

## CHARLES JAMES REGAN (A.R.A.M)(1851-1933)

### Part Played in the Sherborne Pageant

Leader of the orchestra. He was a great friend of Louis Napoleon Parker. They played together in local orchestras where Charles played first fiddle or conducted. The orchestra was seated undercover at the front of the stands and can be seen in the photo at the foot of the page

Charles Regan was born 10 February 1851 at Westminster, son of Timothy Regan, a tailor, and Susan Regan and later he studied music under William Sterndale Bennett at the Royal Academy of Music, where he met his future wife Maria Jane Tate (1856-1940). Louis Napoleon Parker had also studied at the Royal Academy of Music c.1869 under William Sterndale Bennett and was sent by him to Sherborne School in 1873 to help his son, J.R. Sterndale Bennett, teach music.

Charles married Maria in 1877 and they had three children: Charles Tate Regan (1878-1943), Mary Grace Regan (1879-) and Constance Julia Regan (1880-1957).— Charles Tate Regan was educated at Derby school (where J.R. Sterndale Bennett had gone as Headmaster) and Queen's College, Cambridge. A Fellow of the Royal Society he became Director of the Natural History Museum 1927-1938,

Charles Regan was chief instructor in string and wind instruments at Sherborne School from 1874 to 1911. He also established a School Orchestra. His wife Maria (A.R.A.M) taught music at Sherborne School for Girls.

He retired in 1911 at the age of 60. His retirement was announced in the *Old Shirburnian Society Annual Report*, October 1911: 'Since the last Report Mr Regan has retired from Sherborne after 37 years service, and the familiar call of 'Three cheers for Mr Regan and the orchestra' is heard no more. It was intended that the purse of over 100 guineas collected by Mr Hodgson should be formally handed to Mr Regan at Commemoration, but as this Concert was only a scratch affair, this was not done and Mr Regan left the place of his long toil silent but not unhonoured. The O.S. Society gives him its best wishes for his happiness in London.'

In 1942, L.N. Parker wrote to P.W.G. Stuart French and recalled that Regan had been fired by Sherborne School when he reached the age of 60 and thereafter had to make his living in theatrical orchestras in London where he had to wear a black wig before he could be employed.

Charles and Maria retired to Wells in Somerset around 1927. Charles died at Tor Street in Wells on 19 January 1933, aged 82. Maria died at Wells in 1940.



The covered orchestra 'pit' can clearly be seen at the front of the stand