

BLETSOE.

SUDDEN DEATH OF THE RECTOR.

With profound regret we have this week to record the sudden death of the Rev. the Hon. Edmund Tudor St. John, Rector of Bletsoe, which occurred on the afternoon of Tuesday last at The Cottage, Melchbourne, the residence of his esteemed mother, the Dowager Lady St. John. Last week the deceased gentleman met with a slight accident in the cricket-field at Bletsoe, and, although little notice was taken of it at the time, he was requested by his physician, Dr. Watts, of Sharnbrook, to rest as much as possible. We believe he intended going to Scotland on Monday, for a well-earned holiday, and that the necessary arrangements for that object had been carried out. On Friday, the 16th ult., however, he went over to Melchbourne on a visit to his mother, and stayed at The Cottage. On Tuesday last, about twelve o'clock, he was seized with a fainting fit, but as he revived in a short time nothing serious was apprehended. Dr. Watts was, however, sent for as a matter of precaution. About five o'clock the rev. gentleman had a second attack, which, unfortunately, terminated fatally, in the presence of the family physician. It is almost unnecessary to say that the painful news of his death cast a deep gloom over Melchbourne, Bletsoe, and the adjoining parishes, where the deceased was very much and deservedly respected. He had been but a short three years at Bletsoe, and yet in that time he had succeeded in endearing himself to all sections of his parishioners by his unostentatious kindness, piety, and charity, and his earnest efforts

to promote the temporal as well as the spiritual interests of those committed to his pastoral care. In him the poor have indeed lost a generous friend and benefactor, and all classes of the parishioners are united in deploring the sudden stroke which has brought grief into many a home and plunged a number of noble and distinguished families into mourning. Deceased was thirty-six years old on the 17th of last month. The funeral will, according to present arrangements, take place at the family vault, Bletsoe, to-day (Saturday).

The deceased clergyman was the third son of St. Andrew Beauchamp, 14th Baron St. John of Bletsoe (who died in 1874), by his wife, Eleanor, second daughter of the late Vice-Admiral Sir Richard Hussey-Hussey, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., and now Dowager Baroness St. John, residing at The Cottage, Melchbourne. The Rev. E. T. St. John was born in 1848, and was educated at Harrow and at Trinity College, Cambridge (B.A. 1871, M.A. 1875). He married, in 1877, Adeline, daughter of Admiral Arthur Farquhar, of Carlogie, Aberdeenshire, by whom he leaves issue living,—Edmund Farquhar, born 1879; Beauchamp Tudor, born 1880; St. Andrew Oliver, born 1882; and Richard, born 1883. The deceased was the youngest brother of the present Baron St. John of Bletsoe, and qualified as a Bedfordshire magistrate at the Easter Sessions, 1883. His elder brother, the Hon. Beauchamp Mowbray, of Rowden House, Bromyard, Herefordshire, married, in 1869, Helen Charlotte, second daughter of Mr. Thornton, Kempston Grange, and is heir presumptive to the titles.

Bedford Mercury, 4th October 1884.

Obituary notice for Rev the Hon Edmond Tudor St John, Rector of Bletsoe 1881-1885. He served for only three years before his death at the age of 36