

GREGSON RESEARCH

Rev. Thomas Knight - Funeral

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Extract from Berwick Warder April 9, 1872

The funeral of this much respected clergyman took place on Thursday at Ford, amid the most profound manifestations of sorrow, and with every mark of respect for the deceased. We do not remember any funeral in their neighbourhood so largely attended, all the neighbouring clergy and gentry, with the parishioners and many others, having assembled to do honour to the memory of the deceased, who for many years had maintained a very high character as a minister and a man. On Wednesday night the body was removed from Lowlynn to Ford Rectory. Precisely at two o'clock on Thursday afternoon when the large company had assembled, a procession was formed, and the funeral cortege moved the Rectory to the Churchyard. The pall-bearers were -- Watson Askew, Esq., of Pallinsburn; Captain Williams, Etal Manor House; Sir John Majoribanks, Bart. Lees; Dr Douglas Kelso; R. G. Bolam, Esq., Weetwood Hall; Ralph Chisholm, Esq., Ford Hill; John D. Ogilvie, Esq., Mardon; and Dr Fawcus, Flodden Lodge. Following the corpse were the chief mourners, Henry Gregson, Esq., Lowlynn, and his sons -- son and grandsons of the deceased. Next were a large number of clergy in full canonicals, including the Ven. The Archdeacon of Lindisfarne; Rev. J. G. Rowe, Vicar of Berwick; Rev. Thomas Procter, Vicar of Tweedmouth; Rev. Hugh Evans, Vicar Scremerston; Rev. John Edmunds, Vicar of Kyloe; Rev. William Cocken, Curate of Doddington; Rev. S. E. Major, Etal; Rev. F. H. Gooch, Curate of Ford; Rev. S. A. Fyler, Rector of Cornhill; Rev. John D. Hepple, Vicar of Branxton; Rev. James Henderson, Vicar of Ancroft; Rev. Mr. Chester, South Shields; Rev. B. S. Wilson, Vicar of Duddo; Rev. John S. Green, Vicar of Wooler; &c, &c. A large surpliced choir and another choir of female singers belonging to Ford, and the general public followed.

On reaching the Church, which was very simply but effectively draped with violet cloth, bordered with white, it was very rapidly filled by the large, attentive, and sympathising congregation. The Psalms were chanted in a very solemn and impressive manner. The lesson was read by the Rev. S. E. Kajor, Etal. The service in the Church being over, the procession was reformed and proceeded to the grave, where the mortal remains of the revered pastor of the parish were consigned to their last resting place. Over the grave an anthem was sung by the choir, and the remainder of the Burial Service was concluded very impressively by the Rev. F. H. Gooch, curate of Ford. The parishioners and friends having taken a last look at the coffin of the deceased, many of them very much affected, they quietly and solemnly separated. The Marchioness of Waterford, Ford Castle and Lady Augusta Fitzclarence, Etal, were present at the funeral obsequies, notwithstanding that the weather was most adverse, rain falling heavily during the whole time. The arrangements of the funeral, which were complete in every respect, were conducted by our townsmen, Messrs. James Purves & sons.

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