



# The Elizabethan.

Vol. IV. No. 4.

WESTMINSTER, MAY 1883.

Price 6d.

## THE CONCERT.

THE Concert Day is again drawing near. We hope that before we go to press we may receive a full account and *critique* of this year's performance, and be able to chronicle in this number its comparative success or failure. But as the subject is at this time of the year before the minds of those who are not taken up with the pressure of election work, it may not be out of place to review generally its course from the beginning.

The concert in its present form was started in the year 1870, as a small compensation for the Play, which was unavoidably dropped in that year. Since that time it has been continued without interruption. Before 1870, there had been a break of some years between the old concerts, got up under the superintendence of Mr. Turler, and the present concert. In the old times, the concert consisted of one hour's performance of sacred and one hour's performance of secular music.

But though the old concerts were continued for so many years under Mr. Turler, and the

present series have gone on without break since 1870, we are afraid that we cannot point to any great results, or flatter ourselves that they have been entirely successful.

With the kind assistance of O.W.W. we have several times been enabled to give a performance which has not altogether failed to give pleasure to the listeners; we have had good solos played and sung by present members of the School: but neither of these proves that the concert has distinctly fulfilled what we must imagine to be its object—namely, to stimulate the efforts of the singing-classes, and to assist in the musical education of the whole School. After thirteen years, not to take into account the older concerts, we might reasonably expect to hear far better part-singing than we hear at present, for part-singing is really the backbone of any musical performance, and is in our case the only test of the thoroughness of the work done by the classes.

The reason of our failure in this respect is not at once apparent. No one would for one moment attribute it to the music-masters, because all who have attended the singing-classes know well enough that they spare no

pains to make the classes sing the music which is given to them. It is true that we can never have bass and tenor voices properly developed ; but this drawback we share with every other public school. We are not able to have very frequent practices ; but in this other public schools are handicapped as severely as we are. A correspondent, whose letter will be found in another part of our columns, attributes our failure to 'the low and uncultured style of music which is put into the hands of the singing-classes,' and suggests as a remedy that we should practise some of the less difficult choruses in Handel's operas. And undoubtedly if the music sung were of a higher class than at present, more interest in the concert would be felt by outsiders, and the members of the classes would show more enthusiasm at the practices. We think that in this the advice of our correspondent might be followed with advantage, for we should at least have the satisfaction of knowing that, however imperfect our performance of them might be, familiarity with the melodies and phrases of Handel could not but have a good effect on the School.

But whether or not our correspondent is right as to the cause of our failure, it is manifest that the concert is in anything but a hopeful state, and that it is high time that steps should be taken to make the performance more worthy of the great name of the School.

---

## 'OLD WESTMINSTERS.'

No. XXV.

(Continued from page 22.)

---

### EDWARD GIBBON.

'THE lives of scholars,' says Mr. Morison in his work on Gibbon, 'are proverbially dull, and that of Gibbon is hardly an exception to the rule. In the case of historians, the protracted silent labour of preparation, followed by the conscientious exposition of knowledge acquired, into which the intrusion of the writer's personality rarely appears to advantage, combine to give prominence to the work achieved, and to throw into the background the author who achieves it.' In our last number we endeavoured to set forth the principal points of interest which connect Gibbon with his school ; in the present it is unnecessary to do more than briefly to notice the leading incidents of his subsequent not very eventful life.

Gibbon, as we have seen, became a Roman Catholic and left Oxford in the summer of 1753. His father, horrified at his son's change of creed, lost no time in putting him under counteracting influences.

Gibbon's reception into the Roman Catholic Church took place in London on the 8th of June ; and at the end of the same month he found himself at Lausanne, under the charge of M. Pavillard, a Calvinist minister, who was both to direct his studies and to reconvert him as soon as possible to his former faith. The latter part of his duty was soon accomplished—either Gibbon's new belief was the result of a mere boyish impulse which had no time to take deep root, or the arguments of M. Pavillard were irresistible. In Gibbon's own words, 'the various articles of the Romish creed disappeared like a dream,' and by the end of 1754 he was again a Protestant. He felt the change from his luxurious life in Magdalen to dull existence at Lausanne ; but during the five years he spent there, he did what he probably would never have done in a lifetime at Oxford—he laid the foundation of the vast and extensive learning on which his fame rests. Pavillard, though no doubt a skilled controversialist, was not a profound scholar. 'When he felt that I advanced beyond his speed and measure,' says Gibbon, 'he wisely left me to my genius.' His genius was supplemented by hard work, as may be imagined when we hear that in the course of a single year he read through Virgil, Sallust, Livy, Velleius Paterculus, Valerius Maximus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Quintus Curtius, Justin, Florus, Plautus, Terence, and Lucretius, besides other reading. During this period he was introduced to Voltaire, and had the satisfaction of hearing him 'declaim his own productions on the stage'; but no intimacy resulted from the meeting. To this time, too, must be referred Gibbon's first and last *affaire de cœur*, which has rather unaccountably excited much more attention than its exceedingly prosaic nature would seem to deserve. The object of his affection was Mademoiselle Curchod, who afterwards became celebrated as the wife of M. Necker. Gibbon's father refused to hear of the alliance, and the engagement terminated without greatly disturbing the equanimity of either of the parties concerned. Gibbon's conduct was that of a man who, as Mr. Morison remarks, 'behaved neither heroically nor meanly.' Altogether, he seems to have been as little deserving of the moral denunciations pronounced upon him by Rousseau, as of the ridicule heaped on the affair by George Colman, who, as being himself an Old Westminister, should have had more patriotism than to do so.

