

STANLEY PARK

IS SOLD 1952
"CHANCE is inevitable. In progressive country change is constant," said Benjamin Disraeli, nearly a century ago. Yes, but can we be sure that every change is progressive? Can we, in Stroud, feel that the loss of such centres of family and social life as Lyplatt Park in the time of Judge Woodcock, and Stanley Park in the time of the Marling family is not really a loss but a change in the onward march of progress?

Stanley Park is sold. Within the memory of all now living in our Stroud valleys there have always been Marlings in Stanley Park, Selsley. Just a hundred years ago this year a marble column, a replica of the Nelson column in Trafalgar-square, was erected in the middle of Stanley Park by Mr. Samuel Stephen Marling who became the first baronet under a Liberal Government in 1882.

His son, Sir William, was a man of fine character who accepted to the full the wide responsibilities entailed by his social standing, and his four sons have been respected among us as men of high

integrity, intelligence and nobility of character. Sir Percival Marling, V.C., the third baronet, was a soldier; Sir Charles was in the diplomatic service and received his knighthood in his own right; Mr. "Jack" Marling and Mr. Stanley Marling both remained in the family business of Marling and Evans, cloth manufacturers.

Mr. Stanley Marling is now living at Littleworth House, Amberley. He has long been one of Stroud's most active citizens, and is only now gradually relinquishing the many offices he has held with honour and dignity.

The fourth baronet, Lt.-Col. Sir John Marling, the son of Sir Charles, is now living at Stanley Park. Hoping to retain his inheritance for his family he had the mansion divided into seven flats. He, his wife, three daughters and baby son occupy one, and the others are let. The result of this experiment has not been sufficiently successful. The decision to sell was "hard and difficult," said Sir John, but the

ever-rising cost of repairs and high rates of taxation make the ownership of the estate a luxury he feels he cannot now afford.

It is evident that Sir John inherits his forbears' sense of civic responsibility to a very marked degree, for in selling the estate he has made provision for the welfare of the workers on the estate and for the continuance of those amenities so long enjoyed by the village of Selsley.

We can now only hope that Sir John will remain in our valley area where the name of Marling has been, and still is, so highly esteemed.