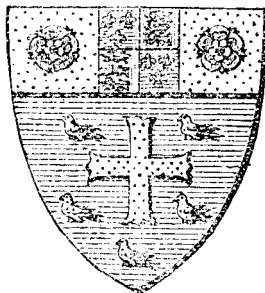


The Granite



Review.

Nascitur exiguus,

vires acquirit eundo.

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DECEMBER, 1884.

Price 4d.

“THE SCHOOL-ROOM.”

Of all the School buildings, the one which the whole School know best, and which impresses itself most firmly on the hearts of T. B. and Q. S. alike, is the School-room. This venerable building was originally the dormitory of the Monks of the Abbey of Westminster, and, until 1814, a great deal of the original Norman work was to be seen. After the pulling down of Turler's House, and before the erection of the new building, a Norman window was visible in a very good state of preservation. The walls, however, at the end of the last century were a good deal changed from what they were like originally, as a good deal of repair, &c., had taken place since it came into the hands of the School. Still, it was essentially the same room, and it was by the re-building of the walls with brick in 1814 that its identity was in a great degree destroyed. As for the floor, it seems to have been originally stone, as remains, extending some distance up the room, of a stone floor were discovered during the building of the new sixth room. The basement structure is the oldest part, the front part of “Gym” and the Pyx Chapel being Saxon work, built, probably, by Edward the Confessor, whose chamberlain is said to have been buried here. The “Shell” removed in 1868 was a very curious structure, and the removal of it seems rather to have put the room out of proportion. It is almost to be regretted that it was found necessary to remove it. Behind the shell was the “Rod room,” now no more, where the rods were made,—and in considerable numbers too, to judge by the stories one hears. The roof is the part which would strike a stranger most forcibly, and it is as fine a roof as

we have ever seen, except that of Westminster Hall. It is, Dean Stanley says, of the 13th century. In *Westminster School Past and Present* there is a plate of the School-room as it was in the beginning of this century, in which, by the way, the coats-of-arms which are now hanging at the top of the room, appear. I have not been able to find out the age of these, but, from the carving, one would be inclined to place their date in the latter half of the 17th century, or even later. The room was first used as a school in 1599, when the library, which had been used since 1591, was found too small, and license was granted to make the “Great Dorter” into a school-room. It is to be hoped that no further injury will be done to this venerable relic of the past as long as Westminster exists. The library which we have mentioned above is chiefly remarkable for the carved bookcases and the domed ceiling. These splendid buildings—the like of which are possessed by no school in England—can boast a long roll of men, illustrious in every walk of life, who have received their education within their walls, and let us hope that in the future we may turn out as many more who shall have become “profitable members of this Church and Nation,” and who have made it their boast that it was at Westminster that the foundation of their after greatness was laid.

J. B.

NOTES.

It may interest old members of the school to know that we “break up” on the 17th instant, and re-assemble on 22nd January.

Entertainments have been given on two different occasions by the Musical Society, of which a fuller account appears below.

The School will sustain a very heavy loss by the departure of the Rev. B. F. James at the end of this term. He has been a master in the School for 39 years, and for nearly as many years master of Rigauds. There is not one boy who will not be heartily sorry at his departure.

All subscribers are requested to forward to the Editor, with as little delay as possible, their subscriptions for the second year, which will be due after the number following our present issue.

As a small (indeed, *very small!*) consolation for the loss of the play this year, there is to be, we believe, an entertainment given on or about the last day of the term. This performance is to be on somewhat a larger scale than those already given on Wednesday afternoons.

FOOTBALL.

GRANTS v. UNDER ELECTIONS.

This match was played on Monday, 17th November, and resulted in a victory for Grants by 4—1. Grants having lost the toss, played for the first half from the Church end, with the wind slightly against them. At first, Grants did not play together well, the half-backs' kicking being somewhat erratic against the wind. Soon after the commencement, Sandilands, after a splendid run, muddled to James, who succeeded in scoring for Under Elections their first and only point. The ardour of Grants being kindled by this misfortune, rallied, and obtained, through the instrumentality of Pryce, a goal. Grants shortly obtained a second goal from a corner beautifully placed by Gordon. After half-time, Grants completely penned their opponents, and added two more goals to their score. For Under Elections,

Sandilands and James (forwards) and J. E. Phillimore (half-back) were perhaps most conspicuous.

For Grants, Pryce and Gibson were best.

Under Elections.—B. P. Hurst (goals), C. Barwell and C. Sharpe (backs), J. E. Phillimore, B. Street and E. Clapham (half-backs), Sandilands (captain) and James (right wing), Buchanan (centre), Goldie and Preece (left wing).

