



The Elizabethan.

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THE PAST CRICKET SEASON.

IT is customary at the close of each Cricket Season briefly to review it in the pages of *The Elizabethan*; and we judge this custom to be no less fitting than in previous years, because there are certain points in the progress of the season which seem to us to deserve notice.

Looking at the results of the matches of 1881, although we have no reason to be ashamed of ourselves, yet, on the other hand, we certainly have none for undue rejoicing. Out of nine matches played, we have lost five and won four. Our most signal defeat was in the match with Charterhouse, where we seemed to be utterly to pieces. That we were beaten is no disgrace, considering the merits of the Charterhouse team; that we were beaten in the way we were seems to exhibit some defect in our *régime*.

We had at starting, although six of last year's eleven had left, the makings of, we do not say a good, but even, excellent eleven. Anyone reading this statement may not un-

naturally ask, How was it that we did not show to greater advantage? We will endeavour to point out a few of the causes which prevented our Eleven from proving themselves as good as they actually were.

The first reason was the atrocious state of the ground, which was worse this year than it has ever been in our recollection. Doubtless, as our professional says, the peculiar weather, namely, the great cold so late, followed by such early heat, may have had a good deal to do with it. Still, this cannot have been the only reason for such a state of things as existed in the summer term. The main proof of this was the form of the Eleven; with two or three exceptions the leg-side batting was much weaker than the off. This arose most certainly from the evil condition of the ground; for a batsman cannot be expected to learn how to play leg-balls when, every time he makes an attempt, the ball upsets his calculations by rising over his bat and hitting him in the face. The direct result of this is that when any fellow going to practice finds out that he cannot play with

certainly, he drops even the attempt to play, and takes out his time in 'slogging' every ball, a course which is quite sure to be fatal to learning good cricket. We may, however, congratulate ourselves that the matter has been taken in hand by proper authorities, and a better state of things may be hoped for next year.

A great barrier to the success of our Eleven was, we feel quite sure, want of confidence, which certainly lost us one match, and more or less considerably affected all the others. Of course we are not speaking of nervousness, which some fellows, especially the younger members of a school eleven, cannot help. But when a fellow leaves the tent, saying, 'I shan't be long'—'I shall be bowled first ball,' &c., &c., he is pretty sure to prove a true prophet. And apart from the mischief he does himself and the school, he strikes panic, especially if he be an old member of the Eleven, into the others, the result being a collapse. The same thing is observed in the smaller games, where fellows go in with one pad on because they 'are coming out soon.' They go in, and play carelessly, and are constantly moving the undefended leg about from being hit, which develops faulty style. This sort of thing ought to be put down at once with a strong hand.

A great drawback to the Eleven was the want of a good wicket-keeper. Through all our matches this was painfully felt, nowhere more so than in the Charterhouse match, where the poor style of our wicket-keeper contrasted most unfavourably with the neat execution of that of the Carthusians. Perhaps this was all the more noticeable as following directly upon last year, when we had such a good one; but we feel convinced that, had there been a good wicket-keeper, not half the number of runs would have been made against us that actually were made. This is more a misfortune than a fault, but one which should be most carefully guarded against in future.

The general management of cricket this year, especially in the smaller games, was—thanks to our most efficient and in every respect excellent Captain, to whose exertions and example the Eleven owe so much—much better arranged than in former years. Still we think that a professional ought, if possible, to be engaged specially for the small fellows. It seems to our outside view that it must be easier and better to teach a beginner how to play true cricket, than to let him acquire faults, and

then try and eradicate them. We trust, therefore, in future to see this need attended to.

In conclusion, we may remark that Westminster has two disadvantages peculiar to herself in her cricket. The first is the shortness of the Cricket Term, there being scarcely time to get settled as an Eleven in six or seven weeks. The second, and greater, is Water. Far be it from us even to hint at such a thing as the abolition of Water at Westminster, with its delightful reminiscences, much less at that 'birthright of British boys, cricket.' But it must be patent to everyone that Water must draw away many who would be useful at cricket, and *vice versa*. The remedy to this lies in increase of space, which is increase of numbers. Let us hope soon to see Water and Cricket independently and equally flourishing in their old form.

