



The Elizabethan.

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DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE Debating Society has for the last twelve-month pushed itself considerably into notice ; it has succeeded in directing attention to itself and its doings, by various letters in the columns of *The Elizabethan*. It has indeed, on its own shewing, as the fruit of a considerable deal of agitation, been so fortunate as to experience a 'revival.' It has effected this in great measure by passing certain rules to induce members to see that a 'Debating Society' must not be a 'Dumb Society' to about half of their number. There have been some reforms, but when the Society some little while ago passed a law permitting the reading of speeches, it was not seen that such a licence was a blow at all that distinguishes a Debating Society from an Essay Society. Indeed, in the beautiful and evidently prophetic words of Dr. Smith's Greek History, 'it would not perhaps be difficult to show that in grasping the splendid prize' (of a more copious store of gas) 'she lost those homely

virtues' (silence for all but the chosen few) 'which had previously formed her chief distinction, and for which her children were naturally most fitted.' In the Debating Society, as elsewhere, the Age of Chivalry is departed: no longer does the Society pass votes of 'no confidence' in an offending Government, and direct its secretary to inform the Prime Minister of their action—giving opportunity for the meek, unpretending joke that lies to this day in the Ledger—

an ausi

Tantillum in tanta cond re mole jocum?

that 'we have not yet heard that ministers have resigned in consequence': no longer does it unhesitatingly censure prominent school functionaries: it finds a more congenial task in harking back to its wallowing in cremation, perhaps even—but *absit omen*—to Free Trade *v.* Fair Trade.

But nevertheless, though there are very, very few speakers and no debaters, the Society is more instinct with life and vigour than it was a little while since. The new rule which requires

every member to take a part not merely ornamental in its debates is bound to prove helpful. So a certain number of new motions are certain to be introduced—mostly by the old members, as the really familiar motions are occupied by the young orators as a fair field for *débuts*. ‘Orators,’ we had said, but we now recollect with sorrow that the thing is almost unknown in the Debating Society—‘readers,’ we should have written. This rule of reading speeches is indeed bad, though it may bear a specious semblance of encouragement; we would venture to suggest by way of a *ridiculus mus* of practical advice among all this vague comment that the permission to read speeches be restricted to members in their first year only.

The Debating Society is no very distinctive characteristic of Westminster; certainly every other public school has one. Indeed, we devoutly hope ours may not stand in melancholy uniqueness as the only Debating Society in which there is no debating. But, though it is no peculiar inheritance, like the Play and a few other institutions, there is no reason why it should not be the best we can make it—indeed, there is every reason why it should. Let it.

I.

WESTMINSTER WORTHIES.

No. 27.—GEORGE COLMAN THE ELDER.

(Continued from page 215.)

COLMAN'S next appearance before the public was as the author of two farces—‘The Musical Lady’ and ‘The Deuce is in Him’—which hardly require further notice, though we may mention that the former was based on one of Marmontel's tales which had recently been translated by his O.W. friends Lloyd and Churchill. It had originally formed an episode in ‘The Jealous Wife,’ from which comedy Garrick had judiciously eliminated it. A more ambitious task was the editing of Beaumont and Fletcher's ‘Philaster,’ which Colman undertook in 1763. His revised version introduced to the public in the principal character a new aspirant for dramatic honours in the person of Powell, who for a time was deemed worthy to fill Garrick's place at Drury Lane—that incomparable actor being for some years absent abroad. Those who know the original can realise the difficulties with which Colman had to contend in adapting that ‘attempt to render a Ham'et racked with the jealousy of Othello’ for the stage of his time; but, though his production can scarcely be called a fine play, it was not without a temporary success. The prologue was praised by Byron, no very competent critic of his own or other men's writings, as one of the finest which the English stage has produced.

In the following year Colman lost his uncle and benefactor. Lord Bath died on July 8, 1764, ‘through his complaisance in taking tea out of doors,’ and was buried, as I need scarcely remind my readers, in Abbot Is-lip's chapel. He left his nephew an annuity of nine hundred guineas, but so little did this seem from a man who died possessed of ‘all Piccadilly as far as Hyde Park Corner,’ that Garrick wrote to Colman, ‘Had Lord Bath behaved to you as he ought . . . I should have dropped a tear too, but my nerves bore the shock of his death without agitation.’ It is difficult, however, to see how Colman could have expected more from a relation whose views he had consistently thwarted, and whose character was well described by Lady Hervey: ‘he never thought of anyone when he did not see them, nor even cared a great deal for those he did see.’ But Colman was now secure of a competency at any rate for his own life—a circumstance which, perhaps, facilitated the completion of his version of Terence, which was published in the following year.

Of the merits of that translation it is unnecessary to speak here; most of my readers have had at least some portion of it in their hands, and can pass their own judgment upon its value. One copy was presented by the author to T. R. Winstanley, the then Captain of the School, who acknowledged them in the following quatrain:—

Siccine captat adhuc puri te sermo Terenti
Ut juvet eloquio jam decorare novo?
Nec mirum, interpres quas reddis adultus, agendo
Tu scenis aderas haud minor ipse puer.

which the younger Colman renders:—

Is then your love for Terence still so true
That his pure style is graced again by you?
Well may the man whole dramas thus translate
Whose parts the boy so well may pers-nate.

On these verses two remarks may be made—firstly, that the monosyllable ‘jam’ seems to have been as serviceable to writers of Latin verse in the last century as it is to-day, and, secondly, that Colman must have performed more important parts in the plays of his school days, whose casts have not been recovered for the ‘Lusus,’ than he did in the solitary one which has been preserved. The success of his translation encouraged his old schoolfellow, Thornton, to try his hand at Plautus; but his renderings were somewhat less happy, and even the single play which Colman contributed to this new venture is not equal to his versions of Terence.

The following year witnessed the production of ‘The Clandestine Marriage,’ the joint work of Garrick and Colman, who had been engaged upon it more or less spasmodically for some years. This comedy has no inconsiderable merit—though only a biographer's partiality could regard it as the ‘best acting comedy in our language, after “She Stoops to Conquer”’—and but for the unpleasant suggestiveness of the most important scene it would undoubtedly retain its place on the boards. The character of Lord Ogleby, if not very original, is

extremely diverting ; it may be mentioned that this part caused a serious misunderstanding between the authors, as Colman wished Garrick to undertake it and Garrick resolutely declined. This misunderstanding and the extraordinary success of the piece were perhaps equally responsible for the contradictory statements put forward as to the authorship, but it seems indubitable that Colman was entitled to the lion's share of the credit, though Garrick's prologue and epilogue are both of unusual merit. The indebtedness to Hogarth's paintings, which is acknowledged in the prologue, was of the most insignificant kind ; but detractors alleged that it would have been more honest to have made a reference to Townley's 'False Concord.' At any rate it is no less difficult to turn an unsuccessful farce into a brilliant and amusing comedy than to write a good original play.

In 1766 Colman's health gave way, and he was forced to take a holiday on the Continent. From Paris he wrote that he hoped 'to be seen without a microscope' on his return. His diminutive stature was a source of constant badinage in his correspondence ; so Garrick once wrote to him, 'Humour, my dear Coley, and scenes which shall be all "Alive, alive, O!" can only proceed from men of small stature whose eyes are either quite asleep or quite awake—in short, from men who laugh heartily and have small scars at the ends of their noses.'

In the following year (1767) Colman joined Powell the actor and two others in purchasing the patents of Covent Garden Theatre, for which they gave £60,000. This step not only entailed a further breach with Garrick but lost Colman a very valuable estate which General Pulteney, Lord Bath's brother and heir, had intended to bequeath to him. Colman had some difficulty in raising the £15,000 for his share of the venture—although his mother's death in May 1767 had considerably increased his capital—and he was compelled to borrow of Becket the printer.

