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THE PAST YEAR.

AT such a period as this our thoughts naturally carry us back to the past, to see first what progress we have made during the year, and secondly, to make new resolves for the future." Such are the words with which our predecessors in office commenced their article under this heading a twelvemonth ago, and with all apologies to them, we beg to make use of them again. One more year of the sea of time has been traversed by our little bark, and we still find it sailing as buoyantly as ever. We cannot say that the past year has been a very eventful one, at least, not more so than its predecessor, but as no year can be exactly like another, we cannot be blamed for casting our thoughts back upon '77. The numbers, we are glad to say, have not diminished in the least, and in spite of all the efforts made by "friends" of the School to remove us to the country, we still flourish here. Our masters, despite the fact—according to the *Athenæum*—that they come here, and in a short time, like swallows and other migratory birds, fly to "green fields and pastures new,"

still remain, and though we were afraid in October Mr. Gray was about to leave us for good, we are greatly relieved to find him back among us this term. The result of "Election" in May was satisfactory, inasmuch as all the Ch. Ch. studentships were filled up, and by Q.S.S. Changes have been made in the arrangements of Election to College—changes which to us staunch conservatives seem dreadful and obnoxious,—but they are no doubt all for the best. We allude, of course, to the open competition, by which the ancient regulation that a boy must be a year as a Town Boy before he can hope to be a Q.S., has been rescinded. The various School prizes have been competed for and won, and the result of the Dean's Greek Testament, and the Gumbleton Verse Prize competitions, has been very satisfactory.

The Play, after an absence of two years, has been again acted, and with great success. With the "Play" number just issued, what need is there for us to talk of it, beyond that every one seemed satisfied, and that the caste was a good one all through? And now let us turn to the other side of the picture. What have we done in games? 'Tis true we were beaten by Charter-

house at Godalming, and on the whole had a somewhat unsuccessful football season, but our cricket showed a marked improvement, and in Hemsley we had one of the best public school bowlers of the year. We wiped off the defeat we sustained at the hands of Charterhouse in football, though the day was so miserably wet, that it scarcely afforded a fair criterion of the merits of the two teams.

As regards water, it was a case of

“Water, water everywhere,
But not a drop to row on,”

for us at least—as the S. W. R. would not or could not accommodate us with a train. We hope sincerely such will not be the case this year, and if proper steps be taken, no doubt water will flourish. We see our predecessors say: “Lawn Tennis has, we are glad to state, died a natural death, and there is no chance whatever of its being restored again up Fields.” Strange to say, Lawn Tennis was played up Fields during the summer months with great vigour, and no doubt will continue to do so this year! How the “Water fellows” would have got on without it we cannot say. Hockey has *not* been started, and as far as we can see will not be started here, for some time at any rate, and no other new game has taken root at Westminster.

Football through last term was carried on as vigorously as ever, and we were fairly successful, though on account of the loss sustained by our eleven this term (we refer to the departure of our two backs, Abernethy and Mead), we have not been so lucky up to the present time. We can look back with pride on our match with the Wanderers last term, who in spite of their strong team only beat us 1-0. We must console ourselves for the loss of our backs by remembering that “there are as good fish in the sea as ever came out of it,” though it will be a hard task to land such a fine fish as R. Mead. Several minor events, such as the “Pancake” and the concert—with profuse apologies to our songsters for calling the latter a minor event—were very successful, and we think there is no chance of the former grand custom being abolished. Morning Abbey has been started, and we are now accustomed to it. A scholarship in memory of the late Mr. Mure, one of our staunchest friends, has been founded, called by his name. Cox was the successful candidate in this the first year of its institution, and the competition was a fairly good one. The Athletic sports must be here noticed, inasmuch as they came off in very fine weather. Such a thing has not occurred for years,—certainly not in our recollection,—and must be duly chronicled when it happens. They were

really a success. What more can we say? We have alluded to the violent attacks made on us by some of the London papers during the last few months of '77; they have produced no change here, and the “grimy old portal” still stands. Oh! ye critics, would that ye had heard the concluding lines of the Prologue to the *Adelphi*! Your attempts have proved futile; we find our numbers increasing, and with more rooms they will no doubt become larger still. May the following year be as successful as its predecessor, and may Westminster remain on its present site!

—Floreat.

EPIGRAMS.

SINCE our last we have been requested to insert the Greek epigram, which we mentioned in our last as having been composed and recited by H. S. Otter in 1874, when only four, not twenty, as appeared by mistake in our last, Q.SS. were present in Abbey on Election Sunday. We apologize for not quoting it in our last, and insert it now. It would appear that on that Sunday, a canon—who shall be nameless—had prepared an eloquent discourse for the four elections, containing friendly advice to the Q.SS., to those who were going to remain, and to those about to leave for the University. The canon, either ignorant of the fact that only four were present instead of forty, or else unable to do anything, preached the sermon to almost empty benches, at least empty of those for whom the discourse was prepared. He may be ignorant of it to this day for all we know, but if he saw it he must be aware how absurd it must have seemed to those who knew for whom the sermon had been prepared. The epigram itself is an excellent one, and though in Greek will be easily understood, and no doubt thoroughly appreciated:—

“Tutum iter et patens.”

