

Chapter X

The County Council Elections Tennyson's Funeral : The Czar's Coronation

In 1888, for the first time there was to be a Keswick division of the County Council. Hardwicke was invited to stand for election. There was great interest and in all there were four candidates, which made for a keenly fought campaign. The qualities of caring about people, his many acts of kindness and lack of self interest stood him in good stead. There was great excitement when he won and the church bells were rung to mark the occasion.¹

For the next six years he did not spare himself in his efforts to act on behalf of the County and the people of Keswick in particular. His activities ranged far and wide. First he took up the cause of tuberculosis and contagious diseases among cattle, both of which were prevalent at that time. He pressed for the first dairy school and an experimental station for testing manures to be established at Keswick. There was pollution caused by the lead mines and many fish were poisoned. Hardwicke tried to get the rivers restocked. He also tried to have a County Medical Officer of Health appointed. Altogether, he served on six committees and was Chairman of the Highways and Bridges Committee, which entailed seeing to the maintenance and upkeep of roads, involving many journeys of inspection, especially those around Thirlmere, where the Manchester Corporation was involved. He was also concerned with the repair of footpaths and the erection of signposts to mark them which caused much controversy.

¹*Cumberland and Westmorland Advertiser*, Jan. 1889 printed the results as follows:

Rev. H.D. Rawnsley 236 votes

Mr T. Smith 209 votes

Mr R. Mumberson 182 votes

Mr R.D. Marshall 158 votes

800 votes in all; 5 papers spoiled

In 1895 there were elections again and his seat was contested. Unfortunately he had been involved in many disputes and had aroused much animosity, particularly over a telegraph installation at Borrowdale and his stand against granting a licence to sell intoxicating liquors to the proprietor of the Keswick Pavilion, together with his activities over rights of way. The result being that he lost his seat, which was a great disappointment to him, until he realized that he could do even more as a free lance, without having to attend time consuming committees. The blow was softened further by the many letters of regret and sympathy he received. In April 1895 he was given a testimonial of a beautiful piece of silver, made by the Keswick School of Industrial Art, with a book of signatures, containing the signatures of many friends and supporters, plus an address which said,

"As representative of Keswick, and also as Alderman, we recognize that the ability with which God has so abundantly endowed you has been placed entirely at the disposal of the public with extraordinary zeal and self sacrifice ... these services will long be remembered with gratitude."¹

During this period of intense activity, his close friends who had urged him to take more rest were saddened but not surprised when Hardwicke became very ill while staying with a friend near London. Three doctors attended him and for some days his condition was serious. Gradually however, he improved and was able to go on holiday to Egypt for three months. Although he was supposed to rest he managed to write a book, Notes for the Nile, which was published in 1892. His health was restored.

Not long after his return Hardwicke was saddened by the death of his good and much loved friend, Harvey Goodwin, Bishop of Carlisle. He was buried in Crosthwaite churchyard on the 28 November 1891, after his body had rested in the church on the previous day, watched over by fourteen young priests of the Diocese, in turn throughout the night. The funeral took place in a tremendous storm of wind and rain. Later, Mr. Charles Ferguson

¹Rawnsley, E.F., Canon Rawnsley, pp83-4

designed and set up a plain Shap granite cross as the headstone. A memorial in the form of a recumbent effigy of the Bishop designed by the sculptor, Hamo Thornycroft, was commissioned for the Cathedral to be cast in bronze. Four years later, placed under an oak canopy, designed by Mr. Alfred Waterhouse, it was unveiled in Carlisle Cathedral on the 17 September 1895.

At the request of the Bishop's family, Hardwicke agreed to write a biography of his friend. Although he was at that time engaged in producing his book of poems, entitled Valete; in the middle of writing his interesting work, Literary Associations of the English Lakes and revising Jenkinson's Guide to the Lakes, he took on this further work. In 1896 he managed to publish his beautifully written, well documented book, Harvey Goodwin, Bishop of Carlisle.¹

More sad news followed in the next year. During Hardwicke's visit to Switzerland, in May 1892, his mother died. He wrote the verse which is inscribed beneath the cross which marks her grave at Halton Holgate.