In 1758 Gibbon left Lausanne, and for the next five years remained in England. Half of this period was spent in serving with the militia, in which occupation he at first found so much pleasure that he thought seriously of entering the army—an idea which he soon abandoned. He was, however, interested in his work while it lasted, and many years afterwards made in his Memoirs the oft-quoted remark that, 'the captain of the Hampshire grenadiers has not been useless to the historian of the Roman Empire'; a remark the truth of which can be doubted by no one who reads the vivid accounts of campaigns in which 'The Decline and Fall' abounds. His father about this time offered to bear the expense of providing a seat in Parliament for him ; but for a Parliamentary life Gibbon had no

inclination, and his good sense showed him that his talents were not those which contribute to the success of such a career. He accordingly, in 1763, again left England—this time for a foreign tour, the ultimate object of which was Italy. But he spent some time in getting there. After a few months' stay in Paris he set out for Lausanne, where he remained for a year, which was chiefly passed in a severe study of Italian antiquities; he then at last proceeded southwards, and took up his abode at Rome. It was here, as he tells us in another well-known passage of his *Memoirs*, that the idea of his great work first occurred to him. 'It was at Rome,' he says, 'on the 15th of October, 1764, as I sat musing amidst the ruins of the Capitol, while the bare-footed friars were singing vespers in the temple of Jupiter, that the idea of writing the *Decline and Fall* of the city first started to my mind. But my original plan was circumscribed to the decay of the city rather than that of the empire; and though my reading and reflections began to point towards that object, some years elapsed, and several avocations intervened, before I was seriously engaged in the execution of that laborious work.' Before his journey abroad he had had other designs for historical works, such as the *Crusade of Richard I.*, the expedition of Charles VIII. of France into Italy, and the life of Sir Philip Sidney; but all of these ideas were abandoned almost as soon as they were undertaken. He actually began a *Life of Sir Walter Raleigh*, which he gave up after half a year's work with the words, 'I must embrace a safer and more extensive theme.'

In 1765 Gibbon returned to England, where he lived with his father, until the latter's death in 1770, before which his son had written and published two or three of his minor works. After his father's death he settled in London, where he soon had many friends—among them Goldsmith and Sir Joshua Reynolds. But he was now beginning to be famous; three years after his settlement in London the first volume of '*The Decline and Fall*' appeared, which had cost him seven years' labour. Great as the work was, Gibbon had to all appearance been so little occupied with the severer labours of composition, that his friends were alarmed when they heard that what they thought must be an immature and hastily-prepared book was actually in the press. He first did his reading and then his writing separately, making himself thoroughly master of his subject before he put pen to paper. He never hurried himself. 'Three times,' he says, 'did I compose the first chapter, and twice the second and third, before I was tolerably satisfied with their effect.' The two final chapters needed 'three successive revisions to reduce them from a volume to their present size.' When the book appeared, its success was immediate and complete. This was in February, 1776. Even when first sitting down to write he does not seem to have anticipated the length of the labour upon which he had entered; after an account of the various authorities he consulted for the different parts of the work he says, 'I almost grasped the ruins of Rome in the fourteenth century, without suspecting that this final chapter must be attained by the labour of six quartos and twenty years.' The five succeeding

volumes were more rapidly written, when the foundation was once laid. The second and third volumes appeared in 1781.

It was while he was still engaged on the first volume, that one morning, 'as he was destroying an army of barbarians,' a friend rapped at his door and inquired if he was desirous of entering the House of Commons. Fourteen years had elapsed since that idea had been first presented to him by his father; then he had declined it, now he accepted it, and was returned for the borough of Liskeard after the general election of 1774. His political career was in no way remarkable. His natural shrinking timidity, which always kept him quiet when Dr. Johnson was present, prevented his ever opening his mouth in the House; and though he sat in Parliament during a most exciting period of history, his unemotional nature does not appear to have been stirred by any political enthusiasm. He voted steadily with Lord North's Government, in hopes, no doubt, of obtaining some sinecure. He was eventually made a Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, but only held the post for about three years. In 1783 he went abroad for a third time to Lausanne, and there after four more years of quiet, unflagging work, 'on the day, or rather the night, of the 27th of June, 1787, between the hours of eleven and twelve,' the last lines of the last page were written. '*The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*' was finished. Gibbon immediately returned to England, and on the 8th of May, 1788, the three concluding volumes were published.

The same spring of 1788 that saw the end of the labour of one Old Westminster, saw the beginning of the trial of another on grave charges connected with affairs of State. Warren Hastings and Gibbon must have been at Westminster together. Hastings entered college head of his Election in 1747, and left for India at the end of 1749. Gibbon, as we have seen, came in January 1749; but there can have been little in common between the small town-boy in the under-school and the brilliant King's scholar, whose early departure Dr. Nicoll bemoaned as the loss of 'the best scholar of the year.' Now, nearly forty years afterwards, they met again at Westminster—one the greatest living historian, the other the ex-Governor-General of India. Macaulay, in his famous description of the scene of Hastings' trial in Westminster Hall, has not forgotten to notice how, among the spectators, 'the historian of the Roman Empire thought of the days when Cicero pleaded the cause of Sicily against Verres, and when, before a senate which still retained some show of freedom, Tacitus thundered against the oppressor of Africa.' Gibbon's presence must probably have been noticed, for Sheridan, in the course of his celebrated speech, spoke as follows, 'I do say, that if you search the history of the world, you will not find an act of tyranny and fraud to surpass this. If you read all past histories, peruse the *Annals of Tacitus*, read the luminous page of Gibbon, and all the ancient or modern writers that have searched into the depravity of former ages, to draw a lesson for the present, you will not find an act of treacherous, deliberate, cool

cruelty that could exceed this!' Gibbon was delighted; he mentioned the circumstance in letters to his friends, and thus speaks of it in his Memoirs. 'Before my departure from England, I was present at the august spectacle of Mr. Hastings' trial in Westminster Hall. It is not my province to absolve or condemn the Governor of India, but Mr. Sheridan's eloquence demanded my applause; nor could I hear without emotion the personal compliment that he paid me in the presence of the British nation.' Let us hope that the simple-minded Gibbon never knew that Sheridan, on being subsequently asked how he could call Gibbon's work luminous, replied in a stage aside, 'I called it voluminous.'

