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THE BLEAT OF A TOTHILL SHEEP.

AND this they call grass, and deem it fit fodder for a moribund wearer of the fleece. My Southdown acquaintance, made such in the hour of misfortune in this parvis of the shambles, has been a great student of man. Man, he says—great, strong, brutal, active, mutton-eating man—has ever called us a feeble folk, a silly nation, inhabitants of a land wherein he would seek refuge in his unwise hours. Your town poet, your Fleet Street philosopher, your essayist of petty France, whose dusty orbs may scarce tell a fleece from a hide, whose palate alone must do the work of his abeyant senses—which of them but has simulated a yearning to flee from the greatness he affects to the thoughtless meditation of the sheepcotes? In sooth, the days glided tranquilly by where the shadows cross the Dunstable hills, where our big bacon-fed Adonis coerced the flock, let us rove in summer among the fescues of the leys, let us not lack of

turnips what time the grass nestled under the snowdrifts. Man does well to call us foolish, for how else had we endured to be driven along the dusty road into the multitudinous seething of man, these barren acres of our despair? Better to have laid us in the ditch among the lush watercress, and wearied with unbudgingness him that bought us.

And what is this evening of respite within the confining hurdles of iron? Here are we turned loose, some five score of us, this Wednesday afternoon, by them that cried peace when there is no peace, grass where there is no grass. Here white-clad youth—yea and youth less seemly, wondrous with shanks of azure—runs ever to and fro, dashes fiercely into our huddling congregation, hurls the ball through the air, shouting 'How's that?' with assiduous expectation. Cruel here are the ministers as they that did service to Tantalus. They have brought us a large whited board, rolling it on wheels, that we should be tempted to rub our flanks thereon. Yet, when we do after their seeming desire, there is a cry and a rush and blows and kicks,

and we must flee or suffer, or flee and escape not suffering.

Towards sundown there is a sudden migration. The cries cease and the land is tenantless, save for the hopping sparrow. We lay us down to rest. Anon, creeping through breaches in the hurdles, climbing over the spikes, dodging round the plane-trees, comes innumerable the leer urchin armed with burnt clay or granite. Dreams of our skipping youth are broken by a stone smiting in the ribs, a brickbat striking on the nose; nor for rest thereafter is there breadth of a body among the boulders. Then the dogs gather about us. In this land the dogs of the night are double in number the dogs of the day. How this may be I know not, but they may be reckoned by their barks. Old Tray in Hertfordshire worried us at times; but we knew Tray: obedience to his behests granted immunity from his teeth. Here all is contradiction and disorder, howling all about us, baying to the moon—the horror of an everlasting dread. We must die to-morrow; but will it never be morn, will it never be morn?

WESTMINSTER WORTHIES.

NO. 33.—SIR JOHN BURGoyNE.

(Continued from p. 52.)

THE captive army was next day ordered to Boston; and during their march of two hundred miles the soldiers suffered very much from cold, privations, and the animosity of the population on the route. The Saratoga Convention was not ratified by Congress; Gates was accused of having dealt too leniently with Burgoyne; and the American Government maintained the profitable but hardly creditable position of a customer who, holding that he is overcharged by a tradesman, keeps the goods and refuses to pay the bill. The officers in charge of the prisoners exhibited a brutality only to be paralleled in the story of Andersonville; and although Burgoyne was permitted to prefer formal charges against one of them, the court-martial made its members partakers in the culprit's guilt by simulating a belief in his innocence.

It was afterwards made a charge against Burgoyne that he deserted his soldiers to their fate in America while he himself 'enjoyed the luxuries of London,' and certainly no one would now think the worse of him if he had had sufficient stoicism to leave his reputation in England to look after itself and had stayed with his army; but it is not easy to blame him for the course he adopted. His own health was precarious; his second in command wrote in a private letter from Cambridge, 'I am very glad he (Bur-

goyne) has at last obtained leave to go to England. He has been, and I think is, very ill: the distressed situation of his mind, joined to a constitution rather hurt, would have destroyed him here.' But this weighed little with him in comparison with the other reasons he adduced in his application for parole. 'Accounts with the Treasury . . . to great extent and of a very complicated nature, lie open by reason of my absence; and my death before they are settled might occasion much embarrassment and great injury to my relations and friends. . . . By my detention . . . my character stands exposed, after an intricate and unsuccessful campaign, to all the aspersions . . . that the malevolent, the prejudiced, or the misinformed may choose to cast upon it.' His request was granted by Congress: Washington and Gates both wrote to Burgoyne in very generous terms; and if his conduct stood in need of any justification their letters would supply it. But his own manly and spirited answer to the sneer about the 'luxuries of London' is amply sufficient: 'To see myself disgraced without a hearing, to hear the most abominable falsehoods circulated against me, to be denied a share in the defence of my country—these are the luxuries I enjoy, and if there is a man who thinks them enviable, who thinks they do not give thorns to the pillow and bitterness to the cup, he has more philosophy or less sentiment than I.'

Burgoyne left America in April 1778, and arrived in England the following month. His despatch announcing his surrender had strongly moved the public in his favour; but a minister who had been cashiered from the army for cowardice and narrowly escaped a more severe punishment, had determined that the beaten general should bear the full responsibility of his defeat. Burgoyne was refused an audience of the King; he demanded a court-martial, and was told that, as a prisoner of war, he was not entitled to one; the Ministry even attempted to maintain, in defiance of precedents, that his parole disabled him from sitting in the House of Commons. But the House of Commons allowed him a hearing, and he stated his case with moderation, yet intense earnestness: 'Give me inquiry; I put the interests that hang most emphatically upon the heart-strings of men, my fortune, my honour, my head—I had almost said my salvation—upon the test.' The inquiry was refused, but as none of the ministers had the hardihood to deny that Burgoyne's instructions had been 'positive, peremptory, and indispensable,' his vindication at the bar of public opinion was complete. But the Ministry had a move in reserve, and Burgoyne received the King's command to rejoin his army, although the order was ultimately suspended, and after more than a year the inquiry he demanded was granted, with the result that Burgoyne's skill and judgment were completely vindicated. As parliamentary proceedings had then only a restricted publicity, Burgoyne printed and circulated his defence, under the title of 'The State of the Expedition from Canada.' But Lord North's Ministry was still strong against any but armed

opposition, and Burgoyne finally found it necessary to resign all his posts under the Crown, retaining only his rank as Lieutenant-General.

The rest of his life was comparatively uneventful. On the formation of Lord Rockingham's Ministry he was offered and accepted the command of the forces in Ireland, then in full enjoyment of the much quoted but little studied Grattan's Parliament; but the political changes of the time soon rendered his position untenable, and he resigned his command on January 4, 1784. In the following year he was appointed one of the twenty-three members of a 'Board of Land and Sea Officers' to report upon the proper system of defence against foreign invasion; and it appears that he, Earl Percy, and Sir John Jervis, afterwards Earl St. Vincent, were the only members who at all grasped the elementary truth that it is inexpedient to make expensive provision against impossible contingencies. It would be as well if our rulers to-day would read and appreciate the protest appended by those three members to the Board's report.

