

The Times Newspaper Thursday the 13th of May 1847

'Dinner for her Majesty's Ministers

Yesterday the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress gave a sumptuous entertainment to Her Majesty's Ministers and their ladies, and a distinguished company at the Mansion House.

The banquet took place in the Egyptian Hall which has seldom contained and more brilliant assemblage.'

Approximately 200 sat down to dine. The assembled company included Sir William Molesworth and Andalusia.

'The following was the bill of fare: -

Turtle and iced punch

Salmon, turbot, fried fish

Sideboard: - petit pâté

Chickens, capons, turkey poults, larded; hams and tongues, ornamented; ribs of lamb, raised ornamented pies, lobster salads, prawns, chantilly biscuits, ornamented trifles, noyau and maraschino jellies, pine, strawberry and Italian creams; Genoise pastry, Swiss and Venice meringues, chantilly tartlets, creamed tarts, Nesselrode puddings, plovers eggs.

Removes: - Haunch mutton, chine mutton, sirloin beef, currant Jelly, ducklings, goslings, leverets, turkey poults, peafowl.

Desert: - hot house grapes, apples, strawberries, oranges, pears, dried fruits, Savoy and almond cakes, mixed cakes, brandy cherries, preserved ginger.

Ices: - pine, raspberry, strawberry, orange, millefruit etc.

The dinner, which did great credit to the caterers, was provided by Messrs Ring and Brymer, of Cornhill.'

The Times newspaper Monday the 21st of June 1947

Sir William and Lady Molesworth attended the Royal Italian Opera on the previous Saturday evening i.e. Saturday the 19th of June 1947.

The Times newspaper Court Circular 23rd of May 1849

Royal Italian Opera at Covent Garden.

Sir William and Lady Molesworth attended the opera on the 22nd of May.

The Times newspaper Thursday the 14th of March 1850 Political Reunions

Sir William and Lady Molesworth were guests of Lady John Russell at 'the 2nd of a series of 3 assemblies last night, at the official residence of the Premier, in Downing Street.'

There was a distinguished guest list including the Duke of Wellington who arrived 'by the garden gate before 11' o'clock.'

The Times newspaper Monday the 17th of February 1851 Political Reunion

Once again Sir William and Lady Molesworth were invited to an evening party by Viscountess Palmerston. They were not invited to the dinner just to the evening party.

'After the banquet the Noble Viscountess had an assembly which was very numerous attended by the leading members of the aristocracy and core diplomatique.

The Times Monday the 3rd of March 1851

Lady Palmerston's assembly

'Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston entertained a distinguished party at dinner on Saturday evening at their mansion in Carlton Gardens.'

In the evening the noble Viscountess received a very numerous circle of the fashionable world.'

Guests included the Duke of Wellington, the Greek, the Russian, the Swedish, the Prussian ministers and the minister from the Netherlands. Also included were the Belgium minister, the Sardinian and Bavarian ministers. Guests also included the Duke of Argyll, the Duke and Duchess of Norfolk, Viscount and Viscountess Torrington, and a long list of MPs which included Sir William and Lady Molesworth.

The Times newspaper Banquet for her Majesty's Ministers Thursday the 10th of April 1851

'Last night the Lord Mayor received Her Majesty's Ministers, and a number of ladies and gentlemen invited to meet them, at dinner at the Mansion House, where arrangements for the occasion had been made such as to indicate the Chief Magistrate's high consideration for so distinguished a party.'

Guests included Sir William and Lady Molesworth. They had a sumptuous dinner and approximately 200 guests sat down to eat. They were entertained by the band of the Coldstream Guards. There were among many toasts, one to Prince Albert and much positive comment made about the forthcoming Great Exhibition.

The Times newspaper Thursday the 5th of June 1851

'Madam Bunsen's assembly'

'On Tuesday evening Chevalier and Madame Bunsen held an assembly at the Prussian Legation in Carlton Terrace.' Guests were entertained by a German pianist, an 11-year-old violinist, who played with his left hand and a German singer who, according to the Times sang too loudly. Sir William and Andalusia were amongst the guests.

The Times newspaper Monday the 9th of February 1852

Viscount and Viscountess Palmerston had a dinner party on Saturday evening at their mansion in Carlton Gardens. There was a long and distinguished guest list. The dinner was followed by an evening party. Sir William and Andalusia were invited to the evening party but not to the dinner.

The Times newspaper Thursday the 12th of May 1853 Grand Ball at the Foreign Office

Sir William and Lady Molesworth were among the many distinguished guests at the Grand Ball given by the Countess of Clarendon at the official residence of the Foreign Secretary in Downing Street.

The Times newspaper Monday the 27th of March 1854 Banquet for Her Majesty's Ministers at the Mansion House

On the guest list for this occasion, the Times only lists Lady Molesworth and not Sir William as well.

The Times newspaper Monday the 13th of February 1854

'Sir William and Lady Molesworth entertained at dinner, on Saturday, the Earl of Aberdeen and a distinguished party of friends.'