'OLD WESTMINSTERS.'

No. XVI.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE SIR JOHN SKYNNER.

IN 1742, at the age of fourteen years, was admitted fourth into St. Peter's College, Westminster, John Skynner, son of John and grandson of Edward Skynner, and descendant of an old family known as the Skinners of Ledbury, to one of whom, not the least distinguished of many of his name who have gained distinction in various walks of life, A. M. Skinner, Esq., the present Recorder of Windsor, I am indebted for much valuable information touching the subject of this notice. In the long roll of eminent men who were educated at Westminster the name of Skynner or Skinner appears more than once, and as a loyal O.W. I only regret that many other prominent men of this family, instead of following the good example set them by their kinsmen, should have deserted the school of their ancestors, and in some instances of their immediate relations, to enter their names on the list of other establishments. In the case of the gentleman to whom I have already referred, the Recorder of Windsor, it is pleasing to me to have found that he has an ardent affection for Westminster and its traditions, although himself an Etonian; and I rejoice that, as Westminster has a pride in John Skynner, her distinguished son, so Mr. Skinner is proud of the fact that his illustrious ancestor received his education in so glorious a School as Westminster.

John Skynner was a 'junior' when two boys, who afterwards attained no little celebrity, were 'Third Elections,' James Impey, and Granville Leveson Gower, created Marquess of Stafford in 1786; and when Skynner was a comrade of James Impey in

College, his younger brother, the more famous Impey—Elijah—who entered the School at the early age of seven years, was a 'Town Boy.' John Skynner was elected to Christ Church, Oxford, in 1742, and was succeeded at Westminster by his brother Thomas, who, in the same year, was admitted sixth into St. Peter's College.

It is a little curious and not unworthy of note on that account: Mr. Skinner, Q.C., the Recorder of Windsor, the descendant of the Skynners to whom I have just referred, has just gone to live at Abbotsham Court, Devonshire, and has for his neighbour Mr. Sealy-Vidal, an O.W. himself, the descendant of one William Sealy who was elected to St. Peter's College, Westminster, in the same year as the Thomas Skynner spoken of above.

John Skynner had been admitted a student of Lincoln's Inn on the 21st of November, 1739, and we find that he was called to the bar on the 17th of November, 1748, joining the Oxford Circuit. On the 27th of January, 1750, he took the degree of B.C.L.

On the 15th of March, 1757, he with other counsel had a remarkable escape, under the following circumstances: In Court, the Worcester Assizes being on, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon, as Sir Eardley Wilmot was summing up the evidence in the last cause, a stack of chimneys fell through the roof of the court-house and killed and wounded many people. The barristers, heedless of the want of dignity in their proceeding, hastily sought refuge under the table before them, and by this means escaped a dreadful fate. The counsel in Court were five in number, and it is remarkable that those five obtained pre-eminence in their honourable profession. They were: Price, Nares, Ashurst, Aston, and Skynner. The first-named became well-known as a Chancery barrister, and died a King's Counsel; the remaining four, each and all, arose (from under the table, but not immediately, be it understood) to the dignity of Judge.

In 1768 Skynner was elected to Parliament as member for Woodstock. On the 19th of January, 1770, he was, on Lord Strange's recommendation, appointed Attorney-General for the Duchy of Lancaster, an office which he held until the 5th of November, 1777, when he gave in his resignation. In 1771, on the 19th of June, having been made a King's Counsel, he was honoured with the dignity of a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, and on the 3rd of April, in the following year, he became a Puisne Judge for the counties of Chester, Montgomery, Flint, and Denbigh. On being made a Welsh Judge he vacated his seat in Parliament, but was re-elected. In the same year he was chosen to act as a Steward of the Westminster School Anniversary.

In the general election of 1774 Woodstock again selected Mr. Skynner as the representative of the interests of the constituency in Parliament.

Early in the year 1776 Oxford paid Mr. Skynner the high compliment of inviting him to accept the Recordership of the city, which he accepted, on condition that he should be assisted in the work by a

deputy. On the 12th of April the Recordership was conferred on him, and also the Freedom of the City of Oxford.

