



The Elizabethan.

Vol. IV. No. 2.

WESTMINSTER, MARCH 1883.

Price 6d.

SCHOOLROOMS AND BUILDINGS AT WESTMINSTER.

IN the original arrangement, after the dissolution of the Monastery, the School premises apparently all lay together; the Head Master occupying the present Head Master's House, and the Under Master having chambers in a tower which formed the end of the old Granary, and stood nearly opposite the present entrance to Little Dean's Yard. The Granary became the Dormitory of the Queen's Scholars; it ran southwards from the tower, parallel to the east side of Dean's Yard, and extended beyond the present Terrace Houses. Its eastern wall was nearer the Houses than the present railing; its length (161 feet) and breadth were copied in the present Dormitory. The Schoolroom seems to have stood somewhere about the site of the Ancient Kitchen, the entrance to which was by the archway between Nos. 19 and 20 Dean's Yard. This may be inferred from a Chapter Order of 1548; for, though the foundation is reckoned from 1560, Henry VIII. really established the Chapter and School on the new basis, and Queen

Elizabeth merely revived what he had already begun. The order is: 'It shall be lawful for Mr. Dean to take down the timber and tiles of the broken chamber standing beside the School House, and also that he shall have the ground of the Frater (*i.e.* Refectory) with the stone wall, to the augmentation of his garden, and also of his garden in Misericorde.' 'Misericorde' was the Subsidiary Hall, afterwards incorporated in Ashburnham House.

1591. A resolution of the Chapter to 'convert the old Dorter (Monastic Dormitory) and the room before it, the one to a Schoolroom, the other to a Library.' Subscriptions to be solicited.

1599. The same was repeated as regards the Schoolroom,—quoted in a note to the Prologue of 1882. The Shell, which was an apse of lath and plaster, was probably then erected, to avoid the expense of restoring the three principal trusses of the roof which had been partially burnt. The tiled roof behind the Shell was of the cheapest and meanest description.

1722. After much dispute, the original Dormitory being in a ruinous condition, it was agreed that the site of the new Dormitory to be built should be 'in the College Orchard.' Sir C. Wren had furnished some plans, but the Earl of Burlington was the

architect, and the work went slowly on, not being finished until 1731. It was done by subscription; the Chapter ultimately contributing £700.

1734. The present School door was put up by subscription, the Chapter contributing £50.

1756. Dr. Markham (then Head Master) and Thomas Salter laid before the Chapter a scheme for the enlargement of Dean's Yard to its present dimensions. The Chapter assented, and granted Dr. Markham and Mr. Salter the sites and materials of the old Granary and Brewhouse adjoining. The Terrace Houses were then built, the central one (now divided) becoming a Boarding House. Until then the open area had been not more than a third of the present enclosure, lying near the entrance to the Cloisters. A row of three houses ran across, in the centre of the present area opposite the Head Master's, which were not finally pulled down till 1815. They were occupied by Minor Canons.

1790. The Under Master's House was enlarged with the proceeds of W. Titley's legacy to the School. This House had been originally only half its present size, furnishing bachelors' chambers, such as there had been in the old Tower. The present Boarding Houses adjacent may probably have been built about this time.

1810. When Tothill Fields were being laid out for building, ten acres were reserved, marked out by the furrow of a plough (like a Roman colony), and appropriated as a Playground for the Scholars.

1814. The walls of the Schoolroom, being in a ruinous condition, were rebuilt in brick. Mr. Wyatt was then the Chapter Architect. The work was done by sections during the Autumn Vacations, which were prolonged to eight weeks for four years in succession. The late Cyril Page was then a boy at the School, and recollected the circumstances. The iron ties securing the trusses of the roof were probably then introduced.

1815. An enclosure was first made, and a fence erected round Vincent Square.

1827. The Lodge was built thereon.

1838. Hot water pipes were introduced in Schoolroom and Dormitory.

1839. Gas was first used to light the Schoolroom.

1841. The iron railing round Vincent Square was put up: cost £1,346. A narrow house, which had been occupied by an Usher, standing next to the Head Master's, in Little Dean's Yard, was pulled down and added to his garden.

1846. Dr. Liddell came. There were then three Boarding Houses, the present two, and No. 1 Dean's Yard, held by a dame, Mrs. Scott. She had formerly had the central house on the Terrace, which was given up about 1840. These four houses were the only regular Boarding Houses which the School ever possessed. Occasionally, one or other of the Ushers may have taken a small number of boys also into his house; but the only houses of any size in the occupation of the School were those mentioned above. The only Schoolrooms were the Great School, with desks

and benches lengthwise along the walls, and the Masters' chairs in front of them, the Rodroom behind the Shell, and, from recent times, the Library.

1847. The Sick House was built by subscription, partly over the back premises of College; the open Cloister below the Dormitory was enclosed, the arches being filled, and divided into three rooms, the central one for servants, the other two for Upper and Lower Elections. The curtains by which Dormitory had been divided into separate 'Houses' were removed, and the whole floor opened to view. The cost of these alterations exceeded the subscriptions by a sum of almost £2,000; which was advanced by the Chapter, and repaid gradually, with interest at 5 per cent., by a charge of £5 yearly to each Q.S. The debt was not extinguished till about 1862.