On the alarm of Scarlet Fever.

Ἐξέλασεν πυρετὸς, μᾶλλον δὲ φόβος πυρετοῦ
ἐκ τειχέων παῖδας τῶνδε διακοσίους
ἑπτα δὲ μούνοι ἐνεῖσι· τριῶν πυρετὸς γὰρ ἐφήπται—
τούτους δ' ἄκοντας Μοῖρ' ἐρυθρὰ κατέχει·
οἱ δὲ μένουσι θέλοντες, ἔχουσι τε νῦν ἐνὶ ναφῇ
τέσσαρες, ὃν πρόσθεν τεσσαράκοντα τύπον·
ὑμᾶς δ' αὖ χαίρειν τε Δόμος θαρρῆν τε κελεύει,
παίδων γὰρ κενὸς ὢν καὶ κενὸς ἔστι νόσος.

Oratore et Auctore

H. S. Otter, Præfecto.

This brings us to the year 1875. We must remark, though we fear we may be taken to task for it, that it was not a wonderful year for epigrams, but we hope that the following selection will be found an adequate one. The first that strikes us is one on the thesis “Lumine Captus.”

Cæcus amor vulgò est depictus; cæcus et oris
Ipse puellaris lumine factus eram.
Obcæcat sic lux—si cæca puella fuisset,
Vidissem absentī lumine num melius?

The next is a very amusing one, and also in Latin.

The thesis was "Non clausit opus," and any one will be able to construe it.

Bis puerum binam sobolem, totidemque puellas
 Bibliopolæ uxor donat amata viro
 Nomine Prima, Secunda, et in ordine Tertia, Quartus,
 Quintus cum Sexto, Septima, Finis eunt.
 Imprudens, cui tres alios paritura marita est ;
 Quid tibi post Finem nomen, inepte, manet ?
 Appendix igitur nonæ ; decimusque vocetur
 Supplementum ; Addenda audiat undecima !

We must conclude this year with another Latin one, and hope we have quoted enough Latin for one year, as we believe we have been taken to task for not quoting more Latin and less English.

"Non clausit opus."

Ecce ! Hora insonuit ! Lusum exceditque iuventus ;
 Hos cursus velox, hos pila iacta trahit.
 Unum ex his infectum, atque intolerabile pensum
 Detinet heu ! longis pœna odiosa moris !
 Invidet hic sociis infelix, et sua plorat
 Fata, invitus edens cor, digitosque simul !

To do justice to 1876, we must quote largely, and we hope wisely. This was the year that Spelling Bees came into fashion, but we are glad to say vanished as suddenly as they came ; Captain Webb swam the Channel ; and the "Castalia" twinship was started : and these will be found to have afforded plenty of fun in the epigrams of the year. We must quote English as well as Latin this time, as there are some very good and amusing ones. The first that attracts our attention is an English one on Spelling Bees. The thesis was "Non fortis in Unum."

How doth the little Spelling Bee
 Improve each leisure hour,
 And gather money fast and free
 In sunshine and in shower.
 Two ministers of note, they say,
 Where one was lately held,
 Stood up to spell in solemn play
 And soon were both ex(s)pelled.
 Were I interrogator free
 Mankind to overhaul,
 I'd make the world my Spelling Bee ;
 I'd cast my spells on all.
 I'd ask Pope Pius how he spells
 "Infallibility."
 No Capita(o), no *titled* I's,
 And ending with a y.
 I'd make the Sultan spell "Coupons"
 With his O U's o'erdue ;
 He'll need "a good spell" for new loans
 Before he writes them new.

That the next refers to her Majesty taking the title of Empress of India, will be evident to every one, although it is Latin. The thesis was "Fortis in Unum."

Usque quo non tædet harum
 Verbi controversiarum
 Quid intersit serium ?
 Titulorum non Creatrix
 Dici potest Imperatrix
 Cujus sit Imperium ?
 Vivat simplex, vivat bina
 Imperatrix et Regina
 Utriusque gloria,
 Cui sit Solium Regale.
 Cuique Jus Imperiale
 Domina Victoria !

Another on Spelling Bees, in English, almost better

than the previous one. The thesis was "Fortis in Unum."

"Sus Minervam, quod aiunt."—Cicero.

A Spelling Bee ! well we are told
 Such contests never fail :
 I knew a spelling pig of old,
 And thereby hangs a tale.
 Though not epigrammatic quite,
 A pig grammatic he ;
 He was a right good shilling sight
 In Spring Gardens to see.
 He, too, had many a spelling card,
 And push'd them with his snout ;
 I gave a word—it was not hard—
 Which straight he went about.
 'Twas "Physic," which with such-like words
 I used to spell with K.
 Pig spelt it "*Sic*," and there did stick,
 And grunting went away.
 Some thought with me, and some said, he
 Had *Bacon* on his side.
 I pleaded "quick," and "thick," and "brick,"
 They said we must divide.
 Divide we did ; we stood alone,
 Eliminated K's.
 Ex(s)pell'd in troth, and outspell'd both,
 The pig had all the praise.
 Minerva thus stood *versus* Sus ;
 And, since that spelling bout,
 Pig ne'er with me did once agree,
 Since K and he fell out.

