

WESTMINSTER IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY.

X

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"Westminster School," wrote Lord John Russell, who was at Westminster from 1803-4, "was a rough place," and Bishop Short, who came a few years later, bears witness to the same effect: "the boys fought one another, they fought the Masters, the Masters fought them, they fought outsiders; in fact we were ready to fight anybody," and as Dr. Carey, the Head-Master, believed in the "hardening process," a "mill" became a recognised institution. Moreover, the arrangements in the boarding houses were of the most primitive description. "The boys were crammed together, and placed higgledy-piggledy side by side like pigs in a stye." Lady Mansfield described how she visited her son, who was ill at Mrs. Packharness,' in Great Dean's Yard. There was but one chair in the room, on which her son was sitting, his friend was seated on the coal-scuttle. On Lady Mansfield's entrance, the friend politely offered the coalscuttle for her ladyship to sit down upon.

Fagging was also then at its height, and the juniors were virtually the slaves of their fag-masters: "some were blacking shoes, others cooking mutton chops, others boiling coffee, all in one room together "--black-leading the grates, laying the fire, brushing their master's clothes, and cleaning the candlesticks might have been added as part of the daily work of a fag. As has been said, "it was a rough harsh life, to which a man looks back with pleasure, not because he enjoyed it, but because somehow or other he lived through it." But it is noteworthy that Westminster sent forth some of the finest soldiers she ever produced, such as Lord Lucan, Sir Henry Barnard, Lt.-Gen. F. Markham, and but a generation before Wellington's generals, Sir Stapleton Cotton, afterwards Viscount Combermere, Strafford, Uxbridge, afterwards the first Marquis of Anglesea, and a famous cavalry leader, Fitzroy. Somerset, better known as Lord Raglan, whom Wellington described as "an honour to his country and his friends," Lambert, and many others.

We all of us know how the Earl of Albemarle, "impatient of confinement within the narrow little backyard of Mother Grant's boarding-house," scaled the wall into Great College Street and enjoyed an evening "up town," returning to find the dummy figure he had left in his bed piecemeal on the floor, and how two days later a letter arrived from his father, informing him his schooldays were at an end, and telling him Dr. Page (the Head-Master) had advised "a profession for him in which physical rather than mental exertion would be a requisite"! Two months later he was fighting at Waterloo. But Lord Albemarle was not the only Westminster who exchanged the "playing fields of Westminster for the battlefield of Waterloo," Not long before Lord Albemarle was expelled, Lord William Pitt Lennox had received a commission in the Horse Guards while still at School. and he, in consequence, considered himself superior to rules, and escaped one evening through the window of the room occupied by Dr. Dodd, the Usher of the House. Dr. Carey, the predecessor of Dr. Page, though realising the exceptional circumstances of the case, considered it would not be advisable for him to return after the holidays which were then close at hand.

The Tuttle, or Tothill, Fields, which included all of what is now Pimlico, were at this time, and for some years later, the general playground of the School, in spite of the fact they had the reputation of being one of the worst localities in London. Every Westminster boy, however, knew every inch of them. This knowledge was put to good use after the Coronation of George IV. (1821). George IV. had made himself unpopular by his treatment of Queen Caroline, and a mob collected round the Abbey and assumed such a threatening attitude that fears were expressed for the King's safety if he returned by the ordinary route to the Palace. The way through the Tothill Fields was suggested, and by great good fortune, Lord De Ros, an O.W., was an officer of the escort, and he volunteered to pilot the Royal equipage through these slums, which he accordingly did, taking His Majesty through regions where he had certainly never been before. The King was horribly nervous, and made the officers keep close to the windows of his carriage, but he got back safely.