1851. The School roof was slated instead of tiles.

1852. The present arrangement of desks in the Great School was introduced, and the Rodroom cut off. This would have been taken for a store room by the Chapter Clerk of the Works, but that fortunately, though he broke a hole in the vaulting, he could not get beams through it from below.

1853. The Attics were constructed in the Head Master's House.

1860. The present cubicles in Dormitory were put up, and various improvements made, at School Door and elsewhere.

1861. The 'Covered Playroom' (now Gymnasium) was built. A Classroom over part of it was assigned to the School, and a doorway opened from the Rodroom, which was then reoccupied.

1862. New windows were inserted in the west wall of the Rodroom. The old house, No. 1 Dean's Yard, was pulled down, two being built instead, one of them for the School, with accommodation for Masters and Home Boarders, which was leased to the Head Masters.

1863. A Classroom was built over the Dark Cloister on the site of the gallery of the old Refectory.

1864. The gymnastic apparatus was put up and the Gymnasium formed.

1866. The new back premises of College were constructed.

1868. The Shell was removed, and the north bays of the School roof restored. The cost of this was borne by Dean Stanley.

N.B.—PUBLIC SCHOOLS ACT passed July, 1868. A new foundation.

1868-9. The south end of School was restored, the old Norman windows being developed as now shown. Among the rubble with which the recesses had been filled, was found a piece of the ornamental cornice of the Confessor's Shrine, which was replaced in its original position. The Dressing Room, Lavatory, and shed were built adjoining the Lodge at Vincent Square. All this was done under direction of the Head Master, during the interval from July 1868, until the constitution of the new Governing Body, in November of the following year.

1872. New tiles were placed on the roof of the

Dormitory, and the main timbers repaired where they were decayed.

1873. The new partitions and fireplaces in the ground floor of College were constructed, giving five rooms and a Classroom next the entrance door.

1873-5. The level of the ground was raised in Vincent Square, and trees planted round.

1874. The lease of 21 Great College Street, and Ginger's business, were purchased by the Masters. Accommodation for Masters and a College servant was thus gained.

1875. The fee simple of this House, and that of No. 6 Dean's Yard, in reversion, were purchased by the Governing Body.

1876. A lease of houses in Barton Street was taken from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

1877. The fee simple of No. 7 Dean's Yard was purchased by the Governing Body; the lease had been previously purchased by the Head Master.

1881. Ashburnham House was acquired by the School; giving three Classrooms, a music room, a museum, a piano-practice room, a common room for Masters, three rooms for Home Boarders, a Bursar's office, and accommodation for Masters and a College servant.

1882. The small studio, built by the Masters at the back of 21 Great College Street, was offered to the Governing Body and fitted up by them as a Laboratory.

1883. The late Organist's House was acquired. When rebuilt, this will provide four Classrooms (one specially adapted for drawing), a Science Lecture room, with Lecturer's room attached, a play cellar and porter's room below, with other accommodation, and will give direct access from the Schoolroom to Ashburnham House.

The general result is this: that in the last century, when the numbers sometimes rose above 400, and generally varied from 270 to 380, or thereabouts, as far as records exist, there were no Schoolrooms except the Great School and the Rodroom beyond it. The Library was not used as a Classroom. Naturally much of the work was done by the boys out of School, during lock hours, which were on three afternoons in the week, and in private studies. There were then scarcely any day scholars, nor any means of conveyance enabling boys to attend the School from a distance. When the present Head Master came, in 1855, the only Schoolrooms were the Great School, ending in the Shell, and the Library; there was no accommodation for Assistant Masters, except in the three Boarding Houses then existing, and none for Home Boarders. Before the end of 1883 there will be the Great School enlarged; twelve Classrooms of various sizes; a Science Lecture room, with Lecturer's room attached, a Chemical Laboratory, a Museum, a Gymnasium, five rooms for Home Boarders, two Boarding Houses, and the site for another upon the terrace—accommodation for nine Masters besides; rooms for two of the College servants, and various other advantages, present and in prospect, including the acquisition of another house.

C. B. S.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

QUERY.

THE WESTMINSTER MOTTO.—I shall be glad to learn through your columns when, and by whose authority, the old motto, '*In patriam populumque*' has been changed to '*Dat Deus incrementum.*' I do not at all complain of the change. The violent rendering of a passage from its context, as was done in taking the old motto from Horace, is not to be defended. The new motto is excellent. But, as a matter of curiosity, I should like to know to whom we are indebted for its selection.—*An Old Liberty Boy and Captain.*

NOTES.

ETON AND WESTMINSTER CRICKET MATCH.—The Captain of Eton has kindly sent the following particulars of these matches from Maxwell-Lyte's '*History of Eton.*' The matches took place in the year 1796, 1800, and 1801. The first was played on Hounslow Heath on the 25th of July, and resulted in a victory for Westminster. In 1800 Eton won, making 213 runs to Westminster's 54 and 31. T. Lloyd, who made 84 for Eton, caught a cold on the ground, from the effects of which he died. Next year Eton won again easily, Westminster scoring 34 and 17. No other record exists at Eton.