Grants.—W. R. Moon (captain—goals), T. Salwey and J. Veitch (backs), Gordon, Ravenscroft and Lambert (half-backs), C. Gibson and A. Ellershaw (right wing), C. Bompas (centre), Pryce and N. M. Smith (left wing).

FOOTBALL NOTES.

We beg to congratulate A. I. Pryce on having received his "pinks."

We omitted to mention that J. Veitch received his House colors after Junior Grants v. Junior Rigauds.

We have now "up Grants" the following colors:—Two pinks—W. R. Moon and A. I. Pryce; two pink and whites—C. Gibson and J. Salwey; one third eleven—H. W. Smyth (who will, however, be unable to play this season). At present there are six (playing) house colors—W. R. Moon, A. I. Pryce, C. Gibson, J. Salwey, C. Bompas and J. Veitch.

We were sorry and greatly surprised not to see C. Gibson playing for the School in the last few matches.

ENTERTAINMENTS.

On Wednesday, November 19th, a second performance was given by the musical portion of the School. A short account of it may not be amiss. Yet, no! our pen refuses to express all we think; perhaps, too, our sentiments would not be generally agreed with. Therefore, we refrain from any criticisms whatsoever, and will content ourselves by subjoining the much mutilated programme.

- PIANO DUET "Overture Tancredi," *Rossini.*
 R. H. BELLAIRS and C. ERSKINE.
 PART SONG.. "Oh! who will o'er the Downs?".. *Pearsall.*
 SONG "The Bailiff's Daughters."
 F. M. YGLESIAS.
 READING "Hans Breitmann's Party."
 P. M. FRANKE.
 GLEE..... "Glorious Apollo,"..... *Webbe.*
 CORNET SOLO..... "The Lost Chord,"..... *Sullivan.*
 W. ARMITAGE.
 READING..... "....."
 E. JERVIS.
 SONG "Barbara Allen,"
 F. COLLER.
 GLEE "Hush thee my babe!"

Doubtless, this performance was not so successful as the former, owing to the absence of our two leading trebles. Such an occasion should, however, only afford to the other trebles an opportunity of distinguishing themselves.

On December the 3rd, another performance was given "up School," and it certainly proved more successful than the previous entertainment, though throughout, a terrible deficiency was visible in the volume of voice of the trebles, of whom no less than four were absent. A very pretty part song by *Bishop*, "Where art thou, Beam of Light?" opened the performance. This was followed by an exceedingly charming song, "Best of all," by *Moir*, which was very well rendered by E. W. Sharpe. A reading was then given by J. Watt from "Experiences in a Pullman Car." Then a violin solo, "La Serenata," of *Braga*, was very well played indeed by C. J. Ritchie, who obtained a *well-merited encore*. We hope we shall hear him often again. An amusing reading by H. P. Lowe on Hydrophobia followed. A part song, "Banish, O Maiden!" was well sung by F. Collier, F. Yglesias, R. H. Bellairs and A. Markham. The performance concluded with "Sir Knight," a chorus by *Macirone*.

POETRY.

Calliope and all your sisters come,
 And with your music cheer this mournful home :
 Now with your lyres awake yet once my theme,
 And stir up many a soul with music's stream.
 Why dost thou grieve, young swain ? I pray thee tell,
 Why dost thou pipe so sad in yonder dell ?
 Hast thou not heard ? Then let all nations know
 This short, yet doleful strain of bitter woe.

Tradition says, and truly so I ween,
 Since 'twas enacted by our foundress Queen,
 That every year methinks nigh Christmas-day
 At Westminster should be performed a play :
 A Prince is dead ; great gods dost this prevent
 Our play, so greatly honor'd an event ?
 Nay ; truly t'is a cruel *cruel* deed !
 What need was there to do so ! Ah ! what need !
 Come weep with me ; let every one who hears
 This tale of woe his eyes bedew with tears.
 Weep gentle muse of famed dramatic art,
 Such bitter pangs must well nigh break thy heart,
 Though cruel chains of tyrant Death withhold,
 Proclaim those woes with one last effort bold.
 Since you have will'd, O fates, these sorrows deep,
 There's nought more left for me to do but weep.

ANON.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Dear Mr. Editor,—I am not a prominent member of the School, nor do I quite feel justified in these remarks, seeing that I personally couldn't do much to improve what I want in this letter to point out as wanting improvement. Let me then, before I begin, apologize to you and to your readers for taking up even an atom of your space with my vile composition. Sir, the greatest surprise, and pleased surprise, was exhibited by all present at the first entertainment "up School" this term; and consequently great encouragement was thereby given to all performers thereat. At the *second* entertainment anything but delight was exhibited: musical ears were deafened by dire discords, Let me warn all those who manage these performances to take more care and notice of what is to be brought before the public, or in a short time, a *very short* time, it will be no easy matter to find people who will sacrifice their musical nerves to be tortured by such terrible music. Pardon these cruel remarks, Mr. Editor, from your obedient servant,

"BE SHARP."