The Oxford Corporation plate contains 'a soup tureen, cover, and ladle, the gift of the Right Honourable Sir John Skynner, Recorder for the City, for the use of the Mayor—1789.' On each article the Skynner arms were engraved, namely, *Sable*, a Chevron, or between three griffins' heads erased, *Argent*.

On the 27th of November, 1777, he became a Sergeant-at-Law, and, in accordance with the customary rule, left the Society of Lincoln's Inn: he had been knighted four days prior to his appointment to be sergeant. On the 1st of December in the same year, Sir John was raised to the Bench as Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer.

In 1780 Sir John was chosen to be a Busby Trustee in the place of Heneage, Earl of Aylesford, a post he occupied until his death, when he was succeeded by John Duke of Bedford.

In December, 1786, Lord Chief Baron Skynner resigned his seat on the Bench, and was honoured on the 23rd of March, in the year following, by being sworn in as a Member of the Privy Council. He now retired into the country, going to the seat inherited by him from his mother, Great Milton House, Oxfordshire, which, Mr. Skynner tells us, he enlarged and beautified, and here he entertained among others his old friend and fellow-counsel, the Judge Ashurst, who was now his neighbour in the adjoining parish. Lady Skynner, the Judge's wife, died in December, 1797. Sir John lived to the respectable age of 82 years, and died at Bath in 1805. He was buried in the vault belonging to his mother's family in Great Milton church, and on a plate over his grave is the following inscription:—

'IN A VAULT BENEATH,
LIE THE REMAINS OF SIR JOHN SKYNNER;
SON OF JOHN AND ELIZABETH SKYNNER;
ONE OF HIS MAJESTY'S
MOST HONOURABLE PRIVY COUNSEL,
AND SOMETIME
CHIEF BARON OF THE COURT OF EXCHEQUER;
WHO DIED THE 26TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1805.'

There is a portrait of Sir John, painted by Gainsborough, in the Parliament Room, Lincoln's Inn, given by Francis Burton, Recorder of Oxford and Welsh Judge, to whom the Lord Chief Baron had bequeathed it.

Sir John Skynner's is one of the figures presented in Copley's famous picture of the death of Lord Chatham, he having been a witness to that tragic event.

The Judge left an only child, Martha Frederica, who married, in 1799, the Right Honourable Richard Ryder, M.P. for Liverton, Home Secretary, brother of the Earl of Harrowby. The Annual Register announced the pleasant fact that this lady brought to her husband the fortune of a hundred thousand pounds sterling.

Sir John was liberal and kindly, and appears not only to have made many friends, but, having made them, to have also kept them in that relationship.

Among many famous Westminster scholars certainly the subject of this notice has won a place, and we are very pleased to award to him what is after all but his due.

School Notes.

At a meeting of the Upper School last term the Committee for the Athletic Sports was elected :

F. W. Bain, Q.S.	} <i>ex officio.</i>	
W. L. Benbow, T.B.		
G. E. M. Eden, T.B.		41
W. C. Dale, Q.S.		39
F. T. Higgins, T.B.		36
E. Harington, Q.S.		38
R. T. Squire, T.B.		25

H. Waterfield was next in order with 21 votes.

At a subsequent meeting (held this term), F. W. Bain was chosen Treasurer ; R. T. Squire, Secretary.

The Athletic Sports will be held at Vincent Square on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 18 and 19 respectively.

The Eleven at present consists of the following members:—W. A. Burrige (captain), R. T. Squire, F. W. Bain, H. Wetton, E. C. Frere, S. A. Bird, O. Scoones, and T. Morison.

The Final Lawn Tennis Ties last term resulted as follows :

W. W. Bury *beat* F. W. Bain.
C. W. Crowdy „ E. T. Brandon.
R. H. Coke, *a bye.*

W. W. Bury *beat* R. H. Coke.
C. W. Crowdy, *a bye.*

W. W. Bury *beat* C. W. Crowdy.

The Play this year is the Adelphi of Terence.

At a meeting of the Debating Society, held on September 26, the following new officers were elected :

<i>President</i>	F. W. Bain.
<i>Vice-President</i>	T. Morison.
<i>Secretary</i>	J. B. Hodge.
<i>Treasurer.</i>	A. E. L. Rogers.