THE WESTMINSTER MOTTO.—We can only refer '*An Old Liberty Boy and Captain*' to the letter of '*An Old Q.S.*' in vol. ii. No. 10, in answer to one of Captain Astley Terry in the previous number. There he will find that the Horatian motto, '*In patriam populumque*', was substituted in the last century for that which has lately been revived, and which is therefore the older of the two.

THE NUMBERS OF THE SCHOOL.—In our last number it was said that the School had 'for the first time in the whole period of its existence attained the number of 230.' It should have been 'for the first time for fifty years.' Previously to that date the numbers were often considerably higher. The monitors' books show that on Lady-day, 1729, the School numbered 430 boys; and in June, 1731, 377. Some books left by Dr. Vincent show that during his Under-Mastership the numbers of the School were as follows:—In June, 1772, they were 254; in the June of the following year, 283; September, 1774, 306; June, 1775, 302; June, 1776, 285; March, 1778, 282; June, 1780, 272; March, 1786, 291. In the present century the monitors' books show that in 1821 there were 281 boys; in 1823 there were 284; while in 1835 the numbers of the School sank to 100, since which time it has never been so full as at present.

School Notes.

The Gumbleton Prize for English Verse has been awarded to C. C. J. Webb, Q.S. The subject was '*The St. Gothard Tunnel.*'

We are glad to see that C. W. R. Tepper and F. W. Bain have obtained their 'Blue' for Association Football. This makes three O.W.W. now playing in the Oxford University XI., as W. F. G. Sandwith got his 'Blue' some time ago.

We have not yet mentioned in these columns that a Bell-ringing Society was started among the Q.SS. in the early part of last year. By the kind permission of Dr. Farrar, they have held their weekly practice in the tower of St. Margaret's Church. The Society at present numbers ten members, and the officers elected for the present term are as follows:—President, C. J. Shebbear; Secretary, E. R. Ellis; Treasurer, H. N. Crouch. For the last few months Mr. Upcott has kindly joined the practices of the Society. As yet no Town Boy has become a member; but the officers of the Society wish it to be known that there is no wish to limit it to Queen's Scholars.

On Shrove Tuesday, February 6th, the ceremony of greasing for the Pancake took place in accordance with ancient custom. The Pancake was very well thrown, and fell not far from the Rod-drawer. Scoones soon got possession of it and ran with it to the Sixth Form benches, where the 'greeze' took place. When the Head Master interposed to end the fray, Scoones produced the Pancake entire, amid enthusiastic applause, and carried his prize to the Deanery to claim the accustomed reward. This is the second occasion on which Scoones has been successful, having won the Pancake in 1880, two years ago.

The subject set for the Phillimore Prize Essay for 1883 is 'The comparative strength and weakness of Sparta and Athens.'

FOOTBALL.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. OLD CARTHUSIANS.

On Saturday, February 10th, this match was played. It rained hard the whole time. Our opponents won the toss, and with the wind at their backs, kept the ball in our quarters, Parry, Vincent, and Wake being conspicuous. Shortly before half-time, Wake passed to Williams, who scored their first goal (1—0). This was soon followed by another from Parry (2—0). Thus far we had not distinguished ourselves, the exceptions being Bedford and Peck. On changing ends we seemed doomed to further reverses, but their corners came to nought; and in the last quarter of an hour we got together, and the splendid play of Scoones and Peck, aided by the rest of the XI., enabled Ingram to score two goals in succession, thus leaving the game drawn (2—2). The ground was awful. Parry, Evelyn, and Vincent

played well for the Carthusians, while Tritton and Fevez deserve praise, besides those mentioned, for Westminster. The sides were:—

WESTMINSTER.

O. Scoones, A. E. Bedford, A. G. L. Rogers, R. Ingram, F. G. Thorne, H. C. Peck, G. Fevez, M. T. Pigott, A. Paul, C. Crewes, C. B. Tritton.

OLD CARTHUSIANS.

E. H. Parry, A. W. Walters, H. Lowther, A. J. Wake, W. A. Evelyn, C. T. Perkin, E. H. Last, C. H. Vincent, W. S. Williams.

Our opponents played two short, while we had five of our team on the sick list.

The following account is from *The Sportsman*: OLD ETONIANS v. WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

This match was played on Wednesday, February 14, at Vincent Square, and resulted in favour of the Etonians by six goals to one. Kinnaird having been successful in the toss, chose the goal in front of St. Mary's Church, and Scoones made a commencement with a stiff breeze and heavy rain against him. The boys at once made a good attack, and Paul having the ball passed to him, shot it at goal, but Rawlinson threw it away, and Bainbridge running down the side kicked a goal for Eton. In spite of the bad state of the turf the boys pressed their adversaries, Scoones, Ingram, Pigott, and Peck being conspicuous. After some neat passing among the Etonians, Baxter, getting through the centre, added another goal to the score. Shortly afterwards Bainbridge having received the ball from Davenport, shot it between the posts (1—3). Ends having been changed at half-time, Bury gained a fourth goal, repeating the performance almost immediately. From a claim of hands not far from the Etonian's goal, Scoones sent the ball under the tape. With the exception that Baxter gained a sixth goal for Eton, nothing else occurred worthy of note. Sides:—

OLD ETONIANS.

