



# The Elizabethan.

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## FICTION: ITS USES AND ABUSES.

### II.

**T**HE abuse of fiction would appear at first sight to be so evident as not to require any illustration or comment. Abuse creeps into every institution, begun under however favourable auspices, and watched with however strict an eye, and the abuse appears the more flagrant the more influential the institution for good or evil. "*Corruptio optimi pessima*" must be regarded as a dictum not to be slighted; and if we grant the enormous influence for good that the literature of a country exerts upon the inhabitants of that country, we must, *ipso facto*, grant the widespread demoralization caused by an immoral or morbid taste sated with literature of a like immoral or morbid character. Let us then examine as shortly as possible the abuses attendant upon the publication and perusal of one branch of fiction, and discuss the question under the two relative heads of "novel-writing" and "novel-reading."

I. It is a common cry that there are few great novelists now living, and that there are few really good novels now to be read. It is true that it

may be urged that it is in contemplation of the works of celebrated authors now dead that people are apt to overlook the works of authors now living, and imagine all real "classical" novel-writing to have perished, while with a truly pessimist spirit they exclaim that public taste has become debased and worthless which indulges in and relishes the "three-volume" type of "*sensational*," while it looks coldly upon the respectable, time-worn productions of Thackeray, Scott, or Lytton. But this is too sweeping an accusation against the present taste of readers and the powers of writers. It is only because there are more novels written and consequently more read now than there were twenty years ago, that it appears as if what we may term the standard novelists had fallen from the high pedestal in public opinion upon which they raised themselves by their genius. In the minds of most well-educated men and women of our day the works of Thackeray or of Scott exercise a charm which is sought and sought in vain in the books which monthly crowd the publishers' lists. The majority of these are written from virtually the same plot, are marked by the same superficiality, and before long meet with the

same fate, and are thrown aside for newer productions, leaving behind them an often harmful but indelible impression upon the susceptible imagination of their readers. At the same time that we deny the imputation that books read and admired by our fathers have fallen in public esteem, we must allow the growth of a taste for the lighter form of literature and the modern sensational love-story. This is a deeply-marked phenomenon in our social progress, which asserts itself most strongly and to a great degree defies explanation. In all classes of society this taste for "sensation" is to be observed; from the crowds of ill-clad loungers, who spend their substance in the purchase of "Jack Sheppard," and their leisure in the perusal of the "Police News" in shop-windows, to the young ladies in a Belgravian drawing-room, who skip the "serious" conversations in a "three-volume" publication, but read with breathless interest the sensational episodes with which such a book abounds. The explanation of this craving for "sensation" is, as we have said, hard to find. From the earliest times we see traces, and often deeply-marked traces, of the love for the horrible which is such a characteristic of the present age. The satisfaction of the ladies of the Roman Empire who used to gloat over the bloodstained arena, and by the slightest gesture condemn to death the fallen gladiator, does not differ in kind but in degree from that of the crowds who flock to the trial of a few wretched criminals, or who rivet their straining eyes upon the ornate description of a "big murder." The taste is inherent in all ages of the world, but owing to the wide influence of the Press, the conditions of society, and the extension of education among the lower classes, it has reached a higher pitch in the present day than it has attained before in the annals of history; and the chief instrument by which this craving can be satisfied is found in the modern type of love-story, in which, according to the old adage, "true love never runs smooth," but in which that desirable end is sought to be gained by the introduction of a few murders, a few suicides, in fact by the violation of as many articles of the Decalogue as is convenient to the complicated plot of the story. This species of literature is to be deplored, discouraged, disallowed, in so far as it violates the chief canons which regulate the production of fiction. As a rule this class of novels is strained, unnatural, and suggestive both of bad motives and of bad deeds actuated by those motives. The heroes or heroines are rarely either well-bred, or capable of delicate feeling. An author is *often* seen who is unable to paint a "gentleman." That which appeals to the senses, the

scenery, the house decorations, the general *mise-en-scène* of a story are well depicted, but the portrayal of real character consistently followed out, the essential mark of the worth of a book, is too often missing. Again, the plots are often strained and unnatural, the characters are introduced indiscriminately, without any individuality about them, and are worked in without regard to the necessary elucidation and clearness of the story. The modern author too often forgets his own responsibility, and the extent to which his writings will influence the thoughts and actions of others. Moreover, he strays beyond the due bounds, and for the sake of effect introduces a line of incident which might with advantage be avoided. To this class we ascribe the type of novel dependent for its interest upon melancholy circumstances, often striking, it is true, but calculated to produce an effect of sadness upon the mind of the readers. As we remarked in a late number of this magazine, the incidents and lessons drawn, unlike the case of history proper, are the creation of the author; they are in his control, and he is responsible for the events at which he arrives. Thus, in our opinion, great blame is to be attached to a man or woman who increases misery, even if it only exists in fiction. There is surely misery enough in the world to exclude the necessity for the appeal to the reader's feelings by means of melancholy incidents, too often employed by the novelist. The above points show some of the deficiencies, or rather excesses, into which modern novelists fall. Another great cause of the present tone visible in the current fiction of the day is the extent to which women now-a-days become authors. It might be urged that a woman's talents are more fitted for the work than those of a man, but then women are prone to more faults of a character which militates against the real value of the work. Granted that "tact" may be imputed to woman's nature as an inherent heaven-born gift, there are still the elements of "want of origination," sentimentalism, "gush," exaggeration, and a certain morbid tendency visible in the tone of most of their writings.