Some years before, when Garrick satirised himself as the 'Sick Monkey,' he placed Colman almost highest among his friends as the 'loyal and trusty horse.' 'He was assured,' says a punning biographer, 'at any rate of his *stable* friendship.' He was therefore the more hurt and angry at Colman's desertion to the enemy, for theatrical competition in those days resolved itself into a duel between Drury Lane and Covent Garden, Foote's Haymarket Theatre being only open in the summer. "Our friends here will stir heaven and earth to bring us together," wrote Garrick of Colman ; 'make the best of it, it will but be a darn.'

The new partnership was not destined to be very harmonious. Within a year Colman and Powell were at daggers drawn with the two other proprietors, and the celebrated Macklin, then acting at Covent Garden, cut in with a Chancery suit against Colman which lasted for nine years ; the dispute between the proprietors was adjusted in four. Powell was then no more ; he died at Bristol in July 1769, after a stage career of unparalleled brilliancy, considering that it only occupied six years.

Colman wrote his epitaph, in which, after enumerating his moral virtues, he ends with the couplet :

Here rest his praise, here found his noblest fame !
All else a babble or an empty name.

It might be thought that the simplest intelligence could have grasped Colman's meaning—that Powell's abilities as an actor were of no importance compared with his virtues as a man. One of the Bristol prebendaries, however, chose to imagine that Colman in 'all else' meant to include religion, and forbade the offending lines to be inscribed on Powell's tomb, stigmatising them as 'nonsense or something worse.' Colman insisted on his right to have the lines cut on the monument as he had written them, and carried his point. It would scarcely have been worth while to describe this dispute in so much detail were it not probably connected with the mysterious occurrence mentioned in the *Gentleman's Magazine* of 1773 : 'Mr. Colman was set upon by a clergyman with whom he had formerly had a dispute, who beat and bruised him in a severe manner. Mr. Colman exhibited articles of the peace against the aggressor.'

In November 1771 Colman was seized with a fit in the theatre, and was for some time in imminent danger. With failing health he struggled on as responsible manager for nearly three years more, when, in May 1774, he relinquished his connection with Covent Garden, selling his patent for £20,000. The increase in the value of the property is the best evidence of his skill as a manager. Goldsmith's two incomparable comedies were produced under his direction, though it speaks ill for his foresight that he predicted the failure of 'She Stoops to Conquer.' His own works during his seven years of management were 'The English Merchant,' an adaptation from Voltaire, who sarcastically complimented him on having *furieusement embelli* his original ; 'The Man of Business,' an excellent version of the *Trinummus* ; 'The Oxonian in Town ;' 'Man and Wife ;' and some minor pieces.

Colman did not long appreciate the blessings of leisure, and within a couple of years we find him in treaty with Foote for the lease of the Haymarket Theatre. Of this negotiation, which Colman left in the hands of an agent, an amusing story is told. Before the parties finally came to terms Foote met Colman at dinner, and appealed to him as 'an experienced manager' to endorse his condemnation of a 'fat-headed fellow of an agent' who was acting for 'some blockhead who knows nothing whatever of the stage, but whose money burns in his pocket.' 'Playhouse mad, I presume,' said Colman drily. 'Right,' replied Foote, 'and if bleeding will bring him to his senses he'll find me a devilish good doctor.' Even Foote's command of countenance was not equal to the occasion when he learnt the truth, but Colman eventually found the bargain profitable, as the bulk of the purchase money was in the form of an annuity to Foote, who died before the second payment became due. Colman's management at the Haymarket was

signalised by no very striking productions. Mrs. Inchbald, O'Keefe, and the younger Colman wrote several successful, but now forgotten, pieces, and, as a financial speculation, the 'summer theatre' did extremely well. Bannister, Henderson, Edwin, Palmer, and Parsons acted there; Miss Farren, afterwards Countess of Derby, occasionally enraged the manager by her whims. Dr. Arnold arranged the music.

In 1783 Colman published a translation of Horace's 'De Arte Poeticâ,' not unworthy of the pen which wrote the 'Rolliad.' In the following year he was a pall-bearer at Dr. Johnson's funeral. In 1785 he was seized with a paralytic stroke at Margate, and, though he partially recovered and struggled hard to resume his former avocations, a second stroke three and a half years later reduced him to a state of imbecility, from which his death in 1794 was a merciful release. He was buried at Kensington Church.

As the confidential friend of Garrick and the associate of Johnson, Goldsmith, Gibbon, and the Club, Colman's name is better known than his writings, while his reputation as a dramatist is overshadowed by that of his son. He wrote in all twenty-six pieces, besides nine which he altered (after the fashion which Goldsmith so eloquently deprecated) from former dramatists. None of them are bad, and the two here analysed at greater length would add to the reputation of almost any comic dramatist since Jonson. It would almost seem as if the more Colman studied the temper of his audiences the worse (from a modern point of view) he wrote. But what could be expected from an author who had to please a public which demanded a happy *dénouement* to 'King Lear,' and listened to 'The Beggar's Bush' as an *opera*?

As a versifier Colman was tuneful and pleasing, without making any pretensions to poetic inspirations, and on that account succeeds best as a translator, though his prologues are sometimes very happy. His writings on education and his work as editor of Beaumont and Fletcher need not be more than alluded to.

As a man Colman was even-tempered when he was not put out, and liberal in money-matters save where he thought he was being imposed upon. His character seems to have commanded esteem rather than love, but that is the usual fate of those who have few weaknesses.

FLOREAT.

School Notes.

It is with the greatest regret that we record the departure of Mr. Lenox Conyngham, who has left Westminster for a housemastership at Fettes. He came here in Play Term, 1888, and during the two years he has been amongst us has shown the greatest interest in many School Societies. He was a frequent and eloquent speaker in the Debating Society, and contributed largely to its late improvement; he was also an energetic member of the Games Committee,

and regularly attended the meetings of the Literary Society; and lastly, it is in no small degree due to him that the Bells Society succeeded in rising again from its ashes; we are sorry, however, to have to admit that it has once more been dissolved.

Mr. Conyngham returns to Fettes, where as a boy he was under Mr. Heard as housemaster, to be under him as headmaster, and carries with him, we are sure, the cordial good wishes of all who knew him at Westminster. Mr. Michell, of Sherborne and Corpus Christi, Oxford, is come to take the place of Mr. Conyngham.

The School has had a great success lately in the matter of winning scholarships at the Universities. Everyone who has tried from the School has been successful. I. R. Holme gained a History Scholarship at Jesus; E. H. Marsh, a Scholarship at Trinity, Cambridge, and A. Y. G. Campbell an Exhibition.

F. G. Varley also obtained a Scholarship at Oriel, Oxford, and R. R. Howlett a Scholarship at Christ's, Cambridge.

There will be a 'Recess' at Easter from 12.45 on the morning of the Thursday before Easter until the following Thursday at 9.15 A.M.

The halves earned by the Scholarships will be added to the Exeat of next term.

The following boys were admitted into College after the examination held at the beginning of term: C. D. Fisher, B. S. Boulter, J. Williamson. Twenty-one new boys have been admitted into the School this term.

Monday, February 2, being the first Saint's Day of the term, the Mission offertory was made, and £16. 15s. 3d. was collected. This was increased by the Headmaster's subscription to £21.

A Confirmation will be held towards the end of the term.

On Thursday, January 29, Mr. Rawson kindly came down and addressed the School on the subject of the Mission, which seems to be in a very satisfactory condition on the whole.

'Orations' were held 'Up School' on Friday, February 6. The piece set for recitation was 'Paradise Lost,' Book VI., line 831 to line 866. Watherston was far the best, and Paget and Brailey next, but the rest were poor. There were fewer candidates than usual.

Owing to the frost that took place at the beginning of term we were obliged to scratch our first match and could not practise at all for the first two days.

The match against Charterhouse is fixed for February 28.

It was found impossible to play out the remaining ties of the VI.s in green, at the beginning of term, but if possible they will be played out after Charterhouse; there are two more rounds to be played.

