



The Elizabethan.

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RECENT CHANGES.

'THE New System,' as it is generally termed, ever since the first rumour of its existence was bruited abroad, has been a great bugbear to the conservative spirit of the School. The ideas which have been circulated on the subject are mostly of a vague and indefinite character: so much so that, if anyone were asked what the 'new system' was, he would be very puzzled to satisfy his inquirer's thirst for information. Those best informed on the subject, until quite lately, were only haunted by a few indistinct reports that 'outsiders were to be admitted into College'—that sacred place which none are considered worthy to enter who have not previously undergone a ceremonial purification from the defilement of the outside world by at least a year of Townboy life; 'that five elections were to be instituted instead of four,' the time-honoured number which are traditionally supposed by their unity to form a bulwark to defend College from all evil; that, as a natural consequence, election order would be abolished, and

College would be in a state of anarchy which would inevitably lead to the final ruin of that royal and religious foundation; that though five elections were to be instituted, yet the dignities and privileges which have from time immemorial attended the third election were to be seriously curtailed or utterly abolished. Seniors began to plume themselves on being the last who would have passed through College entirely under the old *régime*, in which she has flourished for upwards of three centuries; third elections were inspired with a firm resolve to maintain the ancient institution of College as much as possible during their seniority, or to perish in the attempt; second elections bound themselves to strike manfully for their future third election privileges, which seemed about to vanish for ever; while juniors in the universal chaos that appeared so imminent were only actuated by a common impulse to insist on being transformed into seniors sooner or later, whatever alterations the new system might involve. Townboys regarded the movement either with stoical indifference, or unholy joy at the threatened downfall of an ancient foe: and old Westminsters when

they had collected all the scanty information on the subject which it was in their power to lay their hands on, shook their heads and 'did not see how the contemplated alterations could be made to act.'

On returning to Westminster at the beginning of the present half, everybody's breath was taken away by the astounding intelligence that 'Challenges' had been swept away for ever: the world-famed 'challenges,' the foundation stone of College, the sole surviving relic of the Disputations of the Middle Ages; the awful ordeal through which every Queen's Scholar had to pass before he could put on his gown or affix the mystic symbol, Q.S., to his name; the event which stamped itself more indelibly on his memory than any other scene of his school life, and of which in after years the very air of spring seemed suggestive: the abolition of 'challenges' indeed seemed the beginning of the end: this was then the prelude to the tragedy which was to follow. Not only had 'challenges' perished, but the entire examination for the minor candidates was altered: and behind all this loomed, like some dread phantom in the darkness of the future, the New System.

We cannot help thinking that this style of lamentation is at once exaggerated and uncalled-for. Although, no doubt, College will be greatly changed by these dreaded innovations, and though the School at large will also probably, to a certain extent, be influenced by them, yet we cannot believe that these arrangements will be so utterly destructive to all the traditions of College as some would have us suppose. At the present moment, we venture to think that no very violently unconstitutional proceedings are threatening that revered institution. It is true, as we mentioned above, that the entire system of the examination for admission has been altered, probably much to the gratification of the candidates, whose work and labour is thereby considerably diminished; but beyond this, the only difference between the New System and the Past consists in the fact, that among the Minor Candidates for this year there will be three boys admitted to College *ab extra*, not having been previously in the School. These three are all a year below the ordinary age of Minor Candidates at their admission; but how their position in College, and the duration of their stay there, will be influenced by this circumstance we know not, and must confess ourselves on this point to be in complete ignorance: it is a mystery for future years to unfold. We can only remind our readers, that it is by no means an unprecedented thing for a Queen's Scholar to remain for five years in College.

How the New System will work, when actually in full operation, it is hard to say; and we own that it is not without a pang that we see the ancient institutions of Westminster passing away. But 'the old order changeth, giving place to new'; and we must comfort ourselves with the assurance that it is all for the best, trusting that in this case the new order will be as successful as the old has been; for the attainment of which happy consummation it is the duty of every Q.S. past, present, and future to strive.

The Concert is over, and has proved beyond anticipation successful, the rendering of the greater part of the programme being worthy of all praise. We had been given to understand (we are at a loss to imagine the reason), that this year's concert would be but a feeble performance at best; and were quite unprepared for the success of the performers and the well-merited applause which their efforts evoked. The surprise, however, was an agreeable one to all; and we are proud of the praise which the high musical authority who has kindly consented to criticise their attempts has seen fit to bestow upon them. Congratulations are also due to J. G. Ranalow, Esq., for the successful result of his painstaking instructions. Our thanks are again due to G. Gumbleton, Esq., O.W., and E. Bray, Esq., O.W., for their assistance, so often granted before; and we were glad to see J. Troutbeck and his violin among us again. It is a pity that, while we can look back with such satisfaction on the success of the concert, the singing at the Saint's Day services in Abbey is still the subject of as much complaint as ever, and appears likely to remain so. It would hardly be credited by outsiders, that the same individuals who sang 'God Save the Queen' with such effect at the concert, could seldom be heard above the organ in Abbey, even when assisted by the obstreperous talent of the non-members of the choir, who did their best to spoil the rendering of the above-named loyal chant in Hall. *Speremus meliora.*

The Racquet Ties this year have decidedly disappointed us. The number of entries seems to decrease year by year; and this year's play has, with rare exceptions, been by no means up to the average, almost all the games having been excessively uninteresting. No doubt the great cause of this unhappy state of things is the present condition of the Racquet Courts. A month or two ago we published an article on the locality which exults in the above-mentioned name; for to anyone unacquainted with Westminster and Westminster racquets, the place

would scarcely seem worthy of the title. That article pointed out tolerably plainly what the portion of the outside world who were acquainted with our racquet courts twenty years ago, thought of them then. Our own acquaintance with them had not then begun, but we venture to state our belief that they could not have been worse than they are now. Correspondents regularly write to inquire why no attempt at improvement is ever made; and just at present when the Ties have been engrossing the attention of the racquet-playing fraternity, the old grievance turns up again as fresh as ever. The only answer we can give to such inquiries is, that we understand that, Little Dean's Yard not being the property of the School, the desired alterations cannot take place; but at the same time we do not see why permission should not be obtained to make the wall of the College court a little less like a honeycomb than it is at present; we only wonder that some steps in this direction have not been taken before, for a more discouraging state of things cannot be imagined.