II. The second part of our subject follows as a natural sequel from the first. The faults of novel-writing are all reflected in the novel-reader. As we remarked before, "demand creates supply;" and if it were not for the interest in and craving for sensational fiction, the market would not be glutted to such an extent with books of this character. Opinions may vary as to how far the perusal of the literature of our country influences its social life, but we cannot doubt that the influence is great. Novel-reading may either

serve for instruction or amusement; if for the former, it is hard to see how instruction can be reaped from two-thirds of the class of book at present in favour, which, if it be taken up for amusement, it shows but a poor critical taste to derive satisfaction from what must be regarded as a strange and feeble exhibition of power and ingenuity. Our counsel, then, is this. Do not suffer those books, which by their intrinsic worth have survived so long in the affections of their readers, to lose their influence. The Preacher told the world many hundred years ago that "*of making of books there is no end.*" Of all the hundreds of books published every year there are many which do not deserve by any means such a sweeping condemnation as our readers might imagine we would heap upon them; but at the same time we would have all, both men and women, be on their guard against fiction which is unnatural while it is attractive, and superficial while it is decked with mere ornaments of rhetoric. We do by no means allow that nothing good can be gained by novel-reading, indeed we believe it to be a most powerful organ in social culture; but we also believe that it may be the most dangerous weapon if applied without due caution. "Sensationalism," if we may use the word, is one of the evil influences of the age, and it is fed, more than by anything else, by a loose or low standard of literature. Doubtless there are other points in which novel-reading may be abused. People may forget that not only amusement but instruction is its aim, and look upon fiction as a mere toy, instead of being a great instrument of education. They may think that the head is the only part of man to be taught, and forget the effect to be produced upon the heart, which can be best touched through the instrumentality of fiction.

But here we take leave of the subject. Perhaps at a future time we may be tempted to analyze the matter more fully, bringing out the enormous influence which is brought to bear by fiction on education. The above treatment we know to be discursive and inexhaustive, but we trust it may be suggestive of more points in which fiction can be "used" and "abused."

#### EARLY WESTMINSTER.—IV.

WE find that in nearly all the large schools which grew up under the shadow of the Mediæval Church, it was customary at Christmas to perform plays of one kind or another; partly illustrative of the mysteries of the Christian religion, including miracle plays from the Bible and legends of the early saints, and partly others of a purely secular and classical kind. At Westminster it is a custom which dates from the foundation of the School, and is indeed prescribed by

the royal founders in the statutes. Before Christmas, yearly, three nights are set apart for the performance of a play from Terence or Plautus, the actors being dressed in the conventional costume of Athenian and Roman citizens, slaves, &c., and some retaining the female parts. There are added to the performance a prologue and epilogue, also in Latin; the former recounting the events of interest to the School which have happened during the past twelve months, the latter satirizing almost all the political and social subjects of the day. One end of dormitory is then temporarily converted into a stage, and some admirable scenery, suited to the list of plays performed, is brought into use. The former scenery, contrived under Garrick's directions, was the gift of a Master of the School, Dr. Markham, afterwards Archbishop of York, and of a late Dean of Westminster, Dr. Vincent. The present scenery was painted and presented to the School by the late eminent artist and architect, Mr. C. R. Cockerell, R.A. In 1873 the theatrical apparatus and scenery were repaired, and a new stage and auditorium added by subscription among Old Westminsters, at the cost of nearly 500*l.*

Those who have followed the course of the Westminster plays for something like half a century may have observed how curiously they reflect the change that has taken place in the tastes and feelings of the general public. When correctness of costume was but little regarded on the English stage, in farces supposed to represent the manners of (say) 1825, elderly gentlemen were attired after the fashion of Hogarth's pictures. The stage here was the scene of still more violent incongruities. Simo and Chremes, respectable Athenian citizens, appeared in wigs and long waistcoats, as elders of the time of George II.; Davus was a smart footman, with red plush breeches and gold lace; Pamphilus exulted in satin breeches and crescent-shaped opera-hat; while Charinus, more modest, was content with a frock-coat and trousers. The ladies, moreover, were attired according to the fashions then prevalent; in short, when the tunic and chlamys took the place of habiliments that were inconsistent, not only with the period represented by the fable but with each other, the reform of the Westminster play might almost have been called a revolution. However, for many years after they had put on the proper dresses, the Athenians, old and young, continued to disport themselves before the shabbiest of scenes, while the intervals of repose were marked by the shabbiest of drop-curtains, and two unsightly busts, supposed to represent Terence and Plautus, appeared grimly to superintend the performance.

We may here add that it was at Westminster under Dr. Busby that Barton Booth, the distinguished actor and contemporary of Betterton, carried his first laurels by his acting in a play. About to proceed to the University, he absconded and joined the company of Mr. Ashbury, the manager of Drury Lane Theatre.

The Prologues to the Play are as a series chiefly interesting to Old Westminsters, since they dwell for the most part on the leading events connected with the life of the School. The Epilogues, on the other hand, are of wider and more general interest; being for the most

part mirrors of the manners and customs of the times, and touching in a humorous way on such subjects as divorces, duels, balloons, dress, Gretna Green unions, the Marriage Act passed in the year 1753, quacks, auctions, public amusements, civic banquets, doctors, lottery jobbers, railway frauds, parliamentary discussions, and indeed, on almost every conceivable subject.

In 1745 the Play was omitted on account of the panic caused by the Scotch Rebellion; and in 1782 on account of the death of Prince Alfred; in 1726 the Prologue bewails the ruinous state of the old dormitory, whilst those of other years celebrate the accession of George III., the birth of his eldest son, the deaths of Harley, Earl of Oxford, and of the Dukes of Cumberland and Newcastle, the burning of the first Opera House, and the death of Nelson.