The next we shall quote is a Latin one on the thesis "Fortis in omne duplex."

Omnia sunt duplicata : duplex rota sub pede fervet ;
 Lampadis et duplicis lumine tecta nitet.
 In duplici transire licet vada salsa carina
 Reginæque duplex assuitur Titulus.
 Omnia sunt duplicata. Timendum est, ne modo conjux
 Jam duplici cupiat prole beare virum.

The next is an English one relating to Spelling Bees and Rinks, on the thesis "Ne crede colori."

There's no device can hold a candle
 To Plimpton's skates for making scandal ;
 Nor youth nor maid contentment feels
 Unless their feet are shod with wheels ;
 Or if their fancy speaks not that form,
 They rush to spell upon a platform.
 Fain would we hope they may escape
 An ancient foe in novel shape,
 Nor find in rinks and spelling bees,
 Another foot and mouth disease !

Another on the same thesis is hardly correct, though no doubt the Aquarium is less what its name implies than anything else.

"The Royal Aquarium."

Vin' tu monstra maris, vel aquas spectare marinas ?
 Haud procul hinc facili decipere joco.
 In patinis pisces : aqua vini temperat haustus ;
 Salque salesque absunt ; solaque monstra, *mares*.

The last we shall quote of this year is a short English one on the thesis "Ne crede colori."

A Blue Book at school is the lightest of reading ;
 A Blue Book in Parliament heavy as lead.
 Thus you see the "Blue" title is simply misleading ;
 In each case the question is, Can it be *re(a)d* ?

[We announced in our last that it should be concluded this time, but as we find we have not room for more than this, we must leave the year 1877 till our next number, then these epigrams will without fail be concluded.]

School Notes.

We have no reason to grumble at the success of our football team last term, which may be seen in the following list :—

School v. XXII.	Won.	2—0.
“ v. Upton Park.	Drawn.	0—0.
“ v. Old Harrovians.	Drawn.	2—2.
“ v. Herts Rangers.	Lost.	0—4.
“ v. South Norwood.	Won.	2—1.
“ v. Clapham Rovers.	Lost.	0—4.
“ v. Wanderers.	Lost.	0—1.
“ v. A. A. N. Jackson's Eleven.	Won.	3—0.
“ v. Civil Service.	Won.	2—0.
“ v. Old Wykehamists.	Won.	1—0.
“ v. H. G. H. Olliffes' Eleven.	Won.	4—0.

Making a result of 6 won, 3 lost, and 2 drawn; goals kicked for us 16, and against us 12.

This result is better than that of the same term in the year before, when we won 4, lost 4, and had 4 drawn.

The lists of the Eleven and Twenty-two stand now as follows :—

The Eleven.—T. F. F. Williams (capt., half-back), W. A. Cuppage, H. C. Benbow, A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, J. Abernethy, O. R. Bury, H. S. Westmorland, E. U. Eddis (half-back), C. Secretan, W. F. G. Sandwith (back), W. Ritchie.

Twenty-two.—G. Dale (capt.), F. M. Lutyens, E. P. Guest, F. R. Clarke, D. Patrick, G. Dale ii., R. S. Owen, T. D. Rumball, H. G. Reece, A. A. Sikes, F. V. Learmouth, H. de Sausmarez, W. Stephenson, A. Whitehead, H. Newman, C. Janson, C. Ingram, H. Mirehouse, G. Langhorne.

We have undergone a great loss by the departure of H. W. Abernethy and R. Mead, our two backs. We hope they may be replaced by as good metal.

ON St. David's Day, Sir Watkin Wynn came down according to custom, and distributed sovereigns to the Welshmen, of which there are about seven now in the school. We also got our customary whole holiday.

THE subject for the Phillimore Essay, to be shown up on the 22nd of April, is “The Fortunes of Constantinople.”

W. HEATH, an O.W., was twenty-third wrangler in the recent examination; we had a half-holiday for him about three weeks ago. This makes the second half-holiday he has got for the school lately.

W. R. BEVERLEY, a young O.W., won the Strangers' quarter-mile in the Brasenose sports. His victory in the mile two years ago will be remembered by nearly all of us.

Mr. J. LOWTHER, who has been appointed Secretary of State for Ireland, is an O.W.

THE vacancy left in College by the departure of R. Mead has been filled up by the election of H. W. Baugh, by open competition.

THE order of the Minor Candidates after their preliminary examinations, is as follows :—

F. W. Bain . . .	328	H. T. Clarke . . .	177
R. H. Coke . . .	269	C. S. H. Sandwith . . .	173
E. Harington . . .	228	W. Bury . . .	160
E. T. Brandon . . .	211	S. F. A. Cowell . . .	133
S. A. Bird . . .	186	G. Stephenson . . .	130

Fields.