We are very glad to hear that the boys of our Mission have been able to secure a football ground, though it is inconveniently far away.

Dean Butler has printed the sermon he preached last term at Commemoration, at the request of some O.W.W., and has caused every boy in the School to be provided with a copy.

Mr. Nall has been appointed treasurer of the Games Committee in succession to Mr. Conyngham.

We beg to congratulate Mr. Jeune, Q.C., on his appointment as Judge of the High Court. Mr. Jeune, though not an Old Westminster, is the Master's member of the governing body, and has always taken a keen interest in the School.

A new form has been instituted in place of the 'Petty'; the members of this form have the option of taking up either Greek or German.

The sports have been fixed for April 9 and 10, the last Friday and Saturday of term.

We have received from Charterhouse a very interesting little book, compiled by an Old Carthusian, containing a record of all the matches played since 1850, between Westminster and Charterhouse, both football and cricket. It also contains a list of all Carthusians and Westminsters who have played for their respective Schools, besides records of the matches between Charterhouse and Wellington, and results of shooting competitions at Wimbledon and elsewhere.

We have received from a correspondent a book entitled 'Lily Leaves,' containing a number of sacred acrostics, for which we beg to thank the donor.

H. O. Shoubridge has received his Pink and Whites, and P. E. Knapp his 3rd XI.s.

We are very glad to hear that the Chess Club has been started once more on a fairly large scale, and

beg to offer our hopes that it will be better supported than in former times.

The Pancake 'grease' took place 'Up School' as usual on Shrove Tuesday, each form choosing its own candidate to run. After a short struggle Fevez managed to secure the pancake entire, and kept it safe as long as the 'grease' lasted. Fevez was afterwards conducted to the Deanery by the Verger to receive the customary sovereign. The *Daily Graphic* of Wednesday, February 11, had some very fair sketches of the ceremony.

We beg to congratulate C. E. Page, F. B. Sherring, and J. O. T. Powell, on receiving their 'Pinks.'

A most interesting memento of Dr. Williamson has lately been acquired by the School. His widow has kindly presented not only a large collection of books which once belonged to him, but also several copies of the 'Eunuchus Palliatus,' and the blocks from which the plates in the 'Eunuchus Palliatus' were struck. It is understood that this collection of books will be kept in a case by itself in the Coin Room of the Library, and will bear a suitable inscription commemorating the gift.

THE FIELDS.

FOOTBALL.

THE SCHOOL *v.* CLAPHAM ROVERS.

THIS match took place 'up fields' on Wednesday, January 28, and resulted in a win for Clapham Rovers by 1-0, after a hotly contested game. Fox scored a second goal for our opponents, which was disallowed on plea of off-side. The School pressed most of the time, but the shooting was bad. The half-backs and Powell were good. Team:

THE SCHOOL.

J. Langton (goal), H. R. Blaker and J. S. Shearme (backs), F. B. Sherring, A. W. F. Guy, and J. C. Hollocombe (half-backs), A. L. Longhurst and W. T. Barwell (right), C. E. Page, J. O. T. Powell, and E. A. Gates (left) (forwards).

The visitors did not leave their names.

THE SCHOOL *v.* OLD WYKEHAMISTS.

THIS match took place 'up fields' on Saturday, January 31, and resulted in a win for the visitors by 3-2. The greater part of the time we pressed our opponents, but the shooting was not good. Just before time Powell put the ball well into goal, but one of the backs handed it out. Barwell shot both our goals. For the School Longhurst, Barwell, Guy, and the backs were best. Team:

THE SCHOOL.

J. Langton, (goal), H. R. Blaker and J. S. Shearme (backs), F. B. Sherring, A. W. F. Guy, and J. C. Hollocombe (half-backs), A. L. Longhurst and W. T. Barwell (right), C. E. Page, J. O. T. Powell, and E. A. Gates (left) (forwards).

THE SCHOOL *v.* CHRIST CHURCH, OXFORD.

This match was played 'up fields' on Saturday, February 7, and resulted in a win for the School by 6-0. There was a dense fog the whole of the first half, but it cleared shortly after half-time. At half-time we were two goals ahead, and in the second half four more were added. The visitors' team was weak. Our goals were shot by Longhurst (1), Barwell (2), Page (2), and Shoubridge (1). The team were very well together. The Teams were as follows:

THE SCHOOL.

J. Langton (goal), H. R. Blaker and J. S. Shearme (backs), F. B. Sherring, A. W. F. Guy, and A. M. Fevez (half-backs), A. L. Longhurst and W. T. Barwell (right), H. O. B. Shoubridge (centre), C. E. Page and J. O. T. Powell (left) (forwards).

CHRIST CHURCH.

H. L. Stephenson (goal), R. Gifford and P. Williamson (backs), H. C. Barnes, 'Another,' and Stainer (half-backs), Goldie and Maclean (right), G. G. Phillimore (centre), P. E. Knapp and R. H. More (left-wing) (forwards).

THE SCHOOL *v.* OLD CARTHUSIANS.

This match was played 'up fields' on Wednesday, February 11, and after a hard-fought game resulted in a win for the Old Carthusians by 4-2. Their first goal ought to have been easily saved, but the others were almost impossible. One of our goals was put through by one of the backs from a shot by Barwell, the other was rushed by Shoubridge. At half-time the score stood 3-1, and one more goal was shot on each side. During the second half the Old Carthusians pressed all the time. For the School Sherring, Guy, Longhurst, Powell, and the backs were best. Team:

THE SCHOOL.

J. Langton (goal), H. R. Blaker and J. S. Shearme (backs), F. B. Sherring, A. W. F. Guy, and J. C. Hollocombe (half-backs), A. L. Longhurst and W. T. Barwell (right), H. O. B. Shoubridge (centre), C. E. Page and J. O. T. Powell (left-wing) (forwards).

O.W.W. *v.* ROYAL ARSENAL.

This match in the first round of the London Cup was played at Leyton, on December 13. The ground was as hard as iron and totally unfit for play, so that O.W.W. very properly protested against the match counting as a cup-tie. At first the Arsenal had much the best of the game, and it was only Fox's play at back and Moon's brilliant goal-keeping that prevented the Arsenal scoring several times. As it was, they scored two goals before half-time; then Sandilands scored for O.W.W., and another goal was almost scored after a splendid run by Veitch, nearly the whole length of the ground. Then the Arsenal pressed again and scored two more goals, finally winning by 4 goals to 1. For us Moon, Fox, Winckworth, Veitch, and Sandi-

lands were far the best, the rest of the team finding the frozen ground very difficult to play on. Team:

O.W.W.

W. R. Moon (goal), C. J. M. Fox and A. L. Fevez (backs), J. P. Paul, W. N. Winckworth, and A. M. Balfour (half-backs), R. R. Sandilands and F. Street (left), J. G. Veitch (centre), H. C. Peck and P. C. Probyn (right) (forwards).

O.W.W. *v.* MARLOW.

Played at Marlow on January 24, and resulted in the defeat of O.W.W. by 4-1. O.W.W. played one short throughout, as H. Harrison failed to turn up. Fox played as well and vigorously as ever, and Street and Page were best forward. O.W.W. were greatly weakened by the loss of Moon, Sandilands, and Winckworth, who were playing for the Corinthians at the Oval.

O.W.W. *v.* ROYAL ARSENAL.

This tie was ordered to be re-played, and took place at the Oval on Jan. 13. O.W.W. had rather a better team than at Leyton, though Veitch was away. Sandilands was very late, and for the first twenty minutes we played one short against a very strong wind, but Fox, Winckworth, and Moon were in splendid form, and though the Arsenal had dozens of chances, they only succeeded in scoring two goals before half-time. When ends were changed, the game was much more even, and Sandilands headed through from a pass by Street (1-2), but then Fry ran down and Christmas made the score (1-3). It then looked all up for Westminster, who were two goals behind, and had only 20 minutes to play, but our forwards played up splendidly, and Sandilands rushed goal No. 2 (2-3). Still Westminster pressed, and Fox equalised with a fine long shot which hit the bar and went through (3-3). Another half-hour was played, and in the first 15 minutes Arsenal scored again (3-4), but with the wind Sandilands equalised amidst great excitement, and two minutes from time Peck rushed the ball through and won a most fearfully exciting match for Westminster, the crowd cheering frantically, and a shower of hats and sticks waving on all sides. For O.W.W. Moon and all the backs worked like horses, and forward, Street, Sandilands, and Page were best. Team:

O.W.W.

