



# The Elizabethan.

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## WESTMINSTER BOOKS.

LATELY we have been sorry to think how few possess or have so much as looked into the books which are the chief storehouses of Westminster history. We wonder how many could make anything off-hand of such a theme as was set for the last Phillimore Essay: 'Westminster School life in the seventeenth century.' We believe that there was no School paper till 1788 or a little before, and accordingly our knowledge of the inner life of the School in earlier times is far from complete and in great part matter of inference. But at least the labours of those lovers of the School who compiled the *Alumni* and the *Lusus Alteri* deserve something better than oblivion. It is not enough to know the names of a few of the great men who were Westminsters. To find out something about the conditions which produced them is of far greater importance. If we urge as a duty what might so well be a pleasure, we are at least sure of our ground. To be truly fond of the past is one of the best safe-

guards against degeneracy in the present, which is heir to the past; but we can hardly be truly proud of the past if we do not care to know it.

We can remember one or two scraps which we think ought to be generally known, for they serve as finger-posts to the student of the early school life. In the appendix to the *Lusus Alteri*—a work by the way which is full of forgotten oddities of the eighteenth century, and which we should like, for several reasons, to see made a school text—a document is printed which was taken from the State Paper Office. It is said to be in the handwriting of Archbishop Laud, and gives an interesting account of Westminster studies and life in the school-days of the writer. Another somewhat similar document has appeared in *The Elizabethan*, we think in 1886-7. Dr. Busby's account book—excepting a page which is given in facsimile in the *Alumni*—is not accessible to the vulgar; but something much more curious, in view of our special purpose, may be found in Mr. Phillimore's work. It is a portion of the account book begun by one Francis

Lynn when he was a junior in College under Dr. Knipe, and continued afterwards at Trinity. It is exceedingly amusing and quite a *locus classicus*—and yet, we fear, forgotten. We might say the same of a Latin poem called 'Electio Westmonasteriensis,' written in 1713 by Timothy Thomas, shortly after his own election to Christ Church. It is a very close and enthusiastic account of the three days of election, 'Dies Lunæ,' 'Dies Martis,' and 'Dies Mercurii,' and shows the author to have been a true Westminster. All who have even a little Latin might read it with pleasure in the *Lusus Alteri*.

These are fragments; but they are the sort of evidence on which we are dependent if we want to get even the most general notion of those early days. Many supplementary details might be gathered from the *Alumni* and from biographies and letters of individuals, especially those of Busby, William Taswell, Philip Henry, Dryden, Atterbury, Cowper, Cumberland, and the elder Colman, but especially from the prologues, epilogues and other verses in the *Lusus Alteri*.

The earlier School papers are a little disappointing. They consist mainly of literary and moral essays, some way after the *Spectator*; and, though they give us a very good notion of one class of Westminster boys, they tell us very little about the School itself. We have our doubts about the *Flagellant*, which we have never had the fortune to see. With regard to the original *Trifler*, we again speak without our book, but we judge of it from the *Eton Microcosm*, the *World at Westminster*, and the second *Trifler*. *College and T.B. Life at Westminster* and the *Nugæ Westmonasteriensis* are very different, and give us some school news, as well as some curious information about the generation immediately preceding, communicated in letters by O.W.W. The stories of bull and bear baitings, insurrections, battles with 'skis' and between T.B.B. and Q.S.S. certainly modify the impressions which we gather from the staid *Trifler*, and so does Lord Albemarle's well-known autobiography *Fifty Years of my Life*. And when we read in an epigram written by Dr. Vincent in 1800 that the top, the hoop, and marbles flourished in Dean's Yard, we begin to suspect a reason for the short lives of the *Trifler* and other papers.

It is a pity that these old School papers are now scarce; but several were on sale not long since at the School book shop, and surely most of them must be in library. Certainly all who

can ought to read them. We have only space to mention one or two of the more recent publications which have reference to Westminster. Walcott's charming *Memorials of Westminster* was published in 1849, and is in library. It is properly a history of the city, but a long and kindly chapter is devoted to the School. Of the *Alumni* and the *Lusus* we have no further occasion to speak; but we ought to mention *Westminster School, Past and Present*, by F. H. Forshall, and *Rowing at Westminster*, by the Rev. W. K. R. Bedford, which go far to fill up the period which has elapsed since the former works were issued. In conclusion, we will refer to two magazine articles, which appeared, one in 1884, in the August number of *Temple Bar*, the other by Mr. Russell Barker, in 1887, in the September number of the *English Illustrated Magazine*—only remarking that they are much too good to have been written for the silly season.

## WESTMINSTER WORTHIES.

No. 30.—SIR JAMES BLAND BURGES, BART.  
(AFTERWARDS LAMB).

(Continued from p. 323).

