



# The Elizabethan.

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## EDITORIAL.

It is with a certain amount of satisfaction that we close the second volume of *The Elizabethan*, and present the first number of Vol. III. to our readers, in that it has safely weathered a most critical time and emerged with credit from the trying ordeal. About two years ago its finances were at a very low ebb, and no more than five numbers were published in the year. Now, however, thanks to the energy of our immediate predecessors, we may safely say that its prospects of permanent success, even pecuniarily, were never greater than at the present, if only a fair amount of care be lavished upon it. It is true that a small deficit still hangs on hand, in spite of all our efforts to abolish it. We ask, then, our friends to help us to start once more with clear balance sheets—not necessarily by donations, but, in cases where such exist, by kindly forwarding any arrears of subscriptions they may owe us. We are confident that this alone would effect

our object. One other matter occurs to us to mention, that is the small amount of assistance that the committee receive from the school at large. Even the most sturdy patriot seems to imagine that, after knocking off a letter on some impracticable subject, he has performed his duty to the utmost, and may, with a quiet conscience, cease to rack his brain. No doubt letters are very excellent things in their way, but we should like to point out that there *are* contributions of a more useful nature. Any attempts in prose or verse, addressed to the Editor in College, will be received with thanks, and, if judged worthy, be inserted. We have had no letter from Oxford since Christmas, and as we shall have no regular correspondent there before next October, we should be much obliged to any patriotic representative who would volunteer a letter in the interim. The index to Vol. II., which accompanies the present number, we fear falls short of that to Vol. I. in copiousness and convenience, but we hope our readers will still find it of some considerable use, and sufficient for ordinary purposes.

## GYMNASIUM.

'GYMNASTICS open the chest, exercise the limbs, and give a man all the pleasure of boxing without the blows,' wrote Addison, and in so doing he only noted one of the most obvious of the many advantages arising from them. Strength, agility, graceful movement, quickness of action, presence of mind, self-reliance, are all qualities of the highest value in any place and under any conditions, and every one of these gymnastics develop in a wonderful degree. Cricket, football, boating, excellent as they are for their own sakes, can, after all, afford little assistance one to another, beyond the indication of a natural aptitude for physical exercises, while gymnastics form an excellent ground-work for all three. And this is the great point which it would be well for those who underrate their value to consider, that gymnastics ought not to supplant but to supplement, or rather assist, the more popular English school games. If it be once conceded that the stronger and better developed a person is, the better fitted, putting natural ability aside, will he be to shine in these games of strength and skill, the practical utility of gymnastics must also be acknowledged. The several advantages of Gymnasium are more fully treated of in No. 21, Vol. I. of *The Elizabethan*, in an article under that heading, and to this we refer our readers for further development of the subject. The above brief remarks are intended as a prelude to a question which naturally arises from consideration of them. Why do gymnastics at Westminster occupy such a very secondary position? We possess a very fair Gymnasium, which, if not of very great antiquity, owes its origin to the enterprise of the present Head Master, and has now run a course of some twenty years with a very fair amount of pecuniary success. At its head is a master who combines with a great practical proficiency in all branches of his profession a minute technical knowledge, which enables him to explain clearly the use of any particular position or exercise for the development of certain muscles, and thus transforms the pupil from a mere machine to a reasonable agent.

Why, then, under these favourable circumstances are not gymnastics in a high state of culture at Westminster? To be sure there is a class held in Gym every day—but it is held at such a time that no alternative is left than to forego the opportunity or neglect station. Regular attendance thus involves in summer the giving up of midday cricket, and in winter almost entire abstention from football. The consequence is, primarily, that Gym is largely patronised by gentry who have a decided aversion to violent exertion of any description, and embrace this convenient opportunity to shirk fields at the light cost of half-an-hour or less loafing. Or, again, it affords a refuge for those considered too weak for rougher games. The second consequence is a corollary of the first, viz. that Gym gets a bad name, and that honourable exceptions run the danger of being placed in the same category. Such is the state of affairs during the

greater part of the year, but true it is, that there comes a time when Gym enjoys a larger and much more respectable patronage. During the boating season, and particularly during the summer term, it is frequented to a considerable extent by water fellows. But even during this time of comparative popularity, the attendance is in far too many cases (though by no means all) of a desultory character, and the work done irregular and half-hearted, and accordingly the result individually and collectively far from satisfactory. At the end of the term is held what by courtesy is styled a 'show-off' (in many cases, we fear, it might more rightly come under the denomination of 'making an exhibition of oneself'), and any one who has been present at one of these entertainments, at least of late years, must confess that there was little worth seeing. But can any satisfactory reason be alleged why it should not be thought equally incumbent on those who presumably 'go in for' Gym, in order to strengthen themselves for rowing, to be as regular in their attendance as cricket players up fields. Let us go a step further and inquire—why should those who are rightly fond of cricket and football be practically debarred from any share in a pursuit, which, at the lowest estimate, is very healthy and of great practical utility in developing the human frame? The fault of the first rests partly on those who attend Gym, the fault of both is more or less attributable to those who are responsible for keeping Gym closed during the greater part of the day. It now devolves upon us to consider by what measures this defect may be best amended. To go at once to the root of the matter, what possible reason is there why members of the school should not be allowed entrance to Gym at all spare times in the day? To say—and some such whisper has reached us—that fellows cannot be left to themselves in a gymnasium because they cannot be trusted not to injure the various machines, &c., is, to say the least, an insult to a Public School. Monitorial power may have been abridged and obstructed to a great extent, but is there no one of sufficient authority among us to restrain the propensity to mischief natural to some small boys? It is monstrous, incredible: we will not listen to it. Moreover, such eventualities may be easily avoided by restricting admission to those only who are sufficiently responsible. If it be asked what time there is which could be employed with profit in Gym, a little reflection will supply the answer. Early risers might find ample opportunity before early Abbey, others between 9.30 and 10 A.M., or before afternoon school; any evening too wet for boating (there is usually no great lack of such), in fact any spare few minutes. Athletic exercises are of such a character that a great deal of good can be done in a very little time, especially with weight machines. More real exercise may often be obtained by ten minutes hard work in Gym than by half-an-hour's fielding. It cannot, of course, be supposed that a master could always be there; the regular classes would be held as before, and we think that there would be little danger of accidents at other times. Slight risk cannot be altogether removed, even in the presence of a master, and fellows can generally be trusted to

take care of their own necks; besides little fellows might be excluded. At all events we feel sure that the practical importance of gymnastics is so great that it, surely, outweighs any slight objections, and, at least, deserves a trial. We beg then, therefore, to submit the following rough rules to the consideration of those who have influence in the matter. It is well that it should be distinctly understood, that nothing would be further from our views than that gymnastics should take precedence of football or cricket, but merely to establish the principle that they ought to accompany and assist other bodily recreations:—

I. That a key of Gymnasium be put into the hands of the head of each house.

II. That no one below the Fifts shall be allowed in Gymnasium, except in the presence of some member of the Sixth or Shell.