Later that year, October 1892, Hardwicke was further grieved to receive news of Tennyson's death. There had been a close connection from childhood between the Rawnsley and Tennyson families. This had a great influence on Hardwicke, especially in encouraging his love of poetry, through the reading of it aloud and in encouraging his sonnet writing. Charles Tennyson Turner, the elder brother of Alfred, when Hardwicke was at school, was the first to praise his sonnets and offer kind, constructive criticism. He continued this practice when Hardwicke was at Balliol, but urged him not to neglect his other studies. This interest in Hardwicke's poetical activities was continued by Alfred in 1883 and 1884, when Edith and Hardwicke visited him at Farringford, where they spent a great deal of time talking about and reading each other's poems, even as they took long walks together. There

¹Rawnsley, H.D., Harvey Goodwin, John Murray, London, 1896. In appendix A, there is the hymn sung on the Sunday after the funeral entitled, "In Memoriam", and two poems, "Bishop Goodwin" and "At Bishop Goodwin's Grave", written by Hardwicke.

were further visits in 1889 and 1890, when more discussions took place.

To express his feelings for the Laureate on hearing of his death, Hardwicke wrote several poems which were later printed in book form as Valete.¹ As a further expression of his deep feelings for the poet, he felt that there should be some link with Wordsworth, a previous Laureate and decided that this should take the form of a pall for the coffin to be made in the Lake District. Edith drew the design which consisted of trails of forty two wild roses, representing the number of Tennyson's years as Poet Laureate and the length of his married life. They also were symbols for chivalry, the Arthurian legends and English country life. A large piece of unbleached linen was spun and woven at the Ruskin centre of the K.S.I.A., under the direction of Miss Twelves, who with four helpers worked day and night to complete Edith's design, which also contained a wreath of laurel bearing berries to denote the fruitful years of his work. There was an embroidered scroll in the centre containing the words from the last stanza of "Crossing the Bar" by Tennyson:-

"For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar."

The day before the funeral, Hardwicke and Edith took the completed pall to Aldworth, Tennyson's home. On arriving they were struck by the silence and feeling of deep peace in the house and gardens, broken only by the birds as they flew among the laurels, pines, oaks and silver firs. The pall was placed on the coffin, surrounded by wreaths and flowers.

Hardwicke has given a highly lyrical account in his book, Memories of the Tennysons of the journey in the evening from

¹Valete, Tennyson and other Memorial Poems, James Maclehose & Sons, Glasgow, 1893

Aldworth to Westminster Abbey.¹ During the day the little carriage which was to carry the coffin to Haselmere railway station was lined with moss and decorated with ferns, ivy and red maple boughs.

In the twilight, the decorated carriage containing the coffin, covered with the pall and white wreaths, drawn by Tennyson's horse made its slow journey along the leafy village roads lined with silent, bareheaded villagers, to Haselmere station. The church bell tolled throughout the journey and in the dusk, lights began to shine out from cottage windows and stars to twinkle. On arrival at the station the coffin was transferred to the waiting train, accompanied by the chief mourners, including Edith and Hardwicke.

At Waterloo the coffin, now covered by the Union Jack, was placed on another plain carriage without any special ceremony. The small procession of cabs and carriages, carrying the mourners who had accompanied the poet's body from Aldworth to Westminster Abbey, went almost unnoticed, apart from a small group of people in York Road, whose attention had been drawn to the flag as they wondered as to what it signified. A bell tolled as the cortège crossed Westminster Bridge and continued into Dean's Yard at the Abbey. There it was met by a small group of men and four robed clergy, who led the coffin and mourners through the dark cloisters, up the steep steps and through the narrow door into the high arched chapel of St. Faith, which was draped in purple. After a short service of prayers, the mourners left the coffin to remain there for the night.

The next morning, people knowing that it was Tennyson's funeral day, crowded around the Abbey. As they waited, they could buy memorial tokens of the poet for one penny, such as portraits and words printed on wood from his poems, "In Memoriam" and "Come not when I am dead." There was no spectacle, no great show, only quietness and stillness among the crowd, with the

¹Rawnsley, H.D., Memories of the Tennysons, James Maclehose, Glasgow 1900, Ch 7

presence of the police as the only sign of officialdom. The atmosphere was redolent of a country funeral and the lack of great ceremony was entirely appropriate for the Laureate, who had always lived and worked with quiet simplicity.