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Dear Sir,—Can any of the readers of this paper inform me by whom the Latin prayers up School were instituted ? Why should not the Boarding-houses at Westminster have a special grace before meals, as I believe is the case at Charterhouse and other Schools ? Hoping that this suggestion may not be too worthless to insert in your excellent paper,

I remain, yours, etc., "AGAMEMNON."

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Sir,—I feel exceedingly indignant that you should insert notices in your paper which have no foundation at all. I refer to a few lines, which appeared, I think, in No. 4, about *Westminster School Past and Present*. You there said that there was a second edition just coming out. I have enquired and find that such is not at all the case; and at present there seems but little prospect of one's appearing. Take care in future, Mr. Editor, that what you say is true, or the consequences may be fatal. Yours truly, "SCOTLAND YARD."

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Dear Mr. Editor,—The audience at the entertainments on Wednesdays is not very good. Now, could not this small fault easily be removed? Cards, printed or otherwise, might be given to any boys on applying to one of the performers which would enable any number of his friends to come; and I think that whoever manage the performances might even venture to send out invitations to people living in the neighbourhood who take any interest in the School.

“BLACK KING.”

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Sir,—Why does not some enterprising chess-player start a chess tournament up Grants? I am sure it would be a much better institution than those useless draught ties which have been going on lately. I remain, yours truly,

“CANTANKEROUS.”

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

My dear Sir,—I have read your *House paper* with great interest, and I heartily congratulate you on your successful attempts. Might I offer to make a suggestion or two about the *Grantite*? Could you not insert at the head of letters to the paper their *subject*, as is seen in most papers? You might also forward a copy of the *G. R.* to other School papers, *etc.*, and thus start a *contemporary* column. With best wishes for the success of your paper,

I remain, Sir, yours sincerely, “J. H. C.”

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Dear Sir,—Why should not Grantites be allowed to toast during breakfast, after the same system which has existed up Rigauds and in College? Namely, that the first three fellows to ask the head, after grace, for leave to toast should be allowed to do so: it could do no possible harm nor create any disturbance. Hoping that I have not intruded too much on your valuable space, I remain yours truly,

“S. P. G.”

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Dear Sir,—May I enquire, through the agency of your columns, whether one has to be a double house-colour before one is allowed to wear a house colour “blazer,” as so many contradictory reports are circulated on this subject.

“3. XI. C.C.”

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Sir,—Why should not Grants start wooden racket ties on College court, or, perhaps, “wires” on the big court, as the latter game is in great want of encouragement at Westminster, and such an institution would give our house a better chance of winning the racket ties.

“PROPOSITOR.”

To the Editor of the *Grantite Review*.

Sir,—I think that if the authorities were not to give leave off station so much, the House would take a much more prominent place in the football field. As it is, I

frequently see fellows, with nothing at all the matter with them, sitting before the hall fire, either doing nothing or reading some worthless novel. Now, Sir, I propose that the same stringency should be observed with regard to giving leave off station as is now evinced in giving leave off School; and that none—except under extraordinary circumstances—should obtain leave unless the Doctor has previously enquired into his malady; but, at the same time, I would propose that leave be not refused to those who really wish to prepare work, as now-a-days, this is most necessary. Hoping that this disgraceful state of idleness will not continue any longer, I am, Sir, yours, &c.,

“EXCELSIOR.”

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

BE SHARP.—We have inserted your letter—though somewhat lengthily. At the same time, we don't see any reason why you should so terribly find fault with the last performance. *Could you have done any better yourself?*

BLACK KNIGHT.—As you will see from our present issue, your idea has been carried out.

SCOTLAND YARD.—We confess to a slight error; but we were ourselves deceived by a Bookseller about the book. Perhaps the Editor of *The Elizabethan* can give you some information as to the second edition.

BLACK KING.—Of course, Westminster's are allowed to bring any friends they like to the performance, and no cards are required at all. The practice of sending out invitations would certainly not be a bad one.

J. H. C.—Thank you for your wishes. We have contemplated both your suggestions, and mean some time or other to act upon them.

NOTICES.

All Contributions to be clearly written on ONE side of the paper.

All Contributions and communications to be addressed to the Editor of *The Grantite Review*, 2, Little Deans Yard, S.W.

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FLOREAT.