On Thursday, September 29th, Mr. W. B. Nutt gave a dramatic recital in School, consisting of a selection from Tennyson, 'The Defence of Lucknow'; 'Much Ado about Nothing,' the Dogberry and Verges scene ; a piece of poetry from 'Good Words' ; a

reading from Mark Twain's 'Innocents Abroad'; and a scene from 'A Charity Dinner.' The best done, we think, was the 'Innocents Abroad,' and pieces of 'Much Ado About Nothing.' Dogberry's voice was the best, that of Verges being rather too much strained.

CRICKET.

WESTMINSTER *v.* CHARTERHOUSE.

(N.B. Any imperfections or discrepancies in this account must be excused, on the ground that, owing to an unfortunate accident, the entire score was lost, and the account has been written almost entirely from memory.)

On Saturday, July 30th, we played our annual match with Charterhouse, at Vincent Square, which resulted in an easy victory for them by an innings and 177 runs. The match had been originally fixed for the 23rd, but was postponed owing to the death of Dean Stanley. Play was delayed at first, owing to the heavy rain, but about 12.30 it cleared up, and, accordingly, we sent Crowdy and Harington to face the bowling of Dames and Smith, on a wicket which, in spite of the rain, was still fairly good. Dame's first ball clean bowled Crowdy, which seemed ominous, and Harington was shortly afterwards bowled by Smith, in endeavouring to put a ball between his legs. Dale, who now joined Wetton, was the only one for Westminster who showed any form. After making 9, Wetton was clean bowled by Streatfield, and the next batsman, Eden, quickly put together 11, and succumbed to a good ball of Blenkiron's. Higgins made 1, and was caught by Streatfield off the bowling of Lee. None of the rest seemed to understand Blenkiron's bowling ; Bain, after making 4, was taken at slip by Smith, and Burrige, Kimber, and Bird retired without scoring, Roller being not out. The innings thus closed for 62 runs. Blenkiron's bowling was especially remarkable, obtaining 5 wickets at the cost of only 10 runs.

When we took the field, the Carthusian captain sent Wright and Spurway to the wickets ; but neither Higgins nor Wetton could prevent their scoring rapidly ; till Spurway was well taken at the wicket by Bain, after scoring 14. On Streatfield coming to the wickets, the score continued to rise till the rain compelled an adjournment. On returning to the field Streatfield was run out for a freely-hit innings of 24, and Rokeby replaced him. The Carthusians now completely mastered the bowling, and the succeeding batsmen, with the exception of Cobbold and Fair, all contributed largely to the total of 316, Wright, Owen, Smith, and Blenkiron batting in really brilliant style.

With 245 to make, we sent Harington and Crowdy to the wickets ; but at Streatfield's second ball Harington hit his wickets, without scoring. Wetton did not stay long, being caught by Dames off the bowling of Smith, and Dale succeeded him. Crowdy was disposed of for 3 by Streatfield ; and Eden, after making 11, again succumbed to Blenkiron. Higgins

excited no little admiration by his remarkably fine hitting—undoubtedly the best of the day—till Lea, miscalculating his distance, converted what at first seemed but a fairly difficult one, into a really spendid one-hand catch. Some steady play was now exhibited by Bain, who alone could do anything with Blenkiron's bowling; as Dale, Kimber, and Burridge did not cause him much difficulty. It now seemed as if Westminster would make it a draw, though very much in the favour of Charterhouse, according to the rule which requires the match to be finished in order to complete a victory, when three minutes before time Bain was bowled off his pads by Blenkiron, whose analysis is worth looking into, as in this innings also he obtained 5 wickets at the expense of 27 runs. The wicket-keeping of Wright was excellent throughout. Appended is the full score :

WESTMINSTER.

