

# Kelly's Dorset 1885

**MILTON ABBAS** is a parish and pretty village (formerly a market town), in the Northern division of the county, Whiteway hundred, Cerne sub-division, Blandford union petty sessional division and county court district, Whitchurch rural deanery fourth portion, Dorset archdeaconry, and Salisbury diocese, 7 miles south-west from Blandford, 11 north-east from Dorchester, delightfully situated in a deep valley sheltered on the north and south by very steep and chalky hills and surrounded by scenery of the most picturesque description. The present appellation of this place is a contraction of its ancient name of Middleton, the adjunct being given from its ancient lords the abbots : the earliest mention of it is in the reign of King Athelstan, who founded a monastery here. The parish church of St. James situated in the centre of the village, was built in 1786 at the sole expense of the first Earl of Dorchester, in the Transition style, is of stone, and consists ; of chancel and nave, with a tower containing a clock and 2 bells belonging to the old peal, the others having been sold : there is a fine old font of Purbeck marble removed from the Abbey The earliest register dates from 1650. The living is a vicarage, gross yearly value £180 with good residence, in the jurisdiction of the peculiar court of Milton Abbas, and in the gift of Charles Joseph Theophilus Hambro esq. D.L., J P.. and at present (1885) vacant. Here is a Wesleyan chapel, built in 1865. An almshouse for six widows was founded and endowed by Madam Jane Tregonwell in 1674 ; the inmates receive an allowance of 2s. 6d. weekly and fuel, in addition to 2 dresses and 10s. 6d. : given annually on St. Thomas' day. The late Mr. John Ham, glazier and brewer, who died in this parish in 1848, left the sum of .£333 6s. 3d. in three per cents, the proceeds to be given for the maintenance of a Sunday school, and the purchase of bread and fuel for the poor of this parish for ever. A Benedictine monastery, dedicated to St. Mary, St. Michael, St. Branwalader, and St. Sampson, was founded here in 933 by King Athelstan, the revenue of which, at the Dissolution, was about ,£720. The Abbey church, with the exception of the nave, was built in the reign of Edward II and is a magnificent structure, in the Decorated and Late, English styles; service is held here occasionally: it, was restored in 1865 under the superintendence of the late Sir G G Scott R.A. and a new oak pulpit and reading desk added. A Cottage. Hospital was built and

endowed by the late Baron Hambro : it was opened on the 1st. August, 1873, and is supported by voluntary subscription. Here is also a brewery and a co-operative society. Milton Abbey was built by the first Earl of Dorchester about the year 1771, on the site of the old Abbey house : this splendid mansion, the style of which corresponds with the Abbey church, is beautifully situated in a valley, and is approached through an avenue of fine trees; the park and woods of this estate extend over an area of 5,000 acres ; George III visited here in 1804 and 1805; it is the seat of Charles Joseph Theophilus Hambro esq. D.L, J.P. who is lord of the manor and sole landowner. The soil is, high land, light loam; low land, heavy clay; subsoil, high land, chalky; low land, clay. The area is 2,420 acres; rateable value, £4,552; the population in 1881 was 956.

Parish Clerk, George Foot.

POST, MONEY ORDER & TELEGRAPHIC OFFICE, Savings Bank & Annuity & Insurance office. Thomas Newman, receiver. London and other letters are received through Blandford ; arrive at 8.50 a.m. & are-dispatched at 2.5 & 5.45 p.m. ; the box is closed at 5:30 p.m

Parish School (mixed), built in 1840 for 150 children: average attendance, 120; William Marlow, master, Mrs. Elizabeth Marlow, mistress

CARRIER David Frizzle, to Blandford. Mon. & Thurs.; to Dorchester, Wed. & Sat

Fielding Thomas M.D

Fookes Henry

Fookes William

Hambro Charles Joseph Theophilus D.L., J.P. Milton Abbey

Player George

COMMERCIAL

Co-operative Stores, Thomas Newman, manager

Cottage Hospital (Thomas Fielding M.D. medical officer; George Player, sec; Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson, matron)

Cox John, farmer

Fielding Thomas M.D. surgeon & medical officer & public vaccinator, 3rd district,

Blandford union, & ; -3rd district, Cerne union

Fookes brothers, brewers & maltsters

Frizzle David, carrier

George Edward, builder & miller (steam &: water), Milton mills

Guy Albert, blacksmith

Keynes Thomas, farmer, Chescomb farm

Mitchell James, blacksmith•

Player George, resident agent to Charles J T Hambro esq., D L, J P

Player William, carpenter

Rogers William John, shoe maker

Sanders John, blacksmith

Satchell Robert, grocer

Turner Geo, Edward relieving officer

Tett John, farmer

Willis Henry Fookes, farm bailiff to Charles J. T, Hambro esq. D L, J P