III. That all meddling with machinery in Gymnasium be strictly forbidden.

IV. That no one shall enter Gym at extra times, without special leave from the holder of a key.

V. That some small payment should be exacted from those making use of the privilege.

We do not see that much difficulty would attend the adoption of a few simple rules, somewhat to this effect: let admission be obtainable by some means, to however select a few. A fair trial could do little harm, while, on the contrary, should such a system be successfully carried out, we do not hesitate to predict a rapid increase of muscle in the school, inevitably followed by greater success in other pursuits.

Lastly, a few words to those who already frequent Gym, and intend to do so during the present term. Be regular in your attendance, and work honestly and steadily when there. Do not forget that a 'show off' is contemplated, but consider that the credit of the school is to a certain extent involved in it, and work with that object from the first. By such means we may express a hope that this may be better worthy of the School and even conduce to its reputation.

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## 'OLD WESTMINSTERS.'

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No. VI.

### FIELD-MARSHAL THOMAS GROSVENOR.

IT is a fact deeply to be regretted by all who take a warm interest in the dear old School, that of late years there have been thereat no representatives of many a family which had always in the good old times sent its sons to receive their education at Westminster, had done so with a laudable loyalty and with equally praiseworthy pride. There is many a long list of names on the walls of the school-room—which for generations are unbroken in succession—and to which, alas! for many recent years no addition has been made. We would, were it possible, impeach for want of loyalty those who have deserted the school of their ancestors, for Eton, Harrow, and other places of study. For some long time, the youth of the noble House of

Westminster right fitly were wont to receive their education at Westminster School—now, alas! and, indeed, for some years past—the Grosvenors have become conspicuous at Westminster by their absence. I say, 'alas!' in connection with this fact concerning the *Grosvenors*, not because of their rank—for there are many families of Commoners, with a still longer descent than even that of the House of Eaton, whose sons in the old times were '*alumni Westmonasteriensis*,' but with whom Westminster has now no longer any weight in the choice of a School—the absence of whose names from the roll is to be as deeply regretted as the defection of the Grosvenors—but I particularly allude to this family because the subject of the present memoir was one of them.

Thomas Grosvenor, who rose to the highest military rank, was the second son of Thomas Grosvenor, who was the second son of the 6th Baronet, Sir Thomas Grosvenor, M.P. for Chester. The Field-Marshal's mother was Deborah, daughter and co-heiress of Stephen Skynner, Esq., of Walthamstow. He was born in the year 1764.

On October 1, 1779, at the early age of 15 years, he was appointed to an Ensigny in the 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards—now known as the 'Scots Guards'—and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and Captain on October 20, 1784. In 1793, war having been declared by Great Britain against France on the murder of Louis XVI., Captain Grosvenor accompanied his Battalion to the Netherlands. The British Expedition was under the command of the Duke of York; and the Brigade of Guards, which formed an important item of the British Force, was composed of the 1st Battalions of three regiments, and was commanded by Major-General Lake. After disembarking, another battalion of guards was made up out of the Grenadier and Light Companies. Captain Grosvenor was present at the Action of St. Amand on the right bank of the Scheldt, which was fought on May 8, 1793. The battle commenced at nine in the morning and was continued with great vigour during the greater part of the day. At six o'clock in the evening, the Prussians, being hard pressed by the French, having implored assistance, the Duke of York advanced with the Brigade of Guards into the forest of St. Amand, and there halted, and awaited the arrival of the Prussian General Knobelsdorf, who paid the British Guards some very pretty compliments. In the operations determined upon by the Prussian General and the Duke of York, the Coldstream Guards appear to have borne the most arduous part. I believe, that after the above-mentioned action, Captain Grosvenor returned to England, having been promoted to a Company in his Regiment—and I do not think, therefore, that he shared in the glorious fight at Lincelles—an action in which the Brigade of Guards so greatly distinguished themselves, that they received the especial thanks of his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief, in a 'General Order' dated August 19, and in memory of which gallant conduct they bear the word 'Lincelles' on their Colours. In 1794 Grosvenor rejoined his regiment at the seat of war, and shared with his com-

rades in the fearful miseries and privations attendant on the celebrated retreat into Germany during the exceptionally severe winter of that year. So terrible was the cold that it was wonderful so many of our troops escaped with life—even brandy froze in the bottles; and to add to the discomfort of cold, it was with the utmost difficulty food could be obtained for the troops.

On May 3, 1796, Grosvenor received the rank of Colonel in the army. In 1799 the British Government determined to attempt the restoration of the Prince of Orange to power in Holland, and formed an alliance with Russia for that purpose. Two expeditions were despatched from England—the one under the Duke of York and the other under the command of General Sir Ralph Abercrombie. The battalion of Guards, with which Colonel Grosvenor served, were, I believe, in the force commanded by Sir Ralph. The disembarkation of our troops took place near the Helder Point. Soon after the British landed they were attacked by the French and Dutch under the leadership of General Daeudels. The enemy were repulsed with a loss of 500 killed and 1,000 wounded; the British losses were not so great, some 500 killed and wounded being the total casualties. After the engagement just referred to, General Abercrombie moved the army from the ground previously occupied near the Helder, to a more advantageous position in rear of the canal of Zuype. In the lines selected the British were attacked on September 10 by the enemy in force under General Brune. The enemy mustered some 25,000 men; Abercrombie had under his command less than 16,000 soldiers. In the fight that ensued, the Guards were very conspicuous by the gallantry they displayed; and among their wounded heroes was Colonel Grosvenor. The British lost 200 men, the enemy 1,500 in this engagement. At the battle of Alkmaar Grosvenor commanded the Grenadiers of the Guards' Brigade, and drove a French battalion of Grenadiers into the wood under Alkmaar, capturing their colonel and many men. On October 17 a treaty was entered into, and the expeditionary forces returned from a campaign that had brought little glory to the British arms. On his return from foreign service Colonel Grosvenor was sent with his regiment to Ireland, and was quartered for a time at Bandon. He sailed, after a short period of duty in Ireland, with the Third Guards from Cork and joined the expedition off Ferrol. In the absurd and futile expedition, which had for its object the burning of the Spanish fleet in the harbour of Cadiz and a landing on the Spanish coast, Grosvenor was appointed to the command of the Light Troops, with the rank of Brigadier-General from August 27, 1800. Soon after, conceiving that an injustice had been done him regarding his rank, he had a misunderstanding with Sir Ralph Abercrombie, and returned to England. On April 29, 1802, he was promoted to the rank of Major-General, and was appointed to serve under Lieutenant-General Simcoe in the West of England; whence he was afterwards removed to the London District and placed under the command of General Lord Harrington; and from the London District he was posted to