Dean's Yard, which was not railed off till about 1815, was

the usual playground at odd hours, and encounters with the "skies" who ventured to cross the forbidden space were frequent, and more often than not ended in the bold adventurer forcibly undergoing the "cold water cure" at the famous Dean's Yard Pump, which stood nearly opposite to the Head-Master's house. Indeed, to send the fags to "cag" the skies (*i.e.*, clear the yard) was a favourite amusement of the Seniors. Animals were treated with even less respect. An unfortunate pig having once straved into Dean's Yard, every book in the place was thrown at its unoffending head. One boy, not having a book handy, hurled his watch, which, resenting such rough treatment, refused to go The watch, though permanently disabled as a timepiece, again. was one of the old-fashioned kind, and its size suggested new possibilities to the mind of its owner, who throughout the next school hour busied himself in removing the works, and at the end of school had converted the quondam watch into quite a tolerable snuffbox !

The Cloisters were also used for hockey, "very bad for the bones of the dead, but very good for the bones of the living," and hoop-races. This latter was very popular at this time, the course being from "Mother Parks, twice round the Cloisters, and home," and even the future Marquis of Anglesea was an ardent competitor. St. David's Day (March 1st) brought ditch-leaping over Battersea fields, where the delights of Spanking Sam, the receptacle for the dead cats and puppies of the neighbourhood, the Black Joke, and Big Ben, were experienced, and the young might dream of making some superlative leap which should hand their name down to future generations of Westminster boys, even as for years R. Bingham (adm. 1780) was remembered as the hero of "Bingham's leap." Ditch-leaping is no more, though the late Sir George Durent, thirty years ago, thought he could still detect "Spanking Sam" in a drain in Battersea Park. As lately as sixty years ago it was said to be possible to shoot a snipe in what is now Belgravia.

One story recently told me by the son of an Old Westminster who was here in 1815 I cannot forbear quoting. A Westminster boy not having given up his Holiday Task was asked by his master whether he had done it, and on his answering in the affirmative, was asked where it was, to which he gave the following reply:—"Well, sir, you see it was like this, the last day of the holidays I was out shooting, and I had come to the end of my wadding, when a hare got up. Suddenly remembering I had my Holiday Task in my pocket, and thinking you would far rather have the hare than my Holiday Task, I used it for wadding."

"Well, and where is the hare?" "Oh, sir, I missed it !"

L. E. Tounce

Dascul

THE WANDERING JEW.

I.

The night was dark, the stars were dead, The tempest roared around his head, And every step he took was fraught With pain and terror, yet he sought— As he must ever seek—the rest Always denied his weary breast.

II.

The wind made revel, and the rain Was dancing from the skies amain; The lightning looked upon his face And pitied him, and then God's mace Struck at him and the thunder came, Its chariot drawn by steeds of flame.

ш.

The old Jew wandered on, and when The blush of morning wakened men The storm had ceased—but not in him t "O God, I ache in every limb, Mine hands are palsied, and mine eyes See nought on earth but miseries.

IV.

"Yet one good matter have I seen: 'Tis very good to die, I ween! To feel the lessening of the breath That tells of quickly coming death. Would I could rest; but never may I rest until the Judgment-day!"

W. B. NICHOLS.

THE PLAY SUPPER.

The Play Supper was again held "Up Grant's" last term on the second night of the Play. After worthy justice had been done to the bountiful repast which Mr. Tanner had so kindly provided, C. G. Reed rose, and in a few words proposed Mr. Tanner's health. After his health had been most heartily drunk, Mr. Tanner rose and replied in an excellent speech. He started by stating the difficulty there was in finding something fresh to say, and that he thought the proverb "Speech is silvern, but silence is golden" was very appropriate on this occasion. He then went on to the pleasure of seeing so many Old Grantites in their old House again. He ended his speech by proposing the health of the monitors. C. G. Reed again rose, and told the guests of what the House had done during the past year, and what its prospects were for the following year; he then proposed the health of the Old Westminsters. H. S. Ladell replied in a very interesting and amusing speech. Then the songs were called for, G. H. Scott starting with a very good "John Peel." Among the best songs that followed were F. G. Worlock's song, the name of which we have unfortunately lost, C. B. H. Knight's "Old Smiler," G. M. Castle-Smith's "Angeline," A. F. Noble's "Here's to the Maiden of Bashful Fifteen," E. R. J. Ratcliffe-Cousins' "Fatherland," J. W. Geare's "Poacher," Whitmore's "The Beetle and the Boot," Colquhoun's "Muddle-Headed Railway Porter." There were also two very good part songs, sung by present members of the House; these were two plantation songs, "The Old Banjo" and "Good Night!" A most enjoyable evening was then brought to an end by "Auld Lang Syne" and "God Save the King." There was a large number of Old Grantites present, including H. S. Ladell, G. H. G. Scott, K. Kellie, W. E. S. Sonnenschein, G. M. S. Oldham, R. E. Tanner, C. B. H. Knight, J. Harrison, G. M. Castle-Smith, A. F. Noble, H. Pedler, E. R. J. Ratcliffe-Cousins.