A School oration, probably a prologue or epilogue to one of the plays, was pirated in 1716 by the notorious Edmund Curll, and printed by him with all sorts of blunders in the Latin. He was accordingly invited to the School to receive a corrected copy, but instead of receiving it, he was treacherously whipped and tossed in a blanket.

It is said that George IV., when Prince Regent, soon after the battle of Waterloo attended the Play one evening, and was shown by the Marquis of Anglesey the beds in the dormitory. "You don't mean to tell me," was his remark, "that Henry Paget ever slept in such a bed as that!" As the Marquis, when Henry Paget, was not one of the K.S.S., he did not actually sleep in the dormitory, but in one of the boarding-houses, but his brother Arthur did; and there is no reason to believe that at that date there was any more difference between College and the Boarding-houses in respect of creature comforts than there is at present.

### EPIGRAMS.

WITHOUT meaning it, and quite unconsciously, we have done the authors of these epigrams a wrong, and perhaps a grievous wrong; we have said that certain years were lacking in good epigrams, and for this we apologize. To think that any epigram would have been accepted and inserted in the book if it had not been a good one! No. We see we have made a mistake; we should have said that in those years we could not understand the points of the epigrams, for did we not say at the commencement of these articles that several would be hard to understand from the fact that the subjects on which they were made were ephemeral and better understood in the year they were delivered? With this apology, let us proceed. The year 1871 saw the following epigram recited, and a good one it is. The thesis was "Telum Imbelle," and the joke is clear:—

The House, before so quiet, burnt with ire;  
Whence this (S) Lowe match that set it all on fire?  
With *stamps* on matches sudden flame ensues:  
In due succession, the succession dues  
Were raised; and then five decimal two eight (5'28)  
Pence in the pound we were to calculate;  
A tax on light! a tax on orphans' gains!  
And, worst of all, a fearful tax on brains!

Another on the thesis "Telum haud Imbelle" we have selected, and we hope rightly:—

The matrons of Attica, brought to a halt  
On their way to Eleusis, pass'd freely the salt.  
Our bucks toss at Sutton-gate, gentry and legs;  
Though Epsom like Athens has salt, flour, and eggs.  
One goes with a hit and a writ in his eye  
To his lawyer, who doubts if the action will lie.  
"Eggs and flour, did you say, sir? well, then, without flattery,  
If it isn't *assault*, it is certainly *battery*."

And we must also give the Latin version of the last two lines:—

"Res jocularis erat—mos obtinet. Hunc adoriri  
Rectius at dico, qui jaculatur ador."

The following is not at all a bad rendering of the nursery rhyme, "There was a little man, and he had a little gun," &c.; the thesis was "Telum haud Imbelle."

Parvula erat cuidam parvo bombardam, et eidem  
Plumbea glans plumbi, plumbea facta, meri!  
Rivulo is adstabat; lymphis anas inscia nabat;  
Vi caput ille ferit; vi caput icta perit.

We hope sincerely we have done justice to 1871, as space will not permit us to give very many, and so we pass on to 1872. We think we are not wrong in quoting this Latin one, on the thesis, "Dignus Vindice Nodus:—"

"Dust O!"

Quid nobis fiet de pulvere? Pulvis ubique est.  
Pulvis inest fœdans aera, pulvis humum.  
Clamat, "Io pulvis!" manceps—nec summovet hilum.  
\*Pulvere cæcatis verba dat usque viris.  
Pulvere lingua cadit; vox pulvere faucibus hæret;  
Pulvis eram; pulvis sum; cito pulvis ero.  
\* *Anglice*, "chaffs, and throws dust in men's eyes."

There are not many Greek epigrams, and when we come across one easy to understand and construe we quote it; we therefore give the following:—

"Seritur nec Metitur."

*Dean's Yard.*

Πόαν πέρυσί τις εἰς ἀγρὸν Διακόνου  
ἔσπειρε, χλοερὸν ὡσπερ ἐλπίζων θέρος·  
νῦν δ' εἰ τοιόνδ' ἐκεῖ τις οἴσασθαι δοκεῖ  
χλαίνας ὑφαίνειν φήμ' ἂν ἐξ ὄνου πύκων.

And as a relief we give an English one on the thesis "Dignus Vindice Nodus:—"

We all have been told  
How at locksmiths of old  
Love delighted to laugh, cunning elf!  
Nor have modern appliances,  
Devised by the sciences,  
The urchin yet laid on the shelf.  
For Bramah and Hobbs  
Of their secrets he robs  
Little Cupid, so *chubby* himself!

Here is a very good one, and the reciter of it, H. S. Otter, was also the author. The thesis was, "Et seritur et metitur."

*A Cock and Bull Tale.*

Gallinarius hæc, "Dantur mihi pabula cocta  
Gallinæ; atque ova hinc omnia cocta parit."  
Alter ait, "Fama est in fœnum arescere gramen,  
Gallia quæ pratis semina tosta serit!"

*Idem Anglice.*

A poullterer once to a farmer was heard  
The merits to praise of a favourite bird.  
"That chicken I feed upon boil'd rice and maize,  
And the consequence is that the eggs which she lays  
Are all ready boil'd." "Why, that's odd!" was the answer,  
"But nothing to what I have heard of in France, sir!  
Each farmer his meadows with baked grass-seeds sows,  
And all the grass turns into hay as it grows!"

Let us now see what 1873 can give us! The first to catch our eye is one on the thesis, "Non hæc in fœdera veni:"—

There was an old man of Sicania  
Who to pass for a god had a mania;  
But his shoes human nature  
Flung up from a crater,  
Which swallowed him—Verdict, Insania!