There would be ample inducements to play racquets at Westminster, were it not for the execrable condition of these courts. The challenge cup for the wooden is the oldest challenge cup in the School; and though no one would have the game degenerate into a mere pot-hunt, yet every one is glad of anything that will keep alive at Westminster a game that appears in great danger of becoming altogether extinct there. But there are higher considerations in the matter than racquet ties and challenge cups: we mean exercise and health. No school, especially in London, can afford to disregard these considerations; and we are convinced that, could only a few trifling improvements be effected (the cost of which would be hardly worth mentioning), the number of fellows who really play racquets would be wonderfully increased, and the Westminster racquet ties become more worthy of a public school than they seem to be at present. We only trust that next year may witness a larger number of entries and a better competition.

THE CONCERT.

THE Annual Concert was held in College Hall, on Thursday, May 1. The choir consisted of 18 trebles, 7 altos, 8 tenors, and 11 basses, the accompaniment being a piano, presided over by Mr. T. Pettit.

The programme commenced with Eaton Fanning's somewhat popular chorus, 'The Vikings,' which was given with vigour and precision.

The Rev. R. F. Dale treated the audience to a piece of Chopin's, and was followed by 'The friar of orders grey,' by W. G. Bell, and re-demanded. A. J. Heath sang 'Blossoms,' by J. L. Hatten, and Mr. E. Bray, an Old Westminster, 'Love in her eyes sits playing,' from Handel's *Acis and Galatea*.

The feature of the first part was Mr. G. Gumbleton's rendering of Beethoven's 'Adelaide,' which was deservedly applauded.

The choir next sang, with much effect, 'Forth to the meadows,' by Schubert, and with it came the division of the programme.

Schuman's 'Gipsy life' opened the second part, after which Mr. Bray gave 'T'Affretta,' by Paolo Tosti. Bishop's exquisite trio, 'Hark to the rolling drum,' was carefully sung by F. R. Clarke, Cuppage, and Lowry, and would have been decidedly successful had not the jubilant tenor at times indulged in an over-exuberance of expressive sentiment. He must have been under the impression that the roll of the drum necessitated his 'calling forth his powers.' Troutbeck's violin solo was much applauded. His careful rendering of an Allegretto in D, by Mozart, and Loure in G, by the immortal Bach, showed that he had not only talent, but that so far he had received instruction of a kind which will develop his natural abilities, and convert him into a good musician. F. R. Clarke with great pathos appropriately sang, 'To the absent one,' which was followed by Barnby's 'Silent night,' very smoothly performed, and afterwards Cuppage and Lowry divided favours in a duet, 'Could a man be secure?' which was well received. Blackett treated the audience to a really good song by Macfarren, called, 'When nobody's nigh to hear,' which was vociferously encored.

The next piece was announced as a trio, 'Rest thee on this mossy pillow,' by Smart, and allotted somewhat curiously to four voices. We suppose it was expected that one of the vocalists would do the 'double.'

Horsley's 'See the chariot at hand' reminded us of an early departure, which 'God save the Queen' speedily realised.

The programme was varied and attractive without being common-place, and was fairly rendered throughout.

Mr. J. G. Ranalow conducted with much ability, and must be congratulated at having produced such a successful result as the evening's performance undoubtedly was.

The choir seemed much livelier and better in tune than we have heard them for some time.

If we might make a suggestion we would ask the musical directors of the School if it is not possible to introduce a band, such as exists at Charterhouse, where the boys not only play a variety of solos, but accompany their schoolfellows in such works as the 'Messiah,' 'Mozart's Twelfth Mass,' and even form an orchestra for operatical performances, while foreign cricket matches are enlivened by the strains of their brass band.

We merely mention this in the hope that some notice will be taken of it in proper quarters.

OLD 'WESTMINSTERS.'

No. I.

FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT COMBERMERE
(continued).

ON February 2, 1790, Stapleton Cotton was gazetted to a second lieutenancy, without purchase, in that most gallant of Regiments, the 23rd, or Royal Welsh Fusiliers, whom he joined at Dublin in the following year. The 23rd was then under the command of an old veteran of the American and German Wars, one Major Gibbings, or, as he might more properly be called, if an Army List of about that period be correct, *Gibbons*. Cotton served with the Royal Welsh until February 28, 1793, when he purchased a troop in the 6th Dragoon Guards (Carabineers). He had had been promoted Lieutenant in the 23rd Regiment on March 16, 1791. *Little Cotton* (his brother Carabineers conferred upon him the appellative 'little') accompanied the 6th Dragoon Guards to Flanders, in August 1793, and served in the campaign of 1794, including the affairs of Premont and Cateau. Shortly after the first, and before the second of those actions, young Cotton, although only some twenty-one years of age, had been promoted to a Majority in the 59th Foot, and then to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the 25th Light Dragoons, 'Gwun's Hussars,' then stationed at Ramsgate and Margate, where he joined them. At this time Cotton must (judging from an engraving) have been a very handsome young man. He was about five feet eight inches in height, and very slightly built—the very *beau ideal* of a Light Cavalry soldier. From Margate the 25th proceeded to Weymouth, to act as body-guard to George III. during his residence there. The King and the Princess Mary, afterwards Duchess of Gloucester, took a great liking to the handsome young Colonel of Hussars, and frequently invited him to their entertainments. Although society made itself very pleasant to Colonel Cotton during his sojourn at Weymouth and other stations, the young soldier was desirous of seeing more active service, and welcomed, therefore, the order to embark with his regiment for India. Sir Robert Cotton, Major in the Cheshire Militia, was the only member of young Cotton's family who did not oppose his son's determination to sail with his regiment. In the course of their passage to India, Colonel Cotton and the 25th Light Dragoons were disembarked at the Cape of Good Hope, in July 1796, for the purpose of opposing the Dutch troops. The Dutch were, seemingly, not even possessed of that courage which is assigned to them as arising from the imbibing of their native spirits; but they, after some slight exchange of hostile shots, meekly surrendered themselves and ships to the British; and the reason for the delay of Cotton and his soldiers having been thus satisfactorily removed, they were permitted to resume their eastward voyage, and reached Madras in January 1797. Afterwards Cotton proceeded to Trichinopoly, and there he made the acquaintance of his future chief, Colonel Wellesley, whom he found to be cheerful and good-natured, but always reserved. The 'Iron Duke' was at that period

of his life always anxious to be well dressed; but, although he was scrupulously neat in his attire, it appears that he was never successful in his efforts to pass as a *well-dressed* man.

