



The Elizabethan.

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WILLIAM COWPER, 1731-1800.

LAST April public interest in the poet Cowper was revived by several articles and letters which were written, drawing attention to the centenary of his death. This month's leader, therefore, is very nearly a year late, but perhaps it is better even so than that *The Elizabethan* should do nothing at all to commemorate the occasion except refer to it briefly in 'School Notes.'

In December we offered our readers an account (unfortunately very hurried and perfunctory) of the work of Dryden, who, by a coincidence, died exactly one hundred years before Cowper. Those hundred years were not rich in poetic talent—the latter half of the century in particular; and we should have the support of most critics in assigning the first place to Cowper, without, however, putting him in the

same rank as some of those who flourished either immediately before or immediately after it. Not but what he has a charm which is quite his own. At the present day there are many would-be judges of poetry who maintain that the true poet is only he who writes in a deep mystic and metaphysical strain. Such critics would derive no pleasure from reading Cowper, who, excepting perhaps Crabbe, is the simplest of poets. He did most of his best work after he was fifty years old, so it offers only occasional glimpses of that vigour and spontaneity which we see in more youthful poets; but in depicting the peaceful side of nature he is unequalled. Some, perhaps, would urge the claims of Thomson. Thomson is far more universal than Cowper; but he attempts to describe an ideal Arcadia with the characters of the Eclogues, and the attempt results in a monotonous and mechanical description, quite unlike the picturesque idylls of Vergil and Theocritus, which

it is apparently intended to resemble. Not so with Cowper. He paints at once accurately and artistically the familiar English landscapes. There is a beauty which cannot fail to please the lover of nature in the picture of

‘Ouse, slow winding through a level plain
Of spacious meads, with cattle sprinkled o’er ;

While far beyond, and overthwart the stream,
That, as with molten glass, inlays the vale,
The sloping land recedes into the clouds.’

Again :

‘Mighty winds,
That sweep the skirt of some far-spreading wood
Of ancient growth, make music not unlike
The dash of Ocean on his winding shore.’

Such lines do not, perhaps, show the talent of a Shelley or a Browning, but they are poetry for all their simplicity—one might almost say, by virtue of their simplicity. Nor does he appreciate only the calm and quietude of the country, as is seen by the lines last quoted, and when, a little lower down, he says :

‘But cawing rooks, and kites that swim sublime
In still-repeated circles, screaming loud,
The jay, the pie, and e’en the boding owl,
That hails the rising moon, have charms for me.
Sounds inharmonious in themselves and harsh,
Yet heard in scenes where peace for ever reigns,
And only there, please highly for their sake.’

There is almost the humour of Calverley in the picture of the farm labourer walking along the road to his work :

‘The sturdy churl
Moves right towards the mark ; nor stops for aught,
But now and then with pressure of his thumb
To adjust the fragrant charge of a short tube,
That fumes beneath his nose : the trailing cloud
Streams far behind him, scenting all the air.’

All the above passages are taken from ‘The Task,’ but, unfortunately, the poem is not all in the same manner. Poor Cowper was religion-mad, and most of ‘The Task’ as well as of the ‘Moral Satires’ was only too truly described by a contemporary critic as ‘tedious, and little better than a very dull sermon in indifferent verse.’ Cowper said of it himself, ‘If the world like it not, so much the worse for them. I make all the concessions I can that I may please them ; but I will not please them at the expense of conscience.’ The latter half of the eighteenth century, when Cowper began to write, was characterised by great laxity in religion and morals, and his earnestness in denouncing the vices of his day is admittedly laudable, nor was it

entirely ineffective ; but it grows monotonous in his poetry. The ‘Moral Satires’ are not such good reading as ‘The Task.’ We have already mentioned the judgment passed on them by *The Critical Review*, and we are bound to admit that it is a judgment not undeserved. He was no satirist in the way that Horace, Juvenal, and Persius were satirists : he knew nothing of life and the world. As he himself says in a letter, he cared more about his cucumbers than about any political question. Moreover, he was not easily influenced by personal motives. Consequently, there are few personal allusions ; he prefers to condemn the fashionable sins of the time from a general standpoint, and always harps upon his theory that retirement is more conducive to virtue than a busy life. Here and there we find a short passage of the real satiric tone, as the attack upon Lord Chesterfield (‘Petronius’), and occasionally a clever epigram. But the greater part is well described in Cowper’s own words :

‘The clear harangue, and cold as it is clear,
Falls soporific on the listless ear.’