And another very much like it, on the same thesis:—

There was an old man of Abdera  
Who thought atoms—what could be clearer?—  
Made the world as they danced  
Up and down, for it *chanced*  
That they somehow came nearer and nearer!

"Dent animos plagæ" is the thesis of the following English one:—

Annoyed by the din of the carts around St. Paul's,  
The Dean for wood pavement to lessen it calls;  
But so dense are the vestry, they question and doubt  
By what possible means they can carry it out,  
Till at last, losing patience, "My friends," exclaims one,  
"Lay your heads all together, the thing will be done!"

And before we proceed to 1874, let us just quote this English one. The thesis was "Plagæ non dant animos."

Breathes there a man with soul so dead  
As not to feel fresh joy  
At prospect of discovering  
The site of ancient Troy?  
But Simois has chang'd its course;  
We cannot trace its bounds:  
The city's ruins e'en are gone;  
There's nothing in the mounds.  
Not only Iliion, but the Man  
Who told the tale, grows dim;  
O Mr. Home, raise Homer up!  
Give us the sight (site) of him!

Space prevents us from giving many epigrams of the year 1874, and so let us try and quote the wittiest:—

"Iter patens at non tutum."

Impregnable forts we need build no more;  
We will tunnel the Channel from shore to shore;  
For the boldest invaders on earth would quail  
At the danger of *taking* the English rail!

This Latin one on "Non sibi constat," it will not require a very clever person to see refers to the Tichborne case:—

"An verum dicis? Longos producta per annos,  
Jam finem tetigit causa celebris?" "Ita est."  
"Ponderis qui nostrum mentesque oculosque gravârat,  
Carceris in latebris 'incubus' ille jacet.  
Vulgus vile Equitem, compellat voce Rogerum!  
At solers Judex 'γυῶθι σε—Orton,' ait."

We must here remark that in this year only twenty were present in Abbey on "Election" Sunday instead of forty. A very clever Greek epigram was composed by the Captain of the year, H. S. Otter, but as it may not interest our readers we won't give it. We will quote the following, an English one, and that will be the last of 1874:—

"Sibi constat."

One summer morning in the street,  
Two friendly Yankees chanced to meet.  
Says one, "It's thirsty kind of weather,  
Suppose we take a drink together?"  
"Well," said his friend, "I find it hot,  
But as for drink, I'd rather not."  
"Not drink! what, *you* refuse! and, pray,  
What freak has taken you to-day?"  
"Why, first of all," replied the other,

"I've lately lost my old grandmother,—  
Buried this morning. Do you think  
On such a day that I would drink?  
And next, my friend, the truth to speak,  
I took the pledge on Sunday week;  
Besides ('twas just to set me steady!),  
I've had two drinks to-day already!"

(To be concluded.)

## School Notes.

VERILY, the chair of an Editor is a bed of thorns; roses come to him but few and far between, and it is impossible for him to shift in his seat without being met by thorns innumerable at every turn. The long, sharp, half-concealed thorns of sarcasm; the strong, obtrusive thorns of abuse; the stubborn, blunt, and unbending thorns of narrow-minded obstinacy; and, worst of all, the thorns of discontent, with but little actual sharpness, but so concealed under an impenetrable fretwork of obscure language that they utterly defy any attempts at concession or explanation; these are all the daily incidents of an Editor's life. It is an instance of the last and most objectionable kind which is galling us at the present moment. "A Boarder" is the shrub that has borne this instrument of torture. This "Boarder" is utterly beyond our comprehension: he begins by patting us on the back, calls us "clever," "amusing," &c. Is this meant for delicate sarcasm? No, that is out of the question; it appears to be said in all good faith. He then turns round and informs us our paper is "unreadable," "uninteresting," "not suitable for boys' reading." Well, that depends on what sort of boys. We wish we could see what "a Boarder" means. If he will kindly write again and be more explicit, not contradicting himself more than three or four times, we will endeavour to understand him. If what is "clever" and "amusing" is "unsuited to his reading," that is no reason he should judge other boys by himself and "consider that to them too it is "unreadable" and "uninteresting;" perhaps it was this idea that prompted him to send us his production now under our notice, with the idea that it *might* be "suited to boys' reading," as being so utterly devoid of all claim of either of the more complimentary terms he applied to us.

THE Gumbleton English Verse Prize has been awarded to W. A. Peck. Prox. accesserunt, H. P. Robinson, and H. R. James equal. The subject was, as we have before stated, "Cleopatra's Needle."

SINCE our last number, H. P. Robinson, O. Bury, H. S. Westmorland (goals), J. Abernethy and E. U. Eddis (half-back), have received their colours and the Eleven is now filled up.

WE have no space to publish accounts in this number of 6th v. School, and a match played on Saturday, the 8th v. a team brought down by Olliffe. In the former "genius" was defeated by "numbers," 4—1, and in the other, though only five of our Eleven were allowed to play, and one was disabled immediately after the game commenced, we scored an easy victory by 4—0.

## Football.

### WESTMINSTER v. OLD HARROVIANS.

THIS match was played "up fields" in delightful weather on Saturday, Nov. 4th. The O. H. team was a strong one, as can easily be seen on looking at the players, but we made a draw of it, the result being 2 all. No goals were got before half-time, and up till then the play had been very even; but very soon after ends were changed, Cuppage, by some superb play, scored a goal for us, and ten minutes later on added another. Our fellows then seemed to play up less hard, for in the last fifteen minutes the Old Harrovians scored 2 goals, though one was undoubtedly "offside." Our umpire did not see it, however, and it had to be allowed. For us Cuppage and Hemsley played splendidly, and the backs were very good. Macan, Paton, and Jarrett were of most use on the other side.

