
CONSECRATION OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH, SOUTH MILFORD.

ON Wednesday week, the beautiful new Church erected at South Milford, near Ferrybridge, was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Ripon, as the representative of his Grace the Archbishop of York. South Milford is in the parish of Sherburn, but being a distance of a mile and a half from the parish church, its inhabitants have long been greatly inconvenienced. It was in consequence determined to found a new district; and the Misses Gascoigne undertook the erection of a Church, aided by a grant from the Incorporated Society. The site is eligibly selected; a large portion of the land was given by the Master and Fellows of University College, Oxford, and the residue by B. Crossland, Esq., of Milford.

The Lord Bishop of Ripon upon arriving was received by the clergy, when the service of consecration was proceeded in. The usual petition for the consecration was read, in answer to which the Bishop declared his readiness to consecrate the Church. His Lordship then commenced at the west door reading the 24th Psalm, "The earth is the Lord's," &c., the attending clergy pronouncing the responses, as the procession moved up to the centre of the Church, to the altar rails, within which the Bishop and the Ven. Stephen Creyke, Archdeacon, took their seats, the Bishop on the north side of the table, and the Archdeacon on the south. The Bishop then proceeded with the consecration service, in the form used in the diocese of Ripon. After this, the Rev. James Matthews, vicar of Sherburn, commenced the usual morning service; the Rev. Mr. Gainsford, the future incumbent, read the lessons; and the Ven. the Archdeacon assisted the Lord Bishop in the communion service. The sermon was preached by the vicar of Sherburn, and was an able and eloquent discourse. Afterwards a collection was made in aid of the projected new school building in connection with the Church, and a sum of £32 was thus realised. The clergy and many of the laity afterwards received the Holy Sacrament.