GRANT'S SENIORS IN YE SAXON TIMES.

"It so came to pass that ye ancient Grantites gat them up and played ye game of toeball against ye Boarderers of ye Homes. And they called upon their war-god Wotan to give righteous judgment; but Wotan was sore angered against Grant's, and he forsook them. And lo! the fight waxed hot, and Grant's were sore distressed, for one of ye Boarderers did assail ye watchman of ve goal-cave, and did cast down on to the ground the watchman when he had not ye bladder, which of a surety doth break the law, howbeit ye wilde man of ye fiery countenance and Bobic ye Briton valiantly defended ye entrance thereof. But alack ! the goal was assigned unto the Boarderers, to the great discomfiture of ye men of Grant's. Now in the second portion of the combat a mighty man of war of Grant's did make a goodly rush, casting ve bladder into ye Boarderers' goal-cave, where a warrior, arrayed in ye red armour of ye Boarderers, was keeping watch. But woe unto the day! for ye war-god Wotan, seized with a sudden and grievous blindness, did blow his horn, and in a voice like unto thunder he proclaimed that ye warrior of Grant's, who was clad in armour of divers colours and hues, had cast in the bladder in a most subtle and cunning manner, thereby breaking the law. Wherefore it seemed good unto him that ye goal should be judged even off the side. The rumour thereof spread throughout all the land, and there were great murmurings against ye war-god Wotan, for of a surety was he not the cause of ye Grantite downfall? Howbeit he was cast off, and ye warriors of Grant's

did put an end to his worship; and he was no longer ye chief war-god, but one mightier than himself, namely Orra, King of ye Dull Witches, reigned in his stead. Thus ended ye great combat betwixt ye noble House of Grant's and ye serfs, known as ye Boarderers of ye Homes, the fame whereof hath come down even unto this day."—*Extract from "The Saxon Chronicle.*"

RES, AETAS, USUS, SEMPER ALIQUID APPORTENT NOVI.

Gone are the days of Alfred's time, When in the cloisters here the monks Doled out small learning set to rime, Which the small boys absorbed in chunks.

Gone are the days when Busby taught Unwilling boys, who shirked in vain : They had to learn, or else be caught, For Busby taught them with a cane.

Gone are the days of—well, what need To specify? For all the rest Of Masters will go soon indeed, If Gramophones can teach us best.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Society has met on six evenings of this term, both Shakespeare's and Sheridan's plays being read. At the first meeting Shakespeare's *King Lear* was started. The parts were as follows :---

"KING LEAR."

Mr. Tanner	•••	King Lear.
C. G. Reed	•••	Kent, 1st Servant, &c.
G. W. Hodgson	•••	Edmund, Old Man, 3rd Servant.
D. S. Graham		Goneril, Curan.
W. R. Horton	•••	France, Gent.
L. E. Tanner		Gloucester.
E. W. Wylde	•••	Edgar, Doctor, Captain.
H. G. Dillon	•••	Cordelia, Oswald.
F. H. Vey		Cornwall, Burgundy.
G. L. Eyre		Regan, Herald, Knight.
J. W. Geare	•••	Fool, Albany.