*The School.*—H. Abernethy (captain) and R. Mead (backs), W. A. Cuppage, H. C. Benbow, A. M. Hemsley, J. Abernethy, O. Bury, H. S. Westmorland, E. Eddis (goals), W. F. G. Sandwith and C. Secretan (half-backs).

*Old Harrovians.*—M. P. Betts, L. W. R. Carnac, T. D. S. Cunningham, E. S. Gibney (goal), B. G. and H. St. D. Jarrett, G. Macan (half-backs), W. B. Paton, H. T. Prior, F. D. Simpson, R. Seele Welch (captain and back).

H. P. Robinson and T. F. F. Williams were unfortunately unable to play for us.

### WESTMINSTER v. HERTS RANGERS.

On Wednesday, 7th Nov., the Herts Rangers brought down a pretty mixed and averagely strong team to play us in fine weather. The ground was slippery from the recent rains, and the result was a crushing defeat for us by 4 goals to none. The less said about it perhaps the better, but it is only fair to say that all the four goals were got in the first half of the match, and we were very often nearly lessening the score in the last half; in fact, during the last half-hour we had the best of it, but we were unable to score. The 1st goal was got in two minutes by Howell, who added a second ten minutes later on, Rawson got another by "off-siding" (to which he himself confessed), and Sparkes a fourth just before half-time. We must owe this defeat to the fact that our fellows became depressed when the first goal was got so soon, and the result does not represent the merits of our team. For us Cuppage and Robinson were most energetic, and Rawson and Sparkes were most useful to the Rangers; both, however, played a game not many degrees removed from "off-siding." Sides:—

*Westminster.*—H. Abernethy (captain) and R. Mead (backs), H. C. Benbow, W. A. Cuppage, T. F. F. Williams and C. Secretan (half-backs), A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, O. Bury, J. Abernethy and H. Westmorland (goals).

*Herts Rangers.*—F. T. Sparkes (captain), H. Spreckley (back), B. G. Jarrett and E. C. Foa (half-backs), S. R. Bastard, D. R. Hunter, L. S. Howell, F. L. Rawson, H. Jarrett, J. B. Day, F. W. Watkins (goals).

### WESTMINSTER v. SOUTH NORWOOD.

On Wednesday, 14th Nov., South Norwood, with the help of 6 Hawks and a renowned Wanderer, Wylie, managed to get together a team to play us, and after a pleasant game we scored a victory, with a great deal in hand, by two goals to one. Though the result would not apparently justify the remark that we won very easily, yet such was the case. We made a wonderful amount of shots, which were all unsuccessful with the exception of two, which successfully resulted in goals before half-time, and were made by J. Abernethy and Cuppage. Soon after half-time Wylie made a fine run and scored the only goal for South Norwood, whose only real attack this was, as never before or after this did they even threaten us. For us Cuppage and Robinson played magnificently, and O. Bury and Hemsley were always on the ball. For South Norwood Wylie was far and away the best, and without him matters would have gone badly with them, as he did a vast amount of work. Sides:—

*School.*—H. Abernethy (captain) and R. Mead (backs), W. A. Cuppage, T. F. F. Williams and E. H. Eddis (half-backs), A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, J. Abernethy, O. Bury, G. Dale, H. S. Westmorland (goals).

*South Norwood.*—W. H. White (captain), F. O. S. Reade and C. G. Broadhurst (half-backs), C. E. Leeds (back), C. H. Barber, A. W. Meers, E. A. Ram, J. G. Hamilton, H. M. Rumball, E. R. Frere, and J. G. Wylie.

Benbow was unable to play for us. Robinson got his "shirt" after this match for his excellent play.

### WESTMINSTER v. CLAPHAM ROVERS.

On Saturday, Nov. 17th, we played Clapham Rovers, at whose hands we suffered a rather ignominious defeat. The School won the toss, and Ogilvie kicked off for the visitors from the hospital goal at about 3:30. For the first quarter of an hour the game was very evenly contested, neither side gaining any advantage, but soon after, Buchanan by a good run secured the first goal for the Rovers. This did not seem to have the desired effect of rousing our Eleven, for they let Holden kick another very soon. After this, however, we played up a bit, and several shots at the Rovers' goal were made, but none took effect. Soon after this Buchanan got away with the ball, and by a good run kicked the third goal for the Rovers. After half-time we played up vigorously and seemed to pen them for a little, but about ten minutes before the end the ball was put through our posts by W. N. Tayloe from a good middle, who, had it not just touched one of our backs would have been "off-siding." We were thus beaten by 4 goals to none. For Westminster Cuppage, Hemsley, and Robinson forwards, and Mead and Secretan backs, did all they could to avoid defeat, whilst for the visitors Buchanan and Jarrett forward, and Ogilvie and Field half-backs, played well. We were unfortunately deprived of the valuable services of our captain. Sides:—

*Clapham Rovers.*—W. S. Buchanan, E. Field (half-back), G. Holden, H. Jarrett, A. (back) and R. A. Ogilvie (captain and half-back), F. Rawson, E. Roller, A. J. Stanley, and C. C. (back), and W. M. Tayloe (goal-keeper).

*Westminster School.*—J. Abernethy, H. C. Benbow, O. Bury, W. A. Cuppage, E. U. Eddis (half-back), A. M. Hemsley, R. Mead (back), H. P. Robinson, C. Secretan (back), H. S. Westmorland (goal-keeper), and T. F. F. Williams (captain and half-back).

