

known as the *Wansdyke* cuts the valley at almost the same point, and skirts its northern boundary for many miles.

As might be expected, every place in the valley—even the towns—wears a decidedly agricultural aspect. There are few manufactures, and the prosperity of the larger villages and towns mainly depends on the patronage bestowed on them by the folks of the “country-side.” But wherever the traveller turns his footsteps he cannot fail to meet with much to interest and to please—quaint villages with their rustic greens, and timber-built, straw-thatched cottages; the moss-grown windlass-wells close by; the venerable churches, whose grey walls remain with little alteration as they existed in pre-Reformation times; the surrounding churchyards, heaped high with the accumulated

dust of centuries, and darkly overshadowed by the far-spreading branches of yews coeval with the sanctuary; the faded remnants of ancient halls and lordly avenues; the ivied cottage; the busy mill; the well-stocked farm; and above all, those glorious fields of waving corn that spread their richness in golden sheets over the whole length and breadth of the valley. All around, wherever we go, we are met by the sights and sounds of joy and industry, and sweetness and beauty; the air is redolent of health—fresh, pure, and invigorating; and in the exhilaration of the moment we almost involuntarily give expression to the joyful words of the Psalmist, nowhere so fully and so forcibly exemplified as here: “The valleys also shall stand so thick with corn that they shall laugh and sing.”

W. MAURICE ADAMS.



HOW WE MANAGED OUR BAZAAR.



THERE was not anything to individualise our bazaar from other fêtes of a similar nature often held for charitable purposes during the summer months in the grounds of country-houses; but by the time our arrangements were made and successfully carried out, we had picked up sundry pieces of experience and information, the possession of which *at starting* would materially have lightened our labour; and having then neither one nor the other, a

paper in CASSELL'S FAMILY MAGAZINE treating of fancy fairs would have been most welcome. It is to a desire to supply with a few hints any of our readers who may have such an undertaking ahead of them, by briefly describing how we managed ours, that this article owes its origin.

A bazaar in a town is a comparatively easy thing to get up, and has little enough excuse for not being a success. There will be a town-hall or other public building all ready for the purpose; the buyers (a very necessary item) are living close at hand, and whether it be wet or dry, can turn in for an hour or so in the afternoon or evening, make their purchases, and leave again; refreshments are therefore not absolutely necessary.

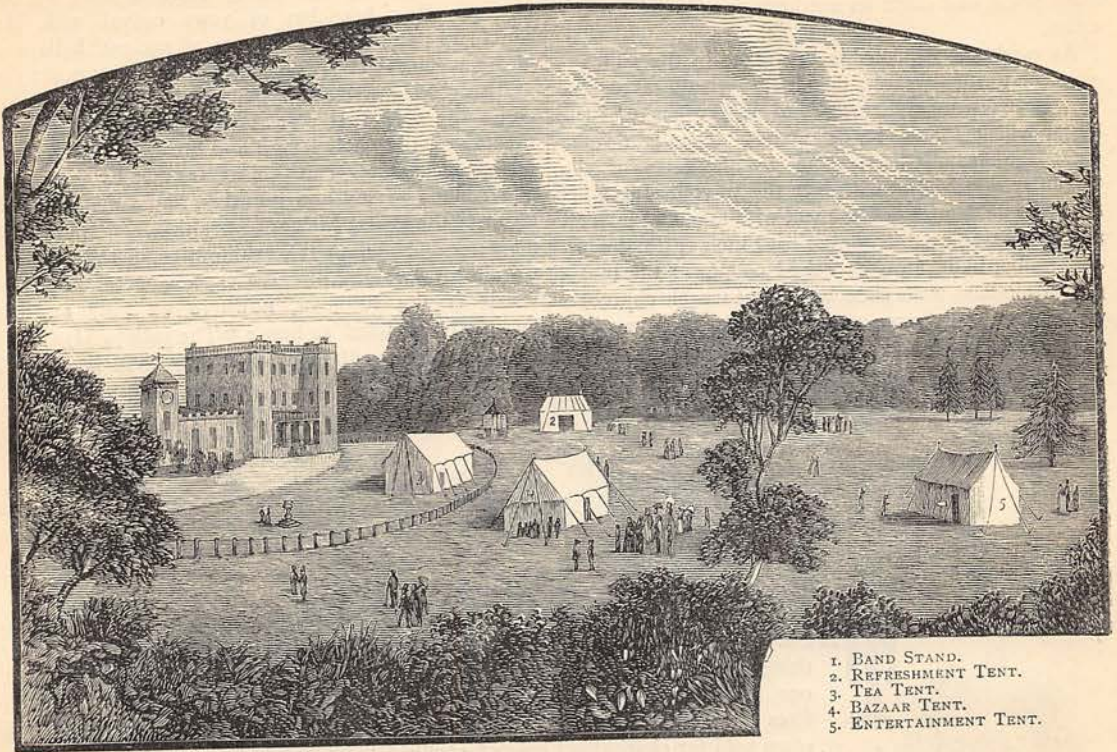
In the country, on the other hand, the weather is an autocratic master of the ceremonies. The principal purchasers are naturally to be looked for in the ranks