This play is one of the longest that the Society has read. It took three meetings, on January 29th, February 5th and 12th, to finish the play. At the last meeting L. E. Tanner was away, but his place was most ably filled by R. E. Tanner, Esq. (O.G.). The next play the Society read was Sheridan's *Rivals*. The parts were as follows:

"THE RIVALS."

Mr. Tanner	· · · ·	•••	Sir Anthony Absolute.
C. G. Reed			Captain Absolute.
G. W. Hodgson	•••	•••	Bob Acres.
D. S. Graham	•••	•••	Lydia, Thomas.
W. R. Horton		• • •	David.
L. E. Tanner		•••	Mrs. Malaprop.
E. W. Wylde	•••	•••	Faulkland.
H. G. Dillon			Lucia, Boy, Servant.
F. H. Vey			Julia.
G. L. Eyre	•••	•••	Sir Lucius O'Trigger.
J. W. Geare	•••	•••	Fag, Maid.

This is the first of Sheridan's plays that the Society have read this year. It was read with much more spirit and feeling than the last Shakespeare. It was read on the following two nights, February 26th and March 5th. At the first of these meetings R. E. Tanner, Esq. (O.G.), again filled L. E. Tanner's place.

The next play the Society read was Sheridan's *Critic*. The parts were as follows :---

"THE CRITIC."

Mr. Tanner	Puff.
C. G. Reed	Sneer, Knight.
G. W. Hodgson	Dangle, Hopkins, 2nd Niece.
D. S. Graham	Sir A. Hatton, Son, Thames.
W. R. Horton	Beefeater, Master of Horse, 1st Niece.
E. W. Wylde	Governor, Justice's Lady, 2nd Sentinel.
H. G. Dillon	Leicester, Constable, 1st Sentinel.
F. H. Vey	Don Friolo Whiskerandos, &c.
G. L. Eyre	Tilburina, Under Prompter, &c.
J. W. Geare	Sir W Raleigh, Justice, Confidant.

This play was read at the sixth meeting the Society held. It was well read on the whole, Mr. Tanner as "Puff" being very good indeed. The Society closed its session with this meeting. (We here take the opportunity of thanking Mr. Tanner for all the very enjoyable meetings the Society has held this year.) L. E. Tanner was absent from this meeting.

HOUSE MATCHES.

In the first round of House Matches we were drawn against Home Boarders, who, on Monday, March 11th, after a very exciting game, drew with us. Home Boarders won the toss, and kicked off at 2.35 p.m. from the Hospital end. Miles at once took the ball down to H.BB. goal and centred well, but the insides turned it to no account. For some time we kept off the attack ; then Gover and Feasey ran the ball down to our goal, but shot wide. From the goal kick, R. Graham, running down the right wing, put in a good shot which was stopped by Turner. Our halves kept continually passing to the forwards, who utterly failed to score, though they had many chances. At last the H.BB. backs cleared, and Gover and Feasey again getting together came dangerously near scoring—Gover shooting wide to the right. We again got the ball and ran right down to the H.BB. goal, Geare forcing a corner. R. Graham gave a very nice corner kick which was eventually cleared by Bonner. Our backs kept on placing the ball nicely in front of the H.BB. goal, but all in vain. The H.BB. forwards were pressing when the whistle blew for half-time, but our defence, playing remarkably well, seemed quite able to hold its own against the H.BB. attack.

After half-time, H.BB. took the ball down to our goal, forcing a corner, which Summerhays put behind. H.BB. kept up the attack for some time, though they were given no opportunity of shooting. At this point of the game it seemed as if the smallness of most of our forwards was beginning to tell, but they rallied again shortly after, and the right wing took the ball down to the H.BB. goal. R. Graham made a very good shot, which was cleared by Turner to their forward line. Dicker, however, was pulled up for handling, and from the place kick Wylde dropped the ball nicely in front of the H.BB. goal, which led to a scrum, until Rawson managed to put in a successful shot into an open goal $(\tau - 0)$. For the next twenty minutes play was even, then H.BB., making a final effort to score, kept our defence very busy. During this period our forwards seemed never to touch the ball; R. Graham was the only forward who came back to help the halves. H.BB. forced a corner; it was dropped right in front of our goal, and after an exciting scrimmage, Reed managed to clear to touch. From the throw-in, Circuitt passed to Feasey, who kicked it forward, and by some unknown mistake on the part of our goal-keeper, was allowed to rush it through easily (1-1). This was only three minutes from time, during which both sides played at their hardest, but when the whistle blew neither side had added to the score, and so the match ended in a draw.