Hon. A. F. Kinnaird, C. W. Foley, G. Hogg, F. W. Hotham, F. A. Darbyshire, W. B. Davenport, P. C. Novelli, H. W. Bainbridge, H. Bury, H. Baxter, J. F. P. Rawlinson.

WESTMINSTER.

O. Scoones, A. G. L. Rogers, A. E. Bedford, F. G. Thorne, R. Ingram, C. B. Tritton, G. Fevez, H. C. Peck, M. T. Pigott, A. Crewes, G. E. Paul.

The following account is from *The Field*: R. M. C. SANDHURST, v. WESTMINSTER.

This match was played at Vincent Square on February 17, and after a fast game resulted in favour of the R. M. C. by four goals to love. The ball was started by Scoones about three, and was at once taken down to the Cadet's goal. The danger was averted by the good play of Maxwell and Eastwood, and the visitors, led by Bradshaw and Patrick, made

a vigorous attack on the boys' fortress, which resulted in a goal being obtained out of a loose scrimmage. The play after this continued fast and even, the R. M. C. having slightly the best of it, until a little before half-time Wake on the left made a good run, and middling well to Patrick, the latter sent it through the posts. After half-time the Cadets continued to press their opponents, and though the passing of their forwards left much to be desired, two more goals were obtained by Bradshaw and Patrick respectively. In the last quarter of an hour the superior training of the boys was evident, and several vigorous attacks were made on the R. M. C. goal, in which Scoones and Ingram were conspicuous. The R. M. C. backs, however, succeeded in repelling every attack, and at the call of time the Cadets left victorious by four goals to none. For the R. M. C. Bradshaw and Patrick forward, and Streatfield and Fotheringham behind, did most of the work; while for Westminster, Scoones and Ingram forward played well, but the back play was very erratic.

R. M. C.

J. C. B. Eastwood (goal), A. M. Streatfield, F. W. Cornwallis (half-backs), W. Fotheringham, C. J. Maxwell (backs), J. B. Bradshaw (captain), D. Patrick (centre), C. Murray, V. J. Ferguson (right), A. B. Mesham, St. A. Wake (left).

WESTMINSTER.

C. B. Tritton (goals), F. G. Thorne, C. Fevez (half-backs), A. E. Bedford, H. Hoskins (backs), M. Pigott, R. Ingram (centres), O. Scoones (captain), H. Peck (right), W. Hewitt, A. Crewes (left).

The three Football Elevens are made up as follows:—

FIRST ELEVEN.

O. Scoones.	C. Page.
F. T. Higgins.	R. Ingram.
A. G. L. Rogers.	W. G. Hewitt.
H. W. Waterfield.	H. C. Peck.
A. E. Bedford.	C. B. Tritton.
F. G. Thorne.	

SECOND ELEVEN.

R. Vavasour.	F. G. Trevor.
C. Ritchie.	H. Hoskins.
G. Fevez.	C. Gibson.
M. T. Pigott.	H. Hurst.
A. Crewes.	G. G. Phillimore.
J. E. Paul.	

THIRD ELEVEN.

C. Stanfield.	B. A. James.
R. M. de Carteret.	H. Harrison.
H. McCance.	R. Sandilands.
H. P. Lowe.	H. W. Smyth.
W. Shore.	H. Winstanley.
G. Berens.	

POETRY.

Gumbleton English Verse Prize Poem, 1883.

THE ST. GOTHARD TUNNEL.

Now new themes invite our singing, never sung by bard divine,
Themes that never on Parnassus woke the immortal voices nine,
Themes of ages unbegotten, and of poets yet to be,
Themes of iron, themes of power worthy immortality.

Lo! the theme of our new science, of the strong victorious life
That is issue of the ages, issue of the old, old strife
Which the race with Nature wages, like the giant king of yore,
Ever beaten down in battle, rising strength renewed once more.
Lo! we meet the high moon-mountains; lo! we weigh the stars
of heaven;
By our strength the hills tremendous and the 'sunless caves'
are riven.
Under the Atlantic billows goes the telegraphic wire,
And along the highroads stretches, wind-swept like Æolian
lyre,
Sighing in harmonious moaning, answering the passing breeze,
Nature from our science drawing new and solemn melodies.

Through the Alps a second tunnel now hath linked two lands
in one,
Through unnumbered ages Sundered by those cliffs of ancient
stone.
On the one side mountain-pastures and the upland cantons lie;
On the other side the glories of immortal Italy:
Here, in quaintly gabled chalets, rests the chamois-hunter,
tired;
There, from waveless plains of verdure, rise great cities, domed
and spired.