In 1799 Cotton took an active part in the Indian campaign, being present at the action of Malavelly and the taking of Seringapatam. On the death of his eldest brother, shortly after the fall of Seringapatam, Cotton effected an exchange to the 16th Light Dragoons, as, being now heir to the Baronety it was considered necessary that he should be in England. On the first day of the year 1800 Cotton was promoted to the rank of full Colonel. In the following year he was married to Lady Anna Clinton, a daughter of the third Duke of Newcastle. In 1805 Colonel Cotton was appointed Major-General, his commission as such being dated October 30; and a year later he attained Parliamentary honours by his election to represent Newark. The next year was also a memorable one in the life of Stapleton Cotton, for in it he lost his wife. The time had come when every good soldier in the British army was needed to uphold the honour of England in Portugal; and at such a time Major-General Cotton could not stay at home. As Brigadier-in-Command of the 14th and 16th Dragoons our hero sailed from Falmouth in August 1808. On December 22, General Cotton landed at Lisbon, and from that day till his return to England, in January 1810, on the occasion of his father's death, Cotton was actively employed in his command of cavalry in the Peninsular war. We have not space to enter into any detailed account of those exciting events in which General Cotton played a conspicuous part, and will merely mention the principal actions at which he was present during that period. These encounters with the enemy included an affair near Grijon, the passage of the Douro, and the ever-memorable battle of Talavera. Having returned home, Sir Stapleton, on March 8, 1810, received a most acceptable welcome from the Members of the House of Commons in the form of a vote of thanks for his services. Cotton did not remain long at home, but in a few weeks returned to the scene of the war—with the local rank of Lieutenant-General. At this time he was but thirty-five years of age, but, young as he was for his important post, he had the full confidence of Sir Arthur Wellesley, who once remarked that he knew if he gave an order to Cotton it was sure to be carried out. Sir Stapleton was present at, but did not take any very active part in, the Battle of Fuentes d'Onor. He was also a witness of the fall of Ciudad Rodrigo.

Our 'Westminster Boy' led his troopers in one of the most brilliant cavalry actions of the war, which is known to students of Peninsula history as the Affair of Slérena. As an example of the tardiness with which honours came to Lord Combermere as reward for his great services, it may be mentioned that the assistance he rendered to the British forces in covering the retreat to the lines of Torres Vedras, and the conspicuous gallantry of his conduct of the cavalry affair alluded to above, did not obtain for him the distinction of the 'Bath.' That coveted bit of red ribbon was not bestowed till after the Battle of Salamanca. Previous to the great Battle

of Salamanca, Cotton earned the praise of Marshall Soult for the determined manner in which he kept the whole French army at bay in front of a place called Castrejou ; and he deserved equal commendation for his skilful covering of the subsequent retreat to the Guarena. If Cotton had never seen a shot fired anywhere but at Salamanca his connection with that great fight would entitle him to the title—veteran. We will give a short account here of his doings on that famous 22nd July. About half-past three in the afternoon General Cotton, in command of Bull's renowned troop of Horse Artillery, and Le Marchant's, Anson's, and Alten's brigades of Cavalry, moved to the support of the Third Division under Pakenham. In the course of this movement General Cotton perceived a Division of French Infantry on the descending slope of a hill he was ascending. The *Murat* of the British Army formed his command into three lines—the first line under the command of Le Marchant, the second under Anson, and the third was led by Alten. When the British reached within charging distance of the French, Cotton ordered Le Marchant to commence the attack. Le Marchant asked in what direction he was to charge, and the General, believing him to be hesitating from motives of personal safety, responded very sharply—'To the enemy, Sir.' There was a short, but angry altercation between the two officers, but the general put an end to it by peremptorily commanding his subordinate to charge. It was pretty much the same scene as that enacted in after years on the heights above 'the Valley of the Shadow of Death'—Balaclava ; but there were these points of difference : in the present instance the senior was delivering an order to the junior ; in the dispute between Cardigan and Nolan, the junior took upon himself to deliver a command as it were from himself ; and the Battle of Salamanca cast a ray of glory upon the British Cavalry from the Sun of Victory, whereas disaster attended the charge of the 'Light Brigade.' In both cases further dispute after the battle was prevented by the death of one of the actors in such dispute. Nolan fell gallantly at the head of the Cavalry in the Balaclava charge : equally glorious was the death of Le Marchant on the bloody field of Salamanca. Cotton's charge was performed with marvellous effect—his dragoons broke through one division and then crashed into another column of infantry which lay in their onward course. Lord Wellington made use of some very forcible expressions in his declaration to Cotton, that he had never seen anything more beautifully done than his (Cotton's) charge. Later on in the day, when night had enveloped the field of battle, Cotton, while directing a cavalry patrol towards Alba, was fired at by a Portuguese picquet owing to their having mistaken his party for the enemy, and Cotton was severely wounded by a bullet in the left arm. It was thought necessary at first to amputate the wounded limb, but when morning came the doctors considered that the operation was not needed, and left the arm in its natural place.

Lord Combermere suffered partial disablement with relation to his left arm to the end of his life.

Lord Wellington wrote very highly in his despatches to the authorities at home about the conduct of General Cotton. To Lord Bathurst he wrote in a private letter as follows :—'I am very anxious that a mark of His Royal Highness's favour should be conferred upon Sir Stapleton Cotton. I believe he would be much gratified at receiving the "red riband." No Cavalry could act better than ours did in the action ; and I must say for Sir Stapleton, that I don't know where we could find an officer that would command our Cavalry in this country as well as he does.' For his services at Salamanca Sir Stapleton Cotton received the order of the 'Bath' (tardily bestowed !), and, later, an additional clasp to his gold medal ; the Order of the 'Tower and Sword,' from the King of Portugal ; an addition to his Coat of Arms, consisting of a mounted dragoon, with the word 'Salamanca' underneath ; and also the thanks of both Houses of Parliament.