In the Abbey every space was filled with the eleven thousand people attending the service. The chief mourners, among them Jowett, Lecky, Lord Selbourne, Lord Salisbury, Froude, Butler, Lord Kelvin, Lord Rosebury, the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, the Duke of Argyll, Sir James Paget, Mr. White, the American minister, Edith and Hardwicke, gathered in the Chapter House. When they were all assembled, they followed the coffin in procession. As they made their way through the Abbey only the sound of footsteps and the tolling of the bell could be heard, until the organ began, softly at first, gradually swelling louder, until the Abbey was filled with the sound of music.

As the coffin reached its raised resting place the sun streamed through the windows, highlighting the beauty of the embroidered roses on the pall and the flowers surrounding the coffin. When those in the procession had filed into their seats, St. Paul's words on the Resurrection in chapter 5 of I Corinthians were read. This was followed by the singing of the hymn, "Sunset and Evening Star."¹ After words spoken about Tennyson, the Collect and Prayers, the hymn, "Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty",² was sung. The service ended with the Benediction and to the "Music of The Dead March".

On the Sunday after the funeral, the 12 October 1892, Hardwicke took the morning service in Crosthwaite Church, taking as his text, I Corinthians 1, 4-5 from the Epistle of the Day³

"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge."

¹A.M. 694. The words are from "Crossing the Bar" by Tennyson

²A.M. 160

³C.R.O. Kendal WDX/402

First of all, he described vividly the events of the funeral and the scene in the Abbey for his parishioners. He then continued by saying that the solemn pageant became a triumphal gathering rather than one of weeping, because by God's grace the gifts given to man for enriching our speech and knowledge do not diminish with the passing of the centuries but increase and continue, "We seek a world that is to come ... where also perfect thought shall have perfect utterance."

The quiet crowds outside and inside the Abbey gave the impression that the country had suffered a heavy loss and that " ... a power had passed away from the earth." Hardwicke thought that Tennyson could not be called a world poet, but was our own English poet, " ... singing of the English life he knew and loved", but such was his perfection of words that the whole world was richer in language because of him. He continued by saying that poetry was the handmaid of religion and the true poet was the true prophet, teacher and seer. Wordsworth had said that poetry was the first and last of all knowledge, it was as immortal as the heart of man because the poet moved in worlds not yet realized by most people and realized them for all. Poetry is the language of emotion and as such is an important vehicle for religious expression, as in Isaiah, the Psalms, Canticles and hymns used in regular worship. When great prose has been forgotten, poetry continues to be remembered. Stressing the importance of poets and their work, Hardwicke linked Tennyson with two other Laureates, Wordsworth and Southey whose tomb was in their own churchyard at Crosthwaite.

Poets see more clearly than others of their time, thereby widening and extending our knowledge. This was especially so with Tennyson, who highlighted the differences between the materialistic and spiritual sides of life

"One is earthly of the mind,
And one is heavenly of the soul."

Hardwicke quoted from Tennyson's poems, especially, "The Two Voices"; "The Palace of Art"; "The Idylls of the King" and especially, "In Memoriam", to illustrate his sermon, e.g. "more things are wrought by prayer/Than this world dreams of."¹

The terror of that time, Hardwicke thought, was war caused by lust and greed as described by Tennyson thus:-

"Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace."²

Hardwicke ended this sermon by apologizing for its length which was because he, "... felt Tennyson was inspired to keep our land and our time true to God and to his Christ."

Two other friends of Hardwicke died about the same time, Richard Lewis Nettleship, Fellow and Tutor of Balliol died in 1892, of exposure on Mont Blanc, at the early age of forty six. Since he was an experienced mountaineer, there were questions about how the tragedy could have happened, so in the summer of 1893 Hardwicke went to Chamonix and talked to the guides, Gaspard and Conte, to find out all that he could. Later he put forward a scheme for a memorial, which eventually took the form of a musical scholarship at Balliol. In the following year, 1893, Dr. Jowett, Master of Balliol died. He had been present at Tennyson's funeral and Hardwicke walked with him down the Abbey steps into the cloisters.