O'er these Alps the mighty Brennus, leading from their northern
home
Tartaned hosts of Gaulish spearmen, came to storm the walls of
Rome.
To these Alps, with pain and hardship, Hannibal and all his
host
Came from Carthage—then the lady of her many-harboured
coast;
With him came the tributaries, and the stern dark sons of
Spain,
And the horsemen of Numidia followed in their leader's train.
Wisest of the beasts and hugest came the Indian monsters by,
Docile in their strength gigantic, tusked with priceless ivory.
Then the Punic warriors, coming from the sunny Afric plains,
From the glorious merchant-city, with her harbours and cham-
pagnes,
Though their hearts were stout and manly, yet they quailed with
secret awe,
As those lonely pathless mountains and tremendous peaks they
saw;
Gazing up the precipices, down the yawning depths below,
At the wilderness of silence and the everlasting snow.
Ever and anon they listened as they heard from steep to steep
Mighty avalanches thunder, startling Nature's solemn sleep;
Or, as from the giddy eyrie, with a heart-appalling cry,
Fled the eagle, with his wings spread, dark against the stormy
sky.

O'er the Alps, in later ages, came the mighty Corsican,
And self-crowned, a second Brennus, sate as king in proud
Milan.
Hannibal is dead and buried—buried in a grave unknown;
With the ruins of proud Carthage Africa's bright shore is strown.
In a lonely isle of ocean, scarce a comrade at his side,
Once the scourge and dread of Europe, Bonaparte in exile died.
Still the mighty Alpine mountains crowned with snow and mist
arise,
Still they yawn with blue crevasses, still their summits pierce
the skies.
Shall they not, when we are perished, our remotest children see
But in these twain tunnels bearing impress of our industry,
Impress of our strength victorious, impress of our wondrous
skill,
Of our wandering, restless spirit, and our all-subduing will?
For these mountains, wild and lonely, swept with elemental
strife,
Watch the passing generations and the changeful scenes of life.
If our pride shall ever perish, vanishing like that which hides
'Mid the vast and fallen temples underneath the pyramids;
Or like that of those great nations that the Western empires knew,
Of the kings of Mexique country, and magnificent Peru;

Or like theirs whose throned idols, gods of a forgotten faith
 In the mid-Pacific island, dream of their adorers' death.*
 So our place no more shall know us, and as Memphis we shall be,
 Hundred-gated Thebes and Tyre, Babylon and Nineveh.
 See we not the race imperial, who from ancient Nile bare sway,
 Even to the mount Caucasian to the northward far away,
 Underneath the Turkish bondage now themselves the wrongs
 repay
 Of the shepherd-sons of Jacob, in God's people's evil day?
 Let their sunken fortunes warn us, and the lesson that they
 teach,
 Which enslaved Constantinople and Palmyra's desert preach.
 Yet, although he rend the mountains by the power of steam and
 fire,
 Though the lightning bear him tidings, flashing down the
 slender wire,
 Man still rashly seeks for peril in the ringing field of war,
 Alpine peaks or Arctic silence, or amid the ocean's roar.
 Ever restless, ever seeking, in some wild and dreadful place,
 To behold Death's tyrant power, and defy him face to face.
 So of late we mourned in sorrow for the young extinguished light,
 Like a falling star appearing—all too soon engulfed in night ;
 For that youth of wondrous promise which through antenatal
 gloom
 Shed the hopeful light of science on the secrets of the womb. †
 Yea, although the nations gather, and their sounding phrases tell
 Of the conquest of proud Nature by the race invincible ;
 Though they show in crowded cities all the wealth of every
 land,
 Brought by peaceful sails of Commerce from the earth's re-
 motest strand ;
 Yet has Commerce, yet has Science bid the guns no longer roar:
 Has it healed the hate of nations, hushed the bellowing mouths
 of war?
 In the fulness of our knowledge have we not torpedoes wrought?
 Dread death-engines, crafty, certain, with a swift destruction
 fraught.
 Lo! the strife, and lo! the triumph! whither, whither doth it
 tend?
 For the race is very weary, seeing no appointed end.
 Some men thirst for gain, unresting, ever gathering more and
 more,
 And they die and leave their riches, as their fathers did before.
 Some men look into the heavens, at the endless world-laws
 gaze,
 See no God, no love, and perish after few and wretched days;
 And they cry, 'We know not!' saying 'Who can comprehend
 Him—who?
 Here is all the life we wot of!' and they die, and perish too.
 And the few that hold the promise of old days, with aching eyes
 Cry, 'Where are the signs of Advent?' looking dazzled at the
 skies.
 But the full tide of existence rushes on tumultuously ;
 On the earth are still abiding joy and hope and victory.
 Still the mountain peaks are glorious ; still the dark and stately
 pines
 Clothe, as from remotest ages, Mount Saint Gothard's deep
 ravines.
 And the tunnel now together binds the Switzer country, free,
 Unto Italy, rejoicing in recovered liberty.
 Full of years and full of honours Garibaldi late hath died,
 But the work that he accomplished still among us doth abide.
 Italy the fair, the glorious, joy of all the world, is free!
 Overthrown and spoiled and scattered every spangled tyranny.

O ye Alps! whose silent presence watched the Tuscan race of yore
 Teach their magic arts and knowledge to the Latins on the shore ;
 Ye, who saw the Roman empire from the hill Palatian spread,
 Till the eagle standard threatened Caledonia's deserts dread ;
 Ye abide to us poor mortals, kindred of the leaves that die,
 As a type of the perpetual, imaging eternity.