But it is not ‘The Task’ (except passages here and there) and ‘The Satires’ which are now most read of Cowper’s works. It is his short pieces, such as ‘The Solitude of Alexander Selkirk,’ ‘The Loss of the Royal George,’ ‘Lines to a Young Lady,’ and, most of all, the ballad of ‘John Gilpin,’ which keep his memory alive. One is marked by playfulness, another by tenderness and pathos, all by clearness, ease, and spontaneity ; there are no signs of effort having been needed in their composition. This simple style, as we have said, is not in general favour to-day ; but times change, and perhaps the next generation will prefer Gray, Crabbe, and Cowper to the modern metaphysical poets who are at present in vogue.

Opinion on Cowper’s poetry may be divided, but of the charm of his ‘Letters’ there can be no doubt. Southey, his biographer, declares them to be the best in the language. That is high praise ; but, though he may have equals, he certainly, in our opinion, has no superiors in this branch of literature. So many famous men have written letters with a view to their own biographies. Such letters are usually excellent as examples of style, but they exhibit unmistakable signs of having been written for the entertainment of others than the person addressed. Cowper’s letters are entirely free from this fault, and therein lies their great charm. They show

us the man as he was, sometimes cheerful, but often in the depths of hypochondria. Living as he did the life of a recluse, it would not have been surprising if his letters had contained nothing but egotistic sentiment. But that is not so; he writes of the commonest everyday incidents, and that with a subtle power which forces the reader to follow them with interest and even avidity.

Poor Cowper! The story of his life is, indeed, pathetic. A victim to religious melancholy, he constantly attempted to take his own life, and for many years he was subject to the most pitiable hallucinations. His last original poem, 'The Castaway,' was also his saddest; its pathos is almost terrible in its intensity. We can but repeat 'Poor Cowper!'

School Notes.

By the kindness of the Dean and Chapter, we were enabled to witness the arrival of the King for the opening of his first Parliament on February 14. A stand was erected at the south-east corner of Henry VII.'s chapel for the masters and members of the Upper Forms, whilst the remainder of the School stood on the pavement in front.

Last month saw the birth of a new periodical at Westminster in the shape of *The Mirror*. 'We protest,' says the editorial to Vol. 1, No. 1, 'that it is with no feelings of rivalry towards our illustrious (*sic*) contemporary *The Elizabethan*; nay, rather with the hope of giving it some assistance in its present severe pecuniary embarrassment.' We will forgive the anacoluthon and thank the editor or editors for his or their kindly intentions. In the first place, however, the said embarrassment is, as will be seen by the balance-sheet which we print below, rapidly becoming a vanishing quantity; and, in the second place, we cannot get rid of the idea that this new production is a kind of literary waste-pipe, by which certain members of the School let off their superfluous mental energy.

We had three representatives in the Inter-Varsity Association Match—R. N. R. Blaker and F. Young for Cambridge, and B. H. Willett for Oxford. To each we offer our hearty congratulations, and especially to Blaker, who from all accounts played fully up to his reputation.

The greeze on Shrove Tuesday was rather a poor one, as R. E. Graham, of the Mod. Rem., who was successful, managed to conceal the pancake, and the

other competitors wasted their energy in greezing for an unsubstantial nothing. The occasion, as usual, afforded our contemporaries an excellent opportunity for a display of antiquarian knowledge, the account in the *Evening Standard* being especially noteworthy. A brief article also appears in the March number of the *Public School Magazine*. Though it is unsigned, we understand that it is from the pen of an O.W.

Amongst the officers mentioned in General Buller's dispatches (published in the *London Gazette* of Friday, February 8, 1901) for 'gallant or meritorious service,' we read the name of Lieut. F. C. D. Davidson (O.W.), whom we mentioned in our obituary notices for July, 1900.