ON the advent of the Long Vacation of 1771 Captain Burges decided to send his son for a tour on the Continent to improve his knowledge of the French language, and to test the experiment of placing entire reliance upon him, and leaving him to follow the bent of his mind. He accordingly started off on July 3, and remained abroad some two months. His chief place of residence was Tours. The result of the experiment appears to have been successful; but we have no time to accompany him in his journeyings. On his return he renewed his studies at Oxford, and in February 1772 he obtained his testamen for the Bachelor of Arts degree, though he never actually took up his degree. Through the influence of his tutor, and as an acknowledgment of his studious habits, he received the Freedom of the Bodleian Library, which was a distinct honour, as he was only of two years standing and the Freedom was not usually conferred except after a period of four years. In 1773, on the occasion of his attaining his majority, Captain Burges sent his son for another and a more extended tour abroad. As a companion he was accompanied by the Rev. William Somerville, Vicar of Bibury, co. Gloucester; and in the course of their seven months' absence abroad they visited the Low Countries, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and France. In Rome he came under the notice of the Pope, Clement XIV., and had an audience with him. On

his arrival back in England James Burges made his way to Bath, where his father then had a house in the Crescent.

James Burges in his start in life was possessed of several accomplishments, and seems to have been generally satisfied with himself. He describes himself as being 'an excellent Latin and Greek scholar; talking French and Italian perfectly; dancing, riding and fencing well; playing on the harpsichord, guitar, and violoncello.' To a ball-room episode at Bath James Burges attributed his subsequent success in life. It was the idiotic fashion of that day—a fashion which repeats itself like a recurring decimal—for young men who frequent ball-rooms to assume an indifference to dancing. Burges was not behindhand in following the dictates of fashion, though the fashion was alike foolish and entirely devoid of meaning. Having arrived at the ball, our hero was accosted by a lady of his acquaintance who proposed to introduce him to a partner. Burges replied that he 'never danced'; but upon the lady professing regret and expatiating upon the desirability of the proposed partner, he relented, and after hearing the lady's name withdrew his assumed incapacity for dancing, and consented to the introduction. The result was wholly satisfactory. His partner proved to be the Hon. Elizabeth Noel, the second daughter of Lord Wentworth, whose acquaintance he afterwards renewed, and who ultimately became his wife.

Burges now turned his thoughts to the profession which he had decided to adopt. He took chambers in the Temple and commenced his legal studies. His father took the wise precaution of explaining to him his future prospects as well as the amount of the immediate pecuniary aid upon which he could rely, so that his son might be prevented from entering upon his profession with the sole idea of passing the time. While resident in the Temple, James Burges spent most of his mornings in attendance at the Courts, and in the evening he chose to live in retirement rather than to be a frequenter at coffee-houses and clubs. He was undoubtedly wise in his choice; but his evenings were more than occasionally spent in pleasant intercourse with his father's friends, among whom particularly should be mentioned Mr. John Lamb, who remained his constant friend and from whom he eventually inherited a fortune. His Long Vacations were mostly spent at Bath.

In the year 1776 Burges renewed his acquaintance with Miss Noel, which had been disturbed owing to the illness and subsequent death of her father. Her brother, the new Lord Wentworth, in this year took a house in Bentwell Street, Cavendish Square; and the acquaintance then recommenced with natural results. James Burges, before broaching the subject to Lord Wentworth, determined to ascertain how far he could expect pecuniary assistance from his father, and for this task he enlisted the kindly aid of Colonel Braithwaite, who was a friend of his father, and who, we may mention incidentally, was an Old Westminister. Colonel Braithwaite succeeded in obtaining his

parents' consent to the engagement, though he was unable to obtain a promise of any monetary aid. This, however, was sufficient to embolden James Burges to approach Lord Wentworth on the subject, who promised that he would not stand in the way of his sister's wishes, provided Burges could show that he had sufficient to provide a comfortable and suitable home. Armed with this qualified consent, Burges hastened off personally to his father to discuss the question of ways and means, and ultimately induced him to consent to allow him £340 a year, which, with Miss Noel's income, would make up their income to £700. Matters were thus arranged, and on June 19, 1777—the twenty-fifth birthday of the bridegroom, and some two months after he was called to the Bar—they were married at Marylebone Church. Shortly before his marriage he removed from the Temple and took up his residence in Southampton Row, Bloomsbury; and not long afterwards he was presented with a Commission in Bankruptcy by Lord Bathurst. James Burges's married life was broken within two years by the death of his wife in childbirth and without issue. During the year 1780, Burges married a second time, his second wife being Anne, the third daughter of Colonel Montolieu, Baron de Saint Hippolite. There were ten children of this marriage.

Burges's acquaintance with Pitt commenced in the year 1780, when they both had chambers in the Temple. This was during the Lord George Gordon Riots, when the Northumberland Militia were 'quartered' upon the Temple. It was decided to lodge both the officers and men free of expense, and a committee was accordingly formed to provide for the entertainment of the officers. Both Pitt and Burges were members of this committee, and it was part of the arrangement that each member of the committee should in turn entertain the chief officers at dinner. When Burges's turn arrived, he invited the four officers and the committee, and also six guests, four of whom were his father, Lord Carmarthen, Gibbon the historian, and Colonel Holroyd, afterwards Lord Sheffield, the biographer of the historian. Gibbon, as is well known, was a great talker, and soon monopolised the conversation to a great extent; and, as the subject is an Old Westminister, we feel no apology is needed for introducing the following anecdote of the historian in the words of his host:

'Mr. Gibbon, nothing loth, took the conversation into his own hands, and very brilliant and pleasant he was during the dinner, and for some time afterwards. He had just concluded, however, one of his best foreign anecdotes, in which he had introduced some of the fashionable levities of political doctrine then prevalent, and with his customary tap on the lid of his snuff-box, was looking round to receive our tribute of applause, when a deep-toned but clear voice was heard from the bottom of the table very calmly and civilly impugning the correctness of the narrative and the propriety of the doctrines of which it had been made the vehicle. The historian, turning a disdainful glance towards the quarter whence the voice proceeded, saw, for the first time, a tall, thin, and rather ungainly-looking young man, who now sat quietly and silently eating some fruit. There was nothing very prepossessing or very formidable in

his exterior ; but, as the few words he had uttered appeared to have made a considerable impression on the company, Mr. Gibbon, I suppose, thought himself bound to maintain his honour by suppressing such an attempt to dispute his supremacy. He accordingly undertook to defend the propositions in question, and a very animated debate took place between him and his youthful antagonist, Mr. Pitt, and for some time was conducted with great talent and brilliancy on both sides. At length the genius of the young man prevailed over that of his senior, who, finding himself driven into a corner from which there was no escape, made some excuse for rising from the table and walked out of the room. I followed him, and, finding that he was looking for his hat, I tried to persuade him to return to his seat. "By no means," said he ; "that young gentleman is, I have no doubt, extremely ingenious and agreeable, but I must acknowledge that his style of conversation is not exactly what I am accustomed to, so you must positively excuse me." And away he went in high dudgeon, notwithstanding that his friend had come to my assistance. When we returned into the dining-room we found Mr. Pitt proceeding very tranquilly with the ill-utation of the subject from which his opponent had fled, and which he discussed with such ability, strength of argument and eloquence, that his hearers were filled with profound admiration.

It is somewhat disappointing to find Gibbon adopting such a humiliating method of escaping from the unpleasant task of owning a conversational defeat. It was the conduct of a spoiled child of society and was unworthy of a great man.

Burges's political career was in a great measure due to his friendship with Lord Carmarthen, which appears to have commenced during his residence in the Temple. In 1782 Lord Carmarthen (who, we may state here, was an Old Westminster) was appointed Ambassador to France, and he thereupon used his influence, though entirely unsolicited, in having Burges appointed Minister at Warsaw ; but neither took up his appointment. The death of Lord Rockingham and the change of ministry prevented the former from becoming an ambassador ; while Burges, with apparent foresight, declined the honour of the post which had been procured for him. On the fall of the Coalition Ministry, consequent on the rejection of Fox's India Bill by the House of Lords, and the abortive attempt of Lord Temple to form a Ministry, the reins of government were placed in the hands of Pitt. One of Pitt's chiefest claims on his country was said to be his formation of the Sinking Fund, and from James Burges's autobiographical recollections, printed in Mr. Hutton's book, we learn, so far as we know for the first time, that the idea was first put into Pitt's head by Burges. But it was not the offspring of his brain. He was indebted for it to his friend, Mr. John Lamb, who invited Burges one day to discuss the matter with him, and pointed out that the only way to insure the success of a sinking fund was to establish it on the basis of compound—instead of simple—interest. Between them they worked out the idea on paper, after which Lamb made Burges a present of the suggestion, and enjoined him to lay it before Pitt, but without mentioning his (Mr. Lamb's) name. Burges soon found an opportunity of putting the matter before Pitt, who saw the merit of the idea, and professed the great obligation he was under to Burges. Luckily for the latter, Pitt made no inquiry as to the originator of

the scheme, but assumed that it emanated from the brain of its introducer. In the year 1783, Pitt was again placed under an obligation to Burges, and this time Burges could claim to himself the whole merit. It arose with the question of the renewal of the annual Mutiny Bill, which was treated as a Money Bill, and which it was the avowed intention of Fox to oppose and throw out, to the discomfiture of the Government. The Ministry met at Lord Carmarthen's house to discuss the matter, Burges, who had been previously requested by Lord Carmarthen to consider the subject, being invited to be present. When asked for his views at the meeting he explained that he had gone fully into the question, and for that purpose had searched the Records of the House, and that he had come to the conclusion that it was by no means necessary that the Mutiny Bill should be introduced in the Commons as a Money Bill, but that it could equally well be brought in in the House of Lords. His assertion created an impression on his hearers, and as he was furnished with proofs from the Records in confirmation of his statement his suggestion was adopted. It met with signal success, and relieved the Ministry from an unpleasant position. The Bill was introduced in, and passed through, the House of Lords, and all opposition in the Commons was withdrawn.

At the dissolution of Parliament Burges's services were not overlooked, and he was sent down to Totnes as being a safe seat. However, on this occasion he was not successful, and after contesting the seat met with defeat. The Borough of Seaford was next proposed to him by Pitt, and he was directed to call upon the Secretary to the Treasury, but, as Mr. Harbin, who had the management of the borough, required the sum of £5,000 to be paid down for the seat, it was scornfully rejected by Burges. Although Pitt renewed his promises of providing for him, nothing further occurred until 1787. In the January of this year Lord Carmarthen wrote to Burges informing him that he had been elected for Helston, in Cornwall ; he accordingly commenced his parliamentary life as member for this borough.