Lord Chatham's command in the Eastern District. In 1807 Denmark became the scene of operations in which Major-General Grosvenor was called upon to bear an active part. The Government of that country, acting under the inspiration of the French, having prohibited all commerce with Great Britain, the British Government determined to send an expedition to seize the Danish fleet, and thus prevent the possibility of its being used in any way prejudicial to the interests of English commerce. The expedition consisted of a naval force of twenty-seven ships of the line and some ninety vessels of other descriptions, under the command of Admiral Gambier; and a military force composed of an artillery and engineer corps, two battalions of the Guards, a portion of the 95th Regiment (the Rifle Brigade), and twelve battalions of the line, mustering in all seven hundred officers and sixteen thousand four hundred and fifty men, commanded by Lieutenant-General Lord Cathcart. The above force was afterwards joined by eight thousand Hanoverians of the King's German Legion. In this army Sir David Baird commanded a division, and to his command Grosvenor was appointed as Major-General. It may be observed, *en passant*, that the Duke of Wellington, then Sir Arthur Wellesley, also served in this expedition. The troops disembarked at Vedbeck on August 16, and proceeded to invest the capital—Copenhagen. Major-General Grosvenor commanded the picquets and outposts at the siege; and behaved with much bravery, and displayed great skill in the fight that occurred when the Danes made a sortie one day with the intention of destroying the besieging batteries. The expedition was entirely successful, although, perhaps, by many the necessity for its employment may not be apparent, nor considered in any other light than the performance of a cruel policy. On October 20, the army re-embarked and sailed for England. On February 25, 1807, he was appointed Colonel of the 97th Regiment; and on April 25, 1808, he was promoted from Major-General to the rank of Lieutenant-General. In 1809 an expedition was despatched to Walcheren. The army totalled 39,219, of whom 1,738 were officers, and 37,481 non-commissioned officers and private soldiers; and of these in the course of the campaign the following losses were incurred:—Officers, 7 killed, 40 died of fever, and 20 died at home; privates, &c., 99 killed, 2,041 died of fever, 1,859 died at home, 84 deserted, and 25 were discharged; and early in 1810 there were at home, sick from this expedition, 217 officers and 11,296 privates, &c., making a grand total of casualties of 15,688 officers and men—that is not quite half of the whole force employed. The military forces were placed under the command of Lieutenant-General the Earl of Chatham; and Rear-Admiral Sir Richard Strachan was placed in charge of the naval armament, consisting of 64 ships of war, carrying 3,542 guns; 33 sloops of war, each carrying from 14 to 18 guns; 23 brigs, 5 bomb-vessels, 31 cutters, 5 tenders, 82 gun-boats, 150 flat-bottomed boats, and several other species of maritime transport.

The Left Wing was entrusted to Major-General Sir Eyre Coote, and mustered 13,000 men, who were

to occupy the island of Walcheren. To Lieutenant-General the Marquess of Huntly (afterwards Duke of Gordon) was given the task of seizing Cadsand, and cutting off the communication between Walcheren and the mainland; for this purpose he had 5,000 men under his command, but, owing to rough weather, his plans could not be executed. Lieutenant-General Sir John Hope (afterwards Earl of Hopetoun), with 5,500 men, was to occupy South Beveland, and form there a corps of observation. The Earl of Rosslyn's Division, with the Cavalry, were to remain on board ship till they were wanted. The duty imposed on Lieutenant-General Grosvenor, and his command of 5,000 men, was that of occupying Schonen. Lord Chatham, with the Divisions commanded by Hope and Rosslyn, sailed from the Downs on July 28, and arrived off Walcheren in the evening of the same day. On the 31st Lord Huntly's Division arrived off Cadsand. Sir Eyre Coote arrived with the Left Wing on the evening of the 29th, and on the 31st Veere and Middleburg capitulated. General Grosvenor sailed from Harwich with his Division, and came to anchor in the Roompot on August 1, by which time all Walcheren, except the City of Flushing and the Fort of Rammekins, was in British possession.

Our artillery and the flotilla having advanced to Rammekins through the Hoe, Flushing was completely surrounded, both by land and sea, with the exception of the south side. Three French line-of-battle ships, which lay at anchor east of Beveland on the 31st, joined the remainder of their fleet above Lillo. The magistrates of Tergoes, the capital of Lillo, gave up that place to our troops; and, at the same time, the fort of Battery, which commanded the east and west Scheldt, surrendered to General Disney, and thus secured to us the command of the entrance to Brabant. Owing to false intelligence and adverse winds, the British expeditionary force was unable to seize the proper moment to destroy the fleet in the Scheldt. The enemy succeeded in reinforcing Flushing with 3,000 men from Cadsand by August 6, but when the wind and tide served, Lord William Stewart (Lord Dumfries' son) in the *Lavinia*, with ten frigates, successfully passed the batteries, losing thirteen men only in the operation, and on the 11th came to anchor under the guns of Battery Fort. At this time a sortie was made from Flushing, but our soldiers repulsed it. A large number of gun-boats, under Sir Home Popham, moved up the Scheldt as high as Lillo, and drove their enemy up to Fort St. Philippe, Admiral Lord Gardner, with seven 74-gun ships, lying off the Dyesbroek as a support if required. When the preparations for a bombardment had been completed, the garrison of Flushing was called upon to surrender, but refused to do so, and on Sunday, August 13, the batteries were ordered to open fire. Captain Cockburn, of the *Belleisle*, 74 guns, commanded a number of bomb and gun-boats, which were placed in position off the south end of the town, and other vessels of the same class were off the west end, under the directions of Captain Diven of the 38-gun ship *Clyde*; the Royal Artillery and a Naval Brigade manned other batteries elsewhere. A little after one o'clock in the afternoon

the order to commence firing was given, and our artillery poured in a storm of shot and shell, responded to with spirit by the enemy. From this time until seven in the evening a terrific cannonade was maintained. At that hour a flag of truce was sent into Flushing with a request that the place should be surrendered; this only met with an indignant refusal, and accordingly the bombardment was recommenced, and continued up to ten o'clock. Then Congreve rockets were tried (for the first time in warfare), and, with the mortars, were kept in play throughout the night. The enemy returned the fire with great bravery, but it was evident at two o'clock in the morning, when our batteries ceased fire, that the defenders of Flushing were having the worst of the engagement. On the 14th the fleet attacked the place, and did much damage with the fire of the heavy guns that each 'liner' carried. One who was present says of the British sailor's battery: 'The sailor's battery, containing six 24-pounders, almost split our ears. These enthusiastic demi-devils fired not as other batteries did, but like broadsides from a ship. Each discharge was thus eminently distinguished by its terrific noise, for the guns were all fired at once, and absolutely shook the earth at every round. So vehement were these seamen in their exertions, that they blew *themselves* up at last.' The accident alluded to in this quotation was due to one of the sailors who, unwittingly as may be imagined, threw a light into the ammunition, and so exploded the magazine. At two o'clock on the morning of the 15th the French General Monnet, Governor of Flushing, requested a suspension of hostilities. Orders were given accordingly to cease fire, and Colonel Long, Adjutant-General, and Captain Cockburn, R.N., adjusted the terms of surrender. By these terms the garrison were allowed to march out with all the honours of war. According to the *London Gazette* of Tuesday, August 22, 1809, the garrison of Flushing amounted to 200 officers, 4,985 rank and file, and some 618 sick; 224 pieces of cannon fell into the hands of the victorious British forces, and an enormous quantity of munition of war. On the same day the Island of Schonen was given up to General Grosvenor, and that of Duiveland to Lord Rosslyn. On entering Flushing it was found that 247 private houses, 2 churches, and the Hôtel de Ville had been destroyed by the fire of our batteries; that 335 men, women, and children, had been killed, and a great number wounded. The design of an attack upon Antwerp was relinquished, as it was found that Marshal Bernadotte had arrived there, and placed the town in such an admirable position for defence, that a reduction of it was held to be impracticable. On September 14 the greater portion of our troops embarked for England, but a number were ordered to remain in possession of the island, and suffered terribly in health up to the time of the final evacuation on December 23. 'The sufferings of the troops,' writes Colonel MacKinnon, in his 'History of the Origin and Services of the Coldstream Guards,' published in 1833, 'and the cost to the country of twenty millions sterling, are yet remem-