In May 1896 Hardwicke was asked to go to Moscow as a reporter for the Coronation of Czar, Nicholas II. Edith accompanied him, travelling with Mr. Perowne's party on the Midnight Sun which sailed from Newcastle. During the journey Hardwicke acted as Chaplain on the ship and took part in the evening entertainments with ballads and poems,

¹"Idylls of the King", The Passing of Arthur

²"In Memoriam" CVI

On arriving at Cronstadt, the vessels to St. Petersburg had to enter through a canal. The banks were lined with terrible forts which rose like brick kilns, so that there could be no possibility of attack by hostile vessels. Everyone was under close scrutiny before entering Holy Russia.

Hardwicke was very impressed by the golden domes of cathedrals and churches, the massive walls, granaries and docks, also by the magnificence of the interiors of places of worship with their gold and silver screens. There were no organs to provide music, but the voices of men singing provided a thrilling and moving sound. He thought the clergy looked very venerable, with their long flowing hair, which was never cut.

Of the Winter Palace, Hardwicke said that there were about four thousand inmates. Nearly every other person he saw was a soldier or a policeman. He was very impressed by the huge spaces in the city. The journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow was one thousand four hundred dreary miles. No train was allowed nearer than four and a half miles of the city, but eventually they arrived at eleven o'clock on the evening before the ceremony. Although they were rather weary and their rooms uncomfortable, they did not wish to miss seeing as much as possible and went sight seeing until five o'clock in the morning. They were overwhelmed by the size of the Kremlin which was considered big enough to hold Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

At the coronation they had seats in the Tribune Diplomatique, facing the Red Stairs, from which they had a good view of all the processions which proceeded through Kremlin Square. It seemed as though all the embassies were trying to outshine one another with their uniforms and decorations. Hardwicke thought that they put The Field of Cloth of Gold in the shade.

The solemn rites of the ceremony were conducted by the Venerable Metropolitan, robed in cloth of gold from head to foot. When the sunlight caught him he looked like a fiery pillar. It was

a very colourful scene, with Bulgarians in bright outfits; Hungarians with jaunty headdresses; Tonquinese with head gear which was a cross between a Chinese pagoda and a top hat of gold. There was a scarlet hedge of Cossacks and bodyguards with gold helmets. Ladies of the court fluttered down the stairs in long, flowing ruby coloured gowns with laced bodices and hanging sleeves embroidered with gold. They wore half moon tiaras from which veils of white gossamer fell to their feet. The rule for other ladies was that they must wear white, décolleté dresses. Edith had several amusing experiences trying to provide herself with suitable attire.

The Dowager Empress arrived and then the Czar walked slowly down the stairs and waited for the Czarina. Both ladies looked sad and the Czar, pale and solemn. The most moving moment came at eleven o'clock when the whole crowd, uncovered, fell to their knees and joined in the great religious service. Hardwicke described the scene in the following terms:-

"It seemed as if all the angels of light and loveliness shed their grace upon the moving show, as the radiance of the golden afternoon, splintered on the swords, played upon the flames, flickered from the helmets and cuirasses, sparkled on jewels and golden lace, and played upon the High Priests' raiment, where they stood in expectation on the steps at the Church door."

When the Coronation was over and the Czar and Czarina appeared before the crowd, there were loud cheers and bands played their loudest music. Later, Hardwicke and Edith attended a splendid banquet.¹

¹This account is based on Hardwicke's description given to the Penrith Literary and Scientific Society and reported in the *Cumberland and Westmorland Advertiser*, the 15 Dec 1896

Before leaving Russia, Hardwicke, who had a letter of introduction, discussed church matters with the Metropolitan and was allowed to see the Codex Sinaiticus, although the keys had to be brought specially. They returned by way of Switzerland, so that Hardwicke could gather more information for a pamphlet he was writing on the "Decorative Art of Lucerne", to be published in Switzerland.