Gibbon did not long survive the completion of his great work. He returned once more to his favourite Lausanne; but his health was impaired, he had grown very corpulent, and suffered fearfully from gout. The news of the death of Lady Sheffield, the wife of one of his oldest friends, recalled him to England in 1793, in spite of the disturbed state of the country through which he had to travel. His own death followed rather suddenly six months afterwards. He was attacked by dropsy, and had for years neglected and concealed dangerous symptoms. He died in London on the 16th of January, 1794, being then within a few months of fifty-seven years of age. Several of his miscellaneous works were published after his death by his friend Lord Sheffield.

His connection with Westminster was, as we have seen, comparatively slight, and exercised but little influence over his career; that he took interest, however, in that connection is proved by the fact of his correspondence with Dr. Vincent on the subject only a few months before his death. A Westminster man who reads the account in Gibbon's posthumous works of the manner in which the plays of Plautus and of Terence were represented in an Italian form by the princes of the House of Este, cannot help thinking that Gibbon's mind must have recurred as he penned those lines to the time when he himself must have witnessed some of those plays acted by his school-fellows in the original language in the Dormitory at Westminster.

## THE CONCERT.

THE annual School Concert took place this year on Thursday, April 26, when the programme was as follows:—

### FIRST PART.

1. PART SONG 'Now let us make the welkin ring' *Hatton.*
2. SONG ... 'Trusty as Steel' ... *Pinsuti.*  
M. R. BETHUNE.
3. SOLO VIOLIN ... { 'Berceuse' } ... *Henri Reber.*  
  { 'Mélodie' } ... *Moszkowski.*  
J. TROUTBECK, Esq.
4. PART SONG ... 'Song of the Wind' ... *G. Hine.*
5. SONG ... 'Margherita' ... *Poniatowski.*  
E. BRAY, Esq.
6. SERENADE ... 'Awake! Awake!' ... *Piatti.*  
C. CLARKE, J. G. TANNER, and C. ERSKINE.
7. CHORUS ... 'Hail to the Bride' ... *Wagner.*
8. SONG ... 'Barcarolle' ... *Gounod.*  
G. GUMBLETON, Esq.

9. DUET ... 'Maying' *Alice Mary Smith.*  
C. A. W. SHACKLETON and F. B. HOSKINS.
10. FOUR-PART SONG 'The Chafers' ... *Trühn.*  
C. BRISTOWE, C. ROGERS, P. DRUITT, M. BETHUNE,  
A. MARKHAM, E. SHARPE, F. COLLER, H. WATERFIELD,  
and A. UPCOTT, Esq.
11. PIANOFORTE SOLO { 'Schlummerlied' } ... *Hiller.*  
  { 'Ballade' }  
  { 'Capriccietto' }  
C. ERSKINE.
12. PART SONG ... 'Hark! the Merry Drum' ... *Krug.*

### SECOND PART.

1. CHORUS ... 'The Joy of the Hunter' ... *Weber.*
2. SONG ... 'Sigh no more, ladies' ... *Stevens.*  
E. BRAY, Esq.
3. SOLO VIOLIN 'Andante and Allegretto' ... *Handel.*  
J. TROUTBECK, Esq.
4. PART SONG ... { 'Oh, Summer Wind' } *Cruickshank.*  
  { 'Evening' }
5. SONG ... 'Down the long Avenue' ... *Molloy.*  
G. E. M. EDEN.
6. TRIO ... 'The May Fly' ... *Calcott.*  
H. FARMER, L. HANMER, and F. COLLER.
7. SONG 'I'll sing thee songs of Araby' ... *F. Clay.*  
G. GUMBLETON, Esq.
8. PART SONG 'It was a Lover and his Lass' *Booth.*
9. SONG ... 'Sleep on, dear love' ... *Finsuti.*  
H. FARMER.
10. PART SONG 'The Mermaid's Invitation' *R. Prentice.*  
(For Boys only.)
11. CHORUS 'Foresters, sound the cheerful horn' *Bishop.*

### GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

After the opening chorus had been well sung and with considerable precision, M. R. Bethune began his solo rather nervously; but, gaining courage as he went on, earned a well-deserved encore, for which he sang O. Barri's 'No Surrender.' J. Troutbeck, Esq., followed with a Berceuse of Reber's and a lovely 'Mélodie' of Moszkowski's; after which the chorus in the 'Song of the Wind' *hushed* so effectually that it was a little difficult to discover at what precise moment their efforts succeeded. In place of No 5 Mr. Bray sang Stevens' 'Sigh no more, ladies,' so exquisitely that he was called upon to repeat the last verse.

Perhaps No. 6 was the gem of the first part; and it would be invidious to draw any distinction between the three performers where the voice part was so sweetly sung, the violin *obbligato* so remarkable for perfection of time and purity of tone, and the piano part really accompanied—a thing not so easy as it sounds. 'Hail to the bride' was rather ugly, and not very well sung; but Mr. Gumbleton was rapturously encored for his singing of Gounod's Barcarolle from 'Polyeucte,' in which he revelled in high B flats to his heart's content. In 'Maying' it was amusing to hear one at least of the singers as they wished 'they were like children.' In the 'Chafers'—sung without the notes—the audience recognised, and apparently welcomed, an old friend. The encore that was obtained was partly due to the kind assistance of Mr. Upcott. Of Erskine's piano solos the first two were admirably played, and all with very great taste and expression. We shall look forward with keen interest to hearing him again. In 'Hark! the merry drum' it would

have been impossible not to hark to the drum, which Smythe played with the true military roll.

After a short pause, the second part opened with a well-known chorus from 'Der Freischütz'; after which Mr. Bray sang one of Sullivan's settings of one of the 'Songs of the Wren,' which was encored—a compliment which was not, but might well have been, paid to Mr. J. Troutbeck's admirable rendering of another old favourite (No. 3). Two short choruses followed; and then came G. E. M. Eden's song, of which the encore was due even more to the singer than to the singing. The trio that followed was neatly sung, but rather wanting in power; and Mr. Gumbleton again favoured the audience with the ever-welcome 'I'll sing thee songs of Araby,' and was again encored. The part-song that followed was safely completed, in spite of its complications; and H. Farmer sang his solo (misprinted 'Keep on,' instead of 'Sleep on, dear love') so well that he would have been encored had time permitted. Of No. 10 we can only say that mermaids who expect their invitations to be accepted should couch them in more seductive tones. After our experience in the last chorus of the first part, we had fully expected to hear, or at least to see, the cheerful horn as an adjunct to No. 11; but perhaps the authorities had reasons for deeming this unadvisable.