*(To be continued.)*

### School Notes.

WE hear with great regret that Dean Liddell is about to resign his post at Christ Church. Being a former headmaster of Westminster, he has always taken great interest in Westminster as a school, and in the Westminster men who have gone up to the House. Christ Church is connected with Westminster by the closest ties, and the absence of the Dean's well-known figure at the Election ceremonies will be noticed with regret by all. Our Oxford correspondent well expresses the respect and esteem in which he has been held at the House during his 36 years of office, and

we are certain that the same feelings are felt by all who have come in contact with him in his official capacity at lection. —

Orations were held Up School on Thursday, Oct. 22. The piece set for recitation was Byron's 'Mazeppa.' There were a large number of candidates, and some of the recitations were rather above the average. Martin was the best and Watt second. Two others worthy of mention were Eady and Paget. —

The Commemoration Service was held on Tuesday, November 17, in Abbey. A conversazione took place Up School after the service was over. There was no sermon this year. —

We are sorry to learn that Archdeacon Farrar, one of the Governors of the School, has been seriously ill, but has now, we are glad to say, quite recovered. —

The 'Sixes' in green will take place as soon as the teams can be made up. —

Two Junior House matches have been played. Junior Ashburnham beat Junior H.B.B. 4-3, and Junior Grants 3-2. —

The weekly House games seem to arouse as much enthusiasm as they did in the cricket season. If they can only improve the football this year as much as they improved the cricket last season, we shall have no reason to be discontented. —

The changing room in 18 Dean's Yard has been converted into a common room for the masters, in place of the old one at the top of Ashburnham House, which has now become the singing room. A door has been let into the side of the archway leading into Little Dean's Yard, to enable the masters to enter without going round through the entrance to homeboarders. —

The Monitorial Council played the School on Wednesday, November 4, and defeated them decisively by 8 goals to 2. Page shot six of the goals. The Seniors played H.B.B. Thursday, November 12, and were defeated by 3 goals to 1. —

On Saturday, October 31, O.W.W. played Sandhurst and Crusaders; by the former they were defeated by 2 goals to 1, but they beat Crusaders by 3 goals to 2. It seems that Saturday, November 7, was a very unfortunate day for O.W.W.; the first team was defeated by Clapton 3 goals to none, and the second team by the Casuals, the score being 12 to none in the Casuals' favour. This defeat was in some measure atoned for on Saturday, November 14, when O.W.W. defeated Great Marlowe by 6 goals to 1. We hear that these losses are due chiefly to the fact that men who have been asked to play a week before, wire or write on Friday night to say they cannot play, and then it is generally too late to get anyone else. —

## THE FIELDS.

### SCHOOL v. CASUALS.

This match was played Up Fields on Saturday, October 10, and resulted in a victory for the School by 2 goals to 1. There was a great deal of rain in the morning, and it was still raining when the match was begun, and consequently the ground was soaked, and very muddy and slippery. The Casuals had not a very strong team, but still the victory was very much to the credit of the School. The goals for the School were got by Knapp and Page. Langton saved some good shots in goal. Shearme, Page, and Sherring were good. In this match the School were without the services of several fellows who had played for the XI. and were hurt. Teams :

#### SCHOOL.

J. M. Langton (goal), M. A. Allen and J. S. Shearme (backs), F. B. Sherring, L. K. D'Arcy, and T. Newman (half-backs), P. E. Knapp, E. Berens, C. E. Page, D. Shearme, and S. Nye (forwards).

#### CASUALS.

E. L. Dewdney (goal), L. Savill and H. R. Blaker (backs), A. G. Prothero, W. S. Buckmaster, and G. H. Blount (half backs), F. E. Adams, A. J. Hemmerde, F. Liddell, E. Buzzard, and G. E. Perks (forwards). —

### SCHOOL v. H. OLIVER'S XI.

This match was played Up Fields on Saturday, October 17, and resulted in a victory for the School by 6 goals to 2. This was highly creditable to the School XI., which played well throughout. Our opponents played for some time with only nine men, and then got two substitutes. At the end the visitors had rather the best of the game, but though they pressed failed to score again. For the School, Page was in fine form, shooting 5 of the goals. Knapp shot the other goal. Allen was good in goal, and Pilkington and Sherring were also good. Teams :

#### SCHOOL.

M. A. Allen (goal), J. S. Shearme and P. Pilkington (backs), T. Newman, F. B. Sherring, and E. H. Cox (half-backs), S. Nye, D. Shearme, C. E. Page (captain), E. Berens, and P. E. Knapp (forwards).

#### H. OLIVER'S XI.

M. R. Oliver (goal), A. C. Jonas and R. O. Mills (backs), F. G. Oliver, A. S. Johnston, and A. M. Andrews (sub.) (half-backs), E. T. Woodbridge (sub.) and H. Berens (right), R. Currie (centre), G. E. Perks and G. P. Stevens (left), (forwards). —

### SCHOOL v. E. BICKLEY'S XI.

This match was played Up Fields on Saturday, October 24, and resulted in a draw, neither side scoring. Our opponents would have scored several times had it not been for the sound defence of the backs, who, especially Shearme and Sherring, were in very good form. Page and Nye were the best of the forwards. The School had rather the best of the

game. The match was very exciting, and aroused in Westminster and 'railings' some of the enthusiasm which in former days was shown during football matches. The cheering of the School used to be a necessary accompaniment to the matches, and greatly encouraged the team, spurring them on to further efforts when each good piece of play won well-deserved applause. During the past three years the interest expressed by the cheering of the School has gradually lessened, and lately the matches would have been played in chilling silence, for all the encouragement given by the School. We sincerely hope that this old custom, as it has been once restarted, will always continue. In this matter Westminster may well imitate Charterhouse, whose cheering is just as loud and hearty in ordinary matches as it is when they play Westminster. Teams :

## SCHOOL.

M. A. Allen (goal), P. Pilkington and J. S. Shearme (backs), E. H. Cox, F. B. Sherring, and W. L. Armstrong (half-backs), P. E. Knapp, E. Berens, C. E. Page (captain), D. Shearme, and S. Nye (forwards).

