

Chelmsford Chronicle - 25 April 1879

LEIGH.

MARRIAGE OF MISS KING.

The marriage of Miss Annie Stuart King, eldest daughter of the rector of Leigh, and granddaughter of the late Archdeacon King of Stone, in Kent, to Mr. Edward Stanhope Rodd, of Trebartha Hall, Cornwall, took place in Leigh church on Wednesday last. The ceremony was performed by the bride's brother, the Rev. Henry Stuart King, and at the close an impressive, short sermon was delivered from the altar by the Rev. Canon King, D.D., Regius Professor of Pastoral Theology at the University of Oxford. Dr. King's remarks rivetted the attention of the congregation, which thronged every nook of the church. The best man was Mr. Edw. Fursdon, of Fursdon, and the bride was given away by her father. The bridesmaids were Miss E. Stuart King, Miss J. Stuart King, Miss Dyer, Miss E. C. Andrewes, Miss May Anderson, and Miss M. G. Anderson. The bridesmaids' presents were silver lockets and chains. The ceremony took place at half past 11, the bridegroom arising from the Royal Hotel, Southend, with his party, in carriages, and the bride's company from Leigh rectory, their path being overhung by floral arches surmounted by suitable texts and mottos, and trophies of flags. The bride leant upon the arm of her father, and the procession was preceded up the aisle by the surpliced choir singing hymn 250, Ancient and Modern, "The voice that breathed o'er Eden." The bride, groom and his party stood at the entrance of the chancel, where the first part of the service was performed. The bride's [dress] was a white silk princess robe trimmed with deep lace and sprays of orange blossoms, a veil of white lace and orange blossom wreath; she wore also gold ornaments including a bracelet of Greek design and set with five large pearls, presented by the parishioners. The bridesmaids were attired in cashmere princess robes, cream coloured, three having trimmings of pale blue satin and three of deep ruby. All wore silver ornaments. The musical arrangements and organ were presided over by Mr. Henry Thompson, of Eden Lodge, the selections played prior to the entrance of the bridal procession being from Haydn's "Creation," and at the close Mendelssohn's Wedding March. On the bridal party leaving the church about 40 little girls, dressed in white, with light and dark blue trimmings, and marine hats, strewed the path with flowers from baskets which they held, while showers of rice were contributed by friends in the crowd. The church bells struck up a merry peal, and the invited guests retired to the rectory to partake of the wedding breakfast. The bride had received more than 100 presents, among them being the gold bracelet set with five large pearls, which she wore, from the people of Leigh; from the young fishermen of her class a large Bible, richly bound; from the younger lads of her class a work basket lined with blue satin; from the school children a handsome fruit dish and a card plate; and from the rectory servants a silver-topped scent bottle. The other presents included a horse and carriage.

The newly married pair left by train just before three o'clock for Cornwall, amid showers of rice, while crackers detonated under the carriage wheels, and as the train left the station the church bells again rang out merrily. Decorations and flags were general all over the town. The rector gave dinners at the Bell for the tradesmen of Leigh; at the Ship for the coast guards, police constables, bell ringers and choristers; in the new room for the bride's class, and a treat for the younger choristers and children in the schools. Superintendent Hawtree with a contingent of police maintained strict decorum. The arrangements in the church for the comfort of the bridal party and congregation were admirably managed by the church wardens, Messrs. Marsh and Brewer.

On Monday last a deputation, consisting of Mrs. Brewer, Mrs. H. Thompson, Miss E. King, and Miss Alice Marsh, presented to Miss King, in the name of the people of Leigh, a very handsome massive gold bracelet, set with five large pearls, on the inside of which was engraved the words, " Presented to Miss King on her marriage, by the parishioners of Leigh, April 23rd, 1879". The present was accompanied by a list of names, showing that there were over 200 subscribers. Miss King, after thank ing the deputation most heartily for their kind interest, placed in their hands the following letter which she wished to be shown to every subscriber:

My dear Friends,- I have been much gratified by the very general interest and sympathy shown towards me he the people of Leigh, and I thank you all most heartily for the very handsome jewelled bracelet which you have given me. The bracelet, a most costly one in itself, is rendered doubly valuable to me by the long list of times and the hearty good wishes accompanying it. It is another mark of what has been so often noticed in Leigh, viz., the cordial good feeling that has always existed between the rectory and the town. I shall always prize it as one of my dearest possessions, but more even thus the jewels in the bracelet do I prize the love and affection of people among whom I have lived neatly all my life, who are clearer to me than any other. Though I am leaving yon now for a new and distant home, I shall carry with me the remembrance of happy days spent among yon, and & listing friendship which neither time nor distance can destroy. Once more expressing my earnest thanks to you all, I remain, ever your sincere friend,

ANNIE STUART KING