Burgoyne retained his seat for Preston to the day of his death, and continued to take a considerable, if not a prominent, part in public affairs. He was one of the managers of the impeachment of Warren Hastings, and also distinguished himself by his warm advocacy of the interests of the rank and file of the army.

One characteristic incident deserved to be related in detail. In 1791 he had some real or fancied grievance against his old friend, Sir Joshua Reynolds, and poured forth his indignation in five pages of remonstrance, which, on second thoughts, he kept back for several days, and finally forwarded with the following postscript:—

DEAR SIR JOSHUA,—After having kept this letter for five days unfinished, I now confess I wrote it in just anger; but, upon reflection, I set too high a value on your talents and your virtues not to be placable, and I have the honour to be your most obedient humble servant,

J. BURGOYNE.

The great painter good-naturedly replied that the body of the letter came from the gout, and the postscript from his friend; for Burgoyne had been a martyr to that disease ever since his American campaign, which had proved as fatal to his health as to his reputation.

He died rather unexpectedly at the close of the Session of 1792, as we learn from the notice in the *Gentleman's Magazine*:—

Died on the 4th of August, at his house in Hertford Street, Mayfair, the Right Honourable John Burgoyne, a Privy Councillor, Lieutenant-General in the Army, Colonel of the 4th Regiment of Foot, M.P. for Preston, and author of the much celebrated comedy entitled 'The Heiress.' The regret for his death will be extended and lasting. He has died richer in esteem than in money: in the saving or securing of that he had no talent. Of all the gay, the witty, and the fashionable who eagerly sought his acquaintance, and whose minds were impressed by the elegance of his conversation and the variety of his talents, very few were present to drop the tear over departed genius. One coach only attended, with four gentlemen;

a lady was likewise present, whose convulsive agitation showed her to have that within which passeth show.

The writer of the notice was evidently unaware that the privacy of the funeral was in strict accordance with the wish of the deceased, who had written in his will, 'Whenever I may happen to die, it is my desire that my body may be interred in the cloisters of Westminster Abbey, as near as may be to the remains of my late inestimable wife, Lady Charlotte Burgoyne; the body to be conveyed to Westminster at the cheapest rate which decency will permit.'

He lies 'buried in the cloisters without a name. The omission would have been long since supplied by his children, but the spot of his interment could no longer be identified. The Abbey record simply notes that he was buried in the north cloister.

It remains to take some notice of Burgoyne's claims to literary reputation. They rest chiefly on his comedy of 'The Heiress,' though his occasional verses were tuneful and polished, and his comic opera, 'The Lord of the Manor,' was by many ascribed to the pen of Sheridan—no meagre tribute to its excellence. The 'Maid of the Oaks' was also for many years a stock piece at the London theatres. The charm of 'The Heiress' lies rather in dialogue than in plot, and it may be doubted whether it would appeal very strongly to a modern audience. But as a 'reading play' it is charming, and quite worthy to rank after the masterpieces of Sheridan and Goldsmith in an age richer in dramatic masterpieces than any since the so-called Elizabethan era. It would be idle to quote the opinion of so prejudiced a critic as Horace Walpole, extravagant as is his praise; but Horne Tooke writes of 'The Heiress': 'One little morsel of false moral excepted, the most perfect and meritorious comedy of any on our stage.' The plot is avowedly taken from a novel of Mrs. Lennox's; but we can only regret that Burgoyne did not choose a more dramatic subject to work upon. His opera, 'Richard Cœur de Lion,' was also very successful, but as it is a mere adaptation from the French it requires no more than a passing mention. It is enough to say that among all contemporary dramatists there are only two who can be ranked as superior to Burgoyne. It is true that they both are infinitely superior, but they are a pair not easily to be matched.

'The race is not always to the swift, nor the battle to the strong,' is the natural, if trite, moral of Burgoyne's career. As a soldier, he was inferior to none of his contemporaries in courage, skill, or devotion to his duty; in his knowledge of his profession he far surpassed them all. In reading his military writings one is irresistibly reminded of the zealous and ill-fated Nolan, many of whose suggestions he anticipated. Yet, through no fault of his own, his name is indissolubly linked with one of the gloomiest events of our military history. His career was a failure, and he died conscious of it. The hero of Corunna, whose merits and fortunes were in many respects similar to those of Burgoyne, enjoyed one brief hour of anticipated triumph after many mortifications and hardships; but

Fortune made no such reparation to Burgoyne, and even grudged him the soldier's death he would have welcomed.

Of Burgoyne's political career we need only say that his generous advocacy of the cause of the weak does as much honour to his heart as his quick appreciation of the true facts of contemporary politics to his head. His private character would be above reproach, had we not his own confession that it was 'too frequently blemished by the indulgence of one predominant passion;' but in such cases the self-accused is not necessarily the most guilty. To military critics we can only suggest in his own words, 'Where war is concerned few men in command would stand acquitted' if any after knowledge of facts and circumstances were brought in argument against decisions of the moment.

FLOREAT.

School Notes.

WESTMINSTER has ten representatives among the candidates for seats in the next Parliament. Of these, up to the present, seven have been returned: Sir J. R. Mowbray, member for Oxford University (unopposed); W. E. M. Tomlinson, for Preston; F. Seager Hunt, for West Marylebone; R. M. P. Fitzgerald, for Cambridge; C. E. H. Vincent, for Central Sheffield; the Right Hon. J. Lowther, for Thanet; T. T. Bucknill for Epsom. The first six of these sat in the Parliament just dissolved. J. M. Yates has been defeated at North Manchester, Sir W. F. Phillimore at Henley, and H. Harrison at West Limerick.

The examination for Scholarships and Exhibitions takes place on July 12, 13, and 14.

To our great disappointment, none of the School, except the Eleven, were allowed to go down to Charterhouse this year. The rest had to be content with telegrams from time to time.

The following School colours have been given:—

<i>Pinks.</i>	<i>3rd elevens.</i>
J. F. More,	D. Clapham,
W. L. Armstrong,	H. Hutchinson,
J. H. Alderson,	F. Rivaz,
D. Shearme,	L. Moon.
R. Balfour.	

The first round of the Shield Matches is now finished; we reserve a full account for our October number.

Rigauds had an easy task in beating Asburnham House. Rigauds made 185, chiefly by the help of D'Arcy's 117 not out. Ashburnham could only succeed in making 24 and 68, the bowling of the Brothers Berens being much too good for them.

The final of the four matches, between the Upper Shell and the Modern Remove, is now in progress.

The match between Home Boarders and Grants was much more interesting. Grants' first innings closed for 91 (Hutchinson 25); Home Boarders passed this by 32, scoring 123 (Newman 35, Page 27). Grants then again made 91, Moon carrying out his bat for a well-played 41. Home Boarders were left with only 60 to get, but Fitzmaurice and Lambert established a funk, and the whole side got out for 26.

Rigauds are the favourites for the Shield, but Grants might make a good fight with a little luck.