The draw for the House Matches is as follows: Grant's *v.* Ashburnham, Rigaud's *v.* H.B.B.

We defer a full account of the Charterhouse match to our next issue, and will content ourselves here with a few remarks. The circumstances of the match would in themselves have sufficed to defeat a far stronger team than we could put in the field. Measles had broken out violently at Godalming, and none of the School were allowed to go down and cheer on our side. Moreover, three at least were excluded from the team by illness. Yet, in spite of all, we hear with surprise that the score at half-time was only 0-1 against us. Mr. C. P. Wilson, the old International, acted as referee. We congratulate H. A. Roberts, F. N. Ashley, and F. D. Baker, who have since received their pinks.

The following should be added to the list of O.W.W. at the front:—

1896-1898 ... Newton, G. H. ... Trooper, Paget's Horse.
1895-1898 ... Addison, H. G. ... Trooper, Paget's Horse.

The following is the Football Card filled in up to date:—

1900.

Sat.	Sept. 29	. Clapham Rovers. (Lost 2-3.)
	Oct. 6	. R. N. R. Blaker's XI. (Lost 2-9.)
Wed.	" 10	. Old Carthusians. (Lost 0-7.)
Sat.	" 13	. Emeriti. (Lost 0-4.)
	2nd XI. <i>v.</i>	Clapham Rovers 2nd XI. (Won 5-4.)
	Oct. 20	. Casuals. (Lost 0-1.)
	2nd XI. <i>v.</i>	London Hospital 2nd XI. (Won 5-2.)
	Oct. 27	. St. John's College, Oxford. (Scratched.)
	2nd XI. <i>v.</i>	A. B. Challis's XI. (Lost 2-3.)
	Nov. 3	. Old Foresters. (Scratched.)
Wed.	" 7	. R.M.A., Woolwich. (Lost 4-6.)
Sat.	" 10	. Christ Church, Oxford. (Lost 0-4.)
	" 17	. New College, Oxford. (Lost 0-3.)
	2nd XI. <i>v.</i>	Old Foresters 2nd XI. (Lost 1-6.)
	Nov. 24	. Old Harrovians. (Lost 1-3.)
	Dec. 1	. Old Westminsters. (Won 1-0.)
	" 8	. Old Felstedians. (Lost 0-5.)
	2nd XI. <i>v.</i>	Technical College 2nd XI. (Scratched.)

THE FIELDS.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL *v.* OLD ETONIANS.

THE ground, though hard, was passable, and the Etonians, though much the heavier side, never used their weight unfairly. They were two short, but substitutes were forthcoming in G. M. S. Oldham and D. H. Whitmore. Starting against a slight wind, the Etonians were not long in attacking the School goal. The brothers Gosling were chiefly prominent in this direction, F. D. Baker saving shots from both. Some pretty passing by the School front line almost ended in A. T. Coleby scoring, after which the visitors, headed by R. C. Gosling, rushed to the other end, where the last-named was successful in beating the custodian. Playing strongly, F. I. Harrison soon equalised, and getting another chance just before the interval, added a second goal. Afterwards the Old Boys battled very hard to get equal. Time and again the Gosling brothers tried to force their way through, but, as the Westminster halves always promptly fell back to support the last line, their efforts failed. Once T. S. Gosling came through, but F. D. Baker, running out, took the ball off his foot very cleverly. In the end the sound defence prevailed, and the School won by 2 goals to 1. For Old Etonians N. Malcomson worked untiringly at centre-half, often repairing errors made by his backs. The following were the teams :—

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

F. D. Baker (goal); H. A. Roberts and C. M. Page (backs); W. Parker, F. N. Ashley and A. T. Willett (half-backs); P. H. Napier, A. T. Coleby, F. I. Harrison, C. Powers and A. Beney (forwards).

OLD ETONIANS.

S. H. Hole (goal); B. J. T. Bosanquet and A. J. Jex-Blake (backs); G. M. S. Oldham, N. Malcomson and H. Hughes-Onslow (half-backs); O. L. Richmond, R. C. Gosling, T. S. Gosling, D. H. Whitmore and H. Jenner-Fust (forwards).