W. R. Moon (goal), C. J. M. Fox and A. L. Fevez (backs), R. T. Squire, W. N. Winckworth, and H. Wetton (half-backs), F. Street and H. C. Peck (left), R. R. Sandilands (centre), P. C. Probyn and C. J. N. Page (right) (forwards).

The Royal Arsenal appealed after this match, on the ground that O.W.W. had played a man who was not qualified under the new rules. The Committee decided that the match must be played over again, but we are sorry to hear that the O.W.W. are unable at present to get together a properly qualified team, as if they do not succeed they will be out of the competition.

THE MISSION.

THERE was a meeting of the Mission Committee on Friday, January 30, at which only a very few members attended. A letter was read from A. R. Knapp, Esq., making some criticisms on the state of the Mission. His criticisms were examined by Mr. Rawson, who found that some of them were not justified, and that, on the whole, the Mission was in a very satisfactory position, as the boys had become very diligent and orderly.

There was some discussion as to what measures should be taken to render the Visiting Committee more effective. Many of the original list have dropped off, so various new names were suggested of O.W.W. who would be willing to help. With a view to stimulating or creating interest in the Mission throughout the School, it was arranged that Mr. W. S. Rawson should give a short address on the subject.

It can really scarcely be expected that any great general interest can be taken in the Mission if even the Committee are not ready to take the trouble to attend the meetings, which are not held very often, and do not take very long. At this meeting only five out of a Committee of fifteen or sixteen were present. Surely a little less slackness is all that is necessary to set this right, and a little 'practice' in the executive would add weight to the 'preaching' to the general body of supporters of the Mission. It was also decided to invite Mr. Knapp to become one of the Visiting Committee of the Mission.

OLD WESTMINSTER FREE-MASONS.

O.W. LODGE.

From the 'Freemason' of December 27, 1890.

'THE installation meeting of this Lodge was held on December 16, 1890. The members present included Bros. Thomas Wakley, junr., W.M.; R. J. Mure, I.P.M.; H. H. Hyde-Clarke, S.W., W.M.-elect; C. M. Barker, J.W.; E. M. Tomlinson, Chap.; T. Tomlinson, D.C.; W. E. M. Tomlinson, M.P.P.M.; Walter Tomlinson; Malcom O. Sim, Treas.; H. D. Sandeman, P.D.G.M., Bengal, Sec.; F. J. Pearse, S.D.; W. Hicks, I.G.; W. A. Ellis, Org.; Colonel S. H. Clarke, G.Sec.; H. Sutherland, P.G., Steward; C. W. Stephenson, E. F. Kelly, Walter Reid, and others, as well as visitors.

'Bro. Hyde-Clarke was presented as W.M.-elect and installed by Thos. Wakley, who was presented with a handsome Past Master's jewel by the W.M.

'The proceedings then closed and the brethren adjourned to a banquet. Before proceeding with the usual toast list, Bro. Hyde-Clarke, W.M., said in the course of an introductory speech that the members

regarded themselves as Old Westminsters, and always endeavoured to identify themselves with the School. It had been usual to drink the Old Westminster toast "Floreat," and it occurred to him that they could not better show and express their connection with the School than by drinking the toast in the cups they saw before them. He questioned if the cups had ever before been absent from the School, and remarked that they were indebted to the courtesy and kindness of the Captain, Mr. J. S. Phillimore—a good O.W. name, by the way (hear, hear)—for their presence there that evening.

'Bro. Wakley proposed the health of the W.M., and thanked him for the services he had rendered to the Lodge, especially at its foundation.

'Bro. Hyde-Clarke responded, and further said that the Lodge was established for the purpose of cementing friendships formed at School, and he hoped it would have the desired effect, and that the longer it lived the more it would add to that branch of its usefulness. He knew the Lodge would always be ready to assist the School in any undertaking, either as a lodge, or by the members individually.

'The W.M. then gave the Past Masters Bros. Tomlinson, M.P., Mure, and Wakley, I.P.M.

'Bro. Wakley briefly responded, and shortly after the proceedings, which were of a very pleasant nature throughout, terminated.'

GLEE CLUB.

WE think Mr. Ranalow and the Glee Club may be congratulated on the excellence of the performance given 'Up School' on Shrove Tuesday afternoon. It was then clearly shown that, in spite of the concert falling through last year, there is no lack of material at Westminster, and that singing has not become here a lost art.

The choruses were rendered with great spirit and precision, such as only careful training can give. The bright and fresh voices of the trebles, among whom we may specially mention the two Birds, Holland, and Phillimore, showed to much advantage.

It may be observed that if the soloists always stood well to the front their voices would carry much better down the room. One in particular seemed to be addressing a musical confidence to the piano rather than himself to the audience.

Paget had selected a lugubrious song for his solo, and one almost as difficult (in its intervals) as lugubrious; but he has a nice quality of voice, and we hope to hear him again.

Anthony's violin solos were played in a style and tone leaving little to desire, and were received with enthusiasm. Perhaps next time we may hear from him a piece showing more of his great powers of execution.

Burton's song met with loud applause, due not less to the popularity than to the rendering of the song, and Holme, well supported by Longhurst and Balfour,

was extremely comic in the pathetic round 'Here lies,' which simply drew down the house.

A too short Tyrolese chorus concluded the performance.

PROGRAMME.

- PIANOFORTE DUET 'Halberdiers' March' ... *W. F. Sudds.*
H. V. ANTHONY and H. V. EASON.
- CHORUS ... 'Come, brothers, tune the lay' *J. Moscheles.*
SONG ... 'Tell them!' ... *F. Paolo Tosti.*
E. V. PAGET.
- TRIO ... 'Rest thee on this mossy pillow' ... *Pinsuti.*
E. BIRD, E. KITE, and H. HOLLAND.
- VIOLIN SOLO ... 'Polish Dance'
H. V. ANTHONY.
- SONG ... 'Our last waltz'
E. G. PHILLIMORE.
- MADRIGAL 'Sing a joyous roundelay' *J. Barnby*
SONG ... 'Last night' *Kjnulf.*
L. BRANDON.
- PART SONG 'Softly fall the shades of evening' *J. L. Hatton.*
E. KITE, E. BIRD, H. HOLLAND, W. S. SHIMFIELD,
E. V. PAGET, G. HOWLETT, H. V. EASON,
and H. D. EVERINGTON.
- SONG ... 'We all love Jack' ... *Stephen Adams.*
E. G. BURTON.
- ROUND ... 'Here lies poor Thomas Day' *Harrington.*
R. BALFOUR, A. L. LONGHURST, L. R. HOLME.
- CHORUS ... 'Tyrolese Chorus' *Rossini.*
- GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

FLOREAT.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

THIS Society held an extraordinary meeting on Monday, January 19, to fill up vacancies. The following were elected: E. H. COX, B. E. STRAUSS, T. E. HARWOOD, and A. C. NESBITT.

A. C. NESBITT not wishing to join the Society, Fanshawe was elected at the next meeting to take his place.

On Thursday, January 22, the motion was :

That any discouragement to the study of Greek, as at present taught in schools, is undesirable.

Proposer, A. L. LONGHURST; Opposer, E. H. MARSH; Seconder, L. R. HOLME.