bered with indignant sorrow. It is to be hoped that future British Cabinets will at length learn from so many repeated lessons, that although such enterprises may succeed against detached islands cut off from all assistance, they cannot with prudence be adventured on the continent with the inadequate force that a maritime power can suddenly and secretly convey on shipboard to the territories of a powerful enemy, whose troops may in a few hours be collected from every quarter in overwhelming numbers. . . . Nothing happened which might not have been foretold, except the wonderment of the English Ministers on finding that failure is the attendant of folly.' So ended the Walcheren Expedition. Lieutenant-General Grosvenor was not likely to forget his share in that silly campaign; he suffered very severely from the fever that laid low so many of his fellow soldiers. The important part he played as second in command to Sir Eyre Coote entitles his name to a far more worthy place in the history of our country and her famous men than has been generally awarded to it; but among worthy Westminsters the Marshal has always been remembered with due pride as one of the most worthy.

(To be continued.)

## A 'BURN' IN NEW ZEALAND.

To the vulgar the subject might not seem to admit of much variety of opinion; but if you dwelt for some little time in a bush district, you would soon find out it could be looked at from a multitude of different standpoints. Our neighbours have shared our anxiety, and displayed it characteristically. C. has been convinced that he has done those things which he ought not to have done, and left undone those things which he ought to have done; R.'s mental barometer, up to sanguine and down to depression, gravitating to an attitude of assumed indifference, which deceived nobody; ourselves honestly and unfeignedly anxious. You have to burn in concert where the holdings adjoin each other; a match applied to one fires the lot, and matters become exceedingly complicated sometimes, when A. wants a nor'-east wind, B. a sou'-west wind, C. a zephyr, D. a buster, each according to the fancied requirements of his position. Our fear was for the house, which from its position stood in considerable danger. On the other side of the road, fronting the house, and extending 60 chains below and 20 above, R. had 200 acres of wood down; facing him our old clearing, and the 30 acres felled this season, with 100 chains of road line running below W. on our other boundary. Agreed upon a day. The programme was W. to fire first, at 12 noon; as soon as his smoke became visible, A. to fire R.'s bush for several chains fronting the house, so as to place a line of demarcation between the garden and the body of the fire; then light his own. R. to follow suit from his side in turn. R. undertook to ride and arrange

with W., returning late at night with the unsatisfactory statement that should there be enough wind, W. would fire as proposed: he produced a letter whose contents perfectly staggered us. Mr. Z., late editor of the *X. Mail*, informed us that should the morning prove fine, Mrs. Z., himself, and the Inspector of Schools from Y., purposed paying us a visit, and, leaving X. early, might be expected at 12 noon. Could anything be more inopportune? Communicate with W. we could not; to intercept the inspector and party would be dangerous, as the presence of both of us here would be imperative; they might not come, W. might not get his idea of a wind. We thought of the Turks and Kismet, and said, 'Let things take their chance, great is Allah!' Early potatoes, peas, cabbage, and a roast leg of mutton, will do no discredit to our housekeeping, should our visitors arrive, and there will be time enough to put them in a place of safety after we see the smoke. Twelve o'clock next day saw us with one eye down the road watching for the signal, and the other up the road, watching, like Sister Ann, for anybody coming. Half-past twelve, and nothing either way; nothing—yes—the flutter of a lady's riding habit on the top of the slope, the tall hat of the editor, and a portly figure bringing up the rear. A few words explained the matter, and after consultation we decided on tethering the horses at the gate, ready for flight, and in a few minutes our threshold was crossed by a woman's step for the first time—and a very nice little woman, too, with a brightly intelligent face full of genuine sympathy and interest in everything. Dinner passed off admirably on the carpenter's bench, with screw attached; Mrs. Z. in charge of the teapot, Mr. Z. of the mutton, Inspector of the peas. By this time we rightly concluded that there would be no fire after all, and spent an exceedingly pleasant day, despatching our visitors on their return journey much astonished, especially the inspector, with all they had seen. On the following day we ignored W., and carried out the programme in conjunction with R. The day was beautifully fine, the sun shining hotly down, a few fleecy clouds knocking about, but not much promise of wind—what little there was blowing on the house. Punctually at noon, feeling like two amiable Guy Fawkes, we commenced operations. Starting at points equidistant, up and down the road, from the garden, we applied a match here and there, and when we met in front of the house there were some dozen little bonfires spluttering and crackling lazily enough, and looking by no means formidable. The effect was decidedly disappointing, and after awhile no change taking place, A. descends into gully No. 1 to start our own, leaving me on guard in the road. His departure was soon followed by whole puffs of smoke in various levels—smoke, but nothing more. Two o'clock—bonfires effected a junction, showing a disposition to cross the roads, but burning in an intermittent sort of way, and no real blaze. Smoke in gully changed from white to brown, little ridges of fire working up the railings; wind freshening visibly, no sign yet from R. Three o'clock—matters getting warm, our beautiful clear sky turned into the density of a London fog, with the sun of a blood-red colour,

looking like the danger-signal of a locomotive overhead ; fire in front of us, fire behind us, fire each side of us ; showers of sparks falling all round the house ; a sense of having a blanket wrapped round the lungs, intolerable smarting of the eyes, and violent irritation of the nose. Indescribably grand at times were the rushes of flame through the smoke as they caught some of the standing Rota trees, and leapt from the trunk to the topmost branches. At four o'clock the fence in front had gone, piggy's stye caught, and several stumps in the garden alight—one or two close to the house. It was far in the night before the safety of the house was assured, and morning found us in a state of collapse. Very strange looked the landscape, with quite a wintry aspect, from the white feathery ashes lying thick on the ground—ashes too on the table, ashes in the teacups, ashes in the watertank, in the beds, books, blankets, everything. But we did not mind it, for we had had 'the best burn on the block.'

MAORI.

## RACQUET TIES.

THE 'Wooden' Ties were begun shortly before Easter and were concluded on April 19. The entries, as will be seen below, were not large, and the games generally, with one or two notable exceptions, were not of a very exciting character. In the first ties the two favourites won with great ease ; Batley scratching to Squire, and Ingram drawing a bye.

### First Ties.

W. W. Bury, 11, 11...22, beat F. W. Bain, 5, 2...7 ; H. N. Robson, 11, 11...22, beat J. R. Bell, 8, 3...11 ; R. C. Batley scratched to R. T. Squire. C. Ingram, a bye.