WESTMINSTER v. CLAPHAM ROVERS.

THE return match took place on Wednesday the 6th of February, in very pleasant weather, and, after an interesting and well-contested match, ended in a victory for the Rovers by 2 goals to 1. Play began at half-past three and lasted an hour and a half. We won the toss and chose to defend the Hospital goal. Stanley kicked off for the Rovers, who at first assumed the offensive, and, though we made some attacks on their goal, the substitute we gave them (Stephenson) was too good to enable any of our shots to take effect. During the first half of the game Geaves and Bevington got 2 goals for the Rovers, but after changing ends we showed to much better advantage, and Hemsley very neatly secured a goal, the ball being well middled to him by Cuppage. Bevington scored a 3rd goal for them, which however was disallowed, being clearly a case of “offside.” For us, Cuppage, Hemsley, Robinson and Westmorland were very good, but Robson in goals was not as useful as he might have been. For Rovers, Bailey and Jarrett (backs) were very good, and Bevington, forward, made some very fine runs.

The teams were :—

Clapham R's.—A. J. Stanley and E. H. Topham (backs), N. Bailey and B. G. Jarrett (half-backs), R. L. Geaves, S. N. Scott, H. S. Bevington, W. Dorling, H. H. Coles, W. F. Richmond, and W. Stephenson (goals).

Westminster.—T. F. F. Williams and E. U. Eddis (half-backs), R. S. Owen and C. Secretan (backs), W. A. Cuppage, A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, J. Abernethy, O. Bury, H. S. Westmorland, N. Robson (goals).

WESTMINSTER v. UPTON PARK.

ON Saturday, February the 9th, we played Upton Park, and the game after a hard struggle resulted in a draw, each side scoring two goals. We won the toss, and Warner kicked from the Hospital goal. Immediately our forwards carried the ball down to their ground, where it remained most of the first half-time, when Cuppage, after repeated shots, scored our first goal. When half-time was called, the visitors played up hard, and soon Bastard equalized matters. Soon afterwards, by a good run and middle by H. Williams, W. C. Williams scored their second goal. Our men now played up hard, and after a good run, in which Cuppage and Hemsley were conspicuous, Robinson secured our second goal.

The match thus ended in a draw. The elevens were :—

Upton Park.—C. Warner (goals capt.), A. C. Swan (back), C. Hodgson and W. Jutsum (half-backs), S.

R. Bastard, F. L. Woolley, E. Williams, H. Williams, D. R. Hunter, W. C. Williams.

Westminster.—T. F. F. Williams (capt.), and E. U. Eddis (half-backs), W. Sandwith and W. Ritchie (backs), W. A. Cuppage, A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, J. Abernethy, H. S. Westmorland, G. Dale, E. P. Guest, (goals).

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. WANDERERS.

THE above match was played on Wed., Feb. 13th, and resulted in a victory for the visitors by five goals to two. The ground, though slightly slippery, was in fair condition. Westminster won the toss and Williams choosing the Hospital goal, Kinnaird kicked off at a quarter past three. The ball was immediately run down to our goal, but was well put back by Secretan, and Robinson, getting hold of it, made a splendid run down the side, middling it to Cuppage, who nearly scored a goal. A call for hands was then decided in favour of the Wanderers, which resulted in nothing. For some time now the game was very evenly contested; a few minutes afterwards a goal which struck us as the result of off-siding was scored for Wanderers by Tyndale. On the ball being set in motion again, Westmorland made a grand run, and middling it, Cuppage sent it just over the tape; before long, however, the ball was brought back to home quarters, and a second goal was scored for them by Wace. We now began to play up hard, and Cuppage, after a splendid dribble, well backed up by Dale and Westmorland, secured our first goal. Half-time was now called and the ball was kept for some time in close proximity to our goals, and several good shots by Kenrick and Denton were well stopped by Ritchie. All this time the backs were playing very well, Secretan, Eddis, and Sandwith doing some excellent kicking. Kenrick now got hold of the ball, scoring their third goal; we then carried it down to the visitors' goal, and from a ball well thrown in by Williams, Abernethy gained our second goal by a beautiful shot. Denton soon afterwards added another goal to the Wanderers' score, which Kenrick almost immediately again increased, bringing the score up to five goals to two. Nothing was done after this, though after a magnificent run Dale made a grand shot, but failed to score. For our eleven, Cuppage, Robinson, Westmorland, and Dale played well, and for the Wanderers Kenrick, Tyndale, Stratford, and Kinnaird were the best. With the exception of two men, the Wanderers had brought their cup team against us, so our defeat was by no means a disgrace. The elevens were as follows:—

Wanderers.—A. F. Kinnaird (capt.), and F. T. Green (half-backs), H. S. Jackson and J. Kirkpatrick (backs), T. Tyndale, A. H. Stratford, H. Wace, E. M. Short, J. Kenrick, C. A. Denton, F. Heron (goals).