The Times newspaper Imperial guests Thursday the 19th of April 1855

Windsor the 18th of April 1855

'The Queen held a Chapter of the Order of the Garter at 3 o'clock this afternoon in the Castle, for the purpose of investing his Imperial Majesty the Emperor of the French with the ensigns of this most Noble order.

The Queen gave a State dinner in the evening.

The magnificent service of gold plate was used on this occasion.

After the banquet the Queen and Prince Albert, the Emperor and Empress, with the Royal family and Her Majesty's guests, retired to the Drawing Room, where the Queen received the evening party.'

Sir William and Lady Molesworth were invited to this evening event, where there was a concert to entertain the guests.

The Times newspaper Thursday the 17th of May 1855 Banquet to Her Majesty's Ministers

The Lord Mayor and Mayoress once again gave a banquet for all Her Majesty's Ministers and this time the banquet

was held in the Egyptian room. Lord Palmerston was the Prime Minister on this occasion and there were 270 guests

'The Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests the Right Honourable Sir William Molesworth and Lady Molesworth' were amongst the guests.

The Royal Cornwall Gazette Friday the 15th of January 1858

The Wadebridge Farmers' Club Annual Dinner, Tuesday last, approximately 90 at the dinner.

The chairman of the Wadebridge Farmers' Association rose to his feet and raised a toast to the widow of the late Sir William Molesworth.

'It is great satisfaction to know that those whom he left behind and whom he loved, take equal interest in this society. I find that the widow of Sir William Molesworth is a warm supporter of this club. It becomes us to offer her our sincere thanks for the interest she takes in this society and also in the welfare of this town and neighbourhood, and we hope that those thanks will be conveyed to her Ladyship. I beg to propose the health of Lady Molesworth. (Cheers)

The Reverend Sir Hugh Molesworth, baronet. I rise again gentlemen to thank you for having drunk the health of Lady Molesworth of Pencarrow. I need not tell you that Sir William Molesworth instituted this club in 1841; and from that time until his lamented death, he was its Patron. Lady Molesworth takes the same interest in the club that Sir William did. During the last years of Sir William's life his time was so much taken up in serving his country in another way, that he was not able to devote himself to his tenantry as might have been wished. Not so however with his widow. I can see many around me who can bear testimony that both by her visits to their houses, and the courteous manner in which she receives them at Pencarrow, she shows the deepest interest in the welfare and the comfort of her tenantry. It is with great pleasure I return you thanks on her behalf. (Applause)

The West Briton and Cornwall Advertiser Friday the 10th of January 1862

'We announce, with much regret, the sudden death of the Reverend Sir Hugh Henry Molesworth, baronet, which took place at his residence, the Rectory St. Petroc Minor on Monday last, in the 43rd year of his age. We are informed that Sire Hugh was seized with paralysis on Saturday. He became worse and died at 2 am Monday morning.'

Sir Hugh married in July 1856 Beatrice Anne, daughter of Prideaux Brune Esquire and he has no male heir.

'He will, we believe be succeeded in the baronetcy by his brother Paul William, who took Holy Orders and at one time held the living of Tetcott, which he resigned to follow travel and the study of art.'

The Times Court Circular Friday the 6th of May 1881

'The Queen's Drawing Room. Her Majesty the Queen held a Drawing Room at Buckingham Palace yesterday afternoon.

The following presentations to the Queen were made, the names having been previously left at the Lord Chamberlain's Office and submitted for Her Majesty's approval.

The Honourable Andalusia Molesworth by the Marchioness of Salisbury.'

Many hundreds of people were in attendance including Her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales, the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, Princess Beatrice, Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, the Duke of Cambridge, Prince Leopold and His Highness the Nawab Nazim of Bengal.

Royal Cornwall Gazette Friday the 19th of October 1883

'Lady Molesworth paid a visit to her Tetcott property after an interval of some years and invited her tenantry to dinner. There was a very large attendance, and Her Ladyship, who was accompanied by Viscount Torrington, (and other friends) met with a hearty reception. The toast of her health was proposed by Mr. T. Oliver, who in the name of the tenantry referred to the liberality and consideration with which they had been met by Lady Molesworth in the past bad seasons for agriculture, and the good feeling which existed towards her. The toast was received with cheers, and Lady Molesworth, in responding, thanked her tenants for the kind and friendly expressions and spoke of the great pleasure it gave her to meet her tenantry, and of her desire for their prosperity and happiness.

Her Ladyship's speech was greeted with loud cheers. In the evening the school children of the parishes of Tetcott, Clawton and Luffincott were provided, by Lady Molesworth with an excellent tea.'

The Cornishman Thursday the 6th of November 1884

'Lady Molesworth has left Pencarrow for Bournemouth, where her ladyship intends to stay for several weeks.'