In the second ties, Bury, after a well-contested game, defeated Squire, although the latter in the second game, looked like winning. Robson proved himself more than a match for Ingram, who seems to have fallen off considerably from his old form.

### Second Ties.

W. W. Bury, 11, 6, 11...28, beat R. T. Squire, 9, 11, 6...26 ; H. N. Robson, 11, 11...22, beat C. Ingram, 5, 3...8.

The final tie was played on April 19, when to the surprise of everyone Bury just managed to defeat Robson, who was greatly fancied from his form of last year, when he made a good fight with Wilks. In the first game both men seemed most evenly matched, although Robson perhaps showed himself the more brilliant player of the two, but Bury steadily and surely brought the game to 'gameball all,' and at length gained the last point. In the second game, however, Robson completely turned the tables on his opponent, who was now playing somewhat loosely, and eventually ran out, with the game at 11—4. In the final game, although both men seemed slightly fatigued towards the close, some magnificent play was shown. The two scores ran up neck and neck, until the game was called '9 all,' where it remained for a long time, but at length Bury was able, after a most stubborn

resistance from Robson, to put on the last two aces, thus winning the Wooden Cup after one of the best contested games that has often been witnessed on the Court.

### Final Tie.

W. W. Bury, 11, 4, 11...26 ; beat H. N. Robson, 10, 11, 9...30.

For the 'Wires' only nine men entered, exclusive of last year's winner. As in the 'Woodens,' the play in the first ties calls for no comment :

### First Ties.

J. R. Bell, 15, 15...30, beat F. G. Clarke, 6, 5...11 ; E. T. Brandon, 15, 15...30, beat F. C. Ryde, 4, 7...11 ; E. Poland, 15, 7, 15...37, beat H. W. De Sausmarez, 9, 15, 11...35. W. A. Burridge scratched to C. Ingram. R. C. Batley a bye.

In the second ties, Poland, after one game scratched to Bell, and Brandon after a close fight was able to defeat Batley.

### Second Ties.

J. R. Bell, 15, beat E. Poland, 5...scr. ; E. T. Brandon, 8, 15, 15...38, beat R. C. Batley, 15, 11, 13...39. C. Ingram a bye.

Contrary to general expectation in the third tie Bell, who played in the final last year, was defeated by Ingram after three well-contested games.

### Third Tie.

C. Ingram, 10, 15, 15...40, beat J. R. Bell, 15, 9, 11...35 ; E. T. Brandon a bye.

In the fourth and semi-final tie, Brandon, who had drawn a bye in the previous tie, appeared to oppose Ingram, and after winning the first game with comparative ease, was twice defeated at 15—7.

### Semi-final Tie.

C. Ingram, 8, 15, 15...38, beat E. T. H. Brandon, 15, 7, 7...29.

Ingram had then to challenge Benbow, last year's winner, for the silver racquet. In the first game the latter seemed utterly out of form, but towards the close rallied, but was beaten by 13—15. Ingram fell off considerably in the second game, and was easily defeated without ever heading his opponent's score. In the third game, however, he completely turned the tables on Benbow, and had eight aces to his credit before his adversary scored. Benbow by degrees brought up his score to 12—14, but was unable to get on terms with Ingram, who gained the requisite ace amid town boy cheers.

C. Ingram, 15, 7, 15...37, beat H. C. Benbow, 13, 15, 12...40.

## School Notes.

We are heartily sorry to have to announce that Mr. Dale, who at the end of last half was laid up by a severe attack of pleurisy, and was even at one time in a very critical condition, has been unable to return

here again this term. We fear his wonted energy will be sadly missed at the Concert. We hope he will be sufficiently set up in health by the long rest throughout this term, and the summer holidays, to come among us again in September. Meanwhile the Upper Fifths will be taken by G. G. Robinson, Esq., M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford.

The Annual Election Dinner was held in College Hall on Monday evening, May 3, and passed off successfully. The usual epigrams were recited after the 'Floreat' on the theses, 'Labor in fine,' 'In tenui labor,' 'Utile sed ingratum,' and 'Gratum sed inutile.'

Apropos of the Epigrams, the *Athenæum*, no doubt scandalised at so presumptuous an expression of patriotism from so degenerate (if we are to believe that estimable journal) an institution as our humble selves, takes offence at certain of them, which strenuously oppose the removal of the School. Doubtless it is very unbecoming of us to differ from those who claim to know far more about us than we do of ourselves, but really the degree of virtue at our disposal is not quite sufficient to enable us to accept as Gospel truth every malicious statement they choose to make. For instance, in its illogical and infatuated determination to find some fault with us, the *Athenæum*, proudly independent of facts, and disdainful of truth, accuses us of an 'insubordinate tone' in the above-mentioned epigrams, because it lays down that the Head Master favours, or has favoured, the removal of the School, or in plainer language, because the *Athenæum* approves of any measure to our detriment. As regards this statement, with all due deference, we beg most emphatically to deny it. If the Head Master ever did advocate the removal of the school, it was long ago under vastly different circumstances, and for particular, conditional, and temporary reasons which no longer exist. As regards the underlying sense, we fear we are abandoned enough to be utterly indifferent to any opinion which comes from that prejudiced quarter. In the latter part of the short paragraph kindly devoted to our correction, the sinister prediction, or rather presumption that, as an alternative, dormitory will be turned into class rooms, would be cruelly cutting, did it not provoke our risible faculties by its very improbability and the utterly unwarrantable supposition on which it rests. We have, happily, at least one comfort, that, whatever views the *Athenæum* may in its superior wisdom see fit to hold concerning us, neither we nor those with whom our destiny rests will in any great degree be influenced thereby. Fortunately, they have widely different intentions as to our future. For ourselves, it is our firm determination to flourish, as far as possible, under the dread displeasure of our spleenful *contemporary* upon the scene of our former glories and among the haunts of our ancestors, and when the increased boarding accommodation mentioned by the *Athenæum* comes to us, the old School will be able to spread out fresh roots more firmly to bind it to its ancient site and time-honoured associations, and under its present form. It is a remarkable but undeniable fact that in proportion as this impartial

paper expends its venom with increased acrimony upon us, so do the numbers of the school steadily increase. We feel that a tribute of thanks is due to the *Athenæum* and all concerned in abusing us for the benefit that they so gratuitously confer upon us.

The Elections for the Major Candidates were announced as follows:—

ELECTED TO OXFORD.	ELECTED TO CAMBRIDGE.
W. A. Peck.	A. A. Sikes.
C. W. R. Tepper.	H. C. Benbow.
R. S. Owen.	H. W. De Sausmarez.

The Triplett Exhibitions were awarded to A. A. Sikes and H. C. Benbow, and C. Ogle also receives a gratuity from the Triplett Fund. The competition, we understand, was very close. The examiners were: Rev. H. L. Thompson, M.A., of Christ Church; Rev. H. A. J. Munro, M.A., of Trinity; and Rev. A. W. W. Steele, M.A., Caius, for Mathematics.

The final order for the Minor Candidates was thus given out:—

C. C. J. Webb.	P. M. Francke.
R. Vavasseur.	R. G. E. Forster.
F. G. Trevor.	J. A. R. Brookes.
P. Druitt.	G. C. Ince.

And by open examination E. D. Fawcett and B. A. James. Prælecti, H. C. Peck, J. M. Dale, R. A. Ingram, C. F. Rogers.