Westminster.—A. F. Williams, E. U. Eddis (half-backs), C. Secretan, W. F. Sandwith (backs), W. A. Cuppage, H. P. Robinson, J. Abernethy, H. S. Westmorland, O. Bury, W. Ritchie, and G. Dale (goals).

WESTMINSTER v. CHARTERHOUSE.

This match was played at Vincent Square on Saturday, Feb. 16th, in the presence of a numerous

concourse of spectators, who were brought together owing to the fineness of the weather, which continued uninterrupted throughout the match. Charterhouse won the toss and chose the Hospital goal. For the first quarter of an hour the ball was kept well in the middle of the ground, but even this time sufficed to show us that Charterhouse were our superiors both in point of weight and speed. Nothing of much interest occurred till a "Hands" close to our goal, which almost resulted disastrously for us, but Westmorland, by a good piece of play, well backed up by Cuppage, reversed the order of things, and carried the ball back in front of the Charterhouse goal, where a scrimmage ensued, in which a splendid kick on the part of Eddis almost secured a goal for us. Growse, however, who had been waiting for an opportunity, now got well away with the ball and obtained the only goal that was scored by either side in the whole game, chiefly owing to the default of one of our backs, who stupidly let the ball by, and thus laid the way open for an opportunity, that could not but be taken advantage of. Another attempt at our goals was well saved by Ritchie. Cuppage at this point of the game managed to get hold of the ball two or three times, but was unable to effect anything, owing to the brilliant play of the Charterhouse backs. Nothing more occurred worthy of remark till half-time, when a good run by our forwards at the first onset looked well for us, but the success was very shortlived, and two corner-kicks, which might if properly placed have secured us a goal, both went behind. Hemsley, who had not been playing in his usual style owing to indisposition, now made a fast run down the side, but was well stopped by Prinsep, whose back-play at this part of the game was very conspicuous. Two shots at our goal soon afterwards both proved ineffectual, the one being beautifully stopped by Ritchie, and the other going barely an inch above the tape. Westminster now played up hard, and it seemed as if their pertinacity would be rewarded, as Cuppage by a good run carried the ball across the ground and managed to get a long shot at goal, which, however, was ineffectual, and an alarm was occasioned immediately afterwards by a cry of "Hands" in front of our goal, which resulted in nothing, as the ball passed between the posts without being touched. Play now became very exciting, both sides striving their utmost, the one if possible to retrieve their loss, the other doing all in their power to prevent it. A corner kick for us was again rendered fruitless by the good play of Growse and Wilson, who took the ball down the ground and all but succeeded in getting a second goal, the ball most fortunately hitting the post, when it seemed as if a goal was inevitable. The ball now was almost entirely kept to the Charterhouse side of the ground, and Westmorland, whose play down the right side had been very brilliant, made a last rush, which, if he had been well backed up, might have made the game equal. Directly after this, time was called, and put an end to one of the most exciting games that has ever been played between the two Schools. Much praise is due to the Charterhouse backs, who by their excellent play diverted many attempts by our forwards which might

have proved fatal. For Westminster, Williams played well half-back, and Secretan back, the latter eliciting frequent applause from the spectators by his splendid kicks. Among the forwards, Cuppage, Westmorland, and Hemsley deserve most praise. Ritchie played well in goal. For Charterhouse, all the backs played well, particularly Prinsep; of the forwards, Growse, Medlicott, Wilson, and Hansell were most conspicuous. Sides :—

Charterhouse.—E. P. Growse (capt.), E. G. Colvin and H. M. Hull (backs), J. F. M. Prinsep and C. J. Stubbs (half-backs), W. E. C. Frith, W. E. Hansell, C. E. Keith-Falconer, G. Medlicott, E. J. Wilson, and W. K. W. Jenner (goals).

Westminster.—T. F. F. Williams (capt. and half-back), W. A. Cuppage, A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, J. Abernethy, O. Bury, H. Westmorland (forwards), E. U. Eddis (half-back), C. Secretan and W. F. G. Sandwith (backs), W. Ritchie (goal).

Umpires.—H. G. Stephenson, Esq. for Westminster; A. C. Parry, Esq., for Charterhouse.

Referee.—Rev. H. B. Gray.

The following is the result of the matches already played :—

- 1863.—Westminster won 2—0.
 1864.—Westminster won 2—1.
 1865.—Drawn 0—0.
 1866.—Charterhouse won 1—0.
 1875.—Charterhouse won 2—0.
 1876.—Westminster won 1—0.
 1877.—Charterhouse won 2—0.
 1878.—Charterhouse won 1—0.

From this it will appear that the matches are very equally divided. Charterhouse having scored 4 out of the 8 matches already played, and Westminster 3, one remaining drawn; while Westminster has secured 5 goals, and Charterhouse 7. It will be noticed how very few goals have been obtained in comparison with the number of the matches played.

GUMBLETON ENGLISH VERSE.