C. C. J. WEBB.

* Easter Island.

† The late Professor F. Balfour.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I wish to know why no mention was made of my letter concerning the bicycle club in the last *Elizabethan*. If by chance my letter should have been mislaid, I am sending you a somewhat similar one.

I believe this term, last year, a bicycle club was started under the captaincy of R. G. Forster. The 'runs' for certain Saturdays were arranged, and everything was ready, but suddenly, without giving any warning, the whole affair collapsed. It is said, I believe, that Dr. Scott would not permit the club to take their rides, saying that it interfered with football; but surely this cannot be the case, since on Saturday there is nearly always a match, and I am sure that it is much more healthy for riders of the 'steel horse' to be out in the country than standing shivering up fields. Therefore, I appeal to all quondam members of this club to make some effort to meet again and persuade the authorities to allow them occasionally to visit the surroundings of this great city, and thus, not only to gain health, but also the general knowledge of the localities around in Kent, Surrey, &c. Hoping that you will insert this in your *well-worth-reading* paper,

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours, &c.,
ATHLETE.*To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'*

DEAR SIR,—Could not the periodicals which are sent from other schools to the Editor of *The Elizabethan* be sent up to the Boarding Houses after they have been finished with in College? We were told in the Debating Society that fellows in College got 'handfuls' of them to review. Surely some of these handfuls might be given to Town Boys after they have been reviewed. Judging by the eagerness with which some of these papers, which were brought up into the Debating Society, were read by Town Boys, such a proceeding would meet with much favour.

I am, yours truly,
BOARDER.*To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'*

SIR,—In your 'Play Number,' under the heading 'First Night,' you said—'There was some disturbance, too, in the gods, caused by mock enthusiasm at the acting, and an objectionable style of applause.' Mr. Editor, you were right for once! The disturbance was caused by mock enthusiasm at the acting and by an objectionable style of applause. But allow me, as a mortal who, for one night only, was (literally) elevated into the lofty, though somewhat warm, position of a full-blown god, to respectfully state that the disturbance was not our fault—that we gods did not, of our own immortal selves, invent the 'objectionable style of applause' (in other words the 'claque' system) which has to do unwillingly duty for genuine signs of approbation at the Play; and that, furthermore, if we had not 'mocked' being 'enthusiastic at the acting,' we should have run the risk of being punished after we had descended from Olympus. And our doing what we were forced to do—namely, clapping at all sorts of ridiculously inappropriate places—led to what you, Mr. Editor, have called 'a disturbance.' Perhaps 'a protest' would be a better word for it—a protest against an absurd old custom which would be a thousand times more honoured in the breach than in the observance—and probably would not be honoured much then. For, remember, forced clapping is no compliment to the actors—and it prevents real, genuine, hearty clapping, which is. And I am pleased to be able to say that a good deal of genuine applause is usually earned by the actors in the Westminster Play.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
B. I.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—I am surprised to learn—at least, I gather this to be the case from a statement in your last number—that the good old custom of announcing the advent of the Head Master before each 'School,' by the joint acclamations of the assembled Under School, has come to an end. What possible reason is there for doing away with an institution at once picturesque and useful? It must, indeed, be a surprise (and anything but a pleasant one) to most O.W.W. to hear of such changes in the old order of things; and there is certainly much need that full and clear notes of them should be inserted, as one of your correspondents suggests, among the 'Notes' of your 'Notes and Queries' column. Is it also the case, as is hinted somewhere, that 'Mon. Os.' no longer performs his time-honoured function?

Let all these changes be, at least, fully chronicled in a proper column of *The Elizabethan*, that the very memory of the old customs may not be lost for ever.

I am, Sir,

Yours truly,
A CONSERVATIVE O.W.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—I read with pain in your last number that the cry 'Scott's coming!' is abolished. Why were we not apprised of this before? Our voices, and your voice, uplifted together, might have staved off the day of abolition. When dips were threatened, you pleaded for their maintenance. Eight years have passed since then, and dips are yet among the privileges of Westminster. More recently, Mon. Os. was menaced; he was to be replaced by brute machinery; his beautiful freedom of movement and variety of voice, his capricious irregularity of arrival was to be superseded by the dull mechanism of clock-work. That again is a horror escaped.