The Phillimore English Essay Prize has been awarded to J. B. Hodge: a second prize kindly added by Sir Robert to H. R. James, Q.S.

All who take an interest in water will be delighted to hear that by the timely intervention of an old friend of the School, permission has at last been obtained to send a four to Henley. Our best hopes and wishes go with it. The four to whom the honour of the School has been entrusted are as follows:—

Bow.	R. T. Squire.
2.	W. W. Bury.
3.	R. H. Coke.
Stroke.	F. G. Clarke.
Cox.	G. G. Phillimore.

We notice that in the competition for the Chancellor's prizes at Oxford this year H. F. G. Bramwell, B.A., Junior Student of Christ Church, was *proximè accessit* in the Latin Essay.

The Librarian begs to thank E. A. B. for a kind donation of £2. 10s. of which is to be devoted to



*The Elizabethan.* We also apologise for not having previously acknowledged with thanks the receipt of South's Sermons, from Alan H. Stenning, Esq.

We have received a letter signed 'Gryllus,' which appears among our Correspondence, which paints in vivid terms the deplorable state of things existing in the small games Up-Fields, particularly at mid-day. Our own personal experience a few years ago would tend to confirm all he states. We cannot avoid expressing an earnest hope that the Cricket Captain will take the subject up energetically, and establish the small game once for all on a better footing. In a time like the present, when candidates for either eleven are very scarce and cricket in a shaky state, it is especially important that care should be taken in the training of 'young blood.' Up to the present time it has been a lamentable fact that the small games have been left pretty much to themselves, and no one, unless fortunate enough to get second eleven bowling, has much chance of learning or improving. The consequence is that none but those who come with some tolerable idea of the game, and a small pretension to style, have any chance of ultimate success. Any one who plays at all decently is at once taken away, and the common herd are left to their blunders and their ignorance. Surely if a little care and cultivation were lavished upon them, *some* latent talent might be extracted. The most feasible plan that suggests itself to us is, that members of the Eleven on the in side should act as instructors when not otherwise engaged. At any rate we hope something will be done.

The following is a list of the Cricket Fixtures for this season :—

Saturday, June 5 . . .	M.C.C.
Wednesday, June 9 . . .	Incogniti.
Wednesday, June 23 . . .	Old Carthusians.
Saturday, July 3 . . .	Nondescripts.
Wednesday, July 7 . . .	I Zingari.
Saturday, July 24 . . .	Charterhouse.

The date of the Lords and Commons match is not fixed yet.

The match against Old Haileyburians was played April 17.

The School Concert, which was unavoidably postponed last term, is now fixed to take place on Wednesday, July 7.

R. F. Macmillan has won a Scholarship at the Inns of Law and S. Williams another, of a yearly value of £100, at the Inner Temple.

We are glad to see that Mr. James, who was kept away from School for some days through a severe attack of lumbago, has now been able to resume his work in the Shell Room.

## VERSES.

[There is a popular superstition that an involuntary shudder runs through an individual when some one passes over his future grave.]

### I.

Some one, you say, has pass'd over my grave :  
Where ! where shall my grave be—  
Where shall it be ?  
Shall I sleep 'neath the wave where the wild waters rave,  
And the mermaid in fright shrinks back from the sight  
Of a skeleton wasted and bleach'd 'neath the sea ?  
Where ! where shall my grave be—  
Where shall it be ?  
Shall the sullen ocean's roar,  
Battling on the wave-wash'd shore,  
Be my requiem of death,  
Tolling, rolling o'er my bones,  
As it chants the dirge of death,  
Chanting in slow monotonous ?  
Say ! where shall my grave be—  
Where ! where shall it be ?

### II.

Some one, you say, has pass'd over my grave ;  
But oh ! where shall that grave be—  
Where shall it be ?  
Shall I sleep on the plain amid heaps of slain,  
Where the dead and the dying together are lying,  
And the cannon's hoarse boom peals its knell o'er the lea ?  
Where ! where shall my grave be—  
Where shall it be ?  
Weird forms by night  
In the pale moonlight  
Seem to hover around that plain ;  
And th' unburied dead  
With ghostly tread  
Still prowl o'er the field of the slain.  
Say ! where shall my grave be—  
Where ! where shall it be ?

### III.

Some one, you say, has pass'd over my grave :  
Where ! where shall my grave be—  
Where shall it be ?  
May my ashes be laid 'neath the yew tree's shade,  
Where the organ's hush'd peal o'er my grave may steal  
And the nightingale's plaint from a neighbouring tree !  
I can hear the tinkling bell  
Call the villager to prayer ;  
Now it chants its solemn knell—  
Man's release from every care :—  
There ! there may my grave be,  
There let it be !  
Hush ! 'tis an infant's timid tread  
Scarce wakes the echo o'er the dead !  
With tender gaze  
The maiden lays  
A fresh-cull'd wreath above my head !  
Yes ! some one, you say, has pass'd over my grave :  
There ! there may my grave be—  
There ! there let it be !

H. C. B.

## Our Contemporaries.

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of *The Alleyman*, *The Blue*, *The Blundellian*, *The Cambridge Review* (4), *The Carthusian*, *The Cinque Port*, *The Clif-tonian*, *The Durham University Journal*, *The Eastbournian*, *The Epsomian*, *The Felstedian*, *The Fettesian*, *The International College Gazette*, *The King's College School Magazine*, *The Lily*, *The Malvernian*, *The Marlburian*, *The Melburnian*, *The Meteor* (2), *The Newtonian* (2), *Our School Times*, *The Radleian*, *The Rossallian* (2), *The Salopian* (2), *The Tonbridgian*, *The Ulula* (2), *The Wellingtonian*, and *The Wykehamist*.

*The Alleyman* contains some poetry, written in a free and easy style, entitled 'Hamlet at the Imagination (?) Theatre.' The leading article is worth reading. We, however, quite agree with them in the choice of their motto, 'Scribimus indocti doctique,' for certain matter has evidently been inserted merely to fill up space.

*The Blue* opens with a leader entitled 'The Character Sketch in Modern Journalism.' 'Home Affairs,' for the most part, take up their attention. Their Debating Society seems well attended.

*The Blundellian* seems to forget its character as a school paper, for it publishes in its columns accounts of the Inter-University Sports and Boat-race. In a fairly readable article entitled 'Round the World,' the writer depicts with too great accuracy to be pleasing the scene resulting from the upsetting of their dinner-table during a strong gale, curry being one of the many dishes. A Cambridge correspondent informs them 'that in the Greek Prose Composition of this Tripos some hero rendered "in his tub"—said of Diogenes—by ἔτι λουόμενον.'

*The Cinque Port* is up to its usual standard (not of excellence). It opens with a long article headed 'A Day with the Trawlers,' very dry and full of grand-sounding words, such as *Eudendrium ramosum*, *Pleurotoma turricula*, &c. Another ghost story! and this time a flesh and blood ghost! A person looking in at the church door mistaken for a supernatural being! How very probable! Their scientific subject for this month is 'How to make an Electric Bell.' We conjecture that they intend by degrees to publish an entire treatise on science.

