^r 1891

Dear Sir

Will you kindly permit me
to write a line relative to
the Bell recently removed from
the Tower of Melcombe Horsey
Church, - removed with the
intention of being sold, -
but which is not sold, -
and which will not be sold.

In the Spring of this year
the Belfry was found to be
not merely much in need of
repair, - we knew that before, -

but was found to be in an extremely dangerous condition. So dangerous, that for a time no Bell was rung before the Church Services, lest the beams, and the floor of the Bell Chamber, and the two Bells themselves should all come down with sudden crash.

The inspection of the Belfry which led to the discovery of this danger, was extended into an examination of the timbers of the roof of the Church; - these too, were found to be much decayed, involving the necessity, in a very short time,

of an expensive repair, - a repair over its entire length. This expensive repair was, and is, urgently necessary; but the repair of the Belfry was immediately and instantly necessary.

A meeting was convened by Notice affixed to the Church door, and by an added Notice given in Church, to consider and discuss what should be done. At this meeting, it was pointed out that as a Church Restoration was at that moment going on, in the neighbouring & contiguous parish...

Church Societies, takes no active interest or part in Church matters, - all that is influential around me, all, on which I can rely to help me, consists of people who are near relations to one another. They are all very kind, - all well-affected, - zealously affected, toward the Church; and helpful in every way.

I might have refused my consent to the sale of the Bell; - but, at what risk?

were sought for the lesser work, those who subscribed thereto would not be very ready or very pleased to respond to a second call, in a few months, for further work, at a Church to which they had contributed so recently.

Only one Bell was ever rung before the Services - During the Incumbency of my predecessor, Rev. C. Bingham, a Bell was sold, to defray the cost of repairs at that time needed. The Sale of this Bell, during the Incumbency of a man

reputed to be learned in
all matters ecclesiastical,
and a man of pronounced
antiquarian tastes, was
considered to offer a
precedent, which might, on
the present occasion, be
safely followed. According
to Mr. Groves, one of the Churchwardens,
proposed to sell the Bell which
was never rung, in order to
defray the expense of this
first and most urgent
repair.

Mr. Groves' proposal
was accepted.

Mr. Groves is brother-in-law
to Mr. Watts of Melcombe Horsey,
the Rector's Churchwarden.
Mrs. Watts is Mr. Groves' sister.
In addition to this, another
sister of Mr. Groves was
married to Mr. Woodhouse,
of the next parish. The
Woodhouse family often attend
Melcombe Church, - and are
in many ways helpful to us.

Such is the human
environment of the Rector of
Melcombe Horsey - With
the exception of Mr. Eyre,
who altho' liberal to the
Church Charities, and

May I ask you kindly to
remember me to Douglas
and Arthur. I hope that
Arthur's health and
general condition are now
much improved. And may
I also ask you kindly to
excuse my writing so
long a letter.

I beg to remain

Faithful & Respectfully Yours
Joseph Hall

To

General Pitt-Rivers F.R.S.

to be

At the risk of alienating (3)
from myself all this zeal -
- all that is helpful to the Church.

Mr. Groves, before coming to
the meeting, had consulted
a lawyer, who informed him
that with the consent of the
parishioners, given at a meeting
duly convened, the Bell could
be sold. I was myself
not quite sure of this, - and
I had, in the midst of all,
a presentiment, which
events have justified, that the
Church Bell and the Tower
would experience only a
temporary separation, and

not part company for ever,
A Novel was written some
time ago - I forgot the
Authors name - I read very
few Novels, - the title of this
Novel was: -
"Put yourself in his place".

I had human elements,
as well as metallic elements,
to deal with, - and when a
Survey of the situation is taken,
and the Spectator or Critic
puts himself in my place,
I think he will - if not
justify me - at least
sympathise with me.
In these difficult

circumstances in which I was
placed, may I hope, that
whatever mistake I made, in
giving my consent to the sale
of the Bell, you will kindly
forgive me.

The Bell will be brought
back to the Church, shortly;
and in due course re-hung.
I shall retain the kind and
zealous helpfulness of my
parishioners, and not have
to regret the loss of the Bell;
a loss which no one
would have felt more keenly
than myself.