(To be continued.)

FIELDS.

ELEVEN *v.* NEXT TWENTY-TWO.

THIS, the first match of the season was played on Thursday, April 24. Neither side were fully represented, as, notwithstanding the fact that there are nine old 'pinks' left from last year's Eleven, only three put in an appearance. The Twenty-two, however, who were thus deprived of some of their best men, showed some particularly smart fielding, but their batting left much to be desired. The Twenty-two won the toss, and put their opponents in, who remained at the wickets until late in the afternoon, when the tenth wicket fell for 140 runs. The Twenty-two were only able to make the small score of 48, out of which Clarke contributed his share with a freely hit innings of 15, while Bain made 10 not out. On following on they again came to grief with the insignificant total of 40, the only double figure being Foster's 16. For the Eleven Janson took 13 wickets, Titcomb 14 and Westmorland 8. Higgins also bowled very well for the Twenty-two. Score :

THE ELEVEN.

H. S. Westmorland, b. Higgins	15
A. P. B. Boyd, c. Bury, b. Foster	19
F. W. Janson, c. Hill, b. Clarke	18
H. Wetton, c. and b. Higgins	1
H. C. Benbow, c. Dale, b. Leggatt	37
J. H. Titcomb, c. and b. Higgins	18
H. N. Robson, b. Leggatt	7
C. Tracy, b. Leggatt	8
G. Beaumont, not out	3
F. C. Ryde, b. Higgins	1
G. T. Mirehouse, c. Fulcher, b. Leggatt	5
Extras	8

Total 140

The Twenty-two scored 48 and 40.

The Eleven thus won in an innings and 52 runs to spare. In neither innings of the Twenty-two did the Eleven give any extras.

WESTMINSTER *v.* INCOGNITI.

THIS match was played at Vincent Square on Wednesday May 7, when our visitors turned up with one of the strongest elevens we have had the pleasure of fielding out for a long time. We won the toss and elected to go to the wickets, where we remained until lunch time, when the last wicket fell for 98 runs. The score, though it does not look enormous on paper, was well earned. Dale's not-out innings of 30 was well deserving of praise, while Westmorland and Boyd played steadily, and Wilks energetically for their respective contributions. Young's bowling was very destructive, as his analysis will show. After lunch L. A. Shuter and W. A. Thornton commenced the Incogniti innings, and by some really first-class play brought the score up to 100, without a chance being given, before a separation could be effected. Many changes of bowling were tried without success against Parke who played extremely well for his runs. When time was called eight wickets had fallen for 249 runs. Score :

WESTMINSTER.

H. S. Westmorland, c. Robertson, b. Young	10
G. H. W. Reece, c. R. J. Thornton, b. W. A. Thornton	0
A. P. B. Boyd, hit wkt., b. Young	18
G. Dale, not out	30
F. W. Janson, b. Young	5
H. C. Benbow, st. Winter, b. Young	0
C. F. Wilks, b. Robertson	16
R. S. Owen, b. Young	3
E. U. Eddis, b. Young	0
J. H. Titcomb, b. Robertson	6
H. Wetton, b. Young	4
B. 3, 1. b. 1, w. 2	6
Total	98

INCOGNITI.

L. A. Shuter, st. Benbow, b. Janson	54
W. A. Thornton, c. Boyd, b. Wilks	50
J. Shuter, c. Boyd, b. Owen	29
H. T. Hill, b. Titcomb	0
E. A. Parke, run out	65
T. Robertson, b. Westmorland	16
C. Awdry, b. Westmorland	12
W. Winter, c. Janson, b. Wilks	4
W. S. Trollope, not out	7
Rev. R. T. Thornton } Did not bat.	
T. Young }	
B. 6, 1. b. 3, w. 3	12
Total	249

WESTMINSTER *v.* OLD HAILEYBURIANS.

THIS match was played at Vincent Square, on Saturday, May 10, and ended in a defeat for us by 27 runs. Our visitors won the toss and elected to go in. Coldham and Gurdon gave a good deal of trouble, the latter playing exceedingly well for his 24, but towards the close of the innings our bowling became rather loose, and we allowed the last wicket to put on more than 30 runs; the innings eventually closing for 138. The light was far from good when we went to the wickets, and our first two wickets fell for 11 runs. Dale and Reece now got together, and by some really good play raised the score to 42.

The wickets then fell rapidly, and the total was only 67 for 8 wickets, when Eddis joined Benbow. Both batsmen now hit freely, and the total was at 102, when Eddis was bowled for a plucky innings of 15. It now wanted but a few minutes to time, but Guest unfortunately was unequal to the occasion, leaving Benbow to carry out his bat, with total of 111.

OLD HAILEYBURIANS.

R. C. Ponsonby, b. Wilks	0
G. C. Coldham, st. Benbow, b. Westmorland	16
G. F. Bonner, b. Westmorland	13
C. Gurdon, b. Wilks	24
E. F. Gurdon, infringing Law XX.	5
A. R. Dagg, b. Wilks	0
H. B. Gripper, c. Owen, b. Wilks	0
C. E. Baker, c. Benbow, b. Wilks	23
H. E. Rawson, not out	17
B. Reeves, c. Sandwith, b. Westmorland	9
G. S. Pawle, c. and b. Janson	17
B. 10, 1. b. 3, w. 1	14
Total	138

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

H. S. Westmorland, run out	1
A. P. B. Boyd, b. Dagg	5
G. Dale, hit wkt., b. Coldham	14
G. H. W. Reece, c. Baker, b. Gripper	18
W. F. G. Sandwith, b. Coldham	0
H. C. Benbow, not out	40
F. W. Janson, c. Reeves, b. Gripper ..	2
C. V. Wilks, b. Dagg	8
R. S. Owen, c. Gurdon, b. Dagg	0
E. U. Eddis, b. Dagg	15
E. P. Guest, b. Baker	4
B. 3, w. 1	4
Total	111

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Runs.	Wkts.	Overs.	Maiden overs.	Balls bowled.
C. V. Wilks	49	5	19	5	95
Janson	21	1	10.4	2	54
Westmorland ...	51	3	13	2	65
R. S. Owen	3	0	4	2	20

Owen bowled a wide.