Grant's—

THE TEAMS.

*W. R. Hadley (goal); *E. W. Wylde and †W. R. Horton (backs); *S. D. Graham, †C. G. Reed and G. W. Hodgson (halves); C. V. Miles, H. F. Rawson, *J. W. Geare, R. H. Williams, and R. A. Graham (forwards).

Home Boarders—

F. G. Turner (goal); Wyatt and Peakock (backs); A. J. Longhurst, Bonner and J. M. Fisher (halves); D. Summerhays, C. M. Circuitt, Feasey, C. Gover and Dicker (forwards).

* Played in 1906.

† Played in 1905.

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The match against Home Boarders was replayed on Wednesday, March 13th, in a high wind and a bright sun. We again lost the toss and kicked off from the Hospital end. Our team was the same as before, except that Storer substituted for Rawson who was not well enough to play. Geare kicked off at 2.53 p.m., and from the start we began to bombard the H.BB. goal. This we kept up for fully 10 minutes, though both wind and sun were against us, our halves and backs keeping the H.BB. forwards well in check. Our forwards so far showed a little better combination than in the former match, but several obvious chances were let slip. Gusts of wind made kicking for the backs uncertain, enabling H.BB. to get an opening. Dicker took the ball down to our goal, and passed well to Gover, whom Wylde gave no time to get a shot in, but cleared well. After this there was a good deal of even play. Then Summerhays, who was playing very well on the outside, forced a corner against us which was cleared by Graham. Summerhays again took the ball down, neatly dodging Horton, passed to Circuitt, who centred into the mouth of our goal; Gover followed it up, knocked the goalkeeper down, the ball rolling in. For the remaining six minutes of the first half the play was very even, and when the whistle went we were still one goal behind. On resuming, we made a great effort to retrieve our loss. For the rest of the game we kept up an unceasing attack, during which Geare put in a very fine shot, but was, unfortunately, ruled off-side. Whenever H.BB. tried to get away, our defence immediately put a stop to it, the ball being seldom out of their half. We forced corner after corner, but to no avail. Whenever the H.BB. forwards seemed at all likely to get into our half they were hauled up for off-side. [It might here be mentioned that our goal-keeper touched the ball only once in the second half.] Time seemed to fly and there was no change, shot after shot going wide of the H.BB. goal. For the last five minutes H.BB. seemed to find touch a very useful friend, and the safest place to keep kicking the ball into whilst their goal was in such great danger. However, the melancholy fact remained that when the whistle blew for time we were left to realise that we had been beaten by Home Boarders one, love.

CRITICISMS ON THE HOUSE TEAM.

E. **W**. **Wylde** is a very useful man to have in a team, as he is very good at jostling the opposing forwards. He made a very good captain, showing plenty of energy and keenness. He played exceedingly well in Seniors.

C. G. Reed.—A very good centre-half indeed; his kicking is rather erratic at times, but proves himself a good half whenever he takes the trouble; there is no doubt that he would have had

his place in the team had he displayed a little more interest in the game. He has always proved very useful to his House.

G. W. Geare is what one might call a very disappointing player, who always does the wrong thing; his weight ought to have done more for him in the House matches, but, unfortunately, he was very well marked, and so had very little chance. We hope he will improve considerably next year.

S. D. Graham.—A very sturdy little half, who always does a lot of work, and in the future ought to be very useful to his House.