Referee : Mr. C. B. H. Knight.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL *v.* O.WW.

Shortly after starting, and after some dribbling on the right wing, the ball was passed to H. O. C. Beasley, who put it through our goal. Another successful shot followed from the same player; and F. I. Harrison soon after failed to score for us. Then followed another shot from H. O. C. Beasley which just went behind. On A. Beney centreing, K. B. Anderson ran out and kicked, but the ball rebounded from A. Whittow between the posts. H. O. C. Beasley then put in two shots; the first was saved by F. D. Baker, but the second resulted in a goal for O.WW. a quarter of

an hour before half-time. The opposing forwards then dribbled up, but F. D. Baker ran out and saved. H. S. Bompas followed with an exceptionally good shot, which, however, had no result. A quarter of an hour after half-time a corner was given for us, but the ball was cleared and taken up into our goal, from which it was in turn cleared by F. D. Baker. A shot from R. O. Barnett went through, and another goal soon followed from a combination by the same player with H. S. Bompas. The next three goals fell to Westminster; A. T. Coleby obtained the first, and after C. Powers had made an unsuccessful attempt to beat K. B. Anderson, F. I. Harrison and A. Beney scored in turn. This brought the game to within twenty minutes of time. Another dribble and shot from H. S. Bompas raised the O.WW. score to six as against our five, and the whistle was blown without further results.

Teams :—

O.WW.

K. B. Anderson (goal); L. A. M. Fevez and A. Whittow (backs); L. R. Wynter, A. L. Foster and W. F. Fox (half-backs); H. O. C. Beasley, J. F. More, R. O. Barnett, H. S. Bompas and W. V. Rayner (forwards).

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

F. D. Baker (goal); H. A. Roberts and C. M. Page (backs); W. Parker, F. N. Ashley and A. T. Willett (half-backs); P. H. Napier, A. T. Coleby, F. I. Harrison, C. Powers and A. Beney (forwards).

2nd XI. *v.* OLD FORESTERS 2nd XI.

Played on Saturday, February 16. P. M. Battle won the toss, and the Old Foresters kicked off at 3 o'clock. H. F. Baker soon scored for them, and D. H. Whitmore retaliated with a neat shot. Before half-time only one more goal was scored, and that by the Old Foresters. After the interval we forced several corners, but failed to score off any of them; R. B. J. Scott should have scored twice. R. D. Kitson scored our next goal, and J. C. Vernon after a very good run added a third. The Old Foresters then scored twice. Our fourth goal and their three last were scored in quick succession at the end of the match. The 2nd XI. were thus defeated by 6 goals to 4, after an interesting game. The Old Foresters had only four forwards.

Team :—

OLD FORESTERS 2ND XI.

A. Jones (goal); R. A. and V. Ramsey (backs); F. G. Nicholls, K. C. Nicholls, A. L. Evelyn (half-backs); C. F. Bryant, K. D. Abbott, H. F. Baker, P. Evelyn (forwards).

THE WESTMINSTER LEAGUE.

THE following are the results of the League matches to date :—

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
A	—	L 0-4	W 2-1	L 0-3	W 4-0		W 4-2	W 3-1
B	W 4-0	—	W 3-2		L 0-1	W 3-1	W 2-0	
C	L 1-2	L 2-3	—	L 0-5	W 2-1	D 1-1		D 0-0
D	W 3-0		W 5-0	—		D 2-2	D 4-4	L 1-5
E	L 0-4	W 1-0	L 1-2		—	W 2-1	L 0-2	L 0-6
F		L 1-3	D 1-1	W 2-0	L 1-2	—		W 1-0
G	L 2-4	L 0-2		D 4-4	W 2-0		—	L 3-4
H	L 1-3		D 0-0	W 5-1	W 6-0	L 0-1	W 4-3	—

Captains :—

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| (A) Blanc, J. P. | (E) Law, H. D. G. |
| (B) Sefi, A. G. | (F) Lowe, S. P. |
| (C) Mavrogordato, T. M. | (G) Dickson, S. A. |
| (D) Hubback, F. W. | (H) Sonnenschein, W. T. S. |

DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE House met on February 7 to discuss the motion 'That Oliver Cromwell was largely instrumental in laying the foundation of the British Empire.' In spite of the long speeches produced, this was hardly an interesting debate: perhaps on account of the inattention displayed by several members.