RACQUETS.

THE Racquet Ties were commenced directly after Easter. Little or no interest was taken in them, as they have been for the most part very hollow affairs. The Ties for the Wooden are as follows:—

H. N. Robson, 10, 11, 11, beat W. F. G. Sandwith, 11, 6, 2; C. W. R. Tepper, 11, beat W. A. Cuppage, o. A. C. Whitehead drew a bye.

Second Ties.

H. N. Robson, 11, 11, beat C. W. R. Tepper, 6, o. A. C. Whitehead drew a bye.

Third Tie.

H. N. Robson, 11, 11, beat A. C. Whitehead, 8, 4.

Final Tie.

C. V. Wilks (present holder of challenge cup), 11, 11, beat H. N. Robson, 8, 4.

The Ties for the Challenge Wire were played at the same time. They were as follows:—

J. R. Bell, 15, 15, beat F. T. Higgins, 2, 3; E. Poland, 14, 15, 15, beat Burrige, 15, 9, 8; G. G. Aston, 15, 15, beat Campbell, 9, 8; H. C. Benbow, 3, 15, 15, beat R. H. Coke, 15, 14, 8; R. C. Batley, 15, 15, beat G. Stephenson, 5, 3; W. F. G. Sandwith scratched to E. Brandon. F. R. Clarke drew a bye.

Second Ties.

J. R. Bell, 15, 15, beat R. C. Batley, 6, 10; E. Brandon, 15, 15, beat G. G. Aston, 8, 5; H. C. Benbow, 15, 15, beat F. R. Clarke, 1, 7. E. Poland a bye.

Third Ties.

H. C. Benbow, 15, 15, beat E. Poland, 14, 8; J. R. Bell, 15, 15, beat E. Brandon, 10, 8.

Final Tie.

H. C. Benbow, 10, 15, 15, beat J. R. Bell, 15, 12, 5.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

MARCH 14.

THE subject for debate this evening was that 'In the opinion of this Society it is desirable to adopt the system of Cremation in England in place of the present system of Burial.' The speakers were:—

FOR THE MOTION.	AGAINST THE MOTION.
A. A. Sikes (mover).	E. U. Eddis.
H. W. De Sausmarez (seconder).	H. C. Benbow.
W. A. Peck.	H. S. Westmorland.
F. R. Clarke.	
J. M. Stuart-Edwards.	
F. G. Clarke.	
H. Lowry (President).	

On a division being taken the result was:

For the motion	11 votes.
Against the motion	5 "

The motion was therefore carried by a majority of six.

After the debate it was moved by W. A. Peck that the meetings of the Society should be held fortnightly, instead of weekly, as at present. This was seconded by H. W. De Sausmarez, but the motion, after a few remarks from H. C. Benbow and A. A. Sikes, was withdrawn. It was also proposed by H. C. Benbow, and carried, that the meetings of the Society in the summer should be held on Wednesdays, at 12.30 P.M., in the Upper Fifth Room.

A rule was made at this meeting that 'It is out of order to produce during a debate articles foreign to that debate.'

MARCH 28.

It was moved that 'In the opinion of this Society the Zulu War is justifiable.' The speakers on either side were:—

FOR THE MOTION.	AGAINST THE MOTION.
W. H. Ritchie (mover).	E. U. Eddis.
H. C. Benbow (seconder).	H. S. Westmorland.
W. L. Benbow.	C. Tepper.
F. Lewin.	
E. C. Freeman.	
H. R. James.	

The result of the division was:

For the motion	15 votes.
Against the motion	4 "

The motion was therefore carried by a majority of eleven.

APRIL 4.

F. E. Lewin moved: 'That in the opinion of this Society Lord Chelmsford is not to blame for the disaster at Isandula.'

This motion was carried by nine votes to five, after one of the best debates of the session. The speakers were—

FOR THE MOTION.	AGAINST THE MOTION.
F. E. Lewin (mover).	E. U. Eddis.
H. R. James (seconder).	W. Ritchie.
W. A. Peck.	A. A. Sikes.

APRIL 18.

This evening it was proposed and carried that a rule should be made that 'each member shall, at the beginning of every term bring a notice of a motion for debate, and any member not doing so, without sufficient excuse, shall be requested to leave the Society.'

It was also agreed that after the present term the Masters of the School shall be invited to join the Society as honorary members.

The motion for debate was that 'In the opinion of this society it is advisable that Museums and Picture Galleries should be opened to the public on Sundays.'

The speakers were—

FOR THE MOTION.	AGAINST THE MOTION.
W. A. Peck (mover).	H. W. De Sausmarez.
E. C. Freeman (seconder).	A. A. Sikes.
F. G. Clarke.	W. H. Ritchie.
C. W. R. Tepper.	F. E. Lewin.

Upon a division the motion was carried by nine votes against six.

There was no debate on Friday, March 21, as on that evening W. R. S. Ralston, Esq., gave his Lecture on Folk-Lore, up School; nor on April 11th (Good Friday).

The debates have, as a rule, greatly improved since the early meetings of the Society; those upon the Zulu War, and the conduct of Lord Chelmsford, and particularly that of April 18, in spite of the small attendance on that evening, were very spirited. We particularly regret that owing to want of space we cannot give a more detailed account of the debate on the conduct of Lord Chelmsford, as the speeches of both the mover and seconder of the motion were remarkably good. Since the commencement of the cricket season the attendance has decidedly decreased; and the Society adjourned to next term, on May 2.

WESTMINSTER AT SOUTH KENSINGTON.

WE have received from an Old Westminster the following interesting communication with regard to the above-mentioned article:—

SIR,—By the merest chance I had Nos. 13 and 14 of *The Elizabethan* put into my hands. As an Old Westminster I was delighted in reading them.

At page 101 of 13 it is said, 'We meet with a sketch of the house of Mr. Fellows, the Drawing Master, Dean's Yard, Westminster, 1820.'

'This house seems to have been swept away, as there is no house corresponding to it in the yard.