A Junior House match between H.B.B. and Rigauds resulted in a win for Rigauds by nine wickets. H.B.B.'s first innings closed for 49, Rivaz taking seven wickets for 23. Rigauds scored 147 (Urch 34, Gates 31). H.B.B. did better in their second innings and made 120 (Milliken 20, Longhurst 26 not out). Berens took six wickets for 49. Rigauds then made the necessary 24, for the loss of one wicket.

BATTING AVERAGES.

	No. of Innings	Times not out	Total runs	Highest	Average
F. B. Sherring ...	13	0	244	83	18·76
D. Fitzmaurice ...	12	2	140	46*	14
E. Berens	13	1	146	28*	12·16
J. S. Shearme ...	13	1	140	49	11·66
J. F. More.....	12	0	139	41	11·58
W. L. Armstrong	11	2	84	20*	9·33
J. H. Alderson...	10	2	71	30	8·87
D. Shearme	12	5	59	15	8·42
W. F. D'Arcy ...	12	0	86	19	7·16
R. Balfour	12	1	70	28*	6·36
C. E. Page	13	0	78	16	6
T. H. Newman...	1	0	17	17	17
A. R. Severn.....	2	0	6	6	3
A. C. Nesbitt ...	3	0	3	3	1

BOWLING AVERAGES.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Average
J. S. Shearme	213·3	41	612	50	12·24
E. Berens	281·3	72	631	40	15·77
D. Shearme	54	12	176	8	22
D. Fitzmaurice	54·1	11	158	7	22·57
C. E. Page.....	6	0	28	2	14
W. F. D'Arcy	3	0	27	1	27
J. F. More.....	13	1	55	1	55
R. Balfour	19	3	73	1	73

RESULTS OF MATCHES.

Played at Vincent Square	Result	Westminster	Opponents
May 7. Incogniti	Won	124, 54	104
June 4. Old Carthusians...	Lost	74	106, 115
" 8. Masters' XI.	"	98	139, 96 for 4 wickets
" 11. West Kent	Won	108, 81 for 3 wickets	72, 112 for 4 wickets
" 18. Upper Tooting	"	143	140, 45 for 3 wickets
" 22. Free Foresters	"	96, 50	82, 60 for 3 wickets
" 24. {Charterhouse } " 25. {at Godalming} }	Lost	249, 92	356
July 2. Oxford Authentics	"	149	199
" 9. Old Westminster	"	167	261
" 25. Q.SS. v. T.BB. ...			

Played, 9; won, 4; lost, 5.

THE SCOTT LIBRARY.

THE Librarian has received from the Oxford Westminster Club the kind gift of £6, being the surplus from the sale of the furniture and effects of the Club. The money has been spent in the purchase of the following books :—

- M. Burrow's 'Worthies of All Souls.'
- Andrew Lang's 'Oxford.'
- Maxwell Lyte's 'History of Oxford to 1530.'
- Christopher Wordsworth's 'Social Life in English Universities in the 18th Century.'
- Willis and Clark's 'Architectural History of the University of Cambridge.'

THE FIELDS.

WESTMINSTER v. FREE FORESTERS.

ON Wednesday, June 22, we played a very strong team of the Free Foresters and beat them by 14 runs on the 1st innings. For a change we won the toss, and, electing to bat first, sent in D'Arcy and Berens to face the bowling of Hickley and Lang. A poor start was made, 2 wickets (D'Arcy's and Nesbitt's) falling for 9 runs; but on Alderson joining Berens a very good stand was made. These two carried the score to 50, when Alderson was caught at cover-point for 30; Alderson deserves high praise for his useful innings, making 30 out of the 41 runs scored during his stay; he was, however, rather lucky, as he was missed at long-slip and gave a possible chance of being stumped. Sherring came next, only to see Berens bowled by Hickley for a carefully played 16. On Shearme joining Sherring some very slow cricket was seen; with the score at 67 Sherring was caught off Hickley, having been in 20 minutes for 1 run. Wickets fell quickly, and after the dismissal of Armstrong the luncheon adjournment was made, with the score at 74 for 9 wickets. On resuming, More (12) and Fitzmaurice (5) added a few runs and the innings closed for 96. Hickley, a slow left-handed bowler, met with great success, taking 6 wickets for 30; Mason, who went on half way through the innings, securing 4 for 23. There seemed very little chance of our winning the match, as we had only made 96, and our opponents were a very strong batting side. But to our great joy and evidently to their great surprise they only succeeded in scoring 82, although Murdoch (15) and Welman (26) made an excellent start, registering 23 before the 1st wicket fell. After their dismissal, however, nobody succeeded in getting into double figures except Hickley, who scored 20, including 2 fives, in a few minutes at the end of the innings, which closed for 82 as above stated. Shearme and Berens both bowled very well, the former coming out with the better analysis, 6 for 42, while Berens took 4 for 38. Our second innings calls for no especial comments, the top scorer being Berens with 9; the innings, which lasted just an hour, closing for 50, of which 16 were extras. As it was

past a quarter to 6 P.M. when our innings closed, and it had been agreed to draw stumps at 6 o'clock, the match seemed over; but to everybody's surprise we went out to field at 6 o'clock exactly. It transpired afterwards that Farmer had pressed Shearme to continue till 6.30, and as he was very urgent Shearme was not able to refuse. The Free Foresters made a valiant attempt to hit off the runs, and although they only made 15 in the first quarter of an hour, they very nearly succeeded, as they made 45 in the last 15 minutes, and were only 5 runs behind when the half-hour struck. Murdoch, Lang, and Maclean all hit out vigorously. The fielding of the School in the 2nd innings was extremely good, Page being especially prominent. Lang's analysis was really extraordinary: 6.1 overs, 3 maidens, 7 runs, 7 wickets. Foley secured the remaining 3 for 13.

WESTMINSTER.

<i>First Innings.</i>		<i>Second Innings.</i>	
W. F. D'Arcy, l.b.w. b. Hickley	1	c. Mason, b. Foley	6
E. Berens, b. Hickley	16	b. Lang	9
A. C. Nesbitt, c. Hickley, b. Lang	3	b. Lang	0
J. H. Alderson, c. Murdoch, b. Hickley	30	c. Mason, b. Foley	8
F. B. Sherring, c. Stainton, b. Hickley	1	b. Lang	0
J. S. Shearme, c. Foley, b. Mason	9	b. Lang	5
C. E. Page, c. Stainton, b. Hickley	2	c. Thursby, b. Foley	4
J. F. More, b. Hickley	12	b. Lang	1
R. Balfour, c. Welman, b. Mason	0	b. Lang	0
W. L. Armstrong, b. Mason	1	run out	0
D. Fitzmaurice, b. Mason	5	not out	1
D. Shearme, not out	0	b. Lang	0
Extras	16	Extras	16
	<hr/> 96		<hr/> 50

FREE FORESTERS.