The whole was brought to a conclusion by one verse of 'God save the Queen,' sung in unison, in which the audience heartily joined; and much amusement was created by a solitary 'Encore!' shouted by one specially loyal subject of Her Majesty.

Mr. Ranalow conducted, and Mr. Pettit presided at the piano, as usual.

### School Notes.

THE Cheyne Mathematical Prizes have been awarded as follows—the Senior to J. E. Phillimore, who will be eligible for the Junior Prize two years more, and the Junior to R. C. M. Symms, Q.S.

The Phillimore English Essay Prize has been awarded to C. C. J. Webb, Q.S. Accessit, A. M. T. Jackson. The subject was 'The Comparative Strength and Weakness of Sparta and Athens.'

The Prize for Greek Prose has been gained by W. G. Hewitt. Accessit, O. Scoones, Q.S.

Meetings have been held of the Literary Society this term, at which Shakespeare's 'Hamlet,' 'Midsummer Night's Dream,' 'Coriolanus,' 'Taming of the Shrew,' and 'Macbeth' have been read.

The Right Honourable Sir William Baliol Brett, who has been appointed Master of the Rolls by the Queen, on Mr. Gladstone's recommendation, is the son of the late Rev. J. G. Brett, of Ranelagh, Chelsea. He was born in August 1817, and was educated at Westminster and at Caius College, Cambridge, where he obtained a place as Senior Optime in the Mathematical Tripos 1839. He was called to the

Bar at Lincoln's Inn in January 1846, and was made a Queen's Counsel in 1860. He unsuccessfully contested Rochdale in the Conservative interest in 1864 and 1865, but was returned for Helston in 1866, which place he continued to represent until August 1868, when he was appointed a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. He had held the office of Solicitor-General in Mr. Disraeli's first Administration from the previous February until the date of his elevation to the Bench. In November 1876 he was appointed a Lord Justice of Appeal.

In consequence of Easter falling early this year, Election has been postponed till a week after the ordinary time.

We have to acknowledge, with thanks, the following contributions towards the new Library:—

	£. s.
From the Rev. T. Chamberlain . . . . .	3 3
„ F. Lemoine Denman, Esq.—Burger's 'Commentatio de Personis.'	3 3
„ Major W. J. Elliott—'The Victoria Cross Heroes' (of which he is joint-author).	3 3
„ E. V. Arnold, Esq. . . . .	5 0
„ W. A. Peck, Esq. . . . .	5 0

### Obituary.

WE regret to have to announce the death of an Old Westminster, Charles Carroll McNamara, Esq., which took place on Thursday, April 19, from the effects of typhoid fever. He was admitted into College as a Præ-electus in January 1873, and afterwards became a member of Oriel College, Oxford. He took a second-class in law, and had only just been called to the Bar when he was attacked by the fever from which he never recovered.

## NOTES AND QUERIES.

### QUERIES.

LIBERTY BOY TABLETS.—I understand that, 'Liberty Boys' having been abolished, the custom of inscribing the names on the tablets in College Dormitory has been for the time suspended. I shall be glad to know if any decision has been arrived at as to the use to which these tablets are to be put, or whether for the future they are to remain blank.

### OLD Q.S.

THE RACQUET-COURT GHOST.—There is an old story of a Junior Q.S. who, being chased by the Seniors and hard pressed, found his way to the roof of Dormitory, missed his footing, and, falling on to the Racquet Courts, was killed. His ghost, I believe, is supposed to haunt the scene of his untimely destruction. Might not he be the ghost of the Q.S. who is reported to play racquets during the Dress Rehearsal, as there is some dispute about the latter's identity?

### SPLASH.

[We have often heard that the spectral racquet-

player was starved to death in College. Is this the same ghost, or another? We should be glad to have some more information on this point.—ED.]

## NOTES.

BUSBY TRUSTEES (Vol. iii. p. 275).—The Busby Trustees, who are a body of O.W.W. appointed to take charge of a fund bequeathed by Dr. Busby for the augmentation of the incomes of poor livings, at their annual dinner, to which the Head-Master and Under-Master (latterly the Master of Q.SS.) are by ancient custom invited, ask for a Late Play to be granted to the School.

## DEBATING SOCIETY.

THE Society's officers for this term are :—

President . . . .	Rev. W. FAILES.
Vice-President . . . .	H. C. PECK.
	(in place of A. E. R. BEDFORD, resigned).
Secretary . . . . .	S. H. CLARKE.
Treasurer . . . . .	M. H. M. T. PIGOTT.
	(in place of H. C. PECK, Vice-President).

The first meeting was held on February 1st, to discuss A. Rogers's motion, 'That for the future no member, even if he has been duly elected, shall be allowed to take his seat until he has paid his customary one shilling subscription.'

The Proposer discussed at length the extremely shady character the subscription had as yet held, many being doubtful as to whether it ought to be paid or not.

C. J. Shebbeare, in seconding the motion, objected to the proposer's statement about the subscription's 'shady character.' He said that formerly he himself had, as Treasurer, collected several subscriptions, and duly delivered them to the Treasurer of *The Elizabethan*.

F. T. Higgins, the opposer, objected to the nature of the subscription. He thought that the Debating Society had nothing to do with *The Elizabethan*.

A. E. Bedford proposed an amendment, by which all members of the Society already elected, but who had not paid, should be compelled to do so, which was accepted.

On a division being taken, the numbers were :

Ayes . . . . .	23
Noes . . . . .	9

The motion was therefore carried by 14 votes.

On February 8th A. E. Bedford proposed :

'That in the opinion of this Society it is desirable that every member of the School be obliged to pay an annual subscription to *The Elizabethan*, which subscription shall be paid through the bills sent in at Christmas.'