<i>First Innings.</i>		<i>Second Innings.</i>		
	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	
C. W. Crowdy, b. Dames	0		b. Streatfield	3
E. Harington, b. Smith	4		hit wkt., b. Streatfield	0
H. Wetton, b. Streatfield	9		c. Dames, b. Smith	1
W. C. Dale, b. Smith	26		b. Blenkiron	8
G. E. M. Eden, b. Blenkiron	11		b. Blenkiron	11
F. T. Higgins (capt.), c. Streatfield, b. Lea	1		c. Lea, b. Smith	16
F. W. Bain, c. Smith, b. Blenkiron	4		b. Blenkiron	21
G. W. Kimber, b. Blenkiron	0		b. Blenkiron	1
W. A. Burridge, b. Blenkiron	0		c. Lea, b. Blenkiron	6
C. T. Roller, not out	0		c. Spurway, b. Dames	3
S. A. Bird, b. Blenkiron	0		not out	0
Byes 5, w. 1, n. b. 1	7		l.-b. 6, w. 1	7
Totals	62			77

CHARTERHOUSE.

C. W. Wright, c. Eden, b. Wetton	72
E. P. Spurway, c. Bain, b. Eden	14
A. W. Streatfield, run out	24
R. T. Rokeby, c. Eden, b. Wetton	25
W. Lea, b. Wetton	33
W. N. Cobbold, b. Wetton	6
L. Owen (capt.), c. Higgins, b. Wetton	40
J. A. S. Fair, b. Wetton	2
C. A. Smith, b. Harington	35
T. W. Blenkiron, b. Harington	46
F. L. Dames, not out	5
Byes 12, w. 1	14
Total	316

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

First Innings.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.
Dames	6	2	10	1
Smith	17	7	19	2
Streatfield	5	1	13	1
Blenkiron	11	4	10	5
Lea	4	3	3	1

Dames bowled one wide and one no ball.

Second Innings.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.
Dames	4	1	5	1
Smith	9	1	16	2
Streatfield	9	1	19	2
Blenkiron	5-1	3	27	5
Lea	4	2	3	—

Dames bowled one wide ball.

First Innings.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	Wickets.
Higgins	28	9	69	—
Wetton	34	10	87	6
Kimber	15	4	34	—
Eden	17	1	66	1
Dale	3	—	18	—
Harington	6-2	2	28	2

Wetton and Harington each bowled a wide.
The umpires were J. Street and R. Thoms.

T.B.B. v. Q.S.S.

This match was played at Vincent Square on Monday, August 1st. There was not much doubt beforehand as to what the result would be, as the T.B.B. had by far the strongest team. It was their turn to go in first, and accordingly they succeeded in getting 215, off some rather erratic bowling. The Q.S.S. in their first innings only reached 60, so they went in again, and this time with better success, making 105; thus leaving the T.B.B. winners by an innings and 50 runs. For the T.B.B., Higgins, Kimber, and Eden played best, the 97 of the former being a fine series of hard hits; while Bain, Harington, and Dale did most for the other side. It rained at intervals throughout the day, and especially during the latter part of the game. Appended is the score:

T.B.B.

C. W. Crowdy, b. Bird	16
A. E. Bedford, c. Waterfield, b. Bird	19
H. Wetton, b. Bird	0
E. G. M. Eden, c. Rogers, b. Fawcett	29
F. T. Higgins, c. Bethune, b. Harington	97
J. W. Kimber, c. Bethune, b. Harington	30
W. A. Burridge, c. Rogers, b. Harington	2
C. T. Roller, not out	6
F. G. Thorne, run out	4
H. Healey, c. Bain, b. Harington	0
C. Tritton, b. Harington	0
Extras	12

Total

Q.S.S.

<i>First Innings.</i>		<i>Second Innings.</i>		
	Overs.	Maidens.	Runs.	
H. Waterfield, b. Wetton	1		b. Tritton	0
E. Harington, c. Higgins, b. Wetton	2		c. Thorne, b. Kimber	15
F. W. Bain, run out	21		c. Bedford, b. Tritton	54
W. C. Dale, b. Tritton	13		c. Crowdy, b. Eden	4
S. A. Bird, b. Wetton	9		b. Eden	0
A. G. Rogers, c. Crowdy, b. Tritton	9		c. Crowdy, b. Tritton	3
W. W. Bury, run out	2		b. Tritton	11
O. Scoones, b. Wetton	0		not out	5
E. T. Brandon, c. Crowdy, b. Tritton	0		b. Tritton	2
D. Fawcett, b. Wetton	0		b. Tritton	0
M. R. Bethune, not out	0		b. Wetton	3
Extras	0		Extras	0
Totals	60			105

FOOTBALL.