But better to have lost your dips, and to have nailed up Mon. O.S. on the wall, to pursue a monotonous and self-centred existence, making angles for ever with his arms—better even this than to have given up 'Scott's coming!' I am a musician, devoted to the art, and I protest that no music was sweeter to my ear or dearer to my memory than that chorus of harmony in dissonance uplifted daily by the arch of Dean's Yard. As on May-day at Oxford, the choristers gather on the tower of Magdalen to hymn the rising sun, so did we of the Under School assemble with portfolio and expos. to celebrate with proper pomp and ceremonial the coming of the Head Master. We used to muster outside his door, and wait for the first jar upon the handle, and then were our tongues unloosed, and in every variety of voice and key the time-honoured chanting began. The birds that wakened Siegfried sang scarcely a fresher song. But it was not only a pretty piece of ceremonial; it has its uses. How often playing football at the far corner of Green, husbanding those sweet moments, were we suddenly summoned by the echoes of 'Scott's coming!' But for that sound, which refused to be unheard, we might even now be playing there. So loud it was, that I remember listening for it in Princes Street, when a visit to Lyons, the baker, in quest of a sixpenny cake had found me unusually belated. Now, I suppose, fellows whose watches don't go (and what fellow ever had a watch which did go?) must be always on the *qui vive* for the cracked banging of Big Ben. And what is gained by the change? Five minutes added to School hours, nothing more. What is this compared to the picturesque, quaint memories which the old cry bequeathed us? It was part and parcel of our love for the School. It was a little fact which we remembered with pleasure, and liked to talk about to friends. If, like the screams of the owls of Winander, it was in some measure a 'concourse wild of jocund din,' it acted on the boy's feelings in the same educational way, and thereby 'the visible scene would enter unawares into his mind with all its solemn imagery.' Not the imagery of mountain and mere, but that imagery no less solemn of the abbey and the schoolroom, with all their storied memories. It is a pity to rob the School, without very strong reasons, of so vivid and characteristic a feature. It was a practice, unlike many old practices, quite devoid of

cruelty. It was not costly like a city banquet, nor ugly like the great duke's statue. It was no obsolete form, but still served its purpose to summon the school in an interesting and unique way. To abolish it is not to reform, but to deform.

Sir, will you not enquire if the custom has not rather lapsed by inadvertence than by intention? Will you not ask the Head Master, with his accustomed liberality, to restore it?

Your obedient servant,
PINCE-NEZ.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—In the harmless and amusing letter of a certain 'Viper' I believe your correspondent says that house-masters would not 'object to fellows changing.' Oh, that we all had a share of his sweet and childlike confidence! Does he not know that the subject was discussed over a year ago, and that, although some such rule was introduced into College for a few days, it was strenuously resisted by the other masters on the score that 'it introduced a lot of dirt into the house.' Unless that means that fellows will not play up so hard, and consequently get less dirty when they do not change, I can attach no meaning to the expression used by the masters. The only thing that remains is that the younger fellows should take to changing of their own accord as the desired result would thus be obtained without running foul of the masters; and if more care were taken to encourage young players, if they were mentioned more frequently in *The Elizabethan*, and especially if more were made of the small-boy matches, the fellows would feel a natural enthusiasm which, as 'Viper' says, is at present crushed out of them. There are many who would be ready to change if only a little encouragement were given them, for it is no doubt difficult for a member of the small game to come up in flannels when he knows that everyone else will be trudging through the mire in ordinary clothes; it is all the more creditable to those who have the courage to do so, and I hope all small fellows will bear it in mind when they hesitate about changing. At the risk of being called a grumbler, I should like to urge the senior boys, who really exercise an enormous influence, if they only will summon up the resolution to do so, to take more pains in looking after young players, and improving them to their utmost.

As an O.W. I can only envy those who have still the opportunity for doing what ought to have been begun before, and hope that they will not regret the way things were allowed to drift in their time, as I among many O.W.W. do now.

To elude the vengeance that would attend the perversity and contrariness of my remarks, I must, dear Sir, disappear under the name of

MISTRESS MARY.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I fear that when at School I never did Mr. Jones much credit, and I have long since forgotten all my higher mathematics; I therefore venture to ask for your help to solve a few of the intricate problems presented by *The Elizabethan* accounts for the last four years.

In the first place take the deficit. I find at the beginning of 1879 a deficit of £10. 19s. 4d. This is gradually reduced in 1880 to £9. 3s. 11d.; in 1881 to £6. 6s.; in 1882 to £2. 2s. I am horror-struck to find that, at the beginning of the present year of grace, this deficit has rebounded to nearly thrice its original height, and now stands at £26. 14s. 6d.

Briefly commending this little exercise in elementary statics (if this word is not right, please correct) to the notice of the mathematical examiner at election, I pass on to the next question, which may be stated as follows:—'In 1879 the masters subscribe £3. 10s. 6d.; in 1882, £1. 8s.; how many masters in each of these years have paid a four-shilling subscription?' By the help of time and Colenso I think I have clearly worked out the result, that in 1882 seven masters subscribed; but when we come to 1879 I am beaten; I have Mr. Failes's authority as to my disgraceful ignorance on the subject of vulgar fractions. This only is evident—that the number was greater.

When I tried for College, I lost several places in the examination because I only did two propositions (one wrong) in the Euclid paper, and no algebra; luckily for me, my classical papers were better, and I did fairly well in challenges, so I can at the present day proudly call myself an old Queen's Scholar. As an old Queen's Scholar, then, I am glad to find that College appears to have supported *The Elizabethan* consistently. Seven or eight pounds towards the maintenance of that paper has come annually from College. In 1880 I see that College is credited with subscriptions to the amount of £11. 5s. 6d., and I was for a moment cheered by the thought that the treasurer for that year must have been even a worse mathematician than I am—for it was obvious even to me that a four-shilling subscription levied on a society of 40 members could not result in more than £8. But no, the discrepancy is too glaring; and I am driven to believe that the surplus must have been caused by voluntary donations (perhaps from hard-earned cap money), placed through modesty under the head of subscriptions; in a word, in 1880 there must have been among the Q.SS. one or more of those noble spirits who 'do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame.'