The proposer complained of the deficient sale of *The Elizabethan* amongst the lower members of the School, and said that no parent or guardian, however miserly, could object to such a trifling addition to the bills.

C. Shebbeare (seconder) thought *The Elizabethan* a very good paper, when contrasted with other school periodicals.

G. Ince (opposer) objected to compulsory patriotism or amusement, nor did he wish to see parents illegally deprived of money. A volunteer staff, in his opinion, might possibly produce some good effect.

O. Scoones read some extracts from contemporary periodicals to show that *The Elizabethan* was quite up to the standard, if it did not surpass it. The larger the sale, the greater the profit.

On a division the result was :

Ayes . . . . .	37
Noes . . . . .	2

Majority for the motion 35.

At a meeting of the Society on February 15th, G. Ince proposed a vote of censure on S. H. Clarke, the Secretary of the Society, for his omitting to record a rule that was to have been brought on at that meeting.

After some discussion on the general behaviour of the Secretary, the motion for the vote of censure was withdrawn.

The House then proceeded to discuss G. Ince's motion advocating the abolition of the House of Lords, in which he was seconded by A. G. L. Rogers, and opposed by C. J. Shebbeare, which was divided on with the result :

Ayes . . . . .	7
Noes . . . . .	24

The motion therefore was lost by 17 votes.

On February 27th C. J. Shebbeare's motion on Mr. Bradlaugh was discussed. It took the following form :

'That this Society regrets that Mr. Bradlaugh has resorted to a public demonstration as a means of obtaining his seat in Parliament.'

After a short speech from the proposer, the motion was withdrawn.

On March 21st G. Ince proposed a motion advocating the restoration of the system of black-balling. The proposer complained of the number of members who never spoke. The Society ought to be smaller and more select.

C. J. Shebbeare seconded the motion. He thought the Society less select than when he was elected.

H. C. Peck opposed.

After A. Rogers had proposed an amendment for a Select Committee, which was rejected, the house divided as follows :

Ayes . . . . .	6
Noes . . . . .	19

Majority against the motion, 13.

## CRICKET NOTES.

The match against the Old Haileyburians was, on the whole, fairly successful. We were glad to see Higgins make his century, but would like to remind him that there is no necessity to let out at a short one, even though he has made a hundred ; but our batting, taking it all round, was of a very moderate descrip-

tion. Thorne, who seems to have lost his form completely, was bowled by a short one; Tritton began very slack; Hoskins did not seem to think it was worth while playing at the ball which bowled him; Armitage was bowled with a rank long hop; Hurst may make something of a bat by-and-by. Our fielding was fair: Gibson appears likely to be very good in that department; Tritton bowled in his old form; and Armitage promises to be useful. There is a fine opening for an enterprising youngster who can wicket-keep.

With regard to the cricket of the other games, Home Boarders have a good second team. Canning and Paul are good all-round men; H. Tritton got seven wickets for thirteen runs against a scratch XI; Drakeford also can bowl a bit; Page is a very hard hitter.

Rigaud's youngsters are very smart in the field, Berens and Harrison having both brought off fine catches; their batting talent is fair. Sandilands is an excellent field, and can bowl, as he showed in the XI. and XXII. match; Berens, Man, and Sutherland also bowl. Jarvis ought to make a fair bat.

Grant's have some good men in McCance, Ruston, and Teake; Moon is a hard smiter, and is said to be some use behind the sticks; Leake, Kaye and Ruston do most of the bowling.

College has a good hitter in Ellis; James has the making of a good bat in him, so has Lowe; Aris is a smart man; Bellairs and Sherring bowl; O. Scoones did some tall scoring against Rigaud's second team.

There are 7 of last year's Eleven now at the School, and there will be 5 next term.

Thompson has got his pink and white; James and Aris are on the Second Eleven pitch.

Ingram, Canning, Paul, Lowe, McCance, Ruston, and Shore have got their Third Eleven caps.

## CRICKET.

### WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. O. HAILEY-BURIANS.

The match was played on Saturday, April 21st, and resulted in a draw in our favour. Higgins won the toss, and he and Bedford went to the wickets to the bowling of Harrison and Gascoyne. Bedford played steadily at first, but Higgins soon began to score. A change of bowling was tried, Ponsonby taking the place of Harrison. But still the scoring progressed steadily, and it was not till 43 had been chronicled on the telegraph board that Bedford was caught at the wicket off Gascoyne for 11. Tritton joined Higgins, but after making 5 was caught at slip

by Gascoyne off Harrison, where also Stanfield was caught the next ball but one off the same bowler. Eden made 6, and was then bowled by Harrison; Thorne being also dismissed (his second ball) by him (5 for 99); but on Rogers joining Higgins, who had been playing faultlessly all this time, a second stand was made. Rogers hit vigorously, but after making 13, was caught at the wicket off Ponsonby. Hoskins made a single, and both he and Armitage were bowled by successive balls from Harrison. Hurst came in to see Higgins make his 100 by a splendid drive for 6, but after making 6 more was caught in the long field by Ponsonby. He went in first and was not out till after the fall of the ninth wicket. His score comprised a six, a five, 12 threes, 10 twos, and was compiled with only one very hard left-hand chance just after he had completed his 100. Hurst made 3, and was then bowled by Harrison, Gibson being not out, and thus the innings closed for 164.