<i>First Innings.</i>		<i>Second Innings.</i>	
E. Murdoch, c. Balfour, b. J. S. Shearme	15	st. Sherring, b. J. S. Shearme	14
F. T. Welman, run out	26	c. Nesbitt, b. J. S. Shearme	5
C. A. S. Mason, b. J. S. Shearme	0		
C. P. Foley, c. & b. J. S. Shearme	3		
N. E. Stainton, b. J. S. Shearme	0		
C. E. Farmer, b. Berens	4		
G. G. Lang, b. Berens	6	not out	15
M. F. Maclean, b. Berens	0	not out	13
F. D. Watney, not out	6		
N. Thursby, b. J. S. Shearme	1		
L. Hickley, c. Armstrong, b. J. S. Shearme	20	b. Berens	0
Capt. B. Baker, l.b.w., b. Berens	0		
Extras	1	Extras	13
	<hr/> 82		<hr/> 60

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

WESTMINSTER.

<i>First Innings.</i>				
	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Hickley	29	12	30	6
Lang	9	0	27	1
Mason	20.1	9	23	4

Second Innings.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Maclean	8	3	10	0
Hickley	7	3	4	0
Foley	7	2	13	3
Lang	6.1	3	7	7

FREE FORESTERS.

First Innings.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
E. Berens	20.1	8	38	4
J. S. Shearme.....	20	7	43	6

Second Innings.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
E. Berens	7	0	32	1
J. S. Shearme....	6	2	15	2

WESTMINSTER *v.* CHARTERHOUSE.

This match was played at Godalming on June 24 and 25, and after producing some interesting cricket and high scoring, resulted in a decisive victory for our opponents by an innings and 15 runs.

A capital wicket had been prepared for the match, which, though at the start a trifle slow for a Charterhouse pitch, was quite as fast as any we see at Vincent Square; so in winning the toss Westminster decided to go in, and shortly before 12 D'Arcy and Berens opened the innings. Baker, left-hand medium pace, and Smith, slow right-hand, started the bowling, the former sending down the first over from the pavilion end to D'Arcy. The start was very bad, as in the left-hander's second over he clean bowled Berens, who had not scored, only 1 run having been made. More came in and started well, hitting Smith square for 2 and driving him for 4. D'Arcy also cut the slow bowler for 3, but with the score only 22 he was bowled also by Baker, who, up to this time, had delivered 10 overs for 5 runs and 2 wickets. Sherring came in and the cricket became livelier, the new-comer paying particular attention to Smith, while More, after giving an easy chance to Chichester at mid-on, which was not taken, made some good hits. At 39 Blake took the ball from Smith, but Sherring promptly hit a long hop to the off for 4, and his partner, with similar strokes for 4 and 2, sent up 50 after as many minutes' play. Blake's bowling was not a success, so he gave the ball to Anderton, right-hand, very fast, while a little later Gardiner superseded Baker at the pavilion end. Gardiner's bowling seemed very much to the batsmen's taste; in his first over Sherring placed him to the leg boundary, and in his second evoked loud applause by a magnificent leg hit from a half volley, which went right over the scoring-box, for 6. This punishment brought on Blake again, but Sherring, with a grand drive for 4, sent up the 100 at 1.15. At this point More was easily taken at point, and retired for 41. Though largely helped by luck and bad fielding, he had played very well and had effectually stemmed the tide by his useful innings. Shearme came next in, and 5 minutes later Sherring, with a 3 to the on, sent up 110, making his individual score 50, a fact which was

received with loud and prolonged applause. At 118 for 3 wickets, play was adjourned for lunch, Sherring being not out 58.

At half-past two play was resumed, and a splendid exhibition of hitting was given. Shearme, after playing carefully for a few overs, began hitting all over the field. Bowling changes were tried, but to no purpose. Baker resumed, but Sherring cut him for 3 and got him square for 4, while Peers was deputed to bowl for Gardiner, but met with no better success. In one over from the latter Shearme drove him straight along the ground for 6, the ball travelling at a great pace for an immense distance—a very fine hit—and sent him to the on boundary for 4. At last, with the score at 181, Sherring's long innings came to a close, he being nicely caught at point. He had made 83 with very few bad strokes, and nothing that could really be called a chance. His hitting was hard and clean, and his leg hits were particularly effective. Page joined Shearme and opened with a lofty hit to long leg from a fast, full-pitch ball, which went for 6. At 195, however, Shearme, in his anxiety to reach the coveted 50, unfortunately skied a ball in the slips, which was secured by Gardiner, and retired for a hard hit and useful 49, which contained a 6 and four fours. Armstrong joined Page, and 200 went up at 3.30. At 219, however, Page was clean bowled by a fast ball from Anderton, who four runs later also beat Armstrong. The rest of the innings calls for little comment, as nobody did anything very big. The total eventually reached 249, which was decidedly disappointing, considering that 181 runs were scored before the fourth wicket fell. Of this score three batsmen claimed no fewer than 173 between them. Anderton had the best bowling analysis, having taken five wickets for 45 runs.

After the usual interval the Carthusians sent in Bray and Winch to face the bowling of Berens (left-hand medium) and Shearme (right-hand fast). Both batsmen played with great confidence from the start. Shearme's first two balls were hit for 4 and 5, the latter being a grand drive to the off by Bray. With 26 on the board, Bray was caught at the wicket off Berens, and nine later Winch was out in the same way. With two wickets down for 35 Smith joined Fane, and a long stand was made. Smith scored rapidly from the first, while his partner was content to play carefully. Changes of bowling were tried, but to no purpose. With the score at 73, Smith, who had made 29, was let off at the wicket. This mistake proved very serious indeed; in fact, had the catch been held, as it well might have been, the whole complexion of the game would in all probability have been altered. Profiting by his escape, the Charterhouse captain hit most brilliantly, some of his cuts being superb. At 136 he lost Fane, bowled by a fast yorker. The retiring batsman had made a long stay for his useful 24. Gardiner came in, but never seemed comfortable, and at 174 a pretty general appeal for 'leg-before' caused his retirement. Four runs later a loud and long round of applause announced that Smith

had completed his century. He had only batted one hour and a half, and his display was very brilliant.

