

Profile in 'Oxfordshire Leaders'

Gaskell, Ernest: *'Oxfordshire Leaders, Social and Political'* (1907)

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George Coggins, Esq.

THE quaint little town of Deddington has few more devoted sons than Mr. George Coggins, who was born within its bounds and has resided there, except for short intervals, ever since. After receiving a sound education at the Academy, Banbury, he was articled to the law, and in due course enrolled as a solicitor. Having married Mary Helen, daughter of the late John Holiday, Esq., of Hampton Poyle, he threw himself actively into the public life of Deddington, and has filled many positions with great credit to himself and benefit to his fellow-townsmen. The death of Mrs. Coggins in January, 1899, ended a singularly happy union, and is a source of unceasing regret.

Mr. Coggins leads a very busy life, and in the whole of Oxfordshire there is probably no Conservative who has the Constitutional cause more unmistakeably at heart than this gentleman, who so ably acted as sub-agent when Mr. Albert Brassey won North Oxfordshire a few years ago. By his pleasant disposition, his kindly qualities and his sound politics he has made a large number of warm friends in the constituency, and is always sure of a hearty reception whenever he attends a public meeting. He has done yeoman service for his cause in Oxfordshire, and he has worked hard in popularising the principles of his Party. He is fully alive to the advantages and necessity of progress, but is also strongly convinced that the only true progress is brought about in a sure and steady manner, and not by endeavouring to suddenly make violent and almost revolutionary changes. He believes in an unswerving adherence to the great Conservative principles of religion, law, and order, which are essential to the preservation of all that is best and most valued amongst our English institutions.

While taking no very active part in outdoor recreations, he realises that the sentiments of the poet Crabbe, written over a hundred years ago, are true to-day, and

"Books cannot always please, however good.

Minds are not ever craving for their food."

and he consequently encourages all that is healthy in sport.

Conscientious and capable as a business gentleman, robust and sturdy of purpose, while upright and straight in all his dealings, Mr. Coggins is esteemed and respected by all who know him, and taken from any point of view, his career is one which shows a record of a life spent in the fulfilment of duties, social and public, always with a view to the benefit of others; for with Sir Philip Sydney, the great favourite of "the Virgin Queen" he is thoroughly convinced that doing good is the only certain happy act of a man's life.

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