'Who Mr Fellows was, and whether his house was a boarding house, which seems improbable, we are at a loss to know—'

I can positively state, in 1820 there was no Mr. Fellows occupying a house in Great Dean's Yard. There was no Drawing Master belonging to the School. The only two boarding houses in Great Dean's Yard were—Mother Packs (Pack harness); then Mother Stelfox's, at the terrace; and Mother Driffles (Debreux), close to the archway, leading to the Sanctuary.

The other three boarding houses were Mother Grant's and Best's, in Little Dean's Yard; and Smedley's, in the Sanctuary. He was an Usher, and on his death the boarding house was given up. I was the only boy in 1820 who had a Drawing Master; his name was Sharp, and he attended me at Mother Stelfox's Tuesdays and Thursdays during 'Lockers.'

The account of the proceedings on Shrove Tuesday are not the same as they were in 1820.

Then it was called a 'late play' not a 'half-holiday.'

The beadle and cook entered the School a little before 11.30, not after 12 o'clock. As 'Ash-Wednesday' was a whole holiday, the boys were anxious to get away to go home, &c.

The word 'greeze' was not known in 1820, and most certainly no Westminster would have made use of the slang words in *Miscellanea*, page 110.

I have been trying to find 'The World at Westminster,' published in 1816, edited by Thomas Browne the younger, wherein the slang words at Westminster are inserted. Unfortunately I can only find Vol 2.

My name with many others of my family were very lately on the wall over the First and Second Forms, and I trust they are still there, as many generations of my family were Westminsterers.

I will mention as a somewhat curious fact that in 1820 to 1822, when I left Westminster for the army, I have killed snipe in the osier beds close to the Willow Walk, and in the Long Meadow; also at Battersea, killing 9 snipe one morning in the osiers of the Chelsea Waterworks; and that I was master of a pack of beagles. The kennel was the kitchen of No. 1 Vincent Square, when Purslow and Cobler Tom were to the fore. We hunted in Battersea fields, our meet being the Red House; Cobler Tom generally running the drag.—Yours faithfully,

E. B. C.

School Notes.

We are glad to see that Mr. Marklove is well enough to take his old form again, Mr. Sloman, who has been his substitute, retiring to the Upper Fourth.

We wish to correct an error, made in our last number, when we stated that the Hon. S. W. P. Vereker, O. W., killed at Isandula, belonged formerly

to Mr. James's house. He really belonged to Mr. Jones's house, as we have been informed by a letter from an old Rigaudite.

E. V. Arnold (Captain in 1874), who has recently taken such high Classical and Mathematical honours at Cambridge, came down on Thursday, April 21, when we had an early play.

We are very sorry to see that another old relic has been sacrificed for utility's sake. We refer to the old examination desk, the lower part of which has been destroyed for the purpose of allowing two new cupboards to be fitted in. We fully admit that the old desk was falling to pieces and in a most disreputable condition; but still the improvements which it has sustained are a great shock to the veneration with which we have always regarded it. It is a matter for congratulation, however, that the top has not been removed as well as the bottom, and may still serve for many generations as the scene of the debüt of future scholars at Westminster.

The following are the Minor Candidates that have been recommended for election by the Examiners, the Rev. H. L. Thompson, M.A., and the Rev. J. Lee-Warner, M.A.:—W. C. Dale, R. H. Williams, H. W. Waterfield, O. Scoones, J. H. Janson, A. G. L. Rogers, W. L. Warren, S. H. Clarke, C. T. Shebbeare, M. R. Bethune.

Prælecti: G. V. Sampson, E. P. Sandwith. S. H. Clarke, C. T. Shebbeare, and M. R. Bethune are Exhibitioners elected on the Foundation, under the new regulations of the Governing Body.

The following was the order of Exhibition Candidates:—C. C. J. Webb, *S. H. Clarke, *C. T. Shebbeare, *M. R. Bethune, H. N. Crouch, F. G. Trevor, P. M. Francke, P. Druitt.

The Greek Prose Prize has been awarded to R. S. Owen, Q.S., and W. F. G. Sandwith, Q.S., Aeq.

The English Essay Prize, founded by the Right Hon. Sir Robert Phillimore, has been awarded to W. A. Peck, Q.S.; Second Prize, C. W. R. Tepper, Q.S. Proxime accessit, R. S. Owen. The subject chosen by Sir Robert Phillimore was, 'The Drama: Its rise, the conditions under which it has flourished, and its influence on national life.'

The Arithmetic Prizes founded in memory of the late C. H. H. Cheyne, Esq., have been awarded, the senior to A. A. Sikes, Q.S., the junior to W. C. Dale.

We have received a letter, signed P. W., asking several questions, which we deem it advisable to answer here. We have made inquiries on the subjects he mentions, and beg to give him the following information: In the first place, that no one plays at the first eleven nets without leave from the head of fields. Secondly, that we have asked the head of

* Elected on Foundation.

fields if he knew of any instance, when members of the eleven had been excluded from the nets by those who have not obtained their 'pinks,' and were informed by him that no such instance, as far as he knew, had ever occurred. We recommend P. W. in future to apply to the Head of fields, who will give him every information he may desire. A suggestion of P. W.'s, with regard to the members of the eight, has, we are glad to see, already been acted upon; he also offers two more suggestions with regard to the management of fields which seem to us worthy of consideration. He proposes that no one be allowed to play at the first eleven nets without shoes on, and that a notice to that effect be put up in the bat-room, and that during morning practice each fellow have an innings of a fixed duration, say a quarter of an hour. The Head of fields, however, informs us that at the commencement of the season he laid the above-mentioned plan before the notice of the eleven, who were adverse to it, and that he himself doubts the advisability of its adoption.

We trust that our subscribers will pardon the delay in bringing out this number, which has been purposely kept back, in order that an account of the concert, which took place on May 1, might be included in it.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I hear with great pleasure that you have at last started a Debating Society, to which I wish a hearty success, and I think from the first debate it is sure to flourish. I was surprised to hear that nine had been found to vote for Westminster being removed; I thought every present Westminster was decided that she should remain where she now is. It is perhaps useless and unadvisable to bring up the question again in correspondence, but it seems to me that the subject may be summed up thus:—Is it advisable to remove Westminster into the country, thereby making her name of Westminster die an irrevocable death? To which some would answer, 'Yes; because then the numbers would be greater, and successes at the Universities more frequent.' Is it not better and more charitable to say, 'Westminster has too great a past to allow of her being removed into the country, thereby losing her name; she has, like other schools in their time, been passing through a crisis, and no doubt her future will be a good, if not a brilliant one; let her show if such is not the case.'