The PROPOSER, in the course of an eloquent speech, said that to men engaged in literary or educational work the study of Greek was of primary importance. All the great English writers knew Classics well. He did not agree with translations as a means of reading the Classics, as they lost all the fire of the original. He proved that, though John Bright knew no Classics, his inspiration came from Milton, one of the few Englishmen who wrote Greek and Latin as their own language. He said it was most unfair of the Universities to give up making Greek compulsory for the sake of 300 or 400 men who wished to take up Science. The result would be

that Greek would become an extra in schools. He quoted Ruskin to prove that the knowledge of Greek was a necessity in scientific work. He pointed out why modern sides had been established, namely, to enable those boys who were not equal to the exertions of work on the classical sides to proceed to the Universities.

The OPPOSER divided those who learn Greek into two classes: (1) the clever, (2) the dull, and maintained that it was not the slightest use to teach the second class Greek. With regard to the first class, he said the aim was the perfection of the most perfectable minority, and not the greatest happiness of the greatest number. The teaching that was wasted upon dull boys might be better employed in cultivating those who could learn.

The SECONDER had not much to say to assist the Proposer, as he felt he was presuming to speak on a subject about which he knew nothing. He made a few general remarks on Greek.

Mr. SARGEAUNT pointed out that education was an instrument, not an end, and that Science had lately sprung up and offered a very wide field of learning. He did not see why Greek should be given up because of the wishes of a minority, and said that in that case it would resemble Hebrew, which is very seldom taught now. To destroy Greek was to destroy education.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

The following motion was then proposed as a rule of the Society by A. L. LONGHURST :

That members must speak thrice, or oppose, propose, or second a motion every term.

J. S. SHEARME proposed as an amendment :

That members must either speak twice a term on a motion, not being a Society motion, or propose or oppose a motion.

This amendment was carried by 15 to 2.

The House met on Thursday, January 29, to discuss the following motion :

That this House condemns any inequality of position in the State between various religious bodies, and would welcome Disestablishment in England.

Proposer, J. S. PHILLIMORE; Opposer, L. F. WINTLE; Seconder, Mr. SARGEAUNT.

The PROPOSER began by pointing out what Disestablishment meant, and made comments on each head. An Establishment was a religious body put above all others, undertaking to give religious instruction and worship in return for endowments and privileges. The great drawback was that it is obviously unfair to put one sect above another in respect of temporal matters. The result of Disestablishment would be the levelling of the Church to the position of Dissenters and the Bishops losing their seats in the House of Lords. He dwelt on the injustice of the system that headmasters of public schools were bound to take Orders. He asserted that Parliament had perfect right to disestablish or disendow if they liked.

The OPPOSER gave a very long and learned account of the relations between Church and State from

before the Conquest till the present day. He said that they had grown up and not been based on any one definite law. The dissenting sects were of comparatively late growth. He said he would be very sorry to see the Dissenters occupying the same position as the Church of England.

The SECONDER said that the Dissenters would fain not be of the Church, but were of it. He said that if there were two parties in the State the weaker must go to the wall. He admitted he was only half convinced as to the expediency of Disestablishment, and some of the objections he brought against it influenced the House considerably. People had always thought that the Church Reform Society would do some good, but it had not. The Church property was not rightly distributed. He said Disestablishment meant very little really. He said that the State had got a firm grasp on the Church, which ought to be free.

J. S. SHEARME said that Disestablishment could not be separated from Disendowment, and what had been once given to the Church had been given just as absolutely as a grant was made to a successful general. The only difference between the Church of England and other sects was that her numbers and wealth were greater, and she deserved to have a better position. If Disestablishment took place the position and stipends of poor curates would be rendered worse than they were already.

The OPPOSER having briefly replied, the House divided, and the motion was lost by 4 to 15.

On Thursday, February 5, the House met to discuss Mr. L. R. HOLME'S motion that :

In the opinion of this House Queen Mary I. of England is more deserving of our pity than our blame.

Mr. L. HOLME in proposing said he was sure that the House had come all prejudiced against Bloody Mary, as she was called, yet she would compare favourably with other sovereigns. Henry III., Elizabeth, and Edward VI. had all persecuted for religion. Probably Mary was the only one that had done so out of any true zeal. Her early life, he said, would have been sufficient to sour anyone. She was declared illegitimate, and sent to live in her sister's household. She had steadily refused the Prayer-book when it would have been distinctly to her advantage to have accepted it, purely because she thought it was right to do so. She was sorely tried by Northumberland's and Wyatt's rebellions, and she would have gladly spared Jane Grey had she thought it possible. Another disappointment was her marriage, and the hopes for the child which never came. As to her cruelty, he said, it was more her ministers' fault than her own. She soon grew sick of bloodshed, and only was made to keep up her policy of extermination. As to her religion, he said, she was thoroughly sincere, and many times refused to commit acts, which would have greatly increased her popularity, from religious scruples.

J. S. SHEARME, opposing the motion, began by apologising for entering the lists against so learned an opponent as Holme. He went on to point out the numerous blunders of her life. She had come to the

throne immensely popular; all her popularity at the end of the reign she had quite lost. He showed the reason for this in her unnecessary murders; a poor harmless scholar like Lady Jane Grey, and poor infirm Bishops Latimer and Ridley, need never have been sacrificed. When Bonner and Gardiner began to flag, she wrote them 'rattling letters,' and forced them to continue. She completely disgraced England by her marriage with Philip. She outstripped all her predecessors, he said, in contempt of the laws, and ended by pointing out how much more Spanish she was than English in her mode of thought.

EUSTACE HARWOOD seconded the motion in his maiden speech, following on the same lines as the Proposer's speech.

Then followed B. B. HENDERSON and G. S. GILLET, who defended her so-called bigotry in a few able words, J. S. PHILLIMORE and L. HOLME.

The House then divided, with the result that the motion was rejected—*Ayes 7, Noes 11*. The House then adjourned.

POETRY.

ROSA MYSTICA.

Our Lady's voice is low as golden lyres,
The sound whereof doth dream
About that Lethe stream
Whither white angel-quires
Come languidly ;

Our Lady's face is pale and wondrous fair,
Her eyes of moonlight deep
Wherein doth pity sleep,
And she hath golden hair
Wove subtilly.

Our Lady kneeleth mid the daffodils,
And gold-girt angels stand
Round her on either hand,
And all the silent hills
Dream far and wide ;

And still she prays to God for human woe,
While round her shadows fall,
Gray-wingèd, mystical,
And light is very low
At eventide.

TO REGINA.

If I were to die and be buried away
Under the moon in a cold churchyard,
Would you be sorry, and sigh for a day?—
Yes, for I know you ; your heart is not hard,
And you feel for me as you feel for the bird
Who sings in your window the daytime long ;
And you comfort me with a friendly word
As you call him pretty and praise his song.

If you were to die, and your beautiful eyes
 Faded away in the sorrowful earth,
 Your shroud would cover the morning skies,
 And be drawn as a veil o'er the sweet moon's birth ;
 Cold and gray, by night and day,
 Were all that were left of the world to me ;
 And all things fair would be hidden away
 In the shade that fell from your cypress tree.

P. A.

Obituary.

WE regret to have to record the death of the Earl of Devon, which occurred on January 22, 1891. The late Earl was born May 7, 1836, and entered College in 1850, whence he proceeded to Christ Church, Oxford, in 1851. From 1864 to 1868 he represented the city of Exeter in the House of Commons, and in the latter year was returned for East Devon, for which place he sat till 1870. He had been a Deputy-Lieutenant of Devon since 1858. No fewer than three Earldoms of Devon have been successively created and extinguished in the Courtenay family. The last was granted by Queen Mary, and after the death of its first possessor remained dormant for 265 years. It was re-established by the House of Lords in 1831 in favour of Viscount Courtenay, at whose death, without issue, it devolved upon his cousin and heir male, the late peer's grandfather. His uncle, the Hon. and Rev. Hugh Courtenay, the second son of William, Earl of Devon, who succeeds to the title, was born in 1811. He was educated at Westminster and matriculated at Merton College in 1829. He graduated B.A. in 1833 and M.A. in 1844. He became Rector of Mamhead, Devon, in 1845; Rector of Powderham, Exeter, 1877; and Prebendary of Exeter, in 1876.