The day's play came to a close with the score 181 for four wickets, thus leaving the game in what seemed a very even state. The weather was rather less brilliant on Saturday morning; the not-outs (Smith 103 and Garnett 0) continued the innings. A very early start was made, in order, if possible, to finish the match, play beginning soon after eleven. Runs came very fast, Smith hitting with even more power and brilliancy than heretofore, Garnett in the meantime keeping up his wicket. Smith, with his score at 127, was again badly missed, D. Shearme dropping an easy catch at mid-off, while a few runs later he offered a one-handed catch to Balfour at mid-on, which was likewise missed, though it was somewhat more difficult than the other. These serious blunders extinguished what hopes we had of getting our opponents out for 300. Garnett was bowled by Berens at 233, but Anderton helped his captain to put on 62 more before being bowled by Fitzmaurice. Soon after this Smith completed his second century, play having been in progress only an hour and a half. There was no cessation in the hitting, all the bowling being treated with supreme contempt, until at last, with the score at 345, when it seemed as if Smith would carry his bat, he was caught by the wicket-keeper, standing back, for the colossal score of 229. Rounds and rounds of applause greeted his return to the pavilion, the Westminsters joining as heartily as any. It was, indeed, a grand display of thorough cricket. He had been batting in all just 3½ hours, which shows the brilliancy of his hitting. Apart from the blemishes mentioned, his innings was almost without fault, if we except two or three uppish strokes over point's head. It contained seven 5's, twenty-three 4's, and ten 3's, and is a record for public school matches. The rest of the eleven failed to do much, the venture closing at 1.30 for the great score of 360, leaving Westminster 111 runs behind. However, it was thought that as the wicket was still good, the Carthusians might yet be set a good score to win, and everyone must have been unprepared for the miserable and disastrous display which followed. It was 2.30 when D'Arcy and Berens opened the second innings, and just at the start the cricket certainly seemed such as to justify the expectations of a good score. Misfortunes, however, began at 14, when D'Arcy, in the most foolish manner, ran himself out, and without a run added More was clean bowled. Sherring followed, but to the general consternation was defeated by his first ball by what looked uncommonly like a half-volley. This was enough to start a panic, and start a panic it did, as Shearme was promptly caught off his glove at the wicket—a piece of very bad luck—and Balfour, who seemed to come in in the conviction that the first straight ball would be enough for him, was bowled by a fast ball from Anderton, which he did not attempt to play. With 5 wickets down for 19 the game seemed over, but Page made a grand off-drive for 4 from Baker before losing Berens, who had played

very steadily for 14. He was exceedingly well caught at the wicket on the leg side by Gardiner, who quite distinguished himself in his new capacity. Page went soon after, and 7 wickets were down for 36 runs. It was here that Alderson came in, and greatly helped by Armstrong and Fitzmaurice, made about as plucky an attempt to save his side as we have ever witnessed. Had his predecessors played like him—but repinings are vain. With Alderson and Armstrong together a good stand was made, and Blake superseded Baker from the pavilion end, Anderton also at 60 giving the ball to Peers. At 64 Armstrong was given out l.b.w. for a good innings of 19, but Alderson continued to hit vigorously; he punished Peers for 5 and 4, while Fitzmaurice cut Blake beautifully for 4. The end, however, was near, Fitzmaurice being well caught at slip for 10, while two runs later Alderson was beaten and bowled by Smith for a capital innings of 27, the total only amounting to 96, Charterhouse being left victorious by an innings and 15 runs. It was a great match, but the better eleven undoubtedly won. Considering the quality of the Westminster bowling, it was a very good performance to make 360, but it must be remembered that it was virtually done by one man. Nothing can excuse the extremely poor show Westminster gave at the second attempt. It was manifestly owing to funk, as the wicket was splendid and the bowling not very formidable. The failure of all the best bats seemed utterly to dispirit the rest, and nearly all the side seemed to feel they were playing a losing game. The great feature of the match was of course Smith's batting; his fielding was also very brilliant. We cannot end without referring to the bowling of Berens, who sent down 59 overs without once losing his length. He was put on first, and did not come off till the score had reached 300; this in itself was a noteworthy performance. We would have been pleased to win, and it was of course a bitter disappointment to us, but the kindness and hospitality of the Carthusians, for which we owe them every thanks, went far towards consoling us for defeat.

WESTMINSTER.

	<i>First Innings.</i>	<i>Second Innings.</i>	
W. F. D'Arcy, b. Baker	9	not out.....	5
E. Berens, b. Baker	0	c. Gardiner b. Anderton	14
J. F. More, c. Peers, b. Blake...	41	b. Baker	0
F. B. Sherring, c. Peers, b. Anderton.....	83	b. Baker	0
J. S. Shearme, c. Gardiner, b. Chichester	49	c. Gardiner b. Baker	0
R. Balfour, b. Anderton	7	b. Anderton	0
C. E. Page, b. Anderton	15	c. Anderton, b. Baker	6
W. L. Armstrong, b. Anderton	5	l.b.w., b. Peers ...	19
J. H. Alderson, b. Anderton ...	0	b. Smith	27
D. Fitzmaurice, c. Fane, b. Chichester	9	c. Chichester, b. Blake	10
D. Shearme, not out	9	not out.....	2
Extras	22	Extras	13
		249	96

CHARTERHOUSE.

E. H. Bray, c. Sherring, b. Berens.....	16
E. B. Winch, c. Sherring, b. Berens	15
F. L. Fane, b. J. S. Shearme	24
G. O. Smith, c. Sherring, b. J. S. Shearme	229
G. A. Gardiner, l.b.w., Berens	15
E. Garnett, b. Berens	7
E. Anderton, b. Fitzmaurice	19
L. Chichester, c. Sherring, b. Fitzmaurice...	0
C. H. Blake, c. Sherring, b. J. S. Shearme	8
W. B. Baker, not out	15
F. J. Peers, b. J. S. Shearme	0
Extras	12

360

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

WESTMINSTER.

First Innings.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
W. B. Baker	27	9	45	2
G. O. Smith	20	8	38	0
C. H. Blake	14	2	49	1
E. Anderton	17	4	45	5
G. A. Gardiner	4	0	15	0
F. J. Peers	10	3	29	0
L. Chichester	3	1	6	2

Second Innings.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
W. B. Baker	13	8	20	4
G. O. Smith	3	1	4	1
C. H. Blake	10	2	18	1
E. Anderton	16	5	26	2
F. J. Peers	5	1	15	1

CHARTERHOUSE.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wic
E. Berens	5'9	11	143	4
J. S. Shearme.....	32'2	6	96	4
D. Shearme	15	3	44	0
D. Fitzmaurice	19	4	53	2
J. F. More	2	0	12	0

WESTMINSTER *v.* OXFORD UNIVERSITY AUTHENTICS.

This match was played Up Fields on July 2, and resulted in a win for the Authentics by 50 runs. Shearme having lost the toss, the visitors started their innings with Richmond and Budworth, Berens and J. Shearme, as usual, sharing the attack. The start was disastrous for our opponents, as at 3 Budworth was caught off Shearme for a couple, and at 16 Page secured Richmond, the wicket going to Berens' credit. At 28 another wicket fell to Shearme, Fitzmaurice catching Ingram for 16. Battey, however, was now joined by Street, and a useful stand was made, the score mounting to 74 before the former was caught at the wicket off Berens for a hard-hit 32. Britten-Holmes followed, and another stand was made. D. Shearme went on instead of his brother, but proved rather expensive.

130 was reached before the fifth wicket fell, Holmes being clean bowled by Berens. The lunch interval now took place, and it was past 2.30 before the game was resumed. Street was now partnered by Browning, and J. Shearme came on again. Browning, however, was not destined to make a long stay; he was bowled by Berens for 5 (140 for 6). At 154 a

smart piece of fielding by Armstrong resulted in the dismissal of Teesdale, who was succeeded by Spottiswoode. As J. Shearme was rather expensive, Fitzmaurice went on. The change was successful, as with the score at 163 Street was caught at the wicket off the new bowler. The outgoing batsman had scored 67 in fine style, his cutting being especially brilliant. The remainder of the innings calls for little comment, the two remaining wickets falling to Fitzmaurice for an addition of 36 runs, the innings thus coming to an end for 199. Fitzmaurice was the most successful bowler, with 3 for 26; but Berens, who was on during the whole innings, bowled much better than his figures (4 for 84) would indicate. Towards the close of the innings the fielding got rather slack, Balfour being a notable offender in this respect.