## E. BICKLEY'S XI.

W. H. Bagshaw (goal), T. H. Farmer and A. C. Sturgis (backs), C. C. Sharpe, E. H. Bagshawe, and H. H. Crawley (half-backs), F. H. Walter, G. H. Radcliffe, F. G. J. Ford, D. C. Leman, and another (forwards).

## SCHOOL v. OXFORD O.WW.

This match was played Up Fields on Saturday, October 31, and resulted in a victory for the School, after an interesting game, by 4-3. With the exception of Page, the forwards were out of form. Sherring and Shearme were the best of the backs. Berens was unable to play. The School had decidedly the best of the game, and should have won by much more. O.WW. were much better in the last half, when Street, who had been very good in goal, came forward. Stephenson was also good. Page shot all the goals for the School. Teams :

## SCHOOL.

M. A. Allen (goal), J. S. Shearme and P. Pilkington (backs), T. Newman, F. B. Sherring, and E. H. Cox (half-backs), S. Nye, J. H. Alderson, D. Shearme, and P. E. Knapp (forwards).

## OXFORD O.WW.

F. Street (goal), E. G. Burton and P. Williamson (backs), H. C. Barnes, H. L. Stephenson, and G. O. Roos (half-backs), B. M. Goldie, J. F. More (sub.), J. A. Willett, F. J. McClean, A. J. M. Booker (forwards).

## SCHOOL v. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

This match was played Up Fields on Saturday, November 14, and resulted in a victory for the School by 2-0. The game was very even throughout. The School shooting was not very good, otherwise we should have probably scored several times more.

The School played up very well. For the visitors, Cobbett was good at back, and Willett and Smith forward. For the School, Pilkington and Sherring were the best of the backs. Allen was remarkably good in goal, and all the forwards were good. The goals for the School were got by More and Berens. Teams:

## SCHOOL.

M. A. Allan (goal), J. S. Shearme and F. P. Pilkington (backs), W. L. Armstrong, F. B. Sherring, and E. H. Cox (half-backs), S. Nye, J. F. More, C. E. Page, E. Berens, and P. E. Knapp (forwards).

## UNIVERSITY.

J. Langton (sub.) (goal), H. Cobbett and another (backs), N. Cooper, S. Jones, and W. Schmidt (half-backs), P. Druitt, J. Willett, E. Smith, and H. Willett (forwards).

## THE MISSION.

A MEETING of the Mission Committee was held Up School on Friday, October 16. The committee dealt first with the financial question. Owing to the falling off in O.W. subscriptions it was decided to issue an appeal for support to O.WW. in order to carry on the work of the Mission in a satisfactory manner. With regard to the expenditure asked for by the superintendent in connection with the formation of the Guild, it was decided that £6 should be expended on tools, but the rest of the money asked for was not sanctioned because it was not considered altogether necessary. An additional reason was that there was very little room for stowing away any more pieces of furniture. The committee then discussed the annual report. On Saturday, October 17, a meeting of Mission boys was held at the Mission to bid farewell to Mr. A. R. Knapp, and a present of a field glass subscribed for by the boys of the Mission was made to him. The superintendent made an appropriate speech, dwelling on the interest Mr. Knapp had taken in the Mission, and wishing him in the name of all its members a most prosperous and happy career. Mr. Knapp expressed his thanks in a neat and eloquent speech, and then the usual entertainment took place.

## DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE House met for the first time this term on Thursday, October 1. After electing six new members, whose names we duly recorded last month, two 'society' motions, each dealing with the formation of a syllabus for the term, were brought forward. After some discussion both were lost.

The House then proceeded to the business of the evening, namely, to discuss the following motion: 'That this House heartily approves of the recent Chilian Revolution.'

The following spoke for the motion: T. E.

HARWOOD (Proposer), R. BALFOUR (Seconder), N. J. McCASKIE, and J. S. SHEARME.

Against the motion: F. B. SHERRING (Opposer), D. SHEARME, and P. B. HENDERSON.

The debate on the motion was very good indeed, and the speeches were much longer than has been the case for some time. The Proposer brought a good deal of abuse upon his head by making a speech a good deal of which consisted of extracts from newspapers.

The Seconder's speech, which was remarkable for its ambiguity, was by far the longest during the discussion, and lasted altogether for almost half an hour.

P. B. Henderson made some remarkable statements, saying amongst other things that it was a great benefit for a country to have a National Debt! The discussion chiefly turned upon the question whether Balmaceda ought or ought not to have redeemed the dollar notes. The debate lasted till within a quarter of an hour of the end of the next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 8.

The motion was carried by a majority of 11.

The House then devoted the money in hand to a fund for buying a new ledger for the Society, when wanted.

The House met on Thursday, October 15, to discuss the motion, 'That this House condemns not only the idea of having a memorial chapel in connection with the Abbey, but also the schemes lately proposed for one.'