It is with very deep regret that we announce the death of Bertram Alfred James, R.E., who was shot in the advance on Thetta, in Burmah, on January 2. He was elected to College in 1880, at the age of 13, from outside the School, and upon a third election in 1883 he passed fifth into Woolwich. As was to be expected from so remarkable a performance, he obtained a commission in the Royal Engineers on passing out from there, and, after some time at Chatham, sailed for Burmah in 1888. He will be much missed by the many old Westminsters who knew him at School, or in his Woolwich and Chatham days, for his tremendous energy, especially remembered by those who

met him on the football field, and his never-failing and very characteristic cheerfulness made him many friends, and his loss will be no less felt by his fellow-officers, among whom he was known both for those qualities which were so essentially part of him and for the great promise he was admitted to show, as a soldier and as an engineer. We dare not say how his family must feel his death, but we can at least offer them our sincere sympathy.

We beg to record our condolences on the death in China of Mr. Cyril W. Farrar, aged 21, after a very short illness. Mr. Farrar, though not himself an O.W., has had two brothers at the School, and was the son of a member of the Governing Body, who has always been a good friend of the School.

Marriage.

ON December 19, in Henry VII.'s Chapel, Westminster Abbey, by the Dean of Westminster, assisted by the Rector of Blackheath and the Rev. G. H. Nall, the Rev. ARTHUR GUY SANDARS RAYNOR, M.A., Master of Q.SS., to ADA SHUTE LIVINGSTON, second daughter of James Livingston, Esq., of Blackheath. All the Q.SS. were present in evening dress and surplices as usually worn at election. There were also some town boys and a good many of the residents of Westminster, as well as the friends of the bride. Mrs. James Livingston afterwards received the invited guests in College Hall. The presents were exhibited in Mr. Raynor's house. Mr. and Mrs. Raynor left for Italy the same afternoon for the honeymoon.

Birth.

ON February 2, the wife of R. A. EDGELL, Esq., M.A., of a daughter.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

ALEXANDER POPE. The following passage occurs in Mr. Augustine Birrell's 'Obiter Dicta.' 'Pope's education was, of course, private. . . . Mr. Leslie Stephen, with a touching faith in public schools, regrets that it was obviously impossible to send Pope to Westminster. One shudders at the thought. It could only have led to an inquest.' From this it appears that the only school which, in Pope's time, would naturally suggest itself for a promising boy, was Westminster. It is also worth noting that the publisher Curll, with whom Pope fought so fiercely, was

the man who was beaten and tossed in a blanket by the Westminster scholars in Dean's Yard, in 1716, for publishing an oration spoken by the captain on the death of South.

A.

EVELYN'S DIARY, MAY 13, 1661.—'I heard and saw such exercises at the election of scholars at Westminster School, to be sent to the University, in Latin, Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic, in themes and extemporary verses, as wonderfully astonish'd me in such youths, with such readiness and witt, some of them not above 12 or 13 years of age. Pity it is that what they attain here so ripely, they either not retain or do not improve more considerably when they come to be men, tho' many of them do; and no lesse is to be blamed their odd pronouncing of Latine, so that out of England none were able to understand or endure it. The Examinants or Posers were, Dr. Duport, Greek Professor at Cambridge: Dr. Fell, Deane of Christ Church, Oxon.; Dr. Pierson, Dr. Alestree, Deane of Westminster, and any that would.'

Q.

LONDON POST, FEB. 17, 1791.—A terrible fracas took place on Wednesday at Westminster School. Two of the boys having had a dispute agreed to go to the green in Dean's Yard and fight it out. The two heroes were followed by the rest of the boys, and Dr. Vincent and the rest of the masters were the only scholars left in the school. Mr. Smedley, the head usher, was dispatched with orders to summon the students to their duty. The fight not being over, he returned without completing his mission. Dr. Wingfield, the second master, was dispatched, and returned also unsuccessful. Dr. Vincent then went himself, but no obedience could be obtained till the battle was decided; after which the scholars returned to the school house, when sentence of flagellation was passed upon Mr. Doyley, the head boy, for not having obeyed orders. The sentence was demurred to by the whole school, the consequence of which was a general desertion.

X.

WESTMINSTER AND THE UNIVERSITY CREWS.—It may be interesting to know that between the years 1829-1883 Westminster supplied more men who rowed in the Eight at Oxford than any other School, except Eton. In the statistics Eton comes first with 88, Westminster 14, Winchester and Rugby 12. At Cambridge also Eton was first with 47, Rugby sent 19, Westminster and Shrewsbury 11. Thus, taking the two Universities together, the principal schools supplied the following numbers: Eton 135, Rugby 31, Westminster 25, Winchester 19, Harrow 18.—F.V.

Correspondence.

FROM OUR CAMBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Cambridge Old Westminsters are in a very placid state, and news of a kind to interest your readers is not forthcoming in abundance.

Stirling and Blakeney have successfully met examiners at Trinity, the former securing a scholarship, the latter an exhibition. Marsh has flitted up here and taken a scholarship at the same College, where also Campbell has been seen, bearing off an exhibition. We hear, too, of Holme's success at Jesus, and Howlett's at Christ's, and perchance we have entertained others unawares.

A meeting of our noble body was called for Wednesday last, in Hurst's rooms, and a select few collected; another wished to collect, but the rule against 'dunning' at our meetings prevailed.

We regret to learn that A. E. Balfour has had to recruit his health by sojourning abroad; rumour locates him at the Pyramids. Markham, too, is unwell, and is prevented from taking his place in the Lent boat, where Sharpe already occupies a thwart. Benn has disappeared; we fear he has gone down. It is with deep regret that we hear of the death of B. A. James, who was known to the older ones of our number.

Smyth, our late President, has been up exploring fenland on skates.

Mr. Penrose Fitzgerald has addressed the Conservatives of us in his own cause. Hurst has addressed the Trinity Sunday Essay Society on General Booth; and the *Cambridge Review* has entombed in its pages a fairly accurate account of the play. We all look for *The Elizabethan's* appearance at an early date.

Trinity College, Cambridge:

February 7, 1891.

O.W.W.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I think that in the name of Old Westminsters generally some notice should be taken of the leading article which appeared in the December number of *The Elizabethan*. It seems to me, sir, that the writer starts from an entirely wrong method of thought, and betrays a complete misunderstanding as well of the sentiments and ambitions as of the duties, professional and otherwise, not only of the Old Westminster, but of the average man. He is kind enough to envy those who still have some idol that claims their admiration! He has found in his log and bitter experience of being an Old Westminster (and we should judge this to have been of quite three months' duration) that familiarity has bred contempt, and he is at last disillusionised of his former reverence for his older school-fellows, and of his youthful anticipations concerning life in general. His supposition is that we all, like him, have lived for the mere blank purpose of leaving school, of so becoming an Old Westminster and then resting on our oars in placid contentment at this triumph achieved, and satisfied to lounge gracefully about Dean's Yard for the remainder of our days.

Not only so, but he goes on to assert that those who neglect this theory of life, who go away and no more come under the scrutiny of himself, are not worthy of his acquaintance and may be dismissed with a general curse, and thus in a very sweeping sentence he condemns all our best men, our Indian contingents, our soldiers, our hard-worked business men, and nearly every one of us over thirty who has any occupation in life.

Now, sir, I begin at this point to understand why the writer suffers such 'ennui' as an Old Westminster: life with-

out such illusions as he speaks of, life without some ideal that claims his admiration, and life deprived of those many friends of his for whom he can no longer feel other than a half-envious contempt, must be a dull thing to live indeed! Did he really mean what he says (and with this I am bound to credit him), he is robbed, nay, is robbing himself, of the highest pleasures and the noblest incentives a man can have.