The visitors having only about forty-five minutes to get 164 runs, sent in C. Gurdon and Debenham to the bowling of Higgins and Tritton. Higgins bowled the last-named batsman on his third over, and Newton, who had joined C. Gurdon, was dismissed by Tritton in his fourth over. C. Gurdon and Gascoyne gave some little trouble, but the former, after making 14, was dismissed by a good ball from Armitage. Gascoyne and Ponsonby were bowled by Tritton for 10 and 1 respectively, but E. T. Gurdon and Jellicoe played out time, the former not out for 12, the score being 44 for 5 wickets, of which Tritton, who had been bowling well, had taken 3. Appended is the full score and bowling analysis:—

#### WESTMINSTER SCHOOL.

F. T. Higgins (capt.) c. Ponsonby b. Gascoyne...	108
A. E. R. Bedford, c. C. Gurdon, b. Gascoyne ...	11
C. B. Tritton, c. Gascoyne, b. Harrison.....	5
A. J. C. Stanfield, c. Gascoyne, b. Harrison.....	0
G. E. M. Eden, b. Harrison .....	6
F. G. Thorne, b. Harrison .....	0
A. G. L. Rogers, c. C. Gurdon, b. Ponsonby ...	13
H. F. Hoskins, b. Harrison.....	1
A. Armitage, b. Harrison.....	0
A. R. Hurst, b. Harrison.....	3
C. Gibson, not out.....	0
Wides 10, byes 4, l.-byes 2, no balls 1 .....	17
Total .....	164

#### OLD HAILEYBURIANS.

C. Gurdon, b. Armitage .....	14
H. A. Debenham, b. Higgins .....	0
J. F. Newton, b. Tritton .....	4
G. Gascoyne, b. Tritton .....	10
H. S. Ponsonby, b. Tritton .....	1
E. T. Gurdon, not out .....	12
H. W. Jellicoe, not out .....	0
C. E. Baker	} did not bat.
A. F. Randolph	
F. O. Harrison	
L.-byes 3.....	3
Total .....	44

#### BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Overs.	Maidens.	Wkts.	Runs.	No Balls.	Wides.
Higgins...	7	2	1	13	0	0
Tritton ...	12	3	3	16	0	0
Armitage.	5	0	1	12	0	0

## Correspondence.

## AN APPEAL.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—The text on which, with your permission, I purpose to discourse is to be found in No. 1, Vol. iv. of *The Elizabethan*, just received—"Balance due to Messrs. Spottiswoode, 21. 14s. 6d." In the whole course of its existence (just nine years) so large a deficiency has, I believe, never been known, and unless O.W.W. put their shoulders to the wheel, or, in plain words, put their hands into their purses to wipe away this large debt, it is just possible that *The Elizabethan* may meet the fate of previous Westminster periodicals and die an early death. The post of Treasurer is an arduous and thankless one. I know how hard it is to extract the subtle sixpence from boys' pockets at School, especially towards the end of term. Few somehow can produce 'a tanner' once a month for their School paper, but many find that they can spend that sum each week, or even every day, at Sutcliffe's—which things, though an anomaly, are, I fear, but too true. You cannot impress on the ordinary schoolboy that, even if each number is not quite as full of news as a daily paper, it is still the duty of everyone to subscribe to it for the sake of the School. Until the system (in vogue in other schools) of entering the cost of the paper in the bills of the boys is started at Westminster, the paper will still remain a losing concern. Far be it from me to attach any blame to the Treasurer. Even the most energetic holder of that thankless post will find it a Herculean labour to extract subscriptions from present as well as past Westminsters. But, if my memory serves me right, twice within the past six years has the retiring Treasurer handed over his charge to his successor almost, if not entirely, free from debt. I am open to correction; but I believe the Treasurer in my year, just before retiring from his post, by dint of almost superhuman exertions at the very commencement of the term was able to reduce a debt of several pounds to one of two or three. How, then, I am obliged to ask, has so large a debt again been incurred? It can be (and I believe it has been) shown that if every boy at School and every O.W. who subscribed to the paper paid his money regularly, there would be a nice little balance over and above the expenses incurred in printing, which might be used to advantage in the school. To me in India *The Elizabethan* forms a connecting link with the old School. Through it alone I am kept informed of what goes on there, and I have therefore an object which others living in England, who can keep up their acquaintance with Westminster by periodical visits, do not perhaps possess. But I would beg of all O.W.W. who are earning their living to do their utmost to get the paper out of debt, and having done so, to help by regular subscriptions to keep it going. It would be humiliating, with so large a number of O.W.W., increasing every year, to think that *The Elizabethan* conducted on better lines, issued with greater regularity, and in every way better worth support than previous Westminster periodicals, after living nine years had at last collapsed owing to want of pecuniary support.

I have no intention of preaching what I cannot practise myself, so I beg to send you a money order for 2l. 10s., of which I want 1l. 10s. to be considered in the light of a donation, the rest to be disposed of according to private instructions, wishing *The Elizabethan* a prosperous future and a speedy to release from its present pecuniary embarrassment.

I am, yours truly,  
E. A. B.

City, Ahmedabad, India.

## THE SIZE OF 'THE ELIZABETHAN.'

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—It is with a hope that I may be able to extract one or two of the thorns which stuff your editorial chair that I ask for space in which to reply to the challenge thrown down in your last number by 'Another Subscription Payer.'

'Another Subscription Payer' is apparently a 'good O.W. who has properly filed the back numbers of *The Elizabethan*.' All honour be to him for it, and may all good O.W.W. follow his good example! I must now ask him to take his file and turn to *The Elizabethan* for July, 1877, Vol. II., No. 1, p. 1, where he will read as follows—'At the beginning it was specified that ten numbers should be brought out yearly—nine regular ones and an extra Play number.' The editorial from which this quotation comes then proceeds to apologise for the production of only twenty-seven numbers in the three years, which complete the first Volume. Your correspondent will now be able 'to see how the "regulation 30" figure is arrived at.' It is perfectly true, as we all know, that that figure never has been hitherto reached in the course of actual publication. In the first volume the omission in one year of the Play rendered the publication of a Play number for that year impossible, and two other numbers failed—I fear, through editorial carelessness. In Vol. II., which goes from July 1877 to April 1880, there are only twenty-four numbers, mainly because the editor for 1878 was so lamentably incapable that he only issued five numbers during that year; and inasmuch as the Play for that year was stopped after the first night's performance, because of the death of the Princess Alice, the Play number again did not appear. From the beginning of 1879, ten numbers have always been published regularly; it was impossible to bring Vol. II. up to its proper size, but had Vol. III. been continued to the usual time, last month's number would have been the thirtieth—and for the first time we should have had the full-sized volume which I and, no doubt, many others were looking forward to. I conclude, however, though you have not told us so, that the real reason for the change was that the new volume might always begin with a new year and under a new editor—a plan which, no doubt, has much to recommend it.