The following spoke for the motion: L. F. WINTLE (Proposer), P. E. KNAPP (Seconder), F. B. SHERRING, and T. E. HARWOOD.

Against the motion: A. M. ANDREWS (Opposer), J. F. MORE, D. SHEARME, J. S. SHEARME, and Mr. J. SARGEAUNT.

The debate on this motion was a great contrast to the last. The speeches were short and poor in the extreme, with the exception of Mr. Sargeant's, D. Shearme's, and the President's. It seems extraordinary that a debate upon a motion of such interest to a Westminster should have lasted no more than three-quarters of an hour, and that a Westminster Society should approve of a scheme which, if one of the proposals were to be carried out, would do irretrievable damage to the School. No one could have been surprised at the general principle of 'a memorial chapel in connection with the Abbey' being approved of, but it seems nothing short of scandalous that 'the schemes lately proposed for one' should also be approved of.

J. F. MORE made his 'maiden' speech.

The motion was lost by a majority of 11.

The House then proceeded to discuss the following motion:

'That in the opinion of this House the railway passenger rates of this country cannot be advantageously lowered.'

The following spoke for the motion: D. CLAPHAM (Proposer), J. F. MORE (Seconder), L. F. WINTLE, R. BALFOUR, B. E. STRAUSS, and F. B. SHERRING.

Against the motion: E. H. COX (Opposer), W. C. H. BELL, D. SHEARME, J. S. SHEARME, and N. J. McCASKIE.

The discussion was continued on Thursday, October 22.

The debate on this motion was much more lively than the last, though the speeches, as a whole, were no longer. The Proposer's speech showed a careful preparation of the subject, with which he was evidently very familiar. W. C. H. Bell's 'maiden' speech defeated most of the Proposer's arguments, and was one of the most sensible speeches we have heard this term. Some curious disputes as regards mathematics arose during the progress of the debate, but these were all satisfactorily decided. The chief point in the discussion was whether English railways, which are undoubtedly the dearest, are also the best.

The motion was lost by a majority of 2.

### Obituary.

WE regret to have to record the death of Mr. G. A. à BECKETT, which occurred on Thursday, October 17. He was a contributor to *Punch*, and on several occasions there have been familiar allusions to Westminster from his pen. The following account is from the *Standard*:

"Mr. Gilbert Arthur à Beckett was the eldest son of the late Gilbert Abbot à Beckett, Metropolitan Police Magistrate and author. Born in 1837, he was educated at Westminster School. Having gained a studentship to Christ Church, he proceeded to Oxford. He took his degree in 1857, and was entered at Lincoln's Inn, but never took any steps to be called to the Bar. After leaving the University he accepted a clerkship in the Treasury, which he held for some years, until he decided to devote his time to literature. He was the author of a number of pieces written for nearly every prominent London theatre. His latest works were the librettos for 'The Canterbury Pilgrims,' and 'Savonarola' (Dr. Villiers Stanford's operas). He was joint author with Mr. Hermann Merivale of 'The White Pilgrim.'"

### Correspondence.

FROM OUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Your co-respondent, 'Bosporos,' who has for so long kept your readers posted up in the upcomings and downgoings, the strivings and achievings of O.W.W. in Oxford, is, alas! no more of our number; and I take up an unworthy

pen to supply his place. We came up this term to find Oxford encircled with floods, and to catch a glimpse, as it were, of mediæval Oxford in the midst of its wide expanse of fen. Notices none the less continued to threaten prosecution, as the law directs, to daring souls who might venture their lives by trespassing in several feet of water, thereby reminding one, as an Oxonian bishop once observed, of the many sermons which warn one so emphatically against the particular sins to which one is least prone. In the middle of a large lake, by the side of the Abingdon Road, a board acquainted the passers-by that 'this eligible building land is for sale on advantageous terms.' The waters continued to rise, and for a time it seemed not improbable that we should have to navigate the High in punts, and that the College authorities would be forced to take steps for holding chapel and lectures in the College barges. There were even rumours of negotiations between the Vice-Chancellor and Clasper's for the building of a large ark in which two of each kind, from Professors and Proctors to Bulldogs and Undergraduates—with the exception of the Vice-Chancellor himself, of whom there could obviously be only one—might be preserved to Oxford for drier times. However, at last the rain ceased to fall, and the floods to rise, and now Oxford has returned to its normal state.

Old Westminsters miss a good many familiar figures this term. C. J. L. Page, who was so genial a President of the Club last year, is no longer among us. A. R. Knapp too, after a brief farewell sojourn in Oxford at the beginning of term, has now sailed for India; and, to slightly misquote Horace, it may truly be said of him, *Multis ille bonis febilis—abiit*. R. M. Towers has gone down from the House, O. Roos from Balliol, P. Dearmer from the Pusey House, R. G. Thornton from Keble, H. B. Willett from University, J. O. Cuthbertson from Exeter, and B. S. Chope from St. John's. The number of Westminster freshmen to fill up these gaps in our ranks is, I am sorry to say, smaller than it has been for many years. At the House there are J. S. Phillimore, E. G. Burton, and H. J. R. Saint; at Oriel, F. Varley, with a scholarship; and E. L. Thomas, with a scholarship, at Jesus.