THE PROPOSER, C. M. PAGE, was certainly vehement, if long, in his support of Cromwell. He began by describing the low ebb to which the British Empire had fallen before the time of Cromwell, in prosperity, religion, and morals, chiefly owing to the prodigality of Charles and his Court. Cromwell entirely remodelled the army, being exempt from the self-denying ordinance. The execution of Charles was justified by his treachery and his self-aggrandizing policy.

Cromwell was an excellent administrator and made Britain respected by all the European nations; he also was the first to institute colonies, the most important of which were some of the West Indies. The only point against him was the Irish massacres, which were necessary to make other towns submit without a struggle. He did all he could to conciliate Scotland, and so to consolidate the United Kingdom. Under

Charles II. his work suffered a relapse, but it was finished by William III. Cromwell had come to the help of Britain in the hour of need and had brought her to prosperity.

W. T. KENNEDY, who opposed, was very short. He complained that Cromwell had been vastly over-rated. The Empire had been founded before, in Elizabeth's reign, and Cromwell's policy was defensive rather than aggressive, his aim being the foundation of a Protestant League in Europe headed by England. The speaker then mentioned various colonies founded before Cromwell's administration, and declared that the colonies he did found were but few, and they only came into existence because people were forced from England on account of the mischievous policy at home. The very fact that Mr. J. Morley and Mr. F. Harrison admired him was enough to show that he was far from being an Imperialist.

P. M. BATTLE, in seconding, also described the bad state of England in morals, learning, and religion under Charles, a state of things which Cromwell considerably improved. It was at this time that, through Blake, the Naval power passed from the Netherlands to England; the Army also was considerably reformed by Cromwell. He had made England respected all over the Continent. The ill-success which had attended the leniency lately shown to the Boers was a striking illustration of the necessity of severity in Ireland. He had enlarged the Empire all over the world.

A. BENEY objected to a comparison between Mr. Kensit and Cromwell made by P. T. Browning.

THE PROPOSER again rose. He maintained that the United Kingdom was the heart of the Empire and disagreed on that point with W. T. Kennedy. Alfred might be said to have founded the Empire, but the question was whether Cromwell kept it, as the Stuarts certainly did not. It was necessary to kill Charles I., as he was the instrument of England's fall and a 'harmful influence.'

AFTER a short speech by H. A. ROBERTS, G. N. FORD rose. He said that Cromwell was only a temporary influence, and his work had to be done for him again by William III. Through his influence Ireland had been alienated from us. His avowed object was to make religion free, but his real object was a religious tyranny.

J. B. WHITMORE then rose, but was almost immediately interrupted by the adjournment of the House.

AT the next meeting of the House J. B. WHITMORE continued his speech with a few remarks. Cromwell was a great man, and if Empire meant Greatness he helped to found it, but if Empire meant Colonies he did not.

P. T. BROWNING rather strayed from the point. He told the House that Cromwell saved the country from becoming Roman Catholic.

AFTER short speeches by the VICE-PRESIDENT and P. M. BATTLE the House divided. For the motion, 11; against, 9; majority for, 2. The motion was therefore carried.

House Notes.

COLLEGE.—We are glad to be able to congratulate H. A. Roberts and F. D. Baker on receiving their Pinks after the Charterhouse match. We were represented at Godalming by H. A. Roberts, F. D. Baker, A. T. Coleby, F. I. Harrison, and E. W. Colt-Williams. College Fives Ties have apparently been at a standstill since the last issue. The Chess Club, however, is lucky in having H. F. Jacob as its energetic secretary, and, thanks to him, has reached the seventh round. It is encouraging to realise, as we do at an untimely hour every morning, that some K.S.S. at least do not intend to throw away their prospects for the Sports for want of matutinal training in Green. We are sorry to add that G. C. Brooke dislocated, and broke a piece off, his elbow Up-fields a few days ago. We have finished reading 'King Lear,' and are now in the middle of 'Much Ado about Nothing' up Literary Society.