### WESTMINSTER v. WANDERERS.

Unpleasant weather accompanied this match on Wednesday, the 21st of Nov., but at the same time it was a very pleasant one, and evenly contested throughout. The Wanderers mustered ten, and with an able substitute managed to beat us by 1 goal to none. This team was by no means a weak one, and, as we were deprived of the very valuable services of the brothers Abernethy and Williams, we did by no means badly. We played for the first half-hour against a strong wind (which unfortunately went down when ends were changed), and in ten minutes the only goal of the match was got by the Wanderers, though at first nearly saved. The features of the game were, the magnificent backplay of Stratford for Wanderers, and the very fine runs made by Hemsley for us. We had three or four shots, one of which was nearly turned into a goal by Benbow, but we were unable to score, and after a really exciting and interesting game in which each side were as nearly as possible equal, we were only beaten one-love. For us Cuppage, Hemsley, and Bury were very good, and our back play was at times brilliant.

*Westminster.*—R. Mead and C. Secretan (backs), W. A. Cuppage, A. M. Hemsley, H. C. Benbow, H. P. Robinson (captain), E. U. Eddis and W. F. G. Sandwith (half-backs), O. Bury, G. Dale, and H. S. Westmorland (goals).

*Wanderers.*—A. F. Kinnaird (captain), Stratford (backs), C. Alcock, H. S. Jackson (half-backs), F. Heron (goals), Sparkes, Kenrick, Rawson, Denton, Pitman, A. J. Stanley.

### WESTMINSTER SCHOOL v. A. N. JACKSON'S ELEVEN.

Played on Saturday the 24th in a perfect torrent of rain, which to a great extent marred what would otherwise have been a most enjoyable match. Six old "pinks" among our opponents seemed to say a strong Eleven, but they had had such little practice that it is not a matter of surprise we were able to gain so easy a victory. The game needs little description; with a wind behind them, our adversaries were unable to hold their own even, and it was only owing to their good goal-keeping and the slippery state of the ground that no goals were got by us in the first half. When ends were changed we penned them completely, and out of several shots three were successful, two by Cuppage and one by Benbow. They only threatened us once, and we thus won 3—0. For our visitors Black, Davson, and Jones showed good form, and Roller was good back. For us Cuppage,

Benbow, Hemsley, and Robinson were very good, and the backs kicked well. Sides :—

*Westminster.*—H. W. Abernethy (captain), W. A. Cuppage, and R. Mead (backs), H. C. Benbow, A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, J. S. Abernethy, O. R. Bury, F. F. Williams and E. U. Eddis (half-backs), and H. Westmorland (goals).

*A. N. Jackson's Eleven.*—A. N. Jackson (captain), C. S. Davson, G. A. Bolton, A. E. Black, S. Whitehead, T. B. Jones, L. Stokes (back), C. C. Macnamara, W. E. Roller, and J. H. Williams (half-backs) B. C. Stevens.

#### WESTMINSTER v. CIVIL SERVICE.

A pleasant day, a pleasant match, and a pleasant result—for us. The Servants brought down an averagely strong and mixed team, and suffered defeat after an hour and a quarter's play, by 2 goals to none. We may fairly be said to have had the game in our hands throughout, as in two minutes Cuppage scored a goal for us, the only advantage gained by either side in the first half. During the latter half we had the best of it beyond a doubt, as Cuppage kicked 2 goals (one "offside" and disallowed), and two minutes before time was called Robinson by a very fine run all but scored another, and no doubt would have done so but for the darkness. The Servants made one or two good shots at our goals, but Westmorland was far too active, in fact he played magnificently, almost beyond praise. For Civil Service, Wylie (forward), Kinnaird, and Maynard, (backs) were good; and for us, Cuppage, Robinson, and Hemsley, were very fine, and the back play was good, at times brilliant. Sides :—

*Westminster.*—H. Abernethy (capt.), and R. Mead (backs), E. U. Eddis, and W. F. S. Sandwith (half-backs), W. A. Cuppage, A. M. Hemsley, H. C. Benbow, H. P. Robinson, O. Bury, J. Abernethy, and H. S. Westmorland (goals).

*Civil Service.*—T. Kirkpatrick, W. F. Eaton, J. G. Wylie, W. G. Hamilton, T. Hamilton, H. W. Wilson, L. Heygate, A. J. Kinnaird (back), W. J. Maynard (half-back), V. Woods, and W. H. White.

#### WESTMINSTER v. OLD WYKEHAMISTS.

Another pleasant match, and another victory, though at first sight not so decisive as the last two. The Old Wykehamists mustered in fairly strong force, but were unable even to make a tie. We had the best of the game all through, and in the first twenty minutes Cuppage kicked a goal which impartial spectators on the goal line declared went a yard or more behind; the Umpire, however, whose sight, poor man, was defective—at least we conclude so—would not have it, and we were forced to abandon it. We had our revenge, however, as after penning them in the last half, Robinson kicked a goal after a piece of very pretty play. The only time they ever threatened us was, when one of their side put the ball through, but so obviously "offside" was it, that the goal-keeper did not attempt to stop it, nor the umpire to dispute the fact that it was not a legitimate goal. For our opponents, Bain (an Oxford "shirt") played splendidly, and Lindsay kicked very well; for us, Cuppage, Robinson, and Hemsley were very good forward, and Eddis, among the backs, was perhaps most prominent. Sides :—

*Westminster.*—T. F. F. Williams (captain), and E. U. Eddis (half-back), R. Mead, and R. S. Owen (backs), W. A. Cuppage, A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, O. Bury, J. Abernethy, E. P. Guest, and H. S. Westmorland (goals).