of the fair sex; but in ladies' dictionaries “bonnet” comes before “bazaar,” and should rain seem imminent, they will not, unless specially interested, drive in an open carriage, perhaps several miles, running the risk of spoiling their bonnets through having their feathers taken out of curl, or getting their velvet trimmings spotted, merely for the purpose of emptying their purses on things which, as a general rule, can *not* be classed among the necessaries of life. Attractions additional to the actual bazaar have to be provided, to draw the public from a distance and coax out their superfluous shillings; tents are a *sine quâ non*, a band ditto, and a public tea can scarcely be avoided. A refreshment-stall also is far from being unlikely to pay, for stuffy marquees are conducive to thirst, and suggestive of lemonade and ices; and a saffron bun is a capital bait for a rural appetite in quest of something nice.

Having obtained the consent of some charitably-disposed ladies to hold stalls of, say, the value of £50 each (ours ranged from £100 downwards), the next thing is to see about the tents. These we hired of the following dimensions:—

Bazaar tent	90 feet by 30 feet.
Entertainment do.	100 ” 30 ”
Tea do.	60 ” 30 ”
Refreshment do.	30 ” 15 ”

The hire of the four, agreed upon beforehand, was £21. This being inclusive of fixing, we anticipated having no trouble about *them*; but, as a matter of fact, we found the man in charge had so few and incompetent hands to help him, and the work of erecting was progressing so slowly, that to expedite matters, on the afternoon before the event, we procured a contingent of our neighbours' gardeners, and deducted their hire from the estimate.



1. BAND STAND.
2. REFRESHMENT TENT.
3. TEA TENT.
4. BAZAAR TENT.
5. ENTERTAINMENT TENT.

For the bazaar-tent a few sets of signal-flags, hung in festoons, supplied all the requisite decoration. The stalls were plain strong tables, nine feet by three feet six, borrowed for the occasion: deal boards were laid on the grass behind them to keep the vendors' feet dry. The adornment of the stalls was left to the stall-holders—each to trim her own—who agreed that workhouse-sheeting was preferable to cretonne as a material for covering, and that crimson braid would be a cheap and effective binding for the same. Behind every stall, standing upright against the canvas of the tent, was a large clothes-horse, as is shown in the drawing, answering the purpose of a frame on which to display pieces of work, pictures, brackets, &c., too large to go on the stall itself. There were five stalls, exclusive of the flower-stand. One or two ladies as assistants at each of the stalls, who are no strangers to the art of making people buy what they do not want, and some men good-natured enough to spend an afternoon carrying about the more valuable knick-nacks, with raffle-papers and pencils in their hands, are two important factors in the success of any bazaar. A graceful, well-dressed girl in charge of a flower-table laden with rooted ferns, palms, and other hot-house plants, which she offers to a discriminating public at *reasonable* prices, should not fail to command a lion's share of patronage.