Our innings was started just before 4 o'clock by Berens and D'Arcy, to the bowling of Street and Teesdale. A poor start was made, D'Arcy being caught in the slips off Street at 6, and More, who followed, being out in a similar way without scoring. Sherring followed, and put up the 10 with a 3 to leg off Street, and in that bowler's next over off-drove him for 4 and cut him for 3. He then got a shocking long-hop from Teesdale away for 5. Keeping up the pace he cut Street for 3 and drove Teesdale for 4, bringing on C. B. Marriott for Teesdale at 45. The pace at once slackened, nevertheless 50 was hoisted after half an hour's play. Berens, however, after cutting Street for 4, was bowled next ball at 61 for a patient 14. J. Shearme followed, but was l.b.w. to Street without scoring. Alderson came in, but owing to their excellent fielding the score mounted but slowly; but at 74 Alderson, who had just survived a chance of being caught and bowled by Street, was caught off Marriott for 5. Page followed, but at 85 Sherring was caught at the wicket for a faultless 45; his cutting being particularly clean and well-timed. With Armstrong in the 100 was hoisted at 5.15, but at 106 Page was caught by Spottiswoode off Marriott for 12. Balfour only scored 2 before being stumped, but Fitzmaurice and Armstrong, with the aid of 4 byes, raised the score to 149 before Fitzmaurice was bowled for 14. D. Shearme followed, but failed to stay, being bowled second ball, the innings thus closing for 149, Armstrong being not out 20.

AUTHENTICS.

B. L. Richmond, c. Page, b. Berens	8
R. D. Budworth, c. Alderson, b. J. Shearme	2
R. A. Ingram, c. Fitzmaurice, b. J. Shearme	16
A. M. Battey, c. Sherring, b. Berens	32
F. Street, c. Sherring, b. Fitzmaurice	67
E. Britton-Holmes, b. Berens	17
T. H. Browning, b. Berens	5
J. M. Teesdale, run out	6
W. H. Spottiswoode, b. Fitzmaurice	13
J. R. Marriott, not out	14
C. B. Marriott, b. Fitzmaurice	10
Byes, 6; leg byes, 3	9

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WESTMINSTER.

E. Berens, b. Street	14
W. F. D'Arcy, c. Richmond, b. Street	2
J. F. More, c. Holmes, b. Street	0
F. B. Sherring, c. Browning, b. Marriott	45
J. S. Shearme, l.b.w., b. Street	0
J. H. Alderson, c. Spottiswoode, b. Marriott	5
C. E. Page, b. Marriott	10
W. L. Armstrong, not out	20
R. Balfour, st. Browning, b. Marriott.....	2
D. Fitzmaurice, b. Marriott	14
D. Shearme, b. Marriott	0
Byes, 34; leg byes, 3	37

149

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

AUTHENTICS.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Berens	37	12	84	4
J. Shearme	23	3	62	2
D. Shearme.....	5	0	18	0
Fitzmaurice.....	8-1	1	26	3

WESTMINSTER.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Street	23	8	48	4
Teesdale	5	1	15	0
C. B. Marriott	28	12	40	4
Batley	5	0	6	0
Browning.....	3	1	3	0

WESTMINSTER v. O.WW.

This match was played Up Fields on Saturday, July 9, and resulted in a defeat for the school by 94 runs.

Old Westminsters won the toss, and started batting with Blaker and F. G. Oliver against the bowling of Berens and J. Shearme. Runs came quickly at first, but Blaker was soon bowled by Shearme for 12, and Oliver followed in the next over, the score standing at 18 for two wickets. E. G. Moon and Veitch brought the score up to 30, when the latter was caught at the wicket, and after 21 more runs had been added by Moon and Higgins the former was bowled by Berens for 20. Thorne came in, and a good stand was then made; he was twice missed at 30, but gave no other chance till the end of his innings. Higgins was caught for 24 by Armstrong, the total score standing at 100. W. R. Moon and Sandilands contributed 11 and 10 respectively, and when Bailey came in the score stood at 159 for 7 wickets. An excellent stand was made here, the scoring being slow at first, but becoming much faster afterwards, chiefly owing to eight fours contributed by Bailey and some excellent cuts by Thorne; the former hit very freely, one of his off-drives striking the roof of the pavilion. Bailey was at last bowled by Berens for a well-played 56, and on More going on at the lower end Thorne was caught by Page in the long field for the large score of 104, including nine fours and ten threes. Tritton was bowled first ball, the innings closing for 261. Thorne and Bailey had added 98 between the fall of the seventh and eighth wickets.

Our innings began about 4 o'clock, and was

opened by Page and Berens. The former was clean bowled for 9, and Berens followed for 4, the score standing at 15. More and Sherring batted well, putting on 44 before More was caught by Thorne for 20. Sherring played excellently, but was bowled by Bailey for 38. D'Arcy had evidently hurt his leg, and only made 9. J. Shearme, Alderson, and Balfour between them only brought the score up to 86, when D. Shearme came in and at once got his usual full-pitch to leg for 6; he followed it with another 4 to leg, and was soon afterwards bowled by Bailey. It looked as if a heavy defeat was in store for the eleven, when Newman, batting instead of Armstrong—who had unfortunately been hurt during the fielding—joined Fitzmaurice. The last wicket contributed no less than 60 runs. Seven bowlers tried their skill till Newman was bowled by Oliver. Fitzmaurice was not out with 46, made by excellent cricket, his cutting being especially good.

O.WW.

H. R. Blaker, b. J. Shearme	12
F. G. Oliver, b. Berens	6
E. G. Moon, b. Berens.....	20
J. G. Veitch, c. Sherring, b. Berens	8
F. T. Higgins, c. Armstrong, b. J. Shearme	24
F. G. Thorne, c. Page, b. More.....	104
W. R. Moon, b. D. Shearme	11
R. R. Sandilands, b. Fitzmaurice	10
N. C. Bailey, b. Berens	56
G. Eden, not out	4
H. B. Tritton, b. Berens	0
Extras	6

261

WESTMINSTER.

C. E. Page, b. Eden.....	9
E. Berens, b. Veitch.....	4
J. F. More, c. Thorne, b. Higgins	20
F. B. Sherring, b. Bailey.....	38
W. F. D'Arcy, c. and b. Bailey	9
J. S. Shearme, c. Veitch, b. Higgins	3
J. H. Alderson, c. Tritton, b. Higgins	0
R. Balfour, b. Higgins	1
D. Fitzmaurice, not out	46
D. Shearme, b. Bailey	11
T. H. Newman, b. Oliver	17
Extras	9

167

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

O.WW.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Berens	34	5	89	5
J. Shearme	22	3	81	2
Fitzmaurice	9	1	35	1
D. Shearme.....	8	2	33	1
More	1	0	3	1
Balfour	2	0	15	0

WESTMINSTER.