RIGAUD'S.—We must condole with C. M. Page on his hard luck in being kept out of the team sent against Charterhouse, owing to his developing influenza at the last moment; but, in spite of this, the team contained three Rigaudites. We are glad to see that we have three representatives in the School Fives Ties, namely, T. M. Mavrogordato, C. M. Page, and R. D. Kitson, while two—C. Powers and E. E. S. B. Atherley-Jones—have entered for the School Racket Ties. We hope that success may attend their efforts. We are glad to be able to report the complete recovery of our House-master. We must congratulate B. H. Willett on representing his University *v.* Cambridge, he being the first to break the run of ill-luck that has pursued O.W. footballers at Oxford during the past fifteen years. Our congratulations are also due to R. N. R. Blaker on playing for South *v.* North.

GRANT'S.—We have much pleasure in congratulating F. N. Ashley on his Pinks, which he got after the Charterhouse match. We condole with Smith and Stevens on not being able to play; we hope to see the former playing again by the time this is in print. The Literary Society were unable to hold a meeting last week owing to the absence of members, but will resume its readings with 'The Rivals.' We congratulate J. P. Blane on playing for the 2nd XI. *v.* Old Foresters 2nd XI. Our chance for the Inter-House Fives is not great, but we hope they will arouse more interest in the game up Grant's. Since the last number Grant's has produced the Part-Editor of that peerless production *The Mirror*, namely, W. T. S. Sonnenschein; we wish him luck. The House was sorry to hear that, owing to one day's toothache, Battle has missed the L. U. Matric. in one subject only. We hope this will not damp his ardour in the School Debating Society.

H.B.B.—We had two representatives in the team *v.* Charterhouse—namely, P. H. Napier and S. P. Lowe, the former of whom has received his Pink and Whites, on which we congratulate him. Our Fives Ties are progressing but slowly, as fellows seem to acquire colds in a remarkable manner this term. We congratulate R. E. Graham on being the winner of the greeze; E. O. Bartlett also managed to obtain a fairly large piece of the 'pancake.' We hope that C. B. H. Knight will return in time for the Senior House matches, as our prospects might be much worse. Congratulations are also due to G. Wilkins, who left last term, on having passed the London Matriculation Examination held in January last.

ASHBURNHAM.—We have little to record this month, except that G. Schwann played for 2nd XI. *v.* Old Foresters 2nd, on which we congratulate him. A large Ashburnham contingent is entering for the School Fives Ties. We wish them success. We congratulate S. S. Harris on being asked to play for London. We have not yet heard whether his knee, which he hurt a short while ago, will permit him to play.

Marriages.

CHAMBERLAIN — WORTHINGTON. — On February 12, Laurence Beaumont Chamberlain, Sherwood Foresters, younger son of V. I. Chamberlain, of Carlisle Place, to Dorothy, elder daughter of Major H. R. Worthington, of Easton Lys, Hants.

CHEADLE—RANSON.—On February 13, Frank Murgatroyd, second son of Dr. W. B. Cheadle, of Portman Street, to Eleanor Mary, daughter of the late James Ranson, of Brettenham.

Birth.

MOON.—On February 15, at No. 142 Broadhurst Gardens, Hampstead, the wife of W. R. Moon of a daughter.

Note.

OUR thanks are due to a subscriber who has forwarded to us copies of Vol II., No. 14, and Vol. IV., No. 10; we regret that he is so generous as to remain anonymous.

Correspondence.

[FROM OUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.]

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—There is very little news of Oxford O.W.W. this term. We must, however, take this opportunity of congratulating B. H. Willett on his well-deserved place against Cambridge. He is, we believe, the first Association Blue Westminister has had at Oxford since F. Street.

J. Aston has been rowing in the House Second Torpid, and, we believe, is our sole representative on the river, though possibly this is incorrect. We regret that the boat has not been over-fortunate.

H. McKenna's political views are at present attracting much notice. Their latest developments were embodied in a paper which he read to the Palmerston, Chatham, and Canning Clubs last week. He is said (we believe with truth) to have adopted publicly the tenets of Fenianism.

The shadow of the Schools is upon many.