O'er Egypt's land the rising sun
 Casts his bright beams, the day begun;
 It shines o'er Thebes's ruin'd pile,
 It shines upon the mighty Nile,
 It shines upon the shifting sand
 Of Ethiopia's distant land,
 And o'er a ledge of rock compact
 Where in a mighty cataract
 The river's boisterous floods descend
 Their way o'er fertile plains to wend.
 Where still the traveller may behold
 Syene's quarries, where of old
 Were hewn those wondrous blocks of stone
 Whose fame throughout the world is known.
 There in that wide and lonely place
 In sordid shame and deep disgrace
 For years and years a captive race
 Of wretched beings toil'd,
 And if exhausted and distress'd,
 By heat and thirst and toil oppress'd,
 They dared to seek a moment's rest,
 Around their bodies coil'd
 The brutal lash with hideous sound,
 And the blood trickling to the ground
 Their scanty garments soil'd;

So with faint limb and burning brain
 They to their toil return'd again.

But these poor slaves with labour rude
 From the dark rocks of granite hew'd
 Vast monoliths that tower sublime
 And still existing rival Time.
 Six of these stones on which were traced
 Dark hieroglyphs at On were placed,
 And stood before the temple's door
 Where Moses' boyhood pass'd of yore.
 For there he learn'd Egyptian art,
 Himself preparing for the part
 He afterwards fulfill'd, to free
 His nation from captivity.
 How oft upon those stones has gazed
 The Hebrew, at their form amazed,
 How oft has read with look intent
 Th' inscription of each monument.
 How oft beneath their shadow sought
 To learn the love his Master taught,
 And seen indignant the disgrace
 And bondage of his captive race.

But after many years were gone
 The obelisk removed from On,
 And then at Alexandria placed
 The temple of the Cæsars graced,
 There Cleopatra's name it gain'd,
 Which to this day it has retain'd,
 For though their queen no crime had fear'd,
 The people still her name revered;
 And there while many ages pass'd
 It stood a wonder, till at last
 Destruction menaced its repose;
 Men fear'd the relic thus to lose,
 So 'twas resolved the monument
 To distant England should be sent,
 That there it safely might remain,
 Nor ever be disturb'd again.
 And so it left its native strand,
 And saw the last of Egypt's land.
 Calm were the seas, it travell'd fast,
 By Malta's famous isle it pass'd,
 Whence o'er the deep blue sea it came,
 And saw Gibraltar's rock of fame.
 It quickly pass'd the narrow strait,
 It saw where Nelson met his fate,
 And o'er the western ocean's face
 Was tow'd towards its resting-place.

And thus the lives of men of price
 In science' cause we sacrifice;
 Whether they trod o'er Afric's sands,
 Or distant Asia's unknown lands,
 Or sought to reach the frozen pole,
 Death finds them ere they reach their goal.
 The gallant crew were saved at last,
 Then gazing o'er the watery waste,
 First saw their former vessel rest
 Upon some mighty billow's crest,
 Then downward plunging lost to sight,
 Braving the stormy ocean's might.
 Farther and farther, on they flew,
 Wider the space between them grew,
 Till swift impell'd by wave and wind,
 They left the Needle far behind,
 And so it faded from their sight,
 Lost in the darkness of the night.
 But when in Egypt's land it stood,
 Nor yet had braved the ocean rude,
 Alas! how little could it guess
 That when the tempest brought distress
 'Twould e'er be toss'd upon the wave,
 No human being near to save,
 A relic of a bygone day
 Of priceless value, cast away.

The golden morning tinged the sky,
 The surging billows still ran high,
 When speedy through the angry main
 A vessel shaped her course for Spain.
 She mark'd the turbid waters lift
 The Needle's vessel cast adrift,
 And as she nearer came, her crew
 Amazed the Needle saw and knew,
 And they at once resolved to save
 The Needle from the ocean wave.
 'Twas no small labour to secure
 The tossing boat, and make her sure,
 But skill and courage gain'd the day,
 And soon they brought her on her way
 Over the waters back again,
 Until they reach'd the shores of Spain.

W. A. PECK.

[We have had many complaints because this was not published before. The result was not known when the December number was sent to press. It could not appear in the Play number, and this is the first number published after the Play number.—ED.]

FROM OUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

OXFORD, Feb. 9.

THE principal excitement this term will be caused by the Torpids, but they are not to be rowed for another month or five weeks, nor is very much known about them yet for certain. In the Ch. Ch. first Torpid, two Old Westminsters are rowing, namely, W. H. A. Cowell and J. H. Wilson; and another, P. J. F. Lush is stroking the second. That is all, I think, that will interest you. In a future letter I may be able to tell you more about the respective boats. We had one day's skating last week on the meadows near Iffley, much to our surprise. The ice at first was pretty good, though of course very thin, but was soon smashed up by eager crowds. Mr. Gladstone addressed one of his sensational speeches to the Liberals of Oxford a few nights ago, and the consequence was that the Conservatives held a very obstreperous opposition meeting last night.