Let me then suggest, sir, not only for his consideration, but for that of any other who may perchance think with him that those men who in the past or in the present have done the most in *patriam populumque*, and for the honour of the old School, have been those who have given themselves wholly to their work, whatever it might be and wherever it might lead them; that it is only one in a hundred who, on leaving the University, happens to be so situated as to be able to revisit Westminster, and see his old school-fellows more than his once a year or once in a few years; and that his wholesale condemnation of ninety-nine per cent. of those who have been educated at Westminster is without foundation and utterly unjust.

Further, sir, from the article in question, the casual reader would suppose that no Old Westminster had ever sought other honours than those attainable on the football field, at an Elizabethan dinner, or in the club-room at Oxford, and that he never passed the mature age of twenty-five or so, but expired the moment he had performed his part in either of those three legitimate fields for the exercise of his talents (from which he must not digress under the penalty aforesaid, of being forgotten by the writer).

In fact, all old Westminsters are utterly ignored, and though heading his article 'O.W.W.' he has omitted any mention of the best part of his subject, and has confined himself to the very small fraction of his title, which had better have been styled: 'Young, very young, O.W.W.' A writer who can omit thus lightly, and so hopelessly ignore the best part of the subject on which he is supposed to be discoursing, should contrive to make his generalities a little less sweeping, and might, in this case, do well to learn some of the old-fashioned laws of good manners and give his elders and betters at least some slight passing consideration.

O.O.W.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—As one of those to whom you, in your December issue, offer some rather uncomplimentary, if well-meant, advice, I ask a small space for this letter. I do not wish it to be thought that O.W.W. are above taking advice or have no need for it; I wish to show that the arguments by which your writer establishes his conclusion—to his own satisfaction no doubt—are quite illusory.

Your contributor brings his article to a close by rightly pointing out that it is not O.W.W. who give a *raison d'être* to the School, but the School to O.W.W. With this conclusion no one will quarrel; but in looking back to the very first column we see a distinct contradiction of this decision. 'While the glamour of the name is upon us, we regard it as a golden gate leading to the happy land.' This is the sentence to which I would call your attention. What else can it mean, but that the object (and, according to your writer, the right object) to be sought for in going to Westminster is the admission to the ranks of O.W.W.? What is this but making O.W.W. the *raison d'être* of the School?

But, in pointing out this flaw in the argument, I do not undermine the validity of the final dictum, and for this reason: I deny absolutely the truth of the statement in the first paragraph. The ideal schoolboy (and I presume that the writer, in drawing his arguments from his own experience, considers himself the ideal Westminster) does not look forward to leaving school as the completion of his hopes. He either looks to the attaining distinction of one sort or another in the school, or he looks farther and aims at some honourable end in life. Leaving school is to most of us the beginning of a life with new ambitions; we have to seek a new object at which to

aim, or at least render definite an old idea. To court distinction at school is to seek a legitimate object; to pass through the School only with the object of calling oneself afterwards an O.W. is as weak and poor-spirited as to spend one's life in making money in order to enjoy idleness and luxury as soon as ever money enough is made. In the light of this argument, the validity of the writer's division of O.W.W. will be destroyed. With great injustice he declares that O.W.W. who are not to be seen about the School are those who are profitless to the School. 'They glide into the dark ocean of the outer world.' Surely it is right that they should become skilled navigators on that ocean, since we must all go out upon it. Some are permitted by circumstances to coast idly round its shores—that is, to remain near Westminster. Others have business which brings them back often to the port from whence they set out, but others again are called to go forth to the uttermost parts of that ocean, and may not return for many a year. To continue in your writer's strain, sailors are proverbially home-loving, why may not O.W.W. who travel upon this ocean be credited with a longing to see their home, though Fate denies them that delight?

This sweeping condemnation is unfair. There are many O.W.W. whose work calls them into the army, or to India. Are they to be cast aside at once as unworthy of a thought? May they not do as much that is good, and be moved by as pure a patriotism, as those whom favouring circumstances keep at home? There are even some whose delight it is to wander in Dean's Yard, to spend their afternoons 'up fields,' but who boast that they can do so unrecognised, and find pleasure in their solitude. These too are outcasts in your writer's eyes, as he cannot know that they conform to his standard of right.

The young O.W. who spends his leisure hours at the School does so, at least to some extent, because there he has left his friends. His patriotism may be not so pure, though in appearance greater, than that of the older O.W. who is devoted to the School for itself, and this I say in spite of assertion in the leader to the contrary.

Of his facts your writer is strikingly ignorant. I have had some experience of 'Varsity O.W.W.,' and I can declare, beyond fear of contradiction, that the difficulty lies as a rule, not in keeping them apart, but in getting them together. Of the 'exclusiveness,' which consists in knowing O.W.W. because they are O.W.W., I have also a word to say. I know no one who carries out such a practice to the full extent possible; but, if there be any such, I think he is right. The fact that a man is an O.W. should be *prima facie* ground to another O.W. for knowing him. In the words of the old school song:

'A bumper to the holy ground
That binds us to each other;
A Westminster, the world around,
Should always meet a brother.'

On the other hand, I have never yet met an O.W. who despised others because they were not O.W.W. I do not believe that such a person exists; if he does I cannot think much of his prospects of happiness in life.

The strictures upon the Football Club and the Elizabethan Club are also, I think, groundless. Your writer is really exasperating. He begins with a nice little bit of moralising on the good old feeling of hero-worship, and so far one may say him with pleasure; but his paragraph has, so to speak, its sting in its tail, and one feels caught in a trap, in finding, at the end of the moralising, a condemnation of oneself. I have never even heard of a clique among football-playing O.W.W.

To the Elizabethan Club the article is rather unkind. It says nice things about the club, but, as if praise from the writer were too valuable a thing to be given freely, we are given to understand that he could, if he liked, say nasty things about it. In the absence of any suspicion as to the nature of these nasty things, I must perforce leave this part unanswered; but I believe that in having such a supporter as the club (whose objects are at least unselfish) Westminster scores a great deal over other Schools. If your writer can produce facts, let him

do so; if he cannot, it seems ungenerous of him to refuse the club, its authors and its officers, the credit they deserve.

I have spun this letter out to a greater length than I had intended, but it is easy to be long winded in defending a body to which one belongs, and membership of which, as denoting former membership of the School, is the proudest boast of

Yours truly,
SINBAD.

THE MISSION.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—I cannot help thinking that very much might be done, which is not done at present, towards creating and keeping up an interest in the School Mission. To be particular, I think it should be made the duty of some member of the Committee to draw up regularly a report of what is done at meetings of the Executive Committee, and at the Mission itself, for every issue of *The Elizabethan*. Such things as the number of O.W.W. visitors, of concerts given, &c., ought always to be published, if only to enable everyone to form a true opinion for himself of the prosperity of the Mission and the interest it excites. Again, if a few tickets for all School events were sent to the Mission, and Saturday concerts were given Up School for the boys, the connection between the Mission and the School could not fail to become far stronger. The concerts given at the Mission itself have not been altogether satisfactory, at least in one particular—the choice of songs, too many of which could, by no stretch of amiability, be called elevating, while many again must be dubbed vulgar, as well as silly. The main object of the concerts is not merely to raise a pitying laugh at the sight of a gentleman making a fool of himself, but to provide good music for the boys. To instance the kind of song I object to, there was a song sung at a concert in December which was so inane (refrain: 'So I got upon the gee-g ee,' &c.) that one blushed to hear it. Surely the organisers of the concerts might take more pains to see that the entertainment provided is better than that which the boys could see any day in the streets.

I hope, sir, that this is not speaking too plainly, but really the sooner a higher standard is enforced in these concerts the better. It seems to me that the giving of Saturday concerts Up School (perhaps once a month in the winter) would be a complete check on any tendency to buffoonery, and I would give more real pleasure to the boys.