The class lists have already been chronicled in your columns, but I ought not to pass them by without congratulating O. Roos on his First in Law, which is said—I hope I am not betraying the inner secrets of the Schools—to have been one of the two best of the year.

Athletically O.W.W. are fairly active. F. Street is our only football blue at present, but W. V. Doherty and R. E. Oliver were playing in the Seniors' match. These three, and Stephenson, Williamson, James, Goldie, and Burton have played for the House. E. A. Everington is captain of the Keble, and J. A. Willett of the University team; and E. L. Thomas has been playing for Jesus. On the river we are not very strongly represented. A. C. Gates was rowing in one of the trial eights last week.

Oxford O.W.W. have several fixtures for this term, and two have already been decided. The first was against Old Salopians, and was a victory by four goals to one. In the other we fell before the prowess of the School team, the goals being four to three in their favour; but perhaps this can hardly be called Oxford news, or even *news* at all.

The fortunes of the Westminster Club this year are committed to the care of B. L. Goldie as President, and C. A. Phillimore as Secretary, with C. L. C. Aveling, A. J. L. Booker, E. A. Everington, L. James, and J. A. Willett, as Committee. There are rumours abroad of a Smoking Concert, but these things lie on the knees of the gods.

Some of us hold offices of high dignity in the University this year, and in this connection should be mentioned R. C. Phillimore, who is Secretary of the Twenty Club at the House, and E. A. Everington, who is Vice-President of the Literary Society at Keble, and also of the 'P.D.S.' whatever those letters may signify. R. C. Phillimore also provided a stirring debate at the Union, on October 29, when he proposed and carried triumphantly, by 122 votes to 27, a motion condemning the government of Russia; but in strict candour I must add that his own persuasiveness in winning votes was supported not a

little by a Russian Nihilist, one Volkofsky, who narrated his personal experience of Russian despotism.

There is one event of moment in the University which I must not fail to notice. The announcement of Dean Liddell's resignation has been received throughout Oxford with a real regret, which will find an echo at Westminster. As head of the College to which Westminster is closely bound, but still more as an old headmaster of the School itself, the Dean has a great claim on our memory and respect. He came to Westminster at a crisis in its history, and though the numbers of the School rose no more than thirty, yet his headmanship marked the turn of the tide, and the beginning of a new era of prosperity—an era which we may hope is even now no more than begun. At Christ Church, Dean Liddell has never failed to command the respect of all with whom he has had to deal, and he has won the affection of many who have been privileged to a closer knowledge of him than it has been possible for the majority to enjoy. His long occupation of the Deanery has made him looked up to as the Nestor of the University.

τῶ δ' ἤδη δύο μὲν γενεαὶ μερόπων ἀνθρώπων  
ἐφθιάθ' . . . . .  
. . . . . μετὰ δὲ τριτάτοιαν ἄνασσει.

To House men of recent times 'the Dean' is as essential a part of Christ Church as Tom Tower itself. During his thirty-five years of office, Christchurch has had its ups and downs, but through them all it has maintained its unique place among Oxford Colleges. There have been times when House men have shown little enthusiasm for anything but a bonfire in 'Peck'; but at other times, and especially during the last few years, the House has taken honourable place in the schools; and both on the river and in athletics generally, it has been well to the front for some time past. Though it is long since the Dean sat in Busby's chair, he has never ceased to take an interest in the success of the School. Many O.W.W. who have been at the House will no doubt recall the Dean's appeal at collections 'to keep up the credit of the Westminsters'; and it was only last summer, at the Gaudy dinner, that he spoke in warm praise of the promise shown by the Westminsters who had recently come under his charge. At the election ceremonies he seldom failed to be present; and at one time the withdrawal of the electors from the *viva voce* 'Up School' was always followed by a rush of the Q.SS. to gain possession of the beautiful little sketches on blotting paper which occupied the Dean's leisure moments while the *viva* was proceeding. It is pleasant to know that in Canon Paget the Dean leaves the House in the hands of an admirable successor. Canon Paget, it is interesting to notice, was at school at Shrewsbury, which is connected with Christ Church by ties similar to our own, though neither as intimate nor as time-honoured. May Westminsters do their share in keeping up the reputation of the House under his rule!

Believe me,  
Yours faithfully,  
EX AEDE CHRISTI.

Christ Church,  
November 5, 1891.

## ROWING AT WESTMINSTER

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Although Westminster is not now a 'boating' school, the following extracts gathered from 'Records of the University Boat Race, 1829-1880,' compiled by G. G. T. Treherne, O.U.B.C., and J. H. D. Goldie, may interest some of your readers.

Between the years 1829 and 1880, 26 O.W.W. obtained their boating blue, of which Oxford claimed 15, Cambridge 11; and in the year 1885 Cambridge had another O.W. representing her on the tideway.

In the first race between the 'Varsities,' W. R. Freemantle



(afterwards Dean of Ripon) steered, and G. B. Moore rowed (7) for Oxford. That mind and matter went hand in hand in those days is shown by the fact that two bishops, two deans, a prebendary, and other ecclesiastical and legal dignitaries were drawn from the crews which competed on this occasion.

In 1836 F. L. Moysey rowed stroke in the Oxford boat.

In 1839 W. W. Smyth (afterwards F.R.S., Inspector of Crown Mines) rowed (2) in the Cambridge boat.