W. R. Hadley as a goal-keeper is somewhat unfortunate, being naturally of a nervous disposition. This year he had very bad luck in the House matches.

W. R. Horton ought, with a little more practice, make a very good back indeed. At present he is too wild, and has no idea of feeding his forwards. In the past he has had one or two disappointments in the game. At the beginning of this season he seemed a trifle slack. Next year, however, we hope we shall see him playing for the School, that is to say if he pulls himself together, and we wish him every success as captain, and hope he will improve.

R. Graham.—A very useful person to have, as he plays well in whatever place he is put. As an outside-right he keeps the ball too long, and is rather too fond of showing how well he can dribble, which doesn't do. Undoubtedly, his place for the future is half, where we strongly advise him to play.

G. W. H. Hodgson appeared this year to be working very hard, and so had very little time for football. In the House matches he was quite good, but with a little more practice would have been better.

R. W. Williams did not come off as might have been expected, but was no worse than the rest of the forwards.

H. F. Rawson.—Last year great things were expected of of him, but he seems to have been falling off considerably. His play this year was not conspicuous, and we hope again for better results in 1908.

C. T. Miles will in time make a very good outside-left. He, unfortunately, is rather slow, but his centring is very good at times. He played well in the first match; in the second was, if anything, the best forward in the line.

R. S. Storer, in substituting for Rawson, came up to the scratch very well. He was very much like a "bull in a china shop," unfortunately he didn't knock over much china.

VALE !

Some debts, I feel, can never be Repaid, except with gratitude; And such a debt I owe to thee, School, whence I drew but good.

I cannot phrase it as my heart Dictates; my pen is far too weak To do its task and take its part In what my soul would speak.

Yet, something it can write to thee Who didst my timid boyhood nourish : "May no fell, foul, encroaching sea Of failure touch thee! Flourish!"

W. B. NICHOLS.

HOUSE NOTES.

L. D. Looker and W. B. Nichols left at the end of last term, to the regret of all. We wish them every success in their future careers.

We have two new boys this term—John and Dearmer; the former has come as a boarder, the latter as a half-boarder. This makes our numbers 49, as D. Vey and Tomlinson have been absent for the whole term, owing to illness.

We are glad to have seen the names of three Old Grantites running at Oxford during the last month-W. T. S. Sonnenschein, R. W. Reed, G. R. J. Ratcliffe-Cousins.

We are also glad to have seen in the London Gazette, about the beginning of December, that Lieut. Tudor Fitzjohn (O.G.), of the Worcestershire Regiment, has been promoted to the rank of Captain.

We offer our most hearty congratulations to D. S. Robertson (O.G.), on obtaining the Pitt Scholarship at Cambridge. We believe it is the highest distinction the University can confer on an undergraduate.

E. W. Wylde received his pinks on Saturday, March 2nd. after the Charterhouse match. J. W. Geare played for the School against Winchester; C. G. Reed has played regularly for the 2nd XI.

In Seniors we lost to Home Boarders (1-0) after two very exciting matches.

The following are the colours at the end of this term :--

PINKS. E. W. Wylde. PINK AND BLACK. Horton. Geare, Reed. Graham, S. HOUSE COLOURS. Hadley. Graham, R.

The Play Supper was held, as usual, on the second night of the Play.

Our prospects for the sports are fairly bright; we have got some promising Juniors coming on.

W. B. Nichols (O.G.) has published a very good book of his poems. A full review of it was published in the *Elizabethan*, March 1907.

The pancake grease was won by E. D. Adrian, after a very hard fight for it. It is four years since a Grantite last won it.

In the Inter-house Drilling Competition, which was held on March 26th, Grant's again proved the best. This year Grant's won it by a good margin of eight points, last year only by one point.