XI. v. XXII.

This, the first home-match of the season, was played at Vincent Square on Wednesday, September 28th, and resulted in a victory for the Eleven by five goals to three, and one goal which was disallowed for

the Eleven. The game was, as usual, little more than a mob, and playing was pretty much out of the question. The goals for the Eleven were shot by Burridge (1), Bain (2), Morison (1), and Jenner (1). The sides were :

XI.—W. A. Burridge (captain), R. T. Squire, F. W. Bain, H. Wetton, E. C. Frere, S. A. Bird, O. Scoones, T. Morison, F. T. Higgins, A. C. W. Jenner, H. Healey (goals).

XXII.—R. H. Coke (captain), G. H. Viner, H. A. Fulcher, C. B. Crews, A. J. Heath, W. C. Dale, A. E. Bedford, H. Waterfield, Ritchie, Ingram, H. C. Peck, Vavasseur, A. Rogers, A. R. Hurst, Forster, Trevor, Pigott, Stanfield, Roller, Thorne, Meredith, E. Lynch.

VII. v. XI.

This match was played at Vincent Square on Wednesday, September 29th, and resulted in a victory for the Seven by a goal. The Seven were deprived of the services of Scoones, and the Eleven of those of Morison. The game throughout was carried on rather more in the vicinity of the goal of the Seven than the other ; but, notwithstanding, the Eleven could not succeed in getting three goals. Squire, and all the backs, played excellently. For the Eleven, Heath played the best, and Coke well behind. For the Seven, the goals were shot by Bain (3) ; for the Eleven by Bedford and Heath. The sides were :

VII.—W. A. Burridge (captain), R. T. Squire, F. W. Bain, H. Wetton, E. C. Frere, S. A. Bird, F. T. Higgins.

XI.—R. H. Coke, W. L. Benbow, A. C. Jenner, G. H. Viner, H. A. Fulcher, C. B. Crews, A. J. Heath, W. C. Dale, A. E. Bedford, C. Ritchie, F. Thorne (goals).

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. C. W. R. TEPPER'S ELEVEN.

This match was played at Vincent Square on Wednesday, October 5th, and resulted in a victory for the School by one goal to none. The visitors, who were rather a strong team, at first rather penned us, but the exertions of Burridge and Scoones soon carried the ball into the enemy's quarters, and an excellent run up the side by Scoones was followed by a shot that went just over the tape. Just before half-time, Bain, after a neat run up the left side, middled well to Higgins, who put the ball through, scoring the only goal of the match. After half-time the game was very even, some fine runs being made by Scoones on the right, and Bain and Morison on the left. Higgins also played well in the centre, and Wetton and Squire back. For the visitors, Crowdy (forward) and Bailey (half-back) played best, and Tracey played well behind. Sides :

WESTMINSTER.

W. A. Burridge (capt.) and O. Scoones (right-side) ; F. W. Bain and T. Morison (left) ; F. T. Higgins and A. C. W. Jenner (centre) ; R. T. Squire (full-back) ; H. Wetton, E. C. Frere, S. A. Bird (half-backs) ; H. Healey, goals.

C. W. R. TEPPER'S ELEVEN.

C. Tracey and J. H. Williams (backs) ; C. W. R. Tepper and N. C. Bailey (half-backs) ; R. Tanner and E. Stephenson (right) ; J. B. Buckwill and F. D. Crowdy (left) ; P. G. L. Webb and E. H. Bailey (centre) ; C. Darson (goals).

Obituary.

ON the 31st of August, at Bromley Hill, Kent, died Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Long, aged 82. He was the eldest son of Mr. Samuel Long, of Carshalton, Surrey, by his wife, Lady Jane Maitland, fourth daughter of James seventh Earl of Lauderdale, and was educated at Westminster as Town-Boy. He was a J.P. and D.L., and in 1863 served as High-Sheriff for Kent. Colonel Long married four times : firstly, in 1825, the Hon. Louisa Emily Stanley (second daughter of Edward thirteenth Earl of Derby, and sister of the great statesman) ; secondly, in 1827, Sidney, daughter of Mr. Arthur Atherley ; thirdly, in 1854, Emily, daughter of Mr. Charles John Herbert, of Muckross, Killarney ; and fourthly, in 1866, Eleanor, eldest daughter of Mr. Edward Stanley of Crosshall, Lancashire.