In 1840 and 1841 C. M. Vials stroked Cambridge, and J. J. T. Somers-Cox stroked Oxford, and in the latter year, E. V. Richards (2), and H. W. Hodgson (5) also represented Oxford. A. B. Pollock steered the Cambridge boat in 1842.

In 1847 the late W. King represented Oxford.

In 1845 and 1846 W. H. Milman was one of the chosen 9 of the Cathedral City, and in the former year M. Haggard rowed bow, and in the latter year another O.W., in the person of E. C. Burton, rowed (2) in the same boat. Burton also rowed in 1849 (first race), having another O.W., W. G. Rich as stroke. Rich rowed in the second race in 1849, which Oxford won (having R. W. Cotton as steerer).

C. A. Nicholson rowed for Cambridge in 1847.

In 1851 Oxford beat Cambridge in the Grand Challenge at Henley (Cambridge broke a rowlock); their coxswain on this occasion was E. C. Burton, who scaled 11 stones. Rich was in this boat.

W. R. Barker obtained his blue in 1852. The light blues were stroked by J. Wright in 1854.

Westminster turned out a 'Double Blue' in 1858, for in this year Oxford chose C. G. Lane to assist her on the water, as well as in the cricket field.

C. G. Lane was captain of cricket at Westminster in 1853, played for Oxford from 1856 to 1860, in which latter year he was captain, and he also played for the Gentlemen v. Players for five years at 'Lords.' A grand sportsman, truly!

As I fear that I have already occupied too much of your valuable space, I will, with your permission, conclude these extracts in another number.

Yours truly,  
O.W. CANTAB.

#### LADY VINCENT'S PRIZE.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—Lady Vincent, near the end of last term, kindly offered a prize for athletics in the School.

I would suggest that a shield should be given for the T.B.B. and Q.S.S. match. It might then create some more interest in the match among the generality of T.B.B. than is at present the case, as the majority of them undeniably look on the match as of little or no importance, while at the same time it would benefit the whole School as a body, and would, I feel sure, be the best way of cherishing and quickening the memory of the donor in the School. Trusting that the authorities will give this some notice.

I am, Sir, &c.,  
T. B.

O.W.W. v. WOLVERTON.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—In the *Referee* of the 25th October last are the following remarks on the above match:

'The Pinks were certainly favoured by luck this (Saturday) afternoon, when meeting the Railway Men at Wolverton. They were not fully represented, and under ordinary circumstances would have been defeated. The home team, however, assisted them to score four goals, as two of the points allowed to the Old Boys were made by the rival half-backs.'

How is it that the O.W.W. are seldom 'fully represented,' unless they are playing in London?

We should all be glad to see O.W.W. win the challenge cup this year, or at least occupy as good a position as they did in 1883-84, when they proved that there were very few clubs in England able to beat them.

We cannot, however, hope to secure the Trophy, or even to make a good fight for it, unless we are 'fully represented' in every match, not only in 'quality' but also in 'quantity.'

Yours truly,  
A CANTAB O.W.

#### THE CHARTERHOUSE MATCH.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I would wish through your columns to impress upon the School generally the importance of holding the Charterhouse match on neutral ground. Surely, if we were to take the initiative and propose to play *this year* at the Oval (and to the best of my knowledge it is not yet too late to secure for that date) or some other ground, Charterhouse would be willing to make the same allowance next year for us.

I remain, yours truly,  
THEMIS.

#### THE ADMISSION REGISTERS.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly allow us once more to ask all Old Westminsters who are interested in the Admission Registers to send us full particulars of themselves and of their old school-fellows?

Though many of your correspondents have at various times expressed their regret that the *Alumni* has not been brought down to date, very few Old Westminsters have taken any notice of our former appeals for information in your columns.

We may add that this is the third and last time of asking.

Faithfully yours,  
G. F. RUSSELL BARKER,  
New University Club, St. James's Street, S.W.  
ALAN H. STENNING,  
St. Stephen's Club, Westminster, S.W.

October 9, 1891.

#### Our Contemporaries.

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following: *Cheltonian, Blue, Carthusian, Wykehamist, Meteor, Ulula, Wellingtonian, Marlburian, Radleian, Durham University Journal, Newtonian, Barnet Elizabethan, Cliftonian, Felstedian, Rossalian, Reptonian, Mulvernian, Haileyburian, Salopian, Feltesian, Forest School Magazine, Derbeian, Alleynian, Bradford School Chronicle, University College Magazine, Pauline, Raven, Lancing College Magazine, Shirburnian, Norfolkian, Kingsman, South Eastern College Magazine, Loughburian, Devonian, Clavinian, Blundellian, Daneshillan.*

#### ERRATA.

Page 321, line 26 from top of the page, for 'ever' read 'even.'

Same page, 3rd line from bottom of page, for *occidit* read *occidit*. (The quotation ends with *occidit*.)

NOTICES.

All contributions to the December number of *The Elizabethan* must be sent in to the Editor, St. Peter's College, Westminster, not later than December 5.

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

The yearly subscription to *The Elizabethan* is 4s. It is requested that all subscriptions now falling due, or not yet paid up, may be forwarded to D. Shearme, St. Peter's College, Westminster (not addressed to 'The Treasurer'). Post Office

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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 contributors or correspondents.

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

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

THE ADMISSION REGISTER.

THE ADMISSION REGISTER.

Morant.