*The Clif-tonian* contains an article on 'Parodies,' some of which, although not original, are very amusing. They also favour us with the best of some bad verses.

*The Eastbournian* in its ten pages treats of no fewer than twenty-four subjects. In an article on 'Friendship,' school-boys are compared to sardines in a tin. Comparisons are indeed odious. We are glad to say that our own experience does not lead us to confirm the opinions of the writer on the subject. A few square words and acrostics are added to enliven the number. Everything helps to take up space.

*The Epsomian* contains a lengthy account of their athletic sports, some football news, and their prospect for the coming cricket season.

*The Felstedian* contains some very amusing lines, entitled 'On the Ocean' (suggested by 'In the Gloaming'), the last verses of which we cannot help quoting :—

'In the gloaming, oh! my darling,  
Cling not lovingly to me,  
For I often with short warning  
Long to view the deep blue sea.

And I feel all choked with something  
Longing, struggling to be free;  
It were best to leave you, darling,  
Best for you and best for me.'

We find nothing else worthy of comment.

*The Fettesian* confines itself honestly to school news; consequently it offers little opportunity for criticism. We wish other papers would follow the good example of brevity in the account of athletic sports.

Taking up *The International College Gazette*, we were rather struck by two translations of a French poem. We admit that a certain degree of poetic licence is allowable, but surely the line ought to be drawn somewhere. For instance, who would

think that the two following verses were translation of the same poem :—

'Let us sing, if such your pleasure,  
That she is my joy, my pride!  
Let us sing that she is lovely,  
Like the corn in summer-tide.

'Chorus! chorus! hand in hand,  
Praise the fairest in the land—  
I will join with gladness.  
Fair! she bound her hair with corn,  
And the envious plant forlorn  
Drooped and died for sadness.'

The three last lines of the latter verse are purely original. Some more poetry—still worse! headed 'The Drowsy Boy.' We will not, however, tax our readers' ears with any more quotations. Two pages of this interesting gazette are taken up by an article written in French, with the title 'Le Tirage au Sort.' This is growing superior indeed!

*The King's College School Magazine* is chiefly remarkable for the frequent appearance of the ugly word 'terminal,' which is always turning up in unexpected places. Their correspondents at Oxford and Cambridge seem to fulfil their duty well. We condole with them for their unreciprocated attentions to other schools, but absolve ourselves from any share in the blame, as we certainly sent an *Elizabethan* to King's College, but whether it reached the school or not we cannot tell.

We hope that the King's College infant is progressing favourably.

*The Lily* contains the conclusion of a ghost story, entitled, 'The House and the Brain,' which would be very interesting if we had not read it before. We are glad to see that they are not modest about their boating. We fear they must have had some difficulties, for they regret having rowed their races in 'gigs' instead of 'tubs.' Very seldom do fellows complain of having too little time for work, or of stopping in bed too long. 'Bookworm,' however, proposes extra work at 6.15 A.M. Has he no feeling for the masters? Are the members of Magdalen College School such paragons of virtue, or is the writer a gloomy misanthrope?

We are glad to see that the cricket prospects of *The Malvernian* are very fair. A history of the paper itself is the old tale of a gallant and long-continued struggle against difficulties of all kinds—a contest of *mind* against *matter*. We congratulate them on having emerged safely from the fiery trial. We are sorry, however, to see that the number of advertisements has increased, though they have managed to free themselves from the shackles of charades and buried cities.

*The Marlburian* contains some sentiments on 'Sculpture,' being an abstract from a paper read before the Art Society by a certain O.M.; also a lengthy account of their races. With surprise we come across the following: 'Easter Sunday was, as usual, a holiday, and there were "calls" at the various centres of interest in the neighbourhood.' Surely this is a case for the advocates of Sunday closing.

In *The Melburnian* 'A Visit to the Royal Temple at Bangkok' is interesting. A few cricket matches tend to enliven a paper, but there is a limit to all things: eight pages are rather too much for anyone's constitution. Some verse translations are worth reading.

We have received two numbers of *The Meteor*, which are, as usual, good. No fewer than twenty-eight members of the present House of Commons are Old Rugbeians. They seem to regret having fallen off in rackets. Some lectures on numismatics delivered by Mr. Barclay Head are interesting and improving.

The April number of *The Newtonian* contains nothing worthy of commendation save a short article headed 'The Influence of the Moors on European Civilisation,' which is continued in the May number. Ten pages of athletic sports help to fill up the number. I cannot help mentioning a letter signed 'Claymore,' in which it is suggested 'that a bed of clay should be made so that fellows could practise wide-jumping. A little water would always render it soft.' We admire the ingenuity and thoughtfulness of the writer. A base suspicion certainly did cross our minds that it might possibly have been written by some near relative of our old friend Snip, who to our mind seems to

be the only person likely to be benefited by this slimy suggestion. In the May number some amusing verses on 'That Amateur Flute,' slightly altered from a New York Arcadian, attract our attention : they are so painfully realistic that it is almost agony to read them. 'Theories on Combustion' may be interesting to those who study chemistry. 'The Under-Graduate Ghost Story' must have been very amusing, if true.

In *Our School Times* Montaigne's Essays may suit the taste of some readers, though we think the same might be said in much fewer words. Turning over the pages of this journal, we come across what appears at first sight to be a page of hieroglyphics, but on closer examination we perceive it to be their chess column. Examination papers come in very useful to fill up. 'Carthage' seems to be the history of that place taken from the classical dictionary, only unfortunately put into the writer's own words. We fear the youth of Foyle College must have been discovered furtively devouring 'those specimens of British literature commonly known by the term "Penny Dreadfuls,"' to call for such a crusher as the article entitled 'Frictional Electricity.' This grieves us; from the general tone of *Our School Times* we had been led to form a very exalted opinion of the virtue and morality of the Foyle Collegians. On perusal of the article in question, we were unable to discover the meaning of the title, but its highly meritorious aim is to discourage the demoralising practice of novel reading. We quite agree with the writer when he says, 'We can easily perceive the difference between the works of Charles Dickens and those of Miss Braddon,' though the statement is rather unnecessary; but when he presumes to allege that Scott's works are not 'a proper sort of English prose,' we must humbly beg to disagree. We have always been led to imagine that Scott was one of the best of English prose writers, and, on reflection, prefer to maintain our opinion.

We think the shape in which *The Radleian* is published might be altered with advantage. It contains an article on 'Modern Conversation,' which is very true, if perhaps somewhat trite. School news occupies the rest of the paper.

*The Rossallian* for this month is below the standard. We feel quite relieved when we come to the end of an article on Physical Education. Some lines on 'Honour' are prosy but very edifying. It is a pity any but a poet should aspire to blank verse.