*Old Wykehamists.*—J. Bain, F. S. Baines, F. D. Fletcher, F. T. Green (half-back), L. Heygate, W. Lindsay, (captain and half-back), C. P. Lucas, W. M. Robertson, H. Scott (goal), S. Tatham (back), R. O. Warren.

H. Abernethy, and H. C. Benbow, were unfortunately unable to lend their valuable aid.

#### LAMPROBATICS.

This was as exciting and well-contested a game as any we have seen this Term, and ended in favour of Town Boys by 1 goal to none. The result was a great surprise as it seemed odds on Town Boys winning by 5 or 6—0, but so well did the Under Elections play, that they were only defeated by 1 goal. The game during the first half was most even, and each side had an equal number of shots, which did not take effect, but after half-time the Town Boys, helped by Hemsley—now playing "up," harassed the Under Elections, and Stephenson scored the only goal of the match. That the Town Boys did not play well we

do not wish to say, but that the Under Elections played, beyond all expectation, splendidly, it is only fair to assert. For the Town Boys, Hemsley, Bury, Westmorland, and Stephenson, played best, the former being magnificent, both back and forward. For Under Elections, the backs were really very good, and Benbow, Reece, Rumball, and Dale ii., worked very hard and played very well. Tepper's play in goals was irreproachable. Sides :—

*Town Boys.*—A. M. Hemsley (captain), and Caiger (backs), Robson (half-back), and Learmonth, Stephenson, Westmorland, Patrick, Ritchie, Bury, De 'Ath (goals).

*Under Elections.*—H. C. Benbow (captain), W. F. G. Sandwith, and Owen (backs), A. C. Whitehead (half-back), Rumball, Sikes, Reece, Dale ii., De Sausmarez, Langhorne and Tepper (goals).

#### UNDER ELECTIONS v. GRANTS.

The above match came off on Thursday the 15th of November, and ended, after a well-contested game, in favour of Grant's by 2 goals to none. The Under Elections at first assumed the offensive and made three or four very good shots at their opponent's goal, which were only prevented from taking effect by the vigilance of De 'Ath, who all through kept goals excellently, and was invaluable to Grant's. The Under Elections were then driven back, but their back-play was so good that the efforts of Westmorland and Patrick, and occasionally Hemsley, who "left his post" as half-back at intervals, and made some very fine runs, were one and all frustrated. Half-time being called, ends were changed, nothing as yet having been scored, and then it was Grants who were the aggressors, for at first they penned the Under Elections, and in ten minutes, from a "greeze" in front of goals, the ball passed through the Under Election posts. This roused the Under Elections, and Benbow working very hard, though not backed up by any means as he should have been, made several good runs, but this ray of hope shone only for a short time, as Patrick by a very fine run scored the second goal for Grants ten minutes before time was called. An appeal to the umpire for offside was overruled, and as at call of "time" nothing else had been scored, Grants were declared victorious by 2 goals to none. The back-play of Grants with the exception of Hemsley who was as often forward as back, and played magnificently in both places, was feebleness personified, Clarke especially kicking the ball behind far oftener than in front of him. Westmorland, Patrick, and W. L. Benbow were excellent forward, and to them with Hemsley may Grants owe their well-deserved success. For Under Elections, H. C. Benbow played very well, and worked as hard as ever captain could to avert defeat, being at times well backed up by Rumball, Reece, and Sikes, while the back-play of Owen and Sandwith was very good. Sides :—

*Grants.*—A. M. Hemsley (back), Stuart Edwards, F. G. Clark (half-backs), D. Patrick, H. Westmorland, Newington, Burrige, W. L. Benbow, Gilbertson, Hamilton and G. H. De 'Ath (goals).

*Under Elections.*—H. C. Benbow (captain), R. S. Owen, and W. F. G. Sandwith (backs), A. C. Whitehead (half-back), T. D. Rumball, W. H. Reece, A. A. Sikes, C. Dale, ii. C. W. R. Tepper, (goals), De Sausmarez, Langhorne.

#### NINE v. FIFTEEN.

We played this match on the afternoon of Wednesday the 17th of October, which resulted, after a well-contested struggle, in the victory of the Nine by 1 goal to none.

For the Nine, Cuppage and Hemsley, forwards, and Abernethy and Mead, backs, were most useful.

For the fifteen, Dale, Patrick, and Westmorland played up hard, while the backs were very useful.

*Nine.*—H. W. Abernethy, capt. (back), R. Mead, T. F. F. Williams (half-backs), W. A. Cuppage, H. C. Benbow, A. M. Hemsley, H. P. Robinson, O. Bury, J. Abernethy.

*Fifteen.*—C. Secretan, R. S. Owen (backs), W. F. G. Sandwith, F. R. Clarke (half-backs), F. Newman (goals), G. Dale (capt.), H. Westmorland, D. Patrick, E. U. Eddis, E. P. Guest, G. Dale, ii., W. Stephenson, H. Ritchie, T. D. Rumball, R. Janson.

#### SEVEN v. ELEVEN.

This game was played on Wednesday afternoon, the 24th of October, and eventually ended, after a very hard game, in a draw, 2—all. Cuppage and Hemsley played up very well for the Seven, the latter of whom got his "shirt" after the match. Abernethy also kicked very powerfully as back.

For the Eleven, Robinson and Westmorland perhaps did most work, while J. Abernethy backed up well. The backs, too were very accurate. The sides were :—

*The Seven.*—H. W. Abernethy (capt. and back), R. Mead, T. F. F. Williams (half backs), W. A. Cuppage, A. C. Benbow, A. M. Hemsley, O. Bury.