The Royal Cornwall Gazette 24th of May 1888

Obituary

Death of Lady Molesworth of Pencarrow

'A social loss, creating a gap in London society which will not readily be filled up, and which will be keenly felt by a numerous and widely spread circle of sympathising and sorrowing friends, was, says the Morning Post, caused on the 16th by the decease of Lady Molesworth of Pencarrow, after a severe and lengthened illness, borne with patience and with fortitude.

Andalusia Grant Carstairs was born in the very early years of the present century. A tablet, placed in Egloshayle Church by Lady Molesworth, to the memory of her father, is inscribed as follows: - 'Sacred to the memory of James Bruce Carstairs Esq., the last surviving member of the family of Sir James Bruce, Baronet of Kinross N.B. He died at Pencarrow on the 13th of September 1845 aged 75 years. This tablet is erected by his affectionate daughter Andalusia Grant Molesworth.'

Like her friend and contemporary leader of London society the late Lady Walgrave, who predeceased her by a few years only, she was not one of those born in the purple and the early portion of her life was passed amidst artistic surroundings. Gifted by nature with a beautiful soprano voice, a passion for music and possessed of none of that wealth with which in afterlife she was so liberally endowed, she studied music at an early age with a view of the future adoption of a professional career; but before she had the time to make for herself that artistic reputation which her talent would no doubt have assured her, she married Mr. Temple West of Mathon Lodge, Worcestershire and set aside altogether the intention of making a musical profession. Mr. Temple West, who was many years the senior of his young and handsome wife, died a few years after his marriage and Mrs Temple West, after remaining a widow for several years, married in 1844 the late Right Honourable Sir William Molesworth, Secretary of State for the Colonies in 1855 and who died in the autumn of that year. It was then, in the position of the wife of this well-known Minister and Statesman that the late Lady Molesworth first displayed that energy, tact, knowledge of the world and brilliant ability which, coupled with a combination of kindness of heart and consideration for the feelings of others, not only at once riveted her claim to become a leader of society, but at the same time enabled her to surround herself with a circle of warm and closely attached friends, who stood by her to the last, and will mourn her memory now that she is no more.

The opportunities afforded by her brilliant marriage with Sir William were of a nature and description which the late Lady Molesworth was not the woman idly to let slip. For forty years she took a constant part in all the doings of society and naturally became a conspicuous figure in that world to which she entirely devoted herself. Her life was successful and happy.

She was a most kind landowner and took the warmest interest in the welfare of all on her Estates. Her household were devotedly attached to her. She never missed an opportunity of charity and especially of kindly help to struggling artists. In her social relations she had the rare quality enjoyed by few of being sincerely the friend of her friends and as such retained their affection to the last. Many who grew to know her best under her own roof and also received the ample and amiable hospitality of Pencarrow, have many memories to cherish and sincere reasons for mourning the loss of one whom it was impossible to know well without adequately esteeming her fine qualities and kindly disposition.

The late Lady Molesworth left no children to inherit the family Estates of Pencarrow in Cornwall and Tetcott in Devonshire, which we understand are to be held for life by Mrs Ford, a sister of the late baronet and subsequently

passed to the heirs male of the Molesworth family.

Two years ago, Lady Molesworth was seized with a severe chill in Paris and only returned to England to suffer from its consequences. Her strong constitution battled for a long time with the ailment and although in the autumn of 1855 she was almost dying at Eastbourne, she returned to London and at Christmas last was able to receive a few friends at dinner. Since then her health gradually gave way and slowly, she sank until Wednesday afternoon, when after ten days of unconsciousness, she breathed her last at 4 o'clock. Through her long illness she was visited by many friends and the Prince of Wales, who, in the hour of sickness and adversity never forget bygone days, was one of the most frequent.

Lady Molesworth leaves a record that will be preserved for the sake of a sweetness of disposition and cordial hospitality that never made default. A high minded and generous woman throughout her long life, she made many friends in all stations and from her genuine worth held them to the last.

The funeral of Lady Molesworth took place in London on Saturday. At Wadebridge, where great respect was felt for her Ladyship, all the shops were closed from 11:00 until 1:00 and at private dwellings blinds were drawn.'

On the subject of a memorial to Sir William Molesworth

The Cornish and Devon post Saturday the 25th of February 1905

'At the annual meeting of the Wadebridge Mercantile Association a letter was read out from Mrs. Ford of Pencarrow, sister of the late Sir William Molesworth, on the subject of a memorial to that statesman.'

The committee then decided and passed a motion to appoint a special committee to pursue the scheme that was agreed at a similar meeting in 1903 four such memorial.

(Clearly, they weren't rushing to get on with the memorial)

The West Briton and Cornish advertiser October the 3rd 1907

'In the Parliament House at Ottawa (Canada) will be found a marble bust of Sir William Molesworth treasured with grateful feelings by Canadians because of Sir Williams Colonial services. There is no public memorial to him in Cornwall.'

The letter, written to the newspaper by W.T. Lawrence, goes on to suggest that the Cornish really should have a memorial to Sir William Molesworth.