I am, yours, &c.,
EX AEDE CHRISTI.

[FROM OUR CAMBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT.]

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—The hint, which I gave in my last Cambridge letter, concerning the inertness of the O.W. Club here was not wasted. A meeting was called in R. K. Gaye's rooms very soon after your November number appeared. L. J. Moon resigned his office of President and R. K. Gaye was elected in his place, and R. N. R. Blaker was chosen to be Secretary and Treasurer of the Club. The question of a dinner was brought up, and a committee, consisting of S. A. Sydney-Turner, E. M. Eustace (Treasurer), and J. Heard (Secretary), was appointed to see to the necessary arrangements. It was also decided that Cambridge O.W.W. should play some football matches this term. F. Young was elected Captain.

The Dinner Committee, with praiseworthy energy, arranged for the dinner to take place on February 2. Then suddenly came the great National bereavement, and naturally the arrangements were cancelled. The same cause and unpropitious weather have also necessitated the postponement of many of the ordinary football fixtures for the term, so there is little prospect of our playing any matches in the few weeks remaining.

Both the Rugby and the Association matches with Oxford were a sad disappointment; we must hope for better things in the Boat Race, though we have but one of last year's famous crew remaining. We had no new Blues from Westminster, but it was very gratifying to see that B. H. Willett has at last broken the spell of ill-luck which has for so long been noticeable with O.W.W. at Oxford. Westminster thus had three Blues in the combined teams, a number equalled only by Shrewsbury.

After our achievements in the last three years, are there still any of those fatuous persons remaining who say that Westminster will never shine in the athletic world till it moves out of London?

Yours, &c.,
TRIN. COLL. CAMB.

ERRATUM.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I find, on reading through my leader on Dryden, which you published last December, that I made the mistake of referring to Pope the lines on the three great Epic poets—

'Three poets in three distant ages born.'

Of course, Dryden himself was the author.

With apologies for my carelessness,
Yours, &c.,
EX-ED.

SECOND XI. CRICKET MATCHES.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Before it is too late for any to be arranged, I should like to bring before you and your readers how it would be agreeable and possible to see a School 2nd XI. playing a cricket match. I remember that the subject was discussed as a minor motion in Deb. Soc. last year, and the main objection to their existence was want of room. As a match of this kind would show 'budding talent' beyond that displayed in the 1st XI., it might assist the Captain in his selection of the team—and how hard a task this is will have been seen from the changes made in our Footer 1st. These matches could easily be played on Wednesdays, perhaps three in a term, in lieu of a try-game. The Pinks could meanwhile practise or have a rest.

Yours, &c.,
V. KEENE.

THE DEBATING SOCIETY.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I have recently heard from at least four of its members a very bad account of the Debating Society. It seems that the meetings of the Society are regarded by certain hon. members merely as occasions for letting loose their exuberant spirits. Where is the President? Is there no longer any respect for the chair? Apparently none. If the accounts which I hear are to be believed, the President is himself responsible for quite as much of the disorder as anyone. It is even said that he himself admitted that he took a delight in the general rags which now characterise the Society's meetings. It were far better than this, Sir, that the Society dissolved, instead of allowing its name and traditions to be disgraced in this way. But surely there is another remedy. A change of President is not pleasant, but sometimes it is necessary. This surely, is a case. Elect for yourselves a new President who will have some regard for his position as such; who will, for the Society's sake, risk gaining a little unpopularity with those whose favour is worth nothing. Until, Sir, some such drastic step as this is taken, you will not have peaceful debates.

Yours, &c.,
EX-PRESIDENT.

MENTION OF O.W.W. IN DISPATCHES.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Can you find room for the following extracts from the recently-published Blue-Book, [entitled 'South Africa Dispatches,' which has been 'presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of His Majesty']?

The two officers whose services are so highly spoken of are well-known Old Westminsters, and I am sure that this record of their work in South Africa will be interesting to your readers.

Extract from Major-General Baden-Powell's report, dated Mafeking, May 18, 1900, on the siege of Mafeking:—

'RECOMMENDATION OF OFFICERS.