	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets
Eden	12	1	39	1
Veitch	14	2	55	1
Higgins	12	3	34	4
Bailey	12	4	16	3
Sandilands	6	1	9	0
E. G. Moon	6	4	5	0
Oliver	2	2	0	1

Moon and Oliver each bowled one wide.

THE SCHOOL MISSION.

A MEETING of the Executive Committee was held on Thursday, July 7. The principal subject of discussion was the financial state of the Mission.

A heavy expense has been incurred in the removal to St. Mary's, Vincent Square. This is an exceptional expenditure, and will not occur again. To meet it the Treasurers were authorised to sell out a portion of the invested capital should such a step be necessary. It is hoped, however, that additional contributions, in the shape of donations and subscriptions, may prevent them having to take this course.

OLD WESTMINSTER FREEMASONS.

A REGULAR meeting of the 'Old Westminsters' Lodge, No. 2,233, was held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, on Friday, July 1.

The following members were present: Charles M. Barker, W.M.; F. J. Pearse, S.W.; H. F. Manisty, J.W.; T. Wakley, jun., P.M.; H. H. Hyde Clarke, I.P.M.; H. D. Sandeman, Secretary; Rev. E. M. Tomlinson, Chaplain; Rev. W. K. R. Bedford; H. Sutherland, Steward; W. Hicks, S.D.; A. M. Cope, J.D.; W. A. Ellis, Organist; S. H. West, D.C.; H. E. Rawson, E. F. Kelly, and F. G. Hallett. Visitors: Rev. W. C. R. Bedford (O.W.), J. E. Lane, and — Oakley.

R.W. Bro. Hugh D. Sandeman, Past Dist. G.M., Bengal, &c., &c., was unanimously elected as Worshipful Master of the Lodge for the ensuing year, W. Bro. Pearse, S.W., having intimated his willingness to stand aside for the year in favour of Bro. Sandeman, who had rendered such great services to the Lodge in the capacity of Secretary, and indeed in every possible way. R.W. Bro. Sandeman, in a few well-chosen words, expressed the great pleasure it would afford him to occupy the chair of the Old Westminsters' Lodge. He said that, seeing he had already passed through the chair of seven lodges, he would not in the ordinary course have been desirous of again presiding over a lodge, but he felt that the Old Westminsters' Lodge was one of such a unique and altogether pleasant character—Westminster being, he believed, the only one of the old public schools in connection with which there was a Masonic lodge—that he could not deny himself the pleasure of occupying the post to which the brethren of his old school had appointed him.

W. Bro. Malcolm O. Sim was unanimously re-elected as Treasurer of the Lodge, a post he has held since its formation.

Mr. Ernest Charles Ellis was proposed as a candidate for initiation by Bro. W. A. Ellis, and seconded by W. Bro. H. H. Hyde Clarke.

W. Bro. H. H. Hyde Clarke proposed, and W. Bro. T. Wakley, jun., seconded, that a Past

Master's jewel of the Lodge should be presented to W. Bro. C. M. Barker in acknowledgment of the excellent and efficient manner in which he had discharged the duties of W.M. This proposition was carried unanimously.

The W.M. having suitably expressed his appreciation of the honour, the Lodge adjourned to the third Tuesday in December, a date which Westminsters young and old will notice as coming between two of the 'Play' nights.

The usual banquet was then partaken of, and subsequently the members and their guests enjoyed musical recreation, the various items of which—impromptu as they were—there is no exaggeration in saying would have done credit to carefully rehearsed concert effects.

THE 'AGAMEMNON' AT BRADFIELD.

'NON cuivis homini contingit adire Corinthum,' and not all of us have had the good luck to see Æschylus acted in the open air. It was a happy thought of the Warden of Bradfield to convert an old chalk-pit into an ancient Greek theatre. Legend says that the Bradfield boys were first turned loose in the chalk-pit with spade and pickaxe, and that the British workman was afterwards called in to put a finishing touch to their labours, which may, perhaps, have been directed with more zeal than knowledge. However this may be, the result of the combined efforts of Bradfield boys and British workmen is a perfect little model of a classical theatre. 'Classical' I say advisedly, for the scholars and archæologists are said to be in conflict as to the details of the Greek, as opposed to the Græco-Roman, theatre. But for all practical purposes the Bradfield chalk-pit reproduces to the world such a theatre as that in which were first acted at Athens the 'Prometheus,' the 'Antigone,' the 'Œdipus plays,' the 'Medea,' and all the masterpieces of Greek tragedy; and to see one of these masterpieces again played under the old conditions is an intellectual treat with a unique relish.

Visitors from London are whirled away by 'special' from Paddington to Theale, where the train is met by a whole army of drags and waggonettes. You get on board one of these—on the box-seat for choice—and drive off in procession, while the villagers gaze open-mouthed. The drive of three miles lies through a hilly and beautifully-wooded country, and the time passes quickly, till boys in gowns, walking by twos and threes, make you aware that you are already near Bradfield. You pass a finger-post, 'To the Greek Theatre,' and the next minute find yourself driving under a picturesque red-brick gateway. A turn to the left, and you draw up at a small doorway, where Bradfield boys in gowns—they all wear gowns at Bradfield—and with white wands, give you a welcome, and direct you along a

passage to the hall of reception, which is no other than the big school-room. At intervals you pass more boys with white wands, who prevent your erring steps from straying where they should not, and at the end of the long passage enter the school-room. Here are more white wands; and the Warden stands at the end, giving a cordial greeting to the stream of visitors that files past him. When you have shaken hands with the Warden, a white wand gives you welcome directions to the dining hall, where are refreshments.

The inner man refreshed, you have still half an hour to spare, and can stroll out and see the new chapel, almost completed, where workmen are hard at work in order to have it ready by the school confirmation in a few weeks time. Then there is the new cricket-ground, being scooped out as it were from the side of a hill, for there is little level ground at Bradfield. But now the sound of bugles announces to you that it is time to join the general stream which is making its way to the theatre. Everything is 'in accordance with ancient Greek custom,' as the programme consolingly assures you of the cushions for the seats which are provided for visitors; though one is prone to think that, even had 'ancient Greek custom' been less kind, the point would perhaps have been conceded to modern prejudices. Your ticket apprises you that your seat is in *κερκίς β κ'*, and all the white wands are again to the fore to guide you to it. Opposite the *κοίλον* or auditorium rises the façade of the stage, with the tympanum of the pediment filled with sculpture in relief. The *σκηνή* represents the front of Agamemnon's palace. A flight of steps leads to the entrance, which is barred by double doors. There are also 'exits' to the stage on right and left. Some half-dozen steps lead from the *λογεῖον* or stage to the *ἀρχήστρα*, in the centre of which is the altar sacred to Dionysus (*θυμέλη*).