*The Eleven.*—R. S. Owen (back), W. F. G. Sandwith, E. U. Eddis (half-backs), H. P. Robinson (capt.), J. Abernethy, H. S. Westmorland, G. Dale, D. Patrick, E. P. Guest, A. A. Sikes, H. Ritchie (goals).

### FROM OUR OXFORD CORRESPONDENT.

Oxford, December 5.

I AM afraid my Oxford correspondence will not be very extensive this month, as I find it is not an easy operation to turn absolutely nothing into a letter worthy of *The Elizabethan*.

The river has as usual this Term presented an exceedingly lively, not to say confused, appearance, being crowded by craft of every size and shape, manoeuvred by men in every stage of seamanship. College races are for the most part over now, and a large number of Eights have made their appearance, although of course none of the Torpids are made up yet. I hear that in the Trinity Fours E. M. Rodocnachi was in the winning boat. The floods have been rather merciful to us this Term, and cannot be compared with those of last year; in fact, they have only been out twice, each time for two or three days. I think, myself, it is more unpleasant to have them half out, and the ground wet and sodden and quite useless, than for the whole place to be under water, when at least we may have the pleasure of boating on the top of them.

J. Ogle, of Trinity, has, as you have no doubt heard, obtained a third in Greats.

### FROM OUR CAMBRIDGE CORRESPONDENT.

Cambridge, November 27.

THERE is, I am happy to say, more news this time to tell than last. To begin with, we have started O.W. scratch Fours this year, and, for my part, I am sure I hope that they will be got up each succeeding year. There were seven-and-twenty entries, but, owing to some men not being able to come down to row, only four boats were made up. The following is the result of the racing, together with the list of names :—

#### 1ST HEAT.

<i>1st Station.</i>	<i>2nd Station.</i>
(bow) E. V. Arnold.	(bow) R. F. McMillan.
2. H. Hollis.	2. H. M. C. Macpherson.
3. G. M. Hill.	3. J. R. Reid.
(st.) J. Gilbertson.	(st.) R. G. A. Wynn.
(cox.) A. G. Hill.	(cox.) C. Davson.

Wynn's boat won by two lengths.

#### 2ND HEAT.

<i>1st Station.</i>	<i>2nd Station.</i>
(bow) E. H. Holthouse.	(bow) C. F. Reeks.
2. A. E. Black.	2. A. Roller.
3. A. N. Jackson.	3. A. H. Lefroy.
(st.) R. Williams.	(st.) J. H. Williams.
(cox.) G. A. Bolton.	(cox.) L. Renouf.

R. Williams' boat won by two-and-a-half lengths.

In the final, Wynn's boat beat Williams', after a very exciting race, by three quarters of a length; the latter

boat, however, had very bad luck at the start, or otherwise it would have been a still more exciting finish. Altogether the "Fours" were a great success, and the rowing shown proved that the revival of Water at Westminster has certainly done a great deal for O.W.'s rowing up here. The A.D.C. have been acting Lord Lytton's comedy of "Money," and "A Nice Firm," by Taylor. C. Brookfield (an O.W.) was taking the principal rôle in both pieces, and acted both characters in a way which left little to be desired. I am delighted to see that the O.W.'s up here are taking to playing Football more energetically. Rumour says that T. B. Jones stands a chance of getting his "Blue," and there seems to me to be no reason why rumour should not say the same of more old "Pinks" than one, if they would only play up. The "Varsity" Trials are of course in full swing, and there seems to be more good material for the "Eight" than I thought we possessed. I need hardly say there are no Westminster men in them, but we hope to get some in some day if heavier men come up, as so much depends upon weight. Several immense elms were blown down by the wind during the gales which visited us at the early part of the Term, but even the wind was better than the rain which has been visiting us since.

### OUR CONTEMPORARIES.

WE beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the *Meteor* (3 Nos.), the *Wellingtonian*, the *Wykehamist*, the *Eton College Chronicle*, the *Carthusian*, the *Ulula* (2 Nos.), the *Cliftonian*, the *Newtonian*, the *Raddeian*, the *Bloxhamist*, the *Blundellian*.

A review of the above is unavoidably crowded out.

### Correspondence.

The back numbers of *The Elizabethan* may be had of the Editor for 6d. each, some having engravings, which do not alter the price.

All subscribers at Oxford who have not paid their subscriptions will oblige by sending them immediately to L. S. Bristowe, or by P. O. O. to C. B. Collyns, St. Peter's College, Westminster.

Post-office orders to be made payable to C. B. Collyns (Treasurer), at the Westminster Palace Hotel.

The Editor begs to state that he is not responsible for the opinions of his Correspondents.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE ELIZABETHAN.

DEAR SIR,—As the fellow designated in your last number, "who is ready to take his affidavit, and even produce a book, to prove that the derivation of *Ὀμηρος* is *ὁ μὴ ὄρων*," I feel myself challenged by the way in which the subject is treated to say a few words in defence of my statement. I by no means wish to imply that this derivation is absolutely certain, but I have the authority of Dr. Valetta, Head Master of the Hellenic Colledge (*sic*), London, who says in his life and poems of Homer, "others said that he was born blind, *ὁ μὴ ὄρων*, and from this he received his name."

As the name is probably altogether mythical, it is a mere matter of taste what derivation we may choose, and though it seems to be that "*ἑμοῦ ἄρειν*, to collect together," is as likely a derivation as any, and some may prefer "*ἄμηρος*, a hostage," I must claim for myself the right of giving any derivation for which authority can be found.

I venture to offer this explanation of my reason for giving this much-abused derivation, though I do not wish to infer that I am as infallible as the name under which I beg to subscribe myself.

Yours, under correction, ΠΕΤΡΟΣ.

*Floreat.*