'Major (local Lieut.-Col.) C. B. Vyvyan, the Buffs, was Base Commandant, Commanding Engineer, and (for three months) Town Commandant during the siege. As such he organised the Town Guard and defences in the first instance. To his untiring zeal and ability the successful defence of the town is largely due. He carried out a very heavy amount of work, practically single-handed, with conspicuous success.'

In a later report, of June 6, 1900, General Baden-Powell recommends for 'special recognition' several officers (including Colonel Vyvyan) 'all of whom did exceptionally good service.'

Extract from dispatch of Sir Redvers Buller to Lord Roberts, dated 'Dunvegan Castle,' November 9, 1900:—

'In my dispatch of the 30th March I placed first in order

the services of the officers who had served on the lines of communication. I again pursue the same course, not only because I feel the debt owed by the Natal Field Force to those officers to be a very heavy one, but because, as in the interest of that Force I have kept them doing the onerous and somewhat uncongenial work of the lines of communication, and have not allowed them to come to the Front, it is due to them to show that I adopted this course not from any lack of confidence in them, but because I attached so much importance to the organisation of our lines of communication that I considered it my duty to employ on it, continuously, some of the best and most experienced officers. . . .

‘Lieut.-Colonel H. E. Rawson, Commanding Royal Engineer, has had charge of the whole of the engineer works on the lines of communication. He has been indefatigable. His technical knowledge, his vigour of mind and body, and his tact have overcome every difficulty. I can confidently recommend him for your most favourable consideration.’

Westminster does much for her sons, but she may well be grateful in return that they continue to furnish such examples of duty well done for our admiration, and, may we trust also, for our profitable imitation.

I am, yours very truly,
T. S. OLDHAM.

Putney: February 23, 1901.

Our Contemporaries.

WE acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the following:—*Edinburgh Academy Chronicle, The Picture Postcard, The Haileyburian* (2), *The Malburian, The Mirror, The ‘B.’s’ Hum, The Carthusian, Utula, The Alleynian, The Wykehamist, The Rossallian, The Meteor, The Malvernian, Our Boys’ Magazine, The Blue, and The Working Men’s College Journal.*

NOTICES.

All contributions to the April number of *The Elizabethan* should reach the Editor, at 3 Little Dean’s Yard, Westminster, on or before March 23.

Contributions must be written on one side of the paper only.

Any subscriber having spare copies of Vol. 1, Nos. 2, 3; Vol. 2, Nos. 8, 9, 10, 12, of *The Elizabethan* will greatly oblige the Editor by communicating with him.

Subscribers are requested to notify any change of address to the Secretary, 3 Little Dean’s Yard, Westminster.

The subscription to *The Elizabethan* is 4s. per annum, or £5 for life.

Subscriptions now due, of which there are a considerable number, should be forwarded to J. SARGEAUNT, Esq., Westminster School, Little Dean’s Yard, Westminster (not addressed ‘The Treasurer’).

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

‘THE ELIZABETHAN’ BALANCE-SHEET.

SEPTEMBER 1900—FEBRUARY 25, 1901.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance	7 1 0	Binding	0 5 0
College Subs.	6 5 6	Petty Cash Account	0 1 3
Rigaud’s do.	2 11 0	Stationery	0 1 3
Grant’s do.	2 17 0	Postage	3 9 7
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Back numbers sold	0 3 3	Balance	3 13 2
Stamps, &c., sold	0 2 2		
2½ per cent. discount on			
printing bill	2 2 3		
	<u>£92 3 3</u>		<u>£92 3 3</u>

(Signed) G. K. A. BELL, Treasurer.

Audited and found correct,
C. W. ADAMS, Editor.

From these accounts it will be seen that at Michaelmas last the Treasurer inherited a very heavy deficit from his predecessors. He has collected enough to show an apparent balance on the right side. Against this, however, is to be set a certain sum for subscriptions still current, and a further sum of about eleven guineas for subscriptions received for 1902 and subsequent years. Under a new arrangement, the Treasurer will be a permanent official. This arrangement follows the example of many university and school institutions. It saves labour, and has other advantages. The Treasurer’s work will of course be purely financial, and will in no way affect the editorship or other management of THE ELIZABETHAN.

Moret.