I am not unaware, sir, that objections may be raised to sending concert, sports, and even play tickets to the Mission. Wiseacres will doubtless urge that probably the concert, and certainly the play, would have no attractions for the rough sons of toil; the boys, if they do come at all more than once, will only do so as in duty bound. But let them consider that new boys are constantly joining the Mission, and to such the play, if only as a spectacle and an 'evening out,' must afford no little pleasure.

Apologising for the length of these remarks,

I remain,
Παιδονόμος.

[We think that some of the suggestions in this letter are well worth consideration, and it has been determined that for the future reports of Mission Committee Meetings, &c., shall appear in *The Elizabethan*. There are reasons, however, which make it undesirable that concerts should be given Up School.—Ed.]

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—I should like to suggest that there should be a 'Mission Race' for boys of the Westminster Mission at the sports.

Hoping this will be favourably considered by the Athletic Committee,

I remain,
MISSIONARY.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—As a frequent attendant at the School football matches I have noticed how very little encouragement the School teams get from the boys generally in the way of cheering, &c. The 'railings,' it is true, are energetic enough, but the play of either side is generally received by the spectators *inside* the ground with a painful monotony of silence, almost amounting, a casual visitor might think, to indifference.

It may be there is an idea about that it is not good form to display enthusiasm or cheer. I once overheard a small boy say to his friend, who did seem a little inclined to use his voice, 'What's the excite?' 'Keep your hair on'—mysterious expressions, the profundity of whose meaning it is hard for the uninitiated to fathom, but they seemed to have a chilling tendency, and, I fancy, seem almost to lend some colour to this view. If that is the case, the greater the pity, I say.

When I was a public school boy—now, alas! long ago—I well remember it was the old custom to encourage our own side to the utmost, without forgetting to cheer good play by either friend or foe, and it seems to me this was a good and happy custom.

There is plenty of life and noise at house matches, and I cannot but think it would make the School teams themselves 'play up' with more dash and heat if a little more enthusiasm were displayed by their fellows over the School foreign matches. All teams, more particularly boys, to be good, want encouragement as well as admonition, and I hardly think the Schools give enough of the former to their XI. Yours truly,

X. Y. Z.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the letter of 'Vindex' in your last issue, in which he replies to mine in the November number, it seems evident that he has written without carefully reading my letter. He says 'it is perfectly impossible for H.B.B. to attend evening station, get back home again, and do any work at night.' I said nothing about H.B.B. attending evening station, except on the two or three evenings when H.B.B. were playing their house matches (when patriotism ought to have induced them to make any sacrifice to come and see their house play). I am quite aware that it is impossible for most H.B.B. to help evening station every day in the week; but the form matches to which I referred are played only on Wednesdays from 2.30 till 6, which gives time for H.B.B. to get home in time for work. 'Vindex' can take but little real interest in the School, or he would have known this, and would hardly have indulged in his sneer at the value of games to the School. Again, he writes, 'I should think that even the Captain of Cricket' (please notice the cutting sarcasm) 'would find it difficult to explain the connection between the non appearance of the Upper Remove and H.B.B. patriotism.' I do not quite see what he means by this, but it so happens that most of the + R. last cricket term were H.B.B., and therefore I instanced this form and the failure of H.B.B. to turn up at their house match as examples of slackness which, if not stopped, would be likely to spread. The great necessity throughout the School is for more keenness and interest in all that concerns it, and 'Vindex' should not forget that it is to the younger members of the School we must now look to maintain the honour and welfare of the School in the future, and that H.B.B. have their part to play as much as Q.S.S., Rigauds, and Grants in all that is done for the good of the School. As to 'Vindex's' remark that I pompously sign myself Captain of Cricket, I do not think this has anything to do with the subject of H.B.B. cricket, and at least I think it better to sign my name than to conceal my identity under an anonymous signature, as 'Vindex' does. In conclusion, if 'Vindex' would deign to honour us with his presence 'up fields' some Wednesday next summer, we should be very pleased to show him that with the help of H.B.B. form matches might be a great success.

I remain, yours truly,
H. R. BLAKER, Captain of Cricket.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—In a letter in your last number, a Mr. P. Williamson asks why, if he was causing a failure of debates, a new president was not appointed. At the third or fourth meeting of last year's session, I find on inquiry that a new president was elected in the place of a Mr. Williamson who previously held that office, but the latter at the next meeting succeeded in resuming his office, owing to a technical informality in the mode of electing his successor. From this I think it is obvious that, unless the letter signed 'P. Williamson' in your last issue bore a forged signature, there must be two persons of the same name. Hoping this will help to clear up the mystery,

I remain, yours truly,

X.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR MR. EDITOR,—Though I sincerely regret the personal character given to the discussion *re* the Debating Society by the extremely ill-advised letter by 'P. Williamson' which you publish in your last issue, still, I think that since Mr. Williamson has taken upon himself the responsibility of forcing his own personality into this discussion, he ought not to be left in his present self-satisfied state. First, then, it must be known that Mr. Williamson was ejected from the presidential chair within three weeks of his election to it; however, as there was a technical flaw about giving notice, he was suffered to reassume the chair without opposition, it being thought that he would have resigned. With regard to the president's duties, it is certainly incumbent on him to look after the interests of the Society, and to do this he must take some trouble in the debates beyond that of sitting in the chair; if it is not his business to be a stop-gap, it is certainly not anyone else's; Mr. Williamson spoke twice during the session. With regard to Mr. Williamson's argument about the T.B.B., by his own showing of the nine that were elected (which proves no extra interest in the Society on their part) three did not come up to the debates at all, while of the remainder from four to six were absent in the Lent term. I hope this will be sufficient to show Mr. Williamson that if he will court publicity in this way he cannot expect people to be forbearing enough to take no notice of such an egregious piece of bad taste as his letter from beginning to end.

Yours truly,

JUSTICE.

'ROWING AT WESTMINSTER.'

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—May I add to the notice of 'Rowing at Westminster,' which appeared in your last number, that we are indebted for the production of that book to the labours of a very well known O.W., the Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, Rector of Lutton-Coldfield?

I am, dear sir, faithfully yours,

R. J. MURE.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—Why, in our Saint's Day services, do fellows so persistently reserve their voices for the hymns? The singing in the 'Kyrie's,' 'Gloria,' and 'Amens,' is feeble in the extreme; but when we come to the hymns we get a very creditable body of sound. It is very unfair on Mr. Ranalow and one or two fellows who help him, that they should have to sing the whole of the first part of the service by themselves.

One word more. Last Saint's Day three people monotoned the Creed. This only shows the laziness of the rest of the School.

Yours, &c.,

TURRES.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—The Glee Society proposes to give the Wednesday afternoon entertainments again this term. There are considerable expenses incurred by it, principally in buying new music and in printing programmes. It seems hardly fair to expect the boys who form the Society to bear all the expenses. As it is they ungrudgingly give a great deal of time and trouble in practising the glees, besides paying a small subscription. It is therefore necessary to ask for outside help. If enough money were raised, it is proposed to print the words of the glees in the programme, and to hire a grand piano for each entertainment. These would be great improvements, as half the enjoyment is lost by only hearing the words imperfectly or not at all, and the small piano is certainly not powerful enough for Up School.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

L. R. HOLME,

Hon. Secretary.

NOTICES.

All contributions to the March number of *The Elizabethan* must be sent in to the Editor, St. Peter's College, Westminster, not later than February 25.

All other communications should be addressed to the Secretary of *The Elizabethan*, St. Peter's College, Westminster, and on no account to the Editor or printers.

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The Editor is not responsible for the opinions of his correspondents or contributors.

Contributions can only be inserted if written on one side of the paper only.

Back numbers of *The Elizabethan* may be had from the Secretary at 6d. each.

A few copies of the 'cast' of the 'Adelphi' are still to be had from the Captain, St. Peter's College, Westminster, at 3s. 6d. each.

Morcat.