However, you have decided among yourselves what you think of the matter, and it would seem that the outside world have let Westminster alone, so no more. But such changes have been made lately, notably the abolition of 'challenges,' and the new rule as to 'outsiders' competing for College, that perhaps Westminster will not long remain where she is. I certainly side with the majority in your debate.—Yours truly,
O. W.

India, March 1879.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—May I presume on your valuable space so much as to ask what steps have been taken towards repairing the racquet courts? Both the wall and the pavement are in a wretched state, and have been so for a long while. Hence, not only is a great expense entailed on any racquet player by the balls being cut to pieces on the wall, but also the game is rendered very tame, owing to the ball seldom bouncing straight in

consequence of the bad state of the pavement. Hoping to see all these defects repaired, I remain yours truly,

SCRUTATOR.

[We are not aware that any steps have been taken to remedy the defects which you mention, but have published your letter in hope of calling attention to them.—ED.]

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Is Green to be deserted all the summer? would it not be possible to start lawn tennis there? It seems to me that, as you pointed out in your School Notes a month or two ago, it is the very place for that game. Hoping to see this carried out, believe me, Yours, &c.,
C. J. B.

[We have received other communications on this subject, but before any further steps are taken the permission of the authorities must be obtained.—ED.]

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—I have seen with great pleasure a letter in your March number from a correspondent signing himself E. L. A. D., complaining of the singing in Abbey. Why is it that the music at Westminster compares so ill with that at other schools? Surely, situated as it is, in such close proximity to the Abbey, it ought to set them an example. E. L. A. D. complains of the chants; I beg to go further, and complain of the pointing. Why should Westminster use pointing exclusively its own? The Westminster choir is formed almost exclusively of boarders, and they, in the services on Saturdays and Sundays, become acquainted with the Abbey pointing, so strangely ignored by the School. The result of this ingenious arrangement is, that each one points for himself. Another curious fact is, that the organist has no chance of practising with the choir, though this is generally considered necessary; and the result is that the canticles and hymns are generally reduced to an organ solo. Some arrangements could, I think, be made, by which the organist and choir might practise together. Hoping these suggestions will meet with a favourable consideration, I remain,
SIR, your obedient servant,
MUS. BAC.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—In a late number I saw a letter from D. B., calling attention to the drilling. I quite agree with that letter. As long as it continues it will only be attended by boys with a feeling that they are being kept (as if for punishment) from their game 'up fields.' If you have ever watched the drilling you will have observed, especially in warm weather, that the boys wear a languid and bored air. An hour in Gym once a week would do something towards their deportment, but this style of drilling will never do anyone any good. It may be answered that parents like there to be drilling at the school they send their sons to, but let them once inquire into what this drilling is, and very probably their opinions may alter. The sooner it is abolished the better, both for the boys' own sakes and for the School's; for as long as it is carried on in the present manner it will be a disgrace to Westminster, and any like drilling a disgrace to any public school.—I am, &c.,
A. W.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—Some time ago—in fact, I believe, about a month before the end of the football season—a rumour was started at School that we should be unable to finish our football season in Green, as something was going to be done at once to drain it. But I am sorry to say that, from that time to this, no visible signs of draining or anything else have appeared in Green. I hope most sincerely that something is going to be done, and that this good work has not fallen to the ground, for a more terrible state of things could scarcely be imagined than that which was endured last season in Green. For directly there was anything like a heavy fall of rain, Green for the next three or four days was not fit to be played in; and as there was quite

the usual amount of rain last season, Green was frequently under water, and, in fact, during the winter, as it happened to freeze hard when Green was in this delightful state, we had the pleasure of skating on our football ground. No doubt we should lose the advantage of being able to skate there by having Green less water-tight, but I think we might easily dispense with that.

Hoping that the rumour I speak of was not without foundation,—I am, Sir, yours truly,
M. H. B.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I think there must be very few who did not notice with pleasure how well Lawn Tennis flourished up fields last year. This year, also, the game seems to have quite as fair a prospect; although it has not yet been started up fields on account of the wet weather. Now, if Lawn Tennis has already gained so firm a footing amongst us, why should we not have Lawn Tennis ties, played off in the same manner as the Racquet ties? I feel almost sure that the number of entries would far outnumber that for either of the Racquet ties this year. If only a few were to take this matter in hand, it would not involve much trouble to bring it about. Hoping this will meet with your approval.—I am yours &c.,
LAWN TENNIS.

[Your suggestion is a good one, and is at present under consideration. We trust that next term your wishes will be fulfilled.—ED.]

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I observe that in your obituary notice of the Hon. S. W. P. Vereker, an old schoolfellow of my own, you remark that he was born in 1858. I think that this must be a mistake, as I remember he was about three years older than myself, which would make the year of his birth about 1851 or 1852. I also notice that you refer to his having been a boarder in the house of Mr. James; that is not so, he was a boarder in Mr. Marshall's house, commonly known as 'Up Grant's.'

I, as an old schoolfellow, would like to suggest that some memorial be erected by 'Old Westminsters' to poor Vereker, as a token of their estimation of his death in the glorious performance of his duty. The subscriptions might be limited to five shillings each, and I am sure that you would kindly take the charge of such into your hands.—Yours truly, P. H. B. S.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—May I beg to call your attention to a fact generally disregarded in the School; I allude to the College Racquet Court, which seems likely to remain in its present dilapidated condition until it falls to pieces. From my own experience of this court, as well in watching others as in playing myself, I know that the ball can never be hit up twice or thrice without striking the irregular surfaces of the wall and flying off at a tangent, thereby seriously interrupting the game. It seems to me that the evil might be easily remedied if the proper authorities were to take measures to get the court repaired, *not patched*, but entirely re-covered with a fresh coating of plaster. Doubtless racquet players would not object to aid in raising the funds which would be required for the purpose. Apologising for trespassing thus on your valuable space,—I remain, yours truly,
F. F. K.

Our Contemporaries.