THE YARD BALL FUND.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.			
	£ s. d		£	, s.	d.
Balance from Play Term	1 3 10	Jan. 18th, 1 doz. balls	c	> 5	ο
2 Subscriptions of 6 <i>d</i>	οια	Feb. 14th, 1 doz. balls	c	7	0
154 balls skied at 4d. each	2 1 1 4				
		Feb. 26th, I doz. balls			
	3 16 2		C	2	6
Balls purchased	I II C	Mar. 18th, 2 -doz. balls	C	> 2	6
Balance	£252		£	II	о

There will be no sixpences given back this term; the balance will be carried on to the fund next term.

Audited and found correct. C. G. REED. G. W. H. HODGSON, Hon. Treasurer,

THE YARD TIES.

FIRST ROUND.

Reed beat	Rawson, H by 14 goals to 8.			
Hadley,	Vey, F			
Geare,	Hodgson, G ,, 11 ,, ,, 5.			
Graham, S.	Eyre			
Williams ,,	Boult20 ,, ,, 6.			
Horton	Adrian			
Wylde and Looke				
	SECOND ROUND.			
Williams beat	Hadley16 goals to 4.			
	Graham, S ,,			
Geare ,,				
	Semi-final Round.			
Geare beat	Williams by 9 goals to 7.			
Reed a bye.				
FINAL ROUND.				
Geare beat	ReedII goals to IO.			

CORRESPONDENCE.

OUR HADES LETTER.

243w, Elysian Mansions, Erebus Street, Hades.

To the Editor of "THE GRANTITE REVIEW."

DEAR SIR,

All the O.GG. in Hades have been sent down to Tartarus, where they are all engaged in the same pursuit, viz., cookery (passive), with the exception of G. F. P.-L., who is being used as a gas-stove. G. R. Y. R. is supplying the gas.

Yours warmly, PLUTONIENSIS.

NOT POETRY.

Oh, Friends, take warning from this idle tale, And learn the moral which these verses contain; There was a youth who swore; it make me pale To think of it. He used to live at Fontaine-

Bleau.

He could not rest at home : he wandered forth An exile. Oaths came tripping from his mouth. (Per-

Haps you've met him.) East, West, South, and North,

He wandered till at last he came to South Pa-Hang.

They would not have him there. They drove him out, Pursuing him with clubs, and sticks, and hammers,

For years he fled, and wandering about

At length he reached the ancient town of Damas-Cus. The dwellers in this place were good and staid. The place was hot enough; he made it hotter: And so straightway they sent him, carriage-paid, Marked, "This side up, with care," insured, to Rotter-Dam. They would not have him there, and so, outcast,

He wandered on. Perhaps it is as well To leave him thus. Where he will get at last None know; but I expect he'll go to Hel-Singfors.

OUR OXFORD LETTER.

To the Editor of "THE GRANTITE REVIEW." Oxford, March 16th.

DEAR SIR,

Hilary Term is always one of the dullest up here, and that in spite of the approach of Spring, the Boat-race, and the Sports. Somehow, everything seems to be at its last gasp, just when the summer is beginning. But Old Grantites find opportunity to gather fresh laurels even in this season of narcotic slumber. R. W. Reed, for instance, has been elected Secretary of the Warrigals Cricket Club, and G. Beech has been helping to take the Merton torpid a place or two down on the river.

The par nobile fratrum (Messrs. J. E. Y. and G. R. Y. Radcliffe), the identity in whose difference provides a constant field for speculation to the philosophically minded, maintain their differences in their identity. The one loves sport, especially when coupled with good old English ale, the other preserves his lofty contempt for athletes, athletics, and athleticism, yet the strong bond of Grant's occasionally induces him to support the Christ Church and XI. and its Captain, G. M. S. Oldham. That worthy gentleman does not lose the freshness or enthusiasm which of right belong to youth. Never has a second team been kept up to the mark with such merciless rigidity as the Christ Church A.F.C. and XI. this year, in spite of which it usually lost. With the loyal affection, peculiar to one of his earnest and lovable nature, he still wears the stockings which denote the Grantite colours.

Mr. E. C. Cleveland-Stevens retains his main features, and is pursued by endless admirers from all corners of his own Kent: a veritable ladies' *Dodge*. He is working hard for his School, in which he should do well, especially upon the more anecdotal periods, and is trying to learn bridge. He was very prominent on the ice at the beginning of this Term.