From 'TIMES' of September 6.

Mr. Henry Stone Smith, late of the Parliamentary Office, House of Lords, in which office he has served upwards of fifty years, a large proportion of that time as chief clerk,

died on Sunday at Ramsgate. Mr. Smith, who was born in February, 1795, was the son of a Captain in the Navy, his mother being a Miss Stone, an artist of some celebrity, whose drawings of the birds in Sir Ashton Lever's museum were greatly admired at the time of their exhibition. He entered Westminster about 1806. The one striking incident in Mr. Smith's official life is connected with the burning of the Houses of Parliament, in October, 1834. Living, as he did, in Smith Square, he was soon on the spot, and thanks to his knowledge of where the historical documents belonging to the House were deposited, and to his energy and example, they were rescued from the flames and deposited in the Westminster Hospital and St. Margaret's Church.

On August 19th, 1881, at Holcombe, Dawlish, Devonshire, died Colonel Clifton Benbow, in the 83rd year of his age. He was the eldest son of John Benbow, M.P. for Dudley. He left Westminster in 1817, and entered Trin. Coll., Camb. He was shortly after presented with a commission in the Indian Army, where he served thirty years.

DEBATING SOCIETY.

On Friday, September 30th, the Society met to discuss the motion—'That, in the opinion of this Society, the substitution of cremation for the ordinary form of burial is desirable.' The following members spoke:

FOR THE MOTION.	AGAINST.
F. W. Bain.	T. W. Hodge.
T. Morison.	F. F. James.
A. E. L. Rogers.	

On a division the motion was carried by a large majority.

 Our Contemporaries.

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of *The Alleynian*, *The Blue*, *The Bradford School Chronicle*, *The Carthusian*, *The Forest School Magazine*, *The Geelong Grammar School Quarterly*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Melbourneian*, *The Rossalian*, *The Tonbridgian*.

The Alleynian contains a very long and circumstantial account of the part taken by their corps at the Windsor Review, where they seem to have been the best of the whole brigade, and the observed of all observers generally. We can scarcely wonder that this should be so, apart from other reasons, when, as is stated, their band played 'popular selections from the works of our best known composers—such as "Over the Garden Wall"!! The simple style of the account is well characterised in the closing remark of the note, viz. 'I have only to add that the next day was Monday.' (N.B.—The previous day was Sunday.) As might be expected, cricket accounts form the bulk of the paper in other respects.

The member of their team ought to feel himself deeply indebted to the writer of the characters of the Eleven for so ingeniously substituting in his the euphemism—'pitches his balls too far to be difficult,' for the nearly synonymous, but scarcely less pleasant term, 'bowls half-volleys,' as is neatly expressed in *The Bradford School Chronicle*. We had thought that some lines which we read in another school journal carried off the palm; but—*humanum est errare*—'Cave Canem' sinks below even them. We wonder why there is such a fondness for the insertion of 'awful doggrel' in a school magazine, under the supposition of a comic vein therein existing. 'Our Egoist' is not badly written, and depicts a very familiar type of the same.

The Blue is an indifferently good number. There are some fairly good verses on the death of Dean Stanley. The Oxford letter contains useful information on the 'Varsity Match, and so forth. The lover of the abstruse will be 'fooled to the top of his bent' by investigating 'morning stars,' which leaves a craving for better things to come. Editorial difficulties, such as are stated in this number, are not unfelt at Westminster also. We would it were not so.

We took down our atlas and investigated the various pages of condensed guide book with which *The Carthusian* commences. The excellence of their Eleven is amply proved by the accounts of various matches. There is an account of their corps also at the Windsor Review, which differs in unimportant particulars from that given in *The Alleynian*, such as which was the best corps there, &c.