Two numbers of *The Salopian* have reached us. The 'Life of Lord Chancellor Jeffreys' and 'Leaves from a Tour in Wales' are continued in each. The latter is supposed to be written in an easy and unconventional style; but the writer might as well write English. We think such phrases as 'a piece of pontine furniture,' 'mountains unveiling their top-knots in the most confidential of manners,' are very doubtful, and such a detestable hybrid as 'artistology' we have never met. We wish the 'would-be poet' wouldn't. We could not get through more than a dozen lines. We wish no greater misfortune to our worst enemy than to have to read through the whole of it.

In *The Tonbridgian* nothing of any special merit attracts our attention, unless it be 'A Few Words on Utilitarianism.'

Two numbers of *The Uula* have come to hand. 'Up for a Scholarship' is not bad. Their scientific treatises are still continued: 'Radiant Matter' is the subject of the latest. In the May number our wonder was excited by 'The Creed of an Irish Rebel,' in which the writer explains, with an attempt to be witty, what is meant by the 'Young Irishers' and the 'Ribbon Society,' and expresses his sentiments in favour of the 'Cabbage Garden Plot.' 'A Visit to Sicily and an Ascent of Mount Etna' is well written, nor must we leave unnoticed an article on 'Tennyson.' Their Boxing Club seems to be flourishing: we should like to hear of the establishment of such a club here.

*The Wellingtonian*, in a leading article, gives some useful hints on fielding. Their 'College shop' seems to be a great success.

*The Wykehamist*. A good number of the *Wykehamist* has just arrived. The article on 'English Essay' is skilfully and facetiously composed; we can quite enter into the spirit of it, having suffered similar torments. One conclusion which might be drawn from it would be rather to the detriment of Latin and Greek Prose, if it be not treason to say so. School news of a varied character completes the number. A letter on cricket is very sensible.

## Correspondence.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me a small space in your columns to discourse upon one or two topics that have lately been mentioned in *The Elizabethan*, which, though they are of a varied character, had, I think, better be treated in one letter.

(1) I think *Amicus Westmonasteriensis* has asked a very natural question, and one which very many present and past Westminsters would like to see satisfactorily answered. Why cannot an old Westminster Football Club be started? It cannot of course be from want of good players. I can count off two first-rate elevens at least of O.W.'s who have left during the past seven years; and there are, of course, many others. Nor do I think that A.W.'s hope that 'if a club is formed, it will some day carry off the cup,' is either far-fetched or unnatural. I do hope to read that the matter is taken up, and with a good result. By the way, I have not seen in your columns any mention from your Oxford correspondent of a match between O.W.'s and Old Wykehamists played last autumn, that a friend wrote me had ended in our favour.

(2) I have been hoping to read that a decided improvement had taken place in the character of Abbey Saints' day singing, after the letter suggesting that the choir should sing in *unison*. Surely that is the remedy? Has it been tried? I may, of course, be wrong, but I never thought the plea that the choir could not sing on an empty stomach had much weight. It always struck me that the trebles would have sung better had they been joined in unison by one or two tenors and basses, who really sing out. If those tenors and basses had sung in unison, they would have inspired confidence in the trebles, and I believe the result would have been better. I have an idea, too, that there are several fellows who can and would sing, if they sat near the choir, though they are not songsters.

(3) I would venture to second the proposal of L.E.G.S. as to the captain only wearing coloured knickerbockers, and the rest of the team white; and I do not see why the same rule, or custom, should not exist in football as in cricket, that, on the Charterhouse match day the team should appear in new shirts.

(4) Would it be possible at the coming play to have a large photograph taken of the stage and back scene? The small one with the drop scene is nice enough as far as it goes; but I wish it went further—back.

(5) I suppose most O.W.'s when they subscribe to *The Elizabethan* expect to have their numbers regularly, and that the paper should be published punctually. But I would beg to thank the Editor, not only for the admirable regularity with which the numbers have been issued this past year and a half, but for what I consider the high standard which he has attained and maintained. And will the author of the articles 'Old Westminsters' allow me to thank him for the trouble he has been and is taking to give us interesting and pleasant articles? May he give us many more of them! My letter has run to greater length than I meant, so with many apologies,

I remain, yours truly,

JOHANNIS.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—As the summer season is now approaching, I should like to call attention to the peculiar manner in which cricket is played in the small game between twelve and two. Such of the players as are neither batting nor bowling take their seat contentedly on the grass and watch the others. When a long hit is made, there is generally an impassioned discussion as to whose duty it is to run after the ball, the usual termination being, that the batsman goes after it himself. There is no attempt at fielding, and the game goes on thus in a placid way, only disturbed by disputes as to whose innings it is next. What is the good of keeping station for fellows like that? Only the two batsmen and possibly four bowlers are playing at all. This state of things, I venture to think, might be

remedied by making the game a pick-up and not mere practice. Hoping that, even if my suggestion be not acted upon, the future captain may find some remedy for it,

I am, GRYLLUS.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—I write to call attention to a matter which I believe I have seen before in the columns of *The Elizabethan*, and which at that time created no little stir. I allude to the Swimming Cup. This Cup is, I think, supposed to be a challenge cup; but it has not been competed for, as I understand, for a considerable period, at least four or five years. Now that water has been so successfully revived, is it too much to expect that the race for this Cup shall once more resume its former position amongst Westminster athletics. Hoping that this letter will meet with more notice than its predecessors on this subject have, and apologising for thus trespassing on your valuable space,

I beg to subscribe myself,  
Yours truly, P. Q. R.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—Without entering upon the wider subject of Saint's-day services, I wish to call attention to the disgraceful way in which the responses are given, or, rather, not given at early morning Abbey. Hardly one fellow in ten opens his lips, and often the masters are left wholly unsupported. There is no excuse for such remissness, and with a hope that all patriotic members of the School will endeavour to amend it,

I remain, Yours truly,  
RESPONSIO.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—You stated in the leader on 'Library' in your December number that no record exists to show how the collection of books in Library and in College first came into the possession of the Queen's Scholars.

In the Lansdowne Collection of the British Museum there is, or was, a MS. in the handwriting of Lord Burleigh, written after the death of his wife, and detailing the particulars of many of her charitable gifts. Among these the following occurs:— 'She also provided a great number of books, whereof she gave some to the University of Cambridge, namely, the great Bible in Hebrew and four other tongues, and to the College of St. John's a very many books in Greek, of divinity and physic,

and of other services. The like she did to Christ Church and St. John's College, in Oxford. *The like she did to the College of Westminster.*' This gift of Lady Burleigh's must, I think, have formed the nucleus of the collection of ancient books in Library, afterwards probably augmented by many smaller private gifts and bequests, made at different times, of which no record has been preserved.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,  
O. W.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

E. A. B.—We reserve your third sketch for a future number through want of space.

#### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All contributions for insertion in the July number of *The Elizabethan* must be sent in before June 25, 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.

We regret to say that we have not received any subscriptions from a great many of our annual subscribers. We hope that this may not long continue, but that O. W.'s will respond to the earnest call which the present state of the funds of *The Elizabethan* obliges us, much against our inclination, to make. Subscribers are requested to forward their subscriptions for the year 1880 at once to F. E. LEWIN, Treasurer of *The Elizabethan*, S. Peter's College, Westminster. Post Office Orders to be made payable at the Westminster Palace Hotel Post Office.

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

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

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Floreat.