The same description of things are to be seen exposed for sale at almost all bazaars, and our wares did not include any striking novelty. Crewel-work being all the rage, we had specimens of it sufficient, if need

were, to carpet the whole tent. These unfortunately did not meet with that appreciation which they deserved, and which was desirable; indeed, we could have wished that those friends who kindly volunteered to "work something" for the several stall-holders, had borne in mind that the ornaments of an English drawing-room are not restricted entirely to antimacassars. What sold really well were good pieces of *vertu* (glass and china), water-colour and oil sketches, watches, candlesticks, &c. The admission-fee was sixpence, which kept the tent only comfortably filled till the evening; then the public were admitted free, and crowded round the stalls, admiring everything, but over-scrupulous about buying any trifle that was not offered them at least fifty per cent. under cost price.

The refreshment stall bade fair to be a difficulty. Pastrycooks were to be found in the small towns ready to bring all the refreshments we desired, and give us a liberal allowance in the pound, provided we consented to take the remainder off their hands. Not having an idea whether the day would prove wet or dry, whether people would come in their tens or their hundreds, and whether those who did come would be hungry or the reverse, that was out of the question. At length, however, the problem of feeding the multitude was solved by an offer from a confectioner on more advantageous terms. He supplied ginger beer, &c., at trade price, giving us the whole profit thereon; supplied light refreshments and ices, allowing us twenty per cent. of the money taken, and took back what was left; and supplied besides, for the tea, 200 pounds of

cake, at 5d. per pound, and 300 "splits" (tea-cakes); agreeing to take back, if the day should turn out wet and few people came, one-fourth of the former. In the course of the afternoon relays of ices, lemonade, &c., were brought into the bazaar tent, and readily consumed.

For the public tea there were six tables, held by as many matrons of the parish, each providing, at her own expense, one pound of tea (they brought more, to be on the safe side), two pounds of butter, the same quantity of sugar, a gallon of milk, and china enough for twelve persons. Price of admission—adults, a shilling each; children, sixpence. One of the tables was in readiness before the others, so that the band, and after them the minstrels, might have their tea and clear out before the tent was thrown open to the public.

Subjoined is the programme of the proceedings:—

Bazaar opened	... ..	at 1.30 p.m.
Conjuror's performance	... ..	" 2 "
Christy Minstrel do.	... ..	" 3 "
Band tea	... ..	" 4 "
Minstrel do.	... ..	" 4.30 "
Public do.	... ..	" 5 "
Conjuror's performance	... ..	" 5 "
Christy Minstrel do.	... ..	" 6 "
Conjuror's do.	... ..	" 7.15 "

The entertainments consisted, as will be observed, of three performances, lasting half an hour each, by a well-known conjuror, who was specially engaged; and two, of one hour each, by a troupe of local amateur minstrels. This tent (as is seen in the sketch) was purposely placed at a long distance from the bandstand, so that the noise of the tambourine and bones might not mingle with the music of the band, to the detriment of both. A stage was made at one end of the tent, nineteen feet by nine, of rough battens (lent us on condition of their being returned uninjured), supported, at an elevation of about four feet, by short fir posts driven into the ground. Behind the stage a screen of canvas and flags, divided in half, formed dressing-rooms for the performers. The admission to this tent for each entertainment was sixpence.

As soon as the daylight waned the stalls were stripped, and the unsold bric-à-brac packed up; yacht-sailors appeared, to take down and claim their flags; weighty money-bags were handed in by those who had been posted at the tent entrances, gardens, and lodge-gates; and on the morrow followed the satisfactory *finale*—counting the proceeds. So terminated our bazaar.

A. H. MALAN.



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