We doubt if we have before had the pleasure (?) of reading an effusion in any school paper, which displayed such feeble buffoonery as that termed 'All's well that ends well,' in *The Forest School Magazine*. That an Irishman, who talks the most

excellent English, could ever labour under the foolish misapprehension as that in the text, is absurd in the last degree. Bulwer Lytton and water appears in the Revival of Classical Literature. We will not further enlarge upon the contents of this number, but content ourselves with expressing the opinion that its readers must be easily satisfied. As the editor well remarks in the preliminary notice, 'It is not the province of an editor to eulogize the particular number he has the honour of compiling.' If this number be worthy of its predecessors, we are glad that memory is not everlasting on this earth.

Why do the editors of *The Geelong Grammar School Quarterly* tend to spoil their otherwise good number, by admitting such trash as 'The Lay of the Bicyclist'? We don't think even the praise of a boat, or condolence therewith, returning conquered, gains anything by being put into blank verse. There is a good account of the Mostellaria of Plautus as acted at Trinity College, Victoria, also a notice of 'the Public Schools of England.'

It is somewhat curious to note that, although the Oundle School eleven is stated to be distinctly stronger than in previous years, none of their batting averages, as given in *The Laxtonian*, reaches 13. Some of the poetry is fair. We do not approve of the 'other houses' weakly refusing the challenge of the school house eleven for the position of 'Cock House.' Such a system tends greatly to degeneration, and it would be well if the existence of a 'Cock House' at all was made dependent on all playing for it.

We recommend the editors of *The Melbourneian* to make cautious inquiries before venturing another such remark as the following on 'Our Public Schools.' 'One peculiar excellence of the book is that it deals with absolute facts, and is not padded with irrelevant romances,' 'and not the adverse criticism of an Outsider.' Such an article as 'Through the Continent in Two Days' may have attraction for people in a strange land like Melbourne, but on our minds it leaves jarring sensations of previous acquaintance, bad jokes, incorrect ideas, and so forth.

The Tonbridgian opens with a short calculation that the dispatch of their journal costs money—so it does. The best parts of the poem 'The Dove's Message' are the title ('it's my own invention,' said the White Knight), and the passages containing allusions to 'foam-flecked,' 'they twain,' 'for aye.' These, placed judiciously apart, give quite a poetical air to the whole. An appeal is most artfully introduced in 'Indian School Life'; we quite admire the unobservable way in which it is slipped in sideways.

 Correspondence.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—This further extract, relating to the late Field-Marshal Viscount Combermere (see ante p. 144), from the *Standard* of the 23rd of September, is worthy, I think, of preservation in *The Elizabethan*:—'The marble bust of the late Field-Marshal Viscount Combermere, executed by Mr. Theed, and presented to the Household Cavalry Brigade by his widow, has been placed in the mess-room of Knightsbridge Barracks. It is admirably executed, and all the details of the uniform accurately produced. On the marble pedestal are enumerated the principal battles and actions in which the Field-Marshal was engaged—his services having extended over a period of seventy-five years—commencing with 'Flanders, 1793, Cape of Good Hope, Malavelly, Seringapatam, Dourou, Talavera, Busaco, Teira, Villa Garcia, Fuentes d'Onor, El Bondon, Castrejon, Salamanca, Orthes, Toulouse, and Bhurtpore, 1826.'

I am, Sir,
Yours &c.,
MISCELLANY.

September 24, 1881.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—May I inquire, through the medium of your pages, whether there could not be some means of making two or three little games 'Up Fields' instead of one, as the present state of that one makes it quite impossible to do anything like playing? It would not be either very expensive or troublesome to get half a dozen more posts for boundaries, and there seems to be plenty of ground. Apologising, Sir, for thus intruding on your valuable space,

I am, yours &c.,
LITTLE GAME.

NOTICES.

All contributions for the November number of *The Elizabethan* must be sent in before October 20, to the Editor, St. Peter's College, Westminster.

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

The yearly subscription to *The Elizabethan* is 4s. It is requested that all subscriptions now falling due, or not yet paid up, should be forwarded to R. H. COKE, Treasurer of *The Elizabethan*. Post Office Orders to be made payable at the Westminster Palace Hotel Post Office. Subscribers resident at Oxford can pay their subscriptions to W. A. PECK, Esq., Christ Church, Oxford.

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Subscribers are requested to notify any change of address to the Secretary.

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

Florent.