With regard to the number of pages, it was resolved by those who had charge of *The Elizabethan* in 1879, that to make up as far as possible for the shortcomings of their predecessors in the preceding year, the numbers published should, as far as possible, consist of twelve pages and not of eight as formerly. The result of this was the twenty-four numbers of Vol. II. contain six pages more than the twenty-seven numbers of Vol. I. I think a notice of the above-mentioned resolution was inserted in the Ledger. If 'Another Subscription Payer' will look through the back numbers for the last four years, I think he will find that the majority of them contain twelve pages or more, and very few of them less than ten pages.

I must apologise for a second lengthy trespass on your space and on your readers' patience, and for consistency's sake must once more subscribe myself,

ONE WHO HAS PAID HIS SUBSCRIPTION.

## RIGAUD'S v. GRANT'S.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I wish to correct an error in the March number of your valuable paper. In the account of the final House Match you said that Rigaud's beat us, two goals to one; but we did not manage to score a single goal.

Yours, &c.,  
CHISWICK.

## THE CONCERT.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—I wish to know whether those fellows who go to singing are alone allowed to perform at our concerts. I ask this because I know of three instruments in the School, who, though I am not sure whether they would be able or courageous enough to perform, yet at present have no opportunity of doing so, through their not attending the singing-classes and so becoming known. Is there any rule about this? For surely the musical ability of the School is not necessarily confined to the singing-classes; but those who attend drawing in preference may yet have some music in them, which, according to present custom, cannot be made use of. I do not mean to offer any



suggestions as to the discovery of musical ability among the drawing-classes, for I know that valuable advice, which appears periodically in the letters of your paper, is seldom treated as such, judging by results. I merely wish, therefore, to put it to the consideration of the authorities, whether a higher standard might not be reached in our School concerts if those who draw might yet be supposed to be so accomplished as to sing or play as well.

Offering the customary apology for encroaching on your 'valuable space,' and yet hoping this may do so,

I remain,

Yours truly,  
Αδλητής.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—It is in the hope that it will reach you before *The Elizabethan* goes to press that I write this letter. It must strike anyone very forcibly on glancing down the list of composers on the concert programme that very few of them are of any note at all. In fact this year out of seventeen events assigned to performers from the School, only three were by composers of any distinction. It is a patent fact that the concert in its present form is a losing speculation, and undoubtedly the cause of this is the inferiority of the music performed.

I remain, Sir, yours truly,  
DICK.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—In the hope that I may call the attention of the authorities to a subject which is, I think, of some importance—the selection of part-music for practice in the singing-classes, and afterwards for performance at the concert—I ask you to insert the following letter in your columns.

At present the selection of part-songs is made, I am sure, very carelessly, for no one of any education or taste, if once he gave any serious consideration to the matter, could allow the singing-classes to practise one day a week for three terms the useless and often very harmful music which is now put into their hands.

Now, Sir, if the authorities in whose hands is the selection of the music believe (as I suppose they do believe) that good music has a good effect on the mind and that bad music has a perceptible bad effect, they must consider that it is of extreme importance what the music is which is given to the singing-classes for careful practice one day a week for three terms. The minds of the singers, Sir, must be simply impregnated with the music they practise so long and so diligently, and that while they are at the very time of life at which, we are taught, impressions are most readily received and tastes most easily formed. Now, Sir, I do not think that the authorities can be willing that the taste of the School should be formed to enjoy and admire the style of music to which the majority of the part-songs on the present programme belongs.

Therefore, though I am quite aware that when anyone proposes to give advice to those who may be supposed to have thoroughly weighed the arguments for and against what he proposes, at some previous time, to be thoroughly acquainted with the circumstances, and who will be the only persons responsible for carrying his advice into effect, it is a duty to speak with great caution and deference; yet I have no hesitation in saying that there can be no sufficient reason against the introduction of a higher class of music at the weekly practices and at the concert; for though there may be no good music quite so easy as some of the weakest pieces on our programme this year, yet I am sure that there is part-music of the first order which would not be harder than many of the more difficult songs which Mr. Ranałow has found it possible to teach the singing-classes. And surely if we cannot rise above the class of music which makes up the greater part of our present programme, it would be advisable to give up the concert altogether. For would it not be better, Sir, that its collapse should be quoted against the School outside than that its continuance should be

doing mischief within? But, however, I have no doubt that if better music were put into the hands of the classes, Mr. Ranałow would make them sing it, and would not rest till they had done it such justice as circumstances would permit. And I think that for his sake, too, it is the duty of the authorities to give better music for the practices, as nothing could be more trying than to find that after careful practice for three terms, the result produced can be only, at the best, commonplace.

The most suitable music in every way for our concerts would be Handel's operatic choruses, because there is no one who cannot appreciate it. The cultivated musician who understands Schubert and Wagner has never found anything that is more pleasing to him; the unmusical who are only just beginning to understand classical music at all (I do not suppose that there is a large class of this sort of people in England nowadays) understand Handel first of all.

Now, Sir, in many of Handel's Operas there are choruses which I am sure would be quite within our power. I am not sure whether there is any chorus in 'Acis and Galatea' which we could not sing; in the 'Ode on St. Cecilia's Day' there are several pieces which we should find no great difficulty in learning.

If we were to adopt the plan of Mr. Turle, and have a sacred hour, as well as a secular, I do not see why we should draw the line at the 'Dettingen Te Deum.'

Now, Sir, nothing is necessary but that the authorities should give these proposals serious consideration, and realise that after thirteen years of concerts it is high time to awake out of sleep.

I am, &c., &c.,  
THE MAN.

CRICKET.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

DEAR SIR,—Can you inform me why the captain of Cricket does not arrange a whole-day or half-day match for every Wednesday or Saturday during the Cricket season? If he did, I feel sure that our XI. would possess considerably more nerve than they generally do when the time for playing Charterhouse arrives.