But what shall I say to the Town Boys, for I, too, was once a Town Boy. I can still recall with pleasure the £7. 10s. that came from grants in 1879, the £7. 18s. from the coffers of Rigand's, and the munificent £9. 1s. from Homeboarders in 1880. But now, alas!—I cannot enter into particulars on so painful a subject. Look at the last subscription list, and 'blush to find it fame.'

Let us turn to the other side of the balance sheet. The charges of Messrs. Spottiswoode do not vary greatly from year to year. But the postage expenses! In 1879, £2. 16s. 2d.; in 1880, £4. 3s.; in 1881, £4. 10s. 9d. In 1882, £5. 4s. 2½d. And this in spite of all Mr. Fawcett's reforms, and the warning notes of your esteemed correspondent Mr. Fiddlestick!

If I were a Grand Old Man instead of an insignificant young one, I should no doubt be able to prove to my own satisfaction, if not to everyone else's, that peace, retrenchment, and reform bring with them, as a natural and desirable result, an increase in our annual expenditure. But we cannot raise the income tax to pay the debts of *The Elizabethan*: the question follows—'What can we do?'

I believe the authorities have always opposed the idea of making *The Elizabethan* subscription compulsory, like all other subscriptions—doubtless with intent to avoid another item in the bills. This is praiseworthy; but has it never occurred to them that other subscriptions are excessive, while *The Elizabethan* is thus left destitute? Reforms may already have taken place; but it was, and, I believe, is still, a fact that the amount of money spent on the two October days on which the sports are held far exceeds the expenditure of the entire football season. Cannot some of this be diverted into a School subscription to *The Elizabethan*? I commend this question to the financial ability of Westminster.

The Elizabethan has now existed for nearly nine years, and I think has in many ways justified its existence. It has only once been stigmatised as 'flippant'; only twice been convicted of libel; and only once threatened with an action under the law of copyright. Few other periodicals can boast a career of such harmlessness and innocence. I appeal for its support, not to the School only, but to the whole collegiate body. Let those who are too great and good to be here alluded to in a spirit of frivolity smile upon it. Let the minor canons receive again with the Play number the remembrance of each classic jest that tickled them so in the last epilogue; and let Dr. Bridge set our Spirit Songs and Gumbleton Prize Poems to that harmony of which he is so great and true a master. Let all Old Westminsterers in all quarters of the globe be hunted up, and let them have no peace till they subscribe. All that we want is a little energy.

I have already exceeded all reasonable space, but allow me one or two queries before I conclude. Firstly, why has the third volume been abruptly concluded and not prolonged till the end of this term, when it would have contained the regulation thirty numbers? Secondly, why in your leading article do you say that 'owing to the unusual size of many of the numbers during the past year' considerable expense has resulted? Surely, sir, twelve pages are the regulation size; do not let us begin a new year and a new volume by any retrogression. As for the expense, it has not been much greater than usual, and not so great as in one previous year; the decrease in receipts is the cause of the new deficit. But if your fiat is irrevocable, at any rate do not let us have any of our reduced space taken up by tables of contents, as one of your correspondents proposes; that would, indeed, be cruel mockery.

Yours truly,

ONE WHO HAS PAID HIS SUBSCRIPTION.

Our Contemporaries.

WE beg to acknowledge the receipt of *The Berkhamstedian*, *The Blue*, *The Cambridge Review*, *The Durham University Journal*, *The Geelong Grammar School Quarterly*, *The Lily*, *The Marlburian*, *The Ousel*, *The Rossallian*, *The Tonbridgian*, *The University College School Magazine*, *The Wellingtonian*, and *The Wesley College Chronicle*.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ATHLETE T. B.—Your former letter contained a reference to 'the late R. G. E. Forster.' Now, though Forster has unfortunately left us since Christmas, at the time when your letter arrived he was still among us, and even now we have, happily, no reason to think that the prefix 'late' is yet applicable to him. Moreover he, at that time, denied that he had ever started such a club as you mention.

M.C.E.—As the postponement of election this year to a week later than usual has been finally settled, and the consent of the electors obtained, the insertion of your letter would not serve any purpose.

INDIG. CRICK.—The same answer as we have given to M.C.E. applies also to your letter. We hope our reading of your *nom de plume* is correct, but the manuscript puzzled us for some time. Is it an abbreviation for Indignant Cricketer?

A CONSERVATIVE O.W.—Except that Mon. Os. goes straight up School at 10 o'clock after announcing in College that the hour is striking, no change has been made in his "time-honoured duties" during the past year.

NOTICES.

All contributions for the April number of *The Elizabethan* must be sent in before March 25, to the Editor, St. Peter's College, Westminster.

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

The yearly subscription to *The Elizabethan* is 4s. It is requested that all subscriptions now falling due, or not yet paid up, should be forwarded to H. N. CROUCH, Treasurer of *The Elizabethan*. Post Office Orders to be made payable at the Victoria Mansions Post Office, Victoria Street.

Subscribers are requested to notify any change of address to the Secretary.

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

Floreat.