WE beg to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of the following magazines:—*The Elizabethan* (Barnet), *The Blue*, *The Blundellian*, *The Carthusian*, *The Durham University Journal*, *The Glenalmond Chronicle*, *The Laxtonian*, *The Meteor*, *The Newtonian*, *The Radleian*, *The Tonbridgian*, *The Ulula*, *The Wellingtonian*, *The S. Andrew's College Magazine* (South Africa), *Our School Times*.

In our namesake, of Barnet, we see an account of an Excursion to the Lizard—the thousand and first on record, we believe.

The *Blue* sticks to its colours, and is as blue as ever. There is very little in it that requires comment.

We transcribe from the *Blundellian* a rather good parody—we need not remind our reader what the original is:—

How doth the little London cad
Improve each frosty street,
And slide to make the pavement bad
For ev'ry passer's feet.

How skilfully he plans the sell!
How neat he smooths the glaze,
And labours hard to floor the swell
Who doth not mind his ways!

In works of danger and of 'spill'
I would be busy, too;
For Christmas finds some mischief still
For knowing feet to do!

The Carthusians have had a wonderfully successful football season, having only lost one match out of twelve.

The *Durham University Journal* quotes from the *Hurst-Johnian* to expose the absurdity of 'fanatic' spelling, giving thirty-six ways in which the sound of the word 'freeze' may be expressed in the English language.

Trinity College, Glenalmond, it seems, has been snowed up since October 28th. Hence the somewhat stagnant state of their outdoor amusements.

The *Laxtonian* contains nine pieces of poetry, out of which the translations are good. Some historical notices of the school end rather abruptly, leaving us in a state of suspense as to the fate of 'five poor old women.' We look forward to the continuation in next month's number. The Italian sketches are well written. The author of 'A Reminiscence' has caught the style of 'Verdant Green,' and has composed just such another eccentric paper on 'Algebrometry' as the famous one set by Mr. Pluckem. What do our readers think of the 15th question—

'If time is money, and money is the square root of all evil: find the amount of wickedness in £5, giving your answer in minutes and seconds.'

Or the 8th—

'Divide Afghanistan by England, giving a solution in terms of peace.'

A Latin account of a cricket match sounds odd, while a clear head is required to translate such expressions as 'Butyrodigiti,' 'Sycophantem subterraneum (underground sneak) egit in duo,' 'Vespertilio' (bat), 'Mediurne, arbiter? Medium et crus?' 'Quomodo id, arbiter? Ex.' The author's vocabulary of dog-Latin has proved quite equal to the task of converting cricket slang into Ciceronian metaphors.

The *Meteor* is an epitome of school news as comprehensive as ever.

The first article in the *Newtonian* is entitled 'Sports Sportively Dealt With.' Rather too 'Sportively,' we think. Quite an *embarras de richesses* in the comic line, and seasoned with the usual classical puns of the far-fetched and run-to-seed description. They rejoice in two decided improvements—a Dramatic Society and a Chemical Laboratory. The *Platitudes* on Pedestrianism certainly do not belie their title.

The editor of the *Radleian* seems to act on the principle that brevity is the soul of wit: the somewhat scanty allowance of four pages suggests a *maximum* of profit as combined with a *minimum* of trouble.

The *Tonbridgian* is composed entirely of school news, sundry fives and ties occupying three pages. We wish their new boating club success.

The *Ulula* is not very interesting this month, if we except the article on 'Making Books.' The Mancunian Fifteen have had a modest season of it this year, only playing two foreign matches; in the former of which but three of the school turned

up. very naturally ensuring a victory for their opponents. The substance of eleven weeks' debates is given in this number.

The *Wellingtonian* has plenty of readable matter in its columns. Amongst other subjects we notice an article on Rugby School. We wonder if it will ever come to our turn to be 'sketched.' We are ready for the worst when it does come, thanks to the *Athenæum*. This number gives the *physique* of the *Second Fifteen*.

The 'Legendary Tale' in *S. Andrew's College Magazine* is good as far as the legend goes, but the metre in places would bear correction. A 'Month's Holiday' is very briefly treated, not 'intruding upon the valuable space, &c., &c.,' as the wretchedly apologetic stock phrase hath it, to the extent of one of our contemporary's very small pages. Would that all the Tourists' 'Experiences' or 'Impressions' of nothing in particular were as concise! They have a 'Recreation' Evening out there, an institution that we could put up with. Not only do their First Eleven play foreign matches, but the Second, the Third, and the Fourth!

We gather from *Our School Times* that the members of Foyle College consider that publication as being 'beyond doubt one of the first in the United Kingdom.' It may be so. Perhaps, though, our ideal of a school magazine differs from theirs. We fear the days of *The Elizabethan* would be numbered were we to exasperate our 'gentle' readers by reminding them of last term's failures and disappointments—with a selection of old 'Exam' papers. There are some 'Buried Heroes' to be unearthed by the cultivated few who like them; the answers are naturally so obvious that they need scarcely be given in 'our next number.' The mathematical column is original, but the reverse of attractive. The number before us, though, comprises within its pages a wonderful variety of uninteresting subjects.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

P. W.—We fear we cannot publish such protests, though we are sorry for you; but 'privileges' is, as a rule, spelt as we have spelt it.

P. W [alter] AND 'AN OLD RIGAUDITE.'—See School Notes.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All contributions for insertion in the next issue of *The Elizabethan* must be sent in before June 22 to the Editor, S. Peter's College, Westminster.

All other communications must be addressed to the Secretary of *The Elizabethan*, and on no account to the Editor or printers.

The yearly subscription to *The Elizabethan* is, as usual, 4s.

All subscribers who have not paid their subscriptions are requested to forward them to C. W. R. TEPPER, Treasurer of *The Elizabethan*, S. Peter's College, Westminster. Post Office Orders to be made payable at the Westminster Palace Hotel Post Office.

The back numbers of *The Elizabethan* (with the exception of Nos. 2 and 3, Vol. I., and No. 10, Vol. II.) may be obtained from the Secretary, price 6d. each.

The Editor declines to be responsible for the opinions of his Correspondents.

Subscribers, on changing their addresses, are requested to send notice thereof to the Secretary.

Floreat.