The only objection that I have heard is that the game on one half-holiday a week is absolutely necessary for the Second XI.; but the Second XI. have an opportunity of playing in the big game every evening, and I humbly submit to the good sense of your readers that a foreign match is of infinitely more service to the XI. than any game could be to the Second XI. The great fault of our Cricket is want of nerve, which can never be remedied till we become thoroughly accustomed to facing foreign Elevens. Hoping that through the medium of your columns these remarks may reach the eye of the captain of Cricket,

Believe me,  
Yours obediently,  
OBSERVER.

THE SHAKESPEARIAN SOCIETY.

To the Editor of 'The Elizabethan.'

SIR,—May I be allowed in your columns to say a few words on a matter of grave import, which, indeed, goes far to imperil the very existence of this Society? So deeply am I impressed with the menacing aspect of the danger, that I tremble to think that the members of the Society are apparently quite unconscious of the danger in which they stand.

I allude, Sir, to the sinister circumstances which attended the last meeting of the Society, on April 21st. The chairman, as usual, was in his place, and the masters were in full force: but of the T.BB. there were only two representatives, doubtless, as far as quality goes, most efficient; of the Q.SS. there was only one, though he is one of their most gifted readers, on whose innate bashfulness I will not too rudely intrude by any more definite reference.

Now, Sir, what was the consequence of this sparse attendance?

The play set down was the latter half of 'Macbeth,' and there was a large number of parts to distribute among only seven persons. For my own part, I had no sooner realised my conversion into a First Murderer, and saturated myself, so to say, with blood, than I had to reappear as a Witch with a miscellaneous assortment of newts' eyes and frogs' toes and the other ghastly appurtenances of the infernal world. Then I became a Doctor with a case to diagnose passing medical skill, and had besides several other subsidiary parts thrown on my devoted shoulders.

Sir, these startling vicissitudes are beyond mortal strength, and they so far proved too much for my weak brain that I almost lost any sense of individuality at all, and several times since that fatal night I have been obliged to pinch myself in order to be quite sure I am not riding the air on a broomstick. I have some reason to believe other members of the Society were similarly affected. I therefore hope those who were absent on this occasion will feel some compunction for the mental wear and tear they thoughtlessly inflicted on those who were present. But, Sir, though this was bad, worse remains behind. I now come to the main point of my letter.

Never, Sir, while life lasts shall I forget the thrill of horror I felt on discovering that the Book, the sacred Minute Book—in which for all time are enshrined the records of the past—and its custodian, the Secretary, were conspicuous by their absence. This book I regard as the Palladium of the Society, or the Mace in the House of Commons, and I assert fearlessly that a meeting held in its absence—when no minutes can be read and actually no information given as to how the parts were filled at the previous meeting—is irreparably vitiated with the taint of informality and impiety, and is worse than if it had never been held. The only parallel I can suggest is the historic occasion on which the sacred chicken refused to eat.

There now remains the practical question—What can be done to allay the wrath of the justly offended gods?

The Romans, Sir, were wont in times of grave national danger to bury alive a Gallic man and woman in the Forum; and in this custom I have at last, with a sense of much relief, discerned a precedent to guide us in this portentous hour.

It only needs that the Secretary show the heroism of his race.

I propose, therefore (1), that the Secretary, clad in a white robe, ejaculating in a penitential tone, '*mea culpa, mea maxima culpa,*' and beating his breast, preceded by the President with bell and book (minute book), shall, on a night to be fixed, be conducted to the garden of Ashburnham House, and there caused to commit himself to the earth—book and all.

(2) That this Society, in order to show its generosity no less than its justice, do permit the Secretary's friends at their own expense to erect a memorial of the crime and the penalty, should they consider that conduct such as his merits aught but a nameless grave.

Finally, Sir, I hope that the Society, which is now a year old, surmounting the perils of sparse attendance and duly purged of impiety, may enter on a new lease of life and always enjoy the advantage of Secretaries as blameless—save, of course, in this one respect—as the present.

I am, Sir, &c.,

M.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

H. S. H.—Your letter is omitted from this number for want of space.

## Our Contemporaries.

RECEIVED *The Alleynian, The Blue, The Durham University Journal, The Felstedian* (2), *The Fettesian, The Lily, The Marlburian, The Malvernian, The Meteor, The Ousel, The Portsmouthian, The Tonbridgian* (2).

Some misguided being has been induced by the over-indulgence of too-partial friends to send a poem (?) consisting of a series of execrable puns to *The Alleynian*. To take out the taste of this there is an article on humour, which among the ancient humorists places Homer and Herodotus.

*The Durham University Journal* 'jots' down some very fine pieces of translation; e.g., '*nautica ministeria*' = 'chaplains of the fleet'; '*ὁ δὲ ἄνθρωπος ἀπληγέως ἀποσείπει*' = 'that I may give you the straight tip.'

We should hardly think Pleistocene gravels a subject of general interest for school readers; but perhaps Felstedians have peculiarly scientific habits.

Friendship is just now a favourite subject for budding bards to exercise their talents upon; the 'gentleman who does the poetry' for *The Fettesian*, Mr. Diogenes, has produced an ode, as also has the poet of *The Blue*.

We welcome the appearance of a new school magazine, *The Portsmouthian*, and wish it all success.

Really, writers in school magazines, particularly of letters, should not perpetrate sentences after the model of 'I tried to turn the handle, but.' *The Tonbridgian* contains the following aposiopesis: 'Might not somebody be appointed to take care of the instruments, and prevent would-be.' [After writing the above we sat down determined to unravel the mystery. We at length discovered that part of an article on Shelley had been inserted in a letter about the school Observatory. This is rather perplexing at first sight, to an outsider at least.]

What sort of animal is a Bassano? Fish? Flesh? Good red herring? He is mentioned in *The Malvernian* in connection with a choir.

#### NOTICES.

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

The debt on *The Elizabethan* renders increased support from all Westminsters, past and present, urgently necessary, if the School Magazine is to maintain its present efficiency or to hope for a long-continued existence.

*Florent.*