SHROVE TUESDAY.

PERHAPS no custom at Westminster is so liked and revered as the grand old custom of "Tossing the Pancake." Every year the usual great interest is excited in it, and as the eventful day draws near, all eyes wander to the bar instinctively. A few days previously we heard some fellows saying, "Who do you think will get the pancake this year?" as if forsooth it was the usual thing for that article of food (?) to be got whole by any one. For our part we always look upon it as a great fluke if any one is able even to get half of it, and the nicest part of the custom is in our estimation the "Greeze." But to return to this particular Shrove Tuesday, the 5th of March. At twelve o'clock, or very soon after, College John, attired

"In customary suit of solemn white,"

made his appearance, headed by the Abbey Beadle. Before this, Canon Farrar, Dr. Bridge, and a few other

visitors had come into School, and with the masters watched the proceedings at a respectful distance. At the first attempt, the pancake was thrown, as everyone except the masters thought, *over* the bar, but it seems that it went *under*, and dropped, as it did last year, into Mr. Marklove's form, where it was pounced upon. In less time, however, than it takes to write it, the "Greeze" was there, and whoever was in possession of it was surrounded and half smothered. A report was spread that the pancake had lodged in a portfolio, though how it could get there we can't quite see, and after the usual time that the Greeze lasts, the holder of the portfolio was allowed to come out unmolested, but no pancake was to be seen, and no doubt it had been divided or torn to pieces long ago. An uprooted form showed where the battle had taken place, and thus ended the "Pancake Greeze" of 1878, which was a very good one as far as it went, but the pancake should have been thrown straight, a thing which has not happened now for two or three years. We trust and hope that the "Pancake" will remain a Westminster custom for years to come, but we cannot help thinking that to a certain extent its life hangs in the balance, for should an accident happen to any one in the "Greeze," the Head-master will, we fear, put an end to it. One has not happened yet, and so we hope none will ever happen; for a form to be uprooted is a common occurrence, easily repaired, and not sufficient in itself to put an end to this grand old custom.

OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of the *Wellingtonian*, the *Marlburian* (2 Nos.), the *Newtonian*, the *Meteor*, the *Carthusian*, the *Cliftonian*, the *Glenalmond Chronicle*, the *Radleian* (2 Nos.), the *Blundellian*.

Correspondence.

TO CORRESPONDENTS, &c.

CRITIC.—It has been said before, and I hope this may be the last time of saying it, that the Editor is not responsible for the opinions of his Correspondents.

The subscription for 1878 to *The Elizabethan* is as usual 4s. Contributions for the next number must be sent in immediately.

Post-office orders to be made payable to F. R. Clarke (Treasurer of *The Elizabethan*, St. Peter's College, Westminster), at the Westminster Palace Hotel.

Subscribers at Oxford are requested to send subscriptions to L. S. Bristowe, Ch. Ch., Oxford. Those at Cambridge to J. A. Batley, Trinity College.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

DEAR SIR,—I have often noticed on passing by "Fields," that the greater part of the boys play Football in their ordinary clothes. This, I feel sure, must be ruinous both to their health and comfort. Are boys under a certain form in the school prohibited from so doing, or is it laziness on their part? I fear the former reason must be the cause of it, and if that be the case, I trust the rule will no longer exist. I see no reason why the smaller boys should not have this privilege as well as their elders and those higher up in the school. Being a great lover of this manly game, I for my part know that it is much more enjoyable to play in flannels. Trusting that you will find room for the insertion of this in your valuable space,

I remain, yours, &c.,
 O. W.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

DEAR SIR,—In the correspondence of your last number, I noticed that a person signing himself "Epicurus," was so distressed when he found that the Play began at 6.30, that he gave vent to his feelings in the valuable columns of your paper. No doubt being deprived of the usual time for one's dinner is a very disagreeable circumstance, nevertheless I think that without actually reducing himself to a state of exhaustion from starvation, he might manage to begin his dinner at 5, or 5.30, so that he might arrive, without hurrying himself, in time for the commencement of the Play. If, however, some people prefer their dinner to the drama, let them stay away and enjoy their dinner. Hoping that "Epicurus" will act on my suggestion, I beg to sign myself,

Yours, &c.,

ONE WHO PREFERS THE DRAMA TO
HIS DINNER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—I remember in the first number of *The Elizabethan* that one of the directions laid down for correspondents was that "none need propose the abolition of the Play, as no letter of such radical tendencies will be noticed." I suppose, however, that the Play is not regarded as entirely beyond improvement, and that we may be allowed to suggest modifications in the present scheme without being accused of being pernicious to Westminster, as entertaining radical tendencies. Now it has long seemed to me that the sticks which yearly appear in the hands of our old men are relics of a barbarism which is ill-suited to the nineteenth century. I know that the said sticks are curious and valuable—the "twig of Hymettus" included—and that it is not altogether contrary to the habits of old men to make use of the same, but still I fail to see that they are a quite necessary adjunct to every aged person. It is a general idea that these sticks "give you something to do with your hands," a most preposterously erroneous notion, as they most effectually cripple any marked action, and act as a sure clog to freedom of movement. The general conduct of the Play is, I believe, year by year, slowly improving and losing its similarity to a representation of Marionettes, and I feel sure that it would be another step—and a very long one too—in the right direction, if the sticks were dropped from our stage, not totally, but occasionally, so that some slightly different types might sometimes appear on our boards. I know when I suggest this improvement—for it doubtless is one—that many persons will be perfectly shocked at the notion of abolishing such an old institution as our sticks, but still I am confident it will be found to be the opinion of the majority that they are a mistake, and one to be blotted out.