Mr. Rae Fraser has been making a name for himself as a second Dr. John Dee, and many a hideous story is told of cold and phantasmal apparitions in the room in which he and his crystal abide in Old Library. There, with the awful assistance of another Old Grantite, the most horrible depths of the Black Art are sounded. Altogether Mr. Fraser and Mr. Ratcliffe-Cousins are people of whom to be careful. Mr. Ratcliffe-Cousins has been running with a certain amount of success, but is built for cross country rather than the track.

Mr. W. T. S. Sonnenschein was one of the four just men, and contributed a powerful voice in the Cardinal Play this week. It was the first time he has ever sung either on or off the stage, and we are told it will be the last. It is also rumoured that he is becoming a Socialist, but we are asked to contradict this and assure you that it is only "enlightened toryism."

Mr. R. W. Reed is a whip of the beagles, and wields that in as masterly fashion as he did another in the days of yore. He prospers exceedingly, yet grumbles as much as ever.

Mr. G. Beech has been combining Honour Moderations with rowing: the Merton boat went down four places, we hope his class won't. He is also a Myrmidon, which is something very offensive. Mr. Pitt-Lewis is very happy and has a very nice bicycle. It was nearly stolen the other day. We won't divulge the culprit's name.

There is one other O.G. of whom a word may perhaps be made—W. F. Fox. His name is still a by-word for all that is best in Ch. Ch., and he was seen loyally recording his vote for Lord Rosebery on Thursday for the Chancellorship. If others had kept their faith as well as he did, a "House" man might still have been Chancellor.

With more than the usual apologies.

Yours truly,

EX AEDE CHRISTI.

OUR CAMBRIDGE LETTER.

To the Editor of "THE GRANTITE REVIEW."

DEAR SIR,

Once again I am called upon to furnish you with news of Old Grantites in Cambridge, but as their numbers show a distinct tendency to decrease, the matter at my disposal is proportionately scanty, which renders my task the more difficult, though none the less welcome. It is pleasant, however, to remember that quality is better than quantity, and I am, of course, convinced that in this respect we compare favourably with our fellow compatriots at Oxford.

Mr. D. S. Robertson, notwithstanding his devotion to his books, manages to retain a modest and youthful appearance, the more to be wondered at after his capture of the Pitt Prize for Classics, upon which he is to be heartily congratulated.

Mr. G. J. E. Neville has lately appeared in a new character,

and may be seen on Tuesday Evenings at the Union, inflicting his political and other views upon a somewhat apathetic though indulgent audience. He has been successful in so far that he has been invited to repeat the experiment, and may the indulgence thus granted be not misplaced, is my pious wish.

Mr. G. S. Ness still manages to exist, though of course he must find the Cambridge restrictions somewhat vexatious. He occasionally strolls off to some convenient hostel, there to practise the noble art of self-defence, and from his subsequent unruffled and elegant appearance it may fairly be presumed he is successful.

Mr. R. W. Willcocks is still fascinated with military ardour, and may be seen most afternoons trotting off with his little gun, whereupon his friends take the opportunity of making themselves scarce.

Mr. C. H. F. Metcalfe is mainly occupied driving his motor, presumably with the idea of getting an appetite for study, as so far, his digestion has not been overtaxed in this direction; and now, dear sir, with profound apologies,

I remain,

Yours imperfectly,

Ex Aede Jesu.

To the Editor of "THE GRANTITE REVIEW."

DEAR SIR,

Might I, through the agency of your columns, suggest that clean towels be provided for "Chiswickites" more than once a week? The state into which they get after a few days is anything but desirable. Apologising for trespassing on your space,

I remain, Sir,

Yours truly,

SIGARUS.

NOTICES.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, 2, Little Dean's Yard, Westminster, S.W., and all contributions must be clearly written on one side of the paper only.

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Floreat.

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