But a second blast of the bugles has summoned the audience to take their seats, and in a few minutes the bugles sound again, and the play begins. The Watchman comes on, shading his eyes with his hand, and straining them to catch sight of the beacon-fire which is to announce the fall of Troy and put an end to his weary watch. He mounts the small tower on the wing, and at last he sees the distant glare of the welcome *ἄγγαρον πύρ*. The news brings an active and picturesque crowd from the palace, who exhibit a most praiseworthy interest and excitement, which stage-crowds so often lack. The Chorus of Argive Elders then enters to an anapaestic march. The palace-doors are now flung open, and disclose a very stately and statuesque Clytemnestra, who with great dignity announces the fall of Troy. After a second choric ode Talthybius enters and proclaims the arrival of Agamemnon. Clytemnestra, who has entered again, bids Talthybius take a welcome to his master. The harmless necessary Chorus then sing again, and Agamemnon enters with Cassandra in a chariot drawn by Trojan slaves. The dignity of his entrance is a little disturbed by an accident to his helmet, which has been caught by the curtain and pushed

to the back of his head, and it is some time before he can fix it on again to his satisfaction. But he acquits himself in king-like manner none the less. Clytemnestra enters with her attendants at the end of his speech, and it was here that Mr. Blagden, who took the part, was seen at his best. The way he delivered the ironical self-eulogy of Clytemnestra on her faithfulness was masterly. Agamemnon enters the palace with the Queen. A choric song of foreboding, followed by the attempt of Clytemnestra to persuade Cassandra to come into the palace, led up to Cassandra's prophecy of coming woe. Cassandra's is without question the hardest part in the play. If it is hard to play madness, it is harder still to play the mental state, something less than mad and more than sane, involved in Cassandra's prophetic trance. And in this case there was, of course, the further difficulty a boy must find in playing a woman's part. It is not likely that Mr. Willis' impersonation pleased all tastes, or that it even satisfied on all points those whom it pleased as a whole. But it was certainly very clever, very intelligent, and very moving, quite consistent in itself, and carrying conviction to the audience. Cassandra's cries, half moan and half shriek, thrilled one to the marrow. The Chorus follow with an ode which strikes the keynote not only of this play but of all Greek tragedy, and above all of Æschylus—the idea conveyed in the word *νέμεσις*. Suddenly a loud groan is heard within, followed by a shriek, and repeated a few moments after—the deed of blood has been done. The Chorus is full of horror and uncertainty. Soon the doors of the palace open, and the *ἐκκύλημα* is pushed forward carrying the dead body of the King entangled in a net, with the corpse of Cassandra by his side, and Clytemnestra standing over the bodies holding a blood-stained axe. She defends and exults in her crime, and the Chorus bursts out into a lament. The words of Ægisthus, who now enters, infuriate the Chorus, who rush upon him. But Ægisthus calls his soldiers, who seize the Argive Elders. Clytemnestra, re-entering, saves the Elders from being put to death, and the play comes to an end.

The play went from the beginning to end without a hitch. No detail has been overlooked to make the revival as perfect as possible; and infinite pains and trouble must have been spent over it. The dresses are tasteful, even down to those of the mob; and when Agamemnon enters with his soldiers there is a most imposing array on the stage. Bradfield was unlucky in losing the services of one of the actors at the eleventh hour—Mr Burnell, who was to have combined the parts of the Watchman and Ægisthus. No official announcement was made of the fact, so I hope it is not a betrayal of confidence to say that the first of these parts was admirably played by one who won his spurs some ten years ago on the Westminster boards. To anyone who saw Mr. H. W. Waterfield as Micio in the 'Adelphi' of 1881, or as Geta in the rehearsals of the 'Phormio' of 1882, when he was unluckily prevented by a broken ankle from filling the part on the play nights, there could be no doubt as

to the identity of the Watchman in the Bradfield 'Agamemnon.' Mr. Waterfield is a master at Bradfield, and took the part at very short notice. The other part, that of Ægisthus, was very effectively filled by the Warden, who thus had to hand over his office of Coryphæus to another towards the close of the play. Mr. Blagden, as Clytemnestra, started with the great advantage of classical features and a dignified carriage. He made the most effective use of his natural advantages, and spoke with vigour and incisiveness. There was something of a tendency to over-emphasize the *ειρωπεία* of certain lines, and so to partly blunt their edge. But his interpretation of the part certainly showed a quite exceptional power. Cassandra divided the honours with Clytemnestra; of her enough has already been said.

A word is due to the Chorus, who bore with heroic resignation their long and weary labours. They were bored, and they did not conceal it; but they always contrived to show a decent amount of interest in what was going on at critical moments. The music was pleasing, and the march played as Agamemnon enters in his chariot, and recurring several times after as a sort of refrain, was very taking. The orchestra consisted of flute and harp, a charming combination, the latter in the hands of the most distinguished harpist of the day, who figured in the programme as 'Aptommas.'

So scholarly a reproduction of one of the noblest of Greek tragedies reflects the greatest credit on all concerned. And especially is praise due to the Warden, not only for his generosity as Choragus and his admirable organisation and management of the whole, but also for his courage in having dared in the face of the deep-rooted convictions of a nation, to assume that an open-air theatre is a possibility and to act on the assumption. What with pastoral plays, a Greek theatre, open-air services, and meetings of all sorts, we are beginning to realise that there are possibilities in our much-abused climate that were undreamt of by our fathers.

Deeply interesting as such a revival of Greek drama under ancient conditions must be to all who make any pretence to culture, there are two reasons which make the new departure at Bradfield of special interest to us at Westminster. First of all, Westminster may feel a sort of consanguinity or cousinship to Bradfield, because little more than ten years ago the Warden, Dr. Gray, was one of the junior masters at St. Peter's College; and secondly, we at Westminster, having a traditional interest of three centuries in the modern interpretation of ancient drama, naturally welcome fresh travellers along the road we have been treading so long. For these two reasons, then, as well as for that which we share with all scholars (ripe and unripe) throughout the civilised world, we offer hearty

congratulations to Bradfield on the signal success they have scored, and wish them good speed in all similar enterprises for the future. Issi.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Permit me to thank you warmly on behalf of the Mission Committee for your generous donation of £10 to their funds. It comes at a very opportune moment, as large expenses have been unavoidably incurred in making the new start in Vincent Square.

Congratulating *The Elizabethan* on its flourishing financial position,

I am,

Faithfully yours,

M. W. C. MARKLOVE.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Your correspondent Q. asks in the June number of *The Elizabethan* whether anything could be done to cure the plague of brickbats in the 'deep field.' I have no doubt that the boys of the Mission would, in return for the privilege of using some outlying corner of Vincent Square on Saturday afternoons, undertake to collect and remove the brickbats and other rubbish week by week.

Yours truly,

H. G. R.

[We regret to say that your suggestion is impossible.]

Our Contemporaries.

We beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following: *Marlburian, Bradfield College Chronicle, Cantuarian, Berkhamstedian, Blue, Doverian, Penn Charter Magazine, Blundellian, Rossalian, Malvernian, Our Boys' Magazine, Alleynian, Meteor, Danehillian, A. A. Notes, Salopian, Newtonian, Kadleian, Fettesian, Carthusian, Wellingtonian.*

NOTICES.

All contributions to the October number of *The Elizabethan* must be sent in to the Editor, St. Peter's College, Westminster, not later than September 24.

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 contributors or correspondents.

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

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