I remain, yours,

HISTRIO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—The general verdict on this year's Play I must say seems to be that it was a decided success, but I was only present on the first night, and then a blunder occurred which I have never known before, and must have been a gross oversight on the part of somebody—in fact of a great many. I refer to the baby which, by its unseemly noise in a by no means unimportant, and perhaps about the wittiest speech in the Play, caused a great deal of annoyance to the visitors as well as awkwardness to the actor. Now I remember that it used to be the custom that only certain women were allowed into the gods, and those were always those who were in some way connected with College, who would never have dared to risk their places in the College service by the introduction of a squalling infant to the theatre. I am at a loss to imagine how the uninvited visitor could have been allowed to pass through the various "bars," as the bar-keepers could hardly have supposed it—he or she—would have derived much enjoyment from the Latin, and could hardly be of much assistance to any one else; and if the mother brought it in for her own amusement and edification, it can hardly be worth while wasting a seat at the Play on one to whom the Play itself is not sufficient amusement for the evening.

I remain, yours, &c.,

Q. W.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

DEAR SIR,—Can you inform me what was the reason of the band withdrawing before the termination of the Play on the first night? It has never been so to the best of my knowledge before, and was a very great drawback, as it makes a vast difference in a person's enjoyment of an evening whether he is sent away in high spirits or not, and there is no doubt that it is far more calculated to raise one's spirits to go away to the sound of music, than to the sound of one's own footsteps. I beg to subscribe myself,

Yours truly,

ONE WHO IS INFLUENCED BY LAST
IMPRESSIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—In the August number of *The Elizabethan*, I perceived a letter signed "W. J. O." about "Gym," in which he stated that he does not belong to "Gym," but the habit of many lower-form fellows of going to "Gym" when possible, and funking both foot-balls and cricket-balls "disgusts" him. What proof has "W. J. O." that the fellows who go to "Gym" are "funky" both of cricket balls and foot-balls? There are many tall fellows belonging to "Gym" whose growth does not seem at all stunted since they have joined. There are many boys who do not like cricket or foot-ball, and they prefer going to "Gym" to making themselves foolish "up fields." In one of your previous numbers mention was made of fellows "up fields" who did not play cricket, but who walked about doing nothing, these fellows your paper explained were "water fellows," who, as there was no water, had to go "up fields." What water is in the evenings of the summer term, "Gym" is in the mornings of every term; fellows who like "Gym" better than foot-ball or cricket follow their inclinations as much as it lies in their power to do so. I do not shut my eyes to the fact that there are some fellows who go to "Gym" from dislike of the other games, but I think that these are a minority. Hoping that you will forgive this somewhat long letter,

I remain, Sir, yours truly, GYM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

SIR,—I have lately heard a good many complaints as to the poor standard of our pole and long-jump. Might I suggest, as the most probable cause, that there was no tan-pit dug "up fields" before the sports. It is impossible for any one to jump any distance, or to drop from any height on the hard ground. He might as well jump into a railway collision. On asking the reason why a tan-pit was not made, I was informed "the expense was too great." Surely the cost of removing a few squares of turf, and of replacing them after two or three days, would not be very ruinous. For all jumping practice is required, and more especially for the two I have mentioned. Hoping that I shall see this suggestion adopted next year,

I remain, yours truly,

JUMPER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

DEAR SIR,—While the subject is fresh in everyone's memory, may I ask for a little space to give vent to my grievance, which I believe to be a serious one. I allude, sir, to the disgraceful noise made by small Town Boys at the T.B.B. v. Q.SS. match. If they had cheered in the customary way, as I venture to say the Q.SS. *did* cheer, I for one should raise no objection, but when it comes to crying out, "Give him beef," "Keep your hair on," "Push him over with your hands," "Hack him," I think it is time to protest. Even the "great unwashed" outside the railings moderate their language at a foreign match, when their affection for us is so great that they jeer at our opponents; then why, I ask, should fellows in the school behave like "scis" or worse than them? I suppose they could not conceal their disgust at their champions being beaten, but they should learn to do so, and if they can't, their conduct should be publicly blamed. I always like to hear good hearty cheering at this match, as up to this time I have been accustomed to hear: for goodness' sake then let it not become the custom for the partisans of the defeated to jeer in this ungentlemanly way. Apologizing for having been forced so long, sir, to trouble you,

I